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Spalding

Rural District Council

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the

Year 1964



Spalding Rural District Council

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. H. Wray.
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Mrs. L. H. Hardy	Mr. A. Ward, J.P., until May, 1964
Mr. H. J. M. Hilton, until May, 1964	Mr. A. J. Witherington, J.P., until May, 1964
	Mr. H. G. Witherington

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Staff of the Public Health Department:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

Dr. J. M. Morfitt, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

Mr. F. Luker, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H., Cert. Inst. of Food.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—

Mr. G. Ridgway, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Inst. of Food. Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Mr. G. W. Robinson, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Inst. of Food., from August, 1964.

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

Mr. G. Cusden.

GENERAL CLERK—

Miss J. M. Mann.

Spalding Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the health of your District for the year 1964.

The health statistics for the year give some cause for satisfaction. There was a substantial increase in the birth rate, which marks a reversal in the slow fall in birth rate seen since 1958. At 16.8 births per thousand population, the birth rate was still below the average for England and Wales, however.

There was a fall in the infant mortality rate, which at 15.2 deaths during the first year of life, per 1000 live births, was well below the national average. This rate, which is based on small numbers, has fluctuated considerably from year to year, but over the past 15 years there has been a considerable reduction in infant mortality.

The death rate of 9.1 per thousand population was again below the national average. Over the past 15 years this rate has also fluctuated, but there has been a tendency to a reduction in the death rate (see table on p.10). Many people in the District reach the scriptural three score years and ten, and in 1964, 83 out of the 179 deaths were of people aged 75 years or over.

Some of the other health statistics are not so favourable. The incidence of lung cancer in South Holland has increased during the past 15 years (see p.7).

Through the kindness of the Matron and Casualty Sister at the Johnson Hospital, to whom I am very grateful, records have been kept of all the home accident injuries requiring hospital treatment. In 8 months of 1964, 140 people from Spalding and District had home accidents and were treated at the hospital (see p.9).

The percentage of illegitimate live births was 7.3% compared with 4.5% in 1963. It is too early to say whether this rise has any significance, as the illegitimacy rate has fluctuated in the past. A similar rise occurred in the neighbouring districts.

This District has been slowly growing in population, and in each of the past 15 years there has been a fairly substantial natural increase i.e. excess of births over deaths.

The mid-year population in 1954 was 18,840. In the ten years from mid-1954 to mid-1964, there was a natural increase of 1,278. If there had been no emigration from the District, the mid-1964 population would have been 18,840 plus 1,278, namely 20,118.

In fact the estimated population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates etc., in this 1964 Report was 19,700. Thus the excess of emigration over immigration in the past ten years was 20,118 minus 19,700, namely 418, or just over 40 persons per year.

The fact that this figure is so low, in these days of the drift from the land is a matter for some satisfaction, and I believe that the progressive policies of your Council in sewerage and housing schemes have played a part in bringing this about.

The main provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, came into effect during the year. Although a fair amount of preliminary work had been done, only slow progress had been made by the end of the year in making the detailed initial inspections of all offices and shops in the District, called for under the Act, as the public health inspectors' time was already heavily committed with meat inspection and other duties. It is clear that the inspectors' work load cannot be increased indefinitely, and as more duties are imposed by statute, progressively less time becomes available for such important and basic duties as housing and food hygiene. There are only two possible answers to this situation — either certain duties must be off-loaded to other officers of the Council, or suitable additional staff will be needed.

An important development during the year was the opening of a family planning clinic in Spalding (see p.00). This was made possible by co-operation between the Family Planning Association (a voluntary body) and the County and District Councils. To succeed it depends on the co-operation of the public, and it is to be hoped that many more married people will avail themselves of the advice the clinic provides.

I would like to thank the Members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing courtesy, and the family doctors for their co-operation and help. Mr. Luker has continued to give me his help and advice, based on his extensive knowledge of the District, and I am most grateful to him and the other officers in the Department for their conscientious work.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. MATHER MORFITT,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 87,758 acres with a resident population (1961 census) of 19,096.

The estimated population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 19,700.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is distributed as follows:—

Cowbit	.....	.....	.....	.....	201
Crowland	.....	.....	.....	.....	1005
Deeping St. Nicholas	.....	.....	.....	.....	571
Donington	.....	.....	.....	.....	698
Gosberton	.....	.....	.....	.....	796
Moulton	.....	.....	.....	.....	853
Pinchbeck	.....	.....	.....	.....	1388
Quadring	.....	.....	.....	.....	349
Surfleet	.....	.....	.....	.....	351
Weston	.....	.....	.....	.....	465
					<hr/>
					6677
					<hr/>

The rateable value of the district is £342,021 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £1,275.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	.....	157	149	306
Illegitimate	.....	13	11	24
		<hr/> 170	<hr/> 160	<hr/> 330

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population—16.8.

Illegitimate live births 7.3% of total live births.

STILL BIRTHS:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	.....	4	5	9
Illegitimate	.....	1	—	1
		<hr/> 5	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 10

Still births per 1,000 live and still births—29.4.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS—340.

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	93	86	179

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population—9.1.

INFANT DEATHS:

a. Deaths during first year of life:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	—	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> —	<hr/> 5

b. Neonatal deaths:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> —	<hr/> 4

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 15.2

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (legitimate) 13.1

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (illegitimate) 41.7

Neonatal (first 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births 12.1

Early neonatal (first 7 days) mortality rate per 1,000 live births 12.1

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 41.2

Maternal deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1964

	M.	F.	Total
1. Respiratory tuberculosis	1	—	1
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung/bronchus	5	—	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	8	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	2	2	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	13	24
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	10	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20. Other heart diseases	12	18	30
21. Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	7	4	11
24. Bronchitis	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
34. All other accidents	1	4	5
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total.....	93	86	179

LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer deaths in South Holland (Spalding U.D.C. and R.D.C., and East Elloe R.D.C.)

Years	
1950	
1951	25
1952	
1953	
1954	31
1955	
1956	
1957	48
1958	
1959	
1960	49
1961	
1962	
1963	51
1964	

During the past 15 years, in South Holland, as in the rest of the country, the number of lung cancer deaths has steadily risen. In England and Wales in 1963* there were 24,434 deaths from lung cancer, and 35,332 deaths from bronchitis. This death roll dwarfs many of the other causes of public anxiety — e.g. motor vehicle accidents with 6,351 deaths and cancer of the uterus with only 3,969.

It is now beyond reasonable doubt that cigarette smoking is a causative factor both in lung cancer, which cuts off far too many people in their 50's, and in chronic bronchitis, an illness which causes considerable economic loss to the country, as well as much personal suffering.

It is, of course, true that everyone has to die sometime, but this is hardly a serious argument against taking all possible steps to prevent disease. No one questions the efforts that are being made to cut the toll of death and injury on the roads, and few would quibble at the attempts that are now being made in a number of places to prevent cancer of the uterus, by getting women to come forward for a test to detect this cancer before it causes symptoms (see p.24).

*Provisional figures from Registrar General's Quarterly Returns.

Unfortunately only a few of the many different cancers humankind may develop are of known causation. The great majority of doctors believe that lung cancer is one such, where the most important causative factor is smoking. Unhappily this preventable cancer is not yet being prevented, for the obvious reason that smoking is an addiction, albeit a mild one, and people find it hard to stop. Human nature being what it is, it is easy for the smoker to turn a blind eye to the unpleasant facts of the case, or to rely on one or other of the myths that are still current — e.g.

“10 a day won’t harm me.”

“Filter tips are sure to be safe.”

“It’s all these diesel fumes.”

“Statistics can be made to prove anything.”

etc., etc., etc.

The plain fact is that non-smokers very rarely get lung cancer, while the heavier the cigarette consumption, the greater the risk. A heavy smoker has a 1 in 8 chance of dying from lung cancer, which may not sound too bad, but thousands of people lose out on this 1 in 8 chance every year.

There is obviously no limit to the tax that can be imposed on tobacco, and it is unlikely that cigarettes will stay even at their present price for very long. It would seem to be wise to make the effort and stop smoking now, before matters reach such a pass that manufacturers have to bring out a miniature cigarette with a 1½" long filter to retail at 5/- for 20. Smokers who feel they cannot break the addiction, no matter how heavily they are contributing to Government revenue, would be safer if they switched to a pipe or cigars.

The cigarette manufacturers are working hard to hook the younger generation, and unfortunately, they are succeeding only too well. Commercial television is soon to shut its doors to cigarette advertisements, but another door is being opened — pirate radio. Throughout the day cigarette advertising jingles are interspersed between the pop songs — could one imagine a better medium for influencing young people? The country’s health educators with their tiny budget and resources cannot hope to rival the stream of propaganda the tobacco companies put out, with their vastly greater funds. Fortunately even with the techniques of modern advertising it is quite difficult to fool all the people all the time. There might be something to be said for the old fashioned idea of offering a son a substantial gift of money or goods if he abstains from smoking before his 21st birthday, but it is even better for parents to set their sons and daughters a good example by themselves abstaining from this highly expensive habit.

HOME ACCIDENTS

Since May 1st 1964, the Casualty Department at the Johnson Hospital has been keeping a register of all home accident injuries treated there, so that statistics could be compiled.

Age		Male	Female	Total
Below 5 years		32	17	49
5—15 years		8	13	21
16—40 years		13	18	31
41—64 years		7	16	23
65 years and over		0	16	16
		—	—	—
		60	80	140
		—	—	—
Type of Accident	Below 5 years	Over 65 years	All other age groups	Totals
Scalds	5	0	13	18
Burns	8	1	9	18
Falls	23	10	23	56
Cuts	6	2	19	27
Other accidents	7	3	11	21
	—	—	—	—
	49	16	75	140
	—	—	—	—

The tables, which analyse the 140 accident injuries treated at the Hospital from May to December inclusive, show a pattern similar to that found in studies carried out elsewhere in the country. Two age groups are specially at risk, children under 5 years old, and the elderly. Boys seem more accident-prone than girls, but all the elderly people who had home accidents were females.

There is certainly no reason for Spalding and District to be complacent about home safety, as many of these accidents could have been prevented.

Falls can have serious, indeed often fatal, consequences in old people with brittle bones, and the precautions needed for their prevention are fairly obvious — e.g. adequate light on the stairs, proper footwear, handrails, avoiding long trailing garments, and abolition of such death traps as trailing flexes, holes in lino or carpet, and moveable mats at the head of the stairs. I would like to suggest that relatives might tactfully check up on these points when they visit elderly people who live alone.

The figures show that there is still a need for the teaching that is given at child welfare centres on burn and scald prevention. In the 8 months for which statistics were kept, there were 36 burns and scalds, 13 of them in children under 5 years. These painful injuries tend to leave unsightly scars that can be a lifelong disfigurement and psychological trauma.

Accident prevention in the home is simply a matter of applying common sense precautions. Accidents don't just happen, they are caused, and to prevent them we need to rid ourselves of that cosy myth that accidents happen to other people. To stay safe in the home depends on two things — making the house safe by eliminating potential death traps, and, even more important, by becoming safety minded so that safety becomes a built-in part of your house-keeping routine.

It cannot be too often stated that in England and Wales there are more accident deaths in the home than on the roads.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates, in the Rural District of Spalding, 1950-1964

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rates	Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1950	297	16.0	215	11.6	53.9	17.3	10.3	34.3
1951	330	17.7	219	11.8	21.2			
1952	321	17.1	199	10.6	37.4			
1953	334	17.8	177	9.4	21.0			
1954	321	17.0	152	8.1	40.5			
1955	312	16.5	181	9.6	25.6	16.5	9.8	30.2
1956	283	15.0	189	10.0	38.9			
1957	323	17.1	178	9.4	37.2			
1958	325	17.1	189	10.0	27.7			
1959	315	16.5	194	10.1	22.2			
1960	320	16.6	160	8.3	9.4	15.8	9.2	23.7
1961	293	15.2	182	9.4	27.3			
1962	303	15.6	207	10.6	46.2			
1963	286	14.6	162	8.3	21.0			
1964	330	16.8	179	9.1	15.2			

There were 5 infant deaths, 4 of them in the first week of life.

Comparisons with other Districts

The figures for the Live Birth Rates and Death Rates given below have been corrected using the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General.

These factors allow for the differing age and sex composition of the various populations, and enable valid comparisons to be drawn.

	Live Birth rate	Death rate	Infant Mortality rate
Spalding Rural District	16.4	10.4	15.2
Holland County—Rural Districts	15.4	11.1	19.2
Urban districts	18.5	11.1	20.4
All districts	16.5	11.1	19.7
England and Wales	18.4	11.3	20.0

The death rate continues to be lower than the average for England and Wales, and many people in the District live to a great age. 83 out of the 179 deaths that occurred in the year were of people aged 75 years or over.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Cases Notified

	Cases Notified		
	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	—	1	1
„ —other	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	3	8
Whooping Cough	4	4	8
Measles	65	74	139
Acute Pneumonia	—	1	1
Erysipelas	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	2
Total	75	85	160

Incidence of Infectious Diseases in recent years

Disease		Year								
		1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever	Cases	12	10	9	12	29	9	5	5	8
Diphtheria	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Cases	18	562	36	190	8	741	9	204	139
Whooping Cough	Cases	13	19	113	4	4	30	2	2	8
Polio-Myelitis	Cases	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

COMMENTS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no major outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

The incidence of measles showed an unexpected change. For many years, outbreaks of this disease have been occurring every second year in this District. As 1963 was a "measles year", one would have expected few cases of the disease in 1964, but in fact there were 139 cases.

Aberdeen Typhoid Outbreak

When it was realised that this epidemic was probably due to the consumption of corned beef, canned in certain establishments in South America, where untreated river water had been used to cool the tins after heat treatment, the Ministry of Health sent a number of circulars to Medical Officers of Health, asking them to arrange for the withdrawal of the suspect tins.

The first circular, dated 2.6.64 advised the withdrawal of 6 pound cans of corned beef from two Argentine establishments, and one Uruguay establishment that had been canned between certain dates. Unfortunately, it was not until the following day that the Ministry sent information about the date codes needed to identify the suspect tins. Three further circulars sent additional information on the 11th, 15th and 22nd June, stating that tongue from the suspected canning establishments should also be withdrawn, and giving the name of another Argentine corned beef establishment whose tins should be withdrawn.

It was most unfortunate that the information as to what cans to withdraw was handed out piecemeal in this fashion, as it meant that the Public Health Inspectors had to reduplicate their time-consuming trips round all the food shops, restaurants, and canteens in the district to give the necessary advice on withdrawal of cans of meat, which were returned to the wholesalers. As some cans from the suspect establishments were found in this district and as it was likely that in some cases meat from such tins had already been sliced and sold to the public, the family doctors in the area were informed of this fact.

The story about how the typhoid bacteria probably got into the cans in South America, and how the corned beef was sliced and placed in an unrefrigerated cold meat display in a supermarket, under temperature conditions that favoured growth of the bacteria, is now common knowledge. One lesson that should be taken to heart by retailers is the fact that food poisoning germs, as well as typhoid, can multiply fast in ready-to-eat meat products held at room temperature during the hot days of summer. Great care is needed to prevent such products from picking up these germs, e.g. by minimizing handling, and by scrupulous cleanliness. One mistake that is still sometimes seen is the practice of

displaying ready to eat meat products and raw meat cheek-by-jowl on the same slab or tray. No matter how ideal the slaughterhouse arrangements, raw meat is never sterile, and may well carry a few food poisoning organisms. Normally this does not matter in the least as the meat is cooked, and this kills the germs; but there is no such safety factor for foods like haslets, meat pies, and sliced cold meats which are eaten without further cooking.

Because of this it is important that knives, meat slicers, tongs, and dishes etc. are not used first for raw meat and later for foods which are ready for immediate consumption.

In this, as in other aspects of food hygiene, much depends on the attitude of the housewife, as the small numbers of Public Health Inspectors, who are heavily committed in many other fields cannot hope to visit all the many food premises in this district as often as they would like.

One favourable outcome of the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak was the increased public awareness of food hygiene, but unfortunately, even in Aberdeen this did not last very long. Now only a minority of housewives would care to run the risk of being branded a crank or a fusspot by complaining about lack of hygiene in food shops or cafes.

I wish there were far more "fusspots", as complaints from customers would bring home to shop managers the need for food hygiene even more forcibly than a talk from the public health inspector.

TUBERCULOSIS

		M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/64	{ Pulmonary	36	26	62
	{ Non-pulmonary	2	5	7
Cases removed from the Register during 1964				
— cured		—	1	1
— diagnosis not confirmed		—	—	—
— left District		1	—	1
— died		3	2	5
Cases added to the Register during 1964				
— new notifications		—	1	1
— transfer into District		1	—	1

Details of cases on Tuberculosis Register 1948-64

Years	Cases at 31st December			Deaths during year	
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	New cases	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1948	60	31	18	5	2
1949	61	32	10	3	0
1950	62	29	9	3	0
1951	51	16	14	6	0
1952	54	21	20	0	1
1953	54	14	14	5	0
1954	48	5	5	1	0
1955	54	5	15	3	1
1956	55	3	5	1	0
1957	57	3	9	2	0
1958	58	3	4	1	0
1959	58	4	3	0	0
1960	58	4	3	0	0
1961	59	6	6	1	0
1962	63	7	8	1	0
1963	67	7	4	0	0
1964	62	7	2	5	0

While modern treatment has virtually deleted tuberculosis from the list of major killing diseases there are still many cases on the register. These patients need advice about the precautions they should take against spread of the infection, and sometimes they need re-housing in premises that will allow them to have a separate bedroom.

B.C.G. VACCINATION — SOUTH HOLLAND

YEAR ENDED 31.12.64

School	No. Eligible	Acceptance		Skin Tested	Negative	B.C.G. Vaccinated	Positive	Chest X-ray advised
		No.	%					
Spalding Grammar	72	53	73.6	51	38	37	10	1
Spalding High	75	49	63.5	49	38	36	11	2
Gleed Boys	135	106	78.5	96	78	76	13	2
Gleed Girls	180	124	68.9	120	95	95	21	7
George Farmer	114	93	81.6	88	73	73	11	4
Peele Sec.	138	97	70.3	89	74	74	11	4
Crowland Sec.	76	25	32.9	24	21	21	2	1
Donington Cowley's	120	71	59.1	68	66	60	2	0

Holland County Council operates a scheme whereby school children aged 13 years or over can be tested to determine their natural resistance to tuberculosis. Where the test is negative, showing there is no naturally acquired immunity, protection is given by B.C.G. vaccination.

When the test result is strongly positive, this indicates a need for a chest X-ray, and this is arranged by the Chest Physician. Thus the scheme not only gives children protection against tuberculosis, but the preliminary test picks out those who need supervision because they have already had an encounter with the tuberculosis germ. Sometimes investigation of their home contacts brings to light an unrecognized case of the disease. It is clear that this scheme is an important means of stamping out tuberculosis, and the increase in percentage of children benefiting from it in 1964 is most welcome.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Between the 1st January, 1964 and the 31st December, 1964 257 children under 5 years of age, and 23 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years received the primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 541 children were given a 'booster' or secondary injection.

The following table provided by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentages of the child population on 31/12/64 that had been immunised at any time during the period 1950-1964 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5— 14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough	200	36.5	709	45.3	3445	92.8
Spalding Urban	119	46.4	413	43.8	1904	92.0
Boston Rural	150	50.0	686	51.4	3010	92.1
East Elloe Rural	118	42.7	586	47.5	2959	86.0
Spalding Rural	123	42.2	471	40.6	2664	88.2
Totals	710	42.5	2865	45.9	13982	90.2

Once again there has been a decline in the percentage of children aged 1 to 5 years who have been immunized, and more parents are waiting until their children reach school age before having them protected against this disease.

Diphtheria still occurs every year in this country, and every child should be immunized before their first birthday. The consequences of neglect of immunization can be grave, as the recent outbreak of poliomyelitis in Blackburn has shown.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table provided by the County Medical Officer shows the percentages of children of this Rural District that had received protection against poliomyelitis by 31.12.64, classified by date of birth.

Of the babies born in 1964 13.3% had been vaccinated against poliomyelitis at 31st December, 1964. By 31st March, 1965 this figure had risen to 28.1%.

Other pre-school age groups:—

				Percentage vaccinated	
				1964	1963
Born in	1963	.....	.....	74.8	11.5
	1962	.....	.....	76.8	66.3
	1961	.....	.....	84.6	78.8
	1960	.....	.....	84.0	82.5

The above figures and those shown in the following paragraph are given to indicate the steady rise during the pre-school period, and although smaller, during the school age period.

School Age Groups:—

				Percentage vaccinated	
				1964	1963
Born in	1959	.....	.....	94.9	92.6
	1958	.....	.....	91.6	89.5
	1957	.....	.....	88.3	87.6
	1956	.....	.....	87.9	87.6
	1955	.....	.....	86.8	85.5
	1954	.....	.....	89.7	88.7
	1953	.....	.....	86.2	85.9
	1952	.....	.....	82.2	81.9
	1951	.....	.....	83.6	83.3
	1950	.....	.....	87.5	86.8
	1949	.....	.....	84.2	84.2
	1948	.....	.....	85.6	84.4

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to R. J. Cameron Stobie Esq., the Engineer and Manager of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, for most of the information in this section of the report.

The water supply to the area covered by the Spalding rural district is now served from three sources, namely Bourne, West Pinchbeck and Deeping St. Nicholas, and this is distributed via the West Pichbeck, Deeping St. Nicholas and Weston Pumping Stations. This area distribution is also supplemented at peak periods by means of intermediate boosting at Crowland.

By virtue of cross connection link-ups between various trunk main lines water can be diverted to different areas from a number of stations. This has the advantage of creating greater flexibility of operation but a minor problem can arise in determining the exact quantity of water consumed by each separate district. As an example the Weston Station, which is the principal distributing agency for the supplies to the East Elloe rural district is now also supplying a part of the Spalding rural district which is not separately metered. The stated figures for consumption are the actual recorded quantities and are as follows:—

	1963	1964
Gallons	324,328,000	301,986,000

The differences recorded for the year under review and the previous year are accounted for by the fact that some unrecorded consumption for 1964 would be delivered into that part of the Spalding rural district served from the Weston Station. It is therefore safe to assume that the 1964 consumption would be equally parallel with the previous year or more likely over and above that for 1963 to be consistent with the rising trend throughout the whole of the Board's area.

Continuous weekly samples are taken for bacteriological examination and the results are satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of water from the three main sources have also been made and the results are given in the accompanying table:—

Chemical Results in Parts per million

	Bourne	Deeping St. Nicholas	Pinchbeck
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright
Turbidity (APHA units)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.2	7.8	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	30	10	32
Chlorine present as Chloride	21	212	23
Total Hardness	370	80	285
Carbonate	230	80	240
Non-carbonate	140	Nil	45
Oxygen absorbed	0.3	0.3	0.2
Iron	0.03	0.03	0.04
Manganese	Absent	Absent	Absent
Zinc Copper Lead	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	Less than 0.1	2.4	0.4

The analyst's report in the case of Bourne and Pinchbeck stated the samples were clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron.

The water is hard in character but not excessively so and contains no excess of mineral constituents, and is of a very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analyses these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

In the case of the Deeping St. Nicholas source the analysts' comments are similar except to state that this water is fairly soft in character and has a high, though not excessive, content of mineral constituents, and has a greater than desirable flourine concentration. Apart from these objections the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes as judged from the aspect of chemical analyses.

Two differing factors arise from these analyses; one is the variation in hardness and the other is the higher concentration of flourine in the Deeping water. By the method of mixing of these waters an attempt is made to reap the benefits of both worlds.

A smaller quantity of mainlaying has been carried out in the area during the year under review and this was principally in consequence of new housing development.

The yardage of new mains laid was as follows:—

2" dia.	950 yards
3" dia.	2,693 yards

The continual falling water levels in the various boreholes have occasioned some concern and steps have been taken to meet the contingency by installing submersible pumps and lowering existing submersible pumps to deeper levels.

Surveillance of Water Board Employees.

It is still the responsibility of the District Council Public Health Department to ensure that the water supply arriving at taps in the District is pure and wholesome. All the employees of the Water Board who are engaged on work where they could conceivably cause contamination of the water supplies have had blood tests to rule out the possibility of their being typhoid carriers, and bacteriological tests of three consecutive weekly samples of urine and faeces are taken twice a year.

There is satisfactory co-operation and exchange of information between the Board's Officers and the Public Health Department.

Flouride content of water

Crowland and Deeping St. Nicholas parishes receive a water supply from the Deeping St. Nicholas borehole, and this contains natural fluoride. The amount, 2.4 parts per million, is in excess of the 1 part per million that is usually regarded as optimal, and this results in slight mottling of the teeth of people who have spent their early childhood in these parishes. The protective effect of fluoride never fails to strike me when I conduct school medicals in Crowland, as the incidence of dental decay there is lower than in any of the other parishes.

The rest of the district receives a water supply that is deficient in natural flouride, only 0.1 to 0.4 parts per million being present, and the teeth of children in these areas suffers in consequence. No steps were

taken by Holland County Council during the year to use the powers available under the National Health Service Act to approach the Water Board to add fluoride to these water supplies deficient in this mineral.

The following table shows the number of dwellinghouses and the approximate population supplied from the Water Board's mains in each parish:—

Parish	Dwellings in Valuation List	Dwellings Supplied	Population Supplied
Cowbit	201	191	567
Crowland	1005	912	2693
Deeping St. Nicholas.....	571	519	1533
Donington	698	678	2003
Gosberton	796	753	2214
Moulton	853	790	2334
Pinchbeck	1388	1296	3835
Quadrang	349	319	951
Surfleet	351	340	1007
Weston	465	460	1363
	<hr/> 6677 <hr/>	<hr/> 6258 <hr/>	<hr/> 18500 <hr/>

The percentage of dwellings supplied is 93.9%, including a number of houses which drew their supplies from stand taps.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

A. County Council Services.

i. Domiciliary Midwives.

In this county, approximately 30% of babies are delivered at home by domiciliary midwives.

ii. Health Visiting.

The main function of a health visitor is to bring health teaching into the home. She is particularly concerned with advising mothers of young children, and as a routine, visits every home where a birth has been notified to the County Medical Officer of Health. Three Health Visitors cover the Spalding Rural Area.

iii. Clinic Centres.

Vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis and immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is available at these clinics which are well attended. 58.1% of the 330 babies born in 1964 were enrolled during the year at one or other of the 6 clinics in this District.

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

	No. of Sessions	No. of new cases		No. of old cases	Average attendance per session
		Total	Under 1yr		
Spalding	94	155	153	2509	28
Crowland	52	57	51	1815	36
Donington	53	52	43	1152	23
Gosberton	12	27	23	191	18
Deeping St. Nicholas	12	2	2	114	10
Pinchbeck	16	77	60	616	43
Moulton	12	13	13	215	19

iv. School Health Services.

All pupils are medically inspected three times in their school life — at entry, at 11 years old and before leaving school. Any child found to have defective vision is referred to a consultant eye doctor, who attends at Spalding Clinic. Speech therapy is also provided by appointment at Spalding Clinic and referrals to other consultants are made, if required.

An important part of the work of the School Health Services is the supervision and school placement of handicapped pupils.

v. Home Help.

The aged account for over half the work done by County Home Helps, who carry out ordinary household work for patients who cannot manage to do this without help, e.g. during illness. This service is not free, but in many cases a reduced charge is made, depending on income.

vi. Home Nursing

Over half the patients attended by Home Nurses are 65 years old or over. Home Nursing, with the aid of Home Help, enables patients to be nursed at home often saving the cost of the nation of a long stay in hospital.

vii. Chiropody.

Elderly people with stiff joints often have difficulty in looking after their feet. The County Chiropody Service, which started in 1960, is available to three types of person — the aged, pregnant mothers, and the physically disabled. Treatments are undertaken at surgeries and clinics in Spalding and Donington. Where absolutely necessary, transport is provided, and in exceptional cases treatment may be arranged at home.

viii. Ambulance Service.

This district is served by ambulance stations at Spalding and Crowland. The Spalding station is staffed by 7 wholtime driver/attendants, and has an establishment of 2 ambulances, one car and 2 utility ambulances. The 1951 Austin Sheerline Ambulance has been replaced by a fibre-glass ambulance on the latest LD5W B.M.C. chassis. This chassis is equipped with an A.C. Alternator, "Selectaride" variable suspension, synchromesh gear box, offset rear axle differential to allow for a low central gangway. The body complies with all the safety suggestions of the government as enforced in passenger transport vehicles, including a sliding communicating door between the driving and ambulance compartments which also acts as an emergency exit. A Minuteman portable mechanical resuscitator is kept at the Spalding station and all ambulances carry oxygen apparatus and equipment for mouth to mouth resuscitation.

The Crowland station has one ambulance, which is operated by volunteer ambulance workers.

B. Hospitals.

There are two general practitioner hospitals in Spalding, the Pinchbeck Road Hospital for the aged and chronic sick, and the Johnson Hospital.

The Johnson Hospital has beds for acute medical, surgical and maternity cases, and provides out-patients, casualty and X-ray facilities. A number of visiting consultants attend to conduct specialist out-

patient clinics. Under the Hospital Plan for England and Wales a change of use is proposed for this hospital, which will lose its acute medical and surgical beds, when the proposed new 500 bed District General Hospital is built at Boston. The first step towards the Johnson Hospital's future role as a chronic sick and geriatric hospital took place this year, with the building of the Avalon annexe. This annexe, which received its first patients on 7.12.64., is a unit for 56 elderly or chronic sick patients, housed in 4 and 6 bed wards. There are 8 single bed rooms, and a day room is provided on both the floors. The annexe is well equipped, and special attention has been given to noise prevention.

While this modern geriatric annexe is a welcome development it does not allay fears that in future, if the plan proceeds, many patients will have to travel to Boston for treatment that is at present carried out in the Johnson Hospital acute beds.

Unfortunately, representations that were made to the Ministry of Health at the end of 1963 failed to secure anything more than the promise that consultations would be entered into nearer the time when the change of use was to occur.

C. Voluntary bodies

Family Planning Clinic

During the year a new family planning clinic was started in Spalding, as it was clear that there was a need for this service. Several women had previously attended the Boston family planning clinic, and they formed a nucleus of patients for the new clinic. The Boston Branch of the Family Planning Association, which runs this new clinic in Spalding, was particularly fortunate in obtaining the services of a local lady doctor, and both the district councils (Spalding R.D.C. and U.D.C.) made a financial grant. Holland County Council agreed to allow clinic sessions to be held in the County Clinic, Holland Road, Spalding, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month, between 7 and 8 p.m.

In the first six months since the clinic opened on 14th October, 1964, 54 patients have made 85 attendances. 25 of these patients were previously attending other clinics, and the remaining 29 were new patients. An interesting aspect of the clinic's work has been the taking of cervical smear tests to detect cancer of the uterus before it results in symptoms. Such a test should ideally be taken before any woman goes on to 'the pill' method of oral contraception. Fortunately arrangements could be made for the Boston hospital laboratory to examine these smear tests, 17 of which were taken. All were negative.

There is no doubt that this clinic provides a very useful service for the town and district, and it is to be hoped that more married people who have already had children will avail themselves of the help and advice provided there. A moderate fee is charged, but this is never beyond a patient's means and in cases of need it can be waived.

D. Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln and samples of foods, water and specimens for bacteriological examination have been despatched there. These facilities are invaluable for the investigation and control of outbreaks of infectious diseases and during the year the assistance and co-operation extended to us has been on a most generous scale.

MISCELLANEOUS

Medical examination of Council Staff

During the year 8 people were examined to assess their fitness for Superannuable employment. 6 people were examined for admssioin into the Sickness Pay Scheme and 2 people were re-examined in connection with the Scheme.

Workmen of the various departments of the Council are kept under medical supervision, and are examined at yearly intervals.

Persons in need of care and attention

Provision is made under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for people who are in need of care and attention, and who are unable to look after themselves. It sometimes happens that an old person is living alone under terribly insanitary conditions, or is gravely ill, and yet refuses to go into a welfare home or hospital. In his own interests it is sometimes necessary to use the National Assistance Act compulsory powers to make such a person go into a place where he can be looked after properly.

During the year, a man aged 83 years, was removed from Moulton Seas End to Seagate Hall, Long Sutton, on the order of the magistrates court. He was living in a house that was the subject of a demolition order, and overhanging trees and vegetation made both rooms so dark that a pocket torch had to be used even at mid-day. The house was littered with refuse, old newspapers, opened food tins, decayed food remains and accumulated junk. He was dirty and unkempt, mentally confused and obviously unable to look after himself.

While he had been bitterly against the idea of going into a home, he settled down in Seagate Hall very quickly, and when visited there he said he wished he had gone in years ago.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA AS REPORTED BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to submit for your information my report on the sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1964 and in so doing wish to refer back to the comments which I made in the 1963 report. During that year both the Additional Public Health Inspectors resigned and although one appointment, that of Mr. Ridgway, was made fairly soon after the first vacancy, it was not until 1st August, 1964, that the Council was able to fill the second vacancy with the appointment of Mr. Robinson. This long period of staff shortage, during 1964, inevitably resulted in a postponement of the work planned for that year.

During the period of staff shortage it was necessary for Mr. Ridgway to do much more overtime work, both in the evenings and at week-ends, than he had been told, at the appointment, would be his share of these duties. Although a stranger to the District he tackled the burden of work readily and competently and, it was in no small measure due to his efforts that the essential work of the Department was carried out.

The quotation 'The best laid plans of mice and men . . . ' may unfortunately be aptly applied to our 1964 programme. The duties of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1964, could not be seriously started and, as may be seen from the list of visits made, the day-to-day work of meat inspection, drain testing and visits in connection with the public sewerage schemes, in that relative order, took virtually the whole time of Mr. Ridgway and myself. With the exception of improvement grants and some work on slum clearance the less demanding sections of the Department's work could be given little attention. The work on the two latter subjects was only possible with the assistance of the Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. Cusden.

After the difficulties of 1963-64 I am reluctant to frame proposals for the future but the decision by the Establishment Committee in June, 1964, to appoint an Officer for drain testing, and, to transfer the duties in connection with improvement grants to the Architect (when the vacancy of Architectural Assistant has been filled) will bring much needed relief to the Public Health Department and should allow some of the back-log of work to be caught up.

I am grateful for the consideration and help which I have received from Members of the Council during a very difficult year and particularly the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health. Also I wish to again express my appreciation of the excellent support which I have received from the staff.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. LUKER, Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following table shows the number of visits made during the year by the Public Health Inspectors.

Subject of Visit	Initial Visits	Routine or Re-visits
Housing Act, 1957	44	30
Water Supplies; water samples	17	4
Overcrowding Complaints	1	1
Moveable Dwellings; Camps	13	11
Food Samples	—	—
Food Hygiene	9	21
Factories, Workplaces and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	12	8
Public Conveniences	—	97
Infectious Diseases	26	12
Disinfection after I.D.	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	8	10
Disinfestation	9	—
Drain Tests	686	167
Housing Site Sewerage Schemes	22	67
Refuse Service	13	30
Night Soil and Cesspool Emptying Service	11	18
Slaughterhouses	8	15
Public Sewerage Schemes	486	294
Improvement Grants	68	180
Nuisances—General	68	56
Miscellaneous	584	24
Meat Inspection	28	1539
Animal—Boarding Establishments	1	—
Total:	2114	2664

SANITARY SERVICES

Cesspool Emptying

Details of the work done by the two vehicles employed regularly on cesspool emptying are as follows:—

Cesspools	Vault Closets	Cisterns, tanks etc.
3,195	232	33

On 130 occasions the machines were used to remove the sludge from the settlement and humus tanks at the sewage disposal works for the Council's housing estates and on 10 occasions the sludge was removed from the temporary sewage works at Fosters Housing Estate, Pinchbeck.

In May the second diesel driven cesspool emptier was purchased. The displaced petrol driven machine was over-hauled and retained as a stand-by vehicle. These vehicles, being classified as "watering vehicles" are now exempt from Road Tax and the cost of keeping such a vehicle in reserve is quite small. This reserve vehicle has been brought into service on several occasions and has proved most useful.

During the period 1954-1964 inclusive, it is interesting to note the considerable increase in the numbers of cesspools emptied and the reduction in the numbers of vault closets emptied. Owing to the scattered nature of the development in the district as a whole it is obvious that the cesspool service will always be needed and, unless future building is channelled into the areas provided with public sewers, this work will continue to increase.

Year	Cesspools	Vault Closets	Cisterns, tanks, etc.
1954	1903	473	38
1955	1967	504	38
1956	1962	399	49
1957	2419	452	32
1958	2509	371	51
1959	1943	354	38
1960	2504	291	41
1961	2738	272	25
1962	2875	241	45
1963	3067	245	26
1964	3195	232	33

With cesspool loads averaging approximately 1,000 gallons each the above figures show that during the past two years more than 3,000,000 gallons of cesspool contents have been disposed of each year. The fact that this is accomplished with so few complaints reflects credit on the Department Foreman (Mr. Daubney) and the workmen who carry out this unpleasant but essential work.

Pail Closet Emptying

This, the most objectionable work carried out under the heading of Sanitary Services, was maintained during the year and the continued absence of complaints reflects credit on the men engaged in it. In many cases, particularly within the sewered areas of Crowland, Donington and Gosberton the number of pail closets has been substantially reduced due to the improvement works carried out to Council Houses by the Housing Department and also to those carried out by private property owners. In almost all cases, where houses are connected to the public sewers, the owners have abolished the existing closets and provided water closets. In the case of private property all this work has been done voluntarily and the Council has not had to pay the 50% contribution which has to be made if the conversions are forced on the owners under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Refuse Collection

There has been little change in this service during the year. The weekly kerbside collection has been maintained to all but a few outlying areas, where a fortnightly collection has been made. The difficulty which arose in the Parish of Pinchbeck owing to no collections being made on the Easter, Whitsuntide and August Bank Holiday Mondays has been overcome by the workmen agreeing to work on the Saturday before each holiday. This arrangement, of course, puts additional expense onto the cost of the service but is very much appreciated by householders in the parish.

The cash value of materials salvaged from the refuse during the year was £1,450 this is £251 more than the figure for 1963 and £446 above the 1962 total.

Drainage and Sewerage—Council Houses

During the year Health Department workmen cleared 106 blocked drains on Council Estates.

The Housing Committee has again continued the scheme for improving the older Council Houses and the position, as supplied by the Housing Manager, at 31st December, 1964, was as follows:—

Houses fully improved with bathrooms, W.C's etc.	323
Houses provided with W.C's but not bathrooms	144
Houses still without W.C's or bathrooms	185

The execution of these improvements following as soon as practicable on the provision of public sewerage facilities in the various villages is an excellent example to the private owners. The Housing Committee's intention to press on continuously with this work reflects credit on the Authority.

Public Sewerage

Both sewerage schemes for Donington and Gosberton were completed during the year and the two very pleasant ceremonies on the 26th June for the Donington Scheme and on the 16th October for the Gosberton Scheme afforded an opportunity for the Council to express their appreciation of the good work carried out by the Engineers, Contractors and staff concerned.

By the end of the year the ground work in connection with the proposed Pinchbeck Scheme had been started and the Resident Clerk of Works, (Mr. R. Rennison), took up this work as his duties with the two contracts drew to an end.

A pilot scheme, for the provision of sewers to serve existing and proposed housing development in Orchard Close, Southgate and Pennytoft Lane was approved by the Council and completed in May, 1964. By the end of the year the wisdom of this scheme was clearly evident. House building proceeded rapidly and it was soon obvious that any further delay in providing these sewers would have caused the excavation work to be much more expensive. The sewers provided, of course, cannot be used until the main village scheme has been installed.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3248	56	12	7672	8232
Number inspected	3248	56	12	7672	8232
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>		MEAT	REJECTE D		
Whole carcasses rejected	5	3	—	11	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected.	875	5	1	51	456
Percentage of carcasses affected	27.08%	12.5%	8.33%	0.81%	5.59%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses rejected	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	3	—	—	—	120
Percentage of carcasses affected	0.09%	—	—	—	1.46%

Cysticercus Bovis

48 Beasts Carcasses and Offals were found to be affected with Cysts of the tapeworm *Taenia Saginata*. The infections were all localised and the carcasses and offals were consigned to 'deep freeze' treatment. The percentage of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* 1.48% is an increase on the previous year when the figure was 0.43%.

Tuberculosis

Lesions of tuberculosis were found in only three bovine animals out of a total of 3,316 animals inspected including 56 cows and 12 calves. It is thought that these isolated cases are due to the progress of the T.T. Herd scheme in Ireland and as in this Country the disease will virtually disappear when the scheme is completed.

From clinical examinations the tuberculosis found in the 120 pig carcasses was mainly of the avian type.

A 100% meat inspection has again been carried out during the year and I wish to record that much of this work (which is mainly carried out by the Additional Public Health Inspectors) is done outside ordinary working hours in the evenings and at week-ends. Meat Inspection has continued to be the heaviest single duty of the Public Health Inspectors.

Details of Meat and Offals rejected are contained in the following lists :-

Article	Disease or Condition found
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Black Quarter
2 Beast Carcases and Offals	Multiple Tumours
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Septicæmia
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Anaemia Advanced
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Oedema
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Emaciation
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Acute Septic Peritonitis
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	Uraemia
2 Pig Carcases and Offals	Septicæmia
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	Oedema and Emaciation
8 Sheep Carcases and Offals	Emaciation
3 Sheep Carcases and Offals	Extensive and Severe Bruising
637 lb. Beef	Bruising—Oedema
26 lb. Mutton	Bruising
124 lb. Pork	Bruising

The following offals were rejected for various reasons too numerous to be set out in detail :-

320 Beasts Livers	1 Cow Tongue
495 Beast Part Livers	24 Sheeps Livers
98 Beasts Lungs	3 Sheeps Hearts
35 Beasts Spleens	23 Sheeps Lungs
28 Beasts Hearts	2 Sheeps Kidneys
42 Beasts Heads	189 Pigs Livers
41 Beasts Tongues	143 Pig Hearts
10 Beasts Skirts	297 Pig Lungs
2 Cows Livers	125 Pigs Heads
2 Cow Part Livers	69 Pigs Hocks
1 Cow Lung	21 Pigs Kidneys
1 Cow Spleen	2 Pigs Spleen
1 Cow Head	7 Pigs Mesenteries

Details of other foods found to be unfit :-

1 x 9 lb. 9 oz. Tin of Pork Shoulder	Fish Taint
1 x 19 lb. 8 ozs. Tin of Pork Shoulder	Fish Taint
1 x 4 lb. Tin of Luncheon Meat	Blown Can
1 x 16 lb. 5 ozs. Tin of Ham	Blown and Damaged Can
2 x 16 lb. 6 ozs. Tins of Ham	Blown and Damaged Can
1 x 14 lb. 8 ozs. Tin of Ham	Fish Taint
1 x 19 lb. 8 ozs. Tin of Ham	Fish Taint

Food Premises

There has been no change in the character of the food shops and manufacturing premises in the District which are of the small 'family business' type. They were found to be generally satisfactory and such minor items as needed attention were dealt with by informal procedure.

There are no premises in the area where ice-cream is manufactured and retail sale has again been restricted to pre-packed portions, with the exception of one retailer who sells "American Whipped" ice-cream from a mobile van. This retailer's premises are located outside the Spalding Rural District.

Slaughterhouses

There has been no change in the number and character of the slaughterhouses in the District. Eight private slaughterhouses and one Knacker's Yard were licensed during the year. General cleanliness of the premises is satisfactory and every effort has been made to raise the standard of hygiene with the co-operation of the occupiers and employees.

Milk and Dairies

All milk retailed in the area is 'Designated' milk in bottles. There is one milk pasteurising plant in the District which is controlled and supervised by the County Council.

COUNTY FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

Mr. R. Fidling, the County Health Inspector, is also the Food and Drugs Sampling Officer, and I am indebted to him for this report. which refers to work carried out over the whole of the County of Holland.

FOOD

During the year 310 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and an additional 89 samples of milk were examined by County Health Department Staff.

The number of samples reported as showing some irregularity was 6.1% of the total samples, compared with 7.8% unsatisfactory in the previous year.

The formal and informal samples submitted to the Public Analyst covered a very wide range, including raw fruit, sweets, beer, mineral water and spirits, as well as most common foods. This year it was decided to pay greater attention to the sampling of drug preparations and 82 samples were taken.

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Rose Hip and Orange Syrup

The label on the bottle claimed the presence of 56 mgms. Vit C per fluid oz. The analyst only found 37 mgms.

The makers were contacted and they were amazed to learn that this commodity was still available since they stopped production in 1956 and called in all known stocks. The firm agreed to collect the stock remaining at the shop.

Bitter Orange Drink

The label claimed 50 mgms. Vit C per fluid oz. Two samples taken at different times showed 41.5 and 39 mgms respectively. The appearance of the bottles suggested they had been stored for a long time. The manufacturing firm was contacted and they undertook to withdraw all stocks remaining at the shop, and this was done.

The above two instances are good examples of the deterioration in Vit C content of fluid products when they are stored for lengthy periods.

Potassium chlorate tablets

The amount permitted by the British Pharmacopoeia is 315 mgms of Potassium Chlorate per tablet. The tablet in question contained 328 mgms per tablet. The excess was small and not considered to be of any serious significance.

The stock was old and the origin doubtful, and the vendor agreed to withdraw the small remaining stock in hand.

Childrens Diarrhoea Mixture

The formula given on the label included a claim of 7.2% chalk content while analysis showed 6.4% chalk.

The firm was contacted and they pointed out the difficulty of obtaining a uniform content in each bottle, due to the rapid settlement of chalk during the filling process.

The deficiency was not of a critical nature and the firm was endeavouring to obtain uniformity by means of a high speed stirrer.

Canned Pork (Danish)

The meat content was found to be 82% and the Analyst considered it should have 95% meat.

In correspondence with the Danish Firm they claimed that analysis on the same batch did in fact show 95% meat. There are no Statutory Standards for this commodity and unless a very gross deficiency was found it would be difficult to take action on the basis of Recommended Standards.

Condensed Milk (Dutch)

The Condensed Milk Regulations requires a total milk solids content of 31%. Two samples examined showed 30.4% and 30.6% total milk solids. The Dutch firm was contacted and they submitted lists of analyses of all batches manufactured by the firm over a period of months. The lists purported to show the product did reach the required standard.

As the deficiency was so small it was decided to leave the matter over for a period and then resample.

Single Cream Cheese

Three samples of Cream Cheese obtained on different occasions from the same source had the following milk fat content — 37%, 39%, and 43.5%.

Recommended standards suggest the cheese should contain 45% milk fat, but in the absence of Statutory Standards it was felt that it would be impractical to take a prosecution on the basis of Recommended Standards, unless a very gross deficiency was found.

Tonic Elixir

This sample showed a slightly higher strychnine content than was listed on the label, but the excess had no real physiological significance.

A recheck sample was found to be satisfactory.

Canned Fruit

Two samples of canned fruit were reported to be deficient in the sucrose content of the syrup.

There is no Statutory Standard for this article but there is a Code of Practice agreed to by the Cannery Association. Some difficulty arose over the analysis of these samples and there was some difference of opinion between analysts as to what was the original syrup strength used in the canning.

While the assessment of the sugar content of a sample at that particular moment is a comparatively easy matter, it becomes necessary to make various adjustments to assess what the sugar content was at the actual time of canning. These adjustments are variable since different fruits and vegetables have a different affect on the sugar content.

However the analysts got together and with the aid of the Chief Chemist of the Cannery Research Association the matter has now been satisfactorily settled and the samples passed as genuine.

Tomato Juice.

This commodity was labelled Tomato Juice but was found to contain added Sugar and Salt, therefore it was necessary for the label to be altered to draw attention to these additions and this has been done.

COMPLAINT SAMPLES

Canned Tomatoes

A housewife complained the tomatoes had a bitter taste. The can together with a duplicate can from the same source was submitted to the Analyst and he could not find anything wrong with either sample.

Mouldy Cornish Pasty

This complaint was justified as visible moulds were present. The complainant did not wish for legal action as the vendor had only just taken over the business.

The vendor was warned and advised to seek help from the firm supplying him with his stock, with regard to advice on length and temperature of storage of cooked meat products.

Portion of Cockroach in Bread Loaf

The complaint was justified, but here again the complainant did not wish to be involved in legal action.

The local health department was contacted and a visit was made to the Bakery under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Evidence of cockroach infestation was found and the owner undertook to call in a specialist firm to exterminate the pests.

Fried Chicken

Two youths passing through the district complained they had been served with cat, rabbit or other animal in place of fried chicken asked for at a Boston Restaurant.

They produced no evidence whatsoever in support of their complaint.

Visits were made to the Restaurant and to the firms factory where the Canned Fried Chicken was prepared.

At neither place was any evidence available to support the allegation.

Prosecution

A market stall fish vendor was found to be selling fillets of catfish as Halibut fillets.

The vendor was fined £20 and £3.6.0 costs.

MILK

Composition

The general standard of compositional quality of milk retailed in this area remains good.

The average composition of milk samples reported to be genuine was:—

for ordinary standard milk (73 samples)

Average 1964

Milk Fat = 3.74%

Solids not fat = 8.61%

Average 1963

Milk Fat = 3.73%

Solids not fat = 8.69%

The presumptive legal standard is:—

Milk fat = 3.0%

Solids not fat = 8.5%

for special high quality milk (6 samples)

Average 1964

Milk Fat 4.90%

Solids not fat 9.15%

Average 1963

Milk Fat 4.81%

Solids not fat 9.15%

This type of milk commands a higher price when retailed to the public and is sold under the description of:—Channel Island, Jersey, Gurnsey, or South Devon Milk.

Milk sold under any of these descriptions is required to have a fat content of at least 4.0%.

Two samples were unsatisfactory, one was 8% deficient in the amount of fat required. The retailer was selling some milk he had

obtained from a source other than his own herd. Previous and subsequent samples from this source were satisfactory, and the deficiency was probably due to inadequate bulking or mixing before bottling.

Another sample was reported to be deficient in solids not fat to the extent of 1.5%. Owing to souring there was no evidence available to indicate whether this milk was a naturally low quality milk or whether it had been tampered with very slightly.

The figure obtained for fat was quite good and three subsequent samples were satisfactory. Other samples taken at the same time as the low sample were also perfectly satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

These Regulations became fully operative as from October 1st, 1964, when they replaced the 1960 Regulations.

The change in legislation was not very great.

The permitted special designations for milk now are:—

(a) "Pasteurised" (b) "Sterilised" (c) "Untreated" in the case of Raw Milk. It is of course permissible to combine these designations with the description "Channel Island" where ever applicable.

There are two milk pasteurising premises and 144 milk dealers who are licenced by the County Council.

Sampling and visits are carried out by the County Health Inspector. The actual testing of samples is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Lincoln.

The pasteurising premises are regularly visited and inspections of plant, heat recorders etc. are made.

Checks are also made on the cleanliness of bottles and churns. Whenever milk sample failures are encountered an investigation and re-sampling is carried out.

A total of 492 samples of milk were submitted for the appropriate test to be made, with the following results.

Type of Sample	Failed Keeping Quality Test	Failed Heat Treatment test
Pasteurised 424	3	3
Sterilised 26	—	—
Raw Milk 42	4	—
—	—	—
Total 492	7	3
—	—	—

Biological Cultural and other Milk Tests

6 Samples submitted for Tubercule Bacilli were all negative.

124 Samples submitted for Antibiotics, 3 were positive.

124 Samples submitted for Brucellosis, 3 were positive.

In the case of positive Antibiotics, the owner, the Milk Marketing Board and the Milk Production Officer were notified.

In the case of Positive Brucellosis, the district medical officer of health and the Ministry Veterinary Surgeon were notified.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The maintenance of the fumigation plant at the Council Depot has again been by way of insurance against trouble in this area. This plant was originally provided and has been maintained jointly by the three authorities in the South of the County i.e. Spalding Urban, East Elloe Rural and Spalding Rural District Councils. The cost to each individual authority is negligible but the maintenance of the apparatus is a safe-guard against the spread of serious infectious diseases or parasitic infestations by vehicles such as clothes, bedding or furniture.

RODENT CONTROL

		Type of Property				
		Local Authority	Dwelling-Houses	Agricultural	Other Properties	Total
Total No. of properties in the District		42	6677	1899	903	9521
No. of properties inspected.	Following Complaints	11	491	138	49	689
	Otherwise	44	860	295	44	1243
No. of properties found to be infested with rats	Major	—	9	7	1	17
	Minor	23	80	13	8	124
No. of properties found to be infested with mice		—	5	—	—	5
No. of infested properties treated		18	87	16	9	130
No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	Requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—
	Requiring structural works	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases in which work was carried out in default		—	—	—	—	—
Legal proceedings		—	—	—	—	—
No. of "Block" control schemes carried out		19				

The Council's Rodent Operator, (Mr. F. Emery) has again carried out this work during the year and the many complimentary remarks, made after his work on properties, confirms the efficient way in which he does this disinfection work.

HOUSING

NUISANCES

38 cases of inadequate water supplies, housing defects, drainage and refuse nuisances were investigated during the year and informal notices served as necessary.

None of the cases has required statutory action.

SLUM CLEARANCE HOUSING ACT, 1957

During the year 15 unfit houses were reported to the Council and the following statutory procedure was taken:—

14 Notices of "Time and Place" were served

7 Demolition Orders made

3 Closing Orders made

Houses demolished following statutory procedure by the Council

In Clearance Areas

26

Not in Clearance Areas

4

Families re-housed

From Clearance Areas

Nil

From condemned houses not in Clearance Areas

11

During the year a total of 10 houses were demolished by their owners without statutory action by the Council.

The vacancy caused in 1963 by the resignation of Mr. Farley, one of the Additional Public Health Inspectors, was not filled until August, 1964 when Mr. Robinson started work with the Council. This staff shortage caused a substantial reduction in the amount of housing work that could be done.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1957

Discretionary Improvement Grants

Houses inspected in full detail 2

Applications received for Improvement Grant 5

Improvement Grants approved 5

Standard Grants

Applications received for Standard Grants..... 35

Reduced Standard Grant application received 1

Standard Grants approved 32

Reduced Standard Grant approved 1

OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

NEW HOUSES

During the year 8 dwellings were completed on the Council's Estates and a further 30 were commenced.

100 dwellings were erected by private developers and a further 77 were commenced.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

As in previous years the administration of those parts of the Factories Act, that are the responsibility of this Authority, has raised no serious problems. No new industry has been started in the district and the premises are mainly small family businesses.

There are no outworkers in the area.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	18	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	2	—	—
Total	70	20	6	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	4	—	1	—



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