

**[Report 1963] / Medical Officer of Health, Pontefract Borough.**

**Contributors**

Pontefract (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1963

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BOROUGH  
OF  
PONTEFRACT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

**1963**



BOROUGH  
OF  
PONTEFRACT

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963.

BY

J.F. FRASER.

M.B., B.S., D.F.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

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Medical Officer's Section,  
Health Department,  
Baghill House,  
Walkergate,  
Pontefract.

To:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration, a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Borough during the year 1963.

The Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information, certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

*John D. France*

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer's Office,  
Health Department,  
Bathurst House,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.

For the paper, Altiman and Co. Ltd.,  
of the Borough of Wellington.

Yours and faithfully,

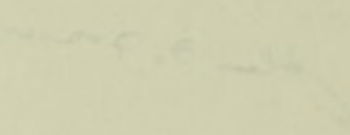
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Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

PONTFRACT BOROUGH.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1963.

Chairman: Ald. B. Wood.

Deputy Chairman: Cr. G.E. Poppleton.

Ald. J. Blackburn, O.B.E.

Cr. R. Cunningham.

Cr. J. Dixon.

Cr. F.A.A. Gardiner.

Cr. T. Illingworth.

Cr. E.S.W. Marr.

Cr. Mrs. V. Pritchard.

Cr. D. Robinson.

Cr. R.G. Stringer.

Cr. P. Westerman.



CONTENTS  
OF THE REPORT

Chairman, Mr. D. Wood.  
Deputy Chairman, Mr. G. S. Fogelston.

Mr. J. H. Wood, O.S.A.

Mr. E. G. Wood.

Mr. J. H. Wood.

Mr. E. G. Wood.

Mr. J. H. Wood.

Mr. J. H. Wood.

Mr. E. G. Wood.

Mr. J. H. Wood.

Mr. E. G. Wood.

Mr. J. H. Wood.

PART ONE.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the Borough : 4,865 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population : 27,970.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1963) according to the rate books : 8,308.

Rateable Value : 1963 - £733,964.

Sum represented by penny rate : 1963 - £3,113

VITAL STATISTICS. (Registrar-General's - Registered during the year).

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1962.

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	295 (282)	278 (226)	573 (508)
Illegitimate.	17 (13)	14 (16)	31 (29)
	<u>312</u> (295)	<u>292</u> (242)	<u>604</u> (537)

Crude birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population : 21.6 (19.2)

Adjusted birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population : 19.7 (18.2)

Percentage of illegitimate births : 5.13 (4.09).

<u>STILLBIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	4 (4)	3 (4)	7 (8)
Illegitimate.	2 (-)	- (2)	2 (2)
	<u>6</u> (4)	<u>3</u> (6)	<u>9</u> (10)

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births :- 14.7 (16.3)

Rate per 1000 estimated civilian population :- 0.32 (0.36)

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All age groups.	171 (151)	128 (124)	299 (275)

<u>Infants under one year.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	4 (4)	4 (2)	8 (6)
Illegitimate.	2 (1)	1 (-)	3 (1)
	<u>6</u> (5)	<u>5</u> (2)	<u>11</u> (7)

MATERNAL DEATHS. Nil. (Nil).

Death Rates.

Crude Death rate per 1000 population :-	10.7	(9.8)
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population :-	12.7	(12.2)
All Infants per 1,000 live births :-	18.2	(13.0)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births :-	14.4	(11.8)
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births :-	96.8	(34.5)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and stillbirths :-	Nil.	Nil.

The Principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

Cause of Death :-	Male.	Female.	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease.	3	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	3	9	12
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	11	-	11
Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	4	4
Other Malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms.	10	4	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	2	3
Diabetes.	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	21	27	48
Coronary Disease, angina.	28.	19	47
Hypertension with heart disease.	3	3	6
Other heart disease.	16	10	26
Other circulatory disease.	2	2	4
Influenza.	1	1	2
Pneumonia.	29	15	44
Bronchitis.	25	6	31
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosi's.	1	1	2
Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	8	12	20
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2
All other accidents.	3	7	10
Suicide.	-	2	2
Totals :	171	128	299

The local death rate during the past 12 years is shown in the following table :

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>
1952.	14.7
1953.	16.2
1954.	10.5
1955.	9.2
1956.	9.2
1957.	9.7
1958.	20.4
1959.	11.2
1960.	12.0
1961.	10.6
1962.	9.8
1963.	10.7

Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of Infant Deaths during the year 1963, classified into age groups :-

TABLE II.

Cause of Death :	Age Groups.							All ages Under one year		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	3-4 wks.	1-3 mth.	3-6 mth.	6-9 mth.	9-12 mths.	M.	F.	TOTAL
Gastro-enteritis.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Asphyxia neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Prematurity, cerebral haemorrhage.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Prematurity.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Toxaemia, broncho-pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haemorrhagic broncho pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	2
Cerebral haemorrhage.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Injury to brain, sub-arachnoid haemorrhage.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pulmonary atelectasia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>Totals :-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>

COMPARISON OF PONTEFRACT VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING AREAS,  
THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

TABLE III.

	Pontefract Borough.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County.	England and Wales (prov- isional figures).
<u>BIRTH RATE</u> (Per 1000 estimated population). Crude Rate : Adjusted Rate :	21.6 19.7	17.9 18.4	18.2 18.3	18.2 -
<u>DEATH RATE</u> (Per 1,000 estimated population) Crude Rate : Adjusted Rate :	10.7 12.7	12.7 13.6	12.0 13.3	12.2 -
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub, but incl. Syphl. and other V.D.	0.11	0.05	0.04	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06
Tuberculosis Other.	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Tuberculosis - All forms.	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.06
Cancer.	1.57	2.04	1.94	2.18
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system.	1.72	2.02	1.85	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases.	2.97	4.80	4.53	*
Respiratory Diseases.	2.79	1.72	1.57	*
Maternal Mortality. (Per 1,000 live and still births).	-	0.50	0.45	0.28
Perinatal Mortality.	26.1	31.6	31.1	*
Neonatal Mortality.	14.9	15.2	15.0	14.2
Infant Mortality.	18.2	22.8	23.0	20.9
Stillbirths (per 1,000 live and stillbirths).	14.7	19.2	18.7	17.3

\* Figures not available.

PART TWO

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIVE AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

TABLE IV

Disease.	Jan/ Mar.	Apr/ Jun.	Jul/ Sept	Oct/ Dec.	Total	Deaths	Number of Cases admitted to Hospital
Measles.	203	6	26	58	293	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	3	-	1	1	5	-	2
Chickenpox.	16	10	4	14	44	-	-
Dysentery.	-	12	-	-	12	-	4
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	4	-	-	4	-	3
Whooping Cough.	-	-	1	4	5	-	1
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Totals:-	222	32	33	79	366	-	12

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

Immunisation.

341 children under the age of 5 years and 80 over the age of 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 246 children received a reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous persons.

TABLE V.

Number of Cases on Register.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total on Register.
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1963.	106	72	17	18	213
Notified for the first time during 1963.	6	3	-	-	9
Restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers.	1	5	-	-	6
Removed from Register.	7	7	-	1	15
Cases remaining on Register at the end of 1963.	106	73	17	17	213

The reason for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table:-

TABLE VI.

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total on Register.
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died.	4	1	-	-	5
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered.	1	2	-	1	4
Revised diagnosis - not Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district.	2	4	-	-	6
Totals:-	7	7	-	1	15

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of disease:-

TABLE VII.

Ages.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 65	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

National Assistance Act.

Section 47.

It was not found necessary to deal with any patients under the above Act.





PART III

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE  
DIVISION 12.

Pontefract Municipal Borough.

Featherstone Urban District.

Knottingley Urban District.

Osgoldcross Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER  
1963.

BY

J.F. FRASER.

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

PART III

COUNTY COURTS  
OF THE  
STATE OF VERMONT  
SECTION 11.

Justices of the Peace,  
Justices of the Peace,  
Justices of the Peace,  
Justices of the Peace.

ARTICLE 10  
OF THE  
CONSTITUTION  
SECTION 1.

11  
12  
13

Divisional Medical Officer.

J.F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer  
and School Medical Officer.

J.E. Lee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer. (Part-Time).

J. Simons, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board - Visiting Staff.

Ophthalmologist.

K.K. Prasher, M.B., B.S., D.O.

Orthopaedic Surgeon.

R.W.L. Calderwood, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist.

K.M. Mayall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.F.P.S.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson.  
Mrs. P.M. Brice.  
Mrs. B. Clarke.  
Miss L.O.I. Day.  
Miss A. Elsley.  
Mrs. M. Faulkner.  
Miss B.N. Kennington.  
Miss M. Reading.  
Mrs. K.K. Walsh.

Assistant Health Visitors.

Mrs. E.S. Chew.  
Mrs. L. Hudson.  
Mrs. J.K. Smith. (Clinic Nurse).

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Mrs. A. Atask.  
Mrs. K. Berry.  
Mrs. I. Bushell.  
Miss E.S. Essex.  
Mrs. E. Glover. (Relief).  
Mrs. D. Kelly.  
Mrs. B. Murphy.  
Miss C. Norton.  
Mrs. A.M. Randall.  
Miss C.A. Roberts.

Home Nurses.

Miss L. Casey.  
Mrs. S.G. Cousins.  
Mrs. S. Eaton.  
Mrs. F. Green.  
Mrs. V. McVeigh.  
Mrs. A. Pearce.  
Mrs. J. M. Pycock.  
Mrs. D.M.A. Ward.

Home Nurse/Midwives.

Mrs. P. Philip.

Mental Welfare Officers.

Miss M. Horsley.  
Mr. G.F.G. Townend.

Speech Therapists.

Mrs. N. Hepworth.

Clerical Staff.

Mr. W. Carver. (Senior Clerk).  
Mr. R. Bailey. (Deputy Senior Clerk).  
Miss E. Brabbs.  
Miss K. Duker.  
Miss J.M. Gibbons.  
Miss P. G. Kelly.  
Miss C.A. Scurrah.  
Mrs. M. Slack. (Part-Time).  
Mrs. A. Smith.  
Mrs. C. Walker.

## INTRODUCTION.

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Service Act.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1963 was 1290, an increase of 102 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 20.3 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 19.1 for the previous year, was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 18.2 and the England and Wales birth rate of 18.2.

### Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 621, an increase of 21 compared with 1962.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The West Riding Administrative area is 12.0 and England and Wales 12.2.

### Infant Mortality.

In 1963 the deaths of Infants under one year of age numbered 22. The Infant Mortality was 17.1 as against 24.4 in the previous year.

### Maternal Mortality.

There were three maternal deaths in the Divisional area during the year. One occurred in Featherstone Urban District and two in Osgoldcross Rural District.

## MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

### Domiciliary Midwifery.

Of the 1283 notified live births, 497 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 108 of these cases.

### Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the Division :-

Death of Mother.	-
Death of Child.	2
Still Births.	5
Liability to be source of infection.	-

### Medical Assistance.

Medical Aid notices sent in by Midwives during 1963 numbered 40, all of these being domiciliary.

### Gas and Air Analgesia.

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

The County Council decided in 1959 to provide each midwife with a Trilene Analgesia Machine in addition to the Gas and Air Machine.

Pethidine only was given in 63 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 14 cases. Trilene was administered in 85 cases and with Pethidine in 305 cases.

### Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are two ante-natal clinics in the Division which are held at Pontefract and Knottingley. During the year 313 patients attended. The total number of attendances was 1,154. 66 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

### Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at Pontefract and Featherstone Clinics.

These have continued to be fairly well attended and the number of attendances at these Clinics during the year was 540.

### Institutional Midwifery.

Patients from this Division are admitted to either the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

Some difficulty was experienced in finding accommodation for all patients wishing to have their babies in maternity homes. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

### CHILD WELFARE.

There are County owned clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley. A mobile caravan type clinic visits the Parishes of Whitley Bridge, Womersley, Eggborough, Brotherton, Kellington, Heck, Hensall, Monk Fryston and Fairburn in the Osgoldcross Rural District, at fortnightly intervals.

During 1963, 2,258 children attended and they made 19,737 attendances.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost prices to all women attending at the Clinics :-

Ostermilk No. 2.	Farex.
Trufood, humanised.	Robinson's Graits.
Cow and Gate, full cream.	Robinson's Triple Pack.
Minadex.	Robrex.
Trufood Cereal.	Robsoop.
Adexolin.	Rose Hip Syrup.
Scotts Twin Pack.	

The annual turnover of baby food, etc. is approximately £5,000.

The following were distributed free of charge :-

Ascorbic Acid.	Ferrous Fumerate Tablets.
Fersamel Syrup.	Lactation Tablets.

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the Clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

#### Premature Babies.

During the year 121 babies weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mother normally resident in the Division, and 27 were born at home.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

##### Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. the entrants (5 years +), second age group (7 years +), intermediate years (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at 49 schools in the Division.

Re-examinations of children who, at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3,102 periodic inspections were carried out.

##### General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and 99.48% were classified as satisfactory and only .52% as unsatisfactory.

##### Uncleanliness.

During the year health visitors and school nurses made 20,989 examinations of children in schools. Of these 448 individual children were found to be infested.

#### SPECIAL CLINICS.

##### Ophthalmic Clinics.

Dr. K. K. Prasher holds weekly clinics at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. During the year 1626 children were examined. Of these 587 were prescribed glasses.

##### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K. M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, for children from this Division. During the year Mr. Mayall held 24 sessions and saw 119 children. In all, the children made 263 attendances.



### Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. R. W. L. Calderwood, Orthopaedic Surgeon, holds a monthly clinic at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, and during the year 11 sessions were held. 90 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 127.

### Child Guidance Treatment.

A Child Guidance Clinic is held weekly at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. Children from surrounding Divisional areas attended here in addition to our own. Dr. P. J. Crowley and Dr. E. Atkinson both held consultant sessions, but unfortunately we lost the services of Dr. Crowley in December, 1963.

Mr. D. G. Pickles, Clinic Psychologist, and Mrs. P. Y. Harris, Psychiatric Social Worker, continued to do much good work at the Clinic.

### Speech Therapy.

Mrs. N. Hopworth, Speech Therapist, held clinics on two half-days each week at Pontefract Central Clinic. In addition she has one session each week at the Castle Day B.S.N. School and at the Knottingley Clinic. During the year 170 sessions were held and 76 children were treated.

### Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in special schools.

### Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine Candidates applying for entry to Training Colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college Authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 42 candidates were examined and where necessary, x-ray examinations arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 11 examinations were made.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th. birthday. With the consent of the parents, a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicates that the child has not encountered tubercle bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

<u>No. of consents issued.</u>	<u>No. of consents received.</u>	<u>Mantoux Test.</u>	<u>Mantoux Negative.</u>	<u>Mantoux Positive.</u>
1,297	760	743	690	53
<u>Not Ascertained.</u>		<u>B.C.G. Vaccination.</u>		
-		690.		

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The programme of Vaccination was continued during the year.

At the end of 1963 the position was as follows :-

Children and Young Persons under 18 years of age.

Number vaccinated. 16,319.

Young persons born between 1933 and 1942.

Number vaccinated. 3,109.

Adults.

Number vaccinated. 1,048.

20, 476.

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year, the following number of visits were made by the Health Visitors in the Division.

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during the year ....	4,094
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age .....	6,179
Total visits made to children aged 1 and under 2 years .....	3,661
Total visits made to children aged 2 but under 5 years .....	6,740
Total visits made to tuberculous households .....	2,507
Persons aged 65 or over (excluding Domestic Help only visits) ..	744
No. of visits to persons aged 65 or over .....	1,174

### HOME NURSING.

During the year 23,435 visits were paid by home nurses compared with 20,596 in the previous year.

The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below :-

Classification.	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses during the year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during year.
(1) Medical.	537	18,641
(2) Surgical.	210	4,110
(3) Infectious Diseases.	-	-
(4) Tuberculosis.	7	270
(5) Maternal Complications.	16	228
(6) Other.	7	186
TOTALS :-	777	23,435
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	483	9,386
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	-	-
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year.	230	12,043

### CHIROPODY SERVICE.

A free Chiropody service is provided for the following categories of patient :-

- (a) Expectant Mothers.
- (b) Persons of pensionable age. (i.e. Males over 65.  
Females over 60).
- (c) Handicapped Persons.

Clinics are held weekly at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics. Patients who are unable, on health grounds, to attend the clinics, are treated in their own homes.

In 1963, 278 patients were treated at the Clinics, and made 1,268 attendances, and 150 patients were treated at home and 332 treatments given.

### HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service is provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 29 of the Act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows :-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| (a) Ill.      | (d) Expectant Mother.                       |
| (b) Lying-in. | (e) Mental Defective.                       |
| (c) Aged.     | (f) A child not over compulsory school age. |

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this Division was 39.

Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i) Basic.	39
(ii) From Reserve.	-
(iii) Total.	39

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st. December, 1963.

(i) Whole-time.	-
(ii) Part-time.	59
(iii) Total.	59

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st. December, 1963.

	<u>No. of Cases.</u>	<u>Hours Employed.</u>
<u>Under 65.</u>		
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers).	35	1,877
(ii) Chronic Sick and Tuberculous.	69	7,792
(iii) Others.	9	348
<u>Over 65.</u>	431	73,304
	<u>544</u>	<u>83,321</u>

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time - 38.15.

MENTAL HEALTH

In November, 1960, the new Mental Health Act became operative and two Mental Welfare Officers were given the task of coping with the increased work which the Act places upon local Health Authorities.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The County Council decided in January, 1962, to revise their scheme whereby all entrants to the superannuation scheme be medically examined and substituted the following :-

- (1) All prospective entrants to the scheme be required to complete a questionnaire dealing with personal and family medical history.
- (2) There to be a full medical examination of :-
  - (i) All prospective entrants over the age of 45 years.
  - (ii) All entrants whose completed questionnaire reveals the need for further medical investigation.
  - (iii) Applicants whose prospective employment is such that public safety is involved. e.g. Fire and Ambulance service drivers.

In 1963, 24 examinations were made.

Immunisation in Schools.

In 1962 the school immunisation programme was extended to include protection against Tetanus. There has been growing emphasis for this in recent years and it can now be administered in a combined form with Diphtheria.

By the end of 1963, out of a school population of 9,968 children, 8,741 had received protection against Diphtheria representing 87.69% of the population, whilst in the two years that Tetanus protection has been available 3,486 (34.97%) children have been immunised against Tetanus.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During 1963 146 primary vaccinations against Smallpox were carried out.

The Child Neglected in its Own Home.

Quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee for the care of the child neglected in its own home were held.

These meetings, attended by representatives of the Health, Welfare, Education and Children Departments of the County Council, the Health and Housing Departments of the County District Councils, together with the Probation Officer, N.S.P.C.C. Inspector and National Assistance Board Officer, were helpful in providing an interchange of information and a co-ordinated approach to the individual case.

Factories Act, 1961

Prescribed Particulars required by Section 153(1)

1. Inspections made:

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	1	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	81	72	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	2	2	0	0
Total	86	75	2	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary conveniences S. 7 - Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	1	0	0	0	0
All other Defects	12	1	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	1	0	0	0

3. Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Making wearing apparel	1	0	0	0	0	0
Finishing Tapestries	1	0	0	0	0	0
All other work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0

J.F. Fraser.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1964.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

Annual Report of the Health Committee for the Year 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

A N N U A L R E P O R T

The writing of this report has been undertaken with a sense of personal  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E N V I R O N M E N T A L H Y G I E N E

in the

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1963

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

S.C.L. WILSON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Municipal Offices,

Pontefract



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Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1963.

The writing of this report has been undertaken with a sense of personal sorrow; for quite properly this is the Annual Report of the late Chief Public Health Inspector, Lewis Walsh. It marks the end of an era extending over a quarter of a century in which he was instrumental in removing the worst of the slum properties in the Borough and in promoting high standards in matters relating to environmental hygiene. In more recent years Mr. Walsh devoted much thought and energy in advancing the cause of Clean Air - a matter that he never doubted would, in the course of time, rank high amongst public health achievements.

Mr. Walsh was held in considerable esteem by his professional colleagues and his integrity, administrative ability and knowledge were keenly appreciated. Testimony to these facts is borne out by inspectors, who in their formative years were able to work under his guidance and instruction, many of whom, today hold key posts in Public Health Administration. Local Government and in particular the public health service are infinitely poorer for the loss of such an able man.

For the purposes of this introduction in which comment is made on major aspects of the Department's activities the report has been divided into four parts, each occupying roughly the same amount of Departmental time: Housing, Air Pollution, Food Control and General Hygiene.

On housing matters it will be seen that during 1963, 93 houses were repaired following intervention by the Department and 42 houses were demolished or closed. On slum clearance the report refers to the inspection started during the year and made with a view to the completion of the current clearance programme. Still more bungalows for elderly persons and intensification in the provision of standard amenities with grant aid are further points made.

It would not be out of context at this point to report the emergence of a different pattern of complaint by members of the public. Some ten to fifteen years ago the routine complaint was almost wholly concerned with defective housing conditions and their effect on the occupants' physical comfort; complaints relating to dampness, broken plasterwork, defective cooking facilities and similar insanitary conditions were commonplace. In recent times there has been a distinct change of emphasis and an increasing number of complaints deal with problems more directly associated with a complainant's mental health and well-being, rather than physical discomfort or danger arising out of dilapidated conditions. In this new category of complaint the request is for the control or reduction of noise from industrial and commercial undertakings; the control or elimination of dust, grit and effluvia from industrial processes. Increasingly, householders complain of unsightliness and offensive odours arising from accumulations and deposits of waste products and materials both domestic and non-domestic in origin.

The Public Health Inspector requires tact, patience, and often if solutions to these problems are to be found, he must undertake research into unfamiliar technical fields.

With increasing responsibility arising out of legislation in recent years a time is rapidly approaching when a greater degree of specialisation will be required from the individual inspector if his work is to be fully effective. Already the principal has been accepted in those aspects of the work covering atmospheric pollution and meat inspection. Specialisation must also ultimately extend to the implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises, Act, 1963, if uniformity of application is to be achieved.

The field of food hygiene and technology demands the attention of an inspector prepared to devote a greater part of his time to systematic inspection of food premises. The need for such a person is of prime importance if one is to keep pace with the rapid advances that are taking place in food technology particularly in relationship to preparation, packaging and storing of foodstuffs. A regular system of inspection in conjunction with 'on the spot' guidance in matters of health education can do much to prevent or minimise the possibility of outbreaks of food poisoning.

Much of the Department's time is spent on food hygiene with special emphasis on meat inspection and food control. After preliminary work extending over several years, and after an unfortunate series of setbacks the Pontefract Municipal Abattoir became a reality in November, 1962. During the year under review, however, it has been a source of disappointment to the Council that having provided modern slaughtering facilities and ensuring that the public health is protected by maintaining an effective meat inspection system there has not been the compensatory increase in throughput, these services merit.

Under the heading occupational hygiene I have briefly reported on inspections made under Factories and Shops Acts. Fifteen years have elapsed since publication of the Gowers Report on the health, welfare and safety of employed persons at places of employment other than those at regulations under the Factories Act. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 is the culmination of efforts to transcribe the Gowers Report into an active public health measure. Implementation of the Act and Regulations made thereunder will greatly increase the work of the Department in the future.

Full advantage has been taken of the laboratory facilities available to the Department, and during the year under review 312 specimens and samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories. These included water samples for chemical composition and bacterial condition, and swimming baths waters for bacterial condition; milks for the presence of pathogens, heat-treated milks - pasteurised and sterilised - for process efficiency, and milks and milk containers for cleanliness; specimens for confirmation of meat inspection opinions, for food poisoning organisms, etc., and samples of materials taken under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, for cleanliness. One cannot speak too highly of the assistance received from the Medical Research Council Laboratory at Wakefield.

Section One

HOUSING CONDITIONS

House Provision and Overcrowding - Fitness of dwellings  
 - Improvement Grants - Certificates of Disrepair -  
 Accidents in the home - Houses in Multi-occupation -  
 Common Lodging houses - Boarding Establishments for  
 Transport Drivers

House Provision and Overcrowding

Since post-war house building began, 3,681 dwellings have been erected in the Borough - 245 of these during the year under review - as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. New Housing, 1946 - 1963

Year	No. of dwellings erected*					Total
	By the Corporation			By Housing Association	By Private Enterprise	
	Permanent	Temporary	Total			
1946	6	25	31		23	54
1947	159		159		39	198
1948	161		161		26	187
1949	134		134		11	145
1950	104		104		12	116
1951	86		86		9	95
1952	105		105		11	116
1953	108		108	178	19	305
1954	73		73	536	41	650
1955	35		35		47	82
1956	26		26		65	91
1957	88		88		76	164
1958	6		6		140	146
1959	68		68		164	232
1960	107		107		192	299
1961	91		91		185	276
1962	108		108		134	242
1963	63		63		182	245
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>3,643</b>

\*Excluding 38 temporary dwellings, subsequently demolished

In Table 2 the numbers of Corporation houses built 1947-1961 are given in four-year periods for comparison with the 1962 and 1963 figures of 108 and 63 respectively.

Table 2. Corporation Building, 1946 - 1963

Period	No. of dwellings built by Corporation	Yearly Average
1946 - 49	460	115
1950 - 53	403	101
1954 - 57	222	56
1958 - 61	272	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>85</b>

Only a detailed survey would indicate accurately the housing needs of the town. The last one was made shortly after the Housing Act of 1935 introduced specific legislation to deal with overcrowding. A second one could provide useful information on present day conditions. In the absence of precise information one can turn only to statistics relating to applicants for Corporation tenancies.

At the end of 1963 the number of such applicants, living in the Borough, was 1,068, many of whom, when due for investigation by the Housing Department, will have found other accommodation. Of these 1,068 applicants, 615 are persons living in lodgings at the time of application, and 276 are elderly persons seeking accommodation more suited to their needs. Only 31 of the latter were living in lodgings, and the provision of a sufficient number of new units specific to the needs of the elderly would release much under-occupied accommodation and contribute substantially to the general housing need. The 116 bungalows already provided for elderly persons, supplemented by 101 bed-sitter flats - mostly let to elderly people - are clearly inadequate to meet the demand, and further units are under construction. Table 3 indicates the progress now being made in the provision of dwellings for the elderly.

Table 3. Housing of Elderly Persons

In the year -	No. of 'elderly person' units in the Borough	As % of all Corporation housing
1940	18	1.3
1950	32	1.7
1960	85	3.2
1963	217	7.5

The Council have not confined their considerations merely to the quantitative aspect of this problem. Their schemes at Churchbalk and Mill Garth indicate a concern for the comfort and welfare of the elderly which is wholly commendable.

In this Report 'statutory overcrowding' refers to the gross state of over-occupation which constitutes an offence under the Housing Act, 1957. Such overcrowding occurs when the number of persons sleeping in a house exceeds the 'permitted number' of persons, as given in the rent book. The number of cases found and abated during the past six years are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Incidence and Abatement of Statutory Overcrowding

No. of cases	Year					
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
On register at beginning of year	5	2	3	2	1	0
Added to register during the year	5	2	0	0	1	1
Abated during the year	8	1	1	1	2	0
On register at end of year	2	3	2	1	0	1

These figures may appear to be impressively low and, without explanation, could be misleading. The statutory standard was laid down over a quarter of a century ago and, in my opinion, fails completely to measure up to modern ideas on the subject. Because of this low standard many families of only four or five persons, having insufficient bedroom accommodation and being clearly in need of rehousing, do not qualify for the statutory priority accorded to 'overcrowded' applicants for local authority tenancies. It may well be that a higher standard, nationally applied, would create problems in some of our cities, but should the smaller communities have to 'mark time' until the whole country is ready for a new standard?

### Fitness of dwellings

Twenty-two unfit houses were demolished and sixteen closed, and 93 were repaired or improved during the year as the result of action taken by the Department. Particulars of housing activities are summarised below:-

#### 1. Inspection of houses -

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	694
(2) Number of inspections made in this connection (initial inspections, re-visits, works in progress, etc.)	1,147
(3) Number of houses (included in (1) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	338
(4) Houses needing further action:	
(a) Number considered to be unfit for human habitation	75
(b) Number (excluding those in (a) above) considered to be not in all respects reasonably fit	96

#### 2. Remedy of defective conditions -

(1) Houses made fit, or in which defects were remedied, as a result of informal action	90
(2) Houses rendered fit, or in which defects were remedied, as a result of formal action:	
(a) Housing Act	1
(b) Public Health Act	2

#### 3. Clearance, etc. of houses -

(1) Action taken in respect of Clearance Areas:	
(a) Number of new areas declared	0
(b) Number of families displaced	0
(c) Number of houses (in clearance areas only) demolished	4

3. (2) Action taken in respect of Individual Unfit houses:
- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Number represented to Council                                | 11 |
| (b) Number in respect of which -                                 |    |
| (i) Demolition Orders were made                                  | 8  |
| (ii) Closing Orders were made                                    | 3  |
| (c) Number of families displaced                                 | 20 |
| (d) Number of persons involved                                   | 55 |
| (e) Number of houses closed on Closing Orders<br>or Undertakings | 16 |
| (f) Number of individual unfit houses demolished                 | 18 |
- (3) Action taken in respect of unfit houses purchased by the Corporation:
- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Number of houses acquired and demolished       | 4  |
| (b) Number of houses acquired and closed           | 0  |
| (c) Number of families displaced from unfit houses | 7  |
| (d) Number of persons involved                     | 16 |

Slum Clearance Programme

The Corporation's proposals submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in March 1960 in pursuance of section 2(2) of the Housing Act, 1957, amplified their original proposals submitted under the Act, bringing the total number of unfit houses it was proposed to demolish to 312. At the end of 1962, action had been initiated in respect of all these houses. Moreover, as several of the families displaced did not avail themselves of Corporation rehousing, an additional 42 houses were also dealt with making 354 in all.

At the end of 1963, 335 houses had been vacated, although demolition or other treatment had been completed in only 331 cases. Table 5 gives particulars of progress since the inception of the proposals.

During 1963 inspections and preliminary work at some sixty-four dwellings were undertaken with a view to declaring a further five Clearance Areas; thus completing the current slum clearance programme.

Table 5. Slum Clearance Proposals: Progress Report

	Year of Programme:								Total	
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963		
No. of houses in respect of which formal action was initiated -										
(a) In Clearance Areas	0	21	0	79	50	0	0	0	150	
(b) Individual Unfit houses	16	66	8	10	42	11	30	11	194	
(c) Purchased by Council	0	0	0	0	19	0	2	6	27	
Total	16	87	8	89	111	11	32	17	371	
No. of houses vacated -										
(d) By Council rehousing	4	57	22	35	66	45	56	26	311	
(e) Otherwise	4	3	3	2	8	2	1	1	24	
Total	8	60	25	37	74	47	57	27	335	
No. of houses in respect of which action was completed -										
(f) Closed (and not subsequently demolished)	2	13	6	4	15	19	2	16	77	
(g) Demolished	0	15	43	15	80	20	47	27	247	
(h) Reconstructed as fit houses	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	7	
Total	2	28	49	24	97	39	49	43	331	



## Rent Act, 1957. Certificates of Disrepair

Table 6 gives particulars of applications dealt with by the Council since the Act came into operation. The fact that no application has been received in the last two years is not without significance. Tenants seem to find the provisions of this Act relating to rent abatement either too intricate to understand or just not worth the effort.

Table 6. Certificates of Disrepair Statistics

	1957 July -Dec.	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Total
No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	15	14	3	2	1	0	0	35
No. of decisions not to issue certificates	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
No. of decisions to issue certificates if no undertaking given to remedy	9	17	3	1	1	0	0	31
No. of undertakings given by landlords	2	17	2	0	1	0	0	22
No. of undertakings not accepted by Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of certificates issued	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	9
No. of applications for cancellation of certificates (all granted)	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	5

### Improvement Grants

In suitable cases the Standard Grant can be claimed as a right. It is intended to encourage owners to modernise houses having a useful life of at least fifteen years and to which, without structural additions involving much new building work, there can be added the 'standard amenities' not already provided. The standard amenities are (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom; (b) a wash-hand basin; (c) a hot water supply; (d) an internal watercloset and (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The Discretionary grant is available for more extensive improvement. It is intended to apply to property which has a life of at least thirty years. A grant is paid solely at the discretion of the authority and, in addition to the 'standard amenities', may provide for the improvement of lighting, ventilation, heating and cooking facilities, and for works necessary to eliminate certain inherent structural defects.

During 1963 twenty-six applications for grant were made - 24 Standard, and 2 Discretionary. In thirteen cases improvements were completed during 1963. Since grants first became available some 15 years ago 106 houses have been improved with the aid of grants from the Corporation. Further particulars are given in the following Table.

Table 7. Improvement Grants: Applications and Results \*

Year	No. of Applications -						No. of approved applications withdrawn		Grants actually made			
	Discretionary			Standard							Discretionary	Standard
	Made	Approved	Rejected	Made	Approved	Rejected	Dis. Stan.	£	No.			
										£	No.	
1954	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
1955	22	19	4	-	-	-	3	317	-	-	-	-
1956	4	2	2	-	-	-	10	1,559	-	-	-	-
1957	10	5	5	-	-	-	3	245	-	-	-	-
1958	11	10	1	-	-	-	10	1,099	-	-	-	-
1959	20	12	8	12	11	1	15	1,960	-	-	-	-
1960	5	5	-	24	23	1	9	1,254	20	2,098	-	-
1961	4	-	4	9	8	1	2	243	15	1,849	-	-
1962	2	2	-	14	13	1	1	155	5	564	-	-
1963	2	2	-	24	24	-	1	125	12	1,385	-	-
Total	82	58	24	83	79	4	54	6,957	52	5,896	-	-

\* No applications were made prior to 1954.

## Accidents in the Home

Bad housing conditions have a considerable bearing on the problem of accidents in the home, and, when housing inspections are carried out, this is borne in mind. Disrepair can be a direct cause of accidents, and the remedy of defective fireplaces, floors, window sash cords, and the like, presents no problem; but in the case of such defects as ill-lighted staircases, badly-sited external toilets, and obsolete types of heating appliances - unless these occur in property which can be rectified by improvement grant, action must necessarily be deferred until clearance becomes possible. Over-heating and bad ventilation - resulting in fatigue - are matters which can be pointed out to tenants; but over-occupation, another relevant factor, is less readily solved in the continuing housing shortage.

The Department is further interested in this problem, having responsibility for administering locally The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and Regulations made thereunder. These Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas and electric fires and oil heaters designed for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there would be likelihood of injury by burning, or ignition of clothing. The Regulations prescribe standard tests for construction and performance. The co-operation of manufacturers has reduced the need for official action to a minimum.

In recent months the problem of accidents in the home has received widespread publicity. If this stimulates further thought and research into the planning and design of the home and its furnishings with proper appreciation of the functional aspects of safety then the efforts of those most concerned will not have been in vain. For my own part I find that true evaluation of dangers besetting the home are only fully apparent when one has to care for either the very young, or the old and infirm. That which the active mind and body accepts and makes allowances for does not afford even marginal safety for those in the extreme age groups. It does not need the architect or designer or safety expert to point out the dangers in our homes - most of us can exercise sufficient thought in our day to day activities to avoid obvious dangers.

Several authorities have suggested some system of notification of home accidents to enable defective conditions to be remedied more quickly. Any attempt to provide an answer to a problem which, every year, takes some two million people to hospital - even though the great majority are for out-patient treatment only - would be well worth while.

## Houses in Multiple Occupation

The problems arising from multi-occupation occur mainly in the larger towns, and the squalid conditions which resulted in the passing of Part II of the Housing Act of 1961 and the Housing Regulations of 1962 are not to be found in the Borough. The bulk of the one-time high class residential property which, in old age, lends itself to multiple occupation, has largely disappeared as the result of slum clearance and commercial development.

## Common Lodging Houses

The Ministry of Health ask for information about common lodging houses. There are no such premises in the Borough, the last having been demolished over a decade ago.

Section 235 of the Public Health Act, 1936 defines a common lodging house as a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night poor persons, not being members of the same family, who resort thereto and are allowed to occupy one common room for the purposes of sleeping or eating. There is no evidence of need for such premises in the Borough in these days.

Boarding Establishments for Transport Drivers

A recent development in the Borough, involving what is believed to be a small number of public houses, dwellinghouses and least one cafe is the provision of lodgings for transport drivers. No specific legislation covers this activity, but at the time of writing an investigation is in progress to ascertain the extent to which it is carried on. Where no system of inspection or control exists then various public health hazards may arise. Such matters as overcrowding, insufficient sanitary accommodation, unsatisfactory facilities for preparing food, can, if allowed to develop unchecked provide vectors for the transference of communicable diseases.

It is now possible to report with confidence that all major hotels and public houses in the Borough are being operated with mechanical cooling equipment. Apart from those periods of smoke nuisance allowed for by regulations, there should no longer be the danger of prolonged existence of smoke which has frequently occurred in the past in the hand-fired boiler plant, and that no other give rise to complaints from heavy soot and gas deposits.

Smoke Control Areas

There are two smoke control areas in operation in the Borough. The following table gives particulars of buildings and average involved.

Table 1. Smoke Control Area Progress

No. of Order	No. of buildings involved	No. of houses in Borough		No. of houses in area	No. of houses in area
		Total	Commercial etc.		
1	88	101	101	101	101
2	200	2	2	202	202

Smoke Control Area Progress

In response to Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 579 issued in January 1958 the Council had approved in principle a five-year programme which involves the erection of six smoke control areas, comprising some 2,000 houses, by the end of 1963.

## Section Two

### AIR POLLUTION

General Conditions - Industrial Pollution -  
Smoke Control Areas - Road vehicle pollution

#### General Conditions

Pontefract is officially included in the West Riding Black Area. This indicates a disturbing level of atmospheric pollution, and calls for concerted action by all classes of fuel users to minimise pollution, irrespective of source. Unnecessary smoke from industry, domestic premises, rail and road vehicles must be prevented as and when the opportunity presents itself. It would be illogical to slow down activity in any one of these classes because little was apparently being done in another.

#### Industrial Pollution

Only a few years ago it was accepted that industry was responsible for more than half the smoke emitted in the country as a whole. The latest figures available - those for 1961 - indicate that industry, including railways, now produces only one fifth of the total smoke emission. It must be considerably less than this in our own Borough which, with only 17 industrial chimneys, has little industrial smoke problem.

It is now possible to report with satisfaction that all major boiler plant in the Borough is being operated with mechanical stoking equipment. Apart from those periods of smoke emission allowed for by Regulations, there should no longer be the dense and prolonged emissions of black smoke that frequently occurred in the past in old hand-fired boiler plants, and that so often gave rise to complaint from heavy soot and grit deposits.

#### Smoke Control Areas

There are two smoke control areas in operation in the Borough. The following Table gives particulars of buildings and acreage involved.

Table 8. Smoke Control Area Progress

No. of Order	No. of premises involved				% of houses in Borough	Area	% of acreage in Borough
	Dwellings	Industrial	Commercial etc.	Total			
1	88	19	101	208	1.14	44	0.90
2	660	1	9	670	7.86	567	11.65

#### Smoke Control Area Programme

In response to Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 5/59 issued in January 1959 the Council had approved in principle a five-year programme which involved the creation of six smoke control areas, comprising some 2,000 houses, by the end of 1963.

In April, 1962, when reviewing the matter in the light of a further ministerial circular asking for greater activity in the 'black areas', the

Council resolved to adhere to their existing policy, but to leave over for the time being the existing target date.

When the Council considered a further circular issued in December, 1962, again urging increased activity, they resolved that the establishment of a third smoke control area be deferred for three months, although authorisation was given to continue with the survey of the area, upon which it was hoped to report in 1963. In the event, however, survey work was not completed until after the end of 1963. This coincided with a further Ministerial circular indicating a changing fuel supply position. At the time of writing, the establishment of a third area is in abeyance until a report can be submitted on the practical applications of the circular.

### Road Vehicle Pollution

Unlike railway smoke, road vehicle pollution is not dealt with under the Clean Air Act, but by Regulations made under the Road Traffic Act. Since April, 1955, Regulations have required every motor vehicle to be so constructed that no avoidable smoke is emitted. Regulations made in 1957 require that no person shall use any motor vehicle from which smoke is emitted which is likely to cause damage to property, or injure or cause danger to a road user. Further Regulations were made controlling the use of excess fuel starting devices. These Regulations are administered by the Police. One hears too infrequently of offenders being taken to Court, but it must be conceded that the statutory approach to the problem of road vehicle pollution is that of public safety and not public health.

Table 2. Throughput - yearly totals

Year	Throughput	
	Number of Cattle Units	Weekly average number of Cattle Units
1955	2,000	35
1956	2,100	37
1957	2,200	39
1958	2,300	41
1959	2,400	43
1960	2,500	45
1961	2,600	47
1962	2,700	49
1963	2,800	51

Section Three

FOOD HYGIENE

- Meat Supply - Meat Inspection - Milk and Milk Products - General Food Inspection and Sampling - Food Premises and Processing - Sale of Food in the Open - Disposal of unfit food

Meat Supply

When Government control of slaughtering activities ended in 1954, the Corporation undertook to continue the policy of central slaughtering in the Borough, and carried on at the Newtown premises leased from the Pontefract Industrial Co-operative Society Limited.

With a nominal capacity of 60 cattle units per week the Newtown premises became grossly overworked as throughput increased. The need for modern, hygienic, food preparing premises became apparent and culminated in November 1962 with the opening of the Municipal Abattoir at Water Lane, Knottingley Road.

The following Table indicates the increase in throughput over the years, and particularly the increase in throughput during 1961 and 1962 with the consequent strain placed on the Newtown facilities.

As I remarked in the preface to this report, last year's figures were disappointing in view of the services available. In some measure the slight fall in throughput may be accounted for in two ways. Firstly, the severe winter of 1962 ravaged the sheep breeding industry and the full effects were not experienced until midway through 1963 when a marked shortage of sheep and lambs occurred. Secondly, the full effect of Swine Fever eradication policies became apparent during the year. Several major outbreaks occurred in the County and the ensuing policy of slaughter and disposal (as with Foot and Mouth disease) reduced for a time the numbers of pigs available for human consumption. Table 10 reflects these factors in figures for throughput.

Table 9. Throughput - Yearly periods

Year	Throughput	
	Total Number of Cattle Units*	Weekly average number of Cattle Units
1955	2,503	48
1956	3,238	62
1957	3,168	60
1958	3,405	65
1959	3,340	64
1960	3,216	61
1961	4,625	89
1962	5,757	110
1963	5,638	108

\*One cattle unit is equivalent to three calves, five sheep or two pigs.

Table 10 gives particulars of throughput during the year reviewed, together with the 1962 figures, for comparative purposes. The 1963 throughput of 12,345 (5,638 cattle units) against the 1962 throughput of 13,253 (5,757 cattle units) represents a decrease of 2% on cattle units.

Table 10. Throughput at Public Slaughterhouse

4 weeks ended	Throughput: No. of animals of the classes named -												Mean weekly no. of Cattle units	
	Cattle		Calves		Sheep		Pigs		Total		1963	1962	1963	1962
	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962
26th January	158	169	3	2	513	492	360	359	1034	1022	110	112		
23rd February	172	142	-	2	405	375	380	357	957	876	111	99		
23rd March	152	152	1	2	317	321	415	357	885	832	108	98		
20th April	154	164	1	1	235	287	399	457	789	909	100	112		
18th May	179	162	-	1	413	261	374	332	966	756	87	95		
15th June	166	149	-	-	321	347	321	362	808	858	98	99		
13th July	161	153	1	2	357	428	321	376	840	959	98	106		
10th August	142	153	2	3	384	667	294	368	822	1191	92	118		
7th September	161	134	-	3	490	634	373	406	1024	1177	111	116		
5th October	157	154	2	-	541	608	380	358	1080	1120	114	114		
2nd November	165	169	3	4	477	688	341	382	986	1243	108	125		
30th November	177	156	2	2	453	605	415	372	1047	1135	119	108		
28th December	143	132	-	-	345	448	619	595	1107	1175	130	129		
Near Average	159	153	1	2	404	474	384	391	949	1019	107	110		



## Meat Inspection

The most important impact on the meat inspection service during the year was the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. Local Authorities, by these Regulations are required to implement a complete and efficient meat inspection service covering abattoirs in their district. The Regulations are designed to achieve 100% inspection of carcasses and offal in areas where previously it had not been possible; this did not affect the Corporation's Abattoir where a full and proper inspection service has always been maintained. Procedure for inspection, however, does call for a greater length of time to be spent at the Abattoir and it is usual for inspectors engaged on meat inspection to be present during the hours of slaughter, and also to ensure that ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations are effectively carried out.

The practical value is not without importance as can be ascertained from the statistical tables on meat inspection. The incidence of disease is clearly of a lower order than that of ten or more years ago. In spite of this the inspector must be doubly alert if he is to detect the live animal that is unthrifty or carcass meat and offal which is diseased. With the introduction of intensive breeding and stock raising; the use of antibiotics and slaughter of animals at an earlier age; symptoms of disease may not be so obvious. Very often the change is subtle and does not conform to text book description. Inspectors engaged on meat inspection must therefore, interest themselves to a greater degree in animal pathology, and freely resort to bacteriological examination in support of findings.

During 1963 eight carcasses were condemned. It is interesting to note that as in the previous year no beef carcasses were involved. However, from a batch of pigs sent for slaughter one case of swine fever was detected on post-mortem examination and the appropriate action taken. The routine work at the abattoir was not interrupted on this occasion, due in no small measure to the forethought in providing separate isolation facilities for suspect animals and carcass meat.

The following Table shows the decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis.

Table 11. Incidence of Tuberculosis in Food Animals

Incidence of Tuberculosis	Year					
	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
% of Animal affected--						
Cattle excluding cows	17.8	9.3	0.7	0.1	0.15	-
Cows	50.8	16.3	4.1	1.5	-	-
Pigs	5.9	2.1	0.7	0.3	-	0.10

The 19 beast carcasses found to be affected with cysticercosis give a percentage incidence of 1.15. In 16 cases where cysts were localised and degenerate, carcasses were passed as fit after jointing and detailed inspection. In three cases the cysts were viable, the invasion localised and, before being released for human consumption, carcass and unaffected organs were subjected to controlled refrigeration. Table 11a gives comparative figures of incidence over the past four years.

Table 11a. Incidence of *Cysticercus bovis*

Year	No. of cases	% Incidence
1960	6	0.55
1961	16	1.08
1962	12	0.63
1963	19	1.15

A total of 8 carcasses, 5 parts of carcasses and 353 organs and parts were condemned, their total weight being 1 ton 17 cwts. and 13 lbs. Table 12 gives particulars of the various classes of animals inspected and of condemnation.

Table 12. Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,015	72	15	5,251	4,992
Number inspected	2,015	72	15	5,251	4,992
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	1	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	175	3	1	26	132
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	8.68%	4.16%	6.66%	0.51%	1.98%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	5
Percentage of the animals inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.10%
Cysticerci:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0

#### Fatstock Guarantee Scheme

Throughout the year the Abattoir continued to operate as a Certified Deadweight Centre for the purposes of the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme, under which guarantee payments are made to producers of livestock under Part I of the Agriculture Act, 1947. To qualify for guarantee payment fatstock must be certified by authorised officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This is a convenient arrangement for producers who do not need to use the livestock markets.

## Milk Supply

As required by Article 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, a register is kept of all persons carrying on the trade of milk distributor from premises in the Borough, and of all premises in the district which are used as dairies (except dairy farms, which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries). Table 13 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 13. Registration of Dairies and Milk Distributors

Particulars of changes	Dairies	Distributors	
		From Shops*	Others
No. on register at 1st January	4	53	10
No. in respect of which new applications were made	0	0	0
No. in respect of which applicant was refused on public health grounds	0	0	0
No. added to register	0	0	0
No. removed from register -			
(a) Trading ceased	0	4	0
(b) On public health grounds	0	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	4	49	10

\* Only bottled 'Sterilised' milk sold in these cases.

Generally, the standard of distribution is satisfactory. Minor violations of the Milk and Dairies Regulations have not necessitated formal action. Conditions at the dairies were satisfactory.

The use of a special designation (Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised) and the holding of the appropriate licence under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations is obligatory upon all milk retailers in the Borough. This has been the case for some years in consequence of the inclusion of the Borough in a 'Specified Area' made by Order of the Ministers of Agriculture and Health. The retailing of non-designated milks in the area is an offence. In June 1962 The Special Designation (Specified Areas)(No.2) Order came into operation under which the whole of England and Wales became a specified area.

Fifteen samples of milk of various grades, bottled ready for sale, were taken during the course of the year for examination for compliance with the standards laid down by the Regulations. All were satisfactory.

The use of cartons increases, largely through sales from vending machines, but distribution is still based on the returnable glass container. An important aspect of hygienic milk control is, therefore, the cleansing of bottles before re-use. Washed bottles taken periodically from the local bottling dairy and examined bacteriologically all reached a high standard. Despite all the elaborate precautions taken, the odd dirty bottle - so misused by a consumer that the most efficient of washing machines fails to clean it - gets through to the next consumer. An electronic detector now on the market will reject unclean bottles; but if the economics of the Industry allow it, a change over to non-returnable cartons would solve this and other problems.

Table 14. Graded Milks: Sampling Records

Grade of milk	Test Applied			
	Methylene Blue*	Phosphatase**	Turbidity**	Biological***
Pasteurised	6	6	-	-
Sterilised	2	-	2	-
T.T. Pasteurised	3	3	-	-
Raw T.T.	4	-	-	-

\* For cleanliness and keeping quality

\*\* For efficient heat treatment

\*\*\* For presence of tubercle

Ice-Cream Manufacture and Sale

As required by Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a register is kept of all premises used for the sale, manufacture or storage for sale of ice-cream. Table 17 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 15. Registration of Ice-Cream Premises

	Sale and storage	Manufacture sale and storage
No. on register at 1st January	103	2
No. in respect of which new applications were made	2	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	0	-
No. of registrations cancelled -		
(a) following offences	0	0
(b) ceased to trade	3	0
No. of changes of occupation in registered premises notified.	3	0
No. on register at 31st December	102	2

The two registered ice-cream factories are not in use as such, and all ice-cream sold in the Borough is made elsewhere. Ten manufacturers are registered to sell their ice-cream from vehicles in the Borough. Such vehicles must meet the standard laid down by the Council, which includes the provision of a hot water unit for handwashing, and other measures for preventing contamination of the ice-cream. No offences under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations in relation to storage for sale have been noted.

There is no test for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test, but on the Provisional

Grading at present in use, the 10 samples of ice-cream taken during the year may be grouped as follows:

Table 16. Ice-Cream Grading

Grades	Official Standard	Local figures for the year 1963	
		No.	Percentage
1	Not less than 50%	7	70%
1 and 2	Not less than 80%	7	70%
3	Not more than 20%	0	-
4	0	3	30%

### General Food Inspection

In addition to the inspection of meat at the Abattoir, shops were visited from time to time for the inspection of meat and other foods. Over the period under review the following total quantities of unfit food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

1,834 lbs.	meats
2,006 lbs.	apples
627 lbs.	potatoes
200 lbs.	coconut
18 lbs.	fruit
14 lbs.	miscellaneous foods

Certificates were issued to traders in 121 cases, enabling them to claim from wholesalers for loss of foods condemned.

### General Food Sampling

In 1962 a regular programme of sampling of all types of food for bacteriological purposes commenced. During 1963 systematic sampling continued but, in the light of experience, was more carefully programmed throughout the year. The results obtained, although of no statutory significance, provided the Department with much useful information. In particular when less than satisfactory results were obtained, and the product had been manufactured or prepared at premises within the Borough, those premises and processes were given special and detailed examination. At the same time techniques were adopted in which food in various stages of preparation was sampled for evidence of bacterial activity. Articles and equipment used during food preparation were examined by the use of sterile swabs. In addition, prepared swabs were placed in the drainage system discharging from food premises in order to indicate the presence or otherwise of pathogenic organisms.

These techniques and interpretation of results are best likened to an early warning system; but more than this, the results obtained by these methods provide a wealth of material for use in practical health education. The work involved has proved to be both interesting and rewarding, and I find in practice that management and workers respond far better to appeals for greater care and cleanliness if the interpretation of bacteriological findings are linked, in discussion, to the employee's every day work.

### Food Premises

The conditions under which food for sale is prepared and handled in the factories, warehouses, shops restaurants and hotels in the Borough, occupies much of the Department's time.

The numbers of the different classes of food premises as at the end of the year, are given in Table 17.

Table 17. Food Premises according to Trade

Class of Premises or Nature of Business	Manufacture or Preparation	Distribution	Total
General Grocer		84	84
Bread and Cakes	6	8	14
Sugar Confectioner	4	21	25
Greengrocer, fish game and poultry	2	19	21
Butcher and meat preparation	21	22	43
Chemists		6	6
Fish Frying	17		17
Public Houses and clubs		52	52
Off licence premises		8	8
Cafes, snack bars and canteens	36		36
Church premises (kitchens)	6		6
Beer and mineral water bottling	3		3
Miscellaneous	2	8	10
Totals	97	228	325

One hundred and twenty-three of these premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955; 102 of these, as already indicated, are ice-cream premises, the remaining 21 being registered for the manufacture of made-up meats etc.

Table 18 gives figures indicative of the Department's activities in this field since the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1956.

Table 18. Inspection of Food Premises

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
No. of visits paid to food premises	93	294	182	122	110	148	90	183
No. of food rooms inspected	199	392	475	349	195	352	271	343
No. of offences noted under Food Hygiene Regulations	313	545	541	179	44	26	51	274
No. of offences outstanding at end of year	228	197	278	68	22	20	47	138

It is indeed cold comfort to record that whilst over twice as many inspections of food premises took place in 1963 as in the previous year the number of offences rose by more than five times the figure for 1962. Many of the offences were not of a gross or serious nature, and yet are indicative of a 'laissez faire' attitude on the part of some traders. This is a luxury no one can afford, if incidents like that recently witnessed in Aberdeen are to be avoided. In this context the importance of education as against enforcement continues to figure prominently in the Department's activities. It is one thing, for example, to enforce the provision of wash-hand basins on food premises; it is another thing to ensure that they are used solely for personal washing, or even used at all. The need to break any possible chain of infection between the food handlers and the food handled must clearly be stressed in such cases. It is at this juncture that we can utilise to advantage our knowledge of bacteriological techniques and results. Food hygiene education is time consuming, and the task is not made easier by the inevitable movement of staff and, in particular, the entry of young persons as raw recruits into the food trade. Is it too much to ask for a short course of training as a pre-requisite to taking up work for the first time as a food handler?

#### Sale of Food in the Open Air

As required by section 76(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, registers are kept of persons hawking food in the Borough, and hawkers' storage premises. Table 19 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year under review, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 19. Registration of Food Hawkers and Storage Premises

Particulars of changes	Hawkers	Storage Premises
No. on Register at 1st January	63	4
No. in respect of which new applications were made	2	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	0	0
No. of registrations revoked -		
(a) Following offences	0	0
(b) Ceased to trade	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	65	4

On food premises a high standard of food hygiene can be obtained providing the basic needs of adequate accommodation and services are satisfied. In outside trading, whether it be from a market stall or a mobile shop, these needs are normally met at only minimal level. The number of purpose-built mobile shops is gradually rising, but even in these space is necessarily at a minimum, artificial lighting can be woefully inadequate, and a limited hot water supply can encourage its conservation rather than use.

In this aspect the Department's work, the utmost difficulty is experienced in keeping track of mobile traders. I am of opinion that a system of annual licensing would be more useful and administratively more acceptable than registration.

At the time of writing the Government have indicated their intention to issue regulations covering the use of outdoor markets and mobile shops. I consider these regulations to be long overdue and it is hoped that within the practical limits set by the very nature of these trades, the standards of construction and hygiene will approach those required in food shops.

Table 20 analyses the number of registered food hawkers according to the various classes of trade.

Table 20. Food Hawkers according to trade

Trade	No. Registered		
	At 31st Dec. 1963	Added during 1963	Removed during 1963
Butcher	15	0	0
Grocer	3	0	0
Greengrocer	17	0	0
Fishmonger	3	0	0
Confectioner	6	0	0
Ice-Cream	10	0	0
Mobile Canteen	1	0	0
Butcher and Grocer	1	0	0
Grocer, butcher, fish and fruit	1	0	0
Grocer and confectioner	5	0	0
Fish and Greengrocer	1	0	0
Shell Fish	2	2	0
Totals	65	2	0

#### Disposal of Unfit Food

All unfit food should be disposed of in such a manner that it cannot later, by accident or otherwise, be used for human consumption. In particular the disposal of diseased meat from slaughterhouses, and of all knacker meat, should be under strict control.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960 require, with certain exceptions, that unfit meat shall be sterilised, and all knacker meat stained or sterilised, before entering the chain of distribution as pet food, or for processing for any purpose.. The principal exception is unfit meat from slaughterhouses which do not have their own sterilisation plant; such meat must be sent to processors under arrangements approved by the appropriate public health officers.

A great deal of unfit meat is brought into the Borough for sterilisation at factories referred to later in this Report under the heading of Offensive Trades. Co-ordination between the Department and the source authorities has been maintained; every effort has been made to ensure compliance with the Regulations at all collecting points; and I am satisfied that the chances of unfit meat being diverted into the wrong channels are remote.

The Regulations have been strongly criticised because they permit raw knacker meat, which has been merely stained, to reach the retail pet foods market. Such a practice is clearly a potential danger to public health. In pontefract, however, such danger is at a minimum since Byelaws were made in 1953 which forbid the retail sale of raw knacker meat.



Section Four

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

Factories - Outworkers - Offices -  
Other Workplaces - Shops

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The Department shares responsibility for hygiene and welfare in places of employment with the Factory Inspectorate of the Home Office and the Shops Act Authority. So far as non-industrial premises are concerned new legislation in the form of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 has been made increasing considerably the local authority's responsibilities. New standards are to be prescribed by Regulations and in the year under review a period of marking time has taken place in respect of non-industrial premises. The next few years will see a considerable expansion in this section of the report. Implementation of the Act calls for a special report to be submitted to the Ministry of Labour annually on matters of information and work carried out by the Local Authority Inspectorate, in enforcing the Act and Regulations made thereunder.

Factories

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain, and I append a list of the different trades carried on at factories in the Borough:-

Automobile engineering	Furniture manufacture and polishing
Baking	Glue and size making
Barley processing	Grain and seed processing
Beer and mineral water bottling	Laundering
Blacksmithery	Liquorice confectionery manufacture and packing
Boot repairing	Malting
Box and packing material manufacture	Milk pasteurisation
Brush making	Monumental masonry
Building	Photography
Cattle food manufacture	Printing
Clothes manufacture	Saddlery
Coal-gas distribution	Sawmill
Engineering	Slaughter of food animals
Fat refining	Tailoring
Fellmongering	Tinsmithery
Founding	Upholstery
	Whitesmithery
	Wire goods manufacture

The register of Factories, kept by the Council pursuant to section 8(3) of the Act, contains particulars of 84 factories, and Table 21 gives information relating to inspections, notices and defects found and remedied.

Table 21. Factories Records - 1963

	Number on Register	Inspections made	Number of written notices	Defects	
				Found	Remedied
(1) Factories without mechanical power (sections 1 to 4 and 6 and 7 of the Act enforced by local authorities)	3	1	0	0	0
(2) Factories with mechanical power (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	81	72	2	13	1
Totals	84	73	2	13	1
(3) Other premises (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	2	2	0	0	0
Totals	86	75	2	13	1

The frequent inspection of factories with mechanical power is not considered necessary in view of the visits made by H.M. Factory Inspectors, who refer relevant matters to the Corporation. The Department comments on plans submitted for new development, and inspections are made when factories are visited in the course of other duties, such as food hygiene.

#### Workplaces

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and various other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1950, applies. When unsatisfactory conditions have come to notice the requisite remedial measures have been taken.

#### Shops

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. 432 shop premises are listed on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 80 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1963.

Section Five

HYGIENE IN PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT

Swimming Baths - Refreshment Houses -  
Hairdressing Establishments

Public Swimming Baths - Bacterial Control of Water

The two swimming baths (adults' and children's indoor baths) are filled at the beginning of each season from the public supply, and operate on the continuous filtration system, with sterilisation by chlorination. Samples were taken regularly to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory conditions. 108 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and chemical tests made on each sampling occasion to check 'free chlorine' content and alkalinity. The results, given in Table 22 along with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, indicates the standard obtaining during the year.

Table 22. Swimming Baths Waters: Results of Examinations

	Standard recommended by Ministry of Health	Results from Baths	
		Large Swim	Small Swim
No. of samples taken	-	54	54
No. of samples containing coliform organisms in 100 ml. water	0	2	5
Percentage of number of samples submitted to plate count, and containing in 1 ml. water -			
(a) 0 - 10 colonies	not less than 75%	75.9%	75.9%
(b) 11 - 100 colonies	not more than 25%	24.1%	24.1%
(c) over 100 colonies	0	0	0
Percentage of number of tests for residual chlorine content showing -			
(a) Less than 0.2 ppm	0	0	0
(b) 0.2 ppm or more	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of number of tests for pH value alkalinity -			
(a) between 7.2 and 8.0	100%	100%	100%
(b) outside these limits	0	0	0

### Paddling Pool

The paddling pool in the Valley Gardens has proved to be a popular addition to the gardens. Frequency of water changes, and methods of bacterial and algae control, have been recommended to the Park's Department and the efficiency of these is checked from time to time.

### Refreshment Houses

Under this heading I refer to all restaurants, public houses and clubs. When these premises are visited under the Food Hygiene Regulations, an inspection is made at the same time of toilet facilities under section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, this section relates to provision made for the convenience of persons resorting to the premises. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

### Hairdressers and Barbers Establishments

As required by Section 120(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, a register is kept of persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber on premises in the Borough. Table 23 gives the numbers of such establishments, and indicates changes during, and the position at the close of the year.

Table 23. Registration of Hairdresser and Barbers

Particulars of changes	Premises	Persons
No. on Register at 1st January	32	35
No. of entries added during 1963	9	10
No. of entries removed	4	4
No. on Register at 31st December	37	41

Twenty premises were inspected during 1963 and a high standard of hygiene was noted, particularly in the Ladies' Establishments.

## Section Six

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Water Supply - Sewerage, Drainage and  
Sewage Disposal - Refuse Collection and  
Disposal

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#### Water Supply

On 1st April, 1962, the Corporation's Water Undertaking was transferred to the newly formed Pontefract, Goole and Selby Water Board. Before the take over it had been the practice of the Chief Public Health Inspector to sample at the several sources and record and classify the results in this report. Whilst the Corporation no longer supplies water, it is still very much its concern that the water supplied within the Borough shall be satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Sampling within the Borough has therefore continued, and three waters taken for chemical analysis were reported upon as being of good organic quality, whilst 36 waters examined bacteriologically were again highly satisfactory.

The supply in general has been satisfactory in quantity, but complaints were made of lack of pressure at certain times in the high level areas of town.

#### Sewerage, Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The Borough is well sewered, there being only 50 properties (28 less than reported last year) not served by public sewer. Twelve properties in the Borough are served by private disposal plants, 38 by cesspools, and the remainder, representing 99% of the total, are connected to public sewerage. Sanitary accommodation of the conservancy type (mainly chemical) exists at only 9 houses and at 3 other properties.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Corporation have undertaken the removal of house refuse throughout their district. With the exception of a small number of premises at which paper sacks are being used, all premises from which domestic refuse is removed are served by metal dustbins of standard specification. The Corporation have not adopted a Municipal Bin Scheme of the type envisaged by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. Bins are provided and replaced by owner or occupier, if necessary after formal notice served pursuant to sub-section 1 of this section, as amended by Section 69 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. In the great majority of cases owners accept this responsibility and statutory action is unnecessary. There would appear to be no compelling reason for changing the existing practice.

Apart from the salvaging of paper and metal, all refuse collected by the Corporation is disposed of by controlled tipping.

## Section Seven

### PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

Control of Offensive Trades - Animal Hygiene -  
Noise Abatement - Moveable Dwellings - Reg  
Flock and Other Filling Materials

#### Control of Offensive Trades

Offensive trades within the meaning of section 107(1)(i) of the Public Health Act, 1936, are carried on at two premises in the Borough, the trades concerned being those of bone boiler, fat extractor, fat melter, fellmonger, glue maker and size maker. A further trade carried on is the concentration and sterilisation of vegetable and animal waste, declared by the Council to be an offensive trade pursuant to their powers under paragraph (ii)(b) of the sub-section.

These trades provide a necessary public health service. Large quantities of waste material, some of it already in an advanced state of decay, are brought on to these premises and not only rendered innocuous, but converted into useful commodities. Steps are taken to control the various processes and to prevent the escape of offensive gases generated in the course of processing. The complex and variable nature of the raw material received renders constant care necessary; the management must be on the alert for the first indication of the escape of offensive effluvia, and thereupon adjust the plant controls accordingly. There is no alternative to this empirical approach. Largely because those responsible become accustomed to the characteristic odour of the trade, the need for this adjustment is sometimes appreciated later than necessary to prevent odour in the neighbourhood. This normally does not continue for more than a few minutes on any occasion, but this is long enough for one to realise that good planning demands the siting of such premises well away from built-up areas.

During 1963 greater attention than ever was given to the two firms concerned in these trades. Some 78 detailed inspections of premises were undertaken - over twice as many as in the previous year. Even this attention did not prevent serious nuisance arising from premises occupied by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Fellmongering Department. During November a build-up of incoming raw materials, combined with illness of key operators caused a reduction in the processing activities. At the same time a period of humid weather prevailed accelerating the rate of decomposition of the accumulated raw materials. Offensive odours emanated into the surrounding area and complaints were received. Failure to have a sufficient reserve of trained men ready to take the place of key workers and failure to restrict the inflow of raw materials caused the worst incident experienced during the year. The lessons to be learnt from this were not lost on those concerned and the management have since taken steps to prevent a similar re-currence.

The Corporation have taken all reasonably practicable measures to control offensive trades. The managements concerned are anxious not to cause offence, and give considerable attention to improvement of the plant

#### Animal Hygiene

Apart altogether from the nuisance potential of animals kept under unsatisfactory conditions, animal diseases may effect, directly or indirectly, the public health. The control of conditions, therefore, under which animals are kept, whether they be animals on sale in pet shops, or food animals awaiting slaughter, or animals on agricultural holdings, is a matter which must concern the Department.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, provides for the licensing of pet shops by the local authority who, before granting a licence must be satisfied that animals for sale will be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size,

temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals; that precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of diseases among animals, and that steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency. There are two licensed premises in the Borough, at which conditions were satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year a new Act was placed upon the Statute book - The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963. Administration of the Act is made the responsibility of the Local Authority. Upon being satisfied that animals will be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness; be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and visited and exercised at suitable intervals, and that suitable steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

Although there were no such premises within the Borough at the time this Act was passed, one person has recently applied for a licence to use his premises for the boarding of dogs. These premises if carefully controlled can provide a valuable service to the public particularly at holiday times. The danger in the past was that unscrupulous persons having undertaken the care of animals placed in their custody, often grossly neglected them. As a result, a private members' Bill was promoted in Parliament and ultimately the general support it received enabled it to pass into legislation.

#### Noise Abatement

For many years Byelaws relating to noise nuisance have been in force in the Borough, dealing with such matters as sounding musical instruments or singing in the streets to the annoyance of occupants of houses, offices, churches or hospitals. In 1951 the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act added noise nuisance to the statutory nuisances, and the Noise Abatement Act of 1960 provided general legislation on similar lines and restricted the use of loudspeakers in the streets.

Two alleged noise nuisances were under investigation during the year. Both arose from machinery on trade premises. In each case the management were taking the best practicable means available to them to minimise the noise level, and no formal action could therefore be taken.

#### Moveable Dwellings

At the beginning of 1963, and throughout the year, no caravans were stationed in the Borough with the exception of a few in exempted classes; namely, those sited within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse and where use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house, and those stationed for one or two nights only, the sites being so used for not more than twenty-eight days in a year. The Corporation's byelaws lay down the standards of hygiene applicable in such cases.

A problem that accounted for an increasing amount of the Department's time during the year was that relating to the unauthorised camping activities of gypsies. Complaints were received on several occasions concerning the stationing of caravans on the verges of lanes on the outskirts of the Borough. In spite of repeated attempts to keep these sites clear it became increasingly difficult as the year progressed. The lanes themselves, on occasions, were turned into miniature scrap yards with accumulations of scrap metal, rags, and old motor vehicles. Whilst this alone is unsatisfactory and can quickly lead to deterioration of the countryside, the public health aspect is even more alarming. In every single case investigated absence of toilet facilities, lack of provision for domestic refuse, and unsatisfactory disposal of waste water gave rise to unsatisfactory conditions in these lanes. Farmers of adjacent land were plagued by horses straying on crops and grass land. Similar complaints were received from householders who found that a playing field set aside for children often had as many as ten horses on the site, and afforded a measure of danger to smaller children.

There is no doubt in my mind that if allowed to go unchecked, this pattern of unsatisfactory behaviour, once established, would prove difficult to eradicate.

With these problems in mind careful inspection records were kept, including conditions of the site, and of the vehicles concerned, and the length of time a vehicle occupied a particular site.

The work commenced during 1963 resulted in proceedings under section 95 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 in February of this year. As a result an area of land in frequent use for camping by gypsies was declared a prohibited area for such purposes. Since the order was made no serious recurrence of the problem has arisen and only twice has the site been used by caravan dwellers, but subsequent action quickly secured the clearance of the site.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles, and during 1962 Regulations were made under this Act, superseding earlier Regulations, and bringing up to date the standards of cleanliness required in relation to the several kinds of filling materials to which the Act applies.

The Act provides for the registration by the local authority of premises upon which filling materials are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery, and one such factory is registered with the Council. During the year three samples of materials were taken from shops in the Borough and submitted to the prescribed chemical and physical tests, and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

No. of premises inspected and found to be satisfactory	No. of premises inspected and found to be unsatisfactory	No. of premises inspected and found to be satisfactory	No. of premises inspected and found to be unsatisfactory	No. of premises inspected and found to be satisfactory	No. of premises inspected and found to be unsatisfactory
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0
10	0	10	0	10	0



Section Eight

PEST CONTROL

Rodent Control Service - Verminous Infestation

Rodent Control Service

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as this Act relates to rodent infestation. Routine measures were taken to ensure, as far as practicable, the freedom from infestation of all premises in their own occupation; owners and occupiers of infested properties were required to face up to their responsibilities under the Act, and a Rodent Control Service was maintained by the Corporation, available to householders free of charge and to others at a charge which covers the cost of treatment. The Act places on local authorities a specific duty to inspect their district for infestation, and for much of his time the senior rodent operative was engaged on the discovery of infestations, and the organisation of treatments on 'block control' principles. Table 24 gives statistics relating to the known incidence of infestation and to disinfection measures taken during 1963.

Table 24. Rodent Control Statistics

	Class of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses*	Agricultural	Business and Industrial	Total
No. of properties	32	8,491	32	1,322	9,877
No. of properties inspected as a result of -					
(a) Notification	3	96	1	40	140
(b) Survey under the Act	19	43	7	87	156
(c) Otherwise	0	1	0	83	84
No. of properties inspected and found to be infested by -					
(a) Rats: Major**	1	1	0	0	2
Minor	8	103	3	31	145
(b) Mice: Major**	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	2	19	0	45	66
No. of infested properties treated by local authority	10	115	3	69	197
No. of treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	15	135	3	75	228
No. of 'block control' schemes carried out					16

\*Excluding houses combined with businesses

\*\* Infestation estimated at more than 20 rodents

Verminous Infestation

During the year 7 houses were treated for verminous or suspected verminous infestation. One of these was a Corporation house;

Whenever a Corporation house is vacated, or two Corporation tenants exchange houses, the premises are inspected. During 1963, 310 such inspections were made, and infestation was found in only one of these.

In several cases people produced insects at the Department for identification, but in none was there any public health problem.

Section Nine

ADMINISTRATION AND RECORDS

Tabular Statement of Inspections made  
and Notices served - Establishment

The Public Health Officers Regulations require the recording of inspections made, and the preparation of a tabular statement relating to the number and nature of these, to notices served and the results obtained. I have given as accurate a picture as possible in the statement; but when, at one visit, premises are dealt with comprehensively under two or more headings, difficulties in recording can arise. Records such as these may tend to type the public health inspector as an enforcement officer, whereas in many of his activities these days he finds himself, and happily so, in the role of educator and adviser.

Prepared and construed in this spirit, the tabular statement which follows may serve to summarise the year's work and indicate the emphases placed on the varied range of activities covered.

Table 25. Nature and Number of Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors and assistant staff during 1963.

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Number made</u>
Housing Inspections and Enquiries:	
For unfitness, and repair or demolition of unfit houses	1,147
Improvement with grant-aid	66
Following applications under Rent Act for certificates of disrepair	-
Overcrowding and computation of 'permitted numbers'	5
Unsatisfactory conditions of multiple occupation	4
Air Pollution Inspections and Enquiries:	
Industrial smoke observations	43
Inspection of boiler plant	48
Investigations of smoke nuisances (section 16)	8
Smoke Control Areas -	
Preparation for establishment including education and enforcement	577
Food Hygiene Inspections and Enquiries:	
Visits to Abattoir for meat inspection	590
Number of carcasses examined	12,345
Visits to shops for meat inspection	14
Investigations under Milk and Dairies Regulations	1
Sampling of milks and containers (for biological and bacteriological examinations)	19

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Number made</u>
General Food Inspection and sampling	245
Visits to food premises -	
Investigations under Food Hygiene Regulations	183
No. of food rooms inspected	343
Investigations into sale of food in the open air	36
Occupational Hygiene Inspections and Enquiries:	
For staff welfare in -	
Factories	72
Other works (building sites)	2
Outworkers' premises	-
Shops	80
Workplaces (Public Health Act)	12
Visits to Places of Public Resort:	
Swimming Baths, water samples taken	108
Sanitary Accommodation, inspections under section 89 of Public Health Act, 1936	36
Inspection of Hairdressing Establishments (West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951)	20
Hygiene and the Public Health Services:	
Water supply, investigations and sampling	56
Refuse Collection and Disposal, inspections and enquiries	41
Sewerage and Sewage disposal, and general drainage inspections (excluding housing defects)	26
Investigations connected with the prevention and abatement of nuisances, et cetera:	
Offensive Trades	78
Moveable dwellings and sites	73
Noise nuisance	10
Animal hygiene, including Pet Animals Act	2
Other statutory nuisances (excluding housing defects)	25
Infectious diseases and food poisoning enquiries	29
For uncleanness and verminous conditions (including inspections for House Management)	386
Filling materials (Rag Flock Act)	7
Inspections and Enquiries connected with Pest Control:	
For rodent infestation (mainly by Rodent Control staff)	475
For other pests	12

Table 26. Number of Notices served and the Result of Service

Act or Section under which or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served	No. of Informal Notices						No. of Statutory Notices					
	(a) Outstanding from 1962	(b) Served in 1963	(c) Total of these	(d) Complied with	Not complied with		(g) Outstanding from 1962	(h) Served in 1963	(i) Total of these	(j) Complied with	(k) Work done by L.A.	(l) Outstanding at end of 1963
					(e) Statutory notice served in 1963	(f) Outstanding at end of 1963						
Public Health Act, 1936:												
(a) Housing Defects -	6	44	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 39, 40, 44 and 45	15	27	42	38	2	2	1	2	3	-	-	1
93												
(b) Other -	-	7	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 39	2	14	16	14	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
75												
Public Health Act, 1961: Section 17	-	14	14	14	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-
Housing Act, 1957: Section 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:	1	76	77	74	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 4	-	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 6												
Totals	24	187	211	202	4	5	2	8	10	9	-	1

Establishment

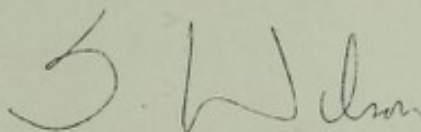
During the year under review a full complement of staff was maintained comprising Deputy, two additional inspectors, one technical assistant and one student inspector.

In the latter part of the year, Mr. Barnes, one of the additional inspectors sustained a serious hand injury during meat inspection duty at the Abattoir, incapacitating him for three months. This unfortunate incident slowed down the impetus on food hygiene work that had been steadily developing during the year.

Mr. Hughes the second additional inspector was successful in obtaining the Diploma for Meat Inspection and Other Foods during the year and has proved himself to be a very energetic and reliable inspector.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,



Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Offices,

Pontefract.

August, 1964.



