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County Borough of Reading

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ANNUAL REPORT

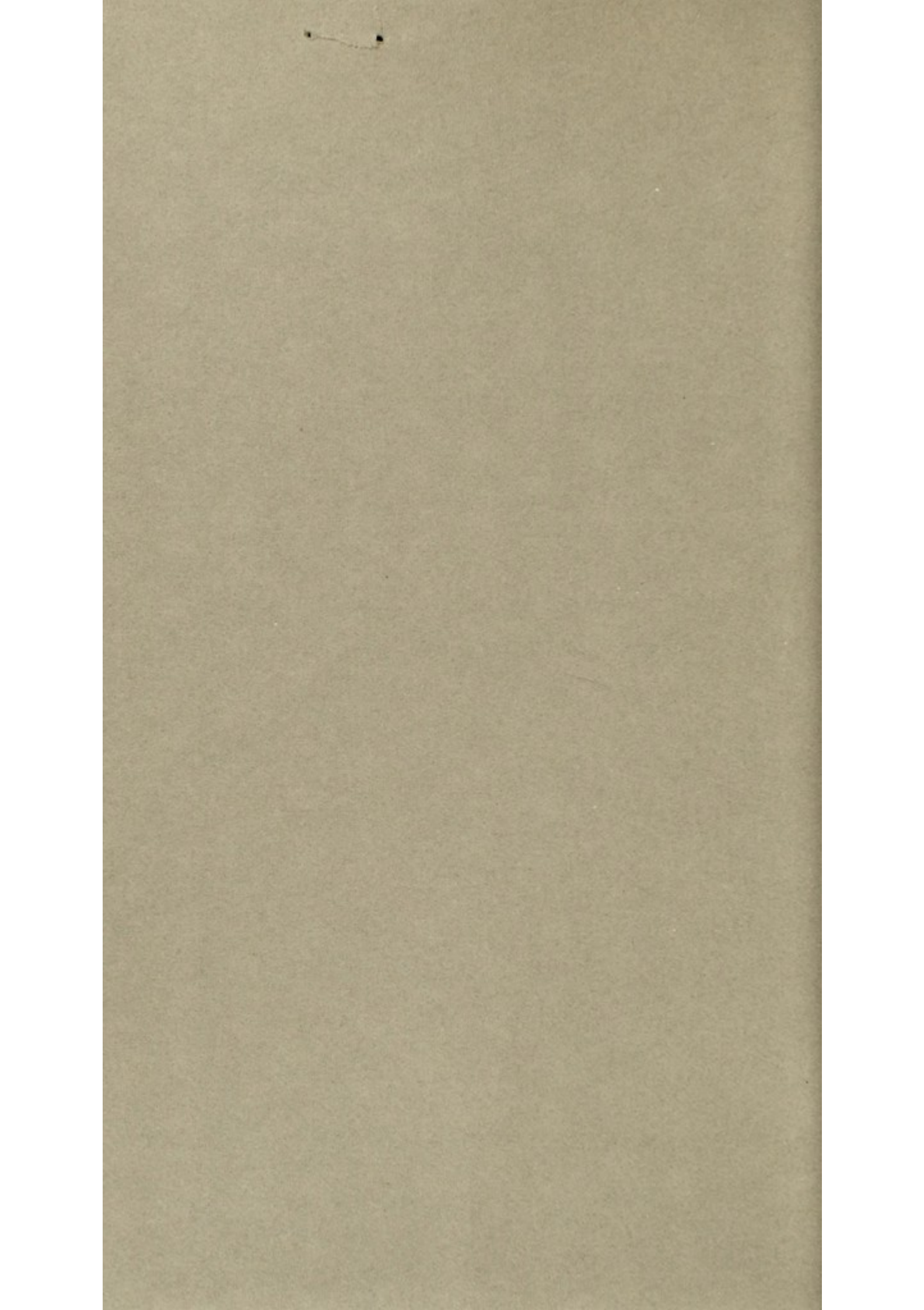
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1965

ALEXANDER GATHERER, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1965

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1965

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Mrs. A. J. BURROWS)

**Aldermen:**

EDITH MORRIS                      GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND  
WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM (Chairman)

**Councillors:**

ARTHUR HENRY BAKER	FREDERICK LAWRENCE ROBERTS
IVY SILVIA BLAGROVE	GEORGE FRANK ROBINSON
WILLIAM EWART BOWYER	ERNEST ALBERT SHADE
DOUGLAS IVOR BUCKLEY	REGINALD JOHN STILL
IRIS BOZIER BUTCHER	PETER HAROLD WATKINS
RONALD JAMES DAY	HENRY GEORGE WHEELER
DAVID HERBERT JOHN GALLAGHER	HERBERT WILLIAMS (Vice-Chairman)
JOHN ERNEST IREMONGER	

**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.

## STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1965

### Medical Officer of Health:

ALEXANDER GATHERER, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H. (commenced 1.3.65)

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

GILBERT VINCENT GRIFFIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

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

JOHN OWEN LLOYD-JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H. (from 1.6.65)

### Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

MICHAEL FRANCIS HOWARD BUSH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

BRIAN DAVID COOPER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

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

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

DOUGLAS ARTHUR SCARISBRICK, M.B., B.S. (commenced 1.11.65)

ANDREW DAVID WEDDERSPOON, M.B., B.S. (commenced 1.3.65)

### 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:

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

### Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

### Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

### Principal Assistant Public Health Inspector (Housing):

A. D. E. HARDING, M.A.P.H.I.

### Public Health Inspectors:

#### Senior Inspectors:

R. W. BASHFORD

M. CARTER

D. V. C. COOPER

J. COWBURN

A. J. CULLEN (commenced 1.11.65)

J. HANBY

M. JACOB

L. H. LARRAD (commenced 1.10.65)

#### District Public Health Inspectors:

E. S. ALEXANDER

G. A. EVANS

R. C. GOSLING

J. J. McLAREN

H. MORTIMORE

### Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS F. L. GATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (from 1.5.65)

### Group Advisors:

MISS B. M. WHITE (from 1.10.65)

MISS T. ORPIN (commenced 12.11.65)

MISS E. P. E. FEW

### Health Visitors:

MRS. A. ALLISON (Part-time)

\*MRS. M. BEATTIE (Part-time) (commenced 1.9.65)

MRS. M. P. EVANS (Part-time)

\*MISS J. FIELD

\*MISS M. E. GRANT

\*MISS S. G. HANSFORD

\*MISS P. J. HONEYBALL

\*MISS M. HOWELL

\*MISS S. R. JONES

\*MISS H. A. MORTIMER

\*MISS J. SMITH

\*MISS G. E. THOMAS

\*MISS J. N. WESTALL

\*MISS M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

\*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

### Tuberculosis Visitors:

MISS M. M. GIBSON

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 J. ARGYLE

MISS E. CHARNELL

MISS M. FOX

MISS V. GARRIGAN

MISS M. HALL

MISS F. HOLLAND

MISS P. JOYCE

MISS B. LOVE

MISS M. J. NELSON

MISS E. J. ODELL

MISS E. PIKE

MISS M. POINTER

MISS T. E. J. SHIPP

MRS. Y. M. TROTTIER

MISS E. XINOMILOU



**Welfare Officer for Commonwealth Citizens:**

MISS. A. B. BURTON

**Senior Mental Welfare Officers:**

C. E. HOUSE                      MRS. J. M. NORWOOD                      MRS. A. J. TREGILLUS

**Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:**

V. A. LANDOR                      D. A. HORN                      MISS M. WOODS

**Chief Administrative Assistant:**

Vacant

**Domestic Help Service:**

Supervisor:

MRS. H. A. FINCH

**Assistant Supervisors:**MISS M. CHURCHILL                      MRS. L. R. RUSSELL                      MRS. E. G. DAVIES  
(Part-time)                      (Part-time)**Training Centres:**

Supervisors:

MR. A. H. ALLEN                      MISS V. J. COOK                      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 Teacher for the Blind:**

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

**Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:**

MRS. J. D. SNOW                      MRS. F. M. E. FORD

**Occupational Therapist:**

MISS J. STUART HAWKINS

**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. Y. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

**"Arthur Clark"**

Mrs. R. H. DAVIES (Superintendent)

**"Alice Jenkins"**

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

**"Edward Hughes"**

MISS H. E. NOLAN (Superintendent)

**"Dysons Wood"**

MRS. V. M. GIBBONS (Superintendent)

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

*October, 1966*

**To the Chairman and Members  
of the Health Committee:**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been truly said that health and social services which are not developing are more than stagnant, they are in fact deteriorating. The continued build-up in the community of the very vulnerable, the young, the old and the handicapped, combines with a constantly changing level of need and demand so that services must alter and improve or soon be found wanting. If economic and other factors threaten the steady progress which is so essential, it is vitally important that planning and redeployment should continue in the hope that at least those in greatest need will receive as much help as is available.

1965 was a year with much time devoted to forward planning. The required revision of the Ten-Year Plan was accepted as an opportunity to outline the further steps in the development of community care in Reading. The plan concentrated on proposals aimed at increasing the links between the various branches of the health services, including the attachment of local authority nursing staff to general practitioner group practices in the town and also a joint social worker arrangement in the field of mental illness. It is hoped that in these and in other directions modest progress will be made so that over the years the exciting possibility of community care in a caring community will become a reality.

Although the emphasis was on forward planning, there was nevertheless a considerable level of achievement during the year. A further small clinic was opened at Coley and the rapidity with which the available sessions were filled showed the value of such premises in this part of the town.

The health statistics show a slight improvement on 1964 as regards the infant mortality and peri-natal mortality rates, although it was disappointing to have a maternal death during the year, the first we have had since 1962. The deaths from cancer showed a slight overall reduction, although the numbers of deaths from the four principal types of cancer, namely lung, stomach, breast and uterus, remained steady. The greatest single cause of death was coronary heart disease, and again a considerable number of relatively young people (that is under 65 years of age) were

included in the total. In these two major fields lie the greatest challenges to preventive medicine in the immediate future.

While the members of the Committee will find the whole of the following report of value, I should perhaps draw attention to several items of particular interest.

**The "At Risk" Register (p. 15)**

Further experience has been gained in evaluating the register, a project which this authority pioneered some years ago.

**Home Help Service (p. 49)**

Despite a continuing shortage of home helps, a year of steady achievement.

**Night Attendant Service (p. 50)**

A much appreciated service, provided by the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Fund, and one which requires to be as widely known as possible, so that those in need can be helped and those who can take part in it can come forward.

**Mental Illness (p. 52)**

The greatest single cause of misery and despair in any community, mental illness offers great opportunity and reward for the voluntary services of the town, in co-operation with the statutory services outlined here.

**Mentally Handicapped Children (p. 54)**

As the numbers who survive into late childhood and adulthood are increasing, the demands on our services increase. The new extension to Wakefield Lodge junior training school now provides a nursery unit.

**Infectious Diseases (p. 64)**

Although still but a fraction of the problem it was a few years ago, infectious disease last year caused a noticeable increase in the amount of work of the department, especially in the further investigation and follow up required subsequent to the two cases of typhoid fever.

**Environmental Health Services (p. 71)**

A year of considerable achievement, which reflects directly the slight improvement in staffing. The work in housing (p. 73) and in food hygiene (p. 76) continues to demand considerable effort. Action required under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 is now a significant part of the duties of this section, and much preliminary work towards the production of a full programme for Smoke Control in the town was undertaken.

**New Hazards and Nuisances**

Laundrettes and dry-cleaning plants (p. 72) have received special attention, as also the feral pigeon (p. 72)

### **Care of Elderly (p. 114)**

The Edward Hughes home is now in full use and is already an integral part of the estate in which it is situated. Much progress has been made in conjunction with the Housing Committee in providing sheltered and other housing facilities for the elderly, and the establishment of the experimental scheme at Durham Close (p. 115) will be of perhaps great value for future plans. The introduction of travel concessionary fares for the elderly (p. 116) has given the department an opportunity of being in contact with a large proportion of what might be called the "new old" so that the development of preventive services for maintaining their health and well-being may become possible.

### **Services for the Deaf (p. 118)**

The opening by the Mayor at the end of the year of a new hall at the rear of the Centre indicates an exciting year of some progress.

### **Services for the Physically Handicapped (p. 126)**

While the O.T. Centre continues in full operation, a start has been made to the building of specially designed houses in three areas of the town. With the support of the Council, every opportunity will be taken to enable an increasing number of disabled people to participate freely in all aspects of town life.

The products of inspired, enthusiastic and steady hard work to which I have referred above and throughout the report indicates very well the dedication of every member of the staff, and I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging my sincere appreciation of the willing support they have all given to me in my first year of office.

On their behalf, I have the privilege of thanking you, Mr. Chairman, and all members of the Health Committee for the interest you take in our efforts. The partnership which we are rapidly establishing augurs well for the future, and for the continued development of services which every day affects the lives, happiness and welfare of everyone in our town.

A. GATHERER,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1965	1964
Area (acres) . . . . .	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1965) . . . . .	124,470	123,310
Area Comparability Factor:—		
Births . . . . .	1.01	1.01
Deaths . . . . .	0.97	0.99
Rateable Value . . . . .	£6,866,424	£6,539,198
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.66) . . . . .	£27,896	£27,100

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, 1966:—

Expenditure less income (Other than Government Grants) . . . . .	£506,106	£459,344
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*Live Births	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. (not adjusted)	
Total . . . . .	2475 (2522)	1260 (1323)	1215 (1199)	19.88	(20.45)
Legitimate . . . . .	2233 (2298)	1152 (1196)	1081 (1102)	17.94	(18.63)
Illegitimate . . . . .	242 (224)	108 (127)	134 (97)	1.94	(1.82)
*Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births . . . . .				9.78	(8.88)
*Stillbirths . . . . .				45	(44)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths . . . . .				6	(3)
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths (not adjusted)				17.86	(17.15)
*Total live and stillbirths . . . . .				2520	(2566)
*Infant deaths (death under 1 year):—					
Total . . . . .				51	(55)
Legitimate . . . . .				45	(49)
Illegitimate . . . . .				6	(6)
*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (not adjusted):—					
Total . . . . .				20.61	(21.81)
Legitimate . . . . .				20.15	(21.32)
Illegitimate . . . . .				24.79	(26.79)
*Deaths of infants under four weeks . . . . .				37	(44)
*Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) . . . . .				14.95	(17.45)
*Deaths of infants under one week . . . . .				33	(40)
*Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) . . . . .				13.33	(15.84)

*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	30.95	(32.74)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths . . . . .	1	(—)
From sepsis . . . . .	—	(—)
From other causes . . . . .	1	(—)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths . . . . .		
0.40	(—)	
*Deaths—Net . . . . .	1,352	(1,278)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population (not adjusted) . . . . .	10.86	(10.36)
*Deaths from cancer . . . . .	226	(279)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system . . . . .	247	(208)
Coronary heart disease . . . . .	261	(207)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system . . . . .	196	(185)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms . . . . .	4	(4)
Pulmonary . . . . .	4	(4)
Non-Pulmonary . . . . .	—	(—)
*Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—		
All forms . . . . .	0.03	(0.03)
Pulmonary . . . . .	0.03	(0.03)
Non-Pulmonary . . . . .	—	(—)
Number of Marriages . . . . .	1,131	(1,109)

\*Registrar-General's Return

All figures in brackets refer to 1964

**Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas**

	Reading <i>(adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)</i>	England and Wales
<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</b>		
Births:—		
Live births . . . . .	20.08	18.00
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births . . . . .	18.04	15.70
Deaths:—		
All causes . . . . .	10.53	11.50
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—</b>		
Deaths:—		
All causes under 1 year of age . . . . .	19.99	19.00

## METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1965

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				
January ...	1.95	54	24	44.00	33.93	70.9	2.29	27
February ...	.17	51	22	43.21	33.42	32.7	1.17	12
March ...	2.48	77	20	54.90	35.54	135.9	4.38	37
April ...	1.55	68	33	55.35	40.33	147.4	4.91	36
May ...	1.77	84	37	63.90	46.96	166.4	5.37	35
June ...	1.93	78	44	68.66	51.46	167.4	5.58	34
July ...	3.78	76	41	67.93	52.58	110.6	3.57	22
August ...	2.14	82	47	72.09	53.03	179.2	5.78	40
September ...	4.61	72	39	64.73	47.56	114.1	3.80	30
October ...	.66	78	33	61.77	44.87	110.6	3.57	30
November ...	2.82	59	22	47.96	35.56	90.4	3.01	34
December ...	3.80	56	19	46.96	35.09	61.9	2.00	25
Year ...	27.66					1387.5	3.80	31

\* as recorded at 9 a.m.





## Employment

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

The number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area was estimated to be 71,780 in June, 1964, the latest date for which statistics are available. The numbers employed in the main industry groups were:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture and Horticulture . . . . .	1,453	292	1,745
Food, Drink, Tobacco . . . . .	3,860	1,759	4,619
Engineering and Electrical Goods (including vehicle manufacture and repair) . . . . .	4,469	1,363	5,832
Clothing Manufacture . . . . .	195	642	837
Timber, Furniture and Shop Fittings . . . . .	1,286	321	1,607
Printing and Publishing . . . . .	1,603	844	2,447
Building and Civil Engineering . . . . .	6,481	354	6,835
Transport (Road and Rail) and Communications	3,547	611	4,158
Distributive Trades . . . . .	5,196	5,935	11,131
Insurance, Banking and Finance . . . . .	1,468	1,916	3,384
Professional and Scientific Services . . . . .	3,618	6,320	9,938
Government Services (National and Local) . . . . .	2,211	1,131	3,342

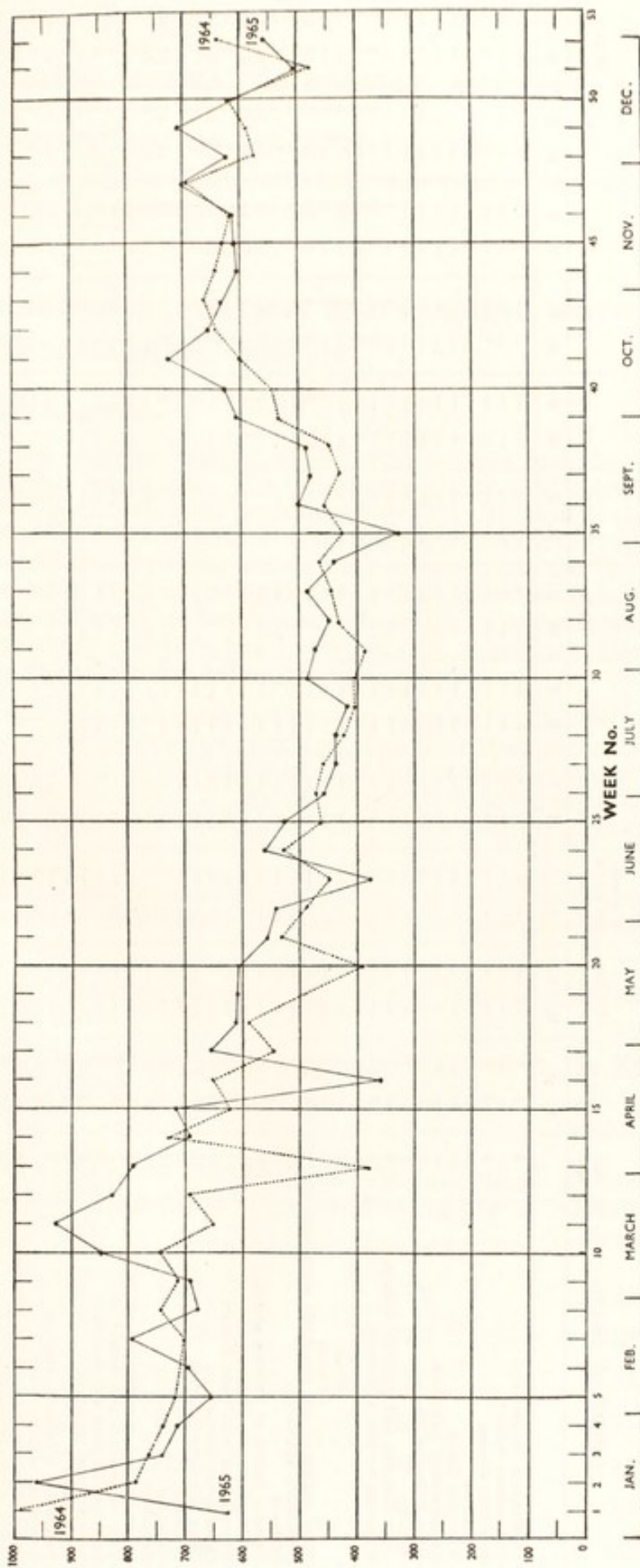
A high level of employment was again experienced during 1965. Demands for labour were again high during the year, with a continuing shortage of skilled workers, particularly in the engineering and construction industries. Employment opportunities for the semi-skilled and the unskilled worker were generally plentiful, although demand for unskilled male labour in the construction industries was somewhat less heavy than in the previous year. Opportunities for female workers were again numerous with a quite wide variety of vacancies available in the broad fields of factory employment, nursing and various types of commercial employment, catering and domestic work.

During 1965 unemployment fell steadily during the first half of the year to a July figure of 362 (277 men and 85 women)—the lowest figure since July, 1961. Most months showed a decrease compared with the corresponding period in 1964. The number unemployed in December, 1965 expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area (for this purpose including Henley) was 0.7% compared with a National percentage at that time of 1.4%.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at the Reading Employment Exchange and the Reading C.B. Youth Employment Office at quarterly intervals during 1965 were as follows:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
March . . . . .	379	119	19	24	541
June . . . . .	293	96	18	12	419
September . . . . .	290	130	28	24	472
December . . . . .	339	126	18	15	498

### NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK 1965 (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)





## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

### SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

There have been no schemes formulated to provide Health Centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act during the current year.

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

#### (a) "At Risk" Register

This register has been maintained as in previous years and the modification introduced in 1964 has continued. The percentage of "at risk" births has again been below the 1963 "peak" when the percentage was 41%. This fall has been entirely due to the revision of "at risk" criteria. This revised list was given in the 1964 Annual Report. It was hoped that by using a more discriminating list the "at risk" group would be in the order of 10% of the total live births. However, it is obvious that until it is possible to differentiate between significant and non-significant degrees of ante-partum haemorrhage and threatened abortion (the biggest contributors) it will be difficult to keep the proportion below 20%.

To keep the register to reasonable proportions, there is also a need to discriminate between degrees of foetal distress and anoxia at birth since these factors also produce a very large proportion of the "at risk" births. It is worth noting that the combined totals of births "at risk" from A.P.H., threatened abortion, foetal distress and anoxia far exceeds the 10% which is the figure quoted frequently as the proportion of infants who are "at risk".

It is clear that in order to achieve a much lower "at risk" group, there will have to be further attempts to discriminate between significant and non-significant events in pregnancy and labour.

In 1965, 543 children were placed on the "at risk" register and this represents 22% of the total live births.

Table to show the proportion of the total births placed on the Risk Register in Reading annually 1959-65.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Number of Babies Placed on the Risk Register</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Births Registered</i>
1959	1,981	417	21%
1960	2,028	472	23%
1961	2,117	531	25%
1962	2,169	678	31%
1963	2,203	910	41%
1964	2,522	380	15%
1965	2,475	543	22%

The constitution of the "at risk" group for 1965 was:—

1. Family history of deafness and dumbness . . . . .	42
2. Virus infection of the mother before the 16th week of pregnancy . . . . .	16
3. Threatened abortion or ante-partum haemorrhage . . . . .	179
4. Exchange transfusion or a serum bilirubin over 20 mgms % . . . . .	19
5. Hydramnios . . . . .	3
6. Evidence of foetal distress, post-partum distress or anoxia, including delay in the establishment of respiration of over three minutes, from whatever cause . . . . .	175
7. All second twins . . . . .	23
8. Prematurity if the birth weight is less than 3 lb. 12 ozs. . . . .	17
9. Malformation if needing treatment or likely to give rise to handicap . . . . .	37
10. Cyanotic attacks . . . . .	6
11. Significant feeding difficulties . . . . .	1
12. Any other cogent reason (for instance, maternal age over 40 or consanguinity) . . . . .	109

#### Monthly analysis

Total live births in 1965 . . . . .	2,475
Number of children placed on the Risk Register in 1965 . . . . .	543 (22%)
January . . . . .	34
February . . . . .	35
March . . . . .	38
April . . . . .	50
May . . . . .	49
June . . . . .	42
July . . . . .	55
August . . . . .	54
September . . . . .	52
October . . . . .	47
November . . . . .	50
December . . . . .	37
	<hr/>
	543
	<hr/>

Testing of "at risk" children at 6-8 months of age was continued in 1965 by the Senior Assistant Medical Officer and the Organizing Teacher of the Deaf Testing, who carried out distraction tests at home. A total of 472 visits was made and this included 67 repeat visits after earlier unsatisfactory or equivocal responses. Yet again no cases of severe deafness were discovered by this survey.

It is proposed henceforth in view of this persistently low yield of severely deaf children, to concentrate testing on a relatively small group who are included in the

"at risk" group. This "high risk" group will include infants who are at risk of deafness due to:—

1. Family history of deafness and dumbness . . . . . (7.7%)
2. History of virus infection in first trimestre . . . . . (2.9%)
3. Prematurity—birth weight less than 3 lb. 12 ozs. . . . . (3.1%)
4. Exchange transfusion or serum bilirubin over 20 mgms% . . . . . (3.5%)
5. Congenital abnormalities . . . . . (6.8%)

Figures in brackets refer to percentages of total number of children on risk register.

The risk register will be continued in its present form so that a long term evaluation of handicaps, other than deafness, may be continued.

The domiciliary midwives service now record the Apgar score for each infant. While it is not yet possible to interpret the middle Apgar ratings as a yardstick for inclusion in the register, this figure is now recorded on the risk register card and may produce some useful information later on.

It is interesting to note that the first cohort of "at risk" children born in 1959, have now been followed up at school. Preliminary figures suggest that the incidence of other defects, e.g. educational subnormality, maladjustment, speech defects, congenital malformation, asthma and epilepsy is lower in the "at risk" group than in the other group. Further details of this survey will be published shortly.

The following figures indicate the number of children "at risk" who were tested at home in 1965:—

Total number of visits . . . . .	472
Number of children found to have normal hearing and localisation at first visit . . . . .	393
Number of children retested (earlier doubtful response, immature response, inter-current illness) . . . . .	53
Left district . . . . .	20
Parents unco-operative . . . . .	6
Number of cases of severe hearing loss . . . . .	—

#### (b) Congenital Abnormalities

Continuing the arrangement started in 1963, a special note has been kept of all congenital abnormalities including congenital malformations discernable at birth. Returns have been made to the Registrar-General on the prescribed form as requested in the Ministry of Health Circular letter of November 7th, 1963, which came into force on January 1st, 1964.

#### C.N.S.

Anencephalus . . . . .	2
Encephalocele . . . . .	1
Hydrocephalus . . . . .	2
Spina bifida . . . . .	4
Microcephalus . . . . .	1

#### Heart and great vessels

Congenital heart disease . . . . .	3
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#### Uro-genital system

Hypospadias/Epispadias . . . . .	8
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Total . . . . .	33
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#### Eye, ear

Cataract . . . . .	1
Accessory auricle . . . . .	2

Live Births . . . . .	27
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Still Births . . . . .	6
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*Alimentary*

Cleft palate/lip . . . . .	6
Intestinal atresia . . . . .	1
Rectal atresia . . . . .	2

**(c) Phenylketonuria**

Arrangements for testing for Phenylketonuria have continued as in previous years, two tests being made—one at 14 days and one at 6 weeks. 2,284 babies were so tested, again with no positive results.

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

This Register has continued to serve its intended purpose of providing up-to-date information on children who have a handicap which is likely to influence their educational requirements. There are at present 284 children on the register with a diagnostic classification as below:—

Blind and partially sighted and other notable eye defects	16
Perceptive deafness . . . . .	3
Conductive deafness . . . . .	4
Mongolism . . . . .	13
Severe subnormality . . . . .	17
Mental subnormality . . . . .	45
Cerebral palsy . . . . .	17
Notable Epilepsy . . . . .	22
Congenital heart disease . . . . .	36
Orthopaedic abnormalities . . . . .	36
Other abnormalities (metabolic diseases, speech disorders, other congenital abnormalities, etc.) . . . . .	75
Total . . . . .	284

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

The following table gives the figures since 1949:—

	<i>I.M.R.</i>	<i>S.B.R.</i>	<i>P.N.R.</i>
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
1964	21.81	17.15	32.74
1965	20.61	17.86	30.95

The table on page 38 gives the cause of death of infants during the first year of life.

*(f) Ante-natal Clinics*

Medical ante-natal supervision is given in practitioners' own surgeries and hospital out-patients' departments. Local authority clinics are used by the domiciliary midwifery staff and ante-natal sessions are conducted by the midwives. This arrangement works satisfactorily but we are actively considering the linkage of domiciliary nursing staff with practitioners so that it may be in the future that midwives will attend doctors' ante-natal clinics in their own surgeries.

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
Norcot	Thursday afternoons
Coley	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)
1,253	41	—	558	100	—	658

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	<i>No. of Sessions</i>	<i>New Attendances</i>	<i>Re-attendances</i>
Emmer Green . . .	48	100	467
Star Lane . . .	99	312	1,836
Southcote . . .	52	126	580
Coley Park . . .	26	26	181
Norcot . . .	49	9	155
Tilehurst . . .	103	259	1,177

**Blood Tests**

Venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Khan tests for general practitioners has continued as in previous years.

General practitioner patients at Star Lane . . . . .	1,245
Clinic patients at Whitley . . . . .	145
General Practitioner patients at Whitley . . . . .	82



### Post-Natal Clinic

There are no special post-natal sessions. These examinations are carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions by the patient's own doctor.

### Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

Miss Lambert, Social Worker of the Reading and Bradfield Moral Welfare Association, comments:—

1965 was a very busy year and one which was complicated for us by a number of premature births amongst mothers for whom we were making arrangements, all of whom wished to have their babies adopted. Because the children were premature, the adoption societies were reluctant to accept them for adoption, or when they were able to accept them, they insisted on admission to their own nursery for a prolonged period of observation. This usually involved a delay of several weeks waiting for nursery vacancies, and foster homes had to be found in the meantime. Fortunately, the situation eased towards the end of the year when the more normal flow was re-established.

#### Annual Record of Cases for 1965

Total No. of New Cases	127
"  " of New Maternity Cases	126
"  " of Old Maternity Cases	37
"  " of Old Cases still in hand	38

#### New Maternity Cases Only

Mothers		Fathers		Marital Status (Mothers)	
14 years	—	17 years	2	Single	100
15 "	2	17/20 "	17	Married	23
16 "	12	21/30 "	29	Widowed	—
17/20 "	54	31/40 "	8	Divorced	3
21/30 "	47	Over 40 "	2	Not known	—
31/40 "	9	Not known	68		
Over 40,,	2				
	—		—		
	126		126		
	—		—		
				Marital Status (Putative Fathers)	
				Single	51
				Married	28
				Widowed	1
				Divorced	2
				Not known	44

### Position of Children at end of 1965

(new and old cases)

Living with mother in her home or lodgings	63
Mother responsible for and access to child	13
Adopted	46
Advised, etc. before being passed on	6
Babies died	1
Miscarriages and abortions	1
Cases still in hand	33
	—
	163
	—

**SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY  
RATES SINCE 1916**

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		
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
1964	123,310	2,522	20.45	55	21.81	-	-	-	1,278	10.36
1965	124,470	2,475	19.88	51	20.61	-	1	0.40	1,352	10.86

## 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)	. . .	72
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	. . .	3,472
Orange Juice (bottles)	. . . . .	13,668
Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	. . . . .	676
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	. . . . .	1,285

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)	. . .	—
Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk Half Cream (16 oz. packets)		1,488
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	. . .	2,750
Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16 oz. packets)		31,440
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	. . .	25,822
Proprietary Brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	. . .	33,600
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	. . .	1,241
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	. . .	1,218
Proprietary Brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)		12,000

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

These have continued to function on the appointment system as far as medical staff were concerned at selective clinics. This is an arrangement which seems to be most profitable to all concerned. The doctor's time is occupied seeing children that he means to follow up and assess, the health visitor's status is enhanced in that she is accepted as an adviser in her own right and the parents seem to appreciate the use of an appointments system in cutting down, if not entirely eliminating, the waiting involved at selected clinics.

The following table on page 23 gives particulars of attendance at the clinics.

Coley Clinic was opened by the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows) on June 30th, 1965. This is of the same pattern as the last two small infant welfare clinics and is a practical expression of the Committee's determination to ensure that there are adequate clinic facilities within the borough.



COLEY CLINIC



Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attendances	Average attendances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road—							
Tuesday a.m. ... ..	51	77	1,110	326	182	1,618	31
Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	114	1,699	456	267	2,422	47
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	122	1,740	360	205	2,305	44
Tilehurst Clinic. "The Laurels," School Road—							
Monday p.m. ... ..	48	102	1,492	599	441	2,532	52
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	130	1,936	552	310	2,798	53
Star Lane, London Street—							
Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	127	1,479	248	211	1,938	38
Wednesday a.m. ... ..	26	23	308	47	35	390	15
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	140	1,710	343	139	2,192	42
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue—							
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	135	1,604	385	160	2,149	41
Friday p.m. ... ..	51	109	1,391	285	74	1,750	34
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield Road—							
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	94	1,243	398	234	1,875	36
West Memorial Institute, Caver- sham—							
Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	106	1,588	503	290	2,381	46
Thursday p.m. ... ..	51	132	1,714	389	267	2,370	49
Park Institute, Wokingham Road—							
Monday p.m. ... ..	48	112	1,804	329	214	2,347	48
Friday p.m. ... ..	51	156	2,016	470	213	2,699	52
Emmer Green Clinic, Grove Road—							
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	64	1,406	438	444	2,288	51
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square—							
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	113	1,637	469	354	2,460	48
Friday p.m. ... ..	51	79	1,220	393	330	1,943	38
Norcot Clinic, Lyndhurst Road—							
Monday p.m. ... ..	48	64	941	232	215	1,388	28
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	63	966	299	269	1,534	29
Coley Clinic, Carsdale Close—							
Tuesday p.m. .. ..	23	38	482	75	57	614	26
Friday p.m. .. ..	31	67	731	191	97	1,019	32
Totals .. ..	1,048	2,167	30,217	7,787	5,008	43,012	

## NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1965

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
				1965	1964	1960-63		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.	11	87	2,167	2,008	1,736	1,569	5,313	30,217	7,787	5,008	43,012

### Family Planning Clinic

The work of this clinic continues to expand. I am grateful to the secretary of the Reading Branch of the Family Planning Association for the following information:—

162 Clinic sessions have been held—3,721 patients attended, of whom 223 were using an oral contraceptive, 710 were new patients and 354 cervical smears were taken. A further session is now held each Wednesday morning at the Star Lane Clinic. All National Health doctors in the area have been circularised with cards setting out clinic session times and the usefulness of this information is reflected in the increased numbers of patients referred to us by family doctors—a total during the year of 226.

With great regret the committee received the resignation of Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows as Clinic Organiser occasioned by pressure of work on her election as Mayor of Reading. Alderman Mrs. Burrows has worked unstintingly for the Association since 1939, becoming the voluntary Clinic Organiser in 1940, when two one hour sessions were held monthly and has actively concerned herself with the expansion of the Family Planning services which, on her retirement, were four doctor sessions each week. In May Mrs. B. Morley commenced a salaried appointment as Clinic Organiser.

In July the senior medical officer, Dr. D. Taylor, retired having given invaluable service to the Association for 26 years. Dr. M. Broome has succeeded her as senior medical officer.

The Committee have been pleased to welcome a number of new lay workers and organised a lay workers training school in May.

Under the re-organisation of the Association that is now taking place, Reading will become part of the new branch 35.

### Care of Premature Infants

It will be seen from the table on page 26 that there were 230 premature live births during the year, compared with 183 in 1964, and 193 in 1963. The number of premature stillbirths was 34 as compared with 27 in 1964 and 33 in 1963. The total number of premature births (live and still) in 1965 was 264 as compared with 210 in 1964 and 226 in 1963.



## PREMATURE BIRTHS

Number of premature births (as adjusted by any notifications transferred in or out of the area).

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS, 1965												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS	
	Born in hospital						Born at home or in a nursing home						Born	
	Died						Died						Died	
	Total births (1)	Within 24 hours of birth (2)	In 1 and 7 days (3)	In 7 and 28 days (4)	Total births (5)	Within 24 hours of birth (6)	In 1 and 7 days (7)	In 7 and 28 days (8)	Total births (9)	Within 24 hours of birth (10)	In 1 and 7 days (11)	In 7 and 28 days (12)	In hospital (13)	At home or in a nursing home (14)
1. 2 lb. 3 oz. or less	8	7	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	
2. Over 2 lb. 3 oz. up to and including 3 lb. 4 oz.	14	6	3	—	10	1	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	
3. Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	28	2	1	—	7	1	—	1	1	—	—	10	—	
4. Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	28	1	—	—	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	
5. Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	57	—	—	1	59	—	1	—	3	—	—	5	2	
6. Total	135	16	5	1	89	3	2	—	6	1	—	30	4	

## REPORT ON PREMATURE INFANTS

Born January to December, 1961

## 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	4	2	3	3	2	1	1	1 Spastic
Group B	16	16	16	16	-	-	-	
Group C	17	12	15	15	5	2	2	
Group D	41	39	41	38	2	-	3	1 Backward generally 1 Speech retarded 1 Slow mental develop. 1 on R.R. 1 Hypospadias

Born January to December, 1962

## 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	8	5	7	7	3	1	1	1 attends Wakefield Lodge
Group B	13	12	11	10	1	2	3	2 Systolic murmurs
Group C	21	19	21	21	2	-	-	1 Potters syndrome 2 Congenital heart 2 Systolic murmur
Group D	71	63	68	70	8	3	1	1 Congenital neptagnus 1 Marked plagio- cephaly 1 All develop. below average

Born January to December, 1963

## 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	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Group B	25	21	24	22	4	1	3	1 Hare Lip & Cleft Palate Bilateral Inguinal Hernia 1 Systolic murmur
Group C	23	21	21	21	2	2	2	1 Backward 1 Hypospadias 1 Systolic murmur
Group D	83	78	82	82	5	1	1	1 Head murmur ? for surgery 1 Systolic murmur 1 Talipes

## Born January to December, 1964

## 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	7	7	7	7	-	-	-	
Group B	21	21	21	21	-	-	-	1 Plagiocephaly 1 Both 4th toes displaced
Group C	15	15	14	14	-	1	1	1 Naevus parietal region. 1 Convulsions
Group D	7	63	67	67	7	3	3	1 Patent ductus arteriosus 1 Congenital heart defect

## Born January to June, 1965

## 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	-	-	-	
Group B	12	12	11	11	-	1	1	1 Mongol
Group C	20	20	20	20	-	-	-	1 for op. for L.I.H.
Group D	53	53	53	53	-	-	-	1 Naevus on abdomen Webbed toes 1 Post Meningitis T.B.

## Daily Minding Scheme

Daily minding continued during the year and was of great assistance to the mothers. The system whereby the group adviser concerned with supervision of the baby minding scheme puts mothers and minders in touch with each other has continued to run satisfactorily.

Number of interviews	. . . . .	36
Number of specific visits	. . . . .	34
Total number of Minders on record	. . . . .	70
Number of children placed	. . . . .	28
Number of assisted payments	. . . . .	4

One daily minder has become registered under the Nursery and Child Minders' Act 1948 during the year.

## Commonwealth Citizens in Reading

Miss A. B. Burton, Welfare Officer for Commonwealth Immigrants, has continued her work among the immigrant population in the town as in previous years. I am grateful to her for some of the comments which follow.

During the year, 291 people used the service provided for the first time. The following chart shows broadly the type of problem presented to Commonwealth

citizens and brought to the welfare officer's notice for the year 1965:—

Child Welfare . . . . .	178
Adult Welfare (including Health and Housing) . . . . .	464
Child Migration . . . . .	255
Adult Migration . . . . .	140
Matrimonials . . . . .	85
Miscellaneous . . . . .	76
	<hr/>
	1,198
	<hr/>

Under Ministry of Health Circular 3/65 dated January 4th, 1965, this section was involved in a great deal of additional work ensuring that immigrants were registered with a family doctor. This was more of a problem with families of Asian origin than with those from the West Indies, largely because there is a well established West Indian community in the Borough, with whom the welfare officer has a good relationship, whereas the Asian community is smaller and there is a problem of language in establishing the sort of contact which is necessary for this work.

During 1965, the new amendments to the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act came into force, which caused some problems to Commonwealth citizens in this country. For example, parents who have left teenage children behind them and now find that once the children are more than 16 years old they cannot be brought to the United Kingdom unless a case of hardship is made out.

There is an increasing number of Commonwealth immigrants who become house owners and the figures above show a great deal of information and advice is given on this subject. It is usual for the majority of immigrants to seek a local authority mortgage.

#### **N.S.P.C.C.**

I am very grateful for the following comments from R. H. Le Page, Senior Inspector, who took over the area from Inspector Curran in August, 1965 when Inspector Curran transferred to the Hove Branch. We wish Inspector Curran all happiness and success in his new post.

The total number of cases dealt with by the Branch was 133, of which 92 were contained in the County Borough of Reading. Of these 92 cases, 30% were referred to the Society by members of the Department of Health and Welfare, particularly in connection with the West Indian families. None of these cases were of such a nature as to warrant court action but I can say that had they not been dealt with by having the closest co-operation between the Health Department and the Society, some of them could well have been the subject of court action.

#### **Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children**

It is with considerable regret that we record the resignation of Mr. J. Campbell who was Principal Dental Officer for this authority for 28 years. During this time he served the children under his care very well, often in difficult circumstances due to shortage of staff, but he was always able to provide a service of the highest quality. He has retired to his native country, Scotland, and we wish him many happy years.

Mr. D. O. Mallam, L.D.S., who was appointed as Principal Dental Officer on April 1st, 1965 reports as follows:—

*Pre-School Children*

There was a decrease again in the number of pre-school children attending the clinic for treatment, only 84 attended. 69 courses of treatment were completed and it is a sad reflection on the dental condition of these pre-school age children that 69 teeth were extracted and 35 general anaesthetics administered.

*Expectant and Nursing Mothers*

11 mothers were treated, all completing the course of treatment to ensure their dental fitness.

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-School	Mothers
Inspected .. .. .	84	11
Found to require treatment ..	84	11
Treated .. .. .	84	11
Extractions .. .. .	69	14
General Anaesthetics .. .. .	35	1
Fillings .. .. .	21	26
Silver Nitrate .. .. .	50	—
Discharged .. .. .	69	11
Full dentures .. .. .	—	2

**A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE**

	Number of persons examined during the year (1)	Number of persons who commenced treatment during the year (2)	Number of courses of treatment completed during the year (3)
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..	11	11	11
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental service ..	84	84	69

**B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED**

	Scalings and gum treatment (1)	Fillings (2)	Silver Nitrate Treatment (3)	Crowns and Inlays (4)	Extractions (5)	General Anaesthetics (6)	Dentures Provided		Radio-graphs (9)
							Full Upper or Lower (7)	Partial Upper or Lower (8)	
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers .. ..	3	26	—	—	14	1	2	2	2
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental service	8	21	50	—	69	35	—	—	—

## 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
1964	2,588	1,041	40.2
1965	2,493	873	35.0

The staff situation in the Maternity Section has continued for most of the year to be very good and we have been fully up to establishment. This happy situation is probably related to the conditions of work that we try to maintain for our midwifery staff. One large factor is the continued use of the central sterile equipment supply and also the utilisation of housing for midwives in various parts of the town. We continued to operate an early discharge system.

### Stillbirths

There were 46 stillbirths during the year compared with 48 during the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand total births in 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
1964	.	.	.	.	17.15
1965	.	.	.	.	17.86

The probable causes were as follows:—

#### *Domiciliary*

I.U.D. gross maceration . . . . . 1

#### *Dellwood*

I.U.D. grossly macerated . . . . . 1  
 Foetal distress, ? cause . . . . . 1  
 Spina Bifida, exomphalos . . . . . 1  
 Anencephalic . . . . . 1

#### *Louise Margaret Hospital*

Essential hypertension P.E.T. . . . . 1

#### *The Haven*

Hydrops foetalis . . . . . 1

#### *Battle Hospital*

Placenta exanguinates resulting anoxia . . . . . 2 (twins)  
 Prematurity . . . . . 2 (twins)  
 Prolonged labour 2 failed forceps CS . . . . . 1  
 I.U.D. . . . . 10  
 Rh. with antibodies . . . . . 1  
 No apparent cause . . . . . 2  
 Prolapsed cord . . . . . 1  
 A.P.H. . . . . 3  
 Meningocele . . . . . 1  
 Hydrops foetalis . . . . . 1  
 I.U.D. cord tightly around neck . . . . . 2  
 Transverse lie . . . . . 1  
 Compressed cord, resulting respiratory failure . . . . . 1  
 Anencephalic . . . . . 1  
 P.E.T. I.U.D. . . . . 1  
 Hydrocephalic . . . . . 2  
 Microcephalic and spina bifida . . . . . 1  
 Accidental A.P. retroplacental clot . . . . . 1  
 Pyrexia and offensive vaginal discharge . . . . . 1  
 Version followed by A.P.H. . . . . 1  
 A.P.H. prematurity maternal pyrexia . . . . . 1  
 Post-maturity, glycosuria . . . . . 1  
 Multiple abnormalities . . . . . 1



## 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	1	—	1
25	—	2	2
26	1	—	1
27	1	3	4
28	9	8	17
29	2	3	5
30	14	11	25
31	7	12	19
32	14	27	41
33	7	15	22
34	21	17	38
35	18	19	37
36	59	73	132
37	73	84	157
38	190	214	404
39	269	267	536
40	1,303	1,059	2,362
41	271	181	452
42	160	134	294
43	25	10	35
44	2	1	3
45	1	—	1
	2,448	2,141	4,589

**Maternal Deaths**

There was one maternal death during the year among Reading residents.

**Puerperal Pyrexia**

During the year 8 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was reported during the year.

**Relaxation Classes**

These are held at Star Lane Clinic and Tilehurst Clinic on Saturday afternoons. Details of those attending are as follows:—

*Tilehurst*

Number of new members . . . . .	137
Total attendances . . . . .	795

*Star Lane Clinic*

New members . . . . .	281
Total attendances . . . . .	970

**Coombs Test**

The arrangements whereby midwives take samples of cord blood for Coombs test in Rh. negative mothers confined at home continued through the year. In all 117 samples were taken.

**Total Births which Occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (Based on Notifications)***Births*

Male	2,380	Legitimate	4,365	Live	4,494
Female	2,209	Illegitimate	224	Still	95

*Weights*

2 lb. 3 oz. or under . . . . .	29
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz. . . . .	41
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz. . . . .	113
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	102
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	224
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	219
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	499
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	647
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	822
7 lb. 8 oz. or over . . . . .	1,893

*Places of Birth*

Domiciliary . . . . .	882
Hospital . . . . .	2,874
H.M.C. Maternity Homes . . . . .	833
Contractual . . . . .	—
Private . . . . .	—

**Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (Based on Notifications)**

Male	1,271	Legitimate	2,325	Live	2,446
Female	1,222	Illegitimate	168	Still	47

*Weights*

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	. . . . .	14
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	. . . . .	22
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	. . . . .	50
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	. . . . .	45
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	. . . . .	128
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	. . . . .	109
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	. . . . .	288
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	. . . . .	347
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	. . . . .	469
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	. . . . .	1,021

*Place of Birth*

Born in Borough	. . . . .	2,448
Outside Borough	. . . . .	45

*Domiciliary*

Inside Borough	. . . . .	869
Outside Borough	. . . . .	4

*Hospital*

Battle (booked)	. . . . .	913
Other	. . . . .	20

*H.M.C. Maternity Homes*

Dellwood	. . . . .	666
Wallingford	. . . . .	—
Townlands	. . . . .	3
Wokingham	. . . . .	11
Others	. . . . .	7

Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	. . . . .	1,028
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	. . . . .	1,465

**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	-	-	16	1	25
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					...	... 15

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

1. Number practising in the Authority's area (excluding those in N.H.S. hospitals) G.P. Unit = 14

**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	15
	Partly on the district	16
2. Number in training at end of year ... ..	Wholly on the district	4
	Partly on the district	3

**PART D. Deliveries Attended by Domiciliary Midwives during 1965**

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)	
-	877	877	497

## CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1965

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
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	3
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ... ..	3	2	1	—	6	2	1	—	—	3	9
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	28	—	—	—	28	1	2	1	1	5	33
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

I am indebted to Miss F. L. Gates, the present Superintendent Health Visitor for the following tribute to Miss Webber who had been Superintendent Health Visitor for nine years and who died on March 22nd, 1965.

The death of Miss M. Webber, Superintendent Health Visitor, on March 22nd, came as a great shock to us all. Those of us who were privileged to work with her, suffered a great personal loss. Her interest in the staff was sincere, and her praise of their successes was spontaneous and unstinted. It was Miss Webber who initiated the Health Education programme in the ante-natal clinics and to the senior girls' schools in Reading, and it is entirely due to her boundless enthusiasm and untiring energy, that it has grown from such a small baby to the flourishing lusty child it is today, and I can think of no more appropriate "memorial" to Miss Molly Webber than the expansion of this, her especial project.

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

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse . . . . .	1
Group Advisors . . . . .	2
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses . . . . .	12
Part-time Health Visitors . . . . .	3
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent) . . . . .	7
Part-time School Nurses (temporary) . . . . .	2

The shortage of health visitors continues. Miss E. P. Few, having won the first ever Heinz scholarship, left to take the Public Health Administration course at the Royal College of Nursing.

Miss J. Baldrian joined the staff in August, having successfully completed her course of study at the Royal College of Nursing. Mrs. Nevitt, previously a school nurse with this authority, commenced training at the Royal College of Nursing as a sponsored student.

Coley Clinic was opened on June 30th, and from the start has proved a busy, lively centre, catering for ante-natal mothercraft, infant welfare and all the usual activities of an active thriving clinic.

The Parents' Club at Tilehurst Clinic continues to flourish and expand. Meetings have been held monthly, the average attendance being 28.

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

Primary visits to babies born in 1965 . . . . .	2,271
Total routine visits to babies born in 1965 . . . . .	4,406
Total routine visits to babies born in 1964 . . . . .	5,141
Total routine visits to children born in 1960/63 . . . . .	13,547
Total number of persons visited, aged 65 or over . . . . .	441
Total number of visits for hospital after-care cases . . . . .	147
Total number of miscellaneous visits . . . . .	1,208
Total number of tuberculous households visited . . . . .	3
Total number of infant death investigations . . . . .	47
Total number of effectual visits . . . . .	27,211
Total number of ineffectual visits . . . . .	4,780
Total number of attendances at clinics . . . . .	1,965
Total number of families visited, first visit only . . . . .	5,921
Total number of children visited, first visit only . . . . .	9,208
Total number of children tested for phenylketonuria . . . . .	2,284

## **Health Education**

Although the continued shortage of health visitors has prevented as much expansion in the field of health education as we would have wished, nevertheless, this most important aspect of the health visitors work has not been curtailed, and the health visitors have again carried out programmes which have been adapted to the special needs of each individual group. Some programmes have been increased to include first aid, and more practical work, while others have expanded in depth to include discussions on such subjects as "human relationships".

The demands for these talks points to their success.

Below is a summary of the programmes undertaken by the health visitors.

### **Mothercraft Classes**

Classes to expectant mothers have been given throughout the year at seven welfare clinics, and 309 mothers have attended these courses.

### **Parentcraft to Schoolchildren**

Nine secondary modern schools in the borough have again received talks, films and demonstrations on parentcraft, the programmes being adapted to the special needs of the schools concerned, but in all cases extended to include human relationships, and the special problems of modern living.

### **St. Monica's House**

A new venture this year, was the commencement in September of a programme of monthly talks to the girls at St. Monica's House on child care, human relationships and current problems. These are much appreciated by the girls and are proving most rewarding.

### **Pre-nursing Course—Westwood Secondary School for Girls**

One health visitor has again helped with this course and classes on elementary first aid were given during the year.

### **Nursery Nurse Training—Technical College, Reading**

Two health visitors have given talks on first aid, prevention of accidents, home nursing and childhood ailments to the nursery nurse students, and the domestic science students.

Students to the nursery nurse training course have also visited infant welfare clinics and immunisation clinics in the borough.

### **Fair Mile Hospital—Student Nurses**

One health visitor has again given these students a course of five lectures on the work of the Public Health department, and observation visits have been arranged, five students spending one week in the department at three monthly intervals.

### **Royal Berkshire Hospital—Student Nurses**

The two-day observation visits by groups of student nurses to the department have again been arranged at four monthly intervals and have not only proved beneficial to but very much enjoyed by the students.

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

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

The latter half of 1965 saw an improvement in the staff situation of the Home Nursing Service, thus making it possible to reduce the number of visits paid daily by each nurse.

Rehabilitation of the elderly house bound patients formed a large part of our work.

It was noticed that nurses now entering the Service are more aware of the need for this very worthwhile, but time consuming work; they are helped considerably by the Assistant Superintendents who attended a course in rehabilitation in London in 1964 and 1965.

Our work followed the same pattern with care of the elderly sick predominating.

Many more injections were given to the ante-natal patients to be admitted to hospital for confinement, and to those discharged home after delivery.

Less Penicillin injections were given, but the number of tuberculosis patients receiving injections of Streptomycin remained the same.

The use of loans of all kinds continued extensively, and Ripple beds and disposable materials were in great demand.

Autoclaved pre-packed dressings, syringes, etc., is now an accepted part of our service, very much appreciated by the staff and patients, and no equipment used by the home nurse for her work is boiled or baked in the houses.

Student nurses from the School of Nursing, Royal Berkshire Hospital, spent a morning on the district with the home nurses—approximately twenty in number from each School; they find this observation visit full of interest.

Eight student district nurses entered for training in September, 1965, five were staff students, one was seconded by Carlisle City, and two were independent students, one from Ghana and the other from Uganda. They all felt that this course was very strenuous but necessary for a nurse working in the homes.

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

Superintendent . . . . .	1
Assistant Superintendents . . . . .	2
District Nurses who have completed their period of contract	8
District Nurses who are completing their contract of service	None
Non-District trained Nurses . . . . .	1 full-time 6 part-time

*Establishment:*

Administrative staff . . . . .	4
Trained District Nurses . . . . .	25

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 . . . . .	2,390
Number of persons who were aged under 5 at first visit in 1965	318
Number of persons who were aged 65 or over at first visit in 1965	927



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
1964	2,340	52,366
1965	2,390	50,807

## 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, 1965, is as follows:—

Year of birth	Number of Children
1965	853
1964	1,132
1963	90
1962	33
1958-1961	57
Others under age of 16	3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,168</b>

## Diphtheria

The numbers of children immunised against diphtheria are included in the table on page 44.

## Poliomyelitis

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

Children born in 1965	. . . . .	407
Children born in 1964	. . . . .	1,449
Children born in 1963	. . . . .	219
Children born in 1962	. . . . .	91
Children and young persons born in years 1958-1961	. . . . .	215
Others under age of 16	. . . . .	116
	Total	<u>2,497</u>

## Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated (or revaccinated) during the year ended December 31st, 1965.

Age at date of Vaccination	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
0-3 months	94	—
3-6 months	236	13
6-9 months	61	6
9-12 months	134	7
1 year	568	22
2-4 years	205	22
5-15 years	50	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>193</b>



Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1965  
 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.	Totals
Grovelands . . . . .	14	6	49	8	5	11	2	9	90 (21)
Whitley . . . . .	25	26	48	16	9	11	8	6	124 (8)
Tilehurst . . . . .	20	—	—	1	32	47	13	25	118 (35)
Caversham (Queen's Rd.) . . . . .	13	6	22	5	8	6	3	6	56 (4)
School (Queen's Rd.) . . . . .	20	28	46	13	13	19	17	25	161 (27)
Southcote . . . . .	24	20	74	8	14	17	14	34	181 (56)
Emmer Green . . . . .	14	—	1	—	12	31	7	2	53 (2)
Norcot . . . . .	13	—	1	—	5	30	5	15	56 (12)
Carried out by Private Practitioners . . . . .	—	8	8	16	43	418	158	51	702 (28)
<b>TOTALS</b> . . . . .	—	94	249	67	141	590	227	173	1,541 (193)

Figures in parentheses denote re-vaccination

## SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service was inaugurated in July, 1948, and is under the operational control of the Transport Manager and Engineer.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough duties:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949 . . .	8,797	10,098	88,884
1958 . . .	25,526	31,883	164,949
1962 . . .	39,107	42,519	185,582
1963 . . .	40,828	44,328	195,556
1964 . . .	40,118	43,453	196,049
1965 . . .	40,061	48,077	205,760

A summary of work carried out during 1965 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILEAGE	
	①	②	①	②	①	②
Emergency (999 Calls) ...	2,282	1,784	2,299	1,716	12,571	7,254
Urgent and Non-urgent Calls ...	42,608	36,815	45,675	39,145	190,338	126,407
Flying Squad Duties ...	171	—	103	—	2,851	—
Stretcher Cases ...	15,527	10,085	16,749	11,563	116,563	59,931
Sitting/Walking Cases ...	29,534	27,794	31,328	29,298	89,197	73,730

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

1963	PATIENTS		1963	MILEAGE		1963	MILES PER PATIENT	
	1964	1965		1964	1965		1964	1965
	AMBULANCE SERVICE							
44,328	43,453	48,077	195,556	196,049	205,760	4.40	4.51	4.27
	HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE							
7,870	9,481	10,683	65,113	75,250	81,398	8.27	7.93	7.61
52,198	52,934	58,760	260,669	271,299	287,158	4.99	5.12	4.88

### **Ambulance Fleet and Personnel**

At December 31st, 1965, 13 dual-purpose ambulances comprised the fleet.

In accordance with the latest Ministry of Transport regulations, two-tone horns and flashing beacons are in process of being fitted to all ambulances. These units are of considerable assistance to drivers in negotiating traffic congestion when attending emergency calls.

There are 5 Ambulance Regulators and 28 Ambulance Driver/Attendants to meet the requirements of the 24-hour service.

### **Radio Control**

Direct communication with ambulances by radio was instituted almost eight years ago and this has proved to be an essential ingredient in the maintenance of an efficient service, especially in these days of delays due to traffic congestion.

### **Accommodation**

The new temporary building erected in Mill Lane, prior to the building of a permanent Ambulance Station, was occupied on July 1st, 1965.

### **Service Demands**

The number of patients conveyed by the Ambulance and Hospital Car Services continues to increase and shows a 10.6% increase over 1964.

Discussions have taken place with the hospital authorities on the possibility of transferring cases between hospitals during off-peak periods with a view to relieving the pressure on the Ambulance Service. The attention of the hospital authorities has also been drawn to the ever-increasing demand for conveyance of patients for clinical treatment between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. It was pointed out that if this demand could be spread over a longer period, it would ease the problem for ambulance transport, particularly that caused by delays due to traffic congestion. It would also tend to reduce delays for both the medical staff and patients booked by appointment for specialist treatment.

The call-out facility for the Borough Midwifery Service, via the Borough Ambulance Control Office, between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. has again exceeded 3,000 telephone calls, made or received in connection with this service.

### **Appreciation**

Appreciation is expressed to the following:—

The staff of British Railways (Reading) for their ready co-operation;

The Hospital Car Service for their continued excellent service, often supplied at extremely short notice;

The British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, for their valuable assistance in providing escorts for long journeys;

The Police and Fire Services for their contribution to the smooth working of the Ambulance Service in emergency conditions.

## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

**(A) (a) Tuberculosis** (see also section *rc* Infectious Diseases)

The welfare arrangements for tuberculous patients has been carried on by the tuberculosis health visitors. The liaison between these workers and the other sections of the Corporation has continued to be cordial and close. A necessary and profitable association between the Health and Welfare Department and the Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest has continued.

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

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. E. House, reports as follows:—

Towards the end of the year this Association attained its Golden Jubilee. Throughout the fifty years it has been a continuous story of prevention, care and after-care—originally in the matter of tuberculosis and more recently in the many fields of chest diseases. It is, therefore, appropriate that the Association should sponsor a research project—"Asthma in School Children in Reading". From the conclusions that will be reached it is hoped that it will provide a "stepping stone" into the prevention of yet another troublesome illness.

In the previous report details of the many forms of assistance—monetary and otherwise—given to patients and their families were fully enumerated. All these aids have been continued during the past twelve months.

The first ever flag day was added to the list of the various money raising efforts and the Association is grateful to those who organised and supported them.

**(c) Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale**

The Reading Care Association held its annual sale of Christmas seals and raised £416. This was lower than in the previous year because it was not possible to arrange for selling depots in the centre of the town. His Worship the Mayor of Reading, Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows, issued the appeal and the Association records once again its thanks to the many firms and private residents who have given their support.

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

During the year 204 vaccinations of contacts were carried out, making a total of 4,642 since 1950.

The vaccination of children aged 13 plus has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, freeze-dried vaccine being used. The number of children involved is:—

Number skin tested . . . . .	1,037
Number found negative . . . . .	882
Number vaccinated . . . . .	882

**(B) Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus**

Nursing equipment and apparatus has continued to be provided by this department of an increasingly sophisticated character. This is a service which is appreciated by patients and nurses alike.

**(C) Provision of Convalescent Holidays**

During the year 47 patients, including 35 adults and 12 children, were sent away for a period of convalescence under the Council's scheme and 11 patients were assisted with travelling expenses only. Also, fares were paid in the cases of 33 escorts or members of families accompanying patients.

In addition to the Council's scheme, as a result of donations from charitable sources and patients themselves assisting in paying, holiday maintenance was arranged for 41 persons who were either patients or members of their families.

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

The annual Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition again gave the department the opportunity to display the various aspects of the work carried out. This is a very valuable Exhibition since it brings to the attention of the rising generation the facilities which are available to them.

**SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE**

I am grateful to Mrs. H. A. Finch, Home Help Organiser, for the following report:—

In general, the work of this Service has gone on steadily throughout the year, though handicapped considerably by shortage of Home Helps.

We are having to compete with firms in this Town of full employment, who offer guaranteed part time work. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit enough Home Helps of the right calibre, to cover the ever increasing demand on this Service. The work is exacting and sometimes unpleasant.

The large number of elderly and infirm people can only remain in their own homes if we can provide enough help to attend to their needs.

During the year, it has not always been possible to accept every case that was referred. A waiting list has been in operation, except for cases of real emergency.

It seems likely that the time has come when a review of cases that can be helped by this Service must be made.

Applications for full time help for mothers who are confined at home continue to increase. Also, the special laundry service for households where a patient is incontinent, is in regular use.

A bath attendant has been engaged to help aged and infirm people, who, although not confined to bed, were unable to have a weekly bath without help. This service has been a great success.

In March, a reception was held, to enable the senior Home Helps to meet the Mayor, Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows, and members of the Health Committee. All the Home Helps who were presented to the Mayor, had completed over 10 years service. Three Home Helps have completed 18 years service.

These Home Helps are to be congratulated for the conscientious manner in which they carry out their duties. In a great many cases, they give up their own time to pay additional visits to the old people, for whom they are responsible.

	Home help to households for persons					Total
	Aged 65 or over on first visit in 1965	Aged under 65 on first visit in 1965			Others	
		Chronic sick and tuberculous	Mentally Disordered	Maternity		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of cases	1,326	48	12	322	187	1,895



The number of domestic helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	. . . . .	4
Part-time	. . . . .	172
Whole-time equivalent	. . . . .	85

In addition there were 3 whole-time and 1 part-time organisers, making a whole-time equivalent of 3.6.

### **Night Attendant Service**

During 1965 this service dealt with 141 cases, sending out Attendants on 1,417 nights, an increase of 317 nights on 1964.

Mr. Kenneth Clark, Clerk of the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Fund comments: "The Night Attendant Service is not remembered sufficiently by the doctors, I feel. It is working smoothly and much appreciated wherever it is used. At the moment I have 19 Attendants—some doing one night per week only, others two and three nights. Week-ends are most difficult to cover owing to transport".

## 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	.. .. .	1001	1010	1008	1015	1001	1000	987	973	979	982	998	1000
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	5	5	—	4	7	6	4	5	5	4	2	2
Classification of reasons why help was received on last day of period:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity, and chronic sickness	.. .. .	951	955	954	963	954	947	939	924	923	930	937	941
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	48	50	48	48	45	44	47	49	51	49	51	54
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	6	9	5	7	8	14	4	7	9	6	11	6
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Source of new applications:—													
(a) Direct application by													
(a) Doctor	.. .. .	30	6	17	17	16	5	11	8	8	20	10	14
(b) Hospital	.. .. .	9	11	8	17	12	10	14	14	12	8	18	9
(c) Midwife	.. .. .	36	42	38	21	41	29	18	35	39	54	22	29
(d) Householder	.. .. .	13	9	9	6	8	6	11	11	13	13	10	11
(e) Welfare Worker	.. .. .	16	11	9	16	10	11	12	5	4	15	13	7
Classification of reasons for help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	55	26	32	41	34	21	32	22	26	45	35	29
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	12	7	11	13	11	10	12	15	11	5	9	10
(c) Maternity Cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	36	46	38	23	42	30	22	36	39	60	29	31
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary		23	18	16	14	23	17	19	13	11	26	12	10
Number of Households receiving help for first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	75	43	54	65	48	39	51	48	43	62	61	46
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	24	18	7	13	21	13	11	16	12	13	17	13
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps during the period		18903	15698	15485	13921	19228	13914	14348	16230	13049	18375	15125	14523
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period		189	190	188	187	183	183	185	179	176	179	176	176
Number of visits paid by Organisers:—													
(a) New Cases	.. .. .	119	72	90	84	92	61	63	89	67	117	107	74
(b) Re-visits	.. .. .	450	400	389	424	485	340	332	484	381	490	405	407
Number of meals by Home Helps (1 week)		747	705	685	671	634	608	651	659	621	617	612	568

## MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1959

The administration of the Mental Health Service has continued as in previous years. The staffing has remained the same; one Mental Welfare Officer has been seconded for a one year course in Social Work for experienced Mental Welfare Officers.

The number of compulsory admissions under the Mental Health Act to psychiatric hospitals has dropped slightly on last year, to 85, which is more in accordance with the previous year's levels. The tendency for the numbers of informal admissions to fall, which was noted in 1961, 1962 and 1963, was reversed last year and has remained high this year. Admissions were 253 in 1963, they rose to 300 in 1964 and have remained high, at 307, this year.

There has been discussion concerning the closer liaison between the local authority's Social Worker staff and the psychiatric hospital's Social Worker staff. It is hoped in future years to have one integrated staff to follow the interests of the patient both inside and outside the hospital field.

### Mental Illness

Mr. C. E. House, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

In September, 1965, after six years of loyal and competent service, Mr. V. A. Landor left to undertake a twelve months' course in Social Work. Since then I have been partnered by Miss M. Woods, who had previously and successfully completed a two years' course and holds the recognised qualification of the National Council for Training in Social Work. Since joining me she has rendered much capable and conscientious work to that section of the community we seek to serve and whose place within the society we strive to maintain.

Since the coming into force of the 1959 Act, the story of the Mental Health Service has been one of growth, development and extension, accompanied by considerable change in the character and quality of the services offered to the public. Inevitably the service has become more personalised and every day a great deal of circumstantial and confidential information is not only being filed in the office cabinets, but acted upon. The future success of this service is dependent on the ability to meet the new demands and on an improved standard of conditions.

Quarterly statistics and a report such as this can never truly reveal the extent of human suffering experienced by the mentally ill, nor the family's anxiety about his condition, which to some extent represents their feelings of frustration with the situation in which they find themselves. The orbit of mental illness is a large one. The delinquent, the inadequate, the depressed, the schizophrenic, the psychopath, the hysteric, the distressed, the demented arising from old age or other reasons. These and many more, along with the epileptic, homosexual, alcoholic and drug addict. Similarly the causations are many and varied. In each of these annual reports I endeavour to pin-point one aspect. As each year succeeds another, I am forced more than ever before to the conclusion that one of the most acute human problems of the present age, and one leading to so much distress and much resulting mental illness, is loneliness. Neither age, sex, class nor creed has any sure defence from it. The attractive shy girl who lived and died in her bleak bedsitter, to whom no one ever spoke outside her working hours; the youth, who could not overcome his reserve, and whom none would introduce to a youth club; the man who tried to kill himself because he was troubled about homosexual inclinations for he had no one with whom to discuss his anxieties; the widow who tried to find a way out of isolation by going the "rounds" of churches, but mostly no one took any notice of her except to say "good night" as she left; the old lady whose neighbours barely realized her existence until she died; the octogenarian gentleman who in his diary each day recorded the weather and cryptic words "no one came". These are but a few pathetic examples of being alone with oneself. They represent a disease which no medicine can cure. The

tragedy of it all lies in the fact that in this country two million of us are "going it alone".

A number of our social services are administered not only by local authorities, but also by voluntary organizations. There is a good example set by the many Hospital League of Friends—they are of immense value, particularly to the long stay patient. Within the community there are countless "good neighbours"; there are many more who would like to be but do not know where to begin. I would submit that an active preventive approach to the aspect of mental illness and the overcoming of much of the loneliness and isolation could be through the formation of a Community League of Friends. Robert Lynd wrote "People seem to me to be happiest when they are working for nothing and can afford to do so". After all, if community care is to mean anything positive, it must mean care in the community.

Mrs. A. J. Tregillus, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

In this half of Reading we made application for compulsory admission to hospital for 41 patients and were formally involved with another 29 admissions—a drop from last year of 12 and 20 respectively. We paid 1,956 home visits during the year. There was a considerable increase in the number paid to those patients under G.P. supervision only, and to those who are classed as community care cases with no doctor involved. This is over 200 more visits than in the preceding year, and as a Mental Welfare Officer transferred to East Reading in the summer, it shows that the volume of work has increased.

Twenty-eight new patients presented themselves or were brought to the office, and there were 241 visits to us by "old" patients—an increase of two.

Co-operation with Statutory and Voluntary bodies has continued. Owing to lack of staff the Home Helps have not been able to meet all our requests this year. We have made rather fewer demands on the Ministry of Labour for special training courses, although five applications were made to Industrial Rehabilitation Units. One patient left after three days, another terminated after four or five weeks because of physical illness, the third suddenly became upset and left with one week to go, and the fourth finally declined to go as she had been given a pay rise in her dead-end job. The fifth completed a very successful course and has been discharged from attending the psychiatric out-patient clinic. She is in full-time employment.

Eleven patients from West Reading have attended the Bath Road Occupational Therapy Centre during the year. Some have moved on to jobs outside the Centre.

The shortage of geriatric beds in Fair Mile Hospital has caused anxiety to the doctors and ourselves. As I see it, there will undoubtedly be increasing demand for such places and, as the elderly tend to revive if not recover sufficiently to be discharged, the problem will become more acute.

Severe problems have arisen amongst elderly persons living on their own. It is hoped that in future dwellings for the elderly will be located on bus routes and nearer to shopping facilities.

I wish to acknowledge the help given to us by the matron of one of our old persons' homes. She readily agreed to stretch out a friendly hand over the garden fence to a patient who lives on her own in a nearby flat and became lonely and depressed. The patient now goes to the home as a visitor. She occasionally has a meal (for which she pays), and enjoys her chats to the residents. She sometimes goes out with one or the other. I am confident that she would have needed re-admission on at least two occasions if she had not had this friendly help. To this matron and all the other matrons who co-operate with us when their charges become disturbed or confused, I offer our most grateful thanks and special mention in this year's report.

## The Samaritans of Reading

I am indebted to the Director of The Samaritans of Reading for the following:—

The Samaritans of Reading, which exist to help those tempted to suicide or despair, is centred at St. Giles' Hall, Southampton Street. There are about 250 volunteers who maintain a continuous 24-hour service and receive emergency calls on Reading 54845 day and night.

In many cases, those who have been counselled are befriended by volunteers until such time as the Samaritans are confident that they are able to face the difficulties of their lives without undue strain.

During 1964-5, 328 calls were received but the number has increased to over 200 during the last six months.

## Subnormality

Mrs. J. M. Norwood, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

The work of this section continues to increase and the need for an assistant becomes urgent. Over the years the type of help required has altered and much more intensive casework is now needed. With the growing numbers it is not possible to do that and at the same time keep up a regular continuing visiting service. In this side of the work regular visiting is both important and necessary.

As in previous years we have continued to receive much valuable help from the National Assistance Board, the Ministry of Labour, the Youth Employment Officers, Women's Voluntary Services and the Home Helps, and one or two local landladies. To all these people we must extend our thanks.

The waiting list for hospital care is still a long one but we are hoping that towards the end of the year 1966 some relief will be forthcoming. In the meantime much relief is given by the local subnormality hospitals in making available beds for short term care. In this way a number of parents have been given a period of much needed rest and a break from their heavy responsibilities.

The Special Care Unit, Newbery Lodge, has proved to be a great success and many parents have not only had regular daily relief but also have had the joy of seeing their children make some progress.

The Reading Society for the Mentally Handicapped have helped considerably in a financial and social way, several families, and through their Thursday Club have given many patients a regular weekly outing and an interest outside their homes.

During the year, although we have nothing spectacular to report, the work has been steadily going on and many patients have been helped to live an interesting and useful life.

## Training Centres

### *The Beeches Senior Training Centre*

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

At the end of December, 1965 there were 50 trainees, from 17 years of age upwards, on the register, including 6 from Berkshire County.

The staff consists of one Supervisor, two Assistant Supervisors, one part-time help, giving four half-day sessions per week, and appropriate domestic staff.

The light industrial work this year has proved successful and a number of factories have contributed work which has been completed to their satisfaction, e.g. pot

scourers, shampoos (wrapping and boxing), wrapping and heat sealing sponges, assembling car packs, packing garden products, etc.

We have also continued with the practical training schemes, such as bundling wood, making Christmas crackers, general handwork etc., and there is still a steady demand for car cleaning.

25 trainees, in the care of four members of the staff, went to Annual Camp at Dymchurch for one week, and in July 31 trainees, accompanied by four members of the staff, attended the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

The Annual Christmas Party was held at St. John's Hall, Fatherson Road, when 40 trainees attended.

### *Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre*

The extension to the Centre, which provides additional accommodation, was completed at the end of December. There is a prefabricated nursery unit to accommodate 20 children in the age range 3-6 years, a hall which is used as a refectory, for physical activities and social functions, a large practical room for craft work, a domestic science room, and an additional toilet block for the boys.

Mrs. R. English, the Supervisor, reports:—

There were 61 children on the register at the end of December, 1965, 5 of whom came from the County. The Centre is staffed by one Supervisor, six Assistant Supervisors, one Nursery Assistant and the appropriate domestic staff.

#### *Training routine—Reception Group.*

A basic routine of toilet training, feeding, learning to use a spoon and fork and drink from a cup. The aim is to establish a routine in order to give the child a firm sense of security. To accustom him to his surroundings before introducing him to group activities, large toys are available for play, also sand, water and paint.

*Nursery Group II.* The children in this group are toilet trained and can feed themselves, using a knife and fork. They are given a choice of play apparatus and are drawn into groups for speech, music and movement, singing and use of percussion instruments, modelling with pastry and plasticine. They are encouraged to play together and do so very well. Picture and word recognition has been tried as an experiment and this has shown good results with certain children.

*Junior Groups.* Continued social training combined with periods of concentration involving physical activity, speech development, singing and percussion, sense training apparatus and games, pre-3R work, picture and word recognition and handcraft.

*Senior Groups.* Continued general training and including 3R work. These groups have been divided into three reading groups and the progress over the past year has been encouraging if slow. Reading books used are Janet and John, Ladybird readers and the Adventures in Reading and Writing. Practical work includes handcraft, cookery, woodwork, canework and gardening.

*Social Activities.* Day trips to Hayling Island and to London Airport were sponsored by the Beeches and Wakefield Lodge Parents' Association. Visits to places of interest in and around the town were arranged, and a Christmas Party was held in December.

*Parents' Association.* The Beeches, Wakefield Lodge and Newbery Lodge Parents' Association continues to hold Committee meetings once a month at Wakefield Lodge. The two main aims of the Association (a) to foster mutual help and support

among parents by providing the opportunities to meet together and (b) to raise funds for the benefit of the trainees in the three Centres, have been amply fulfilled during the past year, and the Committee has been greatly encouraged by the large attendances at our social evenings and also by the very satisfactory results of our fund raising efforts. The Association has, during the past year, donated equipment to the value of £200 to the three Centres and has also sponsored outings at a cost of £43.

*Voluntary Help.* Five senior boys from Leighton Park School have visited Wakefield Lodge regularly during the past year to help with the children. We have found them particularly useful in the nursery stimulating play activity, playing football with older boys, doing simple woodwork, gardening, and helping generally. The boys held their own Christmas party for the children and also staged a short play which was enjoyed and understood by most of the older children.

#### *Newbery Lodge Special Care Unit*

Miss Cooke, Supervisor, contributes the following:—

Newbery Lodge has nine children, six boys and three girls, attending daily. Five of these children are ambulant.

The staff consists of a Supervisor, a part-time Assistant Supervisor, and help given by a student from Chiltern Nursery Training College.

During the year one child has been taken into full term care and four children have been transferred to Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre.

Three children attend the Cerebral Palsy Unit at Battle Hospital twice a week for physiotherapy, and this has proved of great benefit to the children concerned.

The emphasis at Newbery Lodge regarding training, is learning through play, and a variety of stimuli, providing a range of experiences, are provided for this purpose. These stimuli, we are pleased to note, have helped to produce improvement in speech, socialisation, interests, muscular co-ordination, and self help.





## PATIENTS REGRADED FROM INFORMAL TO DETAINED

	Under 16 years		16-64 years		65 years and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Fair Mile Hospital .. .. .	—	—	—	4	—	—

**Suicides**

Sixteen people successfully committed suicide in Reading in 1965.

**Number of suicides in Reading during the years 1960-1965**

Age	—20		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	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
1964	1	—	1	1	2	1	2	3	—	3	1	3	—	1	—	1	7	13
1965	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	9	7

Number of patients under Local Health Authority Care at 31.12.65

	Mentally Ill				Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely Subnormal				Total subnormal and severely subnormal		Grand Total of Cols. (1)-(16)
	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			
(a) Total number . . . . .	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
(b) (i) Attending day training centre . . . . .	3	—	55	114	—	—	1	4	—	—	121	82	39	43	32	52	82	287	546
(ii) Awaiting entry thereto . . . . .	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	32	29	16	20	61	41	118
(c) (i) Resident in residential training care . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7	—	8
(ii) Awaiting residence therein . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) (i) Receiving home training . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Awaiting home training . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(e) (i) Resident in L.A. home/hostel . . . . .	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
(ii) Awaiting residence in L.A. h./h. . . . .	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
(iii) Resident at L.A. expense in other residential homes/hostels . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Resident at L.A. expense by boarding out in private household . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(f) Receiving home visits and not included under (b) to (e):-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(i) suitable to attend a training centre . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	18	1	26	27
(ii) others . . . . .	3	—	43	101	—	—	1	4	—	—	19	78	3	10	9	14	13	220	385

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO L.H.A. DURING YEAR ENDED 31.12.65**

Referred by	Mentally ill				Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely S/Norm.				Total subnormal and severely subnormal		Grand Total of Cols. (1)-(16)
	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			
(a) General Practitioners ... ..	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
(b) Hospitals, on discharge from in-patient treatment ... ..			28	52															80
(c) Hospitals, after or during out-patient or day treatment ... ..			35	51					1	1						1		3	89
(d) Local education authorities ... ..			19	40				1					4	1		1	1	5	66
(e) Police and courts ... ..			27	13				1			10	4		2			2	14	16
(f) Other sources ... ..	1		53	71							11	4	10	10			20	15	160
(g) Total ... ..	1		162	227				2			22	13	11	12		2	23	37	452

Number of Patients awaiting entry to Hospital, or admitted for temporary residential care during 1965

	Mentally Ill		Psychopathic		Subnormal		Severely S/Norm.		Total subnormal and severely subnormal		Grand Total of Cols. (1)-(16)								
	Under 16		Under 16		Under 16		Under 16		Under 16	16 and over									
	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 31.12.65	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
(a) In urgent need of hospital care . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	1	—	12	1	13
(b) Not in urgent need of hospital care . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	9	—	12	13
(c) Total . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	5	3	9	12	13	26
2. Number of admissions for temporary residential care (e.g. to relieve the family)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) To N.H.S. hospitals . . . . .	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	4	3	7	14
(b) To L.A. residential accommodation . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(c) Elsewhere . . . . .	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	4
(d) Total . . . . .	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	4	4	7	19

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1965, 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 ...	24	1	—	2	13	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	7	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1217	40	344	358	440	16	12	6	1	1	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid)	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	18	—	1	5	6	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	47	1	2	5	3	1	7	12	13	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b> ...	<b>1341</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Table of Immunisation State of Notified Cases of Whooping Cough

	No. Notified	Not Immunised	Immunised				Part Immunised	
			Complete Course (3 injections + booster)		3 injections		1 injection only	
			L.H.A.	G.P.	L.H.A.	G.P.	L.H.A.	G.P.
Under 6 months	1	1						
6 months and under 1 year	1				1			
1 year and under 3	1	1						
3 years and under 5	2	1	1					
5 years and under 10								
10 years and over	2	2						
Totals	7	5	1		1			

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Diphtheria

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

### Scarlet Fever

24 cases of scarlet fever notified during 1965 and following the pattern of previous years over half the cases were in the 5-10 year age group.

### Whooping Cough

During the year only seven cases of whooping cough were notified, a considerable drop from 64 cases that were notified in 1964.

### Measles

1965 was an active year for measles, following a normal two yearly peak incidence of measles, being 1,217 cases during the year compared with 319 cases in 1964. The extensive clinical trials of a measles vaccine have been going on during the year under the auspices of the Medical Research Council and it may be that in future years the number of measles cases notified will be dramatically improved.

### Poliomyelitis

For the sixth year in succession no cases of poliomyelitis have been notified in the Borough.

### Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year. There were sporadic infections by a variety of salmonellae throughout the year but these were confined to individual families with no spread to the rest of the community.

### Typhoid

Two cases of typhoid fever were notified during the year. These infections occurred in one family and it is probable that one patient had been a carrier for a good many years and that a pregnancy and subsequent delivery caused the excretion of this organism again.

There was no spread beyond this family and both cases made good recovery.

### Tuberculosis

My thanks are again due to Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the great help he has rendered the department 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.

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
1964	43	1	34.87	0.81	4	—	0.03	—	123,310
1965	47	10	37.76	8.03	4	—	0.03	—	124,470



## Summary of Primary Notifications, 1965

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odelca	Doctors' cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals
<b>Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b>							
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i> Positive .. ..	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Negative .. ..	—	6	—	1	1	—	8
<i>Tub. pleural effusion:</i> Positive .. ..	—	—	2	—	2	—	4
Negative .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i> R/B/1 .. ..	1	—	4	—	3	—	8
R/B/2 .. ..	—	—	7	—	2	—	9
R/B/3 .. ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
R/A/1 .. ..	2	1	6	1	1	—	11
<b>Total Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b> .. ..	4	12	20	2	9	—	47
<b>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b> .. ..	—	—	1	1	8	—	10
<b>Total Tuberculous Cases:</b> .. ..	4	12	21	3	17	—	57

Source and Type of New Cases of Tuberculosis,  
both Notified and Observation Cases

	M.M.R.	Contact	School Health Service	Odelca	Direct Consultation	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals	Transfers from other areas
<b>Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b>									
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive ... ..	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Negative ... ..	—	6	—	—	1	1	—	8	—
Apparently healed ... ..	2	1	—	7	3	—	—	13	1
<i>Tub. Pleural Effusion:</i>									
Positive ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	4	—
Negative ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive ... ..	2	1	—	12	—	5	—	20	11
Negative ... ..	4	3	—	6	1	1	—	15	2
Arrested or Observation ... ..	9	4	1	26	2	6	2	50	5
<b>Total Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b> .. ..	17	19	1	53	7	15	2	114	20
<b>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b> .. ..	—	—	—	1	1	8	—	10	1
<b>Total Tuberculous Cases:</b> ... ..	17	19	1	54	8	23	2	124	21

### Juvenile Tuberculin Conversions

67 juvenile tuberculin converters were examined, 63 of these referred by the School Health Service.

### Contacts and B.C.G. Vaccination

571 new contacts were examined, resulting in 13 new notifications: 204 contacts were B.C.G. vaccinated, making a total of 4,642 since 1950.

### Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notified cases only: Recovered	42	82	124
Died (all causes)	23	7	30
Transferred	8	7	15
Other	9	32	41
	—	—	—
	82	128	210
	—	—	—

### The Clinic Register of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis

Under supervision 1.1.65	1,120
Admitted during year	71
Discharged, died etc.	210
Remaining under supervision on 31.12.65	981

### Diseases other than Tuberculosis

#### Diagnosis of Non-Tuberculous Cases

first seen in 1965

Asthma	30
Chronic bronchitis	177
Bronchiectasis	15
Pneumonias	93
Acute respiratory infection	127
Bronchial carcinoma	69
Secondary lung tumours	5
Pleurisy (non-tuberculous)	10
Spontaneous pneumothorax	10
Sarcoidosis	30
Cardiac disease	60
Pulmonary fibrosis	6
Erythema nodosum	8
Other lung conditions	18
Other diseases	44
No organic disease	99
Diagnosis not completed by 31.12.65	5
	—
Total	806
	—

### Venereal Disease

Arrangements with the Royal Berkshire Hospital Special Clinic for follow up visits on behalf of the Authority continued throughout the year. The following are details of the patients from Reading Borough who attended for the first time during the year:—

Syphilis	19
Gonorrhoea	170
Other conditions	241

## 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. The river source, in contrast, is affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, and requires carefully controlled filtration, followed by super-chlorination and partial de-chlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of water supplied within the Board's area was carried out during the year in the laboratory at the Head Office, Berkeley Avenue. Samples were collected at regular intervals from the raw water sources, from the treatment works, storage reservoirs and distribution system. The numbers of samples taken from each point, together with typical analyses, 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 .	57	Emmer Green Reservoir	5
Fobney Final Water .	53	Emmer Green Tower .	5
Southcote Final Water .	22	Tilehurst Reservoirs .	6
Pangbourne Raw Water .	39	Tilehurst Tower . .	4
Pangbourne Final Water	30	Distribution System .	31
		(Reading Area)	
		Total .	520

In all, therefore, 520 samples were examined from the Reading area during 1965, with frequent testing of the river-derived water leaving Bath Road Reservoir.

## RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water	Final Water
Appearance ... ..	Fairly clear, with a little colour and a small amount of suspended matter	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen) ... ..	Filtered: 10	Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ... ..	15 ... ..	Nil
Odour ... ..	Nil ... ..	Nil
pH. ... ..	8.0 ... ..	7.6
Chlorides (Cl) ... ..	17.3 ... ..	17.5
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> Total ... ..	257 ... ..	257
" Carbonate (Temporary) ... ..	220 ... ..	220
" Non-Carbonate (Permanent) ... ..	37 ... ..	37
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.035 ... ..	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.145 ... ..	0.070
Nitrite Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.02 ... ..	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N) ... ..	2.2 ... ..	2.3
Iron ... ..	0.18 ... ..	Less than 0.02
Other Metals ... ..	Absent ... ..	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	2 ... ..	5
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C) ... ..	305 ... ..	300
Alkalinity CaCO <sub>3</sub> ... ..	220 ... ..	220
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C) ... ..	1.55 ... ..	0.75
Residual Chlorine ... ..	— ... ..	0.4 (at works)
Natural Fluoride (F) ... ..	Approx. 0.1 ... ..	Approx. 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>		
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—		
1 day at 37°C ... ..	3000 ... ..	16
3 days at 22°C ... ..	25000 ... ..	20
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>		
Present in ... ..	0.01 mls. ... ..	—
Absent from ... ..	0.001 mls. ... ..	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls. ... ..	3500 ... ..	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>		
Present in ... ..	0.1 mls. ... ..	—
Absent from ... ..	0.01 mls. ... ..	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls. ... ..	800 ... ..	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. ... ..	6.95	...	...	...	6.95
Chlorides ... ..	14.3	...	...	...	14.5
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> 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 ... ..	Nil	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other Metals ... ..	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	37	...	...	...	35
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C) ... ..	350	...	...	...	350
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ... ..	250	...	...	...	250
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C) ... ..	0.05	...	...	...	0.02
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.2 (at works)
Natural Fluoride (F) ... ..	Less than 0.1	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on					
Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C ... ..	1	...	...	...	0
3 days at 22°C ... ..	5	...	...	...	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.

The water is not known to be plumbo solvent, and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

There were no unusual instances of contamination during 1965.

The weather has remained exceptionally dry for the greater part of the year, but nevertheless, the yield from these sources has continued to provide a surplus, which has been used to assist the demand in districts around the perimeter of the Reading area. 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.

The number of houses in the Borough (together with other premises having domestic occupation) supplied with water by the Board increased by 922 to 38,573 during the year ended March 31st, 1965. The supply to two of these properties was by means of standpipes, and my records show that there are 12 houses within the Borough supplied from wells and taking no supply from the Board's mains.

The average daily consumption per head of population throughout the whole of the Board's area in the year ended March 31st, 1965 was 44.11 gallons for domestic and 13.5 gallons for non-domestic use, a total average of 57.61 gallons per head.

## 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:—

During the year, about 200 houses in the Chatham Street, Weldale Street and Great Knollys Street area were represented for clearance under the Housing Acts, and by the end of the year, preparations were in hand for the representation of properties in the Whitley Street area and streets adjoining.

Both areas are in parts of the town where the Council intend to carry out re-development as part of its overall policy of making the best possible use of land which has to be cleared of obsolete dwellings.

In addition to dealing with houses which have reached the end of their economic life, by way of clearance, progress was made during the year on the improvement of dwellings which are old, are without what are now considered to be the essential amenities of bath, hot water, wash basin, internal W.C., etc., but are well-constructed and still have a useful life to run. Action is being taken by way of formally declared Improvement Areas, and on representation from individual householders who live outside these declared Improvement Areas.

A great deal of work is involved in introducing compulsory improvement. Many tenants and owners, particularly those who are aged and unaccustomed to official action, need to be informed of what is happening and have explained to them the legal, financial and constructional implications of improvements; sketch plans and estimates have also to be prepared. Experience is producing an effective routine, enabling reasonable progress to be made. It is, however, work which is becoming more appreciated by householders and, to some, provides an amenity which might not otherwise be available to them perhaps in their lifetime. It is important to the community also in that improvement can prolong the life of many houses and postpone the day of demolition and replacement. An example of the way in which houses can be enhanced by improvement is illustrated in the photographs opposite page 74.

Survey work in connection with housing conditions in the town, continued during the year and produced useful information with respect to unfit houses. It is hoped to be able to submit to the Council a revised clearance programme during the coming year.

General responsibilities under the Food and Drugs Act and associated legislation, form a large part of the work of the inspectorate. Whilst, basically, much of this work is routine, due to developments in different fields, including agriculture, there is constant need for re-appraisal and adjustment of investigation techniques. The wide scale use of pesticides, barley feeding of cattle, the increased use of antibiotics in our dairy herds and other aspects of animal husbandry, are showing effects on our environment in various, but not easily definable ways. Whilst, initially, the economic advantages in the use of these substances appear to be good, there is some apprehension as to the possible prejudicial effects of these developments, particularly as to the long-term effects of the residues of pesticides and antibiotics in food. Some of these matters have been the subject of governmental reports, and it is expected that more investigations will take place in the near future.

Efforts continued during the year towards higher standards of food hygiene. There is, however, a great deal of apathy towards this matter. Efforts to establish Food Hygiene Courses have had little success. It will be noted in the body of the Report, that it was found necessary to take action during the year in respect of contraventions over a wide aspect of food administration. It is fair to say that most traders and employees react strongly at these times and hasten to assure the Authority of their desire to do everything necessary to avoid a recurrence of the trouble. Unfortunately too many are, however, silent in their response to offers of instruction in

food handling, which would be of considerable help in dealing with at least, some of these problems.

Following the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic in 1964, the Milne Committee recommended that methods of educating all staff in the food trade in matters relating to food hygiene, should be examined by the Food Hygiene Advisory Council with a view to improvement. The Council has now reported on its investigation to the Minister of Health, and among other matters, laid emphasis on the view that the character of the environment plays a most important part in encouraging or discouraging, hygienic food habits. The Council recommends that this view should be brought to the notice of all those who can play a part in improving the general environment where this is likely to influence the standard of hygiene consciousness of the general public, notably in homes, food establishments, schools, public conveniences and public transport vehicles. Good surroundings, the Council said, induce good habits.

It is perhaps opportune to say, at this point, that in addition to general work in respect of hygiene, some attention was given during the year to the standard of public conveniences in the town, and to the need for improvement. The initial recommendations of the Health Committee are being implemented and it is proposed to keep this matter under review.

The delegation to the department of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, early in the year, which is reported in more detail on page 104, resulted in a greater degree of involvement with food traders than was the case previously. Such matters as first-aid, the cleaning and operation of food machinery, hygiene and welfare requirements are, however, associated with environmental health generally, so that this new Act was a natural extension to our hitherto considerable interest in these establishments.

The feral pigeon is becoming increasingly recognised as a nuisance and hazard to health. While steps are taken to reduce their number, they will remain an intransigent problem so long as members of the public persist in feeding them—a practice well-intentioned but woefully misguided as far as the health and comfort of the community is concerned.

With regard to the Smoke Control Programme, adaptations to fireplaces in Area No. 9 were completed during the year and the Order came into operation on September 1st, 1965. Area No. 10 (Bath Road) was approved by the Council and submitted to the Minister for confirmation. Sufficient progress has been made to consider a progressive programme for the whole of the Borough, and now that it has been possible to fill the post of Senior Public Health Inspector (Atmospheric Pollution) which had been vacant for over a year, it should be possible to prepare a programme in the coming year. Despite initial difficulties and some prejudice in the early days, the principle of clean air has now been generally accepted. It is interesting to note the apparent improvement in the cleanliness of the atmosphere in certain parts of the town, details of which are given in the body of the Report.

The large caravan site at Norcot has been vacated and the land is now being developed for permanent housing. Whilst caravans certainly provide a reasonable standard of housing in certain circumstances, there are disadvantages with the smaller type of van, especially where there are children in the family, and generally it is not a proper substitute for the traditional house. However, it does provide interim accommodation for many young couples, so that caravans are likely to remain with us to some extent. In an urban area, however, they do require careful control. The standard of amenities need to be high and reasonable space must be available to avoid overcrowding. The Corporation's site at Whitley is a good example of this. The occupiers, some of whom were displaced when their previous sites closed down, are most appreciative of the Council's efforts to provide them with this alternative site.

Laundrettes and Dry-Cleaning plants, a development which has arisen in recent years, received special attention as the result of complaints from nearby residents,

particularly concerning noise. A Code of Practice is being prepared, which should be available to developers of this type of establishment in the near future. Noise, of course, is an increasing problem and the Noise Level Meter acquired by the Department, is proving most useful.

There was an increase in the number of animals inspected at the Slaughterhouses during the year. There is no doubt that the standard of food animal coming into the slaughterhouses these days, is improving. Whilst such diseases as Tuberculosis and gross infection are relatively rare, certain conditions, particularly parasitic, are still prevalent in certain areas, Liver fluke, for example, is still a problem to which attention should be given by the Veterinary Field Services.

There was some improvement in the staff position during the year, but recruitment to public health inspection remains a matter of concern. The National Joint Council's recommendations made during the year, certainly helped the situation on broad lines. However, the introduction of house improvement, the extension of health, welfare and safety requirements to offices, shops and other premises, the increasing attention needed to be given to noise and other problems of urbanisation and industrial development, requires that urgent consideration should be given to this aspect of our staff problems.

I am very grateful for the excellent and loyal support received from all the staff during the year.

## 1. HOUSING

### Clearance Areas

The following 220 houses were included in Clearance Areas and Compulsory Purchase Orders during 1965:—

16-36 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No. 1/65 (Chatham Street)
40-74 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No. 2/65 (Chatham Street)
80-98 Chatham Street and 2-16 York Place	Clearance Area No. 3/65 (Chatham Street and York Place)
6-24 Bedford Road and 3-27 Trinity Place	Clearance Area No. 4/65 (Bedford Road and Trinity Place)
127-175 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No. 5/65 (Chatham Street)
117-121 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No. 6/65 (Chatham Street)
93-113 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No. 7/65 (Chatham Street)
41-83 Chatham Street and 21-39 and 43 Alfred Street	Clearance Area No. 8/65 (Chatham Street and Alfred Street)
5, 9-15 and 19 Alfred Street, 1-10 (consecutive) Providence Place, and 1-7 (consecutive) Eaton Place	Clearance Area No. 9/65 (Alfred Street, Eaton Place and Providence Place)
83-119 Great Knollys Street, 3-7 North Street, and 70-104 Weldale Street	Clearance Area No. 10/65 (Great Knollys Street, North Street and Weldale Street)
24-52 Wolseley Street	Clearance Area No. 11/65 (Wolseley Street)

The undermentioned houses, subject to past Clearance action, were demolished during the year:—

25-61 Howard Street and 11-45 Soho Street	Part of Clearance Areas Nos. 1/61 and 2/61. C.P.O. 1962
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184 and 186 Kennet Side	Clearance Area No. 5/62. C.P.O. 1963
2-18 Rose Hill Cottages	Part of Clearance Area No. 6/61. C.P.O. 1962
10-20 Soho Street	Clearance Area No. 1/59. C.P.O. 1959

Towards the end of the year, the Minister of Housing and Local Government caused a Public Local Inquiry to be held in respect of the (Bedford Road, Trinity Place, Eaton Place, Providence Place, Alfred Street, Chatham Street and York Place) Compulsory Purchase Order No. 1, 1965. This Order included nine Clearance Areas containing a total of 165 houses, of which 140 were classified as unfit and 25 as badly arranged. Quite a number of objections to the Order were made by the owners of the properties involved. All the properties where objections had been made, were inspected by the Minister's Inspector during the two days following the Inquiry.

### Individual Unfit Houses

No. 6 Blakes Cottages was represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. Subsequently a Closing Order was made.

Nos. 3-33 Bartletts Cottages, houses owned by the local authority, were certified unfit.

The following houses, subject to past formal action, were demolished during 1965:—

39-45 East Street	Certified Unfit 1963
14-18 (consecutive) Jubilee Square	Closing Orders 1963

Closing Orders made during 1962 in respect of No. 2 Florence Place, and during 1963 in respect of Nos. 7 and 9 New Lane Hill, were removed during 1965, all three houses having been made fit by the owners.

No. 7 Stanway Cottages, previously represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and the subject of an undertaking, was made fit by the owner.

No. 45 Chapel Hill and No. 2 Wilson Road, houses not subject to formal action, were made fit by the owners and withdrawn from the slum clearance programme.

### Housing Improvements

A considerable amount of work was incurred during the year as a result of the compulsory improvement provisions of the Housing Act, 1964.

Formal action was commenced in respect of the Improvement Area in East Reading declared at the end of 1964—this involved the detailed inspection of 22 tenanted dwellings which lacked amenities, the serving of Preliminary Notices specifying the works considered necessary to improve each dwelling to the full standard of improvement, together with an estimated cost, subsequent discussions and finally the serving of Improvement Notices. In 4 instances Undertakings were obtained from the owners and it was not therefore necessary to serve Notices. In 3 instances the tenant's consent was obtained and Immediate Improvement Notices were served requiring improvements to be carried out within twelve months. In the case of the remaining 15 dwellings, the tenants, all elderly and some infirm, did not consent to the improvements and it was therefore necessary to serve Suspended Improvement Notices in respect of these dwellings.

Survey inspections were made of a further 78 dwellings adjoining an area previously surveyed and subjected to informal action in West Reading. Later in the year, the whole of this area containing a total of 310 dwellings, was declared as Improvement Area No. 2 (Belmont Road, Cranbury Road, Elm Park Road, Oxford

MATURE TERRACED DWELLING HOUSES



BEFORE IMPROVEMENT



AFTER IMPROVEMENT



Road and Prince of Wales Avenue). It is estimated that approximately half of the 310 dwellings are lacking in amenities and about 100 of these are tenanted dwellings.

A start was also made on the survey inspection of a further area of some 200 dwellings adjoining the East Reading Improvement Area with a view to the future extension of that area.

During the year, representations were made by the tenants of 22 dwellings outside Improvement Areas, requesting the local authority to exercise their compulsory powers to secure improvement. Each case was investigated, of necessity in some detail. Owners or persons having control were approached informally and in many instances discussions ensued. By the end of the year, 5 Undertakings to carry out improvements were obtained without resorting to formal action, and a further 5 Undertakings were obtained following the serving of Preliminary Notices. In one instance the local authority refused to take any action on the grounds that the dwelling would not have a 15-year "life", and in one instance the tenant withdrew his representation after considering the proposed methods of improvement and the likely rent increase. The remaining 10 cases were still under investigation or in the informal negotiation stage at the end of the year.

### **Houses in Multi-Occupation**

Whilst it was not possible to devote any special attention to this subject during 1965, routine work in connection with the improvement of conditions as regards overcrowding and provision of facilities continued steadily throughout the year.

Owing to the many changes which occur in houses in multi-occupation, it is difficult to be precise so far as facts and figures are concerned. However, a further 24 cases were discovered during the year, bringing the total of known cases to 431. In accordance with our established practice, all the new cases were referred to the Borough Surveyor and Planning Officer and the Fire Authority, and where any of these cases involved coloured immigrants, a close liaison with the Department's Welfare Officer for this purpose, was maintained.

It is interesting to note that several of these new cases were brought to our notice by the Town Clerk as a result of contraventions of Council mortgage agreements whereby sub-letting is normally prohibited.

Having in mind the experiences of some local authorities in this field, it is gratifying to note that, as yet, no case has come to light which has warranted the drastic action available under the Housing Act, 1961, for dealing with squalid conditions. So far, the improvements in conditions which are continually being achieved in the known houses in multi-occupation, have very largely been brought about by informal negotiations with the persons in control.

### **Certificates of Disrepair**

During 1965, only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received, compared with 10 in 1964. This was granted and an undertaking was subsequently received from the landlord.

One application was received from the tenant for a Certificate as to the remedying of defects by the landlord. This Certificate was granted.

### **Repair of Houses**

Many of the complaints received by the department were in respect of housing defects. Some 354 dwellinghouses were inspected during the year following complaints. 202 preliminary notices were served and many informal letters sent. It was necessary to serve statutory notices in 70 cases. There were 1,738 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally

escuring compliance with the notices served. 279 houses were made fit during the year by the owners.

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

Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and possible slum clearance action, was supplied in many cases on official searches of the Land Charges Register—some 3,361 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 714 applications for local authority mortgages in addition to which very many verbal enquiries were dealt with.

Similar observations were made in respect of 307 applications for improvement grants, many of which were the subject of visits and inspections.

During the year, 102 properties offered for sale to the local authority were inspected and reported on as to fitness or unfitness, likely clearance action or possible future life, suitability for use as intermediate accommodation and details of necessary repairs.

In addition to these inter-departmental requests for information, numerous enquiries from Solicitors, Property Owners, Agents and members of the general public were dealt with.

### **Overcrowding**

During 1965, many complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions, including overcrowding, were investigated and, where necessary, appropriate recommendations were 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 . . . . .	315
Number of general inspections . . . . .	1,738
Number of Preliminary Notices served . . . . .	202
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with . . . . .	169
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act . . . . .	70
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by owners (including some outstanding 1964) . . . . .	110
Number of Houses made fit . . . . .	279

## **2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION**

The many aspects of food administration, which account for a large proportion of the work of the department, 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 two licensed slaughtering centres, Reading Abattoirs and Venners Bacon Factory, continued operations during the year. Because of fairly heavy use, there was need for constant maintenance at both places. There was effort also to introduce improvements and increase efficiency so as to improve hygienic conditions, improve the standard of the finished product and partly also to streamline operations, which is particularly important these days in view of staff shortages.

At the Abattoirs, the wall tiling carried out three of four years' ago, is beginning to require attention and is being replaced, where necessary, by stainless steel sheeting. This seems a new innovation so far as wall surfacing is concerned. Although it is expensive, it is durable, of a satisfactory hygienic quality and should withstand the hard wear and tear to which wall surfacing is subject in a place of this kind.

Efficiency in the pig dressing section is to be further increased in the near future by the introduction of an improved scalding tank and pig de-hairing machine. An additional boiler for standby purposes has also been installed so as to ensure adequate supplies of hot water.

The pressurised water service continues to prove its great usefulness by maintaining good hygienic standards in the slaughterhouse and of meat carcasses. Preliminary discussions have taken place with Alf. Meade Limited, to see how animal approaches to lairages can be improved should the proposed Abattoir extension materialise.

The reconstruction work started in the bacon factory some time ago, was completed at the beginning of the year, but already consideration is being given to increased mechanisation so as to concentrate and increase the rate of throughput. This should assist towards improving meat inspection efficiency. There is not a large through-put at this slaughterhouse, but the slaughtering arrangements up to the present, have not been very economic on the inspection man-power. However, the firm has been anxious to improve conditions and the report of a work study group which has been working on processing problems at the factory, should be helpful.

**Meat for Export**

Liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and a local Veterinarian, continued during the year in connection with meat sent for export. The export trade again played a significant part in maintaining, and indeed increasing throughput at the Abattoirs. Reading is probably one of the largest contributors to this particular aspect of the export trade. Apart from through-put and other economic considerations, the export trade does assist in raising meat hygiene standards generally in that efficient refrigeration is essential if carcasses are to reach such places as France, Germany and Italy in prime condition. Naturally, home-killed meat also has the benefit of these improved cooling conditions.

**Casualty Animals**

As detailed below, some 500 animals were sent into the Abattoirs during the year as casualties. These are animals sent in because of injury, difficulty of parturition, suspected injury or sickness. In all these cases, it is necessary to obtain from the owner or veterinarian attending the animal, the reasons for emergency slaughter, details of symptoms, the treatment given and particulars of any drugs which may have been administered.

It is a routine duty also to screen casualties for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there has been cruelty to the animals involved. No cases of cruelty to casualties were reported during the year.

Details of casualties admitted to the slaughterhouses during the year, are as follows:—

Heifers and Steers 31; Cows 157; Bull 1; Calves 4; Sheep 64; Pigs 243.

## Cruelty to Animals

During the year, there was one contravention of the Slaughter of Animals (Cruelty) Regulations, which concerned the mishandling of a pig at one of the slaughterhouses. Proceedings were instituted and a fine of £10 plus £3 costs, was imposed.

## Meat Inspection

Through-put at the Reading Slaughterhouses continues to rise and in 1965 for the first time, over 200,000 animals were slaughtered and inspected—in all a total of 215,837. This compares with 197,203 in 1964. The inspection units involved were also higher, there being 799,054 during the year under review, compared with 708,278 in 1964. This constitutes an increase in inspection units of 12.8% over the last year.

So far as the Abattoirs was concerned, although due to varying demand from traders there was uncertainty of inspection requirements at times, slaughtering was more streamlined during 1965 than previous years as will be seen in the graph on page 82. It is important to emphasize, however, that there is still room for improvement. As to how far efficiency can be improved depends on a number of factors, not the least of which is the problem of fluctuating demand which may, for example, be due to changing weather, which can partly be met by an available pool of ready-killed meat which, in turn, requires the additional refrigerated storage space which has been mentioned previously. Although a certain amount of meat inspection overtime was involved, we are almost free from Sunday slaughtering; there is a relatively early finish on Saturdays, and apart from market day (Monday), there is little late killing except at peak periods. It is interesting to note that an amendment to the Meat Inspection Regulations is contemplated, which will enable local authorities to control the hours of slaughter. Whilst this will help some authorities, it is not likely to affect the situation here a great deal.

There was a slight change to the meat inspection staff arrangements in that an Authorised Meat Inspector was substituted for a Senior Public Health Inspector (Meat). This arrangement has worked reasonably satisfactorily so far.

Apart from the liaison with Veterinarians in connection with casualty animals and meat for export, there is, in addition to routine meat inspection, a certain amount of what might be termed "extra mural activity". We are at present collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the University of Glasgow, in a nation-wide survey on the incidence of Lymphosarcoma in food animals. Where, on the inspection of a carcass, this condition is found or is suspected, specimens are submitted to Glasgow for examination and confirmation. The department is also requested, from time to time, to provide specimens for the purpose of demonstration in biology classes in schools. Reading is also a centre where Veterinary and Public Health Students generally, obtain practical experience and general instruction in meat inspection. These facilities play an important part in practical meat inspection training and it is imperative that these facilities should be available.

In operating meat inspection, it has been a constant endeavour to interfere as little as possible with the day to day duties of District Public Health Inspectors, although it is quite impossible to preclude them from this work entirely if the service is to be operated efficiently.

## Meat Inspection Charges

When the Meat Inspection Regulations were introduced in 1963, the Council decided to make charges for meat inspection, but it has been agreed between the two slaughtering firms that charges shall be on a contract basis. A contract salary is negotiated year-by-year and, up to the present, this arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

## Tuberculosis

There is not a great deal to say about the incidence of Tuberculosis these days as, due to the vigorous eradication policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, it has been virtually eliminated from the bovine herds throughout the country. It is again interesting, however, to note that the incidence of Tuberculosis found in bovines slaughtered at the Abattoirs (which includes a number of cattle imported for slaughter from Ireland) and also in pigs, is very low indeed, as will be seen in the table below.

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
1964	15,792	0.032	13,678	0.051	12,238	—	85,874	0.052
1965	20,369	0.015	12,069	0.025	7,882	—	99,994	0.84

## Cysticercus Bovis

There were 27 carcasses this year found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* either viable or resolved, compared with 12 last year. There were no generalised cases. In 16 instances, carcasses were refrigerated as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations before being passed as fit for human consumption. In other cases, where not more than one degenerate cyst was found, offals were condemned, and after jointing produced no evidence of viable infestation, the meat was released.

Low temperature refrigerated facilities are satisfactory in Reading. A number of carcasses affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* were sent in from local authority districts outside Reading for the purpose of refrigeration for the prescribed period. It was necessary in these cases to collaborate with the authorities concerned. We arrange for surveillance of the carcasses, and after the appropriate treatment, carcasses are finally inspected and passed by our own Inspectors.

## Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894-1950

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 appropriate disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises.

The need for constant vigilance on the part of the inspectorate, particularly those members of the staff engaged on meat inspection, was emphasized during the year by the discovery of a case of Anthrax. This was found by one of the Senior Public Health Inspectors when engaged on post-mortem inspection of bovines at one of the slaughtering centres. On Anthrax being suspected, the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was notified, and after bacteriological tests, Anthrax was confirmed. The carcass, offals, hide, etc., of the affected animal was destroyed, together with certain other offals which were at risk of contamination. The incident occurred late in the day, confirmation being received later that night, so that disinfection became a matter of urgency if the following day's slaughtering programme was not to be affected. With the co-operation of the Abattoirs staff, disinfection was completed and the requirements of the Anthrax Order complied with so as to enable slaughtering to take place later the following day.

The Medical Officer of Health advised the appropriate treatment of all persons at risk, and no complications arose.



Routine inspection was carried out during the year of piggeries in the town and particular attention was given to the requirements of the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, and the Swine Fever Order, 1963. 24 piggeries are registered with the authority under the former Order which, in general, was reasonably complied with.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

A total of 42 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Act, was issued during the year. The system of issuing a conditional licence to a man newly taking up this work, is still working satisfactorily.

### Condemned Meat

118 tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and in the other slaughterhouse. 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.

I mentioned last year that a feature of the inspection of pigs, was the number of cases in which abscesses were found, mainly in the leg. It will be noted from the table relating to whole carcasses, that there has been approximately a three-fold increase in the number of whole carcasses of pigs condemned for Pyaemia. Many of these cases appear to be due to injuries caused by tail-biting. It is impossible to give any reason for this increase, but it may be a subject worthy of further investigation.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	20,369	12,069	7,882	75,523	99,994	Nil
Number inspected ... ..	20,369	12,069	7,882	75,523	99,994	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	6	153	107	148	452	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	4,756	6,308	122	7,079	34,143	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	23.33	53.53	2.91	9.57	34.59	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	3	3	—	—	84	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0.015	0.025	—	—	0.084	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	27	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	16	—	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

## Whole Carcasses

	Heifers & Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Arthritis . . . . .	—	—	—	—	5	1
Bruising and Injuries . . . . .	6	—	—	—	—	—
Immaturity . . . . .	—	—	—	3	—	—
Joint-ill . . . . .	—	—	—	18	—	—
Mastitis . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—
Oedema and/or Emaciation . . . . .	—	93	—	83	20	144
Pyæmia . . . . .	—	4	—	3	237	1
Pyrexia . . . . .	—	11	—	—	103	2
Swine Erysipilas . . . . .	—	—	—	—	3	—
All Septicaemia conditions . . . . .	—	41	—	—	82	—
Tumours . . . . .	—	2	—	—	2	—
Anthrax . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—
	6	153	—	107	452	148

## Part Carcasses

	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Tuberculosis . . . . .	—	1	—	—	147	—
Arthritis . . . . .	—	—	—	—	456	—
Bruising and/or Injuries . . . . .	—	9	—	1	14	—
	—	10	—	1	617	—

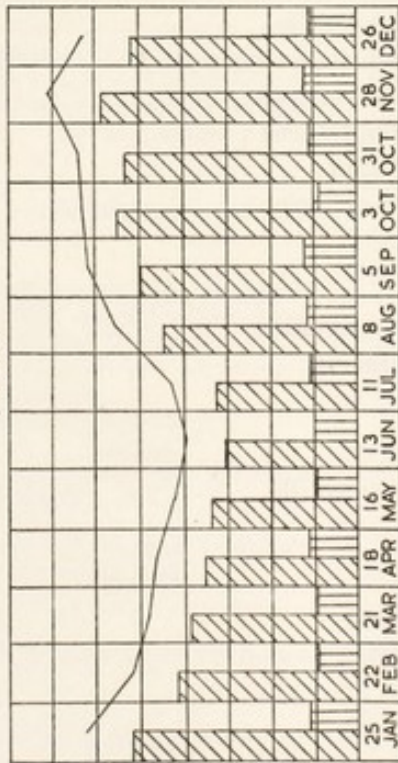
## Organs, etc.

<i>Head and Tongues</i>		<i>Lungs</i>	
Tuberculosis . . . . .	167	Tuberculosis . . . . .	2
Abscess . . . . .	239	Abscess . . . . .	91
Actinomycosis . . . . .	93	Congestion . . . . .	4,094
Cysticercus Bovis . . . . .	22	Echinococcosis (cysts) . . . . .	119
		Distomatosis . . . . .	16
		Emphysema . . . . .	2
		Pleurisy . . . . .	4,597
		Pneumonia . . . . .	7,044
		<i>Stomachs</i>	
		Tuberculosis . . . . .	1
		Abscess . . . . .	4
		<i>Hearts</i>	
		Pericarditis . . . . .	4,558
		<i>Kidneys</i>	
		Cysts . . . . .	1,195
		Nephritis . . . . .	1,619
		<i>Intestines</i>	
		Tuberculosis . . . . .	1
		Johnes Disease . . . . .	4
		Peritonitis . . . . .	2,796

*Head and Tongues**Lungs**Livers**Stomachs**Hearts**Part Livers**Kidneys**Spleens**Intestines**Udders*

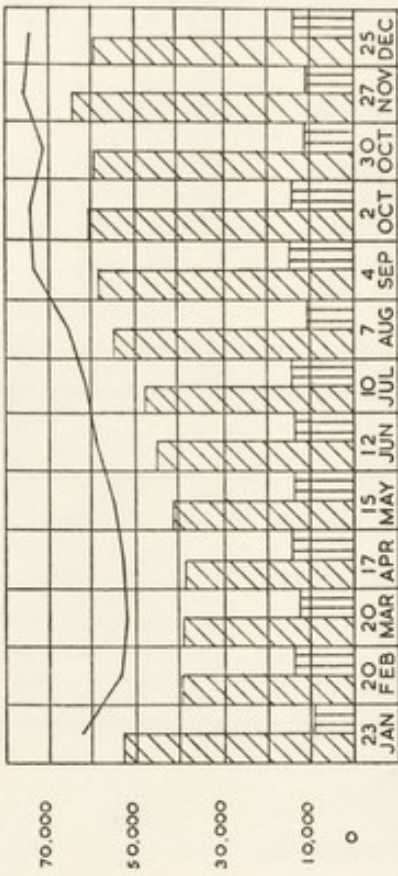
# MEAT INSPECTION



1964



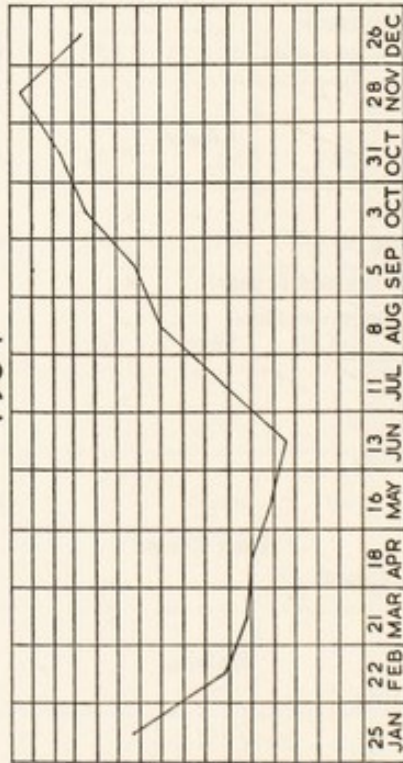
# INSPECTION UNITS

1965



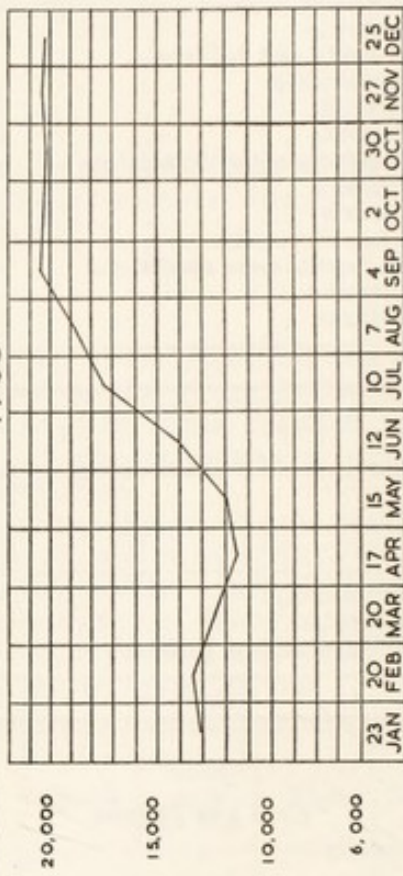
PUBLIC ABATTOIR  BACON FACTORY 

1964



# ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

1965



**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 174 bovine and 37 equine carcasses were dealt with on the premises during the year. Public Health Inspectors made numerous visits to the premises during 1965.

*(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED*

804 visits were paid to food establishments during the year for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and to condemn that which was found to be unfit for human consumption. Approximately 25½ tons of food were condemned and 738 certificates issued to the traders concerned. Some of this work forms part of routine duties involving visits and inspections to food establishments, but we have many requests from traders for advice on the fitness of food. Details of food condemned are given below. The quantities involved in some instances indicates the need for better house-keeping on the part of traders. It will be noted that a large quantity of meat was condemned. This originated mainly from a consignment of imported, frozen lamb and mutton which had become affected with mould due to fluctuating storage conditions in course of transit to this country.

*CONDEMNED FOOD*

Bacon, Gammon, Ham	2,952 lb.
Beans in Sauce	27 lb.
Biscuits	1¼ lb.
Brisket	12 lb.
Brawn	12½ lb.
Butter	3½ lb.
Cake	4 lb.
Cereal	½ lb.
Cheese	151 lb.
Corned Beef/Mutton	355 lb.
Cream—Imitation	7½ gallons
Cream	20 gallons
Dried Fruit	1 lb.
Fish	402 lb.
Flour	78 lb.
Fruit & Vegetables	440¼ lb.
Heads	2,761 lb.
Jam/Marmalade	52¾ lb.
Jellied Veal	210 lb.
Krockuet	9 lb.
Luncheon Meat—Pork	56 lb.
Meat	39,269¾ lb.
Milk—Evaporated	4 lb.
Nuts	16½ lb.
Offal	2,119 lb.
Peas—Dried	½ lb.
Pickles—Various	4 lb.
Pies—Various	½ lb.
Pork—Chopped/Minced	33 lb.

Pork Fillet . . . . .	14 lb.
Pork Rings . . . . .	3 lb.
Pork Shoulder . . . . .	366 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Potato Crisps . . . . .	1,470 lb.
Poultry . . . . .	643 lb.
Rabbit . . . . .	30 lb.
Rice & Ground Rice . . . . .	2 lb.
Roast Pork . . . . .	18 lb.
Sago . . . . .	3 lb.
Salami . . . . .	3 lb.
Sausages—Various . . . . .	229 lb.
Saveloys . . . . .	6 lb.
Semolina . . . . .	7 lb.
Servelate . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Shell Fish . . . . .	185 lb.
Steak—Stewed . . . . .	2 lb.
Suet . . . . .	1 lb.
Sugar . . . . .	3 lb.
Tins—Assorted . . . . .	2,606
Tongue . . . . .	70 lb.
Yoghurt . . . . .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

*FOOD CONDEMNED BY REASON OF BREAKDOWN IN REFRIGERATION*

Beefburgers/Steakburgers/Steaklets . . . . .	81 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Cakes . . . . .	117 lb.
Cheeseburger . . . . .	4 lb.
Croquettes . . . . .	2 lb.
Dinners—Various . . . . .	21 lb.
Faggots . . . . .	5 lb.
Fish & Fish Fingers . . . . .	616 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Fish Cakes . . . . .	42 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Fruit Juices . . . . .	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Fruit & Vegetables . . . . .	489 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Giblets . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Hamburgers . . . . .	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Ice Cream . . . . .	1 gallon
Liver . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Meat . . . . .	2,231 lb.
Meat Balls . . . . .	5 lb.
Mousse . . . . .	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Pastry . . . . .	29 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Pies—Various . . . . .	125 lb.
Potatoes . . . . .	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Potatoes—Chip . . . . .	33 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Poultry . . . . .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Porkburger/Porklets . . . . .	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Pudding—Rice . . . . .	10 lb.
Sausages . . . . .	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Sausage Rolls . . . . .	30 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Scampi/Shrimps/Prawns . . . . .	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Shrimps—Potted . . . . .	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Vol-au-Vents . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

## (c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

The two licensed milk pasteurisation H.T.S.T. plants continued processing during 1965. The one operated by the Dairy Department, Reading University, is used primarily for instruction and demonstration to students at the University, but is available for use for trade purposes at peak periods, or in the event of emergency. The other plant is operated by the Co-operative Retail Services Ltd. at Stanley Grove. During the year, a change-over from churn to bulk tank collection of milk was practically completed. Two 3,000 gallon capacity, insulated holding tanks were installed to supplement the storage tanks already provided at this dairy. The bulk method of collection will effect savings in labour costs and eliminate the need to maintain churn cleaning equipment.

During the year, the following licences were issued, relating either to new premises or in connection with changes in occupation:—

7 Pasteurised; 2 Sterilised; 6 Vending Machines (Pasteurised)

**Milk Receptacles**

Bottles from the local milk pasteurising plant submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, gave satisfactory bacteriological standards, colony counts being well within the provisional classification range. Complaints received from members of the public concerning the condition of milk bottles included one relating to the presence of a wooden peg, and another to the presence of a snail. Proceedings were instituted in both these cases. There seems little improvement in the manner in which milk bottles are treated by certain members of the public, and this is a matter of some concern to the trade. It is certainly a factor which is influencing the change-over to packeted milk which is coming on to the market in increasing quantities. Whilst cartoned milk eliminates the hazard arising from dirty returns from customers, as it is at present marketed it tends to increase costs and, in certain circumstances, may contribute to the litter problem.

It is pleasing, however, to note the development of ultra-heat treatment of milk, which, in addition to efficiently heat treating the milk, has the effect of preserving its keeping quality for long periods which should enable milk to be delivered to the householder less frequently than once daily, with a consequent reduction in distribution costs. This, together with the added effect of increased vehicle pay loads due to pre-packing in cartons rather than bottles, may well be instrumental in supplanting the traditional milk bottle by cartons. This would certainly eliminate one of the milk distributors hazard's—that of the dirty milk bottle.

**Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963**

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 ...	335	Phosphatase	335	—	—
		Methylene Blue	332	3	—
Sterilised	88	Turbidity	88	—	—
Untreated	122	Methylene Blue	100	19	3

The efficient pasteurisation of milk continued throughout 1965, there being no phosphatase failures during the year. 3 samples of Pasteurised Milk failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test, but the number of samples of Raw Milk failing the Methylene Blue test, was somewhat higher than was the case last year. This untreated milk, sold mainly from vending machines in the town, came from outside sources. Failures were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who are responsible for the bacteriological standard of milk produced on farms, and investigations were made by the Ministry's Milk Officers. The causes for Untreated Milk failures were found to be inefficient sterilisation of equipment, etc., at the dairy, and improper keeping either at the dairy or for unduly long periods in vending machines. In one case, a formal warning was given under Sections 43/44 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

### **Brucella Abortus**

The quantity of Raw Milk sold within the Borough, is very small indeed and comes from three producers with establishments outside the Borough. No samples were submitted for examination for Brucella Abortus. The three sources mentioned are checked by the County Authorities.

### **Antibiotics in Milk**

The bulk farm milk supplies coming into the Reading Processing Dairy were examined for the presence of penicillin during the year under review, when 79 samples were tested. One sample was reported to contain 0.2 international units per millilitre of penicillin. The producer was warned in this case and a follow-up sample proved satisfactory. In view of the changing circumstances of milk collection—milk is now collected in bulk tankers at the farm instead of being delivered in churns from the individual farms—discussions took place with the appropriate authorities so as to ensure that there is proper sampling coverage of milk supplies both for bacteriological condition and antibiotic content.

### **School Milk**

The quality of milk delivered to the Council's Schools continued to be satisfactory. Checks were made under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act. All milk supplied to schools is pasteurised.

### **Ice Cream**

The number of dealers registered for the storage and sale of ice cream during 1965, was slightly greater than that for 1964, there being 617 dealers on the register at the end of the year. The number of establishments manufacturing ice cream is now one. One large distributing depot from which soft ice-cream vans operated, closed down during the year, whilst another firm came into operation in a different part of the town.

The bulk of samples reported in provisional grades 3 and 4, shown below, were obtained from these soft ice-cream manufacturing vehicles which operate from a central depot. Ice cream mix is stored at the depot in sealed cans and is converted into soft ice cream in a continuous freezer installed in the van. Ice cream manufacture, of course, takes place at various points on the vehicle's round, according to demand. There is some disadvantage in this system in that relatively small quantities of ice cream are produced in numerous small plants which operate under a minimum of supervision. The basis of good hygienic quality of the product, is constantly high standards of sterilisation of plant and equipment, coupled with good hygienic



**HYGIENE IN THE KITCHEN**  
**(Reading School Meals Service)**





standards of the operators, and this can best be achieved in established premises where operations are carried out under constant skilled supervision.

During 1965, 153 samples of ice cream and 6 samples of liquid mix were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and the results of the tests applied are as follows:—

	<i>Ice Cream</i>	<i>Liquid Mix</i>
Provisional Grade 1 . . . .	116	4
Provisional Grade 2 . . . .	12	2
Provisional Grade 3 . . . .	13	—
Provisional Grade 4 . . . .	12	—

### **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*

Some 5,546 visits were made to food premises registered or otherwise subject to regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, during 1965. Inspection of the conditions in food establishments is probably the most important aspect of food hygiene work. Whilst it was not possible to inspect all the establishments as frequently as one would desire, by arranging priorities reasonable coverage was maintained during the year. Particular attention was given to restaurants and cafes, meat preparation establishments, dairies, bakehouses and similar places where the more susceptible foods are handled and prepared. A number of complaints were received from the public relating to food handling, which indicates public concern in this matter.

Although it was necessary to call the attention of some food traders to structural and other conditions, it was found that the Food Hygiene Regulations were fairly well observed during the year. It will be noted, however, on page 90, that proceedings were instituted in respect of a smoking offence in a food shop and unsatisfactory conditions in two hot dog stands which is a form of food trading apparently on the increase. Special attention was given to these itinerant food traders during the year, inspections being carried out late at night, which seems to be the time when these food vehicles are particularly active. As a result of this increased attention, there was a greater degree of consultation on the part of mobile traders prior to setting up in business. If this practice can be developed with regard to both mobile traders and those operating in shops, it should tend towards more satisfactory conditions and greater co-operation between the trade and the department.

The sale of food in pre-packed form, notably meat, meat products, bacon, cheese and confectionery, is extending—supermarketing and chain store trading is also increasing. Whilst food which is satisfactorily pre-packed under hygienic conditions, is a step forward as a means of protecting food from contamination, it does bring its problems. Pre-packed food which is not kept under refrigerated conditions, is not protected from normal deterioration and it is important for retailers to appreciate that the condition of food, as sold to the public, is primarily their responsibility, so that the proper coding of stocks, as they arrive from suppliers, and

strict rotation subsequently, is particularly important. Likewise, with large-scale food production, the output from one establishment places increasing numbers of consumers at risk. Therefore, if public health is to benefit from this development, standards of hygiene and production control should improve accordingly. As under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, certain premises are required to have trained first-aid personnel, so there is the corollary that personnel trained in the principles of food hygiene should be required to be employed in certain food establishments.

### Hygiene Education

The Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition which is arranged each year for the information of the public and especially for young people, presented a useful opportunity for illustrating the work of the department in respect of food hygiene.

During the year, film shows were given to members of the catering staff of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and talks were given to the employees of a number of food traders in the town. We also met a number of requests from organisations in the town for talks on different aspects of food administration.

A point raised by one or two women's organisations during the year, related to the question of allowing dogs in shops. Whilst the law prohibits food traders from keeping pets in food rooms and they are required to take all reasonable steps to prevent contamination, the law does not prohibit customers' pets from the shop itself. Some traders have pointed out what, to them, seems to be an unfair situation, and have expressed their desire for a law prohibiting customers' pets from entering shops. This is certainly desirable from a public health point of view. For the present, and until the weight of public opinion causes the law to be changed, notices are available to traders which request that customers should leave their dogs outside the shop. If this can be supplemented by the provision of a halter to which dogs' leashes may be fastened whilst their owners do their shopping, this, I am sure, would help.

It would appear, however, that some members of the public are not so co-operative as they could be in this matter.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to give sufficient attention to the question of food hygiene instruction to food handlers. It is hoped that circumstances will be more favourable for this work next year.

It has been said elsewhere that good surroundings induce good habits. Progress is being made on the improvement of general hygienic standards in the town which should, in the long term, help in cultivating the right attitude to health and hygiene. Attention is being given to Public Conveniences. Improvements which involve the installation of bathrooms, wash basins and hot water in houses, are proceeding on a voluntary and compulsory basis. There is no doubt that standards of construction and hygiene facilities in food shops and other places of employment, are improving. All this tends to create the kind of environment which is conducive to good hygiene habits.



FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS—DOG HALTER RAIL  
OUTSIDE FOOD SHOP



## FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

- (1) Number of Premises  
 (2) Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16  
 (3) Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies  
 (4) Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19

Type	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Butchers	97	97	97	97
Grocers	305	305	305	305
Cake Shops	47	47	47	47
Fish Shops (Wet)	32	32	32	32
Fish Shops (Fried)	36	36	36	36
Greengrocers	96	96	96	96
School Canteens	31	31	31	31
Works Canteens	28	28	28	28
Cafés	91	91	91	91
Sweet Shops	148	148	146	146
Bakehouses	13	13	13	13
Licensed Premises	154	154	154	154

## Food Complaints and Legal Proceedings

The general public's interest in the question of food and food handling standards, is reflected, in some measure, in the number of complaints received during the year in connection with these matters and which exceeded 100. All complaints were investigated, and whilst, in some instances, complaints were found to be unjustified, the Health Committee instructed that warnings should be given in 16 cases, and that legal proceedings should be instituted in 13 others. Details are given below:—

## Warnings

Plum Jam	fibrous material
Apple Continental Cake	piece of wire
Baked Beans	extraneous material
Savoury Meat	mouldy
Cherry Flan Filling	piece of glass
Tin of Garden Peas	extraneous material
Packet of Cereals	extraneous matter
Apple Turnover	mouldy
Bacon Croquettes	mouldy
Cake	mouldy
Bread	insect
Pork Pie	mouldy
Bread	insect
Bread	extraneous material
Jar of Piccalilli	piece of glass
Loaf	nail

*Reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*

Tin of Corned Beef with Cereal . . .	extraneous material
Tin of Luncheon Meat Loaf . . .	mouldy

*Legal Proceedings**Food and Drugs Act, 1955*

Snail in milk bottle . . . . .	Fined £30, plus 3 gns. costs
Mouldy Steak and Kidney Pie . . .	Fined £20, plus 3 gns. costs
Mouldy Chicken and Ham Pie . . .	Fined £20, plus 3 gns. costs
Mouldy Steak and Kidney Pie . . .	Fined £20, plus 3 gns. costs
Piece of wood in confectionery . .	Fined £5, plus 3 gns. costs
Clothes peg in bottle of milk . . .	Fined £20

*Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960*

Unsatisfactory meat carrying vehicle delivering meat to School Kitchen Unsatisfactory meat carrying vehicle in Abattoirs Yard	} Fined £80
Smoking whilst handling food.	
Hot Dog Stand, unsatisfactory conditions.	Fined £8 plus 3 gns. costs.
Hot Dog Stand, unsatisfactory conditions.	Fined £18 plus 3 gns. costs.

*Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) No. 7 Order, 1934*

Meat not properly marked . . . . .	Fined £10 under Merchandise Marks Act, and £8 under Imported Goods Order
------------------------------------	--

*Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958*

Cruelty to a pig . . . . .	Fined £10, plus 3 gns. costs
----------------------------	------------------------------

*Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958*

One case dismissed *re* alleged smoking in slaughterhouse

**Merchandise Marks Act**

Food premises were regularly checked in connection with the marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale—some 903 visits being concerned with this matter.

It was necessary to take legal proceedings in the case of a butcher exposing for sale imported meat and offal unmarked in contravention of the above Act.

A fine of £10 was imposed under the Merchandise Marks Act, and £4 on each of two summonses under the Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) No. 7 Order, 1934.

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

Legislation which came into operation during 1965 included the Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1965, which amended the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

These regulations prescribe a new, special designation "Ultra Heat Treated" in relation to milk which has been processed by the ultra high temperature method, i.e., heated to not less than 270°F for not less than one second. The milk will be required to satisfy the prescribed colony count test.

The claim for milk so treated is that provided aseptic precautions are taken, it will keep in a satisfactory condition for long periods.

The other designated milks are "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Untreated".

### The Dried Milk Regulations, 1965

These Regulations came into force in September, 1965, superseding the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

The principal changes are:—

- (a) Minimum and maximum percentages (calculated by weight) are prescribed for the milk fat content of dried milks.
- (b) The description "dried low fat skimmed milk" is permitted for dried, skimmed milk, the upper limit of milk fat content having been reduced from 8% to 1.5%.

During the year, 424 samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination. 13 (3.07%) were reported to be not up to standard. The figure for 1964 was 5.71%.

Of the samples obtained, 116 were of milk, and of these, 3 (2.58%) were below the prescribed standard. This, compared with 1 (0.94%) out of a total of 106 obtained last year.

Details of the 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 Essence .. .. .	1	1	—
Antipasta .. .. .	1	1	—
Aspirin .. .. .	2	2	—
Bacon Krisp .. .. .	1	1	—
Bacon and Mushroom in Sauce .. .. .	1	1	—
Balsam—Bronchial .. .. .	1	1	—
Beans with Frankfurters .. .. .	1	1	—
Beans with Hamburgers .. .. .	1	1	—
Beans in Tomato Sauce .. .. .	2	2	—
Beef—Corned .. .. .	6	6	—
Beef—Curried .. .. .	1	1	—
Beef—Minced in Gravy .. .. .	1	1	—
Beef—Potted .. .. .	1	1	—
Beefburgers .. .. .	2	2	—
Beefsteak .. .. .	1	1	—
Beetroot in Redcurrant Jelly .. .. .	1	1	—
Bile Beans .. .. .	1	1	—
Biscuits .. .. .	4	4	—
Black Pudding .. .. .	2	2	—
Borax B.P. .. .. .	1	1	—
Bread .. .. .	8	6	2
Browning—Gravy .. .. .	1	1	—
Butter .. .. .	7	7	—
Butter—Peanut .. .. .	1	1	—
Cakes—Various .. .. .	14	14	—
Cake and Sponge Mix .. .. .	4	4	—
Calcium Hypochphosphite .. .. .	1	1	—
Cereal .. .. .	1	1	—
Cheese/Cream Cheese/Cheese Spread .. .. .	7	7	—
Cheese—Macaroni .. .. .	1	1	—
Cherries—Glacé .. .. .	2	2	—
Chicken Capri .. .. .	1	1	—
Chicken and Egg Savoury .. .. .	1	1	—
Chicken and Vegetable Casserole .. .. .	1	1	—
Chicken Fritters .. .. .	1	1	—



## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Chicken Supreme with Rice .. .. .	1	1	—
Coconut—Desiccated .. .. .	2	1	1
Coffee .. .. .	2	2	—
Colouring—Caramel .. .. .	1	1	—
Cough Mixture and Syrup .. .. .	4	4	—
Cream—Single .. .. .	3	3	—
Cream—Double .. .. .	1	1	—
Custard Powder .. .. .	1	1	—
Dessert Powder .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Calcium .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Chocolate .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Cider .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Ginger Beer Shandy .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Ginger Cordial .. .. .	1	1	—
Drinks—Soft .. .. .	2	2	—
Dripping .. .. .	1	1	—
Faggots .. .. .	1	1	—
Fish Cakes .. .. .	2	2	—
Fish and Tomato strained .. .. .	1	1	—
Flour—Plain .. .. .	1	1	—
Flour—Self Raising .. .. .	1	1	—
Flavouring—Vanilla .. .. .	2	2	—
Frosting Mix .. .. .	1	—	1
Fruit—Dried .. .. .	5	5	—
Fruit—Fresh .. .. .	3	3	—
Fruit—Juices .. .. .	7	7	—
Fruit—Tinned .. .. .	9	8	1
Ginger—Root .. .. .	1	1	—
Glycerine .. .. .	2	2	—
Hamburgers .. .. .	1	1	—
Honey .. .. .	1	1	—
Hydrochloric Acid .. .. .	1	1	—
Jam/Jelly .. .. .	2	2	—
Jelly—Table .. .. .	1	1	—
Ketchup .. .. .	2	2	—
Lard .. .. .	2	2	—
Lentils .. .. .	1	1	—
Margarine .. .. .	3	3	—
Marshmallow .. .. .	1	1	—
Mayonnaise .. .. .	1	1	—
Meringue .. .. .	1	1	—
Metho-lyptus Tablets .. .. .	1	1	—
Milk .. .. .	116	113	3
Milk—Evaporated .. .. .	4	4	—
Milk—Condensed .. .. .	4	4	—
Milk Powder .. .. .	2	2	—
Mincemeat .. .. .	3	2	1
Mint Jelly .. .. .	1	1	—
Mustard .. .. .	4	4	—
Oatmeal .. .. .	1	1	—
Oil—Cottonseed .. .. .	1	1	—
Oil—Olive .. .. .	1	1	—
Oil—Vegetable .. .. .	1	1	—
Panets .. .. .	1	1	—
Pasty—Cornish .. .. .	2	1	1
Pastry—Puff .. .. .	1	1	—
Peas—Garden .. .. .	5	5	—
Peas—Processed .. .. .	2	2	—
Peel—Mixed Cut .. .. .	1	1	—
Pickles, Chutney and Sauces .. .. .	14	14	—
Pies—Meat Various .. .. .	5	5	—
Pies—Fruit .. .. .	1	1	—
Pie Filling—Fruit .. .. .	3	3	—

## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Pork—Chopped .. .. .	1	1	—
Pork—Luncheon Meat .. .. .	1	1	—
Porkburgers .. .. .	1	1	—
Porridge Oats .. .. .	1	1	—
Potato—Instant .. .. .	1	1	—
Pudding—Christmas .. .. .	1	1	—
Pudding—Pease .. .. .	1	1	—
Pudding—Plum .. .. .	2	2	—
Pudding—Rice .. .. .	2	2	—
Ravioli in Tomato Sauce .. .. .	1	1	—
Rice .. .. .	1	1	—
Rice—Ground .. .. .	1	1	—
Rice and Tomatoes .. .. .	1	1	—
Salad Cream .. .. .	1	1	—
Salmon—Tinned .. .. .	1	1	—
Salt—Table .. .. .	3	3	—
Sardines .. .. .	2	2	—
Sausage—Beef .. .. .	7	7	—
Sausage—Frankfurter .. .. .	1	1	—
Sausage—Liver .. .. .	1	1	—
Sausage—Pork .. .. .	9	9	—
Sausage—Pork and Chicken .. .. .	1	1	—
Sausage Meat—Beef .. .. .	2	2	—
Sausage Meat—Pork .. .. .	2	2	—
Sausage Rolls .. .. .	4	4	—
Semolina .. .. .	1	1	—
Soup .. .. .	4	4	—
Spaghetti .. .. .	2	2	—
Spices .. .. .	1	1	—
Steak—Stewed with Gravy .. .. .	1	—	1
Sugar—Brown .. .. .	2	2	—
Sugar—Coffee crystal .. .. .	1	1	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery .. .. .	8	7	1
Tartrazol Yellow .. .. .	1	1	—
Tea .. .. .	1	1	—
Toffee Apple .. .. .	1	1	—
Tonic Tablets .. .. .	1	1	—
Vegetable .. .. .	2	2	—
Vegetable Fat .. .. .	1	1	—
Vinegar—Malt .. .. .	3	3	—
Vitamin Pills .. .. .	1	1	—
Welsh Rarebit .. .. .	1	1	—
Wine .. .. .	4	4	—
Wine—Non-Alcoholic .. .. .	1	—	1
Yeast .. .. .	1	1	—
Yeast-Vite Tablets .. .. .	1	1	—
Yoghurt .. .. .	2	2	—
	424	411	13

**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
13	Milk Chocolate Tea Cakes	Informal	Incorrectly described—contained no milk fat	Matter taken up with manufacturers
34	Stewed Steak with Gravy	Formal	Deficient in meat—contained 69%	Proceedings recommended but not proceeded with due to difficulty in serving notice. (Canned in Northern Ireland)
61	White Loaf	Informal	Contained charred crust	Bakery informed. No further action
68	Milk	Formal	14% added water. Hot milk obtained at Café	Legal proceedings. Fined £25
71	Milk	Formal	3% added water. Hot milk obtained from Café	Letter of warning
95	White Bread	Informal	Contained charred crust	Bakery informed. No further action
113	Non-alcoholic Ruby Wine Compound	Informal	Neither non-alcoholic nor a wine	Obtained from Somerset County Council Result passed to S.C.C.
129	Frosting Mix	Informal	Incorrect labelling	Matter taken up with manufacturer
138	Cornish Pasty	Informal	Mouldy	Letter of warning
242	Canned apricots	Informal	Contained mould	Affected apricots withdrawn from use in School canteen
376	Desiccated Coconut	Informal	Mouldy and discoloured	Follow-up sample satisfactory Matter taken up with manufacturer
325	Milk	Informal	70% Deficient in fat	Formal sample no. 340 satisfactory
378	Mince-meat	Informal	Contained 63.2% soluble solids	Warning issued

### Drink Coolers

Following publicity in the national press with regard to the quality of water used in imported drink coolers, a number were submitted for bacteriological examination. Whilst no pathogens were found, results indicated that the water in some coolers was not of a satisfactory standard. Distributors withdrew stocks from sale on the advice of the department.

### Lead Pencils

There was publicity in the national press during the year with regard to imported coloured pencil crayons, mainly from the Far East, which were alleged to contain excessive amounts of lead in the paint and core of the crayons. The position was investigated locally and a series of samples of foreign crayons were submitted for analysis. A fair proportion of crayons were found to contain lead in excess of the permissible limit of 250 parts per million.

Distributors and retailers were contacted and as far as could be ascertained, all suspect crayons were withdrawn from sale. The appropriate government department was also informed so that, if necessary, action could be taken by way of import control.

## 3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Dark Smoke

Although there were one or two occasions during the year when smoke emissions from industrial or commercial premises, were such as to be in contravention of Section

1 of the Clean Air Act, emissions of dark smoke from chimneys are becoming comparatively rare, as almost all of our former persistent offenders have been eliminated. In the case of one boiler installation which was the subject of complaints both in 1964 and 1965, conversion from solid fuel to oil firing was virtually completed at the end of the year. Firms causing occasional trouble have been concerned that matters should be put right and have been co-operative throughout the year. In some instances, faults were due to the unsatisfactory nature of the fuel or defects in the installation. We have found both the Coal Board and the oil companies most helpful in dealing with their appropriate problems. There is no doubt that the spur of efficiency applies as much to boiler installations these days as with the rest of the field of production. Only 6 formal notices under Section 30 were required to be served during the year.

### Installation of New Furnaces

New furnaces installed during the year were as follows:—

Type of Furnace	Fuel		
	Oil	Gas	Solid Fuel
Warm Air Heaters .. .. .	5	—	—
Sectional Heating Boilers .. .. .	19	6	1
Steam Boilers .. .. .	2	—	—

It will be noted that the industrial and commercial furnaces installed were predominately oil fired, a few were gas fired and only one was for solid fuel.

All the new installations of furnaces and boilers were kept under close scrutiny by the department, either at the time of notification or at an earlier stage when plans were submitted for byelaw approval. Whenever necessary, there was consultation with the firms concerned, and in one case, involving the installation of a rotary steel furnace, it was ultimately decided that fuel with a substantially lower sulphur content should be used.

### Chimney Heights

Although Section 10 of the Clean Air Act only applies to chimneys other than chimneys of shops, offices or dwellings, it is customary to comment and make recommendations in respect of all chimneys. The effect of the discharge from a chimney is not dependent upon whether it serves an office, shop or factory but upon its size, the fuel burnt, the efficiency with which it operates and the environment in which it is to be situated. It seems illogical that the chimney height requirements of the Clean Air Act are restricted in their application according to the type of premises served. In view of the fact that boiler and heating installations for many shops and offices have outputs in excess of 650,000 B.Th.U.s per hour—the minimum figure specified in the Memorandum on Chimney Heights issued by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government in 1963—and such premises are usually in areas of urban development where an adequate chimney height is of prime importance for dispersal reasons, it seems proper that this section of the Act should be extended to cover these premises.

There was close collaboration between the Planning Department and developers on this question of chimney heights, and it was possible to find a satisfactory solution with the cases dealt with during the year.

During the year under review, some 40 cases of new chimneys were dealt with, and in 7 instances, after the submission of plans, increased heights were recommended.

In other cases, plans submitted were found to be satisfactory, partly due to prior consultations with the developers.

Discussions with the Ministry and the Hospital Authorities concerning hospital extensions in the town, resulted in a recommendation being put forward that a new chimney installation should be submitted to wind tunnel tests.

Reading is an expanding town; new factories and other types of commercial premises are being constructed, all of which consume fuel for heat or power, and in the town generally there is a tendency towards greater comfort by way of improved heating. It is the purpose of the department, by giving advice on the selection and equipping of new fuel-burning installations and by controlling the heights of new chimneys, to limit, as far as possible, air pollution from industrial, commercial and other premises, and to assist in preserving and indeed improving the relatively clean air of the town.

### **Complaints and Observations**

In addition to the cases of dark smoke observed from industrial chimneys, some 16 complaints were received relating to nuisance from smoke, grit and fumes. In connection with these complaints and observations, a total of 305 visits were made to premises.

Some of these complaints again related to nuisances from bonfires which generally arise due to a lack of forethought on the part of the persons burning refuse in the garden. This really is a matter for good neighbourliness and if care were taken to ensure that materials were dry and were burnt at a time and in conditions when there is less likelihood of nuisance, most of these complaints would not arise.

It was necessary again this year to investigate a complaint relating to fumes from diesel cars in the vicinity of the West Reading Station.

Two complaints received related to emissions of grit, dust and fume from iron foundry cupolas. One complaint was under investigation at the end of the year and the other instance was due to unusual atmospheric conditions which caused down-wash from the chimney. Under normal wind conditions, there is satisfactory dispersal of the cupola effluent. In respect of every other complaint, informal action produced the desired results.

There was close liaison with the District Alkali Works inspectorate during the year in connection with processes registered under the Alkali Works Act. The problem of brick kilns and potteries is being kept under observation nationally and experimentation is proceeding here with regard to oil firing and mechanical firing with solid fuel.

The technological development in the gas industry has undoubtedly brought benefit to the town from the point of view of minimising air pollution. Coal gasification is now largely replaced by oil conversion units and local gas production is being supplemented by methane which is coming into this country in increasing quantities.

It will be interesting to see, in the next few years, what effect supplies of North Sea gas has on fuel usage in the town.

### **Air Pollution Investigation**

The measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations by means of multi-port volumetric instruments continued at Bristol & West House; Corporation Yard, Great Knollys Street, and Southcote Clinic during the year. 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 results obtained were forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for assessment in connection with the national survey on air pollution.

By the 31st August, 1965, the volumetric instruments on the three sites had been operating for a period of three years. The results from the three years have been summarised and are shown below:—

YEARLY AVERAGE OF MONTHLY FIGURES

September 1st, 1962—August 31st, 1965

Microgrammes per cubic metre

SITE NO. 9. BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE

SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
88.3	71.0	65.4	151.4	97.7	110.4
% drop 1962-1965: 25.9			% drop 1962-1965: 27.0		

SITE NO. 12. CORPORATION YARD, GREAT KNOLLYS STREET

SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
81.0	67.2	54.9	72.0	57.5	59.2
% drop 1962-1965: 32.2			% drop 1962-1965: 17.7		

SITE NO. 13. SOUTHCOTE CLINIC

SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
60.1	44.2	36.9	76.6	59.4	59.0
% drop 1962-1965: 38.6			% drop 1962-1965: 22.9		

In presenting this summary, I am bound to say that, for strict accuracy, readings such as these should be compared over a considerable number of years, and consideration must also be given to the fact that pollution comparisons can also be affected by many variables—temperature and wind directions being particularly important. Nevertheless, the figures, such as they are, show the kind of trend we expected and which should result from a progressive smoke control programme. For the three sites, there is an apparent reduction of approximately 32% in respect of smoke, and 22% in respect of sulphur dioxide.

The improvement shown on the Southcote Clinic site is interesting as the Southcote No. 9 Smoke Control Order came into operation on the 1st September, 1965, and fireplace adaptations and a change-over to the use of smokeless fuels, continued through 1964 and 1965. Some 1,000 dwellings in the area have been converted to the burning of smokeless fuel. Perhaps, therefore, we have not yet seen the full benefit of smoke control reflected in the Southcote Clinic site results.

There can be little doubt that the dieselisation of the railways has improved conditions in the Corporation Yard, and probably at Bristol & West House, whilst the latter will also have been improved as a result of the modernisation of large establishments in the town and the increasing use being made of gas, electricity and other smokeless fuels in the central area.

### General Comment on S.O.<sub>2</sub> Problem

The figures referred to above show that ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide in Reading during 1965, was generally satisfactory having regard to the nature of the town. Although research has not so far shown that the concentrations of sulphur dioxide and sulphuric acid normally present in the atmosphere, have a harmful effect on man, in high concentrations these substances are undoubtedly toxic. According to the report for 1964 of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, laboratory studies of concentrations similar to and indeed considerably higher than those usually found in the ambient air, have failed to show any deleterious effects on the body, and the amounts found even in times of high pollution, are well below those allowable in factory atmospheres. He states, further, that—"the possibility or perhaps even the probability exists that these substances may have a harmful effect when associated with other pollutants or when incorporated in particles of solid pollutants, but no clear evidence of this has yet been found." There can be no question, however, of the deleterious effects that atmospheric concentrations of S.O.<sub>2</sub> have upon metals, stonework, fabrics, etc. Whilst there has been some argument that, as there are no practical means of eliminating S.O.<sub>2</sub> from the bulk of our fuels, the advantages obtained from smoke control measures are very limited, it must be borne in mind that increased efficiency arising from the use of smokeless fuels will, in itself, reduce the emission of sulphur oxides by anything up to 25%, depending on the proportion of coal being used in an area for heating purposes. With increasing urbanisation in the town, all practical means must be utilised to minimise pollution in all its forms.

### Smoke Control Areas

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

#### 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	Confirmed	Sept. 1st, 1965
10	Bath Road . . .	290	1,300	Awaiting Minister's Confirmation	
TOTAL . . .		1,339	4,931		

The Reading No. 9 Smoke Control Order became operative on the 1st September, 1965, and prior to this date, fireplace adaptations were completed within the area during the year. It was necessary to serve a Statutory Notice under Section 12 of the Act in respect of one adaptation which was not carried out until after the operative date.

The Bath Road No. 10 Smoke Control Area was submitted to the Minister at the end of the year and preliminary work was undertaken to prepare a comprehensive plan for the whole Borough, incorporating complete smoke control within a specified period.

An important innovation during the year was the receipt of Circular No. 51/65 which modifies the principles to be observed in the payment of grant for "reasonably necessary" fireplace adaptations in smoke control areas. In order to simplify procedure and speed up the establishment of smoke control areas, the Ministry, for the first time, has laid down cost limits for various types of appliances. This is an important precedent and one presumes that these costs will now be amended from time to time by the Ministry according to current increases in prices so that local authorities are aware, in the case of any particular appliance, what is its approved limit of cost.

In the case of appliances obtainable locally, it was found that prices had increased or were due for increase during the year, and the adoption of the Ministry list for maximum cost limits, proved satisfactory.

#### 4. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

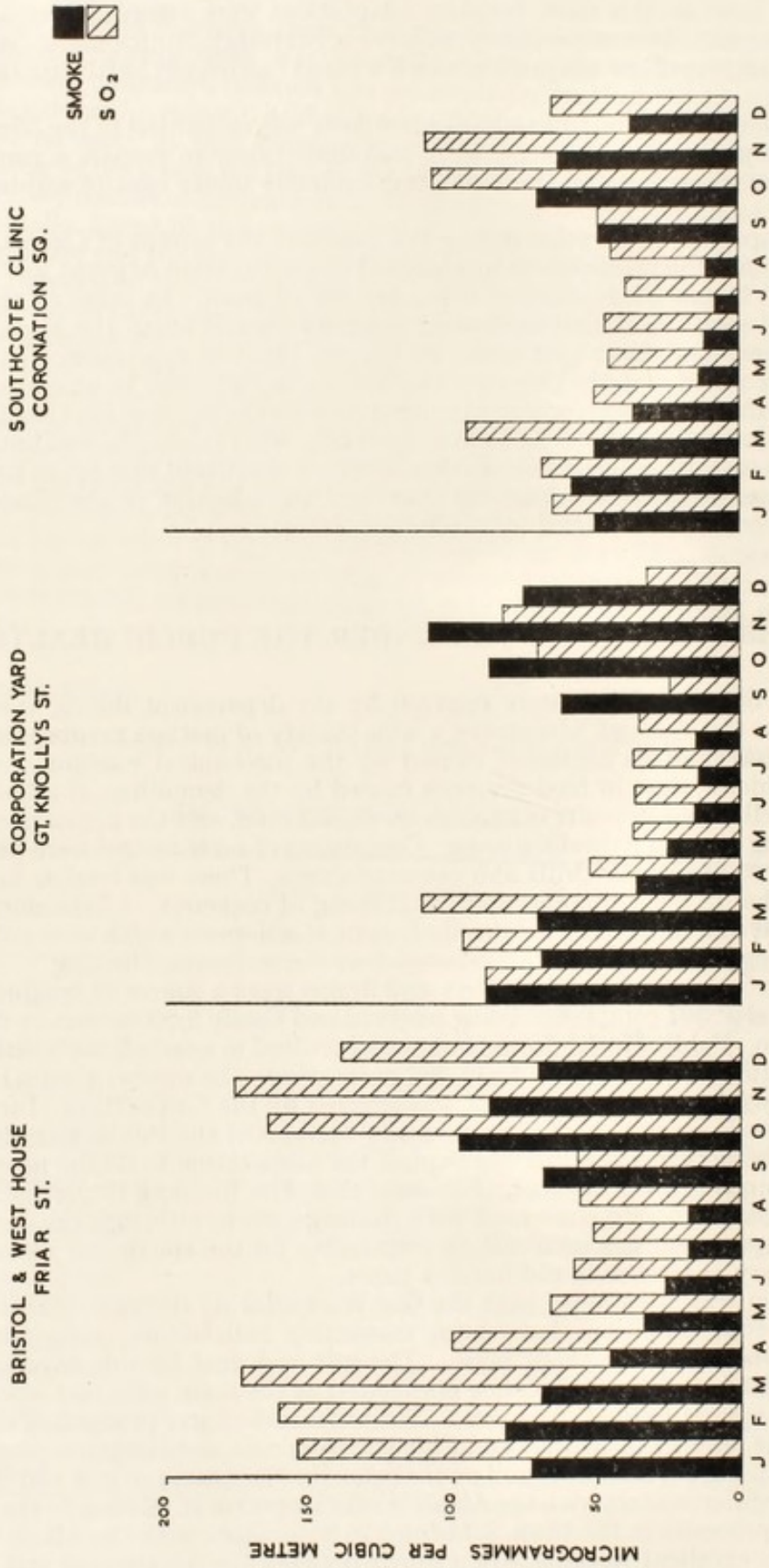
Some 582 complaints were received by the department during the year from residents in the Borough concerning a wide variety of matters ranging from bonfires in a hospital yard to nuisances caused by the mechanical washing-down of road service vehicles; dust in food premises caused by the demolition of adjoining buildings; miscellaneous deposits of rubbish on vacant land, and the appearance of fungus in the living room of a dwellinghouse. Complaints of noise ranged from yapping dogs to the use of pneumatic drills and cement mixers. There was trouble in residential property due to noisy families and the crowing of cockerels. 1,315 informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, these being referred to in the section on Housing.

Obstructed and defective sewers and drains were a source of trouble again this year, a total of 507 complaints being received and nearly 2,000 sewers or drains being attended to. Public Health Inspectors were involved in nearly 2,200 visits in connection with this matter. Apart from 362 cases where the owners themselves did the necessary work, clearance or repair was effected by the Corporation. Increasing use has been made by owners of the emergency sections of the Public Health Act, 1961, whereby the person concerned can request the Corporation to do the necessary work and, of course, recover the cost. For some time, the Building Department has been the department mostly concerned with drainage work, although the Borough Surveyor's Department has been mainly responsible for the emergency measures which are necessary at weekends and holiday times.

Contact was maintained with the Gas Works during the year, and it is pleasing to report that conditions have been reasonably satisfactory, although there has been complaint, chiefly about noise. The grit and dust trouble experienced some time ago, has now been completely eliminated as the main solid fuel stocks are kept in a more remote part of the works. The extension of gas production from oil has reduced the number of retorts producing gas from coal, resulting in a lesser tendency to cause nuisance from smell, and at the same time, emission of grit and dust. There has been regular contact with the Alkali Works Inspector in relation to the Gas Works and other processes in the town, scheduled in accordance with the Alkali Works Act. There is an excellent working arrangement between the department and that of the Alkali Works Inspectorate, each keeping the other fully informed on matters of



AVERAGE MONTHLY SMOKE CONCENTRATIONS FOR 1965 VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS



mutual concern. There were several complaints during the year relating to the dumping of rubbish on plots of vacant land in the town. This is becoming an increasing problem. Unfortunately, the provisions of the Public Health Acts are not conducive to summary action, although it was possible to clear these matters up within a reasonable time. The infiltration of dust from a demolition site into a food establishment, was an interesting problem, and is a consequence of the redevelopment which is going on in the town. In this case, it was possible to alleviate the conditions with the co-operation of the contractors. In most cases, it was found that the people concerned were anxious to do whatever they could to avoid trouble, and after an informal approach, conditions were usually found to be satisfactory.

There was a variety of complaints again this year concerning noise. This is due to many factors. Besides the vast expansion in the scale of mechanisation, industrial and commercial machinery and equipment is being designed to give greater output, units tend to be smaller, occupy less space and operate at higher velocities, consequently noise has increased in volume and, in many instances, is accentuated. There is therefore an increasing tendency for complaints, particularly in districts of mixed development, i.e., where factories and workshops are in proximity to dwellings and offices.

One or two complaints related to the use of compressors and pneumatic drills. There was trouble from a loudspeaker system in a factory in a mixed development area. There was also difficulty from noise emanating from a house newly occupied by a family of immigrants who, gregarious and voluble as they were, tended to overlook the fact that they were in a new environment where most people, at any rate, tend to keep their own noise to themselves.

All the complaints were satisfactorily dealt with, with the exception of one which was still pending at the end of the year; there was one other case where action was deemed not to be necessary. One case being dealt with at the end of last year, was successfully concluded when a vehicle lift manufacturer was able to provide a remedy to a vehicle tail lift which was creating trouble when in use during the early hours of the morning.

The department has been asked to a great extent to give advice on noise problems at the planning stage. This enables preventative measures to be taken at the right time. Such measures include the reduction of noise at the source by the selection or alteration of equipment and the lessening of noise transmission by damping, absorption or other construction methods.

It is interesting to note that, under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, the Minister has power to make regulations for protecting people employed in the type of premises to which the Act applies . . . "from injury to health arising from noise or vibration, and for preventing the welfare of persons so employed from being adversely affected by noise or vibration". It is clear that a great deal of work still needs to be done in the fields of both cause and effects of noise, before it would seem practicable to introduce regulations of this kind.

### **Disinfestation, Insanitary Premises and Disinfection**

It was necessary to treat only two verminous persons during the year, both vagrants. The home or lodging circumstances were investigated and appropriate action taken. For some time now the Common Lodging House has been regularly inspected and treated once monthly. The Salvation Army personnel, some of whom are resident in the establishment, keep a watchful eye on such matters as infestation and other nuisances, and collaborate with the department in every way.

A total of 196 complaints were received relating to insect pest infestations. These involved some 343 visits to premises for the purpose of inspection and treatment where appropriate. The number of cases of bed bugs was 44 during 1965 compared with 42 last year. Flies appeared to be also a little more prevalent this year than last. For some reason the conditions seem to favour certain types of insects more some years than others, but in the case of bed bugs and fleas, the conditions are difficult to define.

Cockroaches, fleas, ants and other miscellaneous insects were also dealt with. We again received every assistance and advice from the Director of the Museum who was good enough to identify specimens submitted to him for examination. A knowledge of the life history of the insect involved is particularly important and enables us to apply the right sort of treatment at the right time.

A number of complaints relating to insanitary premises were dealt with during the year, and where appropriate, the Domestic Help Service and the Welfare Officers were brought in. In one case where an owner/occupier had to be admitted to hospital, it was necessary for the Health Committee to give authority for emergency repairs to be carried out to the house in order to prevent nuisance to adjoining property and further damage in the house itself. The roof had been badly neglected and the house generally was in a dilapidated condition. Having exercised all the authority available under the Public Health Acts, the house is still unsuitable for occupation, so that the problem of providing suitable alternative accommodation will have to be met in the event of the patient being discharged from hospital. This is perhaps an extreme case. There are many others where the various services of the Corporation, including the Domestic Help Service, help persons and families to overcome their difficulties and enable them to re-establish themselves in the community.

There was trouble again this year among vacant houses in areas due for redevelopment, in that a number were used as doss houses by vagrants and others were misused by irresponsible elements. The Council have given instructions that houses under their control shall be properly barricaded against trespassers when they become vacant, and demolition is arranged as soon as circumstances allow. Private owners of vacant property are also required to make premises safe against trespassers until demolition can take place. Although owners are generally co-operative, barricades are quickly broken down and the only real safeguard is the bricking up of external openings at ground and basement levels—which is a costly business—or prompt demolition.

### **Common Lodging House**

62 visits and inspections were made to the Common Lodging House during the year and the premises were treated monthly to assist against possible infestation, a measure which appears to have been most successful. Having regard to the age and structural conditions of the premises, the Salvation Army maintained a reasonable standard during the year, although amenities and conditions are not everything to be desired. It is gratifying to know that alternative accommodation may be available for people living there in the near future.

### **Infectious Diseases**

The degree to which Public Health Inspectors are involved with infectious diseases these days, is very small indeed, only 2 inspections of premises being made during the year following infectious disease cases. This is a mark of the vast change which has taken place in the duties of Public Health Inspectors over the years.

### **Offensive Trades**

The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise: 1 blood drier and 1 rag and bone dealer. 12 visits were paid and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

### **Movable Dwellings**

There is now only one large licensed caravan site in the town. This is situated in the Scours Lane area. The conditions of licence, which provide for the standard of amenity, were reviewed some time ago and amongst other things, a water carriage

system of drainage was required to be installed. Ways and means are still being investigated as to how a water carriage system of drainage can be provided. The land is low-lying and the only way of connection to the sewer is by way of a rising main towards Oxford Road. A small-scale sewage purification plant has been considered, but the only practical proposition appears to be cesspools.

The site at Norcot has been run down and the land is now being developed for permanent housing. The few caravanners who were unable to accommodate themselves, have been allocated places on the Corporation's site at Elm House. Whilst caravans have a useful part to play in helping to solve the housing situation, unless they are adequate in size and are provided with the amenities of a house, there is really no proper place for them in the centre of urban areas. The Corporation site is situated on the southern extremities of the town, in pleasing surroundings, and has been given a life by the Corporation, in the first instance, of 15 years. Each carvan has its own W.C. and domestic store; hot water, bathing and laundry facilities are readily available. The occupants, some of whom have been there a matter of twelve months, have expressed their appreciation of the arrangements which have been made for them.

### Swimming Baths

The five main school baths situated at Reading School, Leighton Park School, St. Joseph's Convent, Queen Anne's Girls' School and the Abbey Girls' School, were operated satisfactorily during the year; all have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants installed.

An indoor, heated bath of 59,000 gallons capacity, was completed at Kendrick Girls' School, London Road, and came into operation early in 1966. Heating is by means of an oil-fired boiler, and an automatic chlorination plant has been installed.

There are a number of learner pools, these being situated at the Caversham Primary; Grove School; the No. IX School; Ashmead; Southcote Primary; Coley Primary; St. John's; Geoffrey Field School, and Grovelands Primary. Five 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, 26 samples of water were submitted for examination from public swimming baths, and 58 from school swimming baths. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### Drinking Water

56 samples of water were obtained from private wells used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trading establishments. 17 samples of public mains water were obtained during the year. Results which seem to be typical of a chemical examination of mains water supply, are as follows:—

	<i>Parts per million</i>
Ammonia saline . . . . .	Absent
Albuminoid . . . . .	0.16
Permanganate value (15 minutes) . . . . .	0.7
Permanganate value (4 hours) . . . . .	2.2
Nitrogen from nitrites . . . . .	Absent
Nitrogen from nitrates . . . . .	10.5

Chlorine . . . . .	24
Total solid residue . . . . .	457
Total hardness (as calcium carbonate) . . . . .	253
Permanent hardness (as calcium carbonate) . . . . .	72
Lead . . . . .	Absent
Iron in solution . . . . .	Absent
Total iron . . . . .	Absent
Zinc . . . . .	Absent
Reaction (p.h. value) . . . . .	6.9
Appearance . . . . .	Clear & colourless
Sediment . . . . .	None

The fluoride content of the mains public supply was 0.1 parts per million

### Public Conveniences

Attention continued to be given during the year to the Public Conveniences in the town. Progress was made with the improvements recommended by the Health Committee. This is a matter in which the Health Committee have expressed a special interest and have asked for periodic reports with a view to gradually improving the facilities available.

## 5. GENERAL

### Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

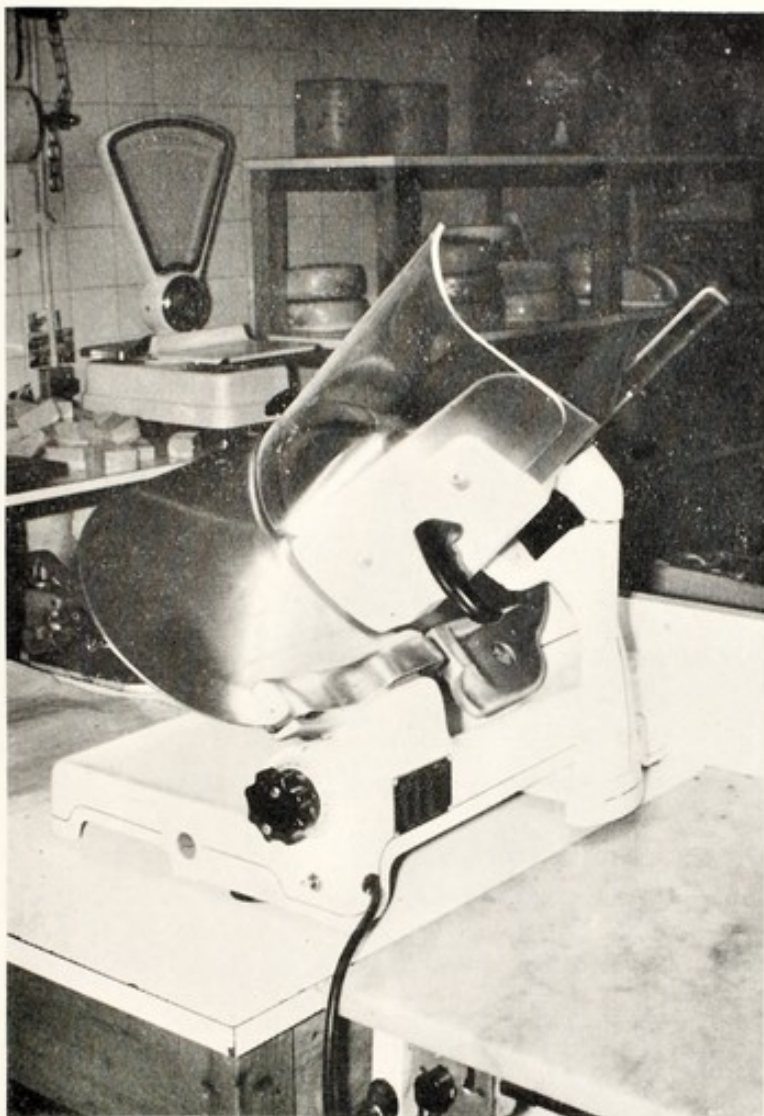
Duties under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act were allocated to the department at the beginning of 1965. By the end of the year, approximately two-thirds of the estimated number of premises affected by the Act, had been registered.

Whilst some of the work concerned with this new Act is in parallel with that required by other legislation already being enforced by Public Health Inspectors, much of it breaks new ground. Provisions relating to the guarding of machinery, the notification and investigation of accidents, and the training of personnel working in connection with dangerous machinery—an important aspect of this new work—has been found to take far more time than was at first envisaged.

There was close liaison with the Factories Inspectorate during the year in connection with premises which lie close to the definition of "Factory", and particularly with regard to local authority occupied buildings, many of which, being old and in some cases makeshifts, were found to be below standard. Whilst much work has been done by the Council, and more has been authorised, the existing buildings as a whole are not really satisfactory. This is freely admitted by the Council who are making every effort to secure accommodation more in keeping with modern requirements. It is to be hoped that the work will be able to proceed without delay.

The specialist divisions of the Ministry of Labour were especially helpful during the year in connection with the guarding of machinery and the technicalities involved with certain types of accidents.

One of the features of the new legislation is the Minister's power to make regulations for securing the health and safety of persons, and the controlling of noise and vibration with respect to premises to which the Act applies. Clearly regulations will only be made in the light of practical experience, therefore liaison between the Ministry and the local authority inspectorate, will be particularly important in connection with this matter. In fact, local authorities have already been asked to provide information with regard to lighting in certain types of premises, as will be seen in the



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT—  
GUARDING OF DANGEROUS MACHINERY



Annual Report to the Ministry, the text of which is given below:—

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1965

TABLE 'A'

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS	TOTALS Offices	155	672	152
	Retail shops	292	877	740
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	14	71	31
	Catering establish- ments open to the public, canteens	92	163	89
	Fuel storage depots	2	7	
	(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE 'B'

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

1,709

TABLE 'C'

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE	<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>Number of persons employed</i>
	(1)	(2)
	Offices	7,901
	Retail shops	7,591
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	1,261
	Catering establishments, open to the public	1,168
	Canteens	106
	Fuel storage depots	42
	TOTAL	18,069
	TOTAL MALES	7,845
	TOTAL FEMALES	10,224



In taking a cross-sectional view of the general inspections made, it was ascertained that, of 180 premises inspected, in 111 instances contraventions were detected. These in the main consisted of one or more of the following:—

- (a) failure to display an Abstract of the Act, or provide a copy of Book O.S.R. 9A
- (b) failure to display a Thermometer
- (c) failure to provide a First-Aid Box;
- (d) First-Aid Box provided—insufficient

Certificates of Exemption concerning First-Aid provisions under Section 24 of the Act, were granted in two instances during the period under review. Notifiable accidents were reported in 78 instances during the year, none of which were fatal. Upon investigation, it was ascertained that the causation was as follows:—

(a) cleaning machinery . . . . .	2
(b) <i>re</i> lifts . . . . .	2
(c) <i>re</i> conveyor . . . . .	1
(d) hand tools . . . . .	9
(e) falls of persons from fixed stairs . . . . .	10
(f) falls of persons from ladders, etc. . . . .	4
(g) falls of persons on same level . . . . .	16
(h) striking against obstructions . . . . .	3
(i) struck by falling object . . . . .	8
(j) strain through lifting or carrying . . . . .	10
(k) scalds . . . . .	4
(l) gassing . . . . .	1
(m) miscellaneous . . . . .	8

Investigation of one accident disclosed a dangerous practice of operating lift doors by an emergency key without switching off the motive power. Two other accidents were concerned with the cleaning of a bacon slicer and an inadequately guarded conveyor respectively. In the main, however, it would appear that lack of care or judgment in moving up and down staircases and ladders, traversing floor surfaces and lifting or carrying goods, was responsible for most of the accidents reported.

## APPENDIX

### Special Report on Lighting—Local Authority Circular No. 9

With regard to the question of lighting, the general impression was that artificial lighting in offices and shops was fairly good in parts. In offices, the standard of lighting at some essential points like desks and typewriters, was reasonably good, but in other parts of offices, a notable position being at filing cabinets, it was below the recommended standards in some cases.

In general, the illumination available was not utilised to the best advantage due to lack of planning. Artificial lighting in corridors and staircases of both shops

and offices was generally poor. In one shop there was no artificial lighting to the staircase.

A number of wash places and water closets in both offices and shops were found to have broken light bulbs. Two toilets, one in a shop and one in an office, were found to have no provision for artificial lighting.

So far as natural lighting is concerned, many large shops and offices, though provided with plenty of window area, have to rely on artificial means of lighting by reason of depth or expanse of floor area. In some of the older shops and offices, natural lighting to passages, staircases and rear rooms, was not good due to overshadowing by adjoining buildings or bad arrangement of premises.

So far, it has not been appropriate to apply specific standards of lighting in terms of lumens. The action taken to date has been to call the attention of occupiers to the recommendations of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

No doubt standards of illumination will be laid down as far as possible by regulations in due course.

A number of cases of glare were found when inspections were made on sunny days in offices having a southerly aspect and where desks were facing windows. In some cases the conditions were the subject of complaint by employees, both with regard to excessive glare, from windows and from polished desk surfaces. Venetian type blinds were recommended in these cases and firms were found to be generally co-operative.

A lighting survey of 15 office premises showed the standards of lighting, either natural or artificial, in lumens per square foot, measured at the working place, e.g., desk, filing cabinet, etc., to vary as follows:—

(a) less than 5 lumens per square foot	.	.	0
(b) more than 5 but less than 10	.	.	8
(c) more than 10 but less than 15	.	.	8
(d) more than 15 but less than 25	.	.	12
(e) more than 25	.	.	10

The table above does not really reflect the overall standard of lighting in these offices, as the standard varied considerably from point to point.

The standards of lighting in lumens per square foot in the working areas of shops, stockrooms, packing departments, preparation rooms, etc., compared with the standards of lighting in the selling areas, varied considerably. A few typical examples are given below:—

Selling areas	30	Basement Stockroom	14
" "	4	Food Preparation Room	20
" "	36	Stockroom	2
" "	40	Workshop	44
" "	30	Food Preparation Room	12
" "	60	Food Preparation Room	12
" "	70-75	Stockroom	36
" "	26	Workroom	22

### Factories Act, 1961

506 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors to factories during the year, there being 646 on the register. It will be seen from the number of notices served in

respect of contraventions, that conditions generally were reasonably satisfactory. Such contraventions as there were, were of a minor nature and were put right by the management when the unsatisfactory conditions were brought to their notice.

The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 68 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 16 were referred to other local authorities, 52 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

All plans of proposed factories 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 Act and the Public Health Acts, 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.

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	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	48	65	2
Factories with mechanical power ...	598	441	16
	646	506	18

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	1
Unsuitable or defective	22	22	—	10
	26	26	—	11

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are six 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. Seven inspections were made of these premises and all samples of filling materials submitted for examination by a Prescribed Analyst, were reported as satisfactory.

### The Children's Nightdresses Regulations, 1964

Three children's nightdresses were submitted for examination during the year. Two of these samples were reported to not fully comply with these regulations in that the sewing threads were not entirely of a kind which would melt on the application of heat. Representations were made to the manufacturers concerned, emphasizing the need to conform with the regulations in all respects.

### Clubs and Places of Public Entertainment

Clubs and Places of Public Entertainment were subject to inspection during the year. An arrangement has been established whereby comment can be made on the amenities and general public health aspect of Clubs and similar premises before consideration is given to these places by the Licensing Justices. This ensures that, as far as possible, premises are satisfactory before they come into operation. Except in the case of the special type of premises which have to be registered, action cannot generally be taken under the Food & Drugs Act until premises are actually occupied.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

Five licences were issued under the above Act in 1965 and a number of routine inspections made of the premises, all of which were reasonably satisfactory.

### Rodent Control—Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

During the year, Warfarin was again used exclusively for the destruction of rats and mice, and it was most effective except in the case of a few mouse infestations. In these cases a rodenticidal tracking dust containing 20% DDT was introduced as an additional measure and this proved to be most successful. There have been no cases in Reading where rats have developed any immunity towards Warfarin, and all infestations were cleared up satisfactorily.

We have continued to use baiting trays in the majority of cases to facilitate the removal of unused bait and furthermore, to enable the rodent operators to place the baits in a position to be inaccessible to domestic pets and young children.

During 1965, 7,667 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. Altogether 385 business premises and 1,707 private dwellings were found to be infested with rats or mice. The main sewers were again systematically treated during the year. Instead of having two distinct treatments, the baiting was spread over a period of several months throughout the year. The results of the sewer treatment continue to be most encouraging and details are as follows:—

<i>Manholes tested</i>	<i>Manholes showing take</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>
563	115	1365

Warfarin was again used in the manholes, in a bait consisting of pinhead oatmeal with the addition of para-nitrophenol to keep the baits in good condition in the damp atmosphere of the sewers.

Routine inspections are still carried out at the refuse tips and in general conditions have been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

The treatment of domestic premises for rat and mice destruction is carried out free of charge, but payment is required for work carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1964/1965, the income in respect of this work was £240 compared with £295 for the previous year.

### Other Pests

In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, some 282 complaints were investigated concerning Wasps, Squirrels, Bats, etc. Of these, 274 were in respect of wasps nests. Payment is required in connection with the work and during the financial year 1964/65 the income was £15.

**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 ... ..	593	196	38	1	828
B. Survey ... ..	927	1,034	103	4	2,068
C. Other purposes ... ..	20	11	—	—	31
Total No. of Inspections, including re-inspections ...	5,378	1,724	593	72	7,767
Number of Infested properties treated ... ..	2,805	687	162	1	3,655

**SEWER MAINTENANCE**

No. of manholes tested:—563    No. of manholes showing take:—115

## COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

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 1965 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, cafés 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	1965		1964	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st . . . . .	12,395	35,918	11,888	34,922
June 30th . . . . .	12,120	40,815	11,620	41,781
September 30th . . . . .	11,860	41,302	11,360	42,452
December 31st . . . . .	12,345	41,335	11,840	43,774
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>48,720</b>	<b>159,370</b>	<b>46,708</b>	<b>162,929</b>

Trade Refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times 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

This service has been carried out during daylight by 5 sweeping gangs, 8 men operating a double-beat system, and 4 men operating a single-beat system. The main town centre is swept each night by a sweeping gang. Roadside bins, though reduced in number, are still being used by the "Beat" men, and are emptied by a mobile vehicle. The electric trucks are emptied by a parent vehicle, which visits them between 4 and 5 times daily. The refuse from the roadside bins and the electric trucks is conveyed to the Tip for disposal.

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

	1965	1964
Men . . . . .	43	43
Boys . . . . .	Nil	1

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of vehicles:—

Quarter ending	1965		1964	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st . . . . .	998	3,907	915	4,989
June 30th . . . . .	896	2,928	932	4,863
September 30th . . . . .	906	2,809	920	4,847
December 31st . . . . .	930	3,876	1,022	4,975
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>13,520</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>19,674</b>

### Street Gulley Cleansing

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1965-1964:—

Quarter ending	1965		1964	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st . . . . .	382	1,380	562	2,396
June 30th . . . . .	445	1,220	625	2,392
September 30th . . . . .	554	1,384	734	2,410
December 31st . . . . .	546	1,269	726	2,353
Totals . . . . .	1,927	5,253	2,647	9,551

12,676 street gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles. Sediment tanks, oil separator tanks, etc., are cleared for private-traders on a chargeable basis.

### Cesspool Emptying

All domestic cesspools are emptied by a Mechanical Cesspool Emptying vehicle strictly on a rota schedule. The requests for a more frequent emptying still persist. This has gone on from the start of the free service. Liquid effluent is also taken from tanks situated at certain factories.

### Sewage Purification

During the year the daily volume of sewage received increased to over 8,000,000 gallons.

The sewage flow and contributory population now exceeds the design basis for the present stage of works development; proposals for extensions of the main plant have been made, and are awaiting the approval of the Ministry.

The failure of the sludge digestion process in 1965 was attributable to a trade effluent discharge and resulted in large quantities of unprocessed sludge having to be impounded in open lagoons. This created a marked increase in odour and despite the extensive use of counteractants, the odour level from the lagoon areas remained high during the summer and was reduced significantly only after the digestion process had been well established in the lagoons.

The increasing quantities of sludge again strained sludge disposal facilities and the proposed plant installation for sludge drying is awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

### Sewerage

New houses and flats . . . . .	585
Houses not on main drainage in 1964 . . . . .	293
New cesspools 1965 . . . . .	2
	—
	295
Cesspools eliminated . . . . .	54
	—
Total houses not drained end of 1965 . . . . .	241
	—

New sewers laid were as follows:—

Peppard Road Relief Foul Sewer to eliminate flooding as was also St. Michael's Road Relief Foul Sewer.

Church End Lane Foul Sewer was laid to eliminate cesspools.

### Swimming and Slipper Baths

The swimming baths were well patronised but attendance figures did not reach those of the previous year which was exceptional.

Attendances at the Slipper Baths were also reduced owing, no doubt, to the fact that a number of old houses have now been provided with baths with the assistance of the improvement grants.

The number of persons using the swimming and slipper pools during 1965 is as under:—

Arthur Hill Baths—Swimming Pool . . . . .	166,412
Slipper Baths . . . . .	4,594
King's Meadow Bath . . . . .	26,064
Coley Men's Bath . . . . .	17,125
West Reading Bathing Place . . . . .	6,987
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths . . . . .	10,730

### HOUSING

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

In 1965, 168 dwellings, including houses, flats and bungalows were handed over to the Council.

The fifth contract, for 44 houses and 36 garages on the Bulmershe Estate Woodley, was completed. Work was started on the sixth contract on this site for 121 houses and 122 garages.

Contracts at Wensley Road, Coley Park Estate, and Knights Way, Emmer Green, for 28 and 24 one-bedroom flats for aged persons and childless couples were completed.

79 new type terrace houses and 20 old persons flats at Corwen Road were completed and also 18 old persons flats at Longbarn Lane, Whitley.

The following contracts were let and work started on the various sites.

23 dwellings at The Meadway. This contract is for 5 disabled persons bungalows, with built-in garages and 18 two-storey flats for aged persons.

72 dwellings, Blagdon Road, consisting of flats for old persons, bungalows for disabled persons, and three-bedroom flats and 2-bedroom maisonettes together with 55 garages.

57 dwellings at Northumberland Avenue, Whitley, made up of 16 old persons flats in two-storey blocks, 15 old persons bungalows, 1 wardens house, 25 three-bedroom houses and 26 garages.

526 dwellings, Northumberland Avenue, Whitley. Incorporated in this contract are 209 three-bedroom houses, 24 two-bedroom flats in three-storey blocks, 188 old persons flats in two-storey blocks, 75 two-bedroom maisonettes, 20 three-bedroom flats and 10 old persons flats in five-storey blocks, 73 garages integral with three-bedroom houses and 309 garages in separate blocks.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

## Parts III and IV

## SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

The Edward Hughes Home became fully operative in 1965, and this Home has soon settled down and become an integral part of the estate in which it is situated. It is pleasing to report that passers-by, both young and middle-aged, invariably have a greeting for the residents, and this feeling of friendliness is much appreciated.

The married couples accommodation at this Home has now had a trial period of over a year, and this has proved to be completely successful and well worthy of inclusion in our future planning.

Unfortunately, because of the "credit squeeze", our programme received a slight setback, but with the Committee's full support, the strongest representations were made, and it is now hoped that the next Home at Burghfield Road will be started early in 1966. The demand for Part III accommodation is still as great as in former years, and it is essential that our future plans go forward without interruption.

At December 31st, 1965, there were 19 males and 81 females on our waiting list, and of these 2 men and 5 women were in hospital.

Admissions during the year are given in the following table:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admissions (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	—	2	7	3	3	1	—	5	10
Wychcotes	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
Warren House	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	3
Parkhurst	1	—	10	—	19	—	8	—	29	—
Southern Hill	—	—	5	—	11	—	—	—	16	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	1	—	6	—	7	—	—	—	13
Dysons Wood Hostel	—	—	—	2	—	7	—	—	—	9
Alice Jenkins Home	—	1	—	7	—	9	—	1	—	16
Edward Hughes Home	—	2	—	12	7	36	—	16	7	48
	1	4	17	36	40	66	9	18	57	102
	5		53		106		27		159	

As the table shows, there was a general all-round increase in the numbers admitted and, once again, we operated a "Relative Relief" scheme, this being for both periodic and daily admissions.

As in former years, special arrangements were made at Christmas to admit people who were living alone, and, once again, many letters of appreciation have been received.



Garden fetes, sales of work and whist drives were arranged at the Alice Jenkins, Dysons Wood, Arthur Clark and Edward Hughes Homes. Coach trips to the sea and to local beauty spots were organised, and also visits to theatres and other places of interest. All our residents received a Christmas gift from this association, these being much appreciated, especially in instances where there are no relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogg retired from their posts as Superintendent and Matron, Woodlands, on December 31st, after having held these positions and performing their duties most conscientiously for fifteen years. Their successors are Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, who will commence early in 1966.

In August, the Council decided to make concessionary fares available for elderly persons in order that they might travel on the Corporation transport at reduced rates. The Welfare Department accepted responsibility for planning, distribution and subsequent administration, and by October the issuing of permits had commenced. Up to date, 8,600 have been issued. Letters of appreciation have been received for this concession, and I am pleased to report that the scheme is running very smoothly.

### Temporary Accommodation

The accommodation at Woodlands has been in full use most of the year, and admissions have not been of quite such long duration as those in former years. Intermediate accommodation is still being made available to us, and this is allocated as soon as it becomes available. Most of the tenancies so allocated are successful and very few people fail to discharge their responsibilities and so return to us.

The number of wayfarers and other casual admissions have been reduced, but these are still being accommodated in the porch.

During the year, work was carried out to provide three units of temporary accommodation by alterations to one wing of Woodlands. This has meant the loss of 10 Part III beds but three greatly improved units will result and come into use early in 1966.

At present, the administrative problems are being handled by this Department, but the casework is being carried out by officers of the Children's Department. Liaison between officers is good and the arrangement appears to be working satisfactorily.

The following table gives details of the use to which this accommodation has been put:—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Admissions . . . . .	—	44	50	94
Maintenance Days . . . . .	—	1,418	2,909	4,327
Remaining on December 31st, 1965	—	5	12	17

### SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

Once again, it was necessary to increase, as from August 1st, 1965, the standard charge, which then became £7 14s. 0d. per week. The increase was due, mainly, to salary and wage awards although, naturally, there has been a slight increase in the running costs of the Homes.

The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents in accordance with the scale in use during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands . . . . .	9,760	7	6
Wychcotes . . . . .	2,263	12	6
Warren House . . . . .	3,505	11	0
Parkhurst . . . . .	8,161	15	0
Southern Hill . . . . .	7,947	16	6
Arthur Clark Home . . . . .	6,389	13	9
Dysons Wood Hostel . . . . .	2,991	0	4
Alice Jenkins Home . . . . .	6,285	4	7
Edward Hughes Home . . . . .	6,699	13	4
	<hr/>		
	54,004	14	6
	<hr/>		

#### SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Once again, there has been no need to refer any case to the Minister for his decision.

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

Close liaison has been maintained with the officers of the National Assistance Board, and every co-operation has been afforded to the officers of both departments. Problems relating to finding accommodation and of financial relief have always been rapidly settled.

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

The number of persons residing in special Homes and chargeable to this County Borough are as follows:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm . . . . .	4	7
Blind . . . . .	1	3
Cripples . . . . .	3	4
Deaf and Dumb . . . . .	2	—
Epileptic . . . . .	1	1
Spastic . . . . .	—	—

**SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS****(a) Deaf and Dumb**

The arrangements that have operated in previous years with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

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

	Under 16		16—64		65 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Unclassified	19	13	—	—	—	—	32
Deaf with speech	—	—	8	9	2	—	19
Deaf without speech	—	—	27	27	6	7	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>118</b>

I am indebted to Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, for the following information on his work:—

The year has been an exciting one for our members. For many years now it was reported that it was hoped to erect a new hall at the rear of our Centre to afford more space. At long last the hall is in existence. Work began in September, and the hall was opened by the Mayor of Reading, Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows, on December 4th. Alderman Mrs. Burrows has been the Chairman of the Building Fund Committee since 1951, and by a happy coincidence for us the opening coincided with her year of office as Mayor.

Already a games room extension is being built by our deaf members. When this has been completed the Centre should be quite adequate for all our needs.

**Religious**

The deaf take a great interest in their Chapel, and the services are always well attended.

The following special services were held:—

- Good Friday
- Church Rally—May 9th
- Anniversary—September 12th
- Harvest Festival—September 19th
- Lessons and Carols—December 19th
- Christmas Day

There has been one baptism in the Chapel.

**Mothers' Union Branch**

The Branch meets on alternate Wednesday afternoons. Members join in the functions of the local Deanery. Members made articles which were sold to raise money for the Building Fund at a Sale of Work held after the opening of the new hall.

## Placements

Employment has been found for 6 persons, and many emergency calls have been answered to sort out difficulties experienced by Management and Employees.

## Social

The annual outing of the Social Club was to Weymouth.

Numerous coach outings are made by the deaf to seaside, places of interest and other Deaf Centres.

A party of our members enjoyed a weekend at Blackpool, where they were delighted with the lights.

The Christmas party was held in the new hall on December 18th. The annual dinner was held at Heelas Restaurant, and we were pleased to welcome many of our committee friends.

## Welfare

The elderly deaf enjoyed a week's holiday at Herne Bay in June. The deaf have been helped with all kinds of problems. Interpretation has been provided in a variety of places. They have been visited at home, at work and in hospital.

## Language Class

A group of our younger deaf members expressed the desire to be able to write better language. In August a class was begun under the direction of Mr. J. Wells, Organising Teacher of the Deaf in Reading. Instruction is given in both the spoken word and the hand language of the deaf.

To all those who have helped our work and the cause of the deaf may we express our deepest thanks.

### (b) Hard of Hearing

Arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association continued as in previous years. On December 31st, 1965, the Register was as follows:—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Children under 16 . . . . .	—	—
Persons aged 16-64 . . . . .	13	12
Persons aged 65 and over . . . . .	12	25

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

I have pleasure in giving you a very favourable report for the year ending December, 1965.

We are in a sound financial position and have been able to put aside £300 for Dr. Hunt Williams' towards enlarging the children's ward in the E.N.T. Department.

Our membership keeps within the 100 mark—some members passing on or moving away and a few new members joining the Club.

We had some enjoyable outings and interesting Club evenings. One member has made us quite a professional looking set of boxes fitted with locks and keys for "Take your Pick".

About 24 members attended the Southern Rally at Eastbourne and the Reading Club provided the entertainment on the Saturday evening at President's Reception with a very good time.

Talks (illustrated) we find are not very popular. So many are unable to follow when the lights go out for the picture. It was suggested at the annual general meeting that the speaker hold a torch in future.

Our Christmas card sales were over £500 again this year, thanks to a lot of real hard work, physically and mentally. The cards are heavy in bulk and the book-keeping quite a business but it is good financial help for the club.

### (c) Blind

Miss Lowe, the Welfare Officer for the Blind, who also acts as the Reading Secretary for the Association for the Welfare of the Blind supplied the following information:—

### Registration of Blind People

On December 31st, 1965, there were 194 blind people on the register, 84 males and 110 females. The age groups are as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1-4 years . . . . .	—	1	1
5-15 years . . . . .	3	1	4
16-20 years . . . . .	—	—	—
21-29 years . . . . .	5	1	6
30-39 years . . . . .	3	6	9
40-49 years . . . . .	7	3	10
50-59 years . . . . .	13	8	21
60-69 years . . . . .	13	17	30
70-79 years . . . . .	14	34	48
80 and over . . . . .	26	39	65
	—	—	—
	84	110	194
	—	—	—

### *Age at which blindness occurred*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year . . . . .	12	12	24
1-4 years . . . . .	1	2	3
5-15 years . . . . .	4	2	6
16-20 years . . . . .	4	3	7
21-29 years . . . . .	2	4	6
30-39 years . . . . .	4	7	11
40-49 years . . . . .	9	8	17
50-59 years . . . . .	8	15	23
60-69 years . . . . .	13	18	31
70-79 years . . . . .	17	19	36
80 and over . . . . .	10	20	30
	—	—	—
	84	110	194
	—	—	—

During the year there were twenty-three new registrations, five transfers-in, twenty-six deaths and three transfers-out to other areas resulting in a decrease of one on the total for 1964. Of the twenty-three persons registered blind during the year, fifteen are over 65 years of age, three are men who have had to retire on account of ill-health, one man is continuing his work as a lecturer, two women and two small boys all have additional handicaps.

### Partially-sighted Register

There are 102 persons on this register at the end of the year, 35 males and 67 females. The age groups are as follows:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
5-15 years . . . . .	4	6	10
16-20 years . . . . .	1	1	2
21-49 years . . . . .	4	6	10
50-64 years . . . . .	7	12	19
65 years and over . . . . .	19	42	61
	35	67	102
	—	—	—

During the year there were thirteen additions to the register, two transfers-in, eight deaths, two removals to other districts and four registered as blind persons, resulting in an increase of one.

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

Persons near and prospectively blind . . . . .	17
Persons mainly industrially handicapped . . . . .	10
Persons requiring observation only . . . . .	65

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 . . . . .	2	1	—	10
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) . . . . .	3	6	—	11
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment . . . . .	2	6	—	10

### Children

Two boys are at boarding school and the third, having additional handicaps, is in hospital. The older girl is at boarding school and the baby girl is in a residential nursery.

Eight of the partially-sighted children are away at special schools. One boy and one girl are being educated locally.



### Home Workers

Both the machine-knitter and the piano tuner have work to keep them employed and the piano tuner uses his spare time for seagrassing stools and repairing rush seated chairs.

### Rehabilitation and Training

One man has been to Torquay for the rehabilitation course. His health is not good, and as he was unable to complete the course it is unlikely that he will reach the necessary standard for employment.

Another man is still unemployed as all efforts to place him in open industry have proved unsuccessful.

### Employed Persons

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

### Walford House

Tenants of the three bed-sitting rooms have remained the same during the year. They enjoy the facilities and companionship in this house which is owned by Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind. It was painted outside at the beginning of the year and the communal kitchen was re-decorated.

### Shop Sales

The amount raised from shop sales totals £241 4s. 0d., about the same as last year. Only two knitters produce men's socks, our chief selling line, and when they are occupied with their own work our sales are adversely affected. Seagrass stools, string bags, dish-cloths and small baskets are other items made at the Pastime Class. The handicraft competition held annually in April provides an incentive to all who can make anything and renews interest in our sales.

### Holiday Fund

Ninety-nine people have paid into the fund during the year and drawn the £3 10s. 0d. given by the Voluntary Association as bonus when they went on holiday. A gift of £1 was made to all those who are now unable to go away, many of them enjoying a day's excursion.

### 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, and 10s. each for Christmas. A card received on their birthday is appreciated by all.

### Activities

The monthly socials have been well attended and we are indebted to Friends of the Blind and the Rotarians for their assistance with transport.

During the year there were outings to Bournemouth and Southsea, a picnic in a coach at Mortimer and a visit to Basildon Women's Institute meeting.

The Christmas party was held in January at Messrs. Heelas Restaurant when 100 blind people and guides had an enjoyable time.

The handicraft class meets weekly in a church hall but members would much prefer to be on our own premises and the attendance has dwindled for this reason. We are hoping to divide the class into two sections and meet at Minster Street on two afternoons instead of at the hall.

The competition for handicrafts was held in April. Two lady members of the Committee judged the 47 entries and money Awards to the best in each class were greatly appreciated.

#### (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 1965 forty patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register.

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially-Sighted	Total
Cataract ... ..	—	2	1	3
Glaucoma ... ..	6	—	2	8
Myopia ... ..	6	—	1	7
Retinal Conditions ... ..	4	—	3	7
Degenerative Conditions ... ..	5	—	5	10
Congenital Conditions ... ..	2	—	—	2
Cerebral Conditions ... ..	1	—	1	2
No ocular disease ... ..	—	1	—	1
	24	3	13	40

#### Ages

<i>Under 20</i>	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
2	1	5	9	7	16

#### Cataract

One of the two patients who were not blind had had a successful cataract extraction on each eye. Operation in the case of the partially sighted patient was inadvisable on general grounds.

#### Glaucoma

Of the six patients blind from glaucoma two had been operated on with retention of a certain amount of vision but very contracted visual fields. Of the other four patients the condition of one was complicated by an occlusion of the central retinal artery in one eye, the second had bilateral central vein thrombosis, the third had cataract but was considered too old and frail for operation and the fourth had the possibility of cataract extraction with restoration of some vision. One of the two partially sighted patients retained 6/9 vision in one eye but a poor field of vision.

### Myopia

Four of the blind patients had cataract as well as high myopia. One of these had had a cataract extraction with a poor visual result due to degenerative myopic changes. Another of these patients could have a cataract extraction. The other two patients had retinal degeneration.

### Retinal Conditions

Of the three blind patients, one had a circinate retinopathy, two had retinitis pigmentosa and the fourth an arterio sclerotic retinopathy, one had a diabetic retinopathy and the third was a child with essential gyrate atrophy of the choroid who was also suffering from hypoparathyroidism.

### Degenerative Conditions

All these patients, both blind and partially sighted, were suffering from senile macula degeneration.

### Congenital Conditions

This patient, a premature twin, had optic atrophy in both eyes.

### Cerebral Conditions

The blind patient had a cerebral tumour with papilloedema and consecutive optic atrophy and the partially sighted one had cerebral arterio sclerosis.

### (e) Other Classes of Handicapped Persons

This section under Mrs. J. D. Snow, the Welfare Officer, is responsible for services organised for physically disabled people. The tables show the register of disabled people in their age groups and classified in disabilities according to the code laid down by the Minister of Health.

Total number assisted during the year	.	.	.	530
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Children under 16 years	.	.	15	10
Persons aged 16-64 years	.	.	196	151
Persons aged 65 and over	.	.	60	98
			—	—
			271	259
			—	—
Deceased during 1965	.	.	.	45
Discharges (left the district) during 1965	.	.	.	19
New cases referred during 1965	.	.	.	66

<i>Details of type of assistance provided</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment) . . . . .	84
Adaptations to houses (indoor work 19; outdoor work 9) (Council property 15; Non-Council property 13) . . . . .	28
Housing . . . . .	10
Transport . . . . .	86
Referred to Occupational Therapy Centre (Craftwork 34; Industrial 68)	102
Referred for Home Work . . . . .	40
Referred to other Agencies (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Voluntary Organisations) . . . . .	66
Convalescence . . . . .	25
Financial Help . . . . .	37
Social Activities . . . . .	58
Welfare Visits (frequent supervisory visits not included in above figures) . . . . .	131
General Supervision (occasional follow-up visits not included in above figures) . . . . .	92

### **Ministry of Health**

#### *Classification of Disabilities on Register*

A/E (Amputation) . . . . .	19
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism) . . . . .	114
G (Congenital Malformations and Deformities) . . . . .	18
H/L (Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin) . . . . .	92
Q/T (Injuries of head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine) . . . . .	84
V (Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.) . . . . .	173
U/W (Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V) . . . . .	6
X (Tuberculosis—respiratory) . . . . .	7
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 . . . . .	33
C=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and not sufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home . . .	40
D=Incapable of or not available for work . . .	367
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	25
	<hr/> 530 <hr/>

It has been said that behind every handicapped person lies a handicapped family! This is a feature of a community which must be improved and prevented—our service must aim at reducing the demands made by a disabled person on his family. By making it possible for handicapped people to contribute to, rather than be dependent on the community, we achieve an improved standard of community health.

**Housing**

We continued to adapt existing houses to meet the special needs of handicapped people. Our programme of specially designed houses is under way with building starting in three areas in the town. These homes are so designed, incorporating new and well tried ideas, to enable a severely handicapped person,—often confined to a wheelchair—to move independently throughout the house. They have integral garages, where the tenant can have, at close hand, an invalid tricycle or adapted motorcar. The area around is also planned to eliminate differing levels and reduce maintenance. We hope such building projects will hold a regular place in our housing programmes.

This need to improve the independence of handicapped people must result in new thinking in the design of public buildings. We want to encourage designs which provide easy access to public buildings—improved streets and pavement crossings. We must provide for an ever increasing number of disabled people freely participating in all aspects of town life.

**Work**

The Occupational Therapy Centre has continued to expand during 1965. The long-needed increase in the number of staff has been realised with the appointment of a part-time book-keeper in August, followed shortly by a full-time assistant occupational therapist, Miss J. Chandler, and a part-time senior, Mrs. P. McCallum.

Mr. S. Walker is now a full-time member of the staff organising the industrial outwork which has continued to meet our needs and for which £3,027 5s. 6d. has been received from the firms who still give us their support. More variety of work is now undertaken, some needing more skill.

There has been an average daily attendance of 78 handicapped persons including five from Berkshire County Council and two from Oxfordshire County Council. Some forty patients are attending the craftwork classes each week. These are held four afternoons weekly and the articles made are sold mainly to the patients, their friends and relations and to visitors to the Centre, although some has been disposed of through the Helping Hand Shop in the town.

### **Transport**

Transport presents one of the chief difficulties to the expansion of the services offered at the Centre. The number of patients who can attend each day depends on the transport available. Most are brought in our two special ambulances and by the Hospital Car Service, although some make their own way by bus or invalid tricycle.

Those that cannot attend for one reason or another are visited in their homes and about forty have been given work, both industrial and craftwork, during the year.

It is hoped in the future to introduce more practical activities for the disabled housewife, principally involving the installation of a kitchen unit to help with daily living procedures.

### **Social Club**

Mrs. M. Marten has continued to run this Club with a committee of patients. The members have met every month except August, and had a variety of entertainments, including outings during the summer. Mrs. King and Mrs. Marten have organised the catering for these meetings throughout the year, and the members of "Rotary" and the "Inner Wheel" kindly provided the transport.

### **Car Badges for Disabled Drivers**

This scheme, drawn up by the Ministry of Health and administered by this authority for several years, has still only been used by sixty persons. Conferring as they do no legal right to any concessions—it is not surprising that the number of badges issued is so small.

### **Travel Concession Permits**

The Council has taken the opportunity in recent legislation which permits certain travel concessions to be granted by public transport undertakings to include certain categories of handicapped persons. The limits imposed are such that few physically disabled people qualify and are sufficiently mobile to use public transport. Only forty-six permits have been issued so far.

We would again express our continued gratitude to the many voluntary and statutory organisations who work so closely with us to relieve some of the problems among disabled people.

## **SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

### **(a) Meals on Wheels**

The number of Meals on Wheels supplied during the year by the W.V.S. on our behalf is shown in the following table:—

January	..	..	1,364
February	..	..	1,368
March	..	..	1,503
April	..	..	1,443
May	..	..	1,286
June	..	..	1,425
July	..	..	1,394
August	..	..	1,349
September	..	..	1,437
October	..	..	1,455
November	..	..	1,460
December	..	..	1,677
			17,161

Once again, our most grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Buckingham, her successor, Mrs. Carlton, and to their band of helpers, for the excellent work they are doing in respect of this service.

Plans are being prepared for a much-needed new Kitchen and Day Centre in the Mount Pleasant Area, and it is hoped that work will commence during 1966. This will enable us to extend the service generally, and it is hoped that we shall be able to provide meals at the Centre.

#### (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 once again been an increase in this service. There are now about 780 patients on the books and during 1965 the number treated was 4,818, which included 246 new people.

The clinic has become quite a "meeting place" for old friends; here they enjoy a chat and a warm.

**Home-bound patients.** These patients are treated by two qualified chiropodists employed directly by the Council on a part-time basis.

During 1965, 714 visits were made, 279 patients being treated, of whom 111 were new cases. During the year one domiciliary chiropodist left us and in fact the figures relate only to the work of one chiropodist.

### SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

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

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

During the course of the year the certificate of registration in respect of Kentons, 51 Tilehurst Road, was surrendered and the establishment closed.

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

No action was taken during the year under this Section of the Act.

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

The Council's responsibilities under this Section of the Act are now becoming more widely known, and a great deal more is being done to protect the property of persons who are admitted for a temporary period to hospital, etc. Regular visitation is necessary, and close co-operation is being maintained with the officers of the Hospital Management Committee regarding the payment of rent and rates.

**SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD**

During the year four burials (two male; two female) and eight cremations (seven male; one female) were arranged. In most instances death grants were payable, and other monies have been recovered by way of insurance, etc. Assistance has been given to relatives in many cases where they have been unable to undertake responsibility for the funeral arrangements.



## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**Cremation**

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table shows the number of cremations over the last eighteen years:—

1965	..	..	..	..	1,731
1964	..	..	..	..	1,637
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

Seven hundred and twenty-two (41.7%) of those cremated were borough residents and one thousand and nine (58.3%) came from outside the borough. 53.4% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

**Nursing Homes**

At the end of the year there was only one Nursing Home in the Borough:—  
 Dunedin (acute surgical cases) . 17 beds

**Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948**

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

