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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

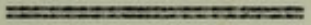
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960



REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1887

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

LANDS BELONGING TO THE

CROWN

AND

THE

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health R.C. MacLeod, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. and H.

Public Health Inspector S.T. Chard, F.A.P.H.I.

General Assistant to Public Health Inspector ... E.W.J. Maer.

Engineer and Surveyor T.H. Chambers, M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E.

Water Manager H.E. Scadding.

Shorthand Typist to Medical Officer, Surveyor
and Public Health Inspector Miss C.E. Hardiker.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

General Purposes Committee.

Public Health, Water and Highways Committee.

Manor Estates Committee.

Housing Committee.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health E. C. Woodcock, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. and H.

Public Health Inspector S. T. Card, F.A.P.H.I.

General Assistant to Public Health Inspector ... E. W. J. Neary.

Lighting and Surveyor T. H. Chambers, M.I.W.A.S., M.Inst.

Water Manager E. S. Seaman.

Business Tylist to Medical Officer, Surveyor
and Public Health Inspector Miss C. S. Hardiker.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

General Purposes Committee.

Public Health, Water and Highways Committee.

Water Rates Committee.

Rating Committee.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

This Report follows the lines of its predecessors but an effort has been made to broaden the picture of the public health in Sidmouth by commenting, where necessary, on those items looked after by the Devon County Council.

Again I should like to thank the Council for their support during the year, and record my appreciation of the Public Health Inspector and his staff for their help and for compiling the main body of this Report.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. C. MACLEOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Offices,
New Street,
HONITON.

Telephone: Honiton, 391.

SEVENTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR 1920

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1920

To the Chairman and Members of the
Seventh District Council.

W. C. WATSON, Chairman and Members.

This report follows the lines of the previous year's report but an effort has been made to include the history of the public health in this county by commenting, where necessary, on those items listed after by the Board of Health Council.

Again I would like to thank the Council for their support during the year, and extend my appreciation of the Public Health Inspector and his staff for their help and cooperation in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. WATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer,
Law Office,
HOWLTON.

Seventh District Council, 1921.

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area	11,475 acres.
Population	9,870 (Registrar General)*
Number of habitable houses	3,895 (1.4.61)
Rateable Value	£209,625 (1.4.61)
Penny Rate produces	£830. (1.4.61)

* NOTE: From time to time attention has been called to the Registrar General's estimated population figure which has always appeared to be too low. The Census in April, 1961 which gives a population of 11,139 shows clearly the discrepancy which amounts to 1,269 or nearly 13%.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

The previous year's figures have been included so that comparisons can be made.

LIVE BIRTHS

1959 - (47 males, 47 females)	94
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 94.	
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.5
Corrected live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .	3.8
1960 - (48 males, 43 females)	91
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 91.	
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.2
Corrected live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .	3.3

STILL BIRTHS

1959 - (0 stillbirths were registered - 0 illegitimate) .	0
Total live and stillbirths	94
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	9.5
1960 - (4 stillbirths were registered - 1 illegitimate) .	4
Total live and stillbirths	95
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	42.1

2. VITAL STATISTICS (Continued).

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

1959 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	11.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
1960 - (2 deaths were registered - 0 illegitimate)	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	22.7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

1959 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.6
Maternal deaths	0
1960 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	11
Maternal deaths	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

1959 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	10.6
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)..	10.6
1960 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	11.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)..	52.6

3. DEATHS

(a) Statistics Provided By The Registrar General.

<u>Causes of Death:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Cancer</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	11	19

3. DEATHS (Continued).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Heart Diseases</u>			
Coronary disease, angina	30	13	43
Hypertension with heart disease (high blood pressure)	-	3	3
Other heart diseases	11	20	31
Other circulatory diseases	6	9	15
<u>Respiratory Diseases</u>			
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
<u>Other Diseases</u>			
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	2	2
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1
Vascular disease of nervous system (e.g. cerebral haemorrhage)	16	20	36
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
Accidents	3	5	8
Suicide	4	-	4
	<u>100</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>208</u>

(b) Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Total deaths from all causes</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>210</u>

(c) Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Crude Death Rate - 20.5.

Corrected Death Rate - 11.9.

NOTE: The deaths from Cancer at 34 are practically the same as those for last year (35), both being somewhat lower than those for 1958. The deaths from heart disease, on the other hand, show an increase, there being 92 this year, 66 in 1959 and 74 in 1958. This increase was not, however, due to an increase in Coronary Artery Disease, the modern scourge, as the numbers of deaths from this particular condition were 33, 38 and 33 in the respective years. In 1959 and 1958, however, the numbers of deaths from Coronary Artery Disease in males and females were fairly equal, whereas in 1960 there were 30 such deaths in males and only 13 in females. This pattern follows, and demonstrates clearly that for the country at large, in that Coronary Artery Disease is now much more frequent in males than in females.

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlatina	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Measles	141	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-
* Chickenpox	1	1	-

* Notifiable under Local Act.

5. TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1960.

New Cases Notified:

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 14	-	-	-	1
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-

Deaths from Tuberculosis - Nil.

6. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

(a) The Devon County Council are the Local Health Authority responsible for the Act under Part III. The Hospital facilities under Part II have been found satisfactory when needed.

(b) Isolation.

Arrangements for the admission of cases of infectious diseases to the Whipton Isolation Hospital at Exeter are satisfactory. The Medical Superintendent and staff are always co-operative and helpful.

(c) Smallpox.

A Smallpox Hospital at Upton Pyne, administered by the Regional Hospital Board, is available in case of need.

(d) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory, now moved to buildings in the University of Exeter, Gandy Street, has been available when necessary and Dr. Moore is always willing to provide advice and help if required.

6. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT (Continued).

(e) Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the County Council.

(f) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

(g) Mental Health.

This is, of course, a County Council responsibility. I had envisaged that, as the Mental Health Bill indicated that more persons may be treated at home, District Councils and their officers would become more involved with Mental Health. It will possibly be some time before this effect is noticed. The term "Mental Health" covers a very wide field and it is obvious that all bodies, voluntary or official, which assist in bringing people together or in meeting the needs of, say elderly people, are doing Mental Health work.

7. (a) OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE.

The importance of increasing the amount of attention devoted to the welfare of old people continues to be stressed by all authorities. I am, therefore, very happy to record that during the year a much needed and much appreciated Meals on Wheels Service was inaugurated by the W.V.S. The W.V.S. are indeed to be congratulated on this notable advance. It is further hoped that during the coming year an Old People's Welfare Committee will be formed in the town.

(b) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No statutory action was found necessary during the year although as always cases come to the notice of the local health authority from time to time and are visited or referred to the Welfare Department of the County Council. The association with (a) above is of course obvious.

8. IMMUNISATION

The numbers of certain inoculations given in the town, as compiled from record cards sent in by General Practitioners, are as follows:-

Triple inoculation 74 (8 incomplete) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus.

Primary vaccination against Smallpox - 79.

These figures when compared with the number of births in the area, namely 94, are quite reasonable but should be improved upon.

B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all schools having children aged thirteen years and upwards. 229 children were given a skin test and 40 showed a positive result, that is, they showed evidence of resistance to the disease acquired through previous exposure to Tuberculosis infection, but all on investigation were found to be clear of the disease. The children who showed no evidence of resistance were vaccinated with B.C.G.

9. WATER SUPPLIES

(1) Public Supplies

The year 1960 saw the official opening of the new Core Hill Reservoir on the 5th December. This was the final stage in the augmentation scheme which included the provision of the new borehole, the necessary laying of new mains and all the work entailed in the construction of the reservoir. Last year I outlined the scheme and it may not be out of place to remind the Council again that it involves pumping water from the new borehole to the reservoir and from there it will gravitate to the existing reservoirs at Peak Hill and Woolbrook and also augment the supply at Bickwell Valley and the High Street, Sidford areas.

The brochure supplied at the opening of the augmentation scheme gave a brief outline of the history of the water supply at Sidmouth and it may be of some interest to quote from this:-

"In 1933, the Urban District Council acquired the Water Undertaking, the total yield of all the supplies then brought into the Town being 287,000 gallons per day.

Two additional sources were tapped within the next few years and by 1936, the total available supply was some 426,000 gallons per day.

By 1939, the demand had increased considerably, and as no further spring supplies appeared to be available, recourse was had to boring. In 1940, a borehole, 12 inches diameter and 208 feet deep, was sunk at the Eastern end of the Sidford Recreation Ground and this gave a yield of 168,000 gallons per day which was pumped into the Woolbrook Reservoir. After the War, the demand still increased and a second borehole was sunk at Sidford adjoining the first. This was 15 inches in diameter and 246 feet deep, but the results were disappointing. The yield was 264,000 gallons per day, but in pumping, it drained the first borehole.

In 1952, the Council called in their present Consultants, who made an investigation into the whole question of the Water Supply of the Urban District, and advised that another borehole should be sunk in the Sid Valley, but far enough away from the existing boreholes to be unaffected by their pumping.

The Council accepted this recommendation and in 1954-55 a borehole, 21 inches in diameter, was sunk to a depth of 500 feet. Test pumping for 14 days and nights continuously gave a reliable yield of 25,000 gallons per hour or 600,000 gallons per day, and it is the works bringing this additional source into supply that are being inaugurated to-day.

The visible parts of these works consist of a Pump House over the Borehole at Sidford, and a Mass Concrete Reservoir of 500,000 gallons capacity in Core Hill Road.

In the Borehole has been fixed an electrically-driven submersible pump, capable of raising 21,000 gallons per hour to the Core Hill Reservoir through a 9-inch pumping main, while from the Reservoir has been laid a 6-inch diameter main to Peak Hill Reservoir, with a 4-inch diameter branch to Woolbrook Reservoir. This arrangement permits the continued use of all the other sources of supply.

The pump is under partial automatic control, in that it can be started at any convenient time by a time switch and stopped by a pressure switch when the Core Hill Reservoir is full. Advantage can thus be taken of the cheap night current, and the constant presence of an attendant is unnecessary.

In the Pump House there is also a Recorder for indicating the depth of water in the Borehole, and a safety device for cutting out the pump should the level fall dangerously low. There is also a meter and a Chlorinating apparatus.

9. WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

At Core Hill Reservoir a telephonic Depth Recorder has been fixed. This is an appliance by which the Water Manager, dialling a number on a normal telephone, may ascertain the depth of the water, and the opportunity has also been taken of fixing similar Recorders in Peak Hill and Woolbrook Reservoirs.

Finally, to bring the whole water system up to date, Chlorination Plant has been installed on all the other supplies".

The Water Manager has kindly given me some notes on the history of the scheme as he has known it since March 1918 when he first joined the old Water Company. At that time the daily consumption from the springs was 226,000 gallons whereas now the potential is well over 1,000,000 gallons. It must be remembered of course that apart from the increase in the use of water as a result of better sanitation and amenities, part of the Rural District of Honiton, as it was then, has been incorporated in the Urban District. In fact most of the building that is going on to-day is to the north of the town and is in the area which was previously administered by the Honiton Rural District Council.

Character and Quantity of Public Supplies

(a) <u>LAND SPRING SUPPLIES:</u>	<u>Parts per Million</u>	<u>pH value</u> ***	<u>Maximum Quantity in Gallons per day</u>
<u>Bernards Farm, Sidbury.</u>			
Temporary hardness	172		
Permanent hardness	16	7.8	100,000.
TOTAL hardness	188		
<u>Plyford Filter Bed, Sidbury.</u> (including Pinn Hill, Core Copse, Wolverleigh, Vercombes Well)			
Temporary hardness	5		
Permanent hardness	15	5.7	196,000.
TOTAL hardness	20		
<u>Core Way, Sidford.</u>			
Temporary hardness	7		
Permanent hardness	31	6.4	2,000.
TOTAL hardness	38		
<u>Bulverton, Sidmouth.</u>			
Temporary hardness	263		
Permanent hardness	10	8.0	1,500.
TOTAL hardness	273		
<u>Peak Hill</u> } <u>Stintway</u> }	To be discontinued when new scheme is in operation.		

*** The pH value represents the acidity or alkalinity of water. A pH value of 7 is a neutral water - below that figure the water is soft and acid, and above that alkaline.

9. WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

Character and Quantity of Public Supplies

(b) <u>BOREHOLES:</u>	<u>Parts per Million</u>	<u>pH value</u>	<u>Maximum Quantity in Gallons per day</u>
<u>Two Existing Boreholes, Sidford.</u>			
Temporary hardness	217		
Permanent hardness	<u>10</u>	7.7	264,000.
TOTAL hardness	<u>227</u>		
<u>New Borehole, Sidford.</u>			
Temporary hardness	220		
Permanent hardness	<u>9</u>	8.0	<u>600,000.</u>
TOTAL hardness	<u>229</u>		<u>1,163,500. TOTAL</u>

(2) Devon Water Bill.

The Devon County Council's Private Bill seeking to establish a Water Board for the East Devon Area was rejected during the year by the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Subsequently considerable discussions took place with the County Council and with the other East Devon Authorities and the Council decided, subject to certain safeguards, to offer their support to the County Council on any Bill they might promote which provided for a reconstituted East Devon Water Board, in which Exeter was included.

The County Council considered (but abandoned) a proposal to promote a Bill setting up a single Water Board for the whole County. They decided to support the Minister of Housing and Local Government's proposals to make a draft order for the constitution of one Board in South Devon, and to ask the Minister to deal with regrouping in East and North Devon as soon as possible.

(3) Private Supplies.

Salcombe Regis.

There has been no change in the position at Salcombe Regis during the year. The new scheme provided by the East Devon Water Board has of course functioned quite satisfactorily and the other water is from the spring supplying by gravity houses below Springfield.

Harcombe.

Again during the year this supply appears to have been satisfactory and there seems no doubt that the collective effort of the consumers in the village was all that was needed to ensure a reasonably satisfactory supply. Permission has been given for an extra building which will come off this supply and this may be built during the ensuing year.

Sidford.

There are still a few cottages on the old unsatisfactory supply but they are the possible subject of demolition and so it has been decided at this stage to await the future action.

9. WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

(3) Private Supplies.

Sidbury.

There has been no alteration to the private supplies owned by the Sidbury Manor Estate during the year.

(4) Distribution.

Public Supplies:

		<u>Total</u>
Number of properties connected to S.U.D.C. supply	3482	
Number of properties connected to Honiton Hill ram	5	
Number of properties at Salcombe Regis supplied by East Devon Water Board	26	
Number of properties on Bulverton supply	<u>7</u>	
	3520	3520

Private Supplies:

<u>Salcombe Regis -</u>		
Properties connected to No. 2 spring	8	
Other private supplies	15	
<u>Harcombe -</u>		
Properties connected to main village supply	9	
Other small supplies or wells	11	
<u>Fortescue</u>		
Properties connected	26	
<u>Bowd</u>		
Properties connected	12	
<u>Sidbury</u>		
Ridgeway - Properties connected	72	
Greenhead Properties connected	108	
Hatway - Properties connected	15	
Other properties in outlying areas with own private supplies	<u>96</u>	
	372	372
Number of properties without water supplies		<u>3</u>
		<u>3895</u>

10. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In connection with the new sea outfall, further technical details were prepared and submitted to the Ministry by the Council's Consulting Engineers during the year resulting in the formal approval of the scheme. Tenders for carrying out the work were invited in the early Autumn and a price was accepted and approved by the Ministry. The cast-iron pipes were placed on order and actual work commenced early in 1961.

The new disintegrator pumping plant and screening chamber, constructed in the latter part of 1959 and early 1960, was put into use on the 2nd. June. Operation was very satisfactory and no visual pollution was observed along the seashore. The heavy Autumn rainfalls again made it evident that the whole sewerage system needs some review and the Council has resolved that such an investigation should be undertaken, but the manner by which this is to be effected was referred to the Finance Committee.

10. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE (Continued).

Building construction in the area proceeds apace and the figures can be seen in another part of this Report, but all this building plus improvement grant work and the general improved standard means greater work on the sewers which are now obsolete in many cases. The work now in hand, however, will be of very great assistance and whatever may be done to the sewerage system in the future, the outfall and disintegrating plant should be able to cope sufficiently.

11. FOOD.

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

It will be seen from the tabulated statement at the end of this Report that inspections have continued under the Regulations although we are still handicapped in the Public Health Department by a shortage of one qualified Public Health Inspector. Nevertheless, I have myself accompanied our Public Health Inspector on many visits to food premises and am becoming acquainted generally with the food trade in the town.

(b) Meat.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and the report under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, Section 3 shows that there is no demand for an abattoir in the area. The present arrangements whereby meat is obtained from the Exeter City Abattoir or from a private slaughterhouse at Honiton seems to work satisfactorily. Some concern has been expressed from time to time that a small proportion of meat entering the town from adjoining areas has not been inspected and it is hoped that the Authorized Officers (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1960 may eventually remedy this situation by providing Meat Inspection Officers to supplement the Public Health Inspectors responsible for meat inspection.

There are 12 butchers' shops in the district and 1 butcher's stall at the Market and the standard is satisfactory. All butchers' shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, preserved meat etc.

(c) Fish.

There are 4 wet fish shops in the area, all with enclosed fronts. A new one has recently been constructed and advice was sought prior to the plans being drawn which is always the most suitable way of dealing with food hygiene where premises are concerned. One of these shops sells fruit and vegetables although these are kept separate as far as possible.

There are 2 local mobile fishmongers and 1 operating from outside the district. All are satisfactory.

(d) Milk and Dairies.

Being a "specified area" all milk sold is either pasteurized or tuberculin tested and the local pasteurizing plant caters for nearly all the milk within the district. There are 6 registered Dairies although only 4 are fully engaged in dairy work. The others come technically within the definition of "Dairy". It appears that in common with the trend in big business, the large local dairy and pasteurising plant will eventually be superseded and the administrative and technical work carried on from Exeter, leaving the present buildings for distributive use only.

11. FOOD (Continued).

(e) Ice-Cream.

All ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed or comes from a neighbouring district. During the year 24 samples were taken and the results can be seen from the tabulated statement below. It will be noted that at least two of these were unsatisfactory falling into Grades 3 and 4 and this was found to be due to improper sterilization of serving utensils. The proprietor of the establishment concerned, although claiming to have had long experience in the business, did not appear to recognize the need for proper sterilization of utensils but when this was pointed out to him subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Number and Gradings of Ice-Cream Samples

<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
24	20	2	1	1

(f) Bakers and Confectioners.

There are 9 bakehouses in the district. During the year one fairly large bakehouse was closed and a smaller one, which had been discontinued for a number of years, was re-opened. The particular occupier had close liason with the Public Health Department and advice was given prior to the occupation and during the fitting of equipment. The present place is small but adequate for the needs of the present staff. One other bakehouse which has not been erected very long has not been maintained to the standard which is required and several times the occupier has had his attention called to the necessity for routine cleanliness. It would appear that, as is the case with many other small businesses, pressure of events is tending to push out the small man and in this particular case it has been noted that the bakehouse shop is gradually being transformed into a general provisions shop and it would appear that eventually the bakehouse at the rear will close.

(g) Grocers and General Provisions.

It was noted in the Report last year that the demarcation line between one food shop and another is getting blurred, and the trend again seems to be to sell all types of food which can be pre-packed. Generally, the pre-packing of food stuffs has enabled this to be done quite satisfactorily. Although all these premises have complied with the Regulations, it is still necessary to visit and pay particular attention to the routine at the rear of the shops. There is no doubt that the regular visit is a most useful thing from the point of view of food hygiene.

(h) Greengrocers and Fruiterers.

As reported previously, there are 8 premises predominately set aside for this trade although many general shops now appear to find it possible to sell fruit and vegetables. There are also entering the district from neighbouring authorities several vans which are inspected as time and occasion permits.

(i) Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes.

Visits have continued although one is always conscious in food hygiene work that insufficient inspections are made. Generally it was found that most premises were kept in reasonably good condition but from time to time one has to call the attention of occupiers to breaches of the Regulations or, more frequently, to methods of practice which fall short of the standards required in the kitchens and food preparation rooms. Nevertheless, it is true to say that the standard is fairly high in this district.

11. FOOD (Continued).

(j) Food Factory.

This Factory, which had been producing cooked tit-bits, ceased to function during the year and has been transferred nearer the Midlands.

(k) Unsound Food.

The tabulated statement at the end of this Report shows the amount of unsound food condemned during the year. The normal method of disposal is at the refuse tip after treatment and this is found reasonably satisfactory.

12. FOOD POISONING.

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

13. HOUSING.

(a) Slum Clearance.

Although progress was slow for the first few years in respect of the slum clearance programme, this was mainly due to the difficulties of the development of Eastern Town which has contained most of the properties already scheduled, but the position at the end of the year shows an acceleration. Out of the original 40, which was the programme agreed in 1955, 23 have been dealt with and during the year the following are the properties which have been cleared or closed:-

No. 1 Thatched Cottages, Sidford.

This property was closed and the occupant rehoused. An Undertaking was received from the owner but later proposals were submitted for the complete reconditioning of this cottage which were agreed and the work carried out satisfactorily.

No. 5 Mill Street.

This house has been closed and the occupant rehoused. The "Undertaking" procedure was also used in this case.

Nos. 1 and 2 Fuchsia Cottages, Temple Street.

These 2 cottages were part of a small clearance area and by the end of the year the occupants were rehoused and the cottages demolished.

This Council's programme submitted to the Ministry in May, 1956 was as follows:-

Estimated number of houses unfit and suitable for demolition	30
Estimated number of houses unfit and to be dealt with as 'individual' houses i.e. closure or demolition	10
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>40</u>

The programme has been reviewed from time to time and although there have been slight modifications the figure submitted at that time has been proved quite realistic and this was shown in my interim report to the General Purposes Committee on the 26th May, 1959 when the total number of properties amounted to 41 as against 40 given in 1956.

It now appears that within 18 months the remaining properties will be dealt with and the families rehoused, and although from time to time a few other houses may have to be considered, it is unlikely that

13. HOUSING (Continued).

(a) Slum Clearance.

any more clearance areas will be made for some years. Housing is not static as the Council will realize and there are always properties on the fringe of slum clearance which may fall in due to neglect, lack of maintenance or the raising of standards, but these should be few.

(b) Improvement Grants.

The Public Health Inspector is the technical officer responsible in this district for the operation of the improvement grants scheme. The Discretionary Grants are lagging behind the Standard Grants and during the year only one was paid as against 18 Standard Grants, making a total of £1,800. There are still a large number of properties in the area which lack the normal amenities although it does appear that to-day's housing legislation embraces many more aspects of the problem and enables more properties to be saved, so that when the slum clearance programme is finished the improvement grant scheme, allied with the repair section of the Housing Act and the Rent Act, may have the effect of steadying down the deterioration of many of the old properties.

(c) Building Programme.

Previous figures submitted showing the total programme of building and conversions for 10 years have again been included as follows:-

(a) Built by the Local Authority	NIL
(b) Built by Others - Cottington Flats	21
Houses	14
Bungalows	42
Conversions	<u>10</u>
	87
	—

TABLE SHOWING BUILDING DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS

NOTE: Houses include flats where they are new erections, otherwise flats are included under conversions.

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>By L.A.</u>	<u>By Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
1951	Houses	22	5	27	49
	Bungalows	NIL	1	1	
	Conversions	9	12	21	
1952	Houses	14	7	21	41
	Bungalows	4	1	5	
	Conversions	4	11	15	
1953	Houses	NIL	34	34	59
	Bungalows	NIL	13	13	
	Conversions	NIL	12	12	
1954	Houses	NIL	38	38	77
	Bungalows	NIL	33	33	
	Conversions	NIL	6	6	
1955	Houses	NIL	27	27	78
	Bungalows	NIL	50	50	
	Conversions	NIL	1	1	

13. HOUSING (Continued).

(c) Building Programme.

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>By L.A.</u>	<u>By Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
1956	Houses	NIL	17	17	60
	Bungalows	NIL	38	38	
	Conversions	NIL	5	5	
1957	Houses	6	14	20	86
	Bungalows	NIL	53	53	
	Conversions	NIL	13	13	
1958	Houses	NIL	12	12	72
	Bungalows	NIL	49	49	
	Conversions	NIL	11	11	
1959	Houses	24 (Flats)	34 (21 Flats)	58	114
	Bungalows	NIL	52	52	
	Conversions	NIL	4	4	
1960	Houses	NIL	35 (21 Flats)	35	87
	Bungalows	NIL	42	42	
	Conversions	NIL	10	10	
<u>TOTALS</u>	Houses	66	223	289	723
	Bungalows	4	332	336	
	Conversions	<u>13</u>	<u>85</u>	98	
		<u>83</u>	<u>640</u>		

14. CAMPING.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 amended the existing law and made further provision for the licensing and control of caravan sites. Although mainly a Planning Act, it did enable local authorities to have some guidance as to public health standards and these were issued as Model Standards by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government under Section 5 (6) of the Act. The opportunity was taken to discuss these conditions at a Joint Officers Conference of the County with a view to getting some agreed standard throughout the County and the meetings were most valuable, but as far as Sidmouth is concerned it was felt that standardization has its drawbacks and each site had to be separately considered when drafting conditions. In the words of the Minister introducing the Model Standards "They should be applied with due regard to the particular circumstances of each case, including the physical character of the site, any services or facilities that may already be available within convenient reach, and other local conditions".

As each site at Sidmouth is different, this was the view of the Council and so when considering site licences the conditions of each licence took account of these very things and was adapted to the particular site.

There are three sites now licensed:- The one at Dunscombe Manor Farm already covered by planning approval for 50 caravans, a site at Thorn Farm which had existing use and was licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and now licensed for 50 caravans, and a small site at Slade Farm for 4 caravans. These sites are satisfactory.

15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During the year the Market Conveniences were thoroughly overhauled and reconditioned and the money appears to have been well spent because this property in the centre of the town has steady use throughout the year and is as important as the Esplanade. The Council are well aware of the need to maintain Conveniences in first class order and the only difficulty so far has been with female staff which is very difficult to recruit particularly during the summer months when work is always available at hotels and food establishments. Nevertheless, the standard was maintained.

16. RODENT CONTROL.

No difficulty has been experienced in dealing with infestations and treatment has been dealt with promptly. Sewer treatment shows that there are still small residual infestations in the same areas as revealed over successive years. This points to defects in the sewers in these areas allowing rats to gain entrance. The number of treatments carried out at domestic premises, for which a nominal charge of 5/-d is made, does not vary appreciably during the years.

17. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

During the previous year the system at the refuse tip was greatly improved whereby a shute carries the refuse to the bed of the goyle and the actual work of spreading is done by a bulldozer instead of two men. Thus the fire nuisance caused by spontaneous combustion due to the depth of tipped material has been obviated and the arrangement works quite satisfactorily. Honiton Rural District Council make use of the tipping facilities by arrangement with the Council.

18. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

(a) Inspections.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	10	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	11	-	-
3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18. FACTORIES ACTS (Continued).

(b) Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to outwork	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

19. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

(a) Disinfection.

Bedding and clothing is disinfected in the Equifix Steam Disinfector at the Manstone Highways Depot and although the boiler and equipment are many years old it has still a useful life as repairs were carried out in 1955. It is felt that steam disinfection is still the best method of dealing with certain infected articles though it is worth noting that the higher standard of life is reflected here as very few flock mattresses are now presented for disinfection. The interior sprung mattress is now almost universal but is a much more difficult problem to treat by steam.

(b) Disinfestation.

Some of the modern insecticides and methods are a great improvement on the old, and it is found in practice that by applying techniques now available a great saving in time is often effected and the results equally as good and often better than of yore. Particularly worth mentioning are the insecticidal smokes and the insecticidal lacquers both of which are useful for cockroaches and such pests.

(c) Verminous Persons and Premises.

There were no cases during the year.

20. FLOODING.

For record purposes, it may not be out of place to add a brief paragraph about the flooding which occurred between the hours of 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. on Saturday morning, 22nd. October, 1960. The ground was already saturated after a period of prolonged rain - for instance from 27th September to 6th October inclusive, a period of 10 days, 8.22 inches were registered - which culminated in a cloudburst over the outlying parts of the valley, after a night of excessive rainfall.

The result was that the river burst its banks and flooded some 120 houses as well as doing extensive damage to roads, culverts, bridges, river banks etc. The work of pumping out and cleaning up was spearheaded by the Surveyor's staff, ably helped by the police, fire brigades and some 60 soldiers. All the voluntary bodies were in evidence, in fact everybody helped each other as is usual under such conditions. The Chairman of the Council, Mr. G. Hamlin, after visiting all the houses with the Clerk issued an appeal for funds, the response to which was most satisfactory and not only made available a free issue of coal for drying out but enabled the Chairman to replace chairs etc. damaged beyond repair. The normal public health precautions were taken and fortunately no immediate ill effects were noted, although it is sad to think that a young boy lost his life when he fell in the raging torrent.

21. INSPECTIONS

The following inspections of food premises were carried out during the year:-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of Visits</u>
Hotels	42	19
Guest Houses	20	-
Restaurants and Cafes	19	21
Fish and Chip Shops	2	2
Butchers	12	19
Bakers and Confectioners	9	21
Dairies	6	11
Fishmongers	4	24
Grocers and General Provisions	30	25
Greengrocers	8	8
School Canteens & Boarding Schools	4	-
Mobile Shops	1	-
Public Houses (excluding Hotels with Licence)	16	9
Market - Butcher, 2 Greengrocers	3 Stalls	8

Number of Statutory Notices served - NIL.

22. UNSOOUND FOOD

The following amounts of unsound food were examined and condemned on voluntary surrender for destruction or salvage during the year:-

22. UN SOUND FOOD (Continued).

(a) Meat and Meat Products.

130 lbs.

(b) Fruit and Vegetables.

46 lbs (tins).

(c) Milk and Milk Products.

2 gallons Artificial Cream.

(d) Fish and Fish Products.

50 lbs.

As a result of the flooding during October, it became necessary to inspect the foodstuffs at 4 shops and the following is a list of the items condemned:-

(a) Meat and Meat Products.

13 lbs Tinned Meat.

(b) Fruit and Vegetables.

56 lbs Beetroot.

3 lbs. Leeks.

2 cwts. Potatoes.

56 lbs Swedes.

56 lbs Onions.

56 lbs Carrots.

(c) Fats.

29 lbs Butter.

(d) Biscuits.

33 lbs.

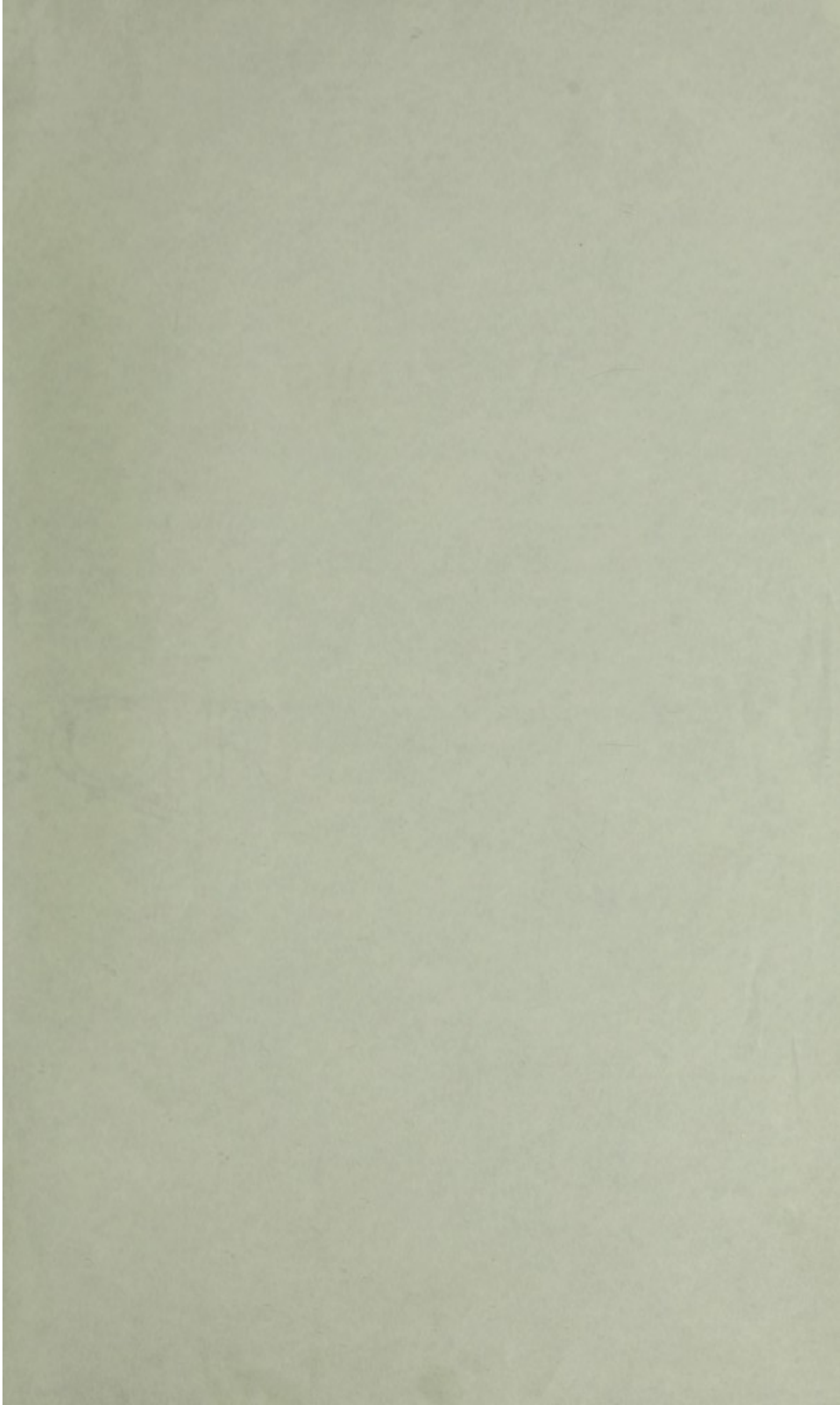
(e) Miscellaneous.

9 lbs Stuffing.

18 lbs Sugar.

10 lbs Sweets

Various Chocolate.



Menu for the Week

(1) Breakfast

1/2 lb. Milk

(2) Lunch

1/2 lb. Meat

(3) Dinner

1/2 lb. Meat

(4) Supper

1/2 lb. Milk

As a result of the preceding survey, it became necessary to change the menu for the week and the following is a list of the items recommended:

(a) Breakfast

1/2 lb. Milk

(b) Lunch

- 1/2 lb. Meat
- 1/2 lb. Lettuce
- 1/2 lb. Cabbage
- 1/2 lb. Potatoes
- 1/2 lb. Apples
- 1/2 lb. Oranges
- 1/2 lb. Carrots

(c) Dinner

1/2 lb. Meat

(d) Supper

1/2 lb. Milk

(e) Miscellaneous

- 1/2 lb. Apples
- 1/2 lb. Oranges
- 1/2 lb. Bananas
- Various Chocolates