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1965

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF ROMSEY



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ROMSEY

YEAR 1965

To the Worshipful the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Romsey.

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Romsey.

I am grateful to Mr. Bell your Chief Public Health Inspector for the preparation of Sections 4 - 9.

The town's new sewers and sewage works were in use throughout the year and many houses built by your Council and by private owners were completed and occupied during the year and more are still in process of building. People have been re-housed from sub-standard dwellings and there has been a great decrease in the proportion of unfit dwellings in the Borough.

The new houses and the new car parks have both contributed to the increase in bustling activity in the shopping centre of the Borough. There is great need for improved public conveniences in the central area, and it may be that vandalism will be less when the conveniences are at ground level.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. JACKSON

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time, ½ day per week)	E. Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector (also engineer and Surveyor)	W. Bell, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.B.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector (also Deputy Surveyor)	F. Archer M.A.P.H.I.
Meat Inspector (part-time)	E. H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S. (Deceased) G. N. Gould, M.R.C.V.S. (from November)
Secretary	Miss J. M. Hatch.

1. VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,212
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	6,690
Rateable Value	£302,559
Product of Penny rate	£1,117
Total number of Council Houses	694
Total number of Rateable Premises	2,750

Summary of vital statistics for the year 1965 as supplied
by the Registrar General.

	1965			1964
	Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births: Total Registered	120	49	71	92
Legitimate	112	48	64	89
Illegitimate	8	1	7	3
Still Births: Total Registered	0	0	0	1

	1965			1964
	Total	Male	Female	Total
Deaths				
Total Registered	88	46	42	94
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality:				
Deaths of infants under				
one year of age -				
Total Registered	1	1	0	3
Legitimate	1	1	0	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under				
four weeks of age	1	1	0	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey Borough	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.93	18.1
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Total	8.33	19.0
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	8.33	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.66	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.15	11.5

Comparability Factors - Births 1.14
 Deaths 0.76

The England and Wales figures shown for comparison appear to indicate that rates in Romsey are different from the rest of the country: the seeming differences are artifacts due to the relatively small numbers e.g. one infant death gives a rate of 8.3.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1965				For Comparison	
	Male	Female	TOTAL 1965	TOTAL	
				1964	1963
Tuberculosis, all forms	1	1	2	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm					
Stomach	3	0	3	6	2
Lungs and Bronchus	1	1	2	3	4
Breast	-	2	2	1	0
Uterus	-	2	2	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	4	4	8	5	8
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	5	10	16	13
Coronary Disease and Angina	12	6	18	15	7
Other heart diseases	4	7	11	12	15
Other circulatory disease	1	4	5	3	9
Pneumonia	1	3	4	3	2
Bronchitis	4	0	4	6	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1	1	1	0
Congenital Malformations	2	0	2	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5	11	10	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	1	2	0	0
	46	42	88	83	81

Totals for 1963 and 1964 are included for comparison because there is little significance in fluctuations in rates per annum in a population of 6,690.

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(i) The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council and a Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer to the Hampshire County Council. This combined appointment helps to co-ordinate the Medical Services supplied by the County Council as the Local Health Authority, in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 with the services supplied by the District Council and Regional Hospital Board.

Your Medical Officer attends the quarterly meeting of the District Health Sub-Committee. At this Committee the local representatives are kept in touch with the working of the local County Council services.

(ii) The County Council supply the following services.

(a) Ambulance Service:

An ambulance stationed at Romsey serves the area but is controlled from the County Council Offices at Winchester. Additional ambulances can be sent to the District from the depot at Winchester if required.

(b) Nursing in the Home:

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary midwifery and home nursing. They keep in close touch with the County Council Health Visitors, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners in the area. No nursing arrangements or contributions are made by the Borough Council but two members represent the Council on the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

The attachment of District Nurses to two Group Medical Practices in the Borough continued in 1965.

The District Nurses are:-

Nurse M. Laycock and Nurse B. D. Sharp,
"Brambles", Cupernham Lane, Romsey.
Telephone - Romsey 3302

Nurse Picken,
"Kyrenia", Megana Way, Braishfield.
Telephone - Braishfield 263

Attached to practice of Drs. Lalonde, Knight, Johnson
and Johnson,

Nurse Laycock
Nurse Picken

Attached to practice of Drs. Rankine, Dale and Wattie,

Nurse Sharp
Nurse Cork

(c) Child Welfare

The County Council employ Health Visitors who visit children from the age of two weeks, when they pass from the care of the District Nurses, until the age of five years when the child enters school. A child welfare clinic is held every Thursday at the Church Hall.

The Health Visitors are:-

Mrs. M. Pointer "Bryn-Coed", Newtown Road, Sherfield English
(Telephone: Lockerley 377)
partly attached to practice of Drs. Rankine, Dale and Wattie.

Mrs. M. E. Ward Flat 2, Harefield House, Winchester Hill,
Romsey. (Telephone: Romsey 3170)
partly attached to practice of Drs Lalonde, Knight, Johnson
and Johnson.

Mrs. C. E. Watts "The Spruces", Hook Road, Ampfield,
(Telephone: Chandlers Ford 3733)
partly attached to practice of Drs. Lalonde, Knight, Johnson
and Johnson.

(d) Care of Mothers and Young Children:

Ante-natal supervision and dental care are provided for expectant mothers and dental care is provided for mothers in the first year of the baby's life and for children up to school age. Ante-natal clinics are held in the surgeries of the General Medical Practitioners.

(e) Home Help Service

This service is provided for mothers confined at home, for those in charge of the elderly, chronic sick etc.. The District Health Sub-Committee receive reports. The Organiser for this area has an Office at the Red House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. Telephone - Eastleigh 2558.

f. Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act 1948

During the year registration was operative in respect of Mrs. Greasley, "Gairlock", Halterworth Lane, Romsey.

g. Care of the Elderly

A County Council home for the elderly is situated in Romsey at The Gardens, Winchester Road.

The Old People's Welfare Committee continued to organise the cooking and distribution of a midday meal on two days each week. As well as the meal being taken to the housebound, several elderly people foregathered in Church House to dine together until Church House was closed for rebuilding. The Committee also organises a friendly visiting service and continues to co-ordinate the work of voluntary and statutory bodies interested in helping the elderly. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. Spinney, 18, Market Place, Romsey. Telephone - Romsey 322

h. Vaccination and Immunisation - See later in this report.

i. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care:

These services are part of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors and District Nurses.

(iii) Hospital Services

The Wessex Regional Hospital Board supply general Maternity and infectious diseases (including Smallpox and Tuberculosis) hospital services for this area.

General medical and surgical hospital services are provided at Romsey Hospital; Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton; General Hospital, Southampton; Chest Hospital, Eye Hospital and Children's Hospital, Southampton and The Mount Hospital, Bishopstoke.

Maternity Services are provided at Romsey Hospital and at the Maternity Unit, Southampton General Hospital.

(iv) Laboratory Service

Laboratory facilities are available at the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Southampton and Winchester.

(v) Public Health Services provided by your Council during the year.

(a) Prevention of Accidents

Education of the public to lessen the incidence of accidents, especially those in the home is undertaken by your Public Health Inspectors and Medical Officer of Health.

The local branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents continued work.

The Police continued their very valuable work of training in road safety and proficiency testing of cyclists in the borough schools.

(b) Health Education

Posters and other material from the Central Council for Health Education and Ministry of Health are received and displayed. All possible opportunities for addressing meetings were taken by your Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors. There is no great public enthusiasm for information about health and in the Borough there appears to be an average public lack of interest in understanding the scientific knowledge on which our health and sanitary services are built.

(vi) National Assistance Act, 1948, - Section 47

No formal action under this Section was taken during 1965, but elderly people, especially those living alone, had many problems with which Health Department staff were asked to help. In all cases your staff were able either to explain, to help physically, or to call in another helping agency.

(vii) Work carried out by Voluntary Societies

The Romsey Division of the British Red Cross Society continued activities in all branches of their work. The Red Cross provides the only subsidised chiropody service for old people in the Borough. Details of the chiropody service are available from 4, Market Place, Romsey. Telephone - Romsey 3202

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued its activities especially in providing training courses and providing first aid personnel for large gatherings at functions in the Borough and outside.

(viii) Nursing Home

There is one private nursing home in the Borough.

The Durban Nursing Home,
Woodley Lane, Cupernham.
Telephone - Romsey 2332

3. PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1965 are tabulated below:-

Notification by age-groups

	Total Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs	15 - 44 yrs	45 - 64 yrs	65 and over	Fatalities
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis										
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	55	1	9	12	30	2	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
pu erperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis										
Respiratory	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The incidence of notified infectious diseases was low during the year; many cases of measles, whooping cough and diarrhoea are not notified. There was no death from the infectious diseases of childhood.

The usual biennial epidemic of measles occurred during the spring and summer of 1965. Romsey was not in an area included in the Medical Research Council trials of vaccination against measles.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

The estimated number of children in the Borough who received diphtheria immunisation during 1965 was as follows:-

Year of Birth	Primary Doses	Reinforcing Doses
1965	57	-
1964	87	22
1963	15	49
1962	3	11
1958/61	30	60
Others under 16	19	9
	211	151

Vaccination against Smallpox

Year	Primary Vaccinations			Total Prim-ary	Re-vacc-ination	Grand Total	
	0 - 1 Year	1 - 15 Years	Over 15 years				
1958	53	15	2	70	15	85	
1959	78	7	5	90	20	110	
	0 - 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 15 years	Over 15 years			
1960	43	1	12	9	65	35	100
1961	44	9	8	6	67	24	91
1962	57	19	307	328	711	739	1,450
1963	5	8	3	3	19	33	52
1964	36	8	1	5	50	29	79
1965	40	19	12	4	75	31	106

The level of primary vaccination of young children is still dangerously low. It is now usual to vaccinate children at about the time of the first birthday as side effects and excessive reactions are minimal at that age. The Borough is so close to a great seaport and to an airport that it is most important that all healthy children be vaccinated.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Year	Completed Vaccination	Fourth dose for School Child
1960	795	-
1961	304	241
1962	175	25
1963	71	39
1964	91	27
1965	141	92

Many people are inclined to forget the need for vaccination against poliomyelitis since the disease has been very nearly wiped out from the country. There is no doubt that the decrease in incidence is in large part due to vaccination administered during the past few years and it is essential that a high level of vaccination should be maintained. There are still many children who are not taken to a doctor for the three doses of vaccine and the "booster" which is given to school-children.

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

(a) WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Romsey lies in the statutory area of the Southampton Corporation Waterworks and the following information was kindly supplied by Mr. C. A. Bradley, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., A.M.I. Mech. E. M.I.W.E., Waterworks Engineer and Manager.

The actual water supplied to Romsey comes from the Timsbury Pumping station which is about three miles to the north of the Borough. At times of peak demand this supply is augmented by water from the Twyford Pumping Station through a 21" diameter steel main which connects into the Timsbury system in Botley Road, near the western boundary of the Cemetery.

The water from the Timsbury Pumping Station is derived from a system of wells and adits in the upper chalk of the Test Valley and before being put into supply is partially softened and treated with chlorine and ammonia. The station is equipped with modern electrically driven pumping plant with diesel driven pumps as standby. Water is pumped from the wells to the treatment works and after treatment it is then further pumped to a service reservoir at Michelmersh whence it gravitates into supply through trunk water mains which pass through the Borough of Romsey.

In common with all chalk waters, the Timsbury supply even after partial softening is regarded as a moderately hard water. It is a very pure water and weekly samples are taken of both raw and treated water for bacteriological examinations and these samples have always been of a consistently high standard of purity.

The examinations of water are carried out by the Southampton City Analyst and also by the Public Health Laboratory at Winchester. The City Analyst also carried out chemical analysis on quarterly samples of both raw and treated water.

There are in the Borough of Romsey over 17 miles of water mains, varying from 24" diameter to 2" diameter and these mains, apart from industrial and other metered supplies afford a piped supply of water to all but three dwellings. All domestic consumers have the benefit of the Southampton Corporation's free tap washering service and plumbing repairs on repayment.

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The reconstructed sewage disposal works was completed during the year with the exception of the laboratory and mess accommodation. Restriction on public spending by the government has resulted in the postponement of the erection of the laboratory so that close chemical control of the works has not been possible. Such effluent samples as have been taken by both the Borough Engineer and the River Authority throughout the year have been found generally satisfactory.

Some concern has been felt during the autumn at the excessive strength of a brewery waste which comprises about one third of the total daily flow but steps have been initiated to control the strength of this waste.

The new works comprise constant velocity grit channels, comminutor, balancing tank, pyramid primary settlement tanks, circular percolating filters and humus tanks. In addition a two tank Simplex sludge digestion plant and some 19,000 square feet of sludge drying beds are provided. Storm waters up to three times the dry weather flow are treated by settlement before discharge to a watercourse.

The whole of the built up portion of the Borough is served by public sewers. With the exception of Budds Lane industrial estate and a part of Tadburn Road which have small pumping stations all the sewers gravitate to the main Greenhill pumping station where sewage is lifted to the disposal works, by water turbine powered centrifugal pump supplemented at peak periods by electrically driven pumps.

Considerable lengths of new sewer have been laid during the year by Developers to serve the houses they are to erect. This work has been supervised by officers of the Borough Engineer's Department to ensure that there is no increase in infiltration to the sewers and that the pipes are properly laid.

Most of the houses in the Borough are now connected to the sewerage system and no reports of overflowing cesspools have been received.

The average daily flow of sewage at the treatment works was 506,000 gallons.

(c) PUBLIC CLEANSING

A refuse collection service is carried out by direct labour and covers the whole of the District. All premises are visited once per week in normal circumstances and extra collections and trade refuse collections are made where required at more frequent intervals. A charge of 1/3d. per bin is made for extra and trade refuse. A 'rear of the house' collection is made in all cases except where the premises have no rear access, when a kerbside collection is carried out.

The number of premises from which refuse is collected increased during the year as many new houses were occupied. The weekly collection was maintained with some difficulty, and the vulnerability of this service to mechanical breakdowns of refuse vehicles was apparent.

The use of paper sacks for the storage and collection of refuse has proved successful and the Council's policy is to extend this method of storage and collection to all new Council dwellings as they are erected.

Refuse is disposed of on a controlled tip at Casbrook Common operated by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council, a charge being made by the Rural District Council for this arrangement.

Highway cleansing is carried out by direct labour and all roads are, in normal circumstances, swept weekly with more frequent cleansing in the Town Centre. Some classified roads are cleansed by arrangement with the Hampshire County Council who contribute towards the cost of this service.

(d) INSECT INFESTATION

With the exception of reports of wasps nests no complaints of insect infestation were made during the year. A small amount of routine spraying to control fly infestations was undertaken.

(e) RODENT CONTROL

62 infestations were found in domestic and business premises.

All rodent infestations notified to the Department by the public were investigated and the necessary treatment carried out, no charge being made in the case of domestic premises but the cost of treating business premises was recovered.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act requires that a periodical survey of the district for rodents be made and whenever possible this obligation is carried out concurrently with inspections made for other purposes.

(f) SMOKE CONTROL

All industrial premises in the Borough use fuel oil or smokeless fuels in their heating equipment. Two warnings regarding smoke emission from industrial premises were given during the year and remedied immediately.

5. FACTORIES ACT. 1961

- (i) Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(a) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	-	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	6	1	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	6	1	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences					
Section 7 -					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable of defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	-

(iii) There is one outworker employed in the District.

6. SWIMMING POOL

The Council own and manage the only public swimming pool and paddling pool in the area. The pool which measures 75 ft. x 35 ft. is uncovered and is provided with adequate washing facilities and changing and clothes storage accommodation.

The pool is filled with mains fresh water which is continuously circulated by pumps through a 'Bell' pressure sand filter, a Wallace and Tiernan's Chlorination plant and a fountain type aerator. The rate of circulation ensures a change of water for the whole of the pool every four hours.

Routine samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination and the results were very satisfactory.

This swimming pool is an asset to the amenities of the Borough and to the health of the inhabitants, particularly the younger generation who, make good use of the pool.

7. HOUSING

Approximately 280 applicants were on the Council's housing list at the end of the year.

The initial phases of the Harefield Estate Development were completed during the year. Work was started on 22 semi-detached houses with garages at Harefield Court and 6 had been completed by the end of the year. The remaining 16 are likely to be completed early in 1966. Starts were also made on eight additional units (including 4 old peoples bungalows) on the Harefield Estate and on two old peoples bungalows at Princes Road.

66 of the 114 units (comprising 5 blocks of the flatted development at the Rear of the Hundred) had been taken over and occupied.

The year saw an increase in the number of houses built by private enterprise, this being expected as a result of the provision of sewers throughout the Borough making more land available for building at economic densities. 141 houses were completed.

A compulsory purchase order was made in respect of unfit properties in Love Lane which had been the subject of a Clearance Order last year. A local inquiry has not yet been held but some fourteen of the properties included have already been demolished by the owners.

A number of complaints of housing defects were received and dealt with by your officers. One statutory Public Health Act notice was served and one notice under the Rent Act. The outcome of these notices has yet to be determined.

13 applications for improvement grants were made and 11 approved enabling owners to provide modern sanitary accommodation with assistance from the Borough Council.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:-

Bakehouses, Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	11
School meals kitchens	..	..	..	2
Licensed premises, catering	..	..	..	3
Licensed premises (not catering other than snacks)				23
Grocery and Provision	..	..	..	23
Fish Shop and Butcher	..	..	..	1
Butcher	..	..	..	6
Greengrocer	..	..	..	3
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	3
Confectionary and Sweets etc.	..	..	..	8
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	2

85

A number of complaints of foreign bodies found in food were addressed to the Department during the year. In each case the matter was taken up with the manufacturers and in each case it was discovered that the extraneous matter had passed the elaborate detection procedure which was followed by the producer. One is forced to the conclusion that as the consumption of bulk prepared foods increased that this type of complaint may become frequent. In the event of harmless foreign bodies being found in food it is felt that automatic recourse to police court proceedings against the manufacturer may unduly penalise a company which is taking very great care to prevent errors of this type. In the cases mentioned above the manufacturers were cautioned that a further occurrence would result in prosecution.

A total of 37 premises are registered under Sections 16 and 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 29 of these being registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

Routine inspection of Restaurant kitchens, food shops and other places where food is prepared and sold were carried out and advice given, resulting in improvements in the standard of hygiene generally. A number of lectures to members of the public in food hygiene and health education generally were undertaken.

Unsound Food Surrendered:-

It was not found necessary to seize any food during the year but the following amount of food was found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for disposal.

Canned meat	...	190 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	56 lbs.
Canned Milk	...	9 pints
Canned Veg.	...	5½ lbs.
Preserves	...	1½ lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	5 lbs.

Slaughterhouses:-

The inspection of animals slaughtered was carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Council as Meat Inspector, and the following figures are from his report:-

Pigs	..	..	4,381
Lambs	..	..	951
Bullocks	..	..	1,347
Calves	..	..	1,474
Cattle	..	..	25
Sheep	..	..	31
Sows	..	..	53
			8,262

The condemnations for the year include the following animals as well as certain offal and parts of carcasses.

Pigs	..	..	6
Calves	..	..	5
Cattle	..	..	2
			13

9. OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This is the first occasion on which details have been included of the work carried out by the Department under this legislation.

The Act was introduced in 1963 and became wholly operative together with certain regulations made thereunder this year. The purpose of the Act is to secure the health safety and comfort of office and shop employees whilst at work by providing minimum standards of space per person lighting in work rooms and passages and guarding of dangerous machinery. These provisions are administered in most cases by the local authority whilst the fire precaution provisions of the Act are administered by the Hampshire Fire Service.

The report appended is as required by and submitted to the Ministry of Labour.

"Inspection under the Act were commenced during the year and most premises inspected were found not to comply with the requirements. Notices advising the responsible person of these contraventions were served and in each case acknowledgement and intimation that work was to be carried out to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations received. A close scrutiny of deposited plans for premises likely to be affected by the Act has been made in order to ensure that proposed alterations comply with the Act (including the fire provisions). The advice of the Ministry of Labour was sought during the year regarding the guarding of meat slicing machines and a reply confirming that difficulty was being met in complying with the provisions of the Act was received.

10. FORMAL SAMPLING

Formal sampling of food and drugs, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is carried out by Mr. J. S. Preston, M.I.W.M.A. Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, who kindly supplied the following report.

1. Milk Samples.

10 samples of bottled milk were taken from retail supplies to the Borough and these were satisfactory except in one case in which a sample was found to contain mould growth. Legal proceedings were instituted against the dairy company responsible, who were fined £25 and ordered to pay £1 14s. 6d. costs.

2. Miscellaneous Samples

21 samples of articles other than milk were obtained. One sample, which consisted of beef sausage meat, was found to contain preservative although its presence was not declared, as required under the Preservatives in Food Regulations. The amount of the preservative was within that permitted, however, and legal action was not considered necessary although the attention of the suppliers was drawn to the relevant provisions. The remaining samples were all free from complaint.

3. General

In addition to the Food and Drugs Act, the usual attention was given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act in respect of their application to the labelling and descriptions of food and drugs.