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County Borough of Reading

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

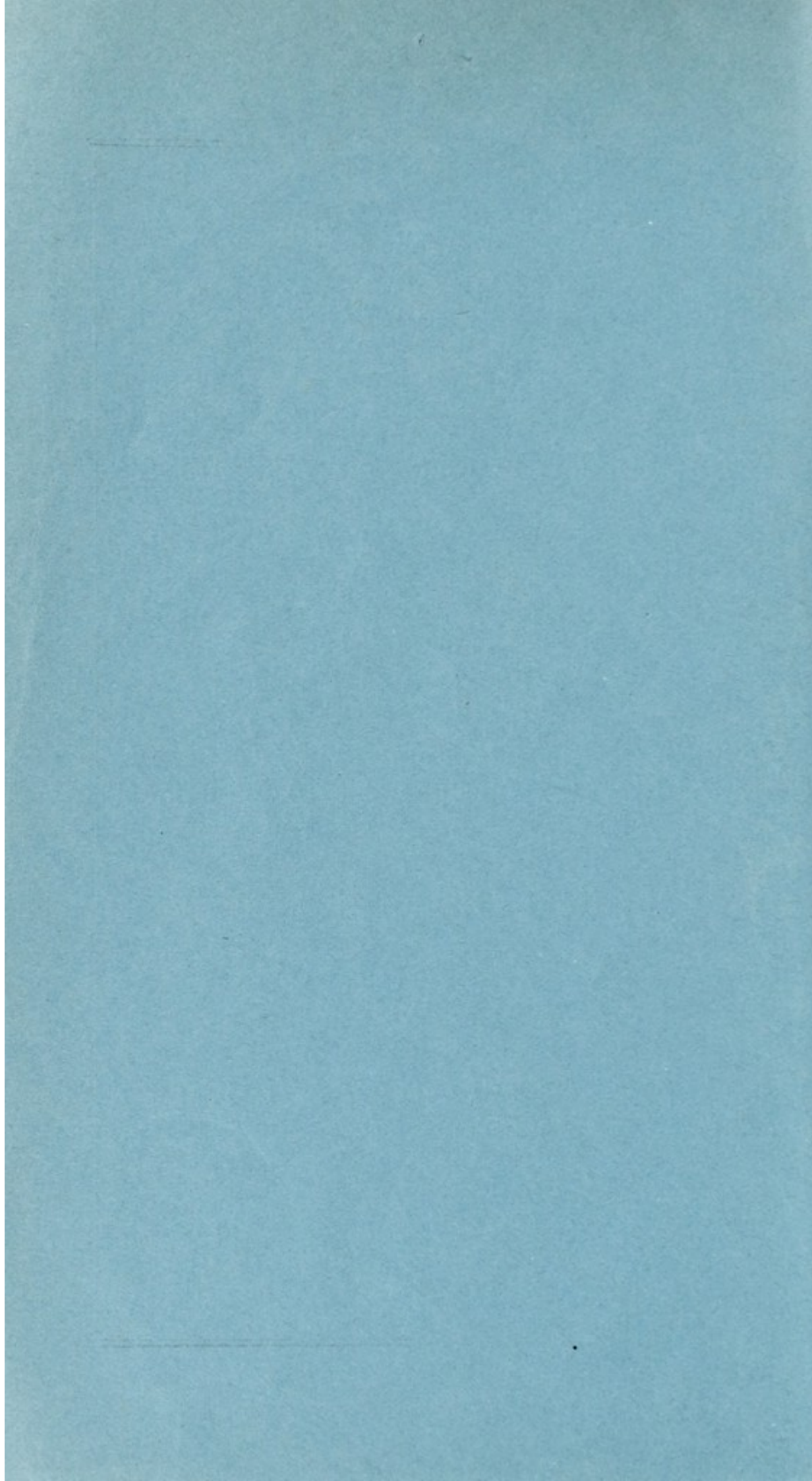
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963

By

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1963

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor J. C. H. Butcher)

Aldermen:

ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS EDITH MORRIS GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND

Councillors:

WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM (Chairman)	JOSHUA HAZLETON
PERCY BELCHER	ARTHUR ALFRED TEASDALE HUTCHINGS
WILLIAM EWART BOWYER	FREDERICK LAWRENCE ROBERTS
GEORGE CHARLES BROADHURST	ARTHUR EDWARD SAUNDERS SINGER
IRIS BOZIER BUTCHER	ERNEST ALBERT SHADE
FRED DAVISON	HENRY GEORGE WHEELER (Vice Chairman)
DAVID HERBERT JOHN GALLAGHER	HERBERT WILLIAMS

Non-Members of the Council:

JOHN EDMUND KEIR MOORE, B.M., B.CH.	CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
ERNEST EDMUND VAUGHAN, M.B., B.S.	W. HEATH, M.P.S.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1963

Medical Officer of Health:

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

GILBERT VINCENT GRIFFIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.—commenced 1.4.63

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Senior School Medical Officer:

JOHN BEASLEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.—commenced 1.6.63

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

JOHN OWEN LLOYD JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

GEORGE S. SORRIE, M.B., Ch.B., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MICHAEL FRANCIS HOWARD BUSH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S.—commenced 23.9.63

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare:

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

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

Public Analysts:

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

F. A. LYNE, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. GREEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

Senior Inspectors:

R. W. BASHFORD (Sampling)

D. V. C. COOPER (Meat)

A. D. E. HARDING (Housing)

E. CARSON (Smoke Abatement)

M. CARTER (Meat)

J. HANDBY (Meat)

J. COWBURN (Housing)

District Public Health Inspectors:

H. MORTIMORE

R. C. GOSLING

B. C. MORGAN

E. ALEXANDER

J. J. McLAREN—commenced 15.7.63

E. J. W. CROWLE—commenced 18.3.63

Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Group Advisors:

*MISS J. N. MARSH

*MISS F. L. GATES

*MISS E. P. E. FEW

Health Visitors:

*MISS H. A. MORTIMER

*MISS M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

*MISS J. SMITH

*MISS S. G. HANSFORD

*MISS B. H. WHITE

*MISS J. FIELD

*MISS P. J. HONEYBALL

*MISS S. R. JONES—commenced 19.7.63

*MISS G. E. THOMAS

*MISS M. E. GRANT

MISS J. N. WESTALL—commenced 19.7.63

MISS D. H. D. BAKER—commenced 1.6.63

*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors:

Vacancy

MRS. G. M. RAKE

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer:

Vacant

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

MISS F. L. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Domiciliary Midwives:

MISS E. J. ODELL

MISS F. HOLLAND

MISS B. LOYE

MISS E. CHARNELL

MISS A. M. ROBINSON—

commenced 1.7.63

MRS. Y. M. TROTIER

MISS M. POINTER

MISS E. XINOMILOU—

commenced 10.6.63

MISS R. MILLIKEN—

commenced 1.7.63

MISS V. GARRIGAN

MISS M. HALL

MISS M. FOX

MISS T. E. J. SHIPP—

commenced 10.6.63

MISS J. ARGYLE

Welfare Officer for Commonwealth Citizens:

MISS. A. B. BURTON

Family Welfare Officers:

MISS D. MATTHEWS

MRS. L. DORWARD

Senior Mental Welfare Officers:

C. E. HOUSE

MRS. J. M. NORWOOD

MRS. A. J. TREGILLUS

Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:

W. C. LACY

V. A. LANDOR

Chief Administrative Assistant:

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service:

Supervisor:

MRS. H. A. FINCH

Assistant Supervisors:

MISS M. CHURCHILL

MRS. L. R. RUSSELL
(Part-time)MRS. E. G. DAVIES
(Part-time)**Training Centres:**

Supervisors:

MR. A. H. ALLEN

MRS. L. FADE

MRS. R. ENGLISH

Superintendent Home Nursing Service:

Miss A. M. EDWARDS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Day Nursery:

Holybrook House: Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)

Blind Welfare Officer:

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind:

MRS. A. E. BAKER

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:

MRS. J. D. SNOW

MISS M. E. GIBBS

MISS F. M. E. HARRISON

Occupational Therapist:

MISS J. STUART HAWKINS—commenced 1.2.63

Home Work Organiser:

Vacant

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948:

D. H. COMERFORD

Old People's Homes:**"Woodlands"**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

"Wychcotes" and "Warren House"

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

"Parkhurst"

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

"Southern Hill"

Miss A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

"Arthur Clark"

Miss B. F. HAYSMAN (Superintendent)

"Dysons Wood"

Mrs. R. H. DAVIES (Superintendent)

"Alice Jenkins"

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT
BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,
173/4 FRIAR STREET,
READING.

July, 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this Report which is the last Annual Report compiled by Dr. Hughes before his untimely death. His comments and observations are included in many parts of the body of the Report.

I must pay tribute to Dr. Hughes, who was nationally revered in all branches of medicine. He was a doctor in the widest sense of that word, whose practice was concerned with the health of people, particularly the people of Reading. He was an administrator who never forgot that his work affected directly and intimately large numbers of people who are individuals, due respect for that reason, and having a dignity and individuality peculiar to themselves. He was, above all, a wise and kindly man, who disguised under an unassuming manner, intellect, clarity of thought, and foresight; qualities which made him pre-eminent in his own branch of medicine.

He guided the development of services for Reading under the legislation which became effective in 1948 concerning the health and welfare of the whole population. The manner in which these services developed and were administered, are a lasting tribute to his ability.

I should like to quote from the first Report Dr. Hughes wrote when he was referring to the effects of the N.H.S. Act. "Nor does there seem any doubt that the glamour of curative medicine has eclipsed the steady and unspectacular flame of preventive medicine . . ."

He kept that flame alive and his triumphs are as great as, or greater than, the triumphs of curative medicine, but such triumphs go unrecorded since they concern the people who, because of his efforts, didn't suffer illness; the children who didn't get diphtheria and other diseases; the handicapped who didn't become completely disabled; the elderly who didn't descend into squalor and malnutrition; the people who go about their lives unaware of the dangers from which they have been shielded. These are his triumphs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. V. GRIFFIN,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1963	1962
Area (acres)	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1963)	121,450	121,420
Area Comparability Factor:—		
Births	1.01	1.01
Deaths	0.99	0.95
Rateable Value	£6,224,982	£2,446,506
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.64)	£25,800 (new assessment)	£9,330
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1963:—		
Expenditure <i>less</i> income (other than Government Grants)	£425,576	£404,747

*Live Births	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. (not adjusted)
Total	2330 (2210)	1236 (1098)	1094 (1112)	19.18 (18.20)
Legitimate	2112 (2017)	1124 (1007)	988 (1010)	17.39 (16.61)
Illegitimate	218 (193)	112 (91)	106 (102)	1.79 (1.59)
*Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				9.36 (8.73)
*Stillbirths				53 (44)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths				6 (8)
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths (not adjusted)				22.24 (19.52)
*Total live and stillbirths				2383 (2254)

*Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year):—

Total	45 (45)
Legitimate	40 (40)
Illegitimate	5 (5)

*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (not adjusted):—

Total	19.31 (20.36)
Legitimate	18.94 (19.83)
Illegitimate	22.94 (25.91)
*Deaths of infants under four weeks	24 (32)
*Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	10.30 (14.48)
*Deaths of infants under one week	19 (26)
*Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	18.15 (11.76)

*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	30.21	(31.06)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	—	(1)
From sepsis	—	(—)
From other causes	—	(1)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	—	(0.44)
*Deaths—Net	1484	(1508)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population (not adjusted)	12.22	(12.42)
*Deaths from Cancer	251	(227)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system	261	(271)
Coronary heart disease	262	(286)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	215	(235)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms	10	(8)
Pulmonary	9	(7)
Non-Pulmonary	1	(1)
*Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—		
All forms	0.08	(0.07)
Pulmonary	0.07	(0.06)
Non-Pulmonary	0.01	(0.01)
Number of Marriages	1,043	1,080

*Registrar-General's Returns

All figures in brackets refer to 1962

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population		
Births:—		
Live births	19.37	18.20
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births	22.46	17.30
Deaths:—		
All causes	12.10	12.20
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—		
Deaths:—		
All causes under 1 year of age	19.12	20.90

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1963

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens						Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University		
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature				*Mean Humidity	Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum				
January ...	·77	41	9	32·67	23·00	89·87	59·9	1·93	23
February ...	·26	47	18	36·82	26·89	87·96	75·1	2·68	27
March ...	3·44	64	24	51·97	37·68	78·26	92·3	2·98	25
April ...	2·37	68	28	56·93	41·50	84·97	120·9	4·03	29
May ...	1·32	77	37	61·90	44·42	77·68	189·7	6·12	39
June ...	3·34	85	47	71·13	52·20	87·17	191·3	6·38	39
July ...	1·61	87	45	70·87	52·84	81·97	185·8	5·99	37
August ...	2·62	82	46	69·26	52·68	87·81	159·4	5·14	35
September ...	2·50	81	41	66·53	49·17	88·50	119·4	3·98	31
October ...	2·11	72	39	59·71	46·55	88·90	76·4	2·46	23
November ...	4·57	62	30	53·67	42·60	87·57	54·4	1·81	20
December ...	·82	50	20	41·61	31·71	84·90	50·8	1·64	21
Year ...	26·73						1375·4		

* as recorded at 9 a.m.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

[illegible]

Employment

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading area was estimated to be 68,210 in June, 1962, the latest date for which statistics are available. The numbers employed in the main industries were:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture and Horticulture	1,455	283	1,738
Food Drink & Tobacco	2,613	1,830	4,443
Building and Civil Engineering	5,045	284	5,329
Clothing Manufacture	199	626	825
Distributive Trades	6,041	5,808	11,849
Engineering (including vehicle manufacture and repairs)	5,848	1,251	7,099
Timber, Furniture and Shop Fittings	1,024	277	1,301
Government Service (National & Local)	2,261	1,115	3,376
Hotel and Catering	408	1,024	1,432
Plastic Manufacture	400	544	944
Printing and Publishing	1,509	812	2,321
Transport (road and rail) and Communication	3,614	721	4,335

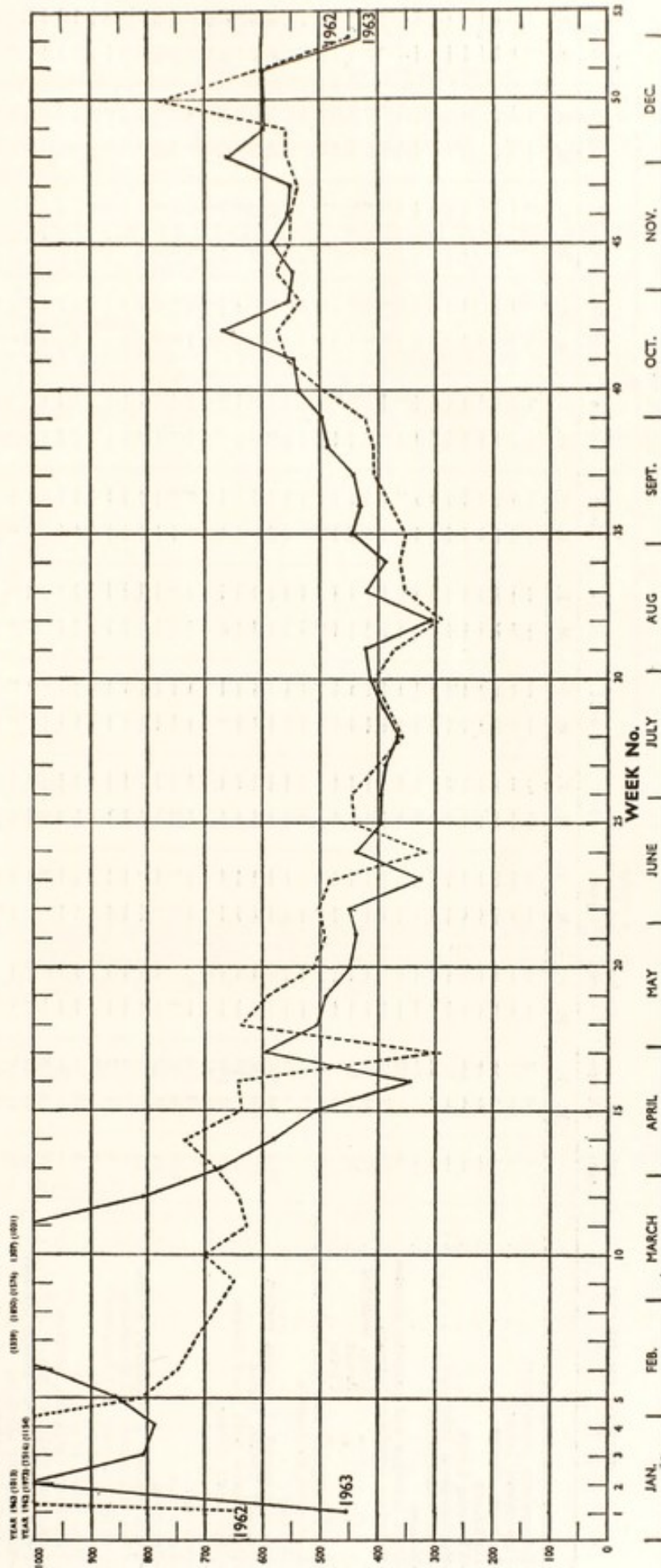
In 1963 the year began with the employment situation adversely affected by the unusually severe weather conditions experienced in January and February. This resulted in reduced activity in the building and civil engineering industry and directly led to a substantial increase in male unemployment. However, an improvement in weather conditions together with the normal seasonal increase in activity during the spring, assisted in a return to the high level of employment normally experienced in the area. As the year progressed the employment situation steadily improved, with demands for labour well above those of a year ago. The demand for skilled craftsmen far exceeded supply, and opportunities were also good for the semi-skilled and unskilled. Women have been in considerable demand for a variety of factory work.

Following the large scale temporary unemployment during the winter months of 1963, the numbers unemployed have steadily fallen and by the end of the year were well below the comparable totals of 1962. The numbers of unemployed in December, 1963, expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area (including Henley) was .9% compared with a national rate at that time of 2.0%. In December, 1962, the comparable rates were 1.5% and 2.5%.

The numbers of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly intervals during 1963 were as follows:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
March . . .	1,047	275	55	11	1,388
June . . .	527	153	10	9	699
September . .	441	152	53	22	668
December . . .	431	151	15	3	600

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK 1963 (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								65-74	75 and Over
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74		
			M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	9	6 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5 2	—	—	1
2—Tuberculosis (other) ..	1	— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	3	1 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ..	30	17 13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—" " Lung, bronchus ..	62	54 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12—" " Breast ..	25	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13—" " Uterus ..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	127	70 57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—Diabetes ..	7	3 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	215	83 132	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18—Coronary disease, angina ..	282	166 96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19—Hypertension with heart disease ..	26	10 16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—Other heart disease ..	168	62 106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—Other circulatory disease ..	67	33 34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22—Influenza ..	11	3 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23—Pneumonia ..	166	79 87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24—Bronchitis ..	88	65 23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ..	12	8 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	9	5 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	8	1 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28—Nephritis and nephrosis ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate ..	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—Congenital malformations ..	12	3 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	89	43 46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
83—Motor vehicle accidents ..	20	11 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
84—All other accidents ..	27	12 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—Suicide ..	17	11 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
86—Homicide and operation of war ..	1	— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1484	759 725	13 11	9 12	5 2	3 2	10 3	11 4	11 20	48 27	163 80	217 159	269 405	674

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No steps have been taken to provide health centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act. Work on the new Infant Welfare Clinic at Lyndhurst Road was well advanced by the end of the year.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) "Risk" Register

This register was maintained. The following figures are of interest:—

Total live births in 1963	2,203
Number of children placed on the Risk Register in 1963	910 (41%)

Monthly analysis

January	78
February	85
March	95
April	75
May	88
June	92
July	100
August	66
September	61
October	57
November	60
December	53
Total	910

NOTE: After August babies with a family history of deafness were only included if their affected relative was dumb also. This discrimination was introduced to exclude those with a family history of conductive deafness.

Analysis by Cause

Many babies were included for more than one reason.

	No. of Cases	Percentage of Risk Register
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	198	22%
Family history of deafness (January to July)	181	21%
Family history of deafness & dumbness (August to December)	9	
Anoxia at birth	192	19%
Prematurity (under 5½ lb.)	158	17%
Forceps delivery	116	13%
Multiple births	61	7%
Congenital malformations	52	6%
Caesarian Section	47	5%
Haemorrhage during pregnancy	44	5%
Malpresentation	32	4%
Virus infection in pregnancy	19	2%
Exchange transfusion	8	1%
Jaundice (marked or prolonged)	5	1%

(b) Congenital Abnormalities

In 1963 a special note was made of all known congenital abnormalities. The main summary is as follows:—

Live Births

Talipes	12	Hemihypertrophy	2
Congenital heart disease	11	Mongolism	3
Spina Bifida	5	Microcephaly	1
Abnormalities of Digits	6	Anencephaly	1
Syndactyly	4	Tracheo-oesophageal Fistula	1
Cleft Palate and Hare Lip	1	Meconium Ileus	1
Cleft Palate only	3	Exomphalos	1
Hare lip only	1	Others	6
Branchial cleft remnants	2		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	61		

Still births

Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida	.	.	.	2
Microcephaly	.	.	.	1
Anencephaly	.	.	.	1
Gross abnormalities	.	.	.	3
Hygroma of Neck	.	.	.	1
				<hr/> 8

(c) **Phenylketonuria**

The arrangements outlined for the early detection of phenylketonuria continued. During the year 2,211 babies were tested, but no positive results were recorded. The fact that this scheme has been in operation since June, 1960, without any positive results, does make me wonder whether the time and effort involved is justified. I certainly propose to keep the matter under review.

(d) **Register of Handicapped Pre-School Children**

Diagnostic classification of the 190 children on the register:—

Blind and Partially Sighted	.	.	.	.	18
Perceptive Hearing Loss	.	.	.	.	3
Conductive Hearing Loss	.	.	.	.	3
Mongolism	.	.	.	.	14
Other Severe Mental Subnormality	.	.	.	.	14
Mental Subnormality	.	.	.	.	32
Cerebral Palsy	.	.	.	.	12
Notable Epilepsy	.	.	.	.	12
Asthma	.	.	.	.	3
Congenital Heart Disease	.	.	.	.	39
Orthopaedic Abnormalities	.	.	.	.	18
Speech Disorders	.	.	.	.	9
Other Abnormalities	.	.	.	.	31

(e) Infantile Mortality, Stillbirths and Peri-natal Mortality Rate

The following table gives the figures since 1949:—

	I.M.R.	S.B.R.	P.N.R.
1949	26.20	21.42	36.57
1950	26.10	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26
1959	19.18	20.28	31.16
1960	20.35	17.14	29.52
1961	18.26	15.29	25.63
1962	20.36	19.52	31.06
1963	19.31	22.24	30.21

The table on page 39 gives the cause of deaths of infants during the first year of life.

(f) Ante-natal Clinics

Most of the medical ante-natal attention given to expectant mothers is provided by general practitioners in their own surgeries, but the use of our clinics by domiciliary midwives continued successfully and is well appreciated.

One of the innovations during the year was the introduction of the co-operation card which has been issued by the Ministry of Health for the exchange of information between general practitioners and midwives. This card replaces the card which we have been using previously, but midwives are not very enthusiastic about its value in practice.

An interesting innovation has been the establishment of a special evening clinic which is held once per week, when all domiciliary bookings take place. We find this helps many mothers who are working during the day, and certainly gives the midwives more time to discuss matters with their patients than was possible under the old arrangements whereby midwives booked patients at their own clinics.

The midwives ante-natal sessions continued to be held at the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (with doctor) Tuesday afternoons Thursday afternoons
Tilehurst	Wednesday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Emmer Green	Monday afternoons

Number of women in attendance		Number of sessions held by				Total number of sessions in columns 3-6
For ante-natal examination	For post-natal examination	Medical Officers	Midwives	G.P.'s employed on sessional basis	Hospital Medical Staff	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1,314	41	—	408	100	—	508

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	<i>No. of Sessions</i>	<i>New Attendances</i>	<i>Re-attendances</i>
Star Lane	99	387	1,812
Southcote	53	225	1,220
Emmer Green	50	183	1,011
Whitley	103	267	1,154
Tilehurst	103	252	1,007

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests

Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Khan tests for general practitioners has continued.

General Practitioner patients at Star Lane	1,365
Clinic patients at Whitley	156
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	99

Post-Natal Clinic

There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations and the work is carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions, as would be expected by virtue of the fact that nearly all the ante-natal work is carried out by the patient's own doctor, few women attend municipal clinics for their post-natal examinations. During the year 41 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading & Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and with other agencies. If necessary, cases can be dealt with by the department's own staff.

The Welfare Officer of the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During 1963 the number of new cases involving illegitimate children and their parents referred to this Association for help was 112 and 40 cases were brought forward from 1962 as they were still in receipt of help.

There were 608 interviews at the office and there were 384 visits made. Most of those applying for help lived in the area, only 20 came from areas outside the County Borough.

More girls than usual have kept their babies, and several of the girls have married the father of their child.

A number of girls have gone to Mother and Baby Homes, and they have been helped by their stay in these homes. It is often easier for them to think things out when they are away from relatives and friends who often offer conflicting advice.

Dr. Barnardo's Homes have continued to make grants in aid to several families, and this help is greatly appreciated.

Annual Record of Cases for 1963

Total No. of New Cases	125
„ „ of New Maternity Cases	112
„ „ of Old Maternity Cases	40
„ „ of Old Cases still in hand	47

New Maternity Cases Only

<i>Age groups:</i>				<i>Marital Status (Mothers)</i>	
<i>Mothers</i>		<i>Fathers</i>			
14 years	1	—17 years	2	Single	91
15 „ „	2	17/20 „	24	Married	18
16 „ „	9	21/30 „	64	Divorced	2
17/20 „	50	31/40 „	9	Widowed	1
21/30 „	43	40+ „	6	<i>Marital Status (Putative Fathers)</i>	
31/40 „	7	Not known	7	Single	76
40+ „	—	—	—	Married	28
—	—	—	—	Divorced	3
112		112		Not known	5
				<i>Domicile of Mothers</i>	
				Home in area	92
				Home elsewhere	20

Position of Children at end of 1963

(new and old cases)	<i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
Living with mother in her home or lodgings	48	26	74
Mother responsible for and access to child	9	1	10
Adopted	18	10	28
Advised etc. before being passed on	8	1	9
Babies died	3	—	3
Miscarriages and abortions	4	2	6
Cases still in hand	22	—	22
	112	40	152

Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily at our premises at No. 1 London Street.

The following table gives details of the foods distributed:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20-oz. tins)	. . .	124
National Dried Milk Full-Cream (20 oz. tins)	. . .	4,779
Orange Juice (bottles)	. . . . .	14,946
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	. . . . .	843
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	. . . . .	1,777

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20 oz. tins)	. . . . .	8
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half-Cream (16 oz. packets)		912
National Dried Milk Full-Cream	. . . . .	3,180
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full-Cream (16 oz. packets)		28,704
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	. . . . .	19,429
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	. . . . .	19,440
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	. . . . .	1,300
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	. . . . .	1,367
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)	. . . . .	9,600

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1912

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	—	—	—	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	—	—	—	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	—	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	—	—	—	1,255	10.64
1959	118,200	1,981	16.76	38	19.18	—	—	—	1,400	11.84
1960	118,110	2,064	17.48	42	20.35	—	1	0.48	1,306	11.06
1961	121,040	2,190	18.09	40	18.26	—	—	—	1,393	11.51
1962	121,420	2,210	18.20	45	20.36	—	1	0.44	1,508	12.42
1963	121,450	2,330	19.18	45	19.31	—	—	—	1,484	12.22

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

It is estimated that 87·6% of the children born during the year attended one or the other of these clinics during 1963.

The following table gives particulars:—

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attend-ances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attend-ances	Average attend-ances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading—							
Tuesday a.m.	53	71	927	412	294	1,633	31
Tuesday p.m.	53	128	1,493	518	260	2,271	42
Thursday p.m.	51	116	1,500	428	249	2,177	43
Tilehurst Clinic. "The Laurels," School Road—							
Monday p.m.	49	123	1,605	429	271	2,305	47
Thursday p.m.	51	140	1,749	394	400	2,543	50
Star Lane, London Street, Rdg.—							
Tuesday p.m.	53	163	1,913	410	261	2,584	49
Wednesday a.m.	51	55	553	122	76	751	15
Wednesday p.m.	51	150	1,485	380	248	2,113	41
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue—							
Wednesday p.m.	51	150	1,742	240	126	2,108	41
Friday p.m.	50	110	1,233	341	97	1,671	33
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield—							
Thursday p.m.	51	93	1,296	349	218	1,863	37
West Memorial Institute, Caversham—							
Tuesday p.m.	53	81	1,100	305	310	1,715	32
Thursday p.m.	51	95	1,366	291	255	1,912	37
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading—							
Monday p.m.	49	127	1,800	355	161	2,316	47
Friday p.m.	50	147	1,885	424	184	2,493	50
Emmer Green Clinic, Grove Road							
Wednesday p.m.	51	97	1,263	406	242	1,911	37
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square—							
Wednesday p.m.	51	109	1,168	318	291	1,777	35
Friday p.m.	50	78	1,409	322	242	1,973	39
Totals	919	2,033	25,487	6,444	4,185	36,116	

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1963

Centres provided by	Number of centres provided at end of year	Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age (4)	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			Total attendances during the year
				1963	1962	1961-58		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
L.H.A.	9	76	2,033	1,975	1,638	1,418	5,031	25,487	6,444	4,185	36,116

Women's Advisory Clinic

The work of this clinic continues to expand. The Secretary of the Reading Branch of the Family Planning Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

"We held 132 sessions during the year, at which 4,194 patients attended. Of this number 2,129 were seen by one of our doctors, 724 were "new" i.e. attending the Family Planning Association Clinic for the first time, and 197 were transferred from other F.P.A. Clinics.

As many patients live in outlying districts and many are working, our postal service is well used. During the year 701 orders were posted.

The following figures may be of interest:—

145 patients were referred by their own general practitioner.

10 were referred by hospital doctors.

41 „ „ by midwives or health visitors.

11 „ „ by the Marriage Guidance Council.

30 „ „ by reading press notices.

2 „ „ directly by their clergy.

196 „ „ by friend (in most instances another patient), and in several cases mothers and mothers-in-law suggest they attend.

During the year 111 pre-marital girls were given advice, very often accompanied by their fiances, and several women sought advice on sub-fertility and marital difficulties.

The ages at which patients attend is interesting:—

94 were under 21

176 were childless

271 „ between 21 and 25

141 had 1 child

278 „ between 26 and 35

158 had 2 children

81 „ over 35

94 had 3 children

29 had 4 children

15 had 5 or more children

During 1963 patients using the oral method of birth control numbered 93, but this number has now increased."

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

It will be seen from the table on page 25 that there were 193 premature live births during the year, compared with 176 in 1962, and 127 in 1961. The number of premature stillbirths was 33 as compared with 31 in 1962 and 21 in 1961. The total number of premature births (live and still) in 1963 was 226 as compared with 207 in 1962 and 148 in 1961.

Throughout the year we continued to be without the services of a premature baby nurse, but health visitors and midwives did their best to fill the gap. It was hoped to make an appointment of a premature baby nurse in conjunction with the hospital. The following tables give the results of follow-up of certain of these premature babies:—

REPORT ON PREMATURE INFANTS

Born January to December, 1959

REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	4	6	5	2	—	1	1. Backward
Group B	11	8	11	11	3	—	—	1. Congenital Heart disease 1. Left Congenital Cataract
Group C	15	13	14	13	2	1	2	1. Backward
Group D	36	33	35	36	3	1	—	1. Backward and Spastic

Born January to December, 1960

REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	4	6	6	2	—	—	1. Diastolic Murmur
Group B	21	15	20	20	6	1	1	1. Cleft Palate 1. Toxo- plasmosis: Hydro- cephalus with Dimin- ished sight and Backward
Group C	26	23	25	25	3	1	1	1. Mongol
Group D	49	46	48	48	3	1	1	1. Tracheo- Oesophageal Fistula 1. Systolic Murmur 1. Microcephalic

Born January to December, 1961

REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	4	2	3	3	2	1	1	1. Backward
Group B	18	17	16	18	1	2	—	
Group C	22	16	19	18	6	3	4	3. Backward 1. Congenital Heart Disease 1. Bilateral Lamellar Cataracts and Backward
Group D	51	49	50	51	2	1	—	1. Backward 1. Cleft Palate

Born January to December, 1962
REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	9	6	9	8	3	-	1	1. Subsidiary Thumb
Group B	13	11	11	11	2	2	2	1. Backward 1. Systolic Murmur 1. Cardiac Murmur + Mongol 1. Systolic Murmur + Backward
Group C	23	22	23	23	1	-	-	1. Hypospadias + Ptosis of both lids 2. Systolic Murmurs 1. Congenital Dislocation of Hip
Group D	79	70	79	77	9	-	2	1. Congenital Heart Disease 1. Marked Plagiocephly 1. Backward 1. Congenital Dislocation of Hip

Born January to June, 1963
REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1. Backward
Group B	23	20	22	22	3	1	1	1. Cleft Palate + Heart Murmur 1. Systolic Murmurs 1. Backward
Group C	18	15	18	18	3	-	-	2. Systolic Murmur
Group D	49	45	48	48	4	1	1	1. Mongol 1. Fallot's Defect

Daily Minding Scheme

The scheme for child minders has continued during the year. Although there has been no real increase in the numbers of children placed for daily minding, it has been a more satisfactory year in that children are staying for much longer periods. Many children have been with the same minder throughout the year.

As in previous years, there continues to be a demand for minders willing and able to take West Indian children; it seems unlikely that this situation will improve.

Of the children receiving care under the Council assisted scheme, four were still receiving care at the end of the year. Of the four who discontinued, one boy went to school at the age of five years, the financial situation of one of the mothers improved so that she now pays the full cost of care, a third mother became pregnant again, and in the fourth case the situation was unsatisfactory and therefore discontinued.

Daily minding interviews	Daily minding visits	Council assisted Cases	Placed by private arrangements
45	68	8 (3 West Indian) 4 discontinued during year	16 (1 West Indian) 4 short term placements

Commonwealth Citizens in Reading

Miss A. B. Burton reports as follows:—

The service has been mainly used by West Indians, although contact has been made with the newly formed Pakistani group in the town.

Below are details of an analysis of their problems.

Child Care and Baby Minding	.	.	.	257
Adult Welfare and Accommodation	.	.	.	267
Child Migration	.	.	.	220
Adult Migration	.	.	.	150
Matrimonial problems	.	.	.	73
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	196
Total	.	.	.	1,163

204 persons used the service for the first time.

Three major problems involving case work arise out of West Indian migration, and the break-up of families. The migrants do not present a cross section of West Indian society in the Caribbean.

1. Difficulties of wives and children left behind in the West Indies, and children sent back to the West Indies. Many are growing up without their parents, often with ageing grandparents.

The majority of men contribute to their families in the West Indies, but some neglect this responsibility or form new liaisons, thus increasing their commitments.

2. The West Indian migrates to work and save, but this becomes more and more difficult for single girls with one or more children. It is a problem for them to find lodgings and to find a place in Reading's one Day Nursery, or with a baby minder, for their offspring. Any money they obtain from the children's father is never sufficient to make them independent. Married women who have children and wish to go out to work also find the same difficulties.

3. Problems also arise from relations between husband and wife, and parents and children. Some conflicts arise from transplanting to a different culture where the standards on such relations are very different.

When parents have saved sufficiently to establish themselves in a house and

send for their children from the West Indies, time has gone by and the parents are sometimes strangers to the children.

The children continue to settle happily in Reading schools but their parents often find English teaching methods and discipline new to them.

Attendance at the Cosmopolitan Club is small, and the committee is attempting to secure larger premises to extend their activities.

Various dances were held last year and a Beauty Queen elected. A Christmas Dinner and Dance was held and many visited London to see the West Indian Cricket Team. At Christmas the W.V.S. kindly arranged holidays for two West Indian children, and three talks were given to organisations about the history and life of the West Indians.

A large amount of information on Family Planning, Nursery Schools and Town Planning was circulated last year to West Indians and it is planned to increase this aspect of distributing information in the coming year, and to make it a two-way process.

N.S.P.C.C.

I am very grateful to Mr. Curran, the Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for the following remarks:—

“For your information I should like to report that for the year 1963 I investigated 54 cases within the Borough of Reading involving the welfare of 121 children. The classification of these cases were:—Neglect 18, Assault or ill-treatment 11, Moral danger 2, Aid or advice sought 23. The latter classification is by far the larger and in such cases my Society was able to provide material aid, or to give advice to parents concerning problems affecting their children.

In other cases my Society found it necessary to take legal proceedings in only one case and this resulted in a parent being fined and the child in question being committed to the care of the Children's Dept.

Again I think that these figures give satisfaction to all departments and agencies within the Borough concerned with the care of children.

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

Pre-School Children

The number of pre-school children inspected (252) shows an increase over the 1962 figure. 153 were found to require treatment—112 attended for treatment. In 1962 the percentage of those inspected requiring treatment was 65.2%, but the 1963 figure is 44%. This is an improvement but it is still much too high.

In the Whitley area, where the Oral Hygienist has attended the “Health Education” months each year, the number of mothers attending the dental clinic with the pre-school members of their families is still very small. It is extremely difficult to bring home to these mothers the importance of regular inspection and treatment.

A considerable amount of propaganda is done also by the health visitors.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

Three mothers attended for treatment during the year. Two extractions were done, one general anaesthetic administered, and two partial dentures were supplied.

The following tables give further details of the treatment carried out:—

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspected	252	2	1
Found to require treatment ...	153	2	1
Treated	112	2	1
Attendances	164	6	1
Extractions	94	1	1
Local Anaesthetics	21	—	1
General Anaesthetics	33	1	—
Fillings	27	—	—
Clean and Polish	3	—	—
Dressings	29	—	—
Silver Nitrate	59	—	—
Partial Dentures... ..	—	2	—
Discharged	93	2	1

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Number of persons examined during the year (1)	Number of person who commenced treatment during the year (2)	Number of courses of treatment completed during the year (3)
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..	3	3	3
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental service	252	112	93

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and gum treatment (1)	Fillings (2)	Silver Nitrate Treatment (3)	Crowns and Inlays (4)	Extrac- tions (5)	General Anaes- thetics (6)	Dentures Provided		Radio- graphs (9)
							Full Upper or Lower (7)	Partial Upper or Lower (8)	
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	—
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental services	3	27	59	—	94	33	—	—	—

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6
1959	1,982	872	43.9
1960	2,062	965	46.8
1961	2,136	955	44.7
1962	2,254	906	40.2
1963	2,337	938	40.1

I am pleased to be able to report that the staffing position improved and for a short time we were up to establishment.

The scheme for central sterilisation of equipment and pre-packing of maternity bags continued to be very much appreciated by the midwives.

A study of the figures will show that there is a continuing increase in the total number of births, not only in Reading but in the surrounding district. In turn, this means pressure on Battle Hospital and the General Practitioner maternity units. During the first half of the year Dellwood was closed and its re-opening with an additional five beds has been very much appreciated.

Members will recall that on many occasions I have stressed the danger of overcrowding in a maternity hospital and in order to avoid this, women have had to be

Discharged before the tenth day. Our practice in Reading is that if they are discharged before the fourth day they are cared for by one of the domiciliary midwives, but if they are discharged after the fourth day they are cared for by one of the home nurses, who is also a qualified midwife. On the whole, this system seems to have worked satisfactorily.

Altogether 475 patients were discharged home before the tenth day and of these, 198 were looked after by domiciliary midwives, and the remainder by home nurses. It must be remembered that early discharge from a maternity ward generally involves the Home Help Service as well.

Stillbirths

There were 50 stillbirths reported during the year as compared with 44 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1955	.	.	.	.	23.00
1956	.	.	.	.	19.00
1957	.	.	.	.	25.20
1958	.	.	.	.	19.86
1959	.	.	.	.	20.28
1960	.	.	.	.	17.14
1961	.	.	.	.	15.29
1962	.	.	.	.	19.52
1963	.	.	.	.	22.24

The incidence of stillbirths in Reading does give one cause for concern as we do not appear to be sharing the general picture of a decrease in the stillbirth rate. A special study is being made of this matter and I hope to be able to present a report on it next year.

The probable causes were as follows:—

Domiciliary

Intra uterine death, early separation of placenta	.	.	.	.	1
Placental insufficiency	.	.	.	.	1
Hydroma of neck	.	.	.	.	1
True knot in cord	.	.	.	.	1
Cord tightly round neck	.	.	.	.	1
Gross abnormality	.	.	.	.	1

Wellwood

Cord round neck	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage and Prematurity	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Torn tentorium	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
No apparent cause	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

Battle Hospital

Rhesus incompatibility	2
Prematurity	1
Meningocele and hydrocephalic	2
Intra uterine death, no apparent cause	7
Hydrocephalic and spina bifida	1
Placenta praevia and Ante partum haemorrhage	3
Eclamptic	1
Placenta praevia, A.P.H. gross abnormalities	1
Intra uterine death, hypertensive mother	1
Prolapsed cord	2
Microcephalic	1
Mild pre-eclampsia, cord round neck	1
Anencephalic	4
Placental insufficiency	2
Cord round neck	1
Pre-eclampsia	3
Accidental A.P.H. and Toxaemia	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage positive WR (both treated in pregnancy)	2
Anoxia	1
Gross abnormalities	1
Rh. incompatibility hydrops foetalis A.P.H. and P.P.H.	1

Townlands Hospital

Post maturity	1
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It will be seen from the table on page 25, in relation to premature births, that 33 of the stillbirths were premature, 7 of them being under 2 lb. 3 ozs. and 9 of them under 3 lb. 4 ozs.

Maternal Deaths

There were no maternal deaths during the year amongst Reading residents.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 13 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, but I am quite sure that many cases of puerperal pyrexia (as at present defined) are not notified.

Ophthalmia neonatorum

No cases were reported during the year.

Relaxation Classes

These are held at Star Lane Clinic and Tilehurst Clinic on Saturday afternoons. In each case there has been an increase in patients attending. Details are as follows:—

Tilehurst

No. of classes held	47
No. of new members	103
Total attendances	672

Star Lane Clinic

New members	.	.	.	.	.	.	188
Total attendances	.	.	.	.	.	.	809

Coombs Test

Our arrangements whereby midwives can take samples of cord blood for Coombs Test in Rh. negative mothers who were confined at home continued. During the year midwives took 107 samples.

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)
Births

Male	2,076	Legitimate	3,787	Live	3,848
Female	1,880	Illegitimate	169	Still	108

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	27
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	39
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	85
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	191
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	174
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	426
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	545
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	731
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,658

Places of Birth

Domiciliary	.	.	.	.	.	.	943
Hospital	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,249
H.M.C. Maternity Homes	.	.	.	.	.	.	480
Contractual	.	.	.	.	.	.	273
Private	.	.	.	.	.	.	11

Dellwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives	.	.	.	.	.	644
Number of patients delivered by doctors	.	.	.	.	.	16
Number of infants wholly breast fed	.	.	.	.	.	396
Maternal deaths	.	.	.	.	.	Nil

Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (based on notifications)

Births

Male	1,244	Legitimate	2,226	Live	2,286
Female	1,093	Illegitimate	111	Still	51

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	47
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	32
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	116
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	96
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	246
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	320
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	426
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,025

Place of Birth

Born in Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,253
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	84

Domiciliary

Inside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	930
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	2

Hospital

Battle (booked)	.	.	.	.	.	.	726
Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	42

H.M.C. Maternity Homes

Dellwood	.	.	.	.	.	.	373
Wallingford	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Townlands	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
Wokingham	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
Others	.	.	.	.	.	.	8

Contractual (Arrangements with Nursing Homes)

Chiltern	.	.	.	.	.	.	198
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	.	.	.	.	.	.	303
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	.	.	.	.	.	.	629

Since April, 1963, a monthly evening lecture has taken place at Star Lane clinic,

"Having the Baby", and the Gas and Air lecture and demonstration. The numbers attending were as follows:—

Mothers attended	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	139
Husbands of above	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	79

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
22	—	1	1
23	—	—	—
24	2	—	2
25	2	1	3
26	—	2	2
27	—	—	—
28	4	4	8
29	2	4	6
30	2	11	13
31	7	4	11
32	11	10	21
33	10	12	22
34	17	15	32
35	26	40	66
36	40	64	104
37	50	61	111
38	154	143	297
39	209	137	346
40	1,323	960	2,283
41	232	110	342
42	138	104	242
43	20	14	34
44	4	5	9
45	—	1	1
	2,253	1,703	3,956

PART A. Domiciliary Midwifery

Employed by	Administrative and Supervisory Staff			Domiciliary Midwives		
	Whole-time (1)	Part-time (2)	Whole-time equivalent of (2) (3)	Whole-time (4)	Part-time (5)	Whole-time equivalent of (5) (6)
1. The Authority	1	—	—	14	3	1
2. Voluntary organisations acting as agents for the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. H.M.C. or B.G.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of midwives approved as teachers included in lines 1-3 above	...	...	...	...	...	12

PART B. Other Midwives (not included in Part A).

1. Number practising in the Authority's area (excluding those in N.H.S. hospitals)	18
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PART C. Pupil Midwives

1. Number of pupils who have completed district training in the area during the year as part of a Part II midwifery course	Wholly on the district	4
	Partly on the district	21
2. Number in training at end of year	Wholly on the district	—
	Partly on the district	3

PART D. Deliveries Attended by Domiciliary Midwives during 1963

Number of domiciliary confinements attended by midwives under N.H.S. arrangements			Number of cases delivered in hospitals and other institutions but discharged and attended by domiciliary midwives before 10th day (4)
Doctor not booked (1)	Doctor booked (2)	Total (3)	
2	936	938	475

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1963

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total 1 month and under 1 year	Total under 1 year
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	—	2	5	2	1	2	10	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	3
Congenital malformations ...	6	2	—	1	9	3	—	2	—	5	14
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	1	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
All other accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Totals ...	19	3	1	1	24	12	3	3	2	20	44

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse	1
Group Advisors	3
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	12
Part-time Health Visitors	2
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent)	4
Part-time School Nurses (temporary)	3

The following table gives particulars of work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to babies born in 1963	2,261
Total routine visits to babies born in 1963	5,138
Total routine visits to babies born in 1962	6,860
Total routine visits to children born in 1958/61	14,843
Total number of persons visited, aged 65 or over	393
Total number of visits for hospital after-care cases	240
Total number of visits to adults	699
Total number of miscellaneous visits	1,322
Total number of tuberculous households visited	8
Total number of households visited on account of other infectious diseases	5
Total number of infant death investigations	31
Total number of effectual visits	31,000
Total number of ineffectual visits	5,404
Total number of attendances at clinics	1,894
Total number of families visited, first visit only	6,640
Total number of children visited, first visit only	9,923
Total number of children tested for phenylketonuria	2,211

The shortage of health visitors continued throughout the year; in fact, there has been a failure to attract suitable candidates for training under our sponsored scheme.

Two health visitors left the area and two joined the staff after completing their training. One sponsored student commenced training in September at the Royal College of Nursing. Miss D. H. Baker joined the staff in June for combined duties, and Mrs. Evans took up part-time duties for health visiting only.

Mothercraft Classes

These classes have continued throughout the year in five of the Welfare Clinics and have been as popular as in previous years. The syllabus has remained on much the same lines as before, with the addition of a film session if possible.

217 sessions have been given and 236 expectant mothers have completed the course during the year.

Health Education—Parentcraft

The course on Parentcraft in the Secondary Modern Schools throughout the borough has continued. Each school has differed in its demands and three schools have embarked on more ambitious programmes than in previous years. One school has had a regular session per week throughout the term, and this has been popular with the pupils. It is interesting to note the type of problem which is presented by the pupils for discussion, and it has made us realise more than ever the great deal of help the teenagers need in working out their problems.

Pre-Nursing Course—Westwood Secondary School for Girls

We were pleased to note that the Pre-Nursing Course commenced again in 1963, after a break of two years. As in the past a health visitor has, in conjunction with the teacher concerned, given six practical classes, and will continue to help throughout the coming year.

City and Guilds of London—Domestic Subjects—Technical College, Reading

Two health visitors have continued to cover a section of this course, and talks have been given on "First Aid and Treatment" and "Prevention of Accidents in the Home". Twelve talks have been given.

Nursery Nurse Training—Technical College, Reading

Two health visitors have assisted with this course as in previous years. The students have visited the Infant Welfare Clinics and attended Immunisation Clinics in the borough. Twelve talks have been given in all.

Fair Mile Hospital—Student Nurses

Student nurses from Fair Mile Hospital have visited the department at four monthly intervals for a period of one week. They have spent a short time with the welfare workers and health visitors, and have seen different aspects of the work carried out by this department. One health visitor has visited the hospital to give a series of lectures on the work of the local authority. Five lectures have been given.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading—Student Nurses

Student nurses from the Royal Berkshire Hospital have visited the department throughout the year, and have spent some time with the health visitors and other workers in the department.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

Miss A. M. Edwards, Superintendent of the Home Nurses, reports as follows:—

The staff situation improved in the latter part of 1963, but there is still a considerable shortage of permanent trained staff.

Thirteen student district nurses undertook the Course of District Nurse Training—twelve were successful, seven have remained on the staff and six were trained for County Councils.

The work of the district nurses has continued as before with the care of the elderly, sick patients, often living alone, as the main part of their work.

Late evening visits to patients in the terminal stages of illnesses increased considerably during the year—one nurse being on duty each evening for this purpose.

Care of mothers with new-born babies discharged from hospital on the fourth day was also introduced and the visiting of babies with adherent cords has continued as before.

The autoclaved packs used for all treatments carried out by district nurses in the patients' homes has been very much appreciated, especially by new Queen's Nurses who have joined the staff from other areas. This method of working saves the nurses' time and energy and also gives them the opportunity to deal with social problems and time to practise rehabilitation. It is also appreciated by patients and relatives as they now have very little equipment to prepare for the nurses' visits.

Loans of all kinds provided by the Local Authority have again been used extensively, including Ripple Beds in the prevention and treatment of bed sores, also disposable materials provided by the District Nursing Service.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent	1
Assistant Superintendents	1
District nurses who have completed their period of contract	10
District nurses completing their contract of service	—
Student Nurses	4

Non-district trained nurses:—

Full-time	—
Part-time	6

Establishment is:—

Administrative Staff	4
Trained District Nurses	23

The following table gives a summary of the number of patients visited by nurses during the year:—

Total number of persons nursed during the year	2,257
Number of persons who were aged under 5 at first visit in 1963	268
Number of persons who were aged 65 or over at first visit in 1963	1,008

The following table gives a comparison of home nursing work carried out since 1950, but I would repeat that a decrease compared with the earlier years is due to the

separation of work in the Earley area and the corresponding loss of staff:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836
1959	2,144	69,087
1960	1,845	60,599
1961	1,181	56,684
1962	1,730	47,325
1963	2,242	47,272

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (excluding B.C.G.)

Whooping Cough

The number of children who have completed a primary course (normally three injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended December 31st, 1963, is as follows:—

Year of birth	Number of Children
1963	685
1962	894
1961	50
1960	16
1959	13
1954-1958	19
1949-1953	—
Total:	1,677

Diphtheria

The numbers of children immunised against diphtheria are included in the table on page 45.

Poliomyelitis

During the year the numbers of people who *completed* a course of immunisation were as follows:—

Children born in 1963	.	.	.	.	.	229
Children born in 1962	.	.	.	.	.	1,114
Children born in 1961	.	.	.	.	.	186
Children and young persons born in years 1943-1960	.	.	.	.	.	305
Young persons born in years 1933-42	.	.	.	.	.	71
Others	.	.	.	.	.	45
Number of persons who have received third injections						539
Number of persons who have received fourth injections						1,015

Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated (or revaccinated) during the year ended December 31st, 1963.

Age at date of Vaccination	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
0-3 months	128	4
3-6 months	291	68
6-9 months	83	11
9-12 months	68	21
1 year	110	24
2-4 years	44	26
5-14 years	89	105
15 or over	73	82
Total	886	341

IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1963

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Tetanus	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Poliomyelitis	Totals
Grovelands	22	1	1	1	1	31	12	76	128	44	2		44	2	-	41	61	111	508
Whitley	27	-	-	-	-	40	23	145	211	53	1		53	1	2	54	113	171	814
Tilehurst	26	-	-	-	-	66	9	135	180	68	4		68	4	-	71	109	212	854
Caversham (Queen's Rd.)	12	-	-	-	-	30	7	49	46	28	4		28	4	-	24	37	100	325
School (Queen's Rd.)	26	-	-	-	-	30	8	133	188	14	3		14	3	-	25	108	113	622
Southcote	25	-	-	-	-	55	3	85	111	37	2		37	2	1	42	58	109	503
Emmer Green	13	-	-	-	-	12	2	54	67	20	-		20	-	-	17	33	53	259
Carried out by Private Practitioners	-	-	-	-	-	31	2	997	1019	31	1		31	1	10	68	288	685	3132
Totals	-	1	3	-	-	295	66	1674	1950	295	17		295	17	13	342	807	1554	7017

Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1963

Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15 or over	Totals
Grovelands . . .	22	16	57	6	6	13	17	28	—	143 (54)
Whitley . . .	26	38	66	15	8	3	10	34	5	179 (34)
Tilehurst . . .	26	7	16	7	3	9	5	17	1	65 (13)
Caversham (Queen's Rd.) .	12	5	34	10	5	5	3	13	1	76 (25)
School (Queen's Rd.) .	26	36	89	11	12	7	6	9	15	185 (53)
Southcote . . .	25	13	55	4	7	11	—	22	1	113 (39)
Emmer Green . . .	13	—	2	1	3	3	3	17	—	29 (18)
Carried out by Private Practitioners .	—	17	40	40	45	83	26	54	132	437 (105)
TOTALS . . .	—	132	359	94	89	134	70	194	155	1,227 (341)

Figures in parentheses denote re-vaccination

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

This Service continues to expand and to operate efficiently under the control of the Transport Manager and Engineer. I am grateful to him and his staff for the manner in which they have carried out their task.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1950 for Borough and non-Borough duties:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1950 . . .	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951 . . .	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952 . . .	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953 . . .	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954 . . .	21,361	24,543	159,361
1955 . . .	22,224	26,207	162,369
1956 . . .	23,681	27,296	152,241
1957 . . .	24,141	27,758	155,283
1958 . . .	25,526	31,883	164,949
1959 . . .	32,121	35,485	167,292
1960 . . .	34,905	37,939	174,483
1961 . . .	35,332	38,469	183,896
1962 . . .	39,107	42,519	185,582
1963 . . .	40,828	44,328	195,556

A summary of work carried out during 1963 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
	①	②	①	②	①	②
Emergency (999 Calls) ...	2,058	1,688	2,075	1,625	10,556	6,758
Urgent and Non-urgent Calls ...	38,591	32,925	42,122	35,898	181,337	116,612
Flying Squad Duties	179	—	131	—	3,663	—
Stretcher Cases	16,047	11,784	17,446	12,622	112,606	60,091
Sitting/Walking Cases	24,781	22,829	26,882	24,901	82,950	63,279

① *Total All Areas*

② *Non-Rechargeable Cases only*

The above figures do not include the considerable number of duties which are received by the Ambulance Service and passed either to the Hospital Car Service or adjacent Ambulance Services. In the majority of these duties, the mileage is charged directly to the Authority financially responsible for the duty and records of this work are not recorded in any of our tabulations.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

<u>PATIENTS</u>			<u>MILEAGE</u>			<u>MILES PER PATIENT</u>		
1961	1962	1963	1961	1962	1963	1961	1962	1963
AMBULANCE SERVICE								
38,469	42,519	44,329	183,896	185,582	195,556	4.78	4.36	4.40

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

6,968	7,408	7,870	64,199	68,485	65,113	9.21	9.24	8.27
<u>45,437</u>	<u>49,927</u>	<u>52,198</u>	<u>248,085</u>	<u>254,067</u>	<u>260,669</u>	<u>5.46</u>	<u>5.09</u>	<u>4.99</u>

Ambulance Fleet and Personnel

The fleet available for all purposes on December 31st, 1963, consisted of 13 dual-purpose ambulances, 10 of which are fitted with Dunlop Pneuride pneumatic suspension which is of considerable benefit to the comfort of patients.

There are 5 Ambulance Regulators and 28 Ambulance Driver/Attendants to meet all the requirements that the 24 hour service demands.

Radio Control

For almost six years the direct communication by radio with ambulances has been of valuable assistance to the ambulance service. Due to present-day traffic congestion ambulances take more time to complete duties and, therefore, this direct contact is of the utmost importance to the maintenance of an efficient service.

Increased Demand

The number of patients carried by the ambulance service continues to increase in each section and shows no signs of levelling out to a balancing figure each year. If the figures are taken over the last 10 years it will be seen that the increase in patients carried is 88.8%, whereas the mileage has only increased by 25.7%.

General

In respect of conveyance of patients over long journeys by Ambulance/Train/Ambulance, 176 cases were conveyed during 1963. This represents an increase on 1962 of 8.6%.

The staff of the British Railways (Reading) has given the utmost co-operation in meeting the ambulance service requests to make a number of journeys possible. Due to the type of rolling stock used on the journey to Paddington, (Western Region) more use has been made of the trains on the Southern Region between Reading and Waterloo. The Reading/Waterloo route takes a little longer, but its use has enabled the Ambulance/Train/Ambulance service to continue operating smoothly.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE**(A) (a) Tuberculosis (see also Section *re* Infectious Diseases)**

Arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients continued on lines similar to previous years. A great deal of work is done by the Council in providing extra milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc. This is supplemented by the Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest.

(b) The Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest

The Secretary reports as follows:—

Help given by the Association to patients who suffer from those illnesses which are embraced in its title is dependent on two things. A sufficient amount of money being raised to cover all requirements, and a group of people experienced enough to

understand the difficulties and trials which are peculiar to tuberculosis and chest illnesses, to give sound advice and to disburse this money wisely.

Reading is indeed fortunate in having on its Care Committee, and also the Seal Sale Committee, a number of people who by their generosity and tireless energy bring to this work enthusiasm and strength of purpose which is invaluable.

The need for raising money is a cogent one, particularly as during the past year disbursements to patients have exceeded income. The previous report catalogued the money raising methods, the differing types of aid and the various projects for assisting patients and their families. All this valuable service has been extended and improved upon so that at this time it can be said that no cry for help is ever made in vain.

The danger of tuberculosis illness is still with us and there is little ground for complacency. The Association plays a major role in bringing this knowledge to the notice of the public.

(c) **Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale**

The Seal Sale Organiser reports as follows:—

Today the sale of Christmas Seals in a variety of shapes, sizes and prices has become as much commercialised as the prolific sale of cards at the festive season. Each year an ever increasing number of organisations adopt the "C.S." as a medium for raising funds. Both from a general and local aspect the sale of seals by the Reading Care Association differs from others because (1) they were the first voluntary body to sell them in Reading; (2) the price has always remained the same and at the lowest possible—a halfpenny each; (3) the sale is confined within the county borough and the proceeds help Reading families only—giving it a "neighbourly touch"; (4) there are no administrative costs—the only items of expenditure being printing, postage and stationery.

Despite all the competition, it is pleasing to record that this Association's sale of seals shows by comparison with the previous year an increase of £23 10s. 10d., making a total for 1963 of £647 1s. 10d.

For this, thanks are due to a considerable number of people—the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading (Councillor J. C. H. Butcher, J.P.) for launching the appeal, the nineteen members of the organising committee under the very able chairmanship of Mr. F. Yates. The eleven "Friends of the Committee" who also helped with the clerical and other work. The thirty seal sellers who manned the selling centre, and to Heelas Ltd., Palmer Hall, Reading Cattle Market, Reading Co-operative Society (Cheapside and London Road branches), Timothy Whites Ltd., Tutty Ltd., the Central Chest Clinic and Health Department, who granted facilities for this purpose. To Messrs. Hill and Sherwin for free advertising. To the various business employers who allowed seals to be sold on their premises, and to the vast number of local residents who responded so generously to the appeal. Without all this kind help little would have been accomplished.

(d) **B.C.G. Vaccination**

During the year 229 vaccinations of contacts were carried out, making a total of 4,189 since 1950.

Vaccination of school children, mainly in the last year of school life, has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, and freeze-dried vaccine has been used.

The number of children involved is as follows:—

Number skin tested	.	.	.	.	.	1,569
Number found negative	.	.	.	.	.	1,372
Number vaccinated	.	.	.	.	.	1,372

(B) Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus

There is an increasing demand for nursing equipment and our scheme works very smoothly in conjunction with the District Nursing Service and the care of handicapped persons in their own homes.

During the year 2,020 articles were distributed.

(C) Provision of Convalescent Holidays

During the year 51 patients, including 44 adults and 7 children, were sent away for a period of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Also 4 adults were assisted with travelling expenses only.

(D) Health Education (see also section *re* Health Visiting, report of Chief Public Health Inspector, and report of School Medical Officer)

The Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition was repeated again during the year and gave an opportunity to display various aspects of the work of the department. Apart from this exhibition no special campaign was carried out during the year. A high proportion of the work of health visitors, midwives, doctors at infant welfare clinics and at school medical inspections, is, of course, devoted to health education in respect of individual problems.

(E) Work of the Family Welfare Officers—Prevention of Break-up of Families. (Circular 27/54)

Miss Matthews left us at the end of the year in order to get married. We were all very sorry to lose her and we wish her well in her new sphere. Mrs. Dorward has been carrying on single handed and has been good enough to supply the following report:—

The case load has increased from 46 families in 1962 to 89 families in 1963. This does not include the families visited by the Family Aid Group, or those families with a general accommodation problem. It does include many of the homeless families who are eventually rehoused in intermediate accommodation. These 89 families may be classified as follows:—

- (a) 14 problem families with whom casework is undertaken on a long term basis, as compared with 10 last year.
- (b) 54 council tenants in rent arrears, who have been visited for short or long periods, as compared with 22 last year. Of these 54 families, 8 are in Intermediate Accommodation, and are included in (d) below.
- (c) 8 families who needed help with financial problems, 2 of whom had house mortgages.
- (d) 21 families in intermediate accommodation.

These 89 families have a total of 285 children, of whom 45% are under school age.

Accommodation problems

The total number of calls to the office has nearly doubled during this year. The greatest increase is shown in the last column, indicating that the services of the Family Welfare Officers are becoming better known and more readily used. The number of homeless families, and of those seeking accommodation, has also increased considerably.

Total Calls	New	Repeats	Reason for call			
			General Acc.	Threatened Eviction	Homeless	Miscellaneous and P.F.'s
822 (487)	202 (154)	620 (313)	265 (154)	88 (126)	28 (20)	441 (187)

The 1962 figures are shown in brackets underneath

Homeless Families

During 1963, sixteen mothers with 49 children were admitted to Woodlands. On more than one occasion Woodlands was full to capacity, whilst the problem of finding accommodation for families is still increasing. Four families had been evicted from Council Houses for rent arrears. Of these, one has been rehoused, in Intermediate Accommodation after paying the arrears. Two are still in Woodlands and one has gone to a private address. Of the remaining 12 families, 6 have been rehoused by the Council, 5 have gone to private addresses, and 1 remains in Woodlands.

Intermediate Accommodation

The number of houses available for intermediate housing has increased from 9 to 20. Seven families from Woodlands were rehoused into these properties, 2 families were moved from other Council property, and 2 families were rehoused on account of very severe overcrowding giving rise to social problems.

Reading Family Aid Group

The Group consists of the Chairman, Mrs. Salzmann; the Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. Newell; four Voluntary Caseworkers, Mrs. Ditchburn, Mrs. Parmenter, Mrs. Stedman and Mrs. Chapman, and two Health Department Family Caseworkers, Miss Matthews and Mrs. Dorward. Co-opted to the monthly Case Conference are other representatives of the Health Department, Children's Department, Education Department, National Assistance Board, and the N.S.P.C.C. Officer. Miss Roxbee, the Home-making Organiser, gave valuable help in numerous ways until her retirement at the end of July.

The Group was very sorry to lose Miss Roxbee, and later Miss Matthews, who had always taken a great interest in the work of the Group.

After nearly twelve years of preventive social work among the problem families of Reading, the progress made is beginning to show in the second generation of these families, some of whom are now making a success of their own homes.

56 families in all have been supervised over this period. Nineteen families with 94 children are currently visited, nine by the Family Caseworkers, and ten by the Voluntary members. Ten families with 59 children now require only a little supervision, and 27 cases have been closed. There are other cases who need help, but the work is limited by the number of trained social workers available.

In co-operation with the W.V.S. and other bodies, seventeen children were sent away on holidays this summer. A holiday at Christmas was arranged for two other children, and various Christmas parties and summer outings were arranged for groups and sometimes for individual children. These included two coach trips to Hayling, one arranged by local taximen, and the other by the Group, with the invaluable help of three Police Officers who organised games. Again this year the Reading B.P. Scout Guild invited ten boys to their Sunday outings during the summer.

The balance sheet shows that about £150 p.a. is used for this work, and the money comes entirely from voluntary sources.

Another section of the Family Aid Group, consisting entirely of voluntary workers, is responsible for the clothing and furniture stores from which material aid is given to families where there is real need. Not only problem families, but other families in genuine need have been helped in this way. Several young couples have been assisted in setting up house with furniture supplied from the store. This section is also responsible for raising funds, organising outings, and packing and distributing Christmas parcels. They would like to thank all subscribers for their continued interest, financial help and material gifts.

Since the new Children's Act came into force last October, the local authority now have the facilities to carry out more preventive social work of the kind previously done by the Family Aid Group. Eventually, all casework will be carried out by the staff of the Children's Department. But there is little doubt that the efforts of the voluntary workers will still be needed for organising all those other activities—parties, outings, holidays—which are so necessary when trying to bring normality to the lives of the children in the problem families.

SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Supervisor reports as follows:—

This Service has reached a stage when, unless we can recruit more Home Helps of the right calibre, we shall be unable to extend the Service. For the first time, owing to the increasing demand, it has been necessary to inaugurate a waiting list.

The weekly case load has risen to over 1,000. This has put a great strain on the Home Helps and Supervisors.

To enable the aged and handicapped to continue living in their own homes, which is where most old folk wish to be, more daily visits are necessary. In addition to the routine cleaning, cooking and shopping, many Home Helps attend to the more personal problems of washing hair, attending to feet and helping with baths.

The extra time being given to the aged has meant a curtailment of help to other households. It has not been possible to give everyone the amount of service which he or she would like, or indeed, which we would like to give them.

Applications for full time maternity help continue to increase. The new arrangements, whereby applicants who divulge income are not charged more than £6 0s. 0d. for ten days full time help, seems to be working well. £6 0s. 0d. is the amount allowed by National Insurance to mothers who have their babies in their own homes.

I would like to pay tribute to the Home Helps who, during the very bad weather we experienced after Christmas, carried on with their duties, often trudging miles on foot. Not one old person was left without food or heating, during this time.

During the year we inaugurated a short refresher course for Home Helps which was very much appreciated. The syllabus was as follows:—

April-May, 1964			
Wednesday, April 8th	The Home Helps' Duties	Board Room, 32 Thorn Street. 2.00-4.00 p.m.	Mrs. H. A. Finch, Supervisor.
Wednesday April 15th	Invalid Cookery and Economical Recipes	Homemaking Dept., Katesgrove School. 2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.	Mrs. O. E. Stay
Thursday, April 23rd	Home Nursing	25 Erleigh Road. 2.00-4.00 p.m.	Miss A. Edwards, Superintendent, District Nursing Service.

Wednesday, April 29th	Cooking for a Family	Homemaking Dept., Katesgrove School. 2.00-4.00 p.m.	Mrs. O. E. Stay.
Wednesday May 6th	Aids to Daily Living Care of the Aged	Board Room, 32 Thorn Street. 2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.	Mrs. J. Snow, Welfare Officer for the Handicapped. Mrs. H. A. Finch, Supervisor.
Wednesday, May 20th	Demonstration of Washing Machines, Electrical Equipment, etc.	S.E.B. Showroom, Market Place, Reading. 2.00-4.00 p.m.	Miss B. Joyce, Chief Demonstrator, Southern Electricity Board.

I may add that it is hoped to repeat this sort of course at regular intervals, especially for newly appointed home helps.

The following is a summary of the cases in which help was provided during the year:—

	Home help to households for persons					Total
	Aged 65 or over on first visit in 1963	Aged under 65 on first visit in 1963			Others	
		Chronic sick and tuberculous	Mentally Disordered	Maternity		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of cases	1,330	36	4	316	211	1,897

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	.	.	.	.	.	2
Part-time	.	.	.	.	.	176
Whole-time equivalent	.	.	.	.	.	83.4

In addition there were 2 whole-time and 2 part-time organisers, making a whole-time equivalent of 3.5.

Night Attendant Service

During 1963 this service dealt with 70 cases, sending out Attendants on 382 nights, an increase of 165 nights on 1962. The help given is very much appreciated and many letters of thanks are received weekly.

Mr. Kenneth Clark, Clerk to the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Institute Fund comments: "The Night Attendant Service has definitely become better known but it could well be used much more widely by the Medical Profession. We now have a good panel of willing attendants and it is hoped that soon these will all be used nightly.

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Work performed		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of current cases on last day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	932	922	941	938	910	933	951	938	955	951	969	987
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	8	11	5	14	8	10	10	3	6	4	9	5
Classification of reasons why help was received on last day of period:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity, and chronic sickness	.. .. .	864	852	877	865	848	877	889	882	897	894	910	916
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	62	64	60	64	56	48	57	53	50	51	54	64
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	13	16	8	22	13	17	14	5	13	8	9	10
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Source of new applications:—													
(a) Direct application by Doctor	.. .. .	22	20	26	19	23	8	6	9	15	9	13	14
(b) " " Hospital	.. .. .	12	10	16	10	21	15	6	11	10	9	14	18
(c) " " Midwife	.. .. .	19	25	30	40	51	20	31	8	40	53	36	29
(d) " " Householder	.. .. .	12	18	28	14	15	16	15	4	17	21	11	9
(e) " " Welfare Worker	.. .. .	17	11	23	14	12	13	13	8	17	7	12	13
Classification of reasons for help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	51	39	73	42	55	37	29	22	42	31	36	35
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	9	19	15	14	10	12	11	7	13	9	14	16
(c) Maternity Cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	22	26	35	41	57	23	31	11	44	58	36	32
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary	.. .. .	23	17	37	17	12	8	16	11	32	16	18	18
Number of Households receiving help for first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	70	62	101	61	82	62	49	38	71	49	54	60
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	19	15	23	16	17	16	14	11	14	8	12	4
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps during the period	.. .. .	14444	15114	19500	14728	16252	17723	14536	12225	17637	15294	15784	17809
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period	.. .. .	187	187	192	192	196	190	186	185	181	183	186	190
Number of visits paid by Organisers:—													
(a) New Cases	.. .. .	112	89	144	119	103	91	83	72	113	86	91	77
(b) Re-visits	.. .. .	332	366	443	431	350	320	318	308	434	447	415	404
Number of meals by Home Helps (1 week)	.. .. .	873	804	834	709	779	681	632	699	709	710	771	772

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1959

The organisation of the Mental Health Section has continued as in previous years. There are five Mental Welfare Officers, one of whom is concerned with all the mentally subnormal in the Borough, the other four Mental Welfare Officers work as two teams of two and each team covers half of the Borough.

Since the Mental Health Act their work has been more concerned with the welfare and support of patients before and after a hospital admission rather than being concerned primarily with the compulsory admission of patients to hospital. To carry out their work for the patients' benefit they have developed, over the years, a close liaison with Family Doctors, Hospital staffs, and other social agencies. This liaison has continued and been reinforced during 1963.

Weekly case conferences are attended at Fair Mile Hospital at which valuable interchange of information and ideas takes place. Notifications of admissions and discharges are scrutinised and appropriate methods of support or follow-up for individual patients discussed. Similar case conferences are also attended at Borocourt Hospital relating to the subnormal members of the community.

In the last two Annual Reports reference has been made to the increase in the number of compulsory admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals which took place following the implementation of the Mental Health Act. This increase was followed by a drop to what was hoped to be a steady level. In 1963 the number of compulsory admissions has remained at the same level as 1962 (69 in 1962, 70 in 1963) so there seems to be a "flattening-off" at about this level.

Another figure which may be of equal interest is that relating to informal admission of patients to Psychiatric Hospitals: 301 in 1961; 334 in 1962; and 253 in 1963: a drop of 81. It is interesting to speculate on the possible reasons for this drop and even more interesting if this low figure is maintained in future years. Perhaps some factors operating have been: patients attending the Day Hospital, being maintained in the community without the necessity for Psychiatric Hospital admission, increased awareness in the community of mental illness, and a greater willingness of the community as a whole to assist the patient and those who are helping him to maintain him in the community; and perhaps, the reluctance of Hospitals to readmit certain types of patients to whom they can offer no therapeutic facilities, i.e. those who are "inadequate".

If these are some of the factors operating it will be interesting to see in future years whether the numbers of informal admissions decline.

The number of mentally ill patients who attended the Occupational Therapy Centre for other classes of handicapped persons remains about the same as last year, approximately 10% of those attending. Most attend for a few months enabling them to get used to a work routine before embarking on employment in open industry.

As reported in 1962 the Samaritans formed a local branch in Reading. At their Annual General Meeting in 1963 it was reported that in the eighteen months they had been formed 400 clients had been counselled, which gives some measure of the mental anguish which is present in the community.

During 1962 Alcoholics Anonymous also formed a branch in Reading and during 1963 one case was referred to them by a Mental Welfare Officer. Eleven cases of alcoholism are in the case load of the Mental Welfare Officers.

The work of the two centres for the mentally subnormal, Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre and The Beeches Adult Training Centre, has continued as in previous years. The question of replacement of The Beeches has been under discussion but a final decision must wait until the long term planning of the Borough's roads is decided.

The Care and Attention Unit has continued during the year and has been renamed Newbery Lodge. It is intended for the daily care and training of the severely mentally

subnormal and physically handicapped children. In February 1963 a 60 feet extension to the garden was made which has been of great assistance to staff and children. I must again extend my grateful thanks to the ladies of the Tilehurst Women's Institute who have voluntarily assisted Mrs. English, the Supervisor, in running this Unit. Their enthusiasm and regular attendance is most praiseworthy.

NUMBER OF READING PATIENTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DURING 1963

	Informal Admission			Compulsory Admission		
	—16	17-65	65+	—16	17-65	65+
Male Admissions to Fair Mile Hospital	—	65	21	—	20	2
Female „ „ „ „	—	123	35	—	39	9
Male „ „ Borocourt Hospital	1	2	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	1	—	—	—	—
Male „ „ Pewsey Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „	1	1	—	—	—	—
Male „ „ Aylesbury „	1	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ Stoke Park, Bristol	—	1	—	—	—	—

Number of Reading Patients discharged from Hospital during 1963

	Informal Admission			Compulsory Admission		
	—16	17-65	65+	—16	17-65	65+
Male discharges from Fair Mile Hospital	—	84	22	—	8	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	153	23	—	11	—
Male „ „ Borocourt „	—	6	—	—	1	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	4	—	—	1	—
Male „ „ Pewsey „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	1	—	—	—	—
Male „ „ Aylesbury „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—

Patients Regraded from Informal to Compulsory

	Males			Females		
	—16	17-65	65+	—16	17-65	65+
Fair Mile Hospital	—	1	—	—	1	—
Borocourt Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of patients under Local Health Authority Care at 31.12.63

	Mentally Ill						Psychopathic						Subnormal						Severely Subnormal						Totals						Grand Total	
	Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over				
	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—	M	F	—		
(a) Total number	1	—		58	112		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		25	26		27	174	223	450	
(b) Attending day training centre (*O/T Centre for physic'y handic'd) Awaiting entry thereto	—	—		*11	*3		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		20	18		20	29	24	91	
(c) Resident in residential training centre Awaiting residence therein	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	
(d) Receiving home training (*O/T) Awaiting home training	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	1	
(e) Resident in L.A. home/hostel Awaiting residence in L.A. h./h. Resident at L.A. expense in other residential homes/hostels Resident at L.A. expense by boarding out in private household (subsidised)	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	
(f) Receiving home visits and not included under (b) to (e)	1	—		46	105		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	1	
																																354

NUMBER OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO L.H.A. DURING YEAR ENDED 31.12.63

Referred by	Mentally Ill			Psychopathic			Subnormal			Severely S/Norm.			Totals			Grand Total
	Under 16		16 and over	Under 16		16 and over	Under 16		16 and over	Under 16		16 and over	Under 16		16 and over	
	M	F		M	F		M	F		M	F		M	F		
(a) General Practitioners			22 51			1									22 52	74
(b) Hospitals, on discharge from in-patient treatment			47 68			1		5 2				1			53 71	124
(c) Hospitals, after or during out-patient or day treatment			13 36												13 36	49
(d) Local education authorities ...								12 14	7 4			1	7 4	12 15		38
(e) Police and courts			17 11			2 1		1						20 12		32
(f) Other sources			36 75			1 2		2 1	4 1			3	4 1	39 81		125
Total			135 241			4 4		20 17	11 5			5	11 5	159 267		442

Number of Patients awaiting entry to Hospital, or admitted for temporary residential care during 1963

	Mentally Ill				Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely S/Norm.				Totals				Grand Total
	Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1. Number of patients in L.H.A. area on waiting list for admission to hospital at 31.12.63																					
(a) In urgent need of hospital care .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Not in urgent need of hospital care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Number of admissions for temporary residential care (e.g. to relieve the family)																					
(a) To N.H.S. hospitals	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) To L.A. residential accommodation	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Suicides

Fifteen people successfully committed suicide in Reading in 1963.

Number of Suicides in Reading during the years 1960-1963

Age	20/30		30/40		40/50		50/60		60/70		70/80		80/90		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1960	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	3
1961	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	2	4	—	2	1	1	—	10	5
1962	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	3	2	—	—	4	5
1963	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	1	—	1	3	9	5

Subnormality

Mrs. Norwood, Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

The hospital waiting list, particularly for cot cases, continues to be difficult. We have two or three very urgent cases which require hospital care and there seems little hope of any immediate relief. Over the past year the chances of getting anyone at all into hospitals for the subnormal have been slight, and it has been achieved only with great difficulty. This lack of hospital beds is causing great hardship amongst a number of families and is causing hospital staff and welfare officers a good deal of frustration, knowing that they cannot help or relieve these families who are suffering such unhappiness.

On the whole, higher grade patients are doing well and the employment position is good. Here we are helped a great deal by the kindness of one or two landladies who take into their homes young men and give them the help and guidance needed to keep them as responsible working members of the community. The Local Authority guarantees the rent in many cases. We must, therefore, thank these ladies for the great work they are doing, both for the men they care for and the community. Over the past few years, the role of the mental welfare officer dealing with the subnormal has become much more complex but we must remember that we are in an era of over full employment.

Training Centres

The Beeches Senior Training Centre

Mr. Allen, Supervisor, has contributed the following report:—

At the end of December, 1963 there were 44 pupils aged 16 years and upwards, including 6 from Berkshire County.

The staff consists of 1 Supervisor, 2 Assistant Supervisors (female), 1 Part-time Assistant, giving three half-day sessions weekly and appropriate domestic staff.

Routine medical inspections were carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and various recommended treatments are now being carried out.

Activities: Dancing, Physical Training and Ball Games. Reading and writing classes have been carried on throughout the year. Domestic training in preparation for outside work.

Practical Training Schemes: Wood (bundling etc.). Full output is absorbed all the year round. Pupils deliver and collect payments. Christmas Crackers: Sales again exceeded other years. Needlework, Basket work, Cookery, Re-seating chairs—orders still exceed production. Car cleaning has remained constant.

Sales of Work: The Summer Sale and Open Day was held on May 29th, 1963. The Annual Sale of Work took place at St. John's Hall on December 4th. The Deputy Mayor, Alderman E. C. E. Barrett, kindly opened the proceedings, over which Councillor Allum presided.

Employment: Demands for hourly work outside the Centre have remained steady. Five trainees are partaking in this scheme. One trainee is now in full employment as a porter.

Annual Camp: 24 Trainees in the care of four staff were taken to Dymchurch for two weeks. Several visits were made by parents. A Sports Day was held and many parents joined in.

Outings: On September 25th, 35 Trainees and four staff had an outing to Bognor. The transport was supplied by the Parents' Association. On December 23rd a party of 22 Trainees and three staff attended Bertram Mills' Circus.

Exhibition: The Centre took part in the Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition in January. Photographs of the Trainees at work together with examples of their hand-work (in miniature) were displayed.

Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre

Mrs. Fade, Supervisor, writes:—

At the end of December, 1963, there were 44 children on the register including 7 from Berkshire County. During the year there was an intake of 9 children from Reading County Borough (4 male and 3 female) and 2 from Berkshire County Council, making a total intake of 11 children. During the year 5 children left: 1 male and 1 female to residential homes, 1 male to nursery school, 1 male and 1 female transferred to The Beeches, showing an increase of 8 children over 1962.

Staff: The staff consists of 1 Supervisor, 5 female assistants and appropriate domestic staff.

Routine Medical Inspections, Dental treatment and Speech Therapy have been carried out by appropriate members of the School Health Service staff.

Activities: The subjects taught at this Centre are aimed at giving each child as comprehensive a training as possible in accordance with his or her ability, so as to enable him/her to mix socially and perform simple skills.

Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition: At this exhibition, held in January, specimens of work from this centre were on view, presenting an all round picture of apparatus used and work carried out.

Open Day, April 3rd: The Centre was open to members of the Health Committee, parents and friends, who were free to visit classrooms whilst teaching was in progress. A film showing outdoor activities was shown.

Leighton Park School: Four pupils from Leighton Park School, two juniors and two senior boys, have each given one hour per week helping with the children and have proved very useful. Another senior pupil gave an "Animal Puppet Show" which was very much enjoyed by all the children.

In addition, there were outings to London Zoo, Sports Day, Pantomime and our Christmas Party. All of these were a great success and our thanks are due to all who helped us.

Newbery Lodge, Care and Attention Unit

Mrs. English, Supervisor, contributes the following report:—

There were eight children on the register at the end of the year, five males and three females. Six were attending full time and two attending four sessions per week. Five of these children are ambulant and three non-ambulant.

Training programme: There is a simple daily routine of

1. Toilet training.
2. Learning to wash using soap, flannel and towel.
3. Walking exercise, using walking aids and when able to walk being taken out for a walk at regular intervals.
4. Actions to noises (to aid speech) to nursery rhymes and music, using large drums.
5. Learning to feed with spoon and drink from cup unaided.
6. Playing simple games with balls and balloons—rolling, throwing and kicking.
7. Climbing, using nursery slide.

It is pleasing to record that all children made some improvement although there were variations.

One boy transferred to Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre in April 1963, and one girl in January 1964.

One girl was admitted to hospital in May 1963.

Garden Extension

An extension of 60 feet of garden was made in February 1963 thus enabling the children to spend most of their time outside in the fresh air. This added facility has proved beneficial in that it has increased mobility and reduced the number of common colds. The extra piece of grass has also been of great benefit in exercising the deaf/blind child.

Physiotherapy

Three children have attended the Battle Hospital Cerebral Palsy Unit for treatment. This has certainly helped with progress in walking.

Voluntary Help

Members of the Tilehurst Women's Institute are regular helpers at the Centre on three days a week. The Chiltern Nursery Training College provides a student to help on two days a week. This additional help is necessary.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1963, CLASSIFIED IN ALL AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified										
	At All Ages	Age Groups									
	Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	3	9	18	5	1	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	7	3	8	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	38	374	449	566	21	8	4	6	4	—	—
Measles ...	—	2	1	3	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	13	—	—	—	—	5	8	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	2	2	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	5	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	43	1	2	5	1	6	9	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	6	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
	1626	45	389	467	602	31	24	33	22	13	—

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

For the fifteenth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Scarlet Fever

38 cases occurred during 1963, nearly half being in the 5-10 year age group.

Whooping Cough

28 cases were notified during 1963. This is perhaps a little disappointing after having only 4 cases in 1962, but the figures for the past few years put this in perspective.

1960	.	.	.	.	175 cases
1961	.	.	.	.	46 cases
1962	.	.	.	.	4 cases
1963	.	.	.	.	28 cases

Of these 28 cases, 5 were under 1 year old, 7 were 1-3 years old, 3 were 3-5 years old, 8 were 5-10 years old, 5 were over 10 years. 16 cases had no immunisation against whooping cough, 10 had had a primary course but no booster injection, 1 had had partial course.

None of the infants under 1 year had any protection. Of the infants 1-3 years old, two had had a course of injections but no booster, and five had had no protection.

Measles

1963 was again a measles year and 1,460 cases were notified (362 in 1962). 566 were in the age group 5-10 years; 449 in the age group 3-5 years, and 374 in the 1-3 years age group. We were pleased to co-operate with the Public Health Laboratory Service in an investigation into the incidence of sequelae of measles. The main object of this investigation was to judge whether or not routine immunisation against the disease is justified.

Poliomyelitis

For the fourth year in succession no case of poliomyelitis has been notified in the Borough.

Food Poisoning

Three Borough residents were notified cases of food poisoning. One, a boy of 14 years, was admitted to Prospect Park Hospital in June, 1963. The other two cases were a mother and seven months old child. The maternal grandparents were also involved but they lived outside the Borough and were notified to the appropriate authority.

This outbreak apparently originated from infected duck eggs used in making a cake. Bacteriological examination of the cake was negative for *S. Typhimurium*, but nine duck eggs remaining from the original dozen purchased were found to be heavily contaminated with *S. Typhimurium*. The farm supplying the eggs was located and subsequent investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food showed infected ducks in the flock and a high percentage of eggs infected with *S. Typhimurium*.

In this outbreak it is impossible to implicate food made with infected duck eggs directly and it is assumed that the meat and vegetables left to cool in the oven were contaminated with *S. Typhimurium* via some kitchen utensil or surface. It does underline the extreme care that must be taken when cooking with duck eggs to adhere to the recommendation that they be used only in such mixes that are thoroughly cooked, e.g. sponge cakes (not heavy fruit cakes) and if eaten boiled that they are hard boiled for at least ten minutes.

Several sporadic infections with salmonellae were investigated throughout the year but they were all confined to one individual and no particular food or mode of infection could be demonstrated.

Tuberculosis

Once again I wish to thank Dr. Karlish, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the very great help he has given me in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages of this report.

TABLE I

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	135.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900
1959	73	6	61.76	5.08	7	1	0.06	0.01	118,200
1960	68	7	57.57	5.93	7	—	0.06	—	118,110
1961	77	3	63.62	2.48	4	—	0.03	—	121,040
1962	97	6	79.89	4.94	7	1	0.06	0.01	121,420
1963	43	6	35.41	4.94	9	1	0.07	0.01	121,450

TABLE II

Source and Type of Notified and Observation (not Notified) Cases of Tuberculosis first seen in 1963

	Mass Radiography	Contact	School Health Service	Odeca Clinic	Direct Consultation	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals	Transfers from other areas
Respiratory Tuberculosis:									
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
Negative	-	5	-	1	-	2	-	8	1
Apparently healed	-	2	2	6	-	1	1	12	-
Tuberculin Conversion in Juveniles:	-	9	58	4	-	-	-	71	-
<i>Tub. Pleural Effusion:</i>									
Positive	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	6	-
Negative	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive	2	2	-	16	6	7	-	33	20
Negative	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	7	6
P.T. Arrested	2	5	-	26	3	2	-	38	2
Observation	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis:	4	25	60	65	9	19	1	183	30
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis: ...	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	6	1
Total Tuberculosis Cases:	4	25	60	66	9	24	1	189	31

It will be seen from the above table that 189 new cases, including observation cases, were diagnosed in Reading during the year, excluding 31 transferred from other areas.

The number of newly notified tuberculosis cases has fallen dramatically from 105 in 1962 to 50 in 1963. The cause of this is unknown but could perhaps be an aftermath of the intensive mass radiography campaign conducted in the previous year. There is no question of the 1962 numbers having been inflated as 63% of the notified cases were bacteriologically positive and a similar ratio of sputum positive cases was obtained in 1963 (66%). It would seem that in Reading we have finally reached the respectable rate of 0.4 newly notified cases per 1000 population.

Contacts and B.C.G. Vaccination

508 new contacts were examined, resulting in 9 new notifications: 227 contacts were B.C.G. vaccinated, making a total of 4,184 since 1950.

Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register

Notified cases only: Recovered	25
Died (all causes)	26
Transferred	28
Other	49
Total	128

The Clinic Register of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis

Under supervision 1.1.63	.	.	.	.	1,180
Admitted during year	.	.	.	.	78
Discharged, died, etc.	.	.	.	.	128
Remaining under supervision on 31.12.63	.	.	.	.	1,130

Diseases other than Tuberculosis

80% of all new patients referred to the Chest Clinic are for conditions other than tuberculosis and this was, in fact, the ratio of all new diagnoses made during the year

TABLE III

Diagnosis of Non-Tuberculous Cases
first seen in 1963

Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Pneumonias	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Acute respiratory infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Chronic bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	264
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Unexplained haemoptysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchial carcinoma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Metastatic carcinoma of lung	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pleurisy (non-tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Spontaneous pneumothorax	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Other lung conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cardiac disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Anxiety	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diagnosis not completed by December 31st, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
No organic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total									868

Care and After-Care

Reference to this important subject will be found in my remarks on our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

Venereal Disease

Our arrangements with the Royal Berkshire Hospital for follow-up visits on behalf of the authority continued throughout the year. The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time:—

Syphilis	.	.	.	.	19
Gonorrhoea	.	.	.	.	99
Other conditions	.	.	.	.	220

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

I am indebted to Mr. H. Archer, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Chief Engineer of the Thames Valley Water Board for the following information:—

The Borough of Reading continues to be supplied with water derived from the River Kennet and from wells and boreholes at Pangbourne, and throughout the year has had ample supplies of water of satisfactory quality.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance, and of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, is given only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment.

In contrast, the river source, being greatly affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, requires carefully controlled filtration followed by super-chlorination and partial dechlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of water supplied within the statutory area was continued during the year in the Board's Laboratory at Berkeley Avenue, Reading.

Samples were collected at regular intervals from the raw water sources, from the treatment works, and from the distribution system. As may be seen, daily samples (Monday-Friday) were collected from the Bath Road reservoir, which receives water from the treatment works on the River Kennet supply.

The numbers of samples from each point, with typical analyses of water from the two sources, are given below:—

<i>Sample Point</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Sample Point</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
River Kennet, Raw Water .	12	Bath Road Reservoir .	256
Unchlorinated Filtrates .	54	Tilehurst Reservoirs .	8
Fobney Works, Final Water .	56	Tilehurst Water Tower .	7
Southcote Works, Final Water	26	Emmer Green Reservoir .	4
Pangbourne Works, Final Water	25	Distribution System .	
Pangbourne Works, Raw Water	19	(Reading area)	21
	—	Emmer Green Water Tower .	4
	192		—
	—		300
Total .	492		—

The yield from these sources has continued to provide a surplus which has been used to assist in meeting the demand in districts around the perimeter of the Reading area, and in consequence, it is no longer possible to assess the quantity of water supplied solely in the area of the former Reading Corporation Water Undertaking.

Additional pumping plant at Tilehurst Water Tower was brought into service in April 1963 to cope with the demands made by the building development in the Tilehurst high level areas.

The number of houses in the Borough (together with other premises having domestic occupation) supplied with water by the Board, increased by 416 to 37,385 during the year ended March 31st, 1963. The supply to 3 of these properties was by means of standpipes, and my records show that there are 13 houses within the Borough supplied from wells and taking no supply from the Board's mains.

The average daily consumption of water per head of population throughout the whole of the Board's area in the year ended March 31st, 1963 was 39.74 gallons for domestic and 16.02 gallons for non-domestic use, a total average of 55.76 gallons per head.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Fairly clear, with little colour or suspended matter				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered: 8				Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	10	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
pH.	8.1	...	...	...	7.5
Chlorides	14.5	...	...	...	15.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ Total	250	...	...	...	240
" Carbonate (Temporary)	210	...	...	...	205
" Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	40	...	...	...	35
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.025	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.180	...	...	...	0.055
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Approx. 0.01	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	2.7	...	...	...	2.8
Iron	0.08	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other Metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace	...	...	...	5
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	280	...	...	...	275
Alkalinity	210	...	...	...	205
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	1.60	...	...	...	0.50
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.4
Natural Fluoride	Not examined	...	...	...	Approx. 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C	7000	...	...	...	13
3 days at 22°C	30000	...	...	...	15
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>					
Present in	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.001 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	8000	...	...	...	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>					
Present in	0.1 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	500	...	...	...	0

PANGBOURNE WELLS AND BOREHOLES SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Faint, chlorinous
pH.	7.0	...	...	...	7.0
Chloride	13.3	...	...	...	13.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ Total	290	...	...	...	290
" Carbonate (Temporary)	250	...	...	...	250
" Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	40	...	...	...	40
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.000	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.005	...	...	...	0.005
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	5.2	...	...	...	5.2
Iron	Less than 0.01	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Other Metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	35	...	...	...	34
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	345	...	...	...	345
Alkalinity	250	...	...	...	250
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	0.05	...	...	...	0.05
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.2
Natural Fluoride	Approx. 0.1	...	...	...	Approx. 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C	0	...	...	...	0
3 days at 22°C	3	...	...	...	1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

Although the number of unfit houses represented under the slum clearance provisions of the Housing Act, was below the target figure for the year, a great deal was done in this aspect of environmental health. Much more, however, remains to be done. Apart from the immediate slum clearance programme, it seems important to build up a reasonably accurate picture of the varying housing conditions in the town so as to be able to indicate the houses suitable for improvement and those which may be coming forward for slum clearance action in the near future. This work, when sufficiently advanced, should provide information useful in assessing future housing needs and indicate where and when areas may be available for redevelopment.

The increase in owner/occupation is, of course, studding twilight areas with houses which, although fit for the time being, are badly arranged, and by virtue of their age and situation, have a limited life. In due time, many will need to be cleared, together with unfit houses, in order to make way for redevelopment on modern lines. This means that in areas which are to be comprehensively redeveloped, rehousing requirements will considerably exceed the number of houses actually unfit by Housing Act standards.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, introduced during the year, have now made 100% meat inspection obligatory on local authorities. Recommendations relating to staff designed to make this service less dependent on Inspectors engaged on other work, were adopted by the Health Committee, and at the time of drafting this report, the arrangements appear to be working satisfactorily. It gives satisfaction to report that Sunday meat inspection work was very much less this year than in 1962. Efforts are constantly being made to streamline slaughtering and reduce overtime generally.

Atmospheric pollution work was considerably advanced during the year, as will be noted in the body of the report. What, in the short-term, appears to be a serious setback to smoke control area work in the statement in the Ministry of Housing & Local Government's Circular 69/63 to the effect that due to rapid technological changes in the gas industry supplies of open grate solid smokeless fuel from this source are likely to decrease in the future and that more expensive forms of heating installation will have to be adopted in many areas. This, in brief terms, may mean that the works reasonably necessary will amount to £30 or so for the installation of a closed stove, as against a figure of approximately £8 for the adaptation of an existing grate to an efficient inset open fire capable of burning the reactive type of gas coke.

Increased costs may mean a slowing down in the smoke control area programme, although progress in smoke control will inevitably continue because of public demand apart from the increasing tendency on the part of the individual to go over to the piped smokeless fuels.

We have been fortunate in retaining the bulk of the inspectorial staff during the year, although one of our newly qualified students secured an appointment elsewhere and one senior public health inspector left to take an appointment in a nearby rural district.

It has been an eventful year and one in which the support of all members of the staff has again been greatly appreciated.

1. HOUSING

This year's work has been somewhat evenly divided between clearance and improvement.

A total of 84 houses was represented as unfit. Of these, 21 were included in Clearance Areas, 23 were represented individually for closure or demolition, and 40

houses, owned by the Local Authority, were certified unfit. These representations generally covered the outstanding groups of unfit houses remaining in the partly cleared Coley area, other small groups and scattered individuals elsewhere.

Confirmation by the Minister of Housing & Local Government of all outstanding Compulsory Purchase Orders made in respect of Clearance Areas in the Hosier Street area, more or less completed our activities in that part of the town and our attention turned to the preparation of future representations in the proposed Whitley Street redevelopment area.

In an effort to improve sub-standard housing conditions on the lines suggested by the Ministry's Circular No. 42/62, which was reported on generally last year, a detailed survey was made of some 400 houses contained in two suitable areas in different parts of the town, and an informal approach was made to the owners of all the houses in need of improvement in these areas. The response was fairly encouraging, but the full effect will not become apparent for some time.

In view of the above and other work, including inspections, reports and observations in connection with a steady flow of improvement grant applications and ever increasing numbers of applications for local authority mortgages on older type houses and houses offered for sale to the Local Authority, it was not possible to carry out any general survey of properties for the purpose of reviewing and adding to the current slum clearance programme, as in previous years. No doubt this will result in an increased number to be added to the programme at some future date.

Clearance Areas

The following houses were included in Clearance Areas represented during 1963:—

Nos. 2-18 Coley Place—Clearance Area No. 1/63 (Coley Place).

Nos. 24-46 Wolseley Street—Clearance Area No. 2/63 (Wolseley Street)

A Compulsory Purchase Order was made in respect of Clearance Area No. 1/63 (Coley Place).

The Compulsory Purchase Orders made in respect of the undermentioned Clearance Areas, were confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government:—

Clearance Area No. 1/61 (Lavender Street & Soho Street)	}	C.P.O. 1962
Clearance Area No. 2/61 (Soho Street, Howard Street & Hosier Street)		

Clearance Area No. 3/61 (Soho Street)—C.P.O. 1962

Clearance Area No. 4/61 (Soho Street)	}	C.P.O. 1962
Clearance Area No. 5/61 (Soho Street)		

Clearance Area No. 2/62 (Kennet Side, Back Road, Devonshire Place & Orts Road)	}	C.P.O. 1962

Clearance Area No. 3/62 (Hosier Street)	}	C.P.O. 1962
Clearance Area No. 4/62 (Hosier Street)		

Clearance Area No. 5/62 (Kennet Side)	C.P.O. 1963
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The following 50 houses included in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 4-10, Bartletts Place	}	Part of Clearance Area No. 6/61 (Rose Hill Cottages, Tilehurst Road & Bartletts Place). C.P.O. 1962.
Nos. 32-44 Tilehurst Road		

Nos. 40-46 East Street	Clearance Area No. 2/57 (East Street). C.P.O. 1957.
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Nos. 69-81 Field Road	Clearance Area No. 1/62 (Field Road). C.P.O. 1962.	
Nos. 1-19 Garrard Street	Clearance Area No. 9/60 (Garrard Street) C.P.O. 1961.	
Nos. 44-48 Hosier Street	Clearance Area No. 5/59 (Hosier Street)	} C.P.O. 1959
Nos. 5 & 7 Soho Street	Part of Clearance Area No. 3/59 Lavender Street & Soho Street)	
Nos. 80 & 84-90/90A Hosier Street	Part of Clearance Area No. 2/61 (Soho Street, Howard Street & Hosier Street) C.P.O. 1962	
Nos. 208-222 Kennet Side	Clearance Area No. 4/60 Kennet Side)	} C.P.O. 1960

Individual Unfit Houses

The following houses were represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense:—

8 Blakes Cottages; 3 Fulham Road; 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 Jubilee Square; 1, 2, 3 & 4 Kentwood Terrace; 5 Kew Terrace; 55 Leopold Road; 47, 49 & 51 Mundesley Street; 7 & 9 New Lane Hill; 3 & 5 Orchard Street; 23 Orts Road; 7 Stanway Cottages; 52 Wolseley Street.

Closing Orders were made in every case, with the exception of No. 7 Stanway Cottages, where the owner expressed a desire to make the house fit.

The undermentioned houses, owned by the Local Authority, were certified unfit:

119 Chatham Street; 2, 4, 6, & 16 Coley Street; 3A Crescent Road; 15, 19, 39, 41, 43 & 45 East Street; 68 Hosier Street; 40, 42, 44 & 46 Southampton Street; 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25 Spring Grove; 259 & 261 Whitley Wood Road.

The following houses previously represented, were demolished during the year:—

50 Eldon Terrace	—	Closing Order, 1962
49 Katesgrove Lane	—	Certified Unfit, 1961
54 Southampton Street	—	Demolition Order, 1962

The Closing Orders made during 1961 in respect of No. 55 Mount Street, and during 1962 in respect of No. 85 Addington Road, were revoked during 1963, the houses having been made fit by the respective owners. No. 53 Mount Street, represented as unfit during 1960 and subject to an undertaking given by the owner, was also made fit during 1963.

Area Improvement Scheme

In further consideration of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular No. 42/62—Improvement of Houses—two small areas in different parts of the town were surveyed and reported upon to the Housing Committee. The following is a summary of the information obtained:

East Reading Area. This area comprised 190 properties. About 65% of the houses in this area were found to be provided with bathrooms and other amenities,

mostly without grant-aid. The fact that the houses in this area were of a fairly good design and sound condition, and that as many as 75% of the houses were owner-occupied, may well account for the fairly high standard of improvement in the area.

Of the houses still in need of improvement, about 50% were owner-occupied and 50% were rented. The low record of improvement in the rented houses is perhaps not surprising. In the case of the owner-occupied houses, failure to improve was found to be mostly on account of old age and/or financial inability.

West Reading Area. This area comprised 244 properties. In contrast to the East Reading Area, only about 35% of the houses were found to be fully or substantially improved. This could be partly accounted for in the fact that the proportion of owner-occupiers was lower, being approximately 58%, and that the houses generally were somewhat older than those in the East Reading Area.

There were therefore about 65% of the houses in the area still in need of improvement. A fair proportion of these were owner-occupied, but the majority were rented. It was rather significant that practically all the rented houses in the area came into this category.

Following the report, letters were sent to the owners and owner-occupiers of all the houses in need of improvement in the two areas, urging improvement and giving details of grants and financial assistance available. Many were interviewed, and in a number of cases, practical advice was given.

Quite obviously some time will elapse before the full effect of this method of approach is known, but present indications are that at least 25% of the houses in need of improvement in both areas may be improved within a fairly short time, and possibly a further 25% at a later date. So far as the remainder are concerned, quite a number will be unlikely to improve owing to age and/or financial circumstances, and these will have to be left in abeyance.

It is clearly desirable that areas of the right type of houses should be improved. Further legislation to assist Local Authorities in achieving this is now being considered by the Government. Briefly, the proposals include the declaration of Improvement Areas, the service of Improvement Notices in the case of tenanted dwellings, and provision for Local Authorities to carry out work in default. The introduction of legislation on these lines, in due course, is awaited with interest.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings

A fair amount of attention was devoted to houses let in lodgings during the year and some 655 visits and inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors. We have information on some 338 houses let in multiple occupation, and there are others still requiring further investigation. The position at the 31st December, 1963, may be summarised as follows:

138 have been found to be reasonably satisfactory at the time of the initial inspection; of the remainder, on official representations being made, 99 were discontinued as houses let in lodgings and 26 were converted to living units approaching "self-contained flat" standards. 64 others were improved by the provision of additional facilities or a reduction in the number of occupants, or both. Attention is still being given to the remainder. During 1963, full inspections were commenced by the Fire Authority, and it is known that a number of improvements from the point of view of means of escape in case of fire were made during the year, although this aspect of the problem is a matter for the Fire Authority. The standards adopted, and mentioned in detail in previous reports, have now become generally accepted and we are finding a good response to our requests from property owners and others concerned with this form of sub-letting.

Of course, short of a house-to-house inspection of the districts in which these circumstances are generally found, we should never know the whole problem, and it is pleasing to note that new housing legislation is contemplated in which registration will be required, although a restricted form of registration is provided for under the

Housing Act, 1961, the provisions of which may be implemented towards the end of 1964. I consider that registration is important, not only from the point of view of assistance to the local authority, but in the interests of the occupants of these houses themselves. A case in point concerns a house in the town which, on inspection in June, 1963, was found to be in single occupation, and it was not until a serious fire occurred towards the end of the year that it was discovered the house had become one in multiple occupation. However, if registration is introduced and enforced, it should help to avoid cases such as this.

Certificates of Disrepair

During 1963, 5 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, compared with 6 in 1962 and 9 in 1961, of which 2 were granted in respect of all the items specified by the tenant, and 3 in respect of some of the defects. Following the local authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair, undertakings were received from landlords in two instances and Certificates were not therefore issued.

As was anticipated, the effect of the "certificate of disrepair" provisions of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, has now waned considerably.

Repair of Houses

Many of the complaints received by the Department were in respect of housing defects. Some 507 dwelling houses were inspected during the year following complaints. 101 preliminary notices were served and many letters sent. It was necessary to serve statutory notices in 114 cases. There were 2,601 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally securing compliance with the notices served. Four hundred and eighty-nine houses were made fit during the year by owners.

The extremely cold weather resulted in a number of complaints concerning frozen water supplies. The prolonged cold had the effect of freezing service pipes to houses, particularly where they had not been laid at a sufficient depth. The Thames Valley Water Board, however, were most co-operative in providing standpipes where requested and the cold spell passed without a great deal of inconvenience to the public so far as water supplies were concerned. There were numerous bursts, of course, affecting both drinking supplies and services to W.C.s etc. Owners, however, responded well in the carrying out of necessary repairs.

Information re: Land Charges, Improvement Grants, Mortgages, etc.

Information relating to dwelling houses as regards outstanding notices and possible slum clearance action was supplied in many cases on official searches of the Land Charges Register—some 4,161 forms were dealt with during the year.

Observations as to future slum clearance proposals and the potential life of dwellinghouses were made in respect of an ever increasing number of applications for local authority mortgages 1,173 during this year, compared with 790 last year, in addition to which very many verbal enquiries were dealt with.

Similar observations were made in the case of 321 applications for improvement grants, many of which were the subject of visits and inspections.

During the year, 53 properties offered for sale to the local authority were inspected and reported on as to classification, i.e., fit or unfit, likely clearance action or possible future life, suitability for use as intermediate accommodation and details of necessary repairs.

In addition to these interdepartmental requests for information, numerous enquiries from solicitors, property owners and agents and members of the general public, were dealt with during the year.

Overcrowding

During the year, many complaints of housing conditions including overcrowding, were investigated, and appropriate recommendations made to the Housing Department.

A Summary of Housing Repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of Inspections for the purpose of Housing Consolidated Regulations	396
Number of general inspections	2,601
Number of Preliminary Notices served	368
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	375
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	114
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by owners	122
Number of Houses made fit	489

2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

A considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time is concerned with food inspections, the conditions under which food is stored, prepared and sold, and the registration and licensing under the various Acts and Orders. These matters are dealt with under the usual sub-headings as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) *SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT*

The year under review saw continued change in the town's meat trade. Two what were formerly large family butchers, were taken over by multiple concerns. The smalls slaughterhouse in Newtown stopped operations in April and for the remainder of the year, reduced the slaughtering centres to two—Reading Abattoirs and the bacon factory.

Although the Slaughterhouses Construction (Hygiene) Regulations, and the Slaughterhouses Construction (Cruelty to Animals) Regulations have been in operation since April, 1962, there has been constant endeavour for continued improvement to the slaughterhouses.

At the Abattoirs, the bleeding section of the slaughtering line has been improved by re-siting the position of the bleeding rail, and the bleeding trough has been re-designed to reduce blood spillage on the slaughterhouse floor at this point in the process. Wall surfaces in parts of the slaughterhouse, and in the gut cleaning rooms, have been improved. At the end of the year, work started on the last of the four cooling rooms so as to make it capable of refrigerating carcasses down to a temperature of 10°F. Plans are also going ahead with a view to improving cooling facilities on the smalls side. Apart from the obvious advantage to carcase quality, improved cooling conditions, provided they can be sufficiently extended, should play a part in streamlining slaughtering by providing additional hanging space, and this in turn may help the meat inspection position by tending towards a more consistent through-



Spray-cleaning of carcases



Protective clothing for slaughterhouse and meat store workers

out. One of the difficulties of the fresh meat trade and slaughtering and inspection in particular, is that it is too closely affected by the day to day fluctuation in the demand for meat. With sufficient refrigerated holding space it should be possible to even out the day to day peaks, and perhaps, in due course, largely do away with late evening and possibly late Saturday slaughtering. A few days maturing by hanging in cold storage would also have the effect of improving the quality of meat in a more acceptable way than by the use of tenderising substances on either the live animal or the dead meat.

Improved lighting has also been carried out at different points along the inspection lines in the light of experience.

The pressurised water service installed in the Abattoirs some two years ago, has been a great asset in maintaining a reasonable standard of hygiene. It has also done away with the need for the wiping down of carcasses, which has always been considered a doubtful operation from the point of view of meat carcass hygiene, and all carcasses are now washed down with a fine spray from pressurised jets.

Reconstruction is in progress at the bacon factory. Whilst the present slaughtering and dressing line is to be retained, a cooling hall is to be gutted and converted into chilling rooms for pig carcasses. An improved standard of refrigeration will reduce the carcass temperature to a level suitable for curing in a matter of ten hours. Improvements are to be carried out in the carcass boning and cutting room, and refrigeration to be used in connection with the preparation of manufactured meats, is also to be improved. Attention is being given to the arrangements for the detention of suspect carcasses, and there is to be a separate chilling room for plucks.

It is anticipated that these improvements will speed up and streamline the flow of carcasses through the bacon factory and, at the same time, assist in co-ordinating the slaughtering process with that of bacon curing, meat preparation, etc.

Slaughterhouse Hygiene

After many years of campaigning for higher hygienic standards in the handling of meat, it is pleasing to note that its advantages are now accepted by meat producers, and largely accepted by the men on the slaughterhouse floor. Meat packers are demanding meat of a good bacterial standard, and are insisting that a requisite of this standard is efficient and cleanly dressing and preparation of carcasses, an elimination of wiping cloths and the washing down of carcasses by pressurised jets. Meat traders generally have always considered the application of water to be detrimental to meat, and in the way it was sometimes applied, this was probably so. However, the modern system of "sweeping" bone, blood and tissue debris from the carcass by a fine pressurised jet—using a minimum of water in the place of wiping cloths, is undoubtedly a big step forward in slaughterhouse hygiene, and so long as it is done immediately after slaughter and dressing, there is more than sufficient body heat available to completely dry the carcass without impairing its keeping quality.

Increasing attention is also being given to protective clothing worn by meat handling staff and the photograph on the opposite page shows the kind of wear that has been adopted for the various classes of workmen and staff, viz.: (from left to right) for boning and jointing, slaughterman, salesman, meat porter, van driver and cold store operative. At both the Abattoirs and the bacon factory the managements have accepted responsibility for the provision of clean, protective clothing, in consideration of which a small sum is deducted from the employees' weekly pay. This kind of arrangement was also included in the Joint Industrial Council's conditions of employment in the bacon curing industry.

Meat for Export

For many years now the capacity and use of the Abattoirs has been in excess of the needs of Reading and district and considerable quantities of meat have been

exported during the year under review to London, France, Italy and Belgium. Exports abroad comprise mainly hind-quarters of beef, and the trade has provided a supply of fore-quarters for the home market, a fair quantity of which has been "exported" to the North-West.

One of the export problems and a factor which probably affects the price of export meat, is that this must be certified by a Veterinarian, a condition which is applied by this country to meat imported from abroad. This condition has been met by arrangement either with a local Vet. or, in the case of the bacon factory, an officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Efforts are being made, however, to obtain the acceptance of the authorising officer's stamp for export purposes.

Casualty Animals Casualty animals are always subject to particular attention as they may be sent in for many different reasons—injury, thriftlessness, difficulty of parturition and suspect causes. In these cases, we like to have a certificate from the Veterinarian attending the animal which gives details of the treatment the animal has received and the reasons for slaughter. There has been a fair degree of consultation between owners and Vets. in connection with this matter. Evidence of mishandling or cruelty is thoroughly investigated and it was found necessary again this year to report cases which resulted in legal proceedings. One case involved a bovine animal left injured for several days before being sent in for slaughter. Neglected bites on a pig also resulted in unnecessary suffering and the imposition of a fine, which was also the case in the instance of a pig with a cancerous growth. In each of these cases the affected carcase was totally condemned.

The figures for animals sent in for emergency slaughter because of injury or illness, were as follows:—

Cows 142; Heifers and Steers 20; Bulls 2; Sheep 111; Calves 6; Pigs 233.

Meat Inspection

For the first time for several years the number of cattle units passing through the Reading slaughterhouses was slightly less than in previous years, there being 85,435 in 1963, compared with 90,801 in 1962, the respective inspection units over the same years being 694,940 and 735,298. The lower throughput was undoubtedly due to the very severe weather conditions experienced during the early months of the year, a fact which is emphasised by the throughput of 211,388 inspection units during October to December, 1963, compared with 197,191 inspection units for the same period in the previous year. There was a fair increase in the number of cows slaughtered. The number of cattle excluding cows was slightly down, but the main reduction was due to the lower throughput of small animals. The discontinuation of Rogers' slaughterhouse from April onwards was also a contributory factor to the lower throughput for the year. The number of cattle sent for slaughter direct from Ireland was again less this year than last, but it should be again noted that the incidence of Tuberculosis in bovines was greater from this source than from home markets. The details of inspection, together with condemnations, are referred to later in the report, and the amount of meat slaughtered and inspected is again illustrated in graph form on page 83.

The long awaited meat inspection regulations were introduced during 1963. These have had the effect of making the inspection of meat obligatory on the part of the responsible authority. The regulations provide that, except in certain circumstances, meat must not be removed from a slaughterhouse until it has been inspected, and that meat inspected and passed as fit for human consumption must be marked.

We have, for many years, ensured that all meat produced at the Reading slaughtering centres, has been inspected. The new regulations, however, lay down an obligatory detailed standard of inspection so that, in conjunction with the compulsory stamping of carcasses, it has meant a certain amount of additional work. Despite the short notice of the coming into operation of the regulations, we were able to meet

their requirements, although it was quickly apparent that some degree of re-organisation was necessary if the demand on the time of district and other public health inspectors was to be reduced to a minimum.

So far as meat inspection charges are concerned, the regulations laid down a maximum of 2s. 6d. a beast, 9d. for each calf or pig, and 6d. in the case of each sheep, lamb or goat, together with a provision that it was open to local authorities to negotiate special contracts on a basis which would not exceed the maximum charges, where regular or large scale slaughtering took place. So far as the Abattoirs and the bacon factory were concerned, contracts were negotiated on this basis, whilst in respect of the small slaughtering establishment in Newtown, the maximum charges were agreed.

In discussing meat inspection charges, the ways and means of streamlining slaughtering and inspection were also taken up with the firms concerned and particular reference was made to the need for reducing late working to a minimum. Whilst certain economies have been made, there is room for still greater improvement. It is hoped that the proposals both firms have in mind for the improvement and extension of cooling facilities will help to even out slaughtering and inspection from day to day.

With the introduction of the meat inspection regulations and the authority to make charges on the trade, the reimbursement grants previously made by the Ministry were discontinued at the end of March 1963. The amount of grant for the financial year 1962/1963 amounted to £2,240, a figure which represented 50% of the value of the meat inspection work done over and above that required for the needs of the County Borough.

Tuberculosis

It will be seen in the table below that the incidence of Tuberculosis in the principal classes of animals was less again this year than last—there having been no cases of tuberculosis in sheep for several years. So far as cattle are concerned, the highest incidence is still found in the Irish cattle sent here direct for slaughter, and of the 1,915 from Ireland, some 2.04% were found to be infected in some degree, compared with 6.70% last year. We have continued close collaboration during the year with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, who are informed of cases of Tuberculosis. Wherever possible, investigations are carried out by the Ministry's staff in the field, with a view to establishing and eliminating the source of infection. Only 11 animals were sent in for slaughter during the year under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950. The incidence of Tuberculosis has been so reduced that the Ministry are looking into the possibility of a revision of the Tuberculin Testing Scheme.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1960	13,812	0.898	13,988	0.114	23,073	—	62,089	0.098
1961	19,842	1.74	11,617	0.15	23,077	0.002	70,071	0.15
1962	17,560	0.90	13,783	0.31	23,417	0.017	78,219	0.16
1963	16,239	0.228	16,491	0.024	19,655	—	72,495	0.099

Cysticercus Bovis

The number of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*, either viable or resolved, during the year was 24 compared with 22 last year. There were no generalised cases. In 7 instances, carcasses were refrigerated as recommended in Memo 3 Meat before being passed as fit for human consumption. In the other cases, where not more than one degenerate cysticercus was found, offals were condemned and after

jointing produced no evidence of viable infestation, the meat was released. Low-temperature refrigeration facilities are very satisfactory in Reading and we have now eight centres where meat can be refrigerated in accordance with the recommendations relating to *Cysticercus Bovis*.

In addition to the cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found locally, a number of affected carcasses were sent in from Local Authorities outside, for refrigeration for the prescribed period. We are notified by the Public Health Inspector for the appropriate authority of the time and place at which the carcass will be treated, and we arrange for surveillance of the carcass accordingly. Since the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations, the carcass is then stamped by the Public Health Inspector when treatment is complete.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1950

Public Health Inspectors qualified in meat inspection are appointed as authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts, and are responsible for ensuring proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises.

During 1963, however, no notifications were received in connection with the above Acts. During the year, and as part of the campaign to eliminate the spread of infection at piggeries, special attention was given to those premises registered under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, of which there are 29. This followed the introduction of the Swine Fever Order, 1963, which came into operation on March 11th. The effect of the new regulations is to prohibit the movement of pigs into and out of premises on which there is a diseased or suspected pig or carcass. They also prohibit the slaughtering and dressing of pigs for human consumption on premises declared as an "infected place". It will be interesting to see the effect on swine fever of the new Order.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1958

A total of 38 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Acts, was issued during the year. The system of issuing a conditional licence to a man newly taking up this work—a measure introduced some three years ago—has worked most satisfactorily. This system ensures that the licence holder knows something about the regulations he is required to observe, the principles which lie behind the slaughtering methods, and the importance of meat hygiene.

Both the captive bolt pistol and the electric lethaler are used at the slaughterhouses and applicants for unconditional licences are expected to show proficiency in the use of both these methods besides being suitable persons to do this work.

Condemned Meat

103½ tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The Table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with the details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry. We have been consulted by the Ministry and other organisations in connection with certain types of disease found on meat inspection. A point of interest which has been noted in connection with barley-fed cattle sent in to the Abattoirs for slaughter, is that there was a marked increase in the incidence of liver abscess revealed on post-mortem examination, with a loss of livers from this condition to the extent of about 10%. It will be interesting to see whether there is any relationship between barley feed and liver abscess in these specially fed animals.

Whole Carcasses

	Heifers & Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars & Sows	Sheep
tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
bruising and Injuries	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
head in lairage	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
blebbed	—	—	—	16	—	—	1
immaturity	—	—	—	9	1	—	—
jaundice	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
joint-ill	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Johnes Disease	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
oedema and/or Emaciation	2	138	6	144	14	11	119
pyaemia	—	—	—	6	88	19	—
pyrexia	2	29	—	24	16	8	—
all Septicaemia conditions	3	35	2	1	11	4	2
tumours	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
	8	215	8	217	133	44	122

Part Carcasses

	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars and Sows	Sheep
tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
arthritis	—	—	—	—	72	—	—
bruising and/or Injuries	—	3	—	—	2	—	—
	1	3	—	—	74	—	—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
number killed	16,239	16,491	19,655	45,595	72,495	Nil
number inspected	16,239	16,491	19,655	45,595	72,495	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	16	214	217	122	177	Nil
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4,087	8,574	175	3,264	16,243	Nil
percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	25.27	53.29	1.99	7.43	22.65	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—	Nil
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	3	—	—	72	Nil
percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.23	0.024	—	—	0.099	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	—	—	—	—	Nil
carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—	Nil
generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Organs, etc.

<i>Heads and Tongues</i>				<i>Lungs</i>			
Tuberculosis	.	.	150	Tuberculosis	.	.	33
Abscess	.	.	158	Abscess	.	.	39
Actinomycosis	.	.	103	Congestion	.	.	2,276
Cysticercus Bovis	.	.	24	Echinococcosis (cysts)	.	.	5
				Distomatosis	.	.	41
<i>Livers</i>				Emphysema	.	.	10
Tuberculosis	.	.	5	Pleurisy	.	.	3,088
Abscess	.	.	364	Pneumonia	.	.	4,850
Angioma	.	.	1,225				
Cirrhosis	.	.	1,186	<i>Stomachs</i>			
Echinococcosis (cysts)	.	.	16	Tuberculosis	.	.	4
Fatty Degeneration	.	.	81	Abscess	.	.	16
Distomatosis	.	.	12,029	Peritonitis	.	.	543
Milkspot	.	.	3,797				
Necrosis	.	.	192	<i>Hearts</i>			
				Pericarditis	.	.	2,748
<i>Part Livers</i>							
Distomatosis	.	.	682	<i>Kidneys</i>			
				Cysts	.	.	483
<i>Spleens</i>				Nephritis	.	.	1,096
Peritonitis	.	.	44				
				<i>Intestines</i>			
<i>Udders</i>				Tuberculosis	.	.	6
Abscess	.	.	2	Johnes Disease	.	.	7
Mastitis	.	.	77	Peritonitis	.	.	603

Condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with the Meat Staining & Sterilisation Regulations, 1960. So far as the bacon factory is concerned, plant is installed on the premises which converts condemned material into useful fertilisers and fat in an expeditious way, whilst the material is fresh, and enables it to be disposed of with a minimum of nuisance. This type of plant reduces the possibility of the spread of infection due to the handling of infected material and affords the best practical means of control.

Meat Hygiene, etc.

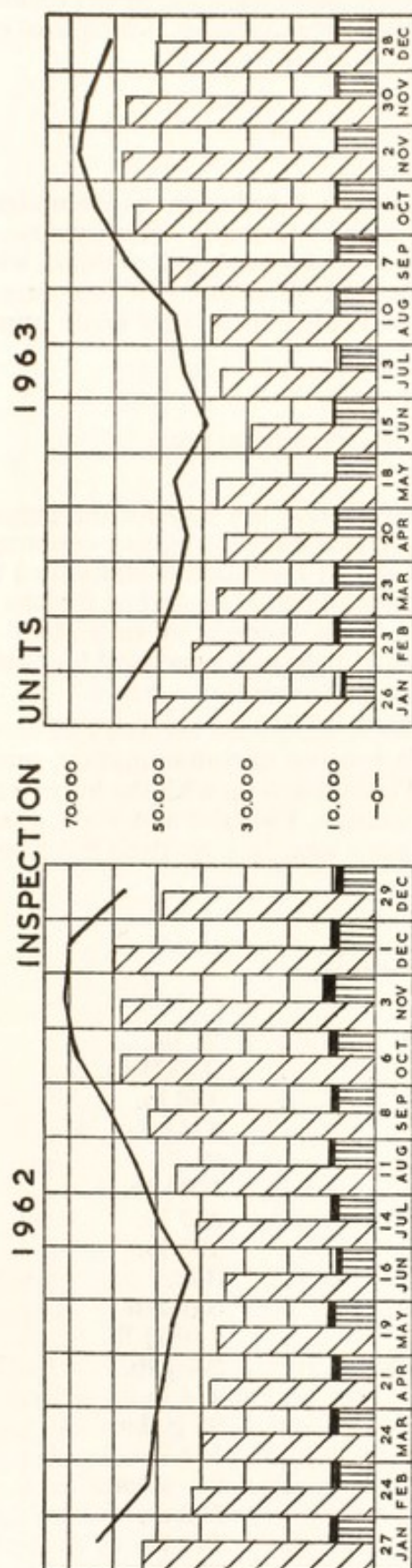
During the year a number of consignments of imported beef found by Port Health Authorities to be affected with salmonella organisms, were sent into the town for processing. These consignments were inspected, the processing supervised and samples of the processed meat were submitted for bacteriological examination. On the receipt of satisfactory reports, the processed meat was released for sale.

A large pharmaceutical firm has for some time been collecting from the Abattoirs quantities of calves' blood for use in the production of polio vaccine. The firm has now set up a semi-permanent laboratory at the Abattoirs for this purpose.

Transport of Meat

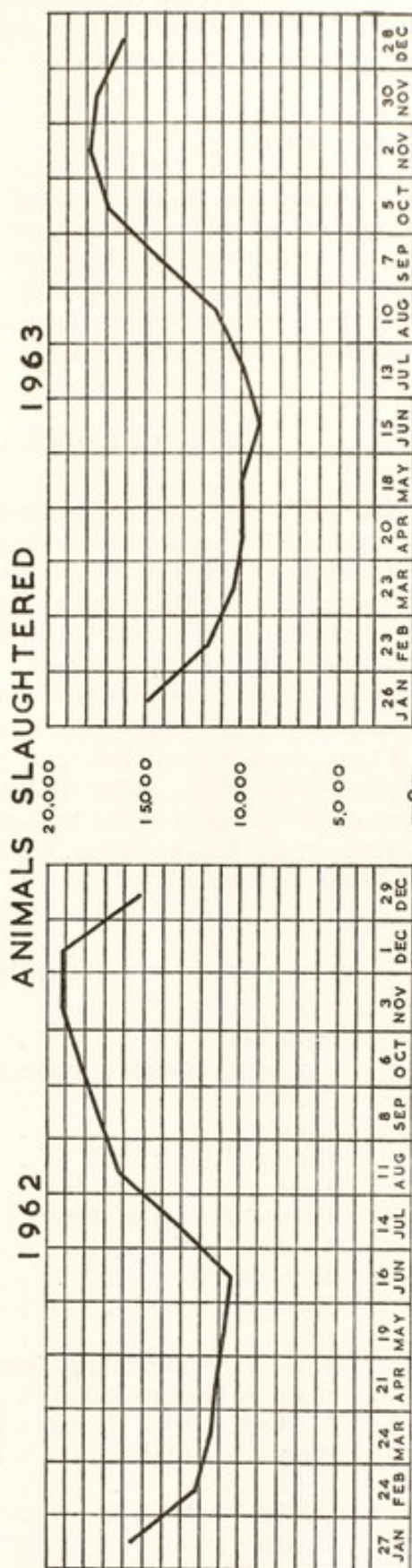
Numerous inspections were made by Inspectors at the slaughterhouses and cold stores, and as meat was being delivered to shops in the town. It was found that a

MEAT INSPECTION



4 WEEK PERIODS

KEY PUBLIC ABATTOIR BACON FACTORY OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSE — TOTAL



4 WEEK PERIODS

reasonable standard was maintained, although it was necessary to write to one or two meat purveyors regarding the condition of vehicles. Meat transported to London or to airports for export abroad, is now carried in refrigerated vehicles, which is of course, by far the most satisfactory way.

Knacker's Yard

There is only one knacker's yard in the Borough. Although no slaughtering is carried out, it is subject to annual licensing by the Council. The premises were reasonably well-maintained during the year. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 198 bovine and 32 equine carcasses were dealt with on the premises during the year. Public Health Inspectors made numerous visits to the premises during 1963.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

1,159 visits were paid to food establishments during the year for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and condemning that which was unfit for human consumption. Approximately 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of food were condemned and 1,449 certificates issued to the trades concerned. Whilst a proportion of this work is done as part of routine visits and inspections, food condemnations take up a fair amount of Inspectors' time. Improved storage and refrigeration facilities would help to reduce food loss and also the time that Inspectors are required to spend on this work.

It was mentioned in the report last year that it was found necessary to condemn some 3 tons of meat imported from Yugoslavia because of contamination, probably at the place of slaughter. After this matter had been taken up with the importers and the appropriate division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, considerable improvement was achieved, although for some months past there have been no imports from that country.

CONDEMNED FOOD

Almonds	.	.	.	.	.	21 lb.
Bacon, Gammon & Ham	.	.	.	.	.	3,033 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Brawn	.	.	.	.	.	156 lb.
Cheese	.	.	.	.	.	111 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Chopped Pork Roll	.	.	.	.	.	24 lb.
Cooked Pork Shoulder	.	.	.	.	.	101 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Corned Beef & Mutton	.	.	.	.	.	557 lb.
Desiccated Coconut	.	.	.	.	.	100 lb.
Dried Fruit	.	.	.	.	.	3 lb.
Eggs	.	.	.	.	.	3 dozen
Fish	.	.	.	.	.	1,055 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Fruit Pulp (including Tomato Puree)	.	.	.	.	.	349 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Ham & Tongue Roll	.	.	.	.	.	144 lb.
Ice Cream Mix	.	.	.	.	.	98 gallons
Jam & Marmalade	.	.	.	.	.	187 lb.
Jellied Eels	.	.	.	.	.	24 cartons
Jellied Veal	.	.	.	.	.	102 lb.
Lemon Curd	.	.	.	.	.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Lunch Tongue & Ox Tongue	.	.	.	.	.	138 lb.
Meat	.	.	.	.	.	3,503 lb.
Offal	.	.	.	.	.	1,241 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Pickles—Mixed	.	.	.	.	35 lb.
Onions	.	.	.	.	19 lb.
Beetroot	.	.	.	.	17 lb.
Red Cabbage	.	.	.	.	1 lb.
Picalilli	.	.	.	.	5 lb.
Pies (assorted)	.	.	.	.	17 packets
Potatoes	.	.	.	.	16½ cwts.
Poultry	.	.	.	.	77 lb.
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	30 lb.
Roast Pork	.	.	.	.	30 lb.
Sausages & Chipolatas	.	.	.	.	161 lb.
Sausage Meat	.	.	.	.	12½ lb.
Tins—assorted	.	.	.	.	3,743 tins
Tomato Sauce	.	.	.	.	6¾ lb.
Vinegar	.	.	.	.	39½ pints
Yeast	.	.	.	.	560 lb.

FOOD CONDEMNED BY REASON OF BREAKDOWN IN REFRIGERATION

Cheeseburgers	.	.	.	.	2½ lb.
Chicklets	.	.	.	.	1½ lb.
Chipped Potatoes	.	.	.	.	80 lb.
Dairy Cream Sponge	.	.	.	.	28 packets
Dinners—various	.	.	.	.	50 packets
Fish & Fish Fingers	.	.	.	.	585¼ lb.
Fish Cakes	.	.	.	.	84 lb.
Ice Cream—"Family Blocks"	.	.	.	.	1,097 blocks
Ice Lollies	.	.	.	.	26,430 lollies
Meat	.	.	.	.	578½ lb.
Milk Chocolate Eclairs	.	.	.	.	24 packets
Mousse	.	.	.	.	47 lb.
Offal	.	.	.	.	59 lb.
Pies	.	.	.	.	89 lb.
Poultry	.	.	.	.	84½ lb.
Puff Pastry	.	.	.	.	47¾ lb.
Sausages & Chipolatas	.	.	.	.	4½ lb.
Sausage Rolls	.	.	.	.	5 packets
Vegetable—various	.	.	.	.	1,250 lb.
Yorkshire Pudding	.	.	.	.	11 packets

(c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

The number of milk processing plants was reduced to two during the year by the closing of H. Williams & Sons' plant at 675 Oxford Road. This plant was of the Holder type.

The two remaining plants of the H.T.S.T. pattern are operated by the Reading Co-operative Society Limited at 150 Oxford Road, and the Dairy Department, Reading University. The last-named plant is primarily for instruction and demonstration purposes for the dairy students, but is available for use by the trade in the event of emergency and at peak periods.

All milk sold by retail in the Borough is in sealed containers so that the conditions attached to licences are satisfied in practically all food establishments. Milk is regularly sampled, apart from inspections made of processing plants. During the year the following licences were issued, these being mainly changes in occupation:—

7 Pasteurised: 1 Sterilised: 2 Tuberculin Tested.

Milk Receptacles

Particular attention has been directed to the condition of churns and bottles. The results of examination of a series of bottles submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination indicated a satisfactory bacteriological standard, the colony counts being well within the provisional classification range.

However, a number of complaints were received from members of the public concerning the condition of milk bottles. On investigation, it was found necessary to report three cases to the Council, who issued warnings to the offenders. One case concerning a Reading Dairy was referred to this Authority by the Borough of New Windsor. Proceedings were instituted and a fine of £20 was imposed.

The improvement made last year to the churn sterilising arrangements at the large dairy, seemed to prove satisfactory.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are as follows:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	123	Phosphatase	122	—	1
		Methylene Blue	123	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	293	Phosphatase	293	—	—
		Methylene Blue	285	7	1
Tuberculin Tested	58	Methylene Blue	56	1	1
Sterilised	80	Turbidity	80	—	—

It will be noted that there were no failures of the Phosphatase Test during the year, all the samples showing unsatisfactory Methylene Blue reactions were investigated, and where necessary, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and outside licensing authorities were informed. During the year, the special designations for milk were changed. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) is normally included on the grounds that the cattle are now specially tested and that the animals are slaughtered.

Antibiotics in Milk

A matter which has caused increasing concern in recent years is the wide use being made of antibiotics in the treatment of Mastitis and the fact that penicillin in particular has been found in milk. In September 1963, a report was published by the Milk Hygiene Health Committee on this matter. The report stated that it was the unanimous view of medical experts that the consumption of small quantities of antibiotics in milk may result in a deleterious effect on persons consuming it. A few samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination for the presence of antibiotics during the year. All samples were reported free from penicillin.

School Milk

Milk deliveries to the Council's Schools were checked during the year, both under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Food & Drugs Act. The results of all samples taken were reported as satisfactory.

Ice Cream

There was a slight increase in the number of dealers registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, giving a total of 609 on the register in 1963. The number of ice cream manufacturing establishments in the town remains the same, although in the last two years, vans equipped with ice cream manufacturing plant have become established. These vehicles have refrigerated storage space for ice cream mix and other frozen commodities, continuous freezer and suitable washing facilities including hot and cold water. The ice cream mix is manufactured in a large establishment in the South-East and was distributed to depots in sealed polythene containers. Following a number of grade 4 samples, an investigation was carried out into the circumstances of this type of manufacture, with the result that stricter control over the periods for which mix is stored, has been imposed, and automatic recording thermometers fixed to cold stores, and whereas mix was pasteurised and distributed in polythene containers, it is now sterilised and distributed in cans. This branch of the trade was kept under close supervision during the year. During 1963, 189 samples of ice cream and 56 of ice cream mix, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and the results of the test applied are as follows:—

	<i>Ice Cream</i>	<i>Liquid Mix</i>
Provisional Grade 1 . . .	111	44
Provisional Grade 2 . . .	34	2
Provisional Grade 3 . . .	15	—
Provisional Grade 4 . . .	29	10

All samples reported in grade 4 were investigated and appropriate advice, including instruction on sterilisation, was given.

An amendment to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on June 18th, 1963. This amendment permits the addition of sugar to sterilised or pasteurised mixes used in the manufacture of ice cream. The number of vendors making their own ice cream however remains very small.

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.

The stalls erected in parks, playing fields and Thames Side and ice cream vehicles operating in the town, were regularly inspected during the year and conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory.

(d) FOOD HANDLING

Despite heavy pressure in other aspects of the work, some 5,226 inspections and visits were paid to premises used for the storage, preparation and sale of food to enforce compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations and other legislation. There is no doubt that visits and direct contact with business proprietors and their staff is the most effective means of acquainting them with their obligations and ensuring that a satisfactory standard of premises, equipment and methods of food handling are maintained. In general, conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory and there was a good measure of response to requests by the department for improvements in premises and facilities, and for the correction of faults of handling methods and the like. In two instances concerning cafes, however, it was necessary to report the circumstances to the Council and legal proceedings were instituted. The cases resulted in the proprietor of one establishment who opened his food business whilst the premises were unsatisfactory after warnings had been given by the Public Health

Inspector, being fined a total of £70, whilst in the other case each of the two proprietresses was fined a total of £80 on eight charges, making a total of £160 in this case.

Early in the year proceedings were instituted against two food handlers in a greengrocer's shop, for smoking whilst handling open food. In both cases the defendants pleaded guilty and fines of £5 were imposed in each case. At the same time, the proprietor was also summoned for failing to prevent his employees from committing these offences. Later this year, the proprietor was himself prosecuted for smoking whilst handling food and on this occasion he was fined £10.

These were the first cases taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and it is hoped that they will have the effect of reminding the less diligent of food traders in the town of their responsibilities to the public.

It seems important, before a food establishment is opened, for trade with the public, that it should comply with a good hygienic standard. Although there is no requirement that premises should be first approved before they are opened, every endeavour is made by the department to ensure that such places are, in fact, fit before use. It is a matter of routine that all plans submitted to the Borough Surveyor for byelaw approval, are examined by the department, and where premises fall short of the required standard, the people concerned are informed accordingly. Numerous recommendations were made to architects and others with regard to structural details and the provision of essential facilities, and generally our observations are much appreciated.

An appreciable number of premises were improved, largely as a result of the initiative of proprietors, and one or two large food premises which were opened, employing the latest techniques of food handling and display, should help standards generally in the town. There is no doubt that the public are impressed by the example shown in the top-class establishments, and by virtue of discrimination, oblige other firms to improve their methods.

Food Complaints

There were a number of complaints relating to unfit food and extraneous matter in food during the year. In four instances, letters of warning were sent to the people concerned, and in three cases proceedings were instituted with the following results:—

- (1) Steak & Kidney Pie—extraneous matter (cow hair). Fined £20.
- (2) Glass in Currant Bun. Fined £25.
- (3) Tobacco in Bread. (Two charges). Fined £50 on each charge.

In addition to the above cases which were heard in Reading, a case of a finger dressing found in an oven-ready chicken was referred to the Wycombe Rural District Council. Proceedings were instituted, and on a plea of guilty, a fine of £25 was imposed.

(e) *SAMPLING, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955*

During 1963, the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food issued their report on anti-oxidants in food, with particular reference to the Anti-oxidant in Food Regulations, 1958. A fair amount of publicity has been given in recent years to the practice of adding chemicals to foods as preservatives, anti-oxidants, emulsifiers, stabilisers, moisteners, colouring agents, etc., and it was felt that an investigation and report on these practices was necessary. It is pointed out in the report that the use of chemicals in foods is a necessity common to all

developed countries and is essential in some degree for facilitating storage, handling and distribution of food. The general principle to be borne in mind, in the view of the Food Standards Committee, is that an anti-oxidant should only be allowed to be used in food when there is evidence of a real need—and when it can be shown that its use is likely to benefit the consumer without presenting a foreseeable hazard to health.

The Food Standards Committee has also been requested to report on the use of meat tenderisers, a practice which has been introduced in recent years for the purpose of making the meat more tender and more acceptable to the general public. The Committee have stated that there are no hazards to human health from the consumption of meat tenderised by the pre-slaughter injection of papain—a plant enzyme, and have advised, provided the meat so treated is labelled, the practice is unobjectionable. The use of tenderisers has been tried in some districts, but apart from an experiment made here two or three years ago, the practice does not seem to have been taken up in Reading. Apart from the fact that the process is expensive, I feel there is a long way to go before it supplants the butcher's idea of good meat, that is, good breeding and feeding, slaughtering under hygienic conditions and a period of maturity before sale to the public. However, increasing attention is being given to improving the quality of meat. The Charollais breed introduced into this country some two years ago, has been crossed with long-established breeds of Ayrshires and Friesians, and there are good reports on this beef which is now coming on to the market in increasing quantities.

During the year, four hundred and fifty-two samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination. In 1963, seventeen (3.99%) were reported to be not up to standard, the figure for 1962 being 3.89%.

Of the samples obtained, 161 were of milk, and of these, four (2.42%) were below the prescribed standard. This compares with two (1.44%) out of a total of 139 obtained last year.

Details of the samples of food and drugs procured during the year, together with comments on the unsatisfactory samples, are contained in the following tables:—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almond Marzipan	1	1	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—
Apple Dumpling	1	1	—
Beans—Baked	1	1	—
Butter	2	2	—
Beef—Corned	1	1	—
Croquettes	1	1	—
Curry	1	1	—
Minced with Gravy	1	1	—
Stock Cube	1	1	—
Beer, Bitter	4	4	—
Mild	4	4	—
Biscuits	2	2	—
Biscuits & Butter	1	1	—
Black Pudding	3	3	—
Bread & Butter	2	2	—
Butter	7	7	—
Cakes—Coffee Gateau	1	1	—
Dairy Cream	2	2	—
Date & Walnut	1	1	—
Tea	1	1	—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Cake Mix and Sponge Mix	5	5	—
Carmelle	1	1	—
Cereal	2	2	—
Cheese	4	4	—
—Spread	6	6	—
Flaps	1	1	—
Chicken	2	1	1
—Croquettes	1	1	—
Curried	1	1	—
Chocolate	1	1	—
—Drinking, Instant	1	1	—
Coconut, Desiccated	1	1	—
Coffee, Instant	1	1	—
Colourings, Food	2	2	—
Cornflour	1	1	—
Cream—Dairy	3	3	—
of Tartar	1	1	—
Crispbread, Starch-reduced	1	1	—
Drinks, Soft	5	4	1
Faggots	2	2	—
Fish Cakes	6	6	—
Flour—Plain	1	1	—
Self-raising	3	3	—
Soya	1	1	—
Wholemeal	2	2	—
Yorkshire Pudding Mix	1	1	—
Fruit—Dried	3	3	—
Tinned	7	6	1
Juices, Squashes & Drinks	3	3	—
Fudge Mix	1	—	1
Gherkins	1	1	—
Ginger—Ground	1	1	—
Stem	1	1	—
Glaze Cherries	1	1	—
Ham Roll	1	1	—
Ham & Beef, Curried	1	1	—
Hamburger with Gravy	1	1	—
" " Vegetables	1	1	—
Honeycombe Mould	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Ice Cream Lolly	2	2	—
Ice Lolly	4	4	—
Jams & Jellies	5	5	—
Jelly, Table	1	—	1
Lamb Chop & Beans	1	1	—
Lamb Dinner	1	1	—
Lard	3	3	—
Lemon Curd	3	3	—
Lemon Juice, Vit. C	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat—Pork	2	2	—
Macaroni	1	1	—
Margarine	3	3	—
Milk	161	157	4
—Evaporated	4	4	—
Mincemeat	2	2	—
Mint-in-Vinegar	2	2	—
Mousse, Instant	1	1	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Oil—Ground Nut	1	1	—
Olives	1	1	—
Onion, Dried	1	1	—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Paste—Meat	1	1	—
Fish	2	2	—
Veal & Ham	1	1	—
Pastry, Short	1	1	—
Peel, Mixed cut	3	2	1
Pickles	6	6	—
Pies—Steak & Kidney	1	—	1
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce	1	1	—
Potato Salad	1	1	—
Powder—Blancmange, Chocolate	1	1	—
Custard	1	1	—
Milk	1	1	—
Potato, dried	1	1	—
Soup	2	2	—
Pudding—Christmas	1	1	—
Egg Custard with Rice	1	1	—
Fruit	1	1	—
Meat	1	1	—
Mixed Fruit Sponge	1	1	—
Orange Sponge & Sauce	1	1	—
Rice	2	2	—
Rice—Flaked	1	1	—
Prepared	1	1	—
Spanish	3	3	—
Salad Dressing	1	1	—
Sausage Meat, Beef	3	3	—
Sausage Rolls	1	1	—
Sausage Seasoning	2	2	—
Sausages—Beef	5	5	—
Cocktail	1	1	—
Liver	8	8	—
Luncheon	1	1	—
Polony	6	3	3
Pork	6	6	—
Saveloy	1	1	—
Veal	1	1	—
Soup	2	2	—
Spices	1	1	—
Stewed Steak	3	3	—
Stuffing, Sage & Onion	1	1	—
Sugar, brown, Invert No. 3	1	1	—
Sweets & Sugar Confectionery	24	23	1
Table Creams	2	1	1
Tapioca	1	1	—
Tea—brewed	1	1	—
Thyme	1	1	—
Tomatoes	1	1	—
Trifle	1	1	—
Vegetable Fat	1	1	—
Vegetables, canned	6	6	—
Vinegar, Malt	4	4	—
Aspirin	1	1	—
Cough Linctus	1	—	1
Epsom Salts	1	1	—
Iodine	1	1	—
Powder—Cooling	1	1	—
Infants	1	1	—
Soothing	1	1	—
Stomach	1	1	—
Spirit of Sal Volatile	2	2	—
	452	435	17

**ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED
AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD**

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
17	Liquorice Novelties	Formal	Red coloured ribbons without Liquorice	Inferior. Colouring matter permitted in colouring in Food Regulations 1957
26	Rhubarb in Syrup	Informal	Tin plating of can badly attacked Rhubarb contained 112 pts. per ml. of tin	11 lb. can imported (Poland) Inferior. Wholesaler complied with request that remainder of stock be used within 3 months
27	Cough Linctus	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
107	Jelly with Fruit	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	No action taken after investigations
123	Extraneous Material	Informal	Consisted of cow hair	Found in steak & kidney pie. Submitted for identification
133	Cut mixed Peel	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with Manufacturers
135	Fudge Mix	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with Wholesalers
138	Table Cream (Lemon Flavour)	Informal	Misleading label	Matter taken up with Manufacturers
234	Milk	Informal	Deficient in solids-not-fat	Follow-up sample satisfactory
266	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.60% S.N.F. 8.46%)	Genuine but of poor quality
285	Milk	Informal	Fat 3.50% S.N.F. 8.46%)	
286	Milk	Informal	Fat 3.50% S.N.F. 8.48%)	
296	English Chicken	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Manufacturers agreed to amend labels
289	Polony	Informal	Meat 29.0%)	Letter of warning to Manufacturers. Subsequent sample satisfactory
332	Polony	Formal	Meat 29.1%)	
334	Polony	Formal	Meat 47.0%)	
344	Lemon juice Vitamin "C"	Formal	Deficient in Vitamin "C"	Matter taken up with suppliers

Merchandise Marks Act

The marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale is regularly checked by Inspectors when visiting food premises. Five hundred and seventeen visits were paid for the purpose of checking the markings of imported foodstuffs during the year and warnings were given where necessary. It was found, however, that the Act was generally well observed and there was no call to institute proceedings in connection with these matters during the year.

The Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods (Raw Cucumbers) Order, 1963, came into operation on October 30th, 1963. The Order requires an indication of origin to be applied to imported raw cucumbers (exceeding five inches in length), other than gherkins, on exposure for sale wholesale or retail.

3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In the industrial field, July 5th, 1963—the seventh anniversary of the passing of the Act—saw the ending of the defence previously available under Section 2. This means that it will no longer be possible to plead as a defence in proceedings under Section 1 that the contravention was due to faulty buildings or equipment and to inability to remedy the conditions. During this seven-year period of grace, strenuous efforts were made to complete outstanding conversions or replacement of obsolete furnaces.

The Clean Air Act and the fuel efficiency drive has resulted in a transformation in the appearance of boiler houses. Before attention was focussed on atmospheric



Tile kiln converted to mechanical stoking

pollution, many boilers were hand-fired, with very few instruments and efficiencies as low as 50%. In the majority of cases these have now been replaced by modern automatic fired boilers, with full instrumentation, and combustion efficiencies of up to 80%. The new boilers are housed in well lit and brightly decorated modern boiler houses which are a great improvement on the dusty dismal caverns they replaced. The savings in fuel consumption, especially in these days of high costs, has been welcomed by managements.

On the domestic side, the publication of the White Paper entitled "Domestic Fuel Supplies and the Clean Air Policy" on December 17th, 1963, heralded far reaching changes in the operation of smoke control. These changes are dealt with more fully in the section on Smoke Control Areas.

Installation of New Furnaces

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires persons installing new furnaces (other than domestic appliances of less than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour capacity) to notify the local authority. This provision is important in that we are then aware of the location of these new installations and observations can be made to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act from the outset. Although modern installations are normally capable of continuous operation with the minimum or smoke emission, incorrect installation or maintenance can result in considerable nuisance to residents.

Ninety-five formal notifications were received during the year and the steady increase in numbers since 1956 reflects the expansion of factory estates and the replacement of obsolete furnaces.

The types of installation were as follows:—

Type of Furnace	Fuel		
	Oil	Gas	Solid Fuel
Packaged Steam Boiler . . .	6	—	—
Vertical Steam Boiler . . .	—	—	1
Sectional Heating Boiler . . .	37	18	5
Direct-fired Warm Air Heater .	26	—	—
Metal Treatment Furnaces . .	—	2	—
TOTAL . . .	69	20	6

61% of the oil-fired furnaces were designed to use a distillate fuel oil which has a lower sulphur content than the average solid fuel. The remainder, which are designed for residual fuel oils with higher sulphur content, being large installations with taller chimneys which should give adequate dispersion to the flue gases and minimise the ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide.

No formal applications for prior approval were received during the year but informal action resulted in modifications to specifications and the fitting of additional instruments in a number of cases.

Chimney Heights

On May 15th, 1963, a Memorandum on Chimney Heights was issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. This is intended to provide a relatively simple method of calculating the approximate height of chimney commonly desirable in normal circumstances. The memorandum is applicable to chimneys of boilers or furnaces of 650-lb. steam/hour (or 0.65 million B.T.U.s/Hour) and not exceeding 450,000 lb. steam/hour (or 450 million B.T.U.s/hour). The chimneys of boiler plant below these ratings are dealt with according to individual merit, whilst those with ratings above the maximum will normally be in processes registered under the Alkali Act and therefore the chimney height will be controlled by the Alkali Inspector.

The method of calculation is based on the estimated maximum rate of sulphur dioxide emission from the chimney, and is adjusted according to the type of district in which the chimney is to be situated. There are five categories of district, according to density and type of development and the existing level of atmospheric pollution. We are fortunate in Reading, as the figures from the intensive measurements carried out in conjunction with Reading University give a fairly good picture of the average levels in the various parts of the County Borough.

The height obtained from this basic calculation is termed the "uncorrected" height, the final chimney height being adjusted to allow for the effects of the building to which it is attached. Minimum heights recommended are 40 feet and not less than 10 feet above the ridge level of the building.

Some 39 cases were dealt with during the year and in 8 of them increases in height were recommended, whilst in one case the type of fuel was changed from oil to gas to minimise the height of chimney required.

In order to avoid delay it is important that architects and developers should give details of the capacity of boilers and furnaces and the type of fuel, when plans are submitted. The Borough Surveyor's assistance in obtaining these details has proved very helpful in this respect.

Complaints and Observations

Twenty-two complaints were received from residents during the year, alleging nuisance from smoke, grit and fumes. During investigation of these complaints and as a matter of routine, 326 observations of chimneys and industrial processes were carried out. No contraventions of Section were noted, the density and periods of smoke emissions being less than that laid down in the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations.

Following complaints regarding the hospital chimney mentioned in last year's report, however, the smoke emission was observed on two occasions to be excessive. Hospitals are Crown Premises and the general provisions of the Clean Air Act do not apply to them although the local authority can in suitable cases write to the appropriate Minister under the provisions of Section 22. Correspondence with the Hospital Management Committee resulted in an improvement in conditions. A scheme for conversion of the boilers to oil firing is intended to be carried out in the summer of 1964. One other hospital is within the No. 8 Smoke Control Area, and tenders have been accepted for the conversion of the boilers to automatic solid fuel firing and for the replacement of the incinerator by a modern smokeless type.

In two cases, complaints were received of nuisance from the burning of industrial rubbish in the open. Informal action under Section 16 resulted in the immediate cessation of this indiscriminate burning. In one instance the advice of the department was sought as to the type of incinerator necessary to comply with the Clean Air Act, and plans are in hand for the purchase of a suitable installation. In order to prevent nuisance from incinerators, some form of auxiliary heating such as gas or oil and

after burners to consume the smoke, are required. The provision of grit arrestors to prevent fly-ash or burnt particles being emitted are also usually required.

During the extremely cold weather at the beginning of the year when the boilers were being used at their extreme capacity, trouble was again experienced with grit emission from two automatic coal-fired boilers. The managements were advised to call in the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and prompt action in implementing the Service's recommendations, which included the fitting of draught gauges and instruction to the stoker in the operation of the boiler controls had immediate and satisfactory effect.

Two instances of nuisance from oil smut emission were brought to notice. In one case the removal of an incinerator which discharged into the same flue as the oil-fired furnaces, gave improved combustion conditions. The other concerned a central heating plant where the fitting of smaller jets to the oil burners reduced smut formation. In both these cases, meetings were arranged with the management and the technical officers of the respective oil suppliers; the resulting discussions gave beneficial results. The major oil companies have given much thought to this problem and their efforts by means of technical advice which is provided free, and the publication of the results of research, have improved the precautionary measures now being incorporated in new installations. The recommendation sheet issued by this department, where notification is received of new installations, has also proved very useful.

Another consequence of the cold weather was complaints of nuisance from heating stoves on a number of garage premises. The cause was found to be misuse by the employees either by burning oily waste on solid fuel boilers, or improper adjustment of controls on oil heaters in order to increase heating power. The discharge of fumes at low levels gave rise to the complaints. In each case, upon attention being drawn to the possibility of nuisance, instructions to the staff prevented further nuisance.

Attention was also drawn to nuisance caused by fumes from a paint drying oven. Upon investigation it was found that the outlet duct which terminated at roof level, had been dismantled as it was found unable to cope with an increase of fumes and was creating a fire hazard inside the factory. A new duct of larger dimensions was fitted and complaints ceased.

The complaints regarding fumes from diesel rail cars at sidings in East Reading continued at the beginning of the year and it is evident that the extremely cold weather which meant that engines were run during the night to prevent freezing, magnified the problem. British Railways gave assurance that every effort would be made to keep nuisance to an absolute minimum and special attention would be given to servicing the diesel rail cars.

Co-operation with the District Alkali Inspector with regard to processes registered under the Alkali Works Act, continued. The Reading Gas Works is steadily being modernised and developments during the year included the installation of a One Gegi Cyclic Catalytic plant which will produce an additional five million cubic feet of gas per day from a light oil product. This brings the total of such reforming plants to three and a further innovation was the installation of a pipeline bringing liquefied petroleum gases from an oil refinery for subsequent conversion to town's gas. It is anticipated that natural gas imported from the Sahara by tanker to Canvey Island, and thence by pipeline to Reading, will also be available in 1964 and will eventually supply 15% of the required output. The Reading Works supply about one-fifth of the total production of the Southern Gas Board, and in addition to the Reading Region, gas is piped to such towns as Oxford, Bletchley and Aylesbury. Two complaints of smell alleged to be from the Gas Works were investigated. The Station Engineer took action to minimise the nuisance and during the year a number of modifications to installations to reduce the nuisance potential were carried out.

At one of the brickworks a further kiln was converted to mechanical firing and additional kilns are to be modified as soon as circumstances permit.

Air Pollution Investigation

The measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations by means of volumetric instrument continued at Bristol & West House, Corporation Yard, Great Knollys Street and Southcote Clinic during the year. All these instruments have now been converted to the multi-port type which now means that they require attention once per week only, when 7 smoke stains and 7 bottles are collected for assessment of the concentrations. The average levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations at the three sites are shown on page 97 and the respective smoke pollution levels are shown in graphic form on page 100.

The year began with Arctic conditions and January was reported to be the coldest month since meteorological measurements were first made at Reading University in 1921. In consequence, fuel consumption was very high, being in some instances 50% to 100% above an average winter's requirements. This increase is reflected in the higher pollution levels recorded in the early months. The smoke concentration at Bristol & West House on January 23rd/24th was 664 microgrammes per cubic metre, being the highest measurement recorded since the instrument was installed in May, 1958. This coincided with the lowest temperature of 9.5°F. being registered, and was during a period of freezing fog.

Co-operation with the University Geography Department has continued and the meteorological data supplied by them is very helpful. Further research into atmospheric pollution is planned for the coming year. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is to measure air temperatures and air movement at various levels and sites in an exercise together with the University to obtain further information on the dispersal of pollutants by meteorological phenomena. The Research Centre of a petroleum company is also making preparations to carry out experiments to evaluate the effect of chimney height on ground level concentrations. This will enable the results of the various theoretical formulae to be compared with the ground level concentrations found in practice. In order to have as accurate a picture as possible of meteorological conditions in addition to information from the University, a balloon is to be flown to a height of 500 feet to gain knowledge of air temperatures and, if possible, inversion conditions.

Smoke Control Areas

The position with regard to smoke control areas at the end of the year was as follows:—

The No. 8 Area came into operation on November 1st, and the fireplace alterations were in the main completed before this date. Some delays were experienced in the delivery of appliances and the matter has been taken up with the manufacturers. Due to the very cold winter a few householders had overstocked with coal but this was replaced with smokeless fuel by co-operating coal dealers who were most helpful in this matter. Publicity and assistance was given by the various fuel producers and the Coal Utilisation Council and the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation were particularly helpful. Some 1,300 visits were made to premises in connection with smoke control areas during the year.

The future of smoke control will be affected by the publication, on December 17th, of the White Paper "Domestic Fuel Supplies and the Clean Air Policy". This is a direct result of the rapid technological changes in the gas industry affecting the future production of gas coke which was to be the main replacement of bituminous coal in smoke control areas.

It is emphasised that sufficient supplies of solid smokeless fuels will continue to be available to those living in areas already subject to smoke control. The Government intends to encourage and facilitate vigorous action against urban smoke pollution and to enable this work to proceed, the current arrangements for the implementation of the Act have been reshaped to ensure the continued smooth establishment of smoke control areas.

The major changes in procedure are:—

- (a) The local authority must consult fuel producers and distributors as to the availability of the various types of fuels for any future smoke control area. The results of such consultation must be reported to the Minister on submission of the Order.
- (b) Full grants may now be payable on a wider range of appliances than was previously permitted, i.e., openable stoves, under-floor draught open fires, fixed gas fires, electric night storage heaters and fixed oil heaters. The grants will still, however, only be payable on the work considered "reasonably necessary" to avoid contravention of a smoke control order.
- (c) Certain amendments which require legal sanction are included in the new Housing Bill at present being considered by Parliament.

So far as Reading is concerned, the No. 9 area was submitted to the Minister for confirmation on the day before the White Paper was published. The Minister's decision is awaited with interest.

Survey work has started on the No. 10 area and revised information is being sought about future fuel requirements in the light of the new arrangements to enable as clear a picture as possible to be placed before the Council and the Ministry.

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

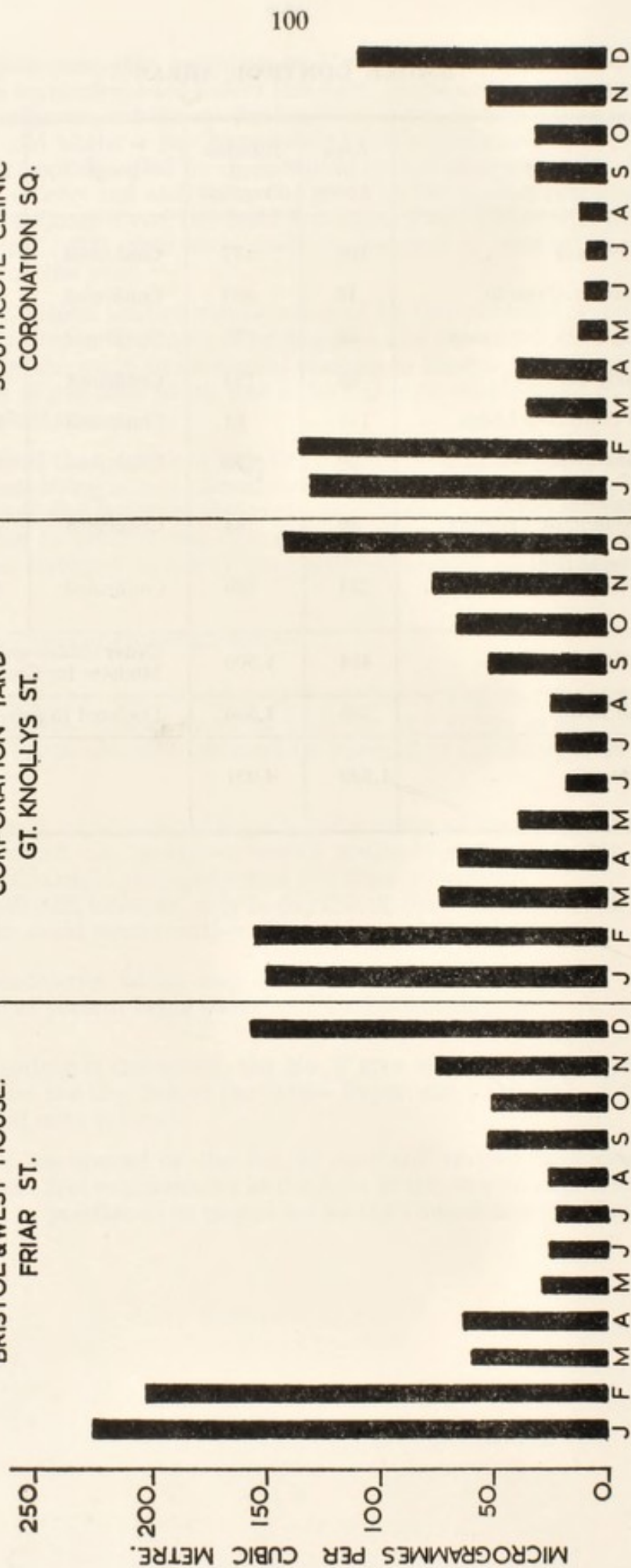
No.	Name	Area in Acres	Number of Premises	Stage	Date of operation
1	Coley Park . .	106	477	Confirmed	June 1st, 1959
2	Broad St./Friar St. .	15	333	Confirmed	June 1st, 1960
3	Coley Park Extension .	45	155	Confirmed	Dec. 1st, 1961
4	Burghfield Road .	22	174	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
5	Old Southcote Lodge .	114	81	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
6	Broad Street/Mill Lane	29	278	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
7	Burghfield Road/ Holybrook Crescent .	30	44	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
8	Cockney Hill/ Prospect Park .	234	589	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1963
9	Southcote . .	454	1,500	Order made—submitted to Minister for Confirmation	
10	Bath Road . .	290	1,300	Declared in principle	
TOTAL . .		1,339	4,931		

AVERAGE MONTHLY SMOKE CONCENTRATION FOR 1963 BY DAILY SMOKE FILTER.

BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE.
FRIAR ST.

CORPORATION YARD
GT. KNOLLYS ST.

SOUTHCOTE CLINIC
CORONATION SQ.



4. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Some 727 complaints were received by the department during the year from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. 1,201 informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects and which are referred to in the section on housing.

Some 467 complaints concerning obstructed and defective sewers and drains were dealt with during the year, in connection with which some 1,773 drains or sewers were cleared and/or repaired. There were 326 cases where the owners themselves were required to do the necessary work, although increasing use is being made of the provisions under the Public Health Act, 1961, where the local authority, on request, may repair private drains and sewers and recover the cost. 4,559 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage. The time spent by Public Health Inspectors was referred to in the report last year and steps are now being taken with a view to economies being made.

It was necessary again during the year to call out workmen on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency. The service given by the Department, and the Borough Surveyor's Department, in these circumstances, has been greatly appreciated, sometimes in writing.

The reference made last year in this section to the problems at the Gas Works, have been discussed in the Atmospheric Pollution section. There was, however, close collaboration with the Alkali Works Inspector on the Gas Works and other premises during the year, and joint consultations on matters of mutual concern resulted in measures being introduced to reduce nuisance from registered premises. The number of complaints received on matters covered by the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act were somewhat less this year than last. Some 82 visits were made to various types of premises, including industrial and commercial establishments. Whilst the improvements made at a foundry in the Borough following consultation with the management and the British Cast-Iron Research Association, has not completely cured the noise problem from the plant, there has been improvement. The establishment is being kept under observation.

Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises

It is pleasing to report that it was necessary to treat one verminous person only during the year. This is a problem which has decreased considerably over the years and is surely some indication of a gradual improvement in general hygienic standards, although there is a fair number of people of a vagrant type living in and moving in and out of town. The Salvation Army, occupiers of the Common Lodging House, keep a constant eye on the possibility of infestation generally and in collaboration with the Department, take regular steps to keep this problem under control.

A total of 185 complaints relating to verminous premises was received, in connection with which 441 visits and inspections were made. The number of cases of bed bugs was 68 compared with 52 last year. We had our usual quota of fly, cockroach and flea infestations to deal with, and a number of infestations from miscellaneous insects. In dealing with the rarer type of insect, identification is often important in deciding the type of treatment to be given. The Director of the Museum was again most helpful in assisting with the identification of specimens.

Several insanitary premises were again dealt with during the year. Where appropriate, the Domestic Help Service and Welfare Officers were brought in and a satisfactory solution was usually found.

With the progress of rehousing, mainly in redevelopment areas, more houses have become vacant and have been used on occasions by vagrants as doss houses. The Housing Committee have been concerned in this matter and have given instruc-

tions for close supervision to be exercised over these premises and, wherever possible, to see that demolition is carried out where practicable. All owners of property vacated as a result of slum clearance are required to make the premises safe against trespassers until demolition can be achieved.

Common Lodging House

Over 40 inspections were made to the Common Lodging House during the year. The establishment is operated by the Salvation Army on an interim basis. Whilst there is a praiseworthy effort to maintain reasonable conditions, the occupants are working under difficulty because of the worn-out state of the premises, and it is hoped that the new Common Lodging House will take shape in the near future.

Infectious Diseases

As it is the practice now for most cases of infectious diseases to be investigated by medical or nursing staff, the work of Inspectors in connection with this matter is very small. Apart from the need to visit houses for the purpose of disinfection, only 8 inspections of premises were made during the year concerned with the notification of infectious disease. Defective conditions were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs served as necessary.

Offensive Trades

The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise: 1 blood drier and 1 rag and bone dealer. Nine visits were paid and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Moveable Dwellings

Apart from the two large sites in the town which are licensed for 70 and 20 caravans respectively, there are few moveable dwellings in the Borough. The large site is now in the process of closing down and as caravan standings become vacant, they are not re-let. The site is being vacated to make way for permanent redevelopment.

The only new caravans appearing in the Borough are mainly for use on building sites whilst a house is being built, or in connection with major construction works where employees are moved into the town for a short time and move again when the work is completed.

Swimming Baths

There are five main school baths in the town, situated at Reading School, Leighton Park School, St. Joseph's Convent, Queen Anne's Girls' School, and the Abbey Girls' School. All these baths have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants installed. Samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

In addition, there are a number of learner pools—at the Hill Primary, Grove School, the No. 9 School, Ashmead, Southcote Primary, St. John's, Geoffrey Field School and Grovelands Primary. Four of these pools have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants.

The two outdoor and one indoor public swimming baths in Reading continued in use.

During the year, 33 samples were obtained and submitted for examination from public swimming baths, and 68 from school swimming baths. All the baths have been operated satisfactorily during the year.

Drinking Water

45 samples of water were obtained from private wells used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trading establishments. All the sources proved generally satisfactory.

12 samples of public mains water were obtained during the year.

5. GENERAL

Factories Acts, 1937-1961

There are 615 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose. Six hundred and fifty-one visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with. It was necessary to serve 19 written notices during the year. The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 64 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 20 were referred to other local authorities, 44 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

A number of notifications were received from the Factories Inspector in connection with sanitary accommodation on building and engineering construction sites in accordance with Section 127 of the Factories Act, 1961. These provisions have brought about considerable improvement in conveniences provided for building workers. At least one large firm has introduced a portable type in the form of a four-compartment trailer, each compartment containing W.C. and washing facilities which are readily connected to a drainage system.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building Byelaws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Acts and Public Health Act, and as regards potential nuisance. Under the Clean Air Act, information is also required on fuel burning appliances in the planning stage so that we can ensure that the provisions of the Clean Air Act will be complied with.

Attention was paid to the conditions in canteens and kitchens attached to factories in the town, with particular reference to the standard of hygiene, amenities and structural conditions. There is an increasing awareness on the part of building and engineering firms for the need for good canteen facilities even where sites are of a temporary nature, and standards have been good generally.

The tables below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	54	40	13
Factories with mechanical power ...	561	611	6
	615	651	19

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	1
Inadequate ventilation	9	9	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	1
	19	19	—	3

Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act, are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. 13 inspections were made of these premises and all samples of filling materials submitted for examination were reported as satisfactory.

Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959

3 samples of children's wear were submitted for examination during the year and were found to conform to the fire resistant requirements of the above Regulations.

Places of Entertainment

Eight visits were paid to various places of public entertainment in the town. No complaints were made by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

Shops Act

Two hundred and fifty-seven visits were paid to all types of shops in the town as a routine duty. Two Certificates of Exemption were issued in respect of sanitary accommodation.

Pet Animals Act 1951

Four licences were issued under the above Act in 1963 and a number of routine inspections made of the premises, all of which are reasonably satisfactory.

Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During 1963, rodent control has continued to be met with the use of Warfarin baits. Some mention was made in last year's report of the possible dangers in the use of the organo-fluorine compounds, and experience in other parts of the country has more than confirmed our concern in the use of these materials. Indeed, the Home Secretary has now banned the sale of these chemicals in the form of insecticides, and they can only be obtained for use as rodenticides on production of a certificate from the Medical Officer of Health or an authorised officer of the Ministry, specifying the quantity to be supplied and the place where it is to be used.

Our past experience has shown that although Warfarin may have some disadvantages, it is undoubtedly the most effective rodenticide available. It is possible to lay the baits in all types of premises, without the need for pre-baiting, as there is no

bait shyness as was the case with arsenic or zinc phosphide, and provided baits are protected and all unused bait is removed at the completion of the work, there is no reason why any problem should arise. In Reading, baits are normally placed in baiting trays, and this facilitates the removal of unused bait. There is no evidence of rats becoming immune towards Warfarin in this area. Warfarin is known to be toxic towards certain animals, and the staff are instructed to pay particular care in baiting, especially when dealing with infestations in the vicinity of pigsties, etc.

During 1963, 9,440 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Altogether, 255 business premises and 920 private dwellings were found to be infested with rats or mice. In most instances, after a complaint had been received, the adjoining premises were surveyed and baits laid at strategic points in order to eliminate all the rats and mice in the neighbourhood. When it was suspected that a drain or sewer had been the source of infestation, the district public health inspector tested the drains. During the year, 268 such inspections were made, and in 15 cases, defective drains were discovered. After the necessary work was carried out, the infestation was eradicated in each instance.

The main sewers were again treated during the year. Instead of confining it to two distinct treatments, baiting was spread over a period of several months from spring to late autumn. In one section where a small infestation was found in the spring, a further maintenance test was carried out some four months later with completely negative results. The results of the sewer treatment are quite encouraging and we are finding somewhat fewer "takes" even in the older sections in the town centre. In certain areas of the town, particularly those estates constructed since 1920, sections have shown no takes for several years.

The maps used in connection with sewer treatment have been replaced during the year, in order to ensure that all the manholes including those in the post-war development areas, are suitably recorded. Any areas showing evidence of infestation can be picked up more easily, and subsequent follow-up maintenance tests are carried out without delaying the rest of the work.

Routine inspections continue to be made at the refuse tip, sewage works and allotments, and, in general, conditions have remained reasonably satisfactory.

The treatment of domestic premises for rodent control is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1962/63, the income in respect of this work was £197, compared with £251 for the previous financial year.

Other Pests

In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, some 214 complaints were investigated concerning wasps, bees, pigeons, moles, foxes, squirrels, etc. Of these, 199 were in respect of wasps' nests. Payment is required in connection with this work, and during the financial year 1962/63 the income was £25.

RODENT CONTROL

Premises inspected as a Result of:— A.B.C.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Corporation Property including Pigsties, etc.	Agricultural Property	Total
A. Notification	458	175	42	—	675
B. Survey	2,222	2,064	166	14	4,466
C. Other purposes	21	19	—	—	40
Total No. of Inspections, including re-inspections ...	5,639	3,161	316	30	9,146
Number of Infested properties treated	933	210	51	5	1,199
Number of Rats picked up ...	166	78	16	3	263
Estimated kill—Rats ...	979	346	42	15	1,382
Number of Mice picked up ...	112	55	19	—	186
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	549	278	112	—	939

SEWER MAINTENANCE

No. of manholes tested :—355 No. of manholes showed take :—120

Mr. H. K. Thorpe, B.Sc. (ENG.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.MUN.E., A.M.T.P.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

House Refuse Collection

During 1963 the collection of house refuse has continued on a once-weekly basis. Additional collections have been given to special premises such as the local hospitals, multi-storey flats, cafes and food shops in the town centre. The service has been maintained by 16 refuse collection vehicles and 70 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse collected, with the total mileage of vehicles engaged on the collection:—

Quarter ending	1963		1962	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st	11,378	34,818	10,713	34,073
June 30th	10,604	36,905	9,856	36,464
September 30th	10,877	38,026	9,645	37,826
December 31st	11,668	38,953	11,028	38,540
Totals	44,527	148,702	41,242	146,903

Trade Refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

Street Cleansing

The "Beat" system of street cleansing by Street Orderlies has been maintained and, with the assistance of two Mechanical Sweeper-Collectors has proved satisfactory. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, the refuse then being deposited in roadside bins, the latter being visited by lorries for the collection of accumulated refuse and conveying same to the disposal tip.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

	1963	1962
Men	51	49
Boys	1	1

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the vehicles (the table includes figures for the two Mechanical Sweeper Collectors engaged on street cleansing work):—

Quarter ending	1963		1962	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st	898	4,988	832	4,897
June 30th	886	4,846	790	4,447
September 30th	870	4,820	806	4,234
December 31st	964	4,963	882	3,623
Totals	3,618	19,617	3,310	17,201

Street Gulley Cleansing*

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1963-1962:—

Quarter ending	1963		1962	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st	568	2,542	723	1,934
June 30th	649	2,596	685	1,969
September 30th	749	2,398	472	1,896
December 31st	727	2,523	789	1,923
Totals	2,693	10,059	2,669	7,722

*9,100 street gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically-operated vehicles.

Cesspool Emptying

All domestic cesspools are emptied by mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles strictly on a rota schedule. Since the charge for this service has been removed the work has been doubled.

Sewage Disposal

During the year the constructional works of the new Sewage Disposal Works were substantially completed although some minor modifications were still outstanding. Commissioning continued throughout the year and operational difficulties steadily reduced.

The average dry weather flow reached $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.g.p.d. The quantity of sludge produced increased significantly following the trend of recent years and the 1963 sludge production was 15% higher than 1962. This created considerable pressure on the existing sludge treatment facilities. The installation of the new sludge treatment plant in the near future will complete the first stage of the Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government formally opened the new Sewage Purification Works on October 2nd, 1963.

Sewerage

New houses and flats connected to sewers during 1963, (including Corporation houses)	=	582
Additional flats — do — by conversion	=	19
No. of new dwellings	=	601
Houses drained to cesspools	=	2
Total No. of new dwellings	=	603
No. of houses not connected to main sewer—Jan. 1963	=	302
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ built during 1963	=	2
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ (revised figure	=	304

The construction of Grove Road Foul Sewer and The Warren Foul Sewer to eliminate cesspools and extend the drainage area was commenced in 1963.

The reconstruction of Wokingham Road also started in 1963 and included the laying of surface water sewers to overcome occasional flooding.

Swimming and Slipper Baths

The swimming baths were again very popular and attendances were maintained. The two slipper bath installations were also well patronised.

The number of persons using these facilities during 1963 were:—

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths: Swimming Pool	167,596
Slipper Baths	6,362
King's Meadow Baths	29,925
Coley Bathing Place	20,480
West Reading Bathing Place	6,650
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	11,479

HOUSING

(These comments should be read in conjunction with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, and with my comments under Part III of the National Assistance Act).

Mr. W. V. Smith, A.R.I.B.A., Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

In 1963, 88 dwellings including houses, flats and bungalows were handed over to the Council.

At Coronation Square, Southcote, the first dwellings were handed over, including two ground floor flats, for paraplegic persons.

The second contract, for 123 dwellings and 40 garages, on the Bulmershe Estate, Woodley, was completed and some houses and garages for the third contract, for 65 houses and 28 garages, were completed and taken over. Work was started on the fourth contract to be let on this site for 71 houses and 18 garages and the first houses were handed over.

A contract for 24 one bedroom flats for aged persons and childless couples was commenced at Knights Way, Emmer Green.

The first one bedroom flats, in a contract for 12 flats and 12 three bedroom houses, were completed and handed over at Corwen Road, Tilehurst, and the contract for 16 one bedroom flats, for aged persons, at Goddards Farm, Whitley, was completed.

A contract for 79 of the new type terrace houses was let and started on the Corwen Road Estate, Tilehurst.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Parts III and IV

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

The new purpose-built Home at Southcote was commenced early in 1963. This is intended to cater for 40 women and 5 married couples, and it is hoped that we shall become operational in September, 1964. The married couples' accommodation will be of the bed-sitter type, and will occupy a separate wing in the building; meals will be taken in the dining-room, but a separate lounge has been provided for these residents. This scheme is rather experimental, but we have found that a demand exists for these units.

Consideration was given to the closing of Dysons Wood Hostel but it was felt that with the present demand for beds, this matter should be deferred for the time being, the position to be reviewed when the Burghfield Road Home nears completion.

Numbers admitted during the year were fewer than in 1962, and while this, in itself, speaks highly for the care devoted to our residents, it presents an admission problem. We have usually only been able to take in the urgent cases from Class 1. If we were able to admit from the other Classes, in many cases it would prevent deterioration in health and release houses for other tenants. It is to be hoped that work on our new projects will be commenced as soon as possible, and the highest priority given to this.

As in previous years we operated our short-stay scheme from May until October. Once again temporary admissions were made, and relatives benefited from a holiday because of these arrangements. Daily residents were taken to Parkhurst, Alice Jenkins Home, and Arthur Clark Home, and a few people were admitted over the Christmas period.

At December 31st, 1963, there were 16 males and 67 females on the waiting list; of this number 5 men and 19 women were in hospital.



Admissions during 1963 are given in the following tables:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admission (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	—	2	4	7	14	1	—	9	18
Wychcotes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren House	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	6
Parkhurst	2	—	6	—	8	—	4	—	14	—
Southern Hill	—	—	4	—	12	—	2	—	16	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	—	—	8	—	6	—	7	—	14
Dysons Wood Hostel	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	2	—	6
Alice Jenkins Home	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	—	—	7
	2	1	12	24	27	27	7	9	39	51
	3		36		54		16		90	

Members of the Central Entertainments Committee arranged Whist Drives, Sales of Work, Garden Fetes and At Homes. The proceeds from these functions realised £225 11s. 8d. and £425 8s. 6d. was spent on Coach Outings, Theatre Trips, Christmas Gifts, etc. The Committee must be thanked for devoting so much of their time and energy to this work, and its success is entirely due to them.

One of our residents, Mr. A. Punt of Southern Hill, reached the age of 100 years on April 14th, 1963. To mark the occasion a party was arranged for all the residents of the Home, and in the afternoon the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. E. C. Barrett), accompanied by the Chairman and members of the Health and Entertainment Committees, attended, and presented Mr. Punt with gifts, etc.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1963

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	Total
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
Not materially Handicapped	elderly	M.	1	2	3	4	5	6
		F.	38	100 93			5 7	105 138
	others	M. F.					2	2
Blind	elderly	M.		7				7
		F.	2	7			4	13
	others	M. F.					1	1
Deaf	elderly	M.		3			1	4
		F.		5				5
	others	M. F.						
Epileptic	elderly	M.		2				2
		F.	1				1	2
	others	M. F.	1				1	1 1
Others physically Handicapped	elderly	M. F.	12	5 17			4	5 33
	others	M. F.					2	2
Mentally Handicapped	elderly	M.		1				1
		F.	2	4				6
	others	M. F.		1				1
Grand Total			56	245			28	329
Number of homes in which these persons reside.			3	5				8
						Elderly	Others	
Persons accommodated on behalf of other local authorities (included in Table A above)						3		
Persons accommodated as residents by other local authorities on behalf of the Council (not included above)						4		

Temporary Accommodation

(To be read in conjunction with the Family Caseworker's report).

The extension to the premises at Woodlands was completed and filled as soon as it was taken over. All cases were of long stay, and on several occasions the Children's Department has been called upon to assist us, as we were unable to accommodate further families.

Some intermediate accommodation became available, and this was allocated to the most suitable families. Follow-up casework is being done by the Family Caseworker. It is extremely difficult to rehabilitate the families with us; most of them have rather a lackadaisical attitude and make little effort to attempt to improve their lot.

The following table gives particulars of this accommodation:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	—	61	75	136
Maintenance Days	—	2,091	4,864	6,955
Remaining on 31.12.63	—	5	15	20

An increase of 14 persons were accommodated above the 1962 figure, and the resident days figure rose by 2,303.

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

Unfortunately, it was found necessary to increase our standard charge, and as from July 1st, 1963, this became £7 1s. 9d. per week. The increase was mainly brought about by salary and wage awards, and did not result from any increase in day-to-day Home running costs.

Retirement Pensions, National Assistance allowances, etc., were raised, this resulting in an increased minimum charge. Additional revenue from this was approximately £4,000. The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents in accordance with the scale in use during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands	9,240	12	8
Wychcotes	1,858	16	3
Warren House	2,858	5	1
Parkhurst	6,997	10	3
Southern Hill	7,104	2	3
Arthur Clark Home	5,827	4	8
Dysons Wood	2,534	2	11
Alice Jenkins Home	5,353	8	6
	<hr/> £41,774	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 7

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Once again, there has been no need to refer any case to the Minister for a decision. Where a dispute has arisen, this has been settled between the Authorities concerned.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Several cases were referred by the National Assistance Board as being in urgent need. Accommodation was provided, and a good relationship maintained with the Board's officers.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Financial responsibility has been accepted for the maintenance of the following number of persons who are accommodated in Homes providing specialised attention. This year the number has increased by two:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm	5	6
Blind	1	5
Cripples	2	4
Deaf and Dumb	2	
Epileptic	2	1
Spastic	—	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) Deaf and Dumb

Arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. There are no new developments to report.

The number of deaf persons on the register is as follows:—

	Deaf with Speech		Deaf without Speech	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Persons aged 16-64	6	8	30	28
Persons aged 65 and over	—	—	5	7

Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, has given me the following notes on his work:—

St. Mark's Chapel

The following Services were held:—

Aniversary	September 8th
Harvest Festival	October 6th
Lessons and Carols	December 5th

The average attendance throughout the year has been 30. Evening Service is held each Sunday at 6.30 p.m., except on the first Sunday in the month, when a Service of Holy Communion is held. Communion is also held on the special days of the year.

Mothers' Union Branch

The meetings are held fortnightly and members take part in organised Services or activities of the Reading Deanery Mothers' Union. Members have received instruction in the handicrafts of rug and lampshade making.

Placement

During the year employment has been found for 8 men and 5 women. It will be realised that in order to obtain these 13 jobs many firms were approached. In addition continuous visits to places of employment are made, both at the request of the employer and deaf employees to iron out difficulties.

Social

As always members of the Club are encouraged to participate in indoor games leagues with other normal clubs. One team enjoyed a season in the table tennis league and two teams in the billiards league.

The Annual Outing was to Folkestone and Dover. The private members' Christmas Party was held in the Heelas Social Room, and the New Year Party at the Reading Town Hall, when the Mayor and Mayoress were with us. There were 210 persons present.

The Club joined the Southern Deaf Amateur Sports Association to play indoor games. The other Deaf Clubs in the league are at Slough, Brighton, Guildford and Portsmouth.

Many coach outings have been organised to other Deaf Clubs and places of interest.

Young People's Club

This section meets fortnightly and the programme is made up of lectures, discussions and visits to places of interest. A week-end visit took place to see the Blackpool illuminations.

Welfare

25 members went on holiday to Torquay. The party went by minibuses and toured Devon and Cornwall, covering 1,600 miles.

9 elderly members enjoyed one week's holiday at Hastings.

The Missioner visited deaf persons in their homes, hospitals and mental hospitals. Interpretation has been given in Magistrates' Courts.

(b) Hard of Hearing

Our arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association has continued. The register on December 31st, 1963, was as follows:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16	—	—
Persons aged 16-64	20	9
Persons aged 65 and over	28	29

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hammond, Joint Hon. Secretaries of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association, report as follows:—

I am pleased to report a very satisfactory year. We have lost a few members through death in old age, but we have gained some, so that our figures stand about the same.

Lip reading, whist drives, bingo (most patronised evenings). Illustrated talks, visits to other clubs, and "outings" have been arranged and well supported. Sick members are visited and the elderly who are unable to attend the meetings.

Twice during the year, the Welfare Officer has been in touch with us regarding lonely hard of hearing people and in one case we have been able to help, the lady now being a member and attending regularly. The other case is very difficult as she is too shy and reserved to come to the meetings, but personal friendship has been accepted by one of our members who has visited her and we are hoping to see her at the Club one of these days.

We worked very hard selling Christmas cards—£170's worth being sold to the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. offices. Sales reached over £500 altogether.

Some of our members collected for the Deaf Children on their first Flag Day and collected about £30 between them.

18 members attended the Rally and Conference at Bognor in September, 1963, and we are sending delegates to Bristol for the Conference in May of this year.

Two members are entering for the Clear Speech Competition being held in London on February 29th in connection with the B.H.O.H.A.

(c) **Blind**

During the year, the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind took steps to obtain better premises for the handicraft classes for blind people. So far, only preliminary steps have been taken and no definite work has been put in hand.

During the year we adopted the recommendations of the Ministry of Health circular about the welfare of the partially sighted in that certain partially sighted people (those who were not likely to go blind within four years) are to be dealt with in the General Classes of Handicapped Persons, and not along with the blind.

Miss Lowe, the Blind Welfare Officer, who also acts as Secretary to the Association, has supplied the following information:—

Registration of blind people

On December 31st, 1963, there were 186 blind people on the register, 72 males and 114 females. The age groups are as follows:—

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1-4 years	.	.	.	.	1	—	1
5-15 "	.	.	.	.	—	1	1
16-20 "	.	.	.	.	1	—	1
21-29 "	.	.	.	.	3	1	4
30-39 "	.	.	.	.	5	6	11
40-49 "	.	.	.	.	7	3	10
50-59 "	.	.	.	.	13	10	23
60-69 "	.	.	.	.	5	24	29
70-79 "	.	.	.	.	19	30	49
80 and over	.	.	.	.	18	39	57
					—	—	—
					72	114	186
					—	—	—

Age at which Blindness occurred

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	.	.	.	.	11	12	23
1-4 years	.	.	.	.	—	2	2
5-15 „	.	.	.	.	3	2	5
16-20 „	.	.	.	.	3	2	5
21-29 „	.	.	.	.	3	3	6
30-39 „	.	.	.	.	4	7	11
40-49 „	.	.	.	.	8	9	17
50-59 „	.	.	.	.	8	16	24
60-69 „	.	.	.	.	9	20	29
70-79 „	.	.	.	.	18	18	36
80 and over	.	.	.	.	5	23	28
					—	—	—
					72	114	186
					—	—	—

During the year there were sixteen new registrations, three transfers-in, thirty-five deaths and five transfers-out to other areas resulting in a decrease of twenty-one on the total for 1962.

Of the sixteen persons registered blind during the year only two are under 65 years of age, one a deaf-blind woman of 63 years and the other a Maltese, aged 56 who speaks no English.

Partially-sighted Register. There were 112 persons on this register at the end of the year, 35 males and 77 females. The age groups are as follows:—

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
5-15 years	.	.	.	.	4	4	8
16-20 „	.	.	.	.	1	1	2
21-49 „	.	.	.	.	5	8	13
50-64 „	.	.	.	.	6	9	15
65 years and over	.	.	.	.	19	55	74
					—	—	—
					35	77	112
					—	—	—

During the year there were thirteen additions to the register, two transfers-in, twelve deaths, three removals to other districts, and four registered as blind persons, resulting in a decrease of four.

The register is divided into the following groups for those age 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind	.	.	.	21
Persons mainly industrially handicapped	.	.	.	12
Persons requiring observation only	.	.	.	71

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially sighted Persons:—

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :— ...				
(a) No treatment	3	3	—	4
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) ...	4	4	—	10
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	3	4	—	10

Children

The small boy is still at home, but plans are being made for his education to commence next year. The girl is at Condover Hall as she has the additional handicap of epilepsy. The teenage boy who left school three years ago has deteriorated in health and is now confined to a wheelchair.

Of the eight partially-sighted children, seven are away at school and the other small boy, whose sight has deteriorated, will be going to Dorton House School early in the new year.

Home Workers

The machine-knitter and piano-tuner have remained our only home workers for another year. The piano-tuner has not been able to do as much work since he had a fall and injured his foot. He does not now qualify for the augmentation grant.

Employed Persons

Thirty-one blind and partially-sighted persons are employed as shorthand-typists, telephone operators, factory operatives, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc.

Walford House

This house, with three furnished bed-sitting rooms provided by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, has been fully occupied throughout the year. The three tenants are very happy there and much appreciate the facilities and companionship.

Holiday Fund

This fund continues to attract support. During the year the Voluntary Association has added £3 10s. to every £6 10s. saved by a blind person, and in addition has given grants of £3 for a single person and £6 for a pair going away for their holiday. A group holiday was arranged for thirteen who went to Southsea for two weeks in May.

Relief

The Committee consider various individual needs at their monthly meetings and as far as possible, these are satisfied. All the blind received a gift of coal, or an equivalent voucher to buy the special fuel they use, in October, and 10s. each for Christmas.

Social Activities

The monthly Afternoon Social has been very well attended, due to the assistance with transport provided by Friends of the Blind. During the summer there were outings to Worthing, Southsea, Windsor and Runnymede. The Garden Party was held in June in the grounds of Parkhurst Hostel.

(d) Report of Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:—

During the year thirty-three patients, fourteen less than in 1962, were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Of these, two have been previously examined.

Ages

Under 20	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
3	—	1	6	10	13

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially-Sighted	Total
Cataract	5	1	1	7
Glaucoma	3	2	—	5
Myopia	1	—	—	1
Retinal Conditions	1	—	1	2
Degenerative Conditions	4	—	4	8
Congenital Conditions	1	—	4	5
Infective Conditions	1	—	1	2
Injuries	1	1	1	3
	17	4	12	33

Cataract

Three of the patients blind from cataract were advised operations. The other two patients had both been operated on but in one the vision had failed due to diabetes and in the other to a vitreous haemorrhage. The patient who was not blind had had the vision of one eye restored by operation.

Glaucoma

All three cases blind in this category retained fair central vision but had very restricted fields. One of the partially sighted patients was suffering from glaucoma secondary to uveitis.

Myopia

Only one patient was blind from this cause.

Retinal Conditions

Diabetes was the cause of the retinopathy in the blind patient and the partially sighted patient was suffering from a circinate retinopathy.

Degenerative Conditions

All the patients in this category were suffering from macula degeneration. One of the blind and one of the partially sighted patients had the disciform variety.

Congenital Conditions

The blind patient was a child suffering from buphthalmos who had lost one eye following an hypopyon ulcer. One of the partially sighted patients had retrolental fibroplasia, the second had optic atrophy, the third macula degeneration, probably familial as his mother and three sisters were affected, and the fourth had a coloboma of the iris in one eye and sub-luxation of both lenses.

Infective Conditions

The blind patient was thought to have suffered from trachoma and the partially sighted patient had corneal nebulae following measles.

Injury

The blind patient had had a perforating injury causing a traumatic cataract and had a cataract in the other eye. She had also had a cerebral thrombosis at the age of 21. The partially sighted patient had lost one eye through injury but had 6/18 vision in the other following cataract extraction. The patient who was not blind had the lens of one eye dislocated by trauma but had 6/9 vision in the other.

It is interesting to note that for the last two years the number of patients examined for admission to the Blind Register had decreased.

(e) Other Classes of Handicapped Persons

In this section, Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer is responsible for the welfare services organised for disabled people. The tables show the register of disabled people in their age groups and classified indisabilities.

Total number assisted during the year	.	.	604	
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Children under 16 years	.	.	22	7
Persons aged 16-64 years	.	.	206	196
Persons aged 65 and over	.	.	64	109
			—	—
			292	312
			—	—
Deceased during 1963—36				
Discharges during 1963—5				
Number of new cases referred during 1963—134				

<i>Details of type of Assistance provided</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment)	61
Adaptations to Dwellings: Indoor work 17 }	27
Outdoor work 10 }	
Council property 13 }	25
Non Council property 12 }	
Housing (including 10 rehoused)	27
Transport	94
Referred to Occupational Therapy Centre	97
Referred for Domiciliary Occupational Therapy	33
Referred to other agencies (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Wireless for the Bedridden, British Red Cross Society, etc.)	76
Picture Loan Scheme	5
Convalescence	26
Financial Help (fares, etc.)	33
Social activities	55
Welfare visits (not included in above figures)	125
General supervision " " " " "	105

Ministry of Health

Classification of Disabilities on Register

A/E (Amputation)	26
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism)	107
G (Congenital Malformations and Deformities)	12
H/L (Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuber- culosis) and of the skin)	120
Q/T (Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdo- men, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine)	92
V (Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, dissemi- nated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.)	181
U/W (Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V)	4
X (Tuberculosis—respiratory)	5
Y (Tuberculosis—non-respiratory)	2
Z (Diseases and injuries not specified above)	8

Ministry of Health Grouping

	<i>Total of cases assisted</i>
A=Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	65
B=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops	32
C=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and not sufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home	34
D=Incapable of or not available for work	444
E=Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 20 of the National Assistance Act 1948	29
	<hr/> 604 <hr/>

The services for handicapped people have been maintained. The number of cases assisted remains fairly stable and we can expect approximately 600 persons to be referred each year for help from existing Local Authority Welfare Services. Of course, the situation is not a stable one and will be affected by population movement, medical research and treatment, ageing of the population and the inclusion of new groups of the community. For example, the Council has agreed to extend its present scheme to include partially sighted persons. Many, it is thought, could be helped by existing services. The adaptation of homes where practical difficulties reduce independence, the study of improved lighting, the use of new aids to increase the range of vision.

Organic nervous diseases are the largest single group causing problems, the solution of which should engage the attention of any authority considering plans for community care. These, and other crippling illnesses, produce in persons a loss of function—a reduction of useful activity—a loss of independence—an inability to contribute to the needs of one's family. In developing welfare services, this authority has tried to encourage handicapped persons to use their reduced powers to the full.

Special Housing. This year saw the completion of our first special building project for the housing of families containing a severely disabled member. Six ground floor flats were designed by our Borough Architect. These flats contained improvements in construction, overall design and layout and fittings. This knowledge has been gained from our experience of adapting old properties to meet the needs of the disabled. It has been described as "eliminating architectural barriers". Special features enable the handicapped person to move freely throughout the whole flat. Particular attention has been paid to the layout of the bathroom and the kitchen. The first tenants moved in during January. We realise we may have made some mistakes, but we will not repeat them. We hope to include provision for houses for the disabled in future building programmes. Already, plans are being prepared for our next project; another small group of single storey houses in a different area to the first one.

The Occupational Therapy Centre. 1963 has seen the opening of the new extension, almost doubling the space at the Centre. The bad weather at the beginning of the year delayed the start of the building, but by July it was officially "handed over" and the craftwork section was able to move into the new room in September, leaving more space for the industrial side, in the original part.

The volume of work has increased with the extra space and an average of 73 patients attend daily. Some £2,500 has been paid to the industrial workers. There are approximately 30 patients attending the craft classes each week and a further 30 are taken either industrial work or craftwork to do in their own homes.

We appreciate the co-operation and support given to us by the many industrialists for whom we work. We, in turn, hope they are satisfied with the quality of the work and the service our labour force of disabled people provide.

Craft articles are either sold privately or taken to be sold at the Helping Hand Shop. Nearly 200 articles were taken there and a total of £62 3s. 4d. was received for sales.

The Social Club, run by a committee of patients, has met each month for tea and an entertainment provided by various kind friends. A Film Show was given by the Brooke Bond Tea Company and the film of the building of Coventry Cathedral was also shown. A party went by coach to the R.A.F. Battle of Britain celebrations at Abingdon and another to Whitchurch, where they were entertained by the Women's Institute. The Christmas Party was held in the new large room and the Mayor and Mayoress joined in the festivities.

We are grateful to the members of the Inner Wheel and the Rotary Clubs who help in the running of the Social Club and to Mrs. Eldridge who so efficiently copes with the catering.

Transport provides the means to extend the available services to a wider group of people. We want to see fewer people confined to their homes. The two specially equipped ambulances are continually in use transporting those who are chairbound or with other special difficulties. As in previous years, we have the continued support of many voluntary associations and individuals who provide transport for disabled people.

Car Badges for Disabled Drivers. This scheme, drawn up by the Ministry of Health, has continued to be administered by this authority. We are indebted to the Chief Constable and his force for the sympathetic way in which they handle the traffic and parking problems of disabled drivers.

The Picture Loan Scheme continues to provide interest for those persons who must remain within their homes. Our voluntary workers, Miss Powell, Miss Steel and Mrs. Jewell visit them and bring along pictures which are loaned for periods of several weeks and then changed.

During the year we have been called upon to assist in certain social welfare investigations. We have been able to furnish information on a wide variety of subjects—the problems of the handicapped school leaver; the extent and nature of the problems of those suffering from arthritic illness.

We very much appreciate the continued co-operation we receive from the many other Statutory bodies who work to relieve the problems of disabled people. We would place on record our thanks to the officers of the National Assistance Board, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Health and others with whom we are in frequent contact.

SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) Meals on Wheels

The following table shows the number of meals on wheels supplied by the W.V.S. during the year:—

January	.	.	.	1,221
February	.	.	.	1,108
March	.	.	.	1,252
April	.	.	.	1,253
May	.	.	.	1,341
June	.	.	.	1,029
July	.	.	.	1,179
August	.	.	.	1,214
September	.	.	.	1,095
October	.	.	.	1,327
November	.	.	.	1,197
December	.	.	.	1,428
				<hr/>
				14,644

We are indebted to Mrs. Buckingham and her helpers for the good work they are doing.

(b) Chiropody Service

Ambulant Patients. The responsibility for the Chiropody Clinic for ambulant patients continued to be performed very successfully by the Queen Victoria Institute Fund. The Clerk of the Trustees informs me that there has been a very big increase in this service. There are now more than 550 patients on the register and 9 clinics are held each week at 36 Queen's Road. The total number of patients treated was 2,934, and 200 new patients were enrolled during 1963.

Home-bound Patients. Home-bound patients are treated by two qualified chiropodists who are employed directly by the Council.

During 1963, 656 domiciliary visits were made, 262 patients being treated, of whom 137 were new cases.

The service has operated very smoothly, and as will be seen, there has been an increase in the number of requests for visits, most cases involving fairly routine chiropody treatment.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of the year, ten Homes were registered in Reading as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. These are as follows:—

107 Connaught Road	.	.	.	4 places
8 Southcote Road	.	.	.	18 "
106 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	7 "
51 Tilehurst Road	.	.	.	23 "
Springfield St. Luke	.	.	.	27 "
272 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	2 "
4 College Road	.	.	.	14 "
10 College Road	.	.	.	4 "
31 Alexandra Road	.	.	.	6 "
19 Bath Road	.	.	.	20 "

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

No action has been taken during the year under this Section of the Act. One case was considered and the necessary arrangements put in hand, but, as a result of further deterioration in the person concerned, admission, without order, into a general hospital was arranged.

SECTION 48—DUTY OF COUNCILS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR PROPERTY OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS, ETC.

Work under this Section has increased during the year. Admission to hospital of persons who were living alone and without relatives meant that suitable steps had to be taken to safeguard property and valuables. This necessitates regular visitation to the house concerned, arranging for payment of rent, rates, insurances, etc., and close liaison with Hospital Almoners.

The work is varied and care has been taken of houses, motor cars, motor cycles, suitcases, etc.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

Six cremations (5 female; 1 male) and six burials (5 male; 1 female) were arranged during 1963. Other funerals were also arranged, but payment for those was made by relatives. A great deal of work has been done in cases where the deceased was not normally domiciled in this country. A proportion of the costs incurred was usually recovered by way of Death Grants or from monies left.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last seventeen years:—

1963	.	.	.	.	.	2,064
1962	.	.	.	.	.	1,878
1961	.	.	.	.	.	1,720
1960	.	.	.	.	.	1,537
1959	.	.	.	.	.	1,485
1958	.	.	.	.	.	1,382
1957	.	.	.	.	.	1,270
1956	.	.	.	.	.	1,210
1955	.	.	.	.	.	992
1954	.	.	.	.	.	869
1953	.	.	.	.	.	891
1952	.	.	.	.	.	675
1951	.	.	.	.	.	763
1950	.	.	.	.	.	567
1949	.	.	.	.	.	524
1948	.	.	.	.	.	444
1947	.	.	.	.	.	407

Seven hundred and sixty-six (37.12%) of those cremated were borough residents and one thousand, two hundred and ninety-eight (62.88%) came from outside the borough. 51.7% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

Nursing Homes

At the end of the year there were the following Nursing Homes in the Borough:—

Dunedin (acute surgical cases)	.	20 beds
Chiltern Maternity Home	.	13 „

These Homes were inspected during the year.

Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948

At the end of the year there were three child minders, including one day nursery, registered in the town in respect of children.

International Certificates

During the year 1,350 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.

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