

**[Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Sherborne U.D.C. / Town.**

**Contributors**

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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1961

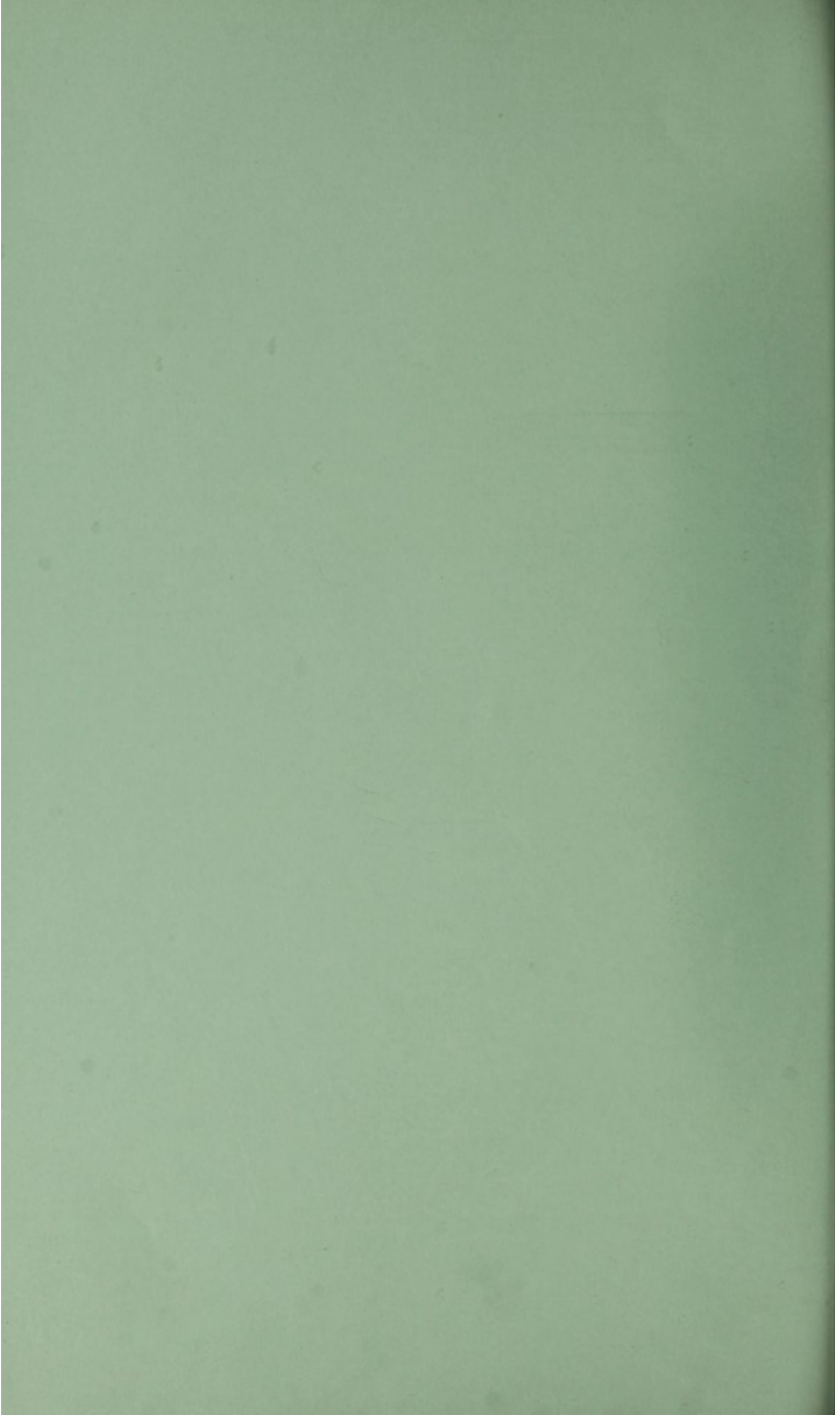


Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.



SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1st June, 1962.

1961.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Urban District Council

Production of a penny rate: 1961/62 - 6370 (estimated)  
1962/63 - 4378 (estimated)

Vital Statistics

Madam and Gentlemen,

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,116

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1961.

Comparative Rates

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

	(a) Sherborne	(b) England
Illegitimate	1) - 12.1	15.4 17.4

The report shows that the health of the district remained satisfactory during the year.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, in general, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole. It is noted, however, that three suicides occurred during the year compared with one during the preceding four years.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

	1961	1960	1959	1958
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" Cancer of the lung	1	1	1	Nil
" Other Cancer	22	13	13	12
" Coronary Disease (Angina)	19	9	13	10
" Other Heart or Vascular diseases	37	31	25	25
" Influenza	1	Nil	4	Nil
" Pneumonia	6	2	4	3
" Motor vehicle accidents	1	Nil	2	Nil
" All other accidents	1	1	1	1
" Suicide	3	Nil	1	Nil
" Leukaemia & Alkaptonia	Nil	Nil	Nil	1

*W. J. Brown*  
Medical Officer of Health

General Offices,  
STURGEON GENERAL,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

To the Chairman and Members,  
National Tuberculosis Council

Dear Sirs:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your report for the  
year 1934.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in  
conjunction with the progress of the Public Health Officers  
Legislation, 1935.

The report shows that the health of the District  
remained satisfactory during the year.

Altho' for the purpose of making a more complete  
comparison, in general, the vital statistics compare favorably  
with those for the country as a whole. It is noted, however,  
that some increase occurred during the year compared with one  
during the preceding four years.

I am indebted to Mr. William J. Larkin, Health  
Inspector for his cooperation and help during the year, and  
for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted  
to my clerk, Miss J. H. H. for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen,  
for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. Larkin

Health Officer of Health

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1961.

- A. Area - 1,650 acres  
 Rateable value: 1st April 1962 - £95,710  
 Production of a penny rate: 1961/62 - £370 (estimated)  
 1962/63 - £378 (estimated)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,110

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) <u>Sherborne</u>	(b) <u>England</u>
				<u>U.D.</u>	<u>&amp; Wales</u>
Total	46	40	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	44	39	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	2	1	= 12.1	15.4	17.4

STILLBIRTHS

Total (Legitimate)	Nil	1	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 11.5	11.5	18.7
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DEATHS

Total	56	42	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.6	12.5	12.0
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Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	1	Nil	Infantile death		
Under 4 Weeks (Legitimate)	Nil	Nil	rate per 1,000 live births = 11.6	11.6	21.4

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	3	1	1	Nil
" " Other Cancer	12	22	13	12
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	19	9	13	10
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	37	31	25	35
" " Influenza	1	Nil	4	Nil
" " Pneumonia	6	2	4	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents	1	Nil	2	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	1	1	1
" " Suicide	3	Nil	1	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	1

B. Nature of the District

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to thirty nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Two treatments	217	(253)	(782)
Three treatments	259	(511)	(1,525)
Fourth treatment	444		

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	75	(74)	(90)
Booster treatments	43	(130)	(85)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	71	(73)	(78)
Booster treatments	17	(21)	(14)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	100	(87)	(75)
Booster treatments	37	(27)	(8)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	60	(72)	(59)
Re-vaccinations	11	(16)	(39)

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis

355	-	(183)
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D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F. E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (Part time).

WATER SUPPLY

Rainfall -	1961	1960	1959
	28.47 ins.	44.19 ins.	31.34 ins.

Supplies remained satisfactory and adequate throughout the year.

Ninety-seven regular monthly samples from the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and two samples were submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies twenty-four samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

Wessex Water Board

During the year negotiations were still being pursued between your Council and the following local Authorities to form a joint water board - Yeovil and Chard Borough Councils; Crewkerne and Ilminster Urban District Councils and Sherborne, Chard, Lamport, Yeovil and Wincanton Rural District Councils.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Modernisation of the sewage works was completed during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage Eighty-five tons of paper and two tons of rags were collected during the year, compared with fifty-nine tons and two tons respectively in the previous year.

Cesspool Emptying No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	12
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspec-tions</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	7	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	53	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	4	4	-
<b>Total -</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2</b>

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Insufficient	1	1	1
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-
<b>Total -</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

No. of outworkers - 91  
(Wearing apparel)

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Forty-three observations and visits to plants were made during the year.

Modification was made to existing plant or new plant was installed at a number of private or industrial premises to avoid air pollution.

CAMPING SITES

No licenses were issued during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

In the absence of alternative sites, the existence of caravan dwellings, in decreasing numbers, has had to be accepted on the old sites which ceased to be licensed since the above mentioned Act came into operation.

Outline planning consent has been given to the use of land at Clatcombe for a permanent caravan site. Such a site, provided with all necessary sanitary facilities and amenities will prove a most useful asset to the district and it is hoped that its development will proceed without undue delay to meet the existing urgent need.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Disinfestation with DDT was carried out at one house following the death of the tenant, prior to demolition.

Several treatments against clusters of flies (*musca autumnalis*) were carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 (Continued)

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered four hundred and twenty three compared with two hundred and fifty eight during the previous year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises	<u>1</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>4</u>

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Regular inspection of canteens, schools and kitchens were carried out during the year.

The sanitary accommodation at the Abbey School (trough closets) remains unsatisfactory and it is hoped that action will be taken to replace these with more hygienic sanitary facilities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district	2,159
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -	
No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	79
No. of inspections made	136
No. of informal notices served	3
No. of informal notices complied with	3
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	3
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -	
Demolition Orders made	Nil
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	1
Reconditioning	2
Other Action	Nil
No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	Nil

Slum Clearance

Three individual unfit houses were represented to you during the year.

It is anticipated that further representations will be made during 1962. These, will of course, be in respect to houses considered to be unfit for human occupation by the very low standard of fitness laid down in the Housing Act, 1958.

In addition to the remaining houses of this category in your district, there are a considerable number which although not 'unfit' within the meaning of the Housing Act, are by all reasonable standards in the present state of society unfit for family use. A fixed bath and a running hot water supply, a readily accessible W.C. are no longer mere amenities, but, it is suggested, present day necessities.

HOUSING - Slum Clearance (Continued)

It is regretted that the Council (on financial grounds) felt it necessary to abandon (for the time being only, it is hoped) its scheme for the improvement of its Vernalls Road houses.

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Applications for two 'Discretionary' and ten 'Standard' Improvement Grants were received during the year.

In the majority of cases these applications were received from owner-occupiers and were not in respect to houses available for letting.

New Houses

Thirty three new houses were built by private enterprise during the year and seven by the Council.

Twenty seven families were housed by the Council during the year.

Waiting List

One hundred and eighty seven applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council 8

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration 2

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration Nil

Samples

Forty-eight samples of milk in the District were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination.

In addition two hundred and three samples were taken by officers of the County Council.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	<u>26</u>
Canteens - School and workplace	<u>8</u>
Confectioners	<u>9</u>
Meat and Fish	<u>10</u>
Grocers	<u>9</u>
Mixed Stores	<u>10</u>
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	<u>7</u>
Food Factories	<u>2</u>
Stalls	<u>4</u>
Other	<u>7</u>

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies (Continued)

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	<u>34</u>
Sausages & Prepared Meats	<u>2</u>
Fish and Chips	<u>2</u>

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 106

Eighty-five of the before-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, one hundred and ten inspections being carried out.

The open stalls on the Parade require constant supervision and frequent verbal warnings are given.

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	234 lbs.
Other	-	245 lbs.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

For the second year in succession no beast was found to be infected with tuberculosis.

The number of animals killed fell by approximately eight hundred due to the drop in one thousand calves compared with 1960 - an exceptional year for calf killing.

This will be reflected in a smaller Government Grant toward meat inspection although the Council is unable to reduce its inspectorate. The present system of grants is clearly inequitable where small authorities are concerned.

Meat inspection still occupies a large proportion of your Public Health Inspector's time and is out of proportion to the number of animals killed. Evening and weekend duties prove irksome and this is principally on account of 'export' meat.

Thanks are again due to the Sherborne R.D.C. - to its Meat Inspector (Mr. Fannon) for relieving your own Meat Inspector in his absence and on alternative Sundays.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle Including Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	753	8,316	2,074	1,086
Number Inspected	753	8,316	2,074	1,086
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	4	24	1	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	56	57	81	253
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	0.79%	0.96%	3.47%	23.84%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.19%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>2,024</u>
Total No. informal notices served	<u>23</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>23</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>5</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>5</u>
Total No. of prosecutions	<u>1</u>

**E. RADIATION HAZARDS**

No information has been received during the year under the Radioactive Substances Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

**F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE**

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	10
Scarlet Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Whooping Cough	5
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Nil	1

Food Poisoning -

Eighteen cases of food poisoning were notified during the year - all cases occurring at a Boys Boarding School.

NOEL F. PEARSON  
Medical Officer of Health.



