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Spalding
Rural District Council



REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for
1965.

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SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding.

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

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 1965.

The health statistics for the year are satisfactory. The estimated mid-year home population figure supplied by the General Register Officer was 19,760, 60 up on 1964, so that your District has continued its slow growth in population. There were 313 births, representing a live birth rate of 15.9 per thousand estimated population. This continues to be below the national average birth rate.

Some of the other health statistics such as infant mortality rate, still birth rate, and peri-natal mortality rate are based on small numbers and fluctuate considerably from year to year.

There were 186 deaths, representing a death rate from all causes, of 9.4 per thousand estimated population. This is considerably below the general death rate in England and Wales.

Coronary thrombosis was the most common cause of death (36 deaths), followed by other diseases of the heart and circulation (30 deaths), cancers of various sites (30 deaths), and 'strokes' (25 deaths). The mortality pattern in South Holland since 1950 has been closely studied, and the one obvious trend that can be seen is a gradual increase in the number of deaths registered each year as due to coronary thrombosis. At the same time, there has been a gradual decrease in the number of deaths from other heart and circulatory diseases, so that the total 'heart' deaths has not shown any dramatic change. It seems possible that this apparent rise in coronary disease is due largely to changing fashions of death certification.

The most important event in the Council's year was the opening of the 'Glen Haven' centre for the elderly at Pinchbeck, by Lord Ancaster, on 19th October, 1965.

This centre is much more than just a 'grouped bungalow with warden' scheme, although it consists of 13 fully self-contained bungalows, grouped near a block with 16 flatlets, and a flat for a resident warden. The flatlet block, which is centrally heated throughout, also provides an excellent communal lounge, large enough for social events and parties, a well equipped communal laundry, and a coin operated telephone kiosk. There is a fully furnished guest bedroom, for use by friends or relatives of the tenants, at a small charge. While the flatlets incorporate small kitchens, and have their own W.C's, bathrooms and wash hand basin facilities are shared.

In addition to the 16 flatlets and 13 bungalows at Glen Haven, a further 12 bungalows on the adjoining estate are connected to the bell circuit, to enable their elderly tenants to benefit from the services of the warden.

The design of the centre is nothing short of admirable and it is well sited near to the shops in the centre of the large and pleasant village of Pinchbeck. The final crown to the success of the scheme has been the friendly atmosphere fostered right from the start by the resident warden.

The Glen Haven meets the needs of senior citizens, who while not invalids, are no longer as active as they used to be, and who may need some assistance from time to time. The flatlets combine many of the advantages of an institutional old-persons home, together with the inestimable advantage of having ones own home.

There is little doubt that the new centre will have its effect on the demand for places in County Council old-persons homes, and Holland County Council have agreed to make an annual grant towards the running cost of Glen Haven, and the County Welfare Officer will be consulted on the allocation of tenancies.

The present scheme is intended to serve the five parishes in the north of the Rural District, and in due course a similar centre is to be built to serve the parishes in the south of the District.

During the year the Council made an order under Section 147 of the Public Health Act, 1936, adding infectious jaundice and leptospirosis to the list of infectious diseases notifiable in their district. This order, which was confirmed by the Ministry of Health, came into force on 11th May, 1965. The original purpose of notification of infectious diseases was prevention, and notification of infectious jaundice and leptospirosis is useful in that it enables enquiries to be made and action to be taken that might prevent the occurrence of other cases of these diseases. In some ways it is a pity that local authorities do not have the power to make deletions from the list of notifiable infectious diseases as well as additions. Measles notification, for instance, serves no useful purpose apart from the collection of statistics. It is high time that there was a review of the need for notification of certain infectious diseases.

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 19,760.

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

Cowbit	...	...	...	201
Crowland	...	...	...	1009
Deeping St. Nicholas	...	...	...	568
Donington	...	...	...	700
Gosberton	...	...	...	807
Moulton	...	...	...	861
Pinchbeck	...	...	...	1438
Quadring	...	...	...	351
Surfleet	...	...	...	354
Weston	...	...	...	469

6758

The rateable value of the district is £356,895 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £1,360.

The main industry of the district is agriculture, including fruit farming, market gardening and flower growing.

There are no major factories in the district.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	144	152	296
Illegitimate	8	9	17
	<u>152</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>313</u>

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population: 15.9.

Illegitimate live births 5.4% of total live births.

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 319

Still births per 1,000 live and still births: 18.8.

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	93	93	186

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population: 9.4

INFANT DEATHS:

a. Deaths during first year of life:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

b. Neonatal deaths:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	28.8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (legitimate) ...	30.4.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (illegitimate) ...	NIL
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.4.
Early neonatal (first 7 days) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19.2.
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	37.6.
Maternal deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ...	NIL

There were 7 infant deaths in the first four weeks of life - 3 due to congenital abnormalities, 2 to prematurity and 2 to failure of lung expansion. The other two infant deaths were due to bronchopneumonia and congenital heart disease respectively.

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.

	<u>Live Birth</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Death</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Infant</u> <u>Mortality</u> <u>Rate</u>
Spalding Rural District	15.6	10.8	28.8
Holland County - Rural Districts	15.1	10.8	22.7
Urban Districts	18.2	10.7	19.2
All Districts	16.2	10.8	21.2
England and Wales	18.0	11.5	19.0

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 186 deaths that occurred in the year were of people aged 75 years or over.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1965

	Male	Female	Total
1. Respiratory tuberculosis	1	-	1
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung/bronchus	3	-	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	5	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	11	25
18. Coronary disease, angina	24	12	36
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
20. Other heart diseases	7	18	25
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	9	14
24. Bronchitis	8	5	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	-	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34. All other accidents	-	3	3
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	1	1
Total	93	93	186

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.

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Below 5 years	44	29	73
	5 - 14 years	18	18	36
	15 - 39 years	19	38	57
	40 - 64 years	9	30	39
	65 years and over	3	25	28
		<u>93</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>233</u>

<u>Type of Accident</u>	<u>Below 5 Years</u>	<u>Over 65 Years</u>	<u>All other Age Groups</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scalds	9	1	17	27
Burns	7	2	15	24
Falls	30	11	30	71
Cuts	5	7	42	54
Other accidents	22	7	28	57
	<u>73</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>233</u>

The tables, which analyse the 233 accident injuries treated at the Hospital during 1965 show a pattern similar to that found in studies carried out elsewhere in the country. Two age groups are especially at risk, children under 5 years old, and the elderly.

This year there were more cuts, and it was surprising how many were incurred while opening cans of food. It is a pity that the tin-opener, to-day's most important kitchen implement, should be so liable to cause accidents. The old fashioned type with a blade or prong is liable to slip and produces a dangerously jagged opening in the tin. More modern openers, that work by turning a handle do a neater job, and leave the tin beautifully smooth, but one then has to lift out the razor sharp circle of metal that was the top of the tin.

It is impossible to make an absolutely fool-proof kitchen implement that cannot under any circumstances cause accidents - so much depends on the person using it. The moral is 'take care when opening tins'.

**Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates,
in the Rural District of Spalding, 1951 - 1965**

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rates	Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
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)	17.2	9.9	29.1
1954	321	17.0	152	8.1	40.5)			
1955	312	16.5	181	9.6	25.6)			
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)	16.5	9.6	27.1
1959	315	16.5	194	10.1	22.2)			
1960	320	16.6	160	8.3	9.4)			
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)	15.6	9.4	27.6
1964	330	16.8	179	9.1	15.2)			
1965	313	15.9	186	9.4	28.8)			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Cases Notified

Cases Notified

Tuberculosis - pulmonary	...	...	3
- other	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	20
Whooping Cough	...	...	-
Measles	...	...	485
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	-
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	-
Sonne Dysentery	...	...	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	-
Total	...	...	511

In addition 2 cases of food poisoning were ascertained, otherwise than by formal notification.

As is apparent from the above table this was a quiet year for infectious diseases, apart from measles.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Male	Female	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31.12.65.			
Pulmonary	34	29	63
Non-Pulmonary	3	5	8
Cases removed from Register during 1965			
cured	1	-	1
left District	-	1	1
died	2	-	2
Cases added to the Register during 1965			
new notifications	1	3	4
transfer into District	1	1	2

Tuberculosis, which was once a major scourge, is now no longer one of the important killing diseases. In England we are now approaching the final phase, when there seems to be a real hope of eradicating this disease from the native-born population.

While there are still a fair number of people on the Tuberculosis Register in this District, the vast majority of them have been rendered non-infectious, and will in due course be removed from the register when their disease has been quiescent for the requisite 5 years.

It is interesting that out of 1328 people attending Mass X-ray in Spalding in 1965, only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was found.

Unfortunately it is well known that the people who are most likely to have tuberculosis tend to steer clear of Mass X-ray sessions. The classical example is the old person with a chronic cough, which is probably due to bronchitis, but which just might be due to tuberculosis. These old people can be the most resistant to such relatively new ideas as Mass X-ray.

The main hope for eradication is the school B.C.G. vaccination scheme. 13 year old children are tested to see whether they have natural resistance to tuberculosis, or whether they need to be protected by B.C.G. When the test result is strongly positive, this indicates that the child has had a tuberculosis infection, which he has overcome, and examination of his or her home contacts sometimes brings to light an undiagnosed case of the disease.

PROTECTION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for much of the following information.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Between the 1st January, 1965 and the 31st December, 1965, 276 children under 5 years of age, and 16 children between the ages of 5 and 16 years received the primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 589 children were given a 'booster' or secondary injection.

Tetanus Immunisation

During the year 378 children under the age of 16 years completed courses of tetanus immunisation.

279 of these children had a course of 'triple antigen' that protects against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

Poliomyelitis vaccination

During the year 307 children under 5 years of age and 64 children between the ages of 5 and 16 years completed a course of oral poliomyelitis vaccination.

A satisfactory percentage of the pre-school and school age population of this Rural District has been protected against this disease by vaccination.

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 Spalding R.D.C. area is fed from Bourne, West Pinchbeck and Deeping St. Nicholas. Supplies were adequately maintained over the whole area with the exception of the Deeping St. Nicholas district when, for a period in January, due to a fall in bore levels at the Oaksheaf Pumping Station, Deeping St. Nicholas, it was found necessary to lay a 6" diameter temporary main overland from Market Deeping to supplement this source. Levels have now recovered and are at their highest for some years.

Further cross connections and link ups have been made in the distribution system in the Boards' area, making it a simple matter to supplement supplies in one area from another; unfortunately this has made it impossible to record the actual flows into the R.D.C. area.

Taking the average consumption of water per head per day over the Board's area of 43.26 gallons this gives a figure of 311,061,000 gallons in the rural district for the year, with a daily average of 852,222 gallons. This is a 3% increase over the 1964 consumption.

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

During the year under review there was increased activity in mainlaying, principally in consequence of new housing development.

The yardage of new mains laid in the Rural District was as follows:-

<u>Diameter of Mains</u>	<u>Yardage of Mains Laid</u>
3"	6,029
4"	386
6"	13

Chemical analyses of water from the three main sources were made on 25.2.65 and the results are given in the following table:-

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

	<u>Bourne</u>	<u>Deeping St. Nicholas</u>	<u>Pinchbeck</u>
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
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01	0.73	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02	0.01	0.01

The analyst reported that the water from all three bores was pure and wholesome, and suitable for public supply purposes.

The water from the Bourne and Pinchbeck bores is hard, while the water from the Deeping St. Nicholas source is fairly soft, with a high though not excessive content of mineral constituents.

Surveillance of Water Board Employees

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.

I am happy to say that there is satisfactory co-operation and exchange of information between the Board's Officers and the Public Health Department.

Fluoride 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 these two parishes, as the incidence of dental decay there is lower than in other parts of South Holland.

The rest of the district receives a water supply that is deficient in natural fluoride, 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.

Pay up, or else....!

The South Lincolnshire Water Board has on occasions cut off the supply of mains water to households with serious arrears of water rates. The Board is empowered to do this under the Water Act and is by no means the only water authority to take this step.

Nevertheless, cutting off the water supply, while often successful in recovering arrears of payment, is likely to lead to public health risks and is in my opinion a thoroughly bad policy. A few minutes thought brings to mind the possible consequences of a shut off in mains water supply. Other sources such as wells and rain water cisterns may be used and they may be unsatisfactory. Water from neighbours taps is not likely to be in sufficient quantity for proper cleaning of utensils and washing of clothes, and arrangements for storage may leave much to be desired. While the W.C. can be flushed by a bucket of water I doubt if it would be long before the occupants decided not to bother humping a heavy bucket full of water to the toilet several times a day. There are other ways of recovering arrears of rates and I hope the Board will use them.

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

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Dwellings in</u>		<u>Valuation List</u>	<u>Dwellings</u>	<u>Supplied</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Supplied</u>
Cowbit	201	...	193	...	564
Crowland	1009	...	990	...	2896
Deeping St. Nicholas	568	...	523	...	1545
Donington	700	...	686	...	2002
Gosberton	807	...	757	...	2215
Moulton	861	...	831	...	2430
Pinchbeck	1438	...	1346	...	3932
Quadrang	351	...	330	...	965
Surfleet	354	...	346	...	1011
Weston	469	...	465	...	1360
			6758	...	6472	...	18920

The percentage of dwellings supplied is 95.8%, 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. Ambulance Service

This district is served by ambulance stations at Spalding and Crowland. The Spalding station is staffed by 1 Station Officer and 6 Wholetime Driver/Attendants, and has an establishment of 2 ambulances, 2 utility ambulances and 1 sitting case 'Minibus'. The two ambulances are of modern design and one of the utility ambulances can be adapted to carry standard wheelchairs. 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.

ii. County Health Department Services

The personal health services administered by the County Council cover a wide range, from domiciliary midwifery to mental health. Just under 30% of babies are delivered at home by the County Midwives. All births are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, so that a routine visit can be made by a health visitor, to extend her advice and reassurance to the new mother. Infant Welfare Clinics are held regularly at Spalding, Crowland, Donington, Gosberton, Deeping St. Nicholas, Pinchbeck and Moulton and in recent years attendances of mothers and children has been increasing. Vaccination against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is available at these clinics.

The School Health Service continues to fulfil its important function of safeguarding the health of school pupils, who are examined at the ages of 5 years, 11 years and 15 years. This service makes specialist help available e.g. speech therapy, and consultant eye, ear, nose and throat, and orthopaedic treatment. An important part of the work of the service is the general supervision, and school placement of pupils handicapped, either mentally, or through deafness, defective vision, or other physical handicaps.

The home help, home nursing and chiropody services, are used to a large extent by elderly people, and these services are very useful in enabling them to keep going in their own homes. Without their help, many more hospital beds would be required. Home help, and chiropody is also available for other categories of patient besides the elderly - namely expectant mothers and the physically handicapped.

The County Mental Welfare Officers are concerned with the community care of people suffering from mental subnormality and mental illness. In the last ten years, there has been a quiet revolution in the treatment of mental illness, and it is quite common for a patient to be discharged home considerably improved after only a few weeks of mental hospital treatment. The Mental Welfare Officers have the task of following up such people, to do everything possible to help them cope with life in the community, to reduce the risk of relapse. In the last few years, there have been considerable developments in the training of mentally subnormal adults in the county and in 1965 a new purpose built hostel and workshop was opened for them in Boston.

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. Since 7.12.64, the hospital has also had 56 beds for chronic sick and geriatric patients, in the new Avalon annexe. A number of visiting consultants attend to conduct out-patient clinics in all the major specialties.

C. Voluntary bodies

During the year the Spalding family planning clinic, which was started on 14th October, 1964, continued to thrive.

This Clinic, which is run by the Boston branch of the Family Planning Association, is held in the County Clinic, Holland Road, Spalding on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month, between 7 and 8.00p.m. A moderate fee is charged but in case of need it can be waived.

105 new patients enrolled at the Clinic in 1965, and the total of attendances made at the clinic during the year was 234.

In fact, on certain occasions so many patients turned up that the session had to be prolonged until 10p.m. or later.

It is clear that this Clinic is fulfilling a need, and the measure of public support may well be enough to justify a weekly, instead of bi-monthly clinic session, in the near future.

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. Their 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.

E. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Lincolnshire Mass X-ray unit visited Spalding in October, 1965. Advance publicity was given, and all clergymen in the district were asked to give the dates and times of the sessions in their announcements from the pulpit. 1328 people attended for a chest X-ray, compared with 801, when the Unit visited Spalding in 1962.

Out of the people recalled for a further large film X-ray 6 were referred to the Chest Physician. Of them only one was found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis, but three cases of lung cancer were detected. This casts an interesting light on the changing incidence of chest diseases.

MISCELLANEOUS

Medical examination of Council Staff

During the year 11 people were examined to assess their fitness for Superannuable employment, or for admission into the Sickness Pay Scheme and 3 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.

Fortunately it was not necessary to obtain any compulsory removal orders in the year under review, but visits were made to a number of old people who were starting to have difficulty in looking after themselves.

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 my report on the sanitary circumstances of the District for the Year 1965. As in previous years the pattern of work has been governed by the day to day demand of Departmental duties. The table of visits made during the year by the Public Health Inspectors again clearly shows that meat inspection; visits regarding drainage work and the public sewerage, Housing Act inspections and the clearing up of work in connection with improvement grants (in that relative order) took up the major part of the Inspectors' time. In connection with meat inspection it must be borne in mind that many visits take up a whole morning or afternoon session and only record one visit. Also on the same subject I wish to point out the increase in the number of pigs inspected - 1964...8232: 1965...10485. Owing to the speed with which these animals are dealt the Inspectors must stay at the slaughterhouse during the period of slaughtering and this further restricts the amount of work that can be done in other directions.

A reasonable start has been made on the outstanding work under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 in securing registration of premises but it is obvious that further effort must be made during 1966 to carry out the detailed inspections as required by the Act.

The general work of the Department was again retarded by my rather prolonged absence towards the end of the year owing to illness and I wish to express my thanks for the consideration shown by members of the Council at this time.

I am grateful for the consideration and assistance which I have received from Councillors and particularly Members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health during the year. Also I wish to record my appreciation of the excellent support which I have received from the staff and of the extra duties which the Inspectors carried out during my illness.

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	48	139
Water Supplies; water samples ...	10	-
Overcrowding Complaints ...	-	-
Moveable Dwellings; Camps ...	9	49
Food Samples... ..	3	2
Food Hygiene... ..	17	26
Factories, Workplaces and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ...	165	14
Public Conveniences	-	108
Infectious Diseases	16	1
Disinfection after I.D.	-	-
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	10	11
Disinfestation	6	4
Drain Tests	177	101
Housing Site Sewerage Schemes ...	16	29
Refuse Service	20	25
Night Soil and Cesspool Emptying Service	33	13
Slaughterhouses	8	12
Public Sewerage Schemes	189	383
Improvement Grants	61	223
Nuisances - General	70	97
Miscellaneous	196	26
Meat Inspection	-	1915
Animal Boarding Establishments ...	1	1
Pet Shops	-	2
Total	1055	3131

SANITARY SERVICES

Cesspool Emptying

Details of the work done during the year by the two cesspool emptying vehicles employed regularly, and the reserve vehicle, E.J.L. 625, occasionally used, on this work, are as follows:-

<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Vault Closets</u>	<u>Cisterns, tanks etc.</u>	<u>Sewer Maintenance</u>
2985	196	33 (103 loads)	49 loads

In the period 1st January to 31st March (before the Free Service came into operation) the total number of loads dealt with was 926.

From April 1st to 31st December details of the loads dealt with are as follows:-

Number of Free Loads to Private property	1179
Number of Chargeable Loads to Private property	604
Number of Loads from Council Houses - 1085 - including 553 Free Loads.	

On 103 occasions the machines were used to remove the sludge from the settlement and humus tanks at the housing estates sewage works and on 6 occasions the sludge was removed from the temporary sewage works at Fosters' Housing Estate, Pinchbeck, involving 379 loads in all.

Total number of loads in this period for all purposes 3247

The continued retention of the old cesspool emptier, E.J.L. 625, first registered in May, 1952, has been a considerable help in maintaining this service during the year and the machine has also been used on occasions when the pail emptying lorry has been under repair.

The operation of the 'Free Service' from 1st April this year, (under which each property is allowed one cesspool load, of approximately 1,100gls, free of charge each twelve months), has not resulted in any appreciable increase in the work of this service.

Pail Closet Emptying

This service has been maintained during the year and continues to be by far the most objectionable work regularly carried out under the heading of Sanitary Services.

The manner in which this work, and the cesspool emptying, has been carried out again reflects credit on the Department Foreman (Mr. F. Daubney) and the workmen who carry out these unpleasant but essential duties.

Refuse Collection

This service has been maintained, without change, during the year. In December a 'General Review of the Refuse Collection Service' was presented to the Public Health Committee. The main point of the Review was to report on the loss of tipping in the North of the Rural District and the resulting difficulty of transporting all domestic refuse to the large tip at Crowland.

Although the problem of tipping space, within the Rural District, is not acute it is obviously a matter which will have to be dealt with in the foreseeable future. It is hoped that the approach which this Authority has made to the Urban District Council, in connection with their proposal to provide a new refuse disposal plant, will progress successfully and result in the provision of a joint disposal scheme.

A joint scheme of this nature resulting in complete incineration or pulverisation of the refuse will enable the service to operate on a more satisfactory basis and eliminate the unsatisfactory "crude refuse tips" which have, up to now, been the only available method of disposal.

The cash value of materials salvaged from the refuse during the year was £1,268, this is £318 more than the figure in 1964 and £569 above the 1963 total.

Drainage and Sewerage - Council Houses

During the year 109 blocked drains were cleared by the Public Health Department workmen.

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, 1965, was as follows:-

Houses fully improved with bathrooms, W.C's etc.	350
Houses provided with W.C's but not bathrooms	120
Houses still without W.C's or bathrooms	182

The continuation of this work is desirable from all points of view and it is hoped that nothing will arise out of the nation's financial difficulties to cause any delay in the completion of these improvement works.

Experience on various sites in the Rural District has shown that the most effective method of dealing with the drainage from isolated blocks of Council Houses is by means of a small conventional sewage disposal system. When such means are adopted the additional capital expense is compensated by the absence of offensive 'sewage sick' sub-soil close to the houses and by the fact that occupants do not suffer the recurring inconvenience, which arises with the less satisfactory systems of septic tanks and soakaways, of the systems filling up and failing to function properly.

Public Sewerage

Work of connecting existing houses to the new sewerage schemes at Donington and Gosberton proceeded during the year and in a number of cases property owners took advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme to obtain cash grants towards the cost of providing bathrooms, hot water systems and W.C.'s as the convenience of public sewerage became available to them.

Officials of the Council give all possible help to promote this kind of improvement work.

Messrs. H. Camm & Co. Ltd., of Chesterfield, commenced work on the Pinchbeck sewerage contract on 18th October, 1965 and the scheme progressed satisfactorily in spite of very adverse weather conditions.

By the end of December the Council's Consulting Engineers reported that 430 yds. of 6" diameter sewers had been laid and tested, the excavation work completed for the No. 1 Pumping Station and work started on the site of the sewage disposal works.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2814	118	2	7827	10465
Number inspected	2814	118	2	7827	10465
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>		MEAT REJECTED			
Whole carcasses rejected	9	4	2	6	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	913	6	—	26	663
Percentage of carcasses affected	32.41%	8.47%	100%	0.41%	6.56%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses rejected	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	1	—	—	—	170
Percentage of carcasses affected	0.04%	—	—	—	1.63%

Cysticercus Bovis

22 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* was 0.78% compared with 1.48% last year and 0.43% in 1963.

Tuberculosis

Lesions of tuberculosis were found in only one bovine animal out of a total of 2934 animals inspected including 118 cows and 2 calves. As this isolated case occurred in an Irish bullock it was thought to be a reject from the T.T. Herd Scheme in Ireland and, as in this Country, the disease will virtually disappear when the scheme is complete.

From clinical examinations lesions of tuberculosis were found in 171 pig carcasses, the lesions being mainly of the avian type.

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

Details of Meat and Offals rejected as unfit for food are contained in the following lists:-

<u>Article</u>		<u>Disease or Condition found</u>
2 Beast Carcasses and Offals	...	Septicaemia
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	...	Acute Septic Pneumonia
3 Beast Carcasses and Offals	...	Acute Septic Pericarditis
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	...	Fever
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	...	Acute Diffuse Septic Peritonitis
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	...	Generalised Oedema
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	...	Fever
3 Cow Carcasses and Offals	...	Generalised Oedema and Emaciation
1 Calf Carcase and Offal	...	Pyæmia
1 Calf Carcase and Offal	...	Generalised Oedema
4 Sheep Carcasses and Offals	...	Generalised Oedema
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	...	Fever
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	...	Pyæmia
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	...	Pathological Emaciation
3 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Generalised Oedema
5 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Septicaemia
8 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Fever
2 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Acute Diffuse Septic Peritonitis
2 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Uraemia
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	...	Generalised Tuberculosis
2 Pig Carcasses and Offals	...	Acute Swine Erysipelas
409 lb. Beef	...	Bruising
8 lb. Mutton	...	Abscesses
192 lb. Pork	...	Bruising

The following offals were rejected, as unfit for food, the various reasons being too numerous to be set out in detail:-

430 Beast Livers	1 Cow Part Liver
434 Beast Part Livers	1 Cow Lung
216 Beast Lungs	23 Sheep Livers
43 Beast Spleens	4 Sheep Lungs
16 Beast Hearts	2 Sheep Hearts
32 Beast Heads	407 Pig Livers
30 Beast Tongues	487 Pig Lungs
11 Beast Skirts	249 Pig Hearts
6 Beast Kidneys	169 Pig Heads
1 Beast Mesenteries	20 Pig Kidneys
3 Cow Livers	19 Pig Mesenteries
1 Cow Spleen	2 Pig Spleens
4 Cow Udders	

Details of other food found to be unfit for human consumption:-

1 x 2 lb. Tin of Ham	Blown and Damaged Can
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Food Premises

There has been no change in the character of the food shops and food manufacturing premises in the District which are all of the small 'family business' type. The premises have been found to be generally satisfactory and contraventions of the Regulations have been only minor in character and were dealt with by informal procedure.

There are no premises in the area where ice-cream is manufactured. Retail sale is restricted to portions pre-packed by the manufacturers with the exception of one retailer who sells 'American Whipped' ice-cream from mobile vans. This retailer's premises are located outside the Spalding Rural District.

Slaughterhouses

There has been no change in the numbers of slaughterhouses in the District and with the exception of two slaughterhouses they are all occupied by family butchers producing meat for their own trade only. The remaining two premises slaughter also for the wholesale trade and in one case (W. Hargrave & Son, Pinchbeck) the increase in the 'through-put' during the year has given rise to problems of general hygiene and drainage. These have been taken up with the occupiers who have plans in course of preparation for a large modern slaughterhouse to be drained to the public sewerage scheme when completed. In the meantime every effort is being made to maintain the existing slaughterhouse until the alternative premises are available.

For the month of December, 1965, the Council's account for meat inspection carried out at this slaughterhouse alone was £56. 4. 0. and continuing to rise. The implication in the above comments is obvious, if the business continues to expand as anticipated and indicated by the size of the proposed premises, the appointment of an inspector for meat inspection duties alone will be a necessity. Without such an Officer, to take over this increasing work, it will be impossible for the Public Health Inspectors to give proper attention to their other essential duties.

Milk and Dairies

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

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Practically no work has been needed in this subject during the year. The fumigation plant at the Council Depot has been maintained by the three Authorities in the South of the County i.e. Spalding Urban, East Elloe Rural and Spalding Rural District Council. The cost to each 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

Mr. F. Emery, the Council's Rodent Operator, has carried out this work during the year with his usual efficiency. The increasing number of calls received for his assistance and the complete absence of complaints, from the occupiers of private and business premises which he deals with, confirms his suitability for this position.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1965

Type of Property

	Local Author- ity	Dwelling houses	Agricul- tural	Other Propert- ies	Total
Total No. of properties in the District	42	6785	1899	903	9629
No. of properties inspected					
(a) Following Complaints	9	644	84	42	779
(b) Otherwise	52	1057	334	69	1512
No. of properties found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats					
(Major	-	4	-	-	4
(Minor	29	78	9	7	123
(b) Mice	-	5	-	-	5
No. of infested properties treated	23	84	6	7	120
No. of notices served under Sect. 4 of the Act					
(a) Requiring treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Requiring structural works	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases in which work was carried out in default	-	-	-	-	-
Legal proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
No. of 'Block' control schemes carried out			6		

HOUSING

NUISANCES

34 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 20 unfit houses were reported to the Council and the following statutory procedure was taken:-

22 Notices of 'Time and Place' were served

20 Demolition Orders made

2 Closing Orders made

Houses demolished following statutory procedure by the Council

In Clearance Areas

NIL

Not in Clearance Areas

18

Families re-housed

From Clearance Areas

NIL

From condemned houses not in Clearance Areas

14

During the year a total of 4 houses were demolished by their owners without statutory action by the Council.

This branch of the Health Department's work has been limited to individual housing action resulting in Demolition or Closing Orders. The re-housing of families from houses condemned in this way presents quite a problem in some parishes, particularly those with a substantial waiting list for Council Houses, but if the procedure under the Act is not to be brought into disrepute, it is essential that re-housing be affected as speedily as possible subject of course to exigencies of the area concerned.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1957

Discretionary Improvement Grants

Houses inspected in full detail

-

Applications received for Improvement Grant

-

Improvement Grants approved

-

Standard Grants

Applications received for Standard Grants

41

Reduced Standard Grant applications received

-

Standard Grants approved

38

Reduced Standard Grants approved

-

OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

NEW HOUSES

During the year 30 dwellings were completed on the Council's Estates, no further dwellings were commenced

109 dwellings were erected by private developers and a further 75 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).

Premises (1)	Register (2)	Number of:		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (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 Authority ...	63	26	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	7	-	-	-
Total ...	70	26	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	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	3	-	-	-



