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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year  
1965

*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.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June, 1966.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report  
for the year 1965.

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

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under  
consideration, in general, the vital statistics  
compare favourably with those for the Country as  
a whole.

There was no serious increased incidence of  
notifiable disease.

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, Ladies and  
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration  
throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

*Low E Pearson*

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Officer  
Department of Health  
London

1st June, 1955

To the Chairman and Members,  
Statutory Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to refer to Annual Report  
for the year 1954.

The report is prepared and will be circulated  
in accordance with the requirements of the Public  
Health (Statistics) Regulations, 1952.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the  
statistics are prepared, and that the  
figures are only a guide to the actual  
state of affairs.

There are no serious instances of  
notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert van Lint  
Health Inspector for his cooperation and help  
during the year, and the assistance in preparing  
this report. I am also indebted to Mr. van  
Lint for his efficient services.

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

I have, gentlemen, to be.

Yours obediently,  
John G. ...

Health Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 5

A. Area - 1,650 acres  
Rateable value: 1st April 1966 - £264,618  
Production of a penny rate: 1965/66 - £970  
1966/67 - £971(est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,500  
Natural Growth of Population (Births  
over Deaths) - 22

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male Female</u>		Comparative Rates (a)Sherborne(b)England U.D. & Wales		
Total	58	42	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: )= 13.3	19.0	18.1
Illegitimate	3	4			

STILLBIRTHS

Total	1	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & Still- births = 9.9	9.9	15.7
Legitimate					

DEATHS

Total	34	44	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: )= 10.4	9.1	11.5

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	19.7

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	Nil	2	3	4
" " Other Cancer	19	14	9	15
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	19	11	13	13
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	22	22	31	34
" " Influenza	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Pneumonia	5	3	8	6
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	2	1	3
" " All other accidents	1	2	1	1
" " Suicide	Nil	1	Nil	2
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	1	1	2	Nil

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, manufacture of industrial glass fabrics, glove making, dairies and mineral water manufacturing.

During the year there was appreciable industrial expansion, with the enlargement of 'Marglass' and the establishment of Kodak.

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, prophylactic inoculation, 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, the Guild of Social Service and the meals on wheels service provided by the W.V.S.

Forty elderly people benefitted from this valuable service compared with twenty six during the preceding year. Not only are the meals appreciated, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals around.

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.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne Districts acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal basis.

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

Additional Public Health Inspector - E. Wood, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - Two clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
	33.80 ins.	23.55 ins.	28.58 ins.

The Wessex Water Board is responsible for the public water supplies in the district.

All the houses in the town have a piped mains water supply and no house is dependent upon a stand-pipe supply.

The supplies remained adequate and satisfactory throughout the year.

In addition to the samples for bacteriological examination taken by the Board, one hundred and twenty seven samples were submitted for examination by your public health staff.

Five private water supplies were in use for industrial purposes. Regular sampling of these supplies was carried out. One supply gave repeatedly unsatisfactory bacteriological results and in view of the use to which the water from this supply was put it has now been abandoned and a supply taken from the Wessex Water Board.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

By the end of the year the new recirculating pump for the sewage works, authorised by the Council to improve the standard of effluent, had not been installed.

One field drain catchpit which had given rise to rat infestation was put in order and incorporated into the towns sewage system.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are three sets of public conveniences in the district. All are supplied with wash hand basins with a cold water supply. Paper towels and soap are available from a slot machine.

One convenience, for females, in each set is free of charge.

It is regretful that some members of the public do not treat these facilities with the respect or care due.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

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

Salvage There is no salvage collection.

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

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Your two public health inspectors are appointed inspectors (part time) under the Act.

During the year one hundred and fifty two inspections were carried out of which forty seven were 'general inspections'. Thirty two premises were brought fully up to standard.

Forty three visits were made regarding new installations etc., and day to day spot checks were made of all chimneys. Three verbal notices were given with regard to bonfires or other smoke nuisances.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	72	5
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	4	-
<b>Total -</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>5</b>

No. of cases in which defects were -

<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector</u>
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Sanitary Conveniences

Unsuitable or Defective	9	8	1
<b>Total -</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

No. of outworkers (Wearing Apparel) - 58

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Ninety six full smoke observations were made during the year, the findings being generally good.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

One factory in the district is registered under the Act.

## SWIMMING BATHS

There is one private swimming bath to which the public have access. Regular samples of the water from this and other private swimming baths in the district were taken during the year. Two samples proved unsatisfactory, as a result of which increased chlorination was carried out.

## THE CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are two licensed caravan sites in the district, one of which, has not yet been developed.

The remaining one is at Lower Clatcombe for sixty one caravans. The large majority are for residential purposes and a limited number of spaces being reserved for caravans in transit.

By the end of the year work on the provision of satisfactory supplies of hot water for the showers and laundry had not been carried out.

Forty five inspections of the site were carried out during the year.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Advice was given in respect of several cockroach and cluster fly infestations.

## 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.

Four hundred and twenty four private houses were inspected in which three hundred and seventy three treatments were carried out. Eighty two business premises were treated.

## 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 1  
No. of inspections made 4

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are no premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

All school canteens and boarding school houses were reinspected during the year. The general standard of food hygiene was good.

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, although serious consideration was given in respect to one aged person as to whether she should be removed in the interest of her neighbours.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One, is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the person themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dis-associated from the compulsory removal.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

Action was called for with regard to noise from a large factory which caused nuisance, particularly at night and in the summer time when the ventilating roof windows were required to be open.

The Factory Management co-operated in attempting to find a remedy but up to the end of the year no real solution had been found.

## HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 2,253

Inspection of dwelling houses during  
the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	<u>25</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>146</u>
No. of informal notices served	<u>12</u>
No. of informal notices complied with	<u>8</u>
No. of statutory notices served	<u>Nil</u>
No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>1</u>

No. of houses reported under Section  
16 of the Housing Act, 1958 Nil  
Action taken by the Local Authority  
in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made	<u>Nil</u>
Undertakings accepted for -	

Closure	<u>Nil</u>
Reconditioning	<u>Nil</u>
Other Action	<u>Nil</u>

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas  
during the year Nil

### Slum Clearance

During the year a survey was commenced under the Housing Act, 1964 to ascertain which houses in the district could properly be included in compulsory 'improvement' areas. It is hoped that this will be completed during 1966 and a full report will be presented to the Council.

### Overcrowding

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

### Houses Let in Lodgings

Four houses are known to be let in lodgings.

### Improvement Grants

One application for 'Discretionary' and forty-eight applications for 'Standard' improvement grants were received during the year, compared with none and sixteen respectively during the preceding year.

### New Houses

Thirty nine new houses were built by private enterprise during the year but none by the Council compared with thirty three and thirty one respectively during the previous year.

Eighteen families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with forty nine during the preceding year.

Although no new dwellings were completed by the Council during the year, I am well aware that you are proceeding with the provision of as many new dwellings as you are permitted to provide. Only eighteen applicants were rehoused during the year (compared with forty nine during the preceding year) but it has to be remembered that the Council was faced with having to rehouse tenants of the Harbour Road 'prefabs' due for demolition.

My greatest concern is for the long list of applicants on the 'old peoples list' who (on account of the few and rare vacancies occurring at Durrant Close) appear to have only a remote chance of rehousing in present circumstances, although their housing need, in my opinion, is just as great, if not greater, than younger people on the general waiting list.

It is suggested that consideration might well be given to the two waiting lists being combined so that 'old people' can compete on equal terms with the younger applicants for suitable accommodation, be it at Durrant Close or elsewhere.

#### Waiting List

One hundred and eighty one applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year compared with one hundred and seventy nine a year previously.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

#### 1. Milk

#### Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959

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 seven samples of milk in the district were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination. All samples passed the test.

In addition two hundred and one samples were taken by Officers of the County Council.

### Brucellosis

No samples of milk were submitted for examination for Brucella infection by your Inspectors. This examination is carried out as a routine measure by the County Staff and any positive result notified to me. No such notifications were received during the year.

One case of Brucella Abortus came to notice during the year, the infection having, apparently been contracted outside the district.

### Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959 Regulation 20.

#### Para Typhoid B.

A milk supply appeared to be the most likely vehicle of infection of para typhoid B infection affecting four persons in the district of whom one, was a milker on the farm concerned. Action was taken to suspend the milker until he was shown to be free of infection and steps were taken to ensure adequate heat treatment was given to the milk before sale to the public. The persons affected were all of a limited few who drank this milk un-treated. No secondary cases occurred.

It cannot be too strongly urged that the only safe milk is heat treated (pasteurised) milk or cream.

### 2. Other Food Premises

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

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	26
Canteens - School and Workplace	9
Confectioners	8
Meat and Fish	9
Grocers	10
Mixed Stores	9
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	9
Food Factories	1
Stalls	5
Other	7
Total -	95

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

Ice Cream	34
Sausages & Prepared Meats	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 120

Ninety three of the before-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, five hundred and seventy nine inspections being carried out, compared with three hundred and seventy one during the previous year.

Sixteen informal notices were served during the year in relation to contravention of the Food (Hygiene) Regulations in addition to fifty eight verbal notices given for minor infringements.

#### Food Hygiene(Regulations)1960

Eighty eight premises in the district are subject to the Food (Hygiene) Regulations, 1960.

Eighty seven of these are fitted to comply with regulation 16.

All of the eighty four premises to which Regulation 19 apply are fitted to comply with the Regulations.

#### Food Inspection

##### Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of Foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	89 lbs.
Other	-	130 lbs.

together with one thousand two hundred and twenty four packets of various frozen foodstuffs after a deep freeze cabinet had failed at one shop.

#### LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

One bakehouse in the Urban district uses this product.

One sample was taken by your Authority and subjected to the Alpha-Amylase test.



Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned 1965

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	548	1166	665	905
Number Inspected	548	1166	665	905
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole Carcasses condemned	4	13	2	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	61	34	63	230
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.85	4.03	9.77	26.13
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.55
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) 4,071  
Total No. of informal notices served 117  
Total No. of informal notices complied with 102  
Total No. of statutory notices served 6  
Total No. of statutory notices complied with 6  
Total No. of prosecutions 2

The total number of inspections carried out by the public health inspectors in 1965 was four thousand and seventy one compared with one thousand and nine hundred and fourteen during the preceding year, resulting from the appointment of the additional public health inspector. Inspections under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, and the housing survey under the Housing Act, 1964 were largely responsible for this increase.

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	88
Erysipelas	1
Scarlatina	3
Para Typhoid B	2

Tuberculosis -

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

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON  
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Total No. of respondents	100
Total No. of laboratory studies completed	100
Total No. of laboratory studies completed with results	100
Total No. of laboratory studies completed with results and recommendations	100

The total number of laboratory studies completed by the public health laboratory in 1965 was 100. Of these, 100 were completed with results and recommendations. The laboratory studies were completed from the equipment of the year, resulting from the equipment of the year.

Other than laboratory studies

Class	Total
Paratyphoid B	1
Shigellosis	1
Enterocolitis	1
Other	1

Food poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

Respiratory -

There were no cases of respiratory disease reported during the year.

Other

There were no cases of other diseases reported during the year.

Medical Officer of Health  
 J. P. LARSON



