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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

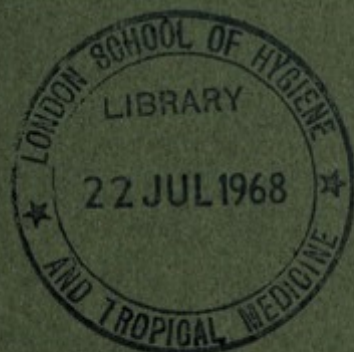
AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1966



S T. A L B A N S C I T Y

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor J. Farrelly, (Chairman)
Councillor L.V. Heath, (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor J.H. Brett.
Councillor H.L. Collins.
Councillor P.J. Fowler.
Councillor I.A. Parry.
Councillor J.G. Pyne.
Councillor H.C.B. Sampson.
Councillor G.C. Woollatt.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

George Cust, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Resigned 3.9.66.)
Medical Officer of Health

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H., (Appointed 7.11.66.)
Medical Officer of Health

R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector

L.A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Public Health Inspectors.

J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Mrs. A.R. Symons (Resigned 22.7.66)
Secretary

Mrs. S.M. Robinson (Appointed 1.9.66)
Secretary

Miss M.M.H. Furse, (Resigned 11.11.66)
Clerk

R.H. Fox,
Public Health Assistant.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Divisional Health Office,
Bleak House,
Catherine Street,
St. Albans.

St. Albans : 59211

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City of St. Albans for 1966.

This is my first Annual Report and as I did not take up my appointment until almost the end of the year my comments on it must necessarily be brief. I must however, pay tribute to the work of my predecessor Dr. George Cust and in addition express my gratitude to all those members of the staff who did so much to ease my task in taking up my new duties.

I am very pleased to report that the general picture of the health of the citizens is good. There was a fall in the death rate in 1966 compared with the previous year. The major causes of death are typical of those in any western urbanised society namely degenerative diseases, the cardio-vascular diseases and the cancers. There was a reduction of 5 in the number of accidents compared with the rather high figure of the previous year. 72.9% of all deaths were in people aged over 65.

My thanks are due to Mr. Jewell, the Chief Clerk, for compiling most of the statistics, Mrs. Tavener who typed the whole of this report, and to Mrs. Small for its printing.

I would like to say thank you to the many people without whose close co-operation it would be impossible to run our health services, to my medical colleagues in general practice and the hospitals, the staff of the Health Department, Dr. O'Reilly, my deputy, and the other medical officers, Miss Seymour and the nursing staff, Mrs. Taylor, and the home helps, Mr. Jewell and the office staff, Mr. Goddard and the public health inspectors and to the public of St. Albans.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen for all the consideration you have given my department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

CARL BURNS
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	52,430
Area (in acres)	5,129
Number of Inhabited houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	16,164
Shops with living accommodation	256
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	63
	16,483
Rateable Value	£3,157,019

Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	918
Rate per 1,000 population	17.5
Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	79
Rate % of total live births	8.6
Stillbirths -	
Number	8
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	8.6
Total Live and Stillbirths	926
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) -	
Number	14
Rate per 1,000 live births	15.3
Infant Mortality Rate -	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	15.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	12.7
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	9
Rate per 1,000 total live births	9.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	8
Rate per 1,000 total live births	8.7

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate -

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	16
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	17.3

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) NIL

Deaths

Number of Deaths	542
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	10.3

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made. Applying these two factors to the crude rates gives the following results:

Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
17.5	17.3	10.3	10.4

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-natal Mortality Rate</u>
1947	12.6	17.9	33.0		
1948	10.2	17.2	19.2		
1949	11.5	18.2	13.1		
1950	11.3	16.3	33.3		
1951	12.0	16.4	27.6		
1952	10.6	16.5	27.1		
1953	11.5	15.6	29.9		
1954	10.8	15.4	18.5		
1955	10.3	15.9	15.2		
1956	11.0	16.3	15.8		
1957	10.9	15.5	15.0		
1958	10.5	16.9	22.3		
1959	11.5	17.6	16.3		
1960	10.8	19.3	13.7		
1961	11.6	16.5	8.5	24.9	30.8
1962	10.8	18.4	15.1	19.1	29.7
1963	11.7	18.9	18.9	13.5	24.8
1964	10.2	17.4	16.7	20.7	27.3
1965	11.3	19.3	12.9	12.8	20.6
1966	10.3	17.5	15.3	8.6	17.3

Causes of DeathMaleFemale

1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	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	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	31	9
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	33	29
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
16.	Diabetes	3	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	53
18.	Coronary disease, angina	63	38
19.	Hypertension	6	6
20.	Other heart disease	13	40
21.	Other circulatory disease	8	14
22.	Influenza	-	4
23.	Pneumonia	15	14
24.	Bronchitis	21	12
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	1	4
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	6	1
34.	All other accidents	6	3
35.	Suicide	7	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-

Totals

266

276

Vital Statistics, 1966 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	17.7
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	15.4

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	19.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.3
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.9
Peri-Natal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	26.3

This table is included to enable comparison to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1966.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1966 are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1,559	531	2,090	67	22	43
Other Tuberculosis	119	144	263	5	6	5
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	22,606	4,413	27,019	966	179	562
Other Cancer	35,959	45,164	81,123	1,537	1,830	1,687

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS - ST. ALBANS CITY

There was a decrease in the birth rate in 1966, from 19.3 to 17.5 per thousand of the estimated population - a decrease in the number of births of 88. The national birth rate of 17.7 can be compared with our comparable birth rate of 17.3.

There was a further increase in the number of illegitimate births in the City from 75 in 1965 to 79 in 1966, representing 8.6% of the live births. Behind these simple figures lie a number of human problems with which the staff of the Health Department and the social workers of the Children's Department and various voluntary agencies have to do a great deal of work. The number of stillbirths dropped from 13 in 1965 to 8 in 1966, resulting in a decrease in the stillbirth rate from 12.8 to 8.6. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales was 15.4.

The number of infant deaths under one year of age increased from 13 in 1965 to 14 in 1966. This gave an infant mortality rate of 15.3 compared with 12.9 of the year before (England and Wales infant mortality rate was 19.0, the lowest national figure ever recorded). The causes of these infant deaths are as follows:-

Age at Death

Cause of Death	1 wk.	2 wks.	3 wks.	4 wks.	TOTAL under 1 mth.	Under 3 mths.	Under 6 mths.	Under 9 mths.	Under 12 mths.	TOTAL under 1 year
Prematurity	5				5					5
Congenital Malformations	1	1			2					2
Infections					-		1	2		3
Respiratory Failure	2				2					2
Hypothermia					-	1				1
Neoplasm							1			1
Total	8	1			9	1	2	2		14

Of these children, 9 died before they were a month old, compared with 10 in 1965. This gave a neo-natal mortality rate of 9.8, compared with a neo-natal mortality rate of 9.9 in 1965. Of the 9 children who died in the first month of life, 8 of them died during the first week of life, this gave an early neo-natal mortality rate of 8.7 in 1966, compared with 8.0 in 1965. If, however, we consider the peri-natal mortality rate, which is an overall figure considering stillbirths and deaths under one week, (this, therefore, includes nearly all deaths associated with diseases or disorders of pregnancy and childbirth). 16 children died giving a rate per 1,000 total of live and stillbirths of 17.3 compared with 20.6 in 1965.

DEATHS

542 people of all ages died in the City during 1966, giving a crude death rate of 10.3, and a standardised death rate of 10.4. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 11.3 in 1965. There is nothing really special about the individual causes of death. Diseases of the heart and arteries, and the cancers being the most common causes of death.

Coronary Disease

63 men and 38 women died of this disease during the year. I have set out this table showing the ages of death for men and women for this one disease. This is a decrease of 7 on the figures for 1965.

Age of Death

25-		35-		45-		55-		65-		75+		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	-	1	-	8	1	18	2	20	14	16	21	63	38

The present stage of medical research would lead us to believe that this is one of the preventable diseases. This disease causes death more commonly, and at a younger age, in those who are obese and overeat, take insufficient exercise and smoke cigarettes.

Cancers. 130 people died of cancers in 1966, and this Table compiled from local records shows the ages of men and women who died from cancers in various sites.

		25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 +	TOTAL
Stomach	Male	-	-	1	1	3	-	12
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	6	
Lung	Male	-	-	2	10	12	6	38
	Female	-	-	3	2	3	-	
Breast	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	Female	-	-	3	4	1	3	
Uterus	Female	-	1	-	1	1	1	4
Bladder	Male	-	-	-	2	-	3	7
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Rectum	Male	-	-	-	1	-	1	7
	Female	-	-	-	1	2	2	
Oesophagus	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Colon	Male	-	1	1	1	1	3	15
	Female	-	-	-	4	-	4	
Prostate	Male	-	-	-	1	2	3	6
Pancreas	Male	-	-	-	1	3	-	7
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	2	
Brain	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Larynx	Male	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Liver	Male	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ovary	Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Others	Male	-	1	2	1	1	1	12
	Female	-	-	1	1	1	3	

Lung Cancer which was again the most common of the cancers, with 38 deaths, showed an increase of 13 above the 1965 figures. The association between this disease and smoking should by now be very well known.

This disease and coronary thrombosis are both diseases associated with unhealthy habits and the remedy for these is in the hands of the individual concerned.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall.

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Vaccination & Immunisation	3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion.

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2.30-4.00 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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Harpenden - 40 Luton Road, (Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic	Mondays - 9.30-11.30 a.m. (By appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month - 9.30 a.m. (Dr. attends) 12 noon.
Speech Therapy	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (By appointment)
Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Dental	Tuesdays - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. Fridays - 9.30-12 noon. (By appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Speech Therapy	Wednesdays 9.30-12 noon.

Harpenden - Southdown, Methodist Church Hall.

Infant Welfare	Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)
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London Colney - Primary School, Alexander Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation	Fridays - 9.30-12 noon (Dr. attends)
Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends 1st & 3rd)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Mondays - 1.30-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)

1st Monday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

1st & 3rd Thursdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends)

Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon; 2.00-4.00 p.m.
(By appointment)

4th Thursday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Wednesdays - 1.30-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)

Mondays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Mondays a.m. and p.m. (weekly)

Thursday - a.m. and p.m. (weekly)
(By appointment)

Mondays - 9.00-12 noon
 (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 and Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m : 2-5 p.m.
 Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)

Monday - 9-12 noon: 2-4.30 p.m.
Wednesday - 9.00-12 noon.

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon.
Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9.30-12.30:
Tuesday 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Friday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.
Wednesday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Tuesday & Friday - 1.30-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends Friday)
Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre (continued)

Audiometrician	1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays - 9.30-12 noon, 2-4.30 p.m.
	1st Friday - 9.30-12 noon. (By appointment)
Audiology	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon: 2.00-4.00 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Centre,
Cell Barnes Lane.

Telephone : 53025.

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2.00-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon. (By appointment)
Speech	Wednesdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,
Marshalswick Estate.

Telephone : 57041.

Infant Welfare	Monday and Friday - 2.00-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Tuesday - 2.00-4.00 p.m. (By appointment)
Speech	Thursdays - 10.00-12 noon. (By appointment)
Antenatal	Thursdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Dental	Tuesdays - 10.00-12 noon Thursdays - 10.00-12 noon: 2.00-4.30 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Watford Road,
Congregational Church Hall.

Infant Welfare	1st & 3rd Fridays - 2.00-4.00 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road Wing.

Telephone : 52211

V.D. (Women)	Tuesdays - 5.00-7.00 p.m. Fridays 2-4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesdays - 5.00-7.00 p.m. Fridays 10-12 noon.
Post-Natal	Wednesdays - 11.00 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Mondays - 9.00 a.m. (By appointment) Wednesdays - 9.00 a.m. (By appointment) Thursdays - 9.00 a.m. (By appointment)

Sandridge - Parish Hall.

Infant Weighing

2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 2.30-3.30 p.m.

Shenley Village Hall.

Infant Welfare

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall,
East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd & 4th Fridays - 2.30-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. attends 3.00 p.m.)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organizations principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at St. Albans, Boreham Wood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Centre and Skyswood Health Centre.

Hospitals.

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick and St. Albans City Hospitals.

HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of beds	762 Psychiatric
No. of discharges	1,280

Out-Patients

No. of new patients	187
No. of attendances	1,757

Day Patients

No. of new patients	53
No. of attendances	9,389

X-ray department	2,879
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Physiotherapy department	3,648
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HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	6

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	New	Out-Patients Total Attendances
General Medicine	67	1,188	682	3,990
Paediatrics	20	385	367	2,061
Infectious Diseases	18	98		
Diseases of the Chest	4	37	783	4,605
Dermatology		8	494	1,377
Neurology			107	246
Physical Medicine			357	3,296
V.D.			238	1,213
Geriatrics	78	158		
General Surgery	64	1,907	1,606	4,413
E.N.T. (T&A))		272	) 1,413	) 2,885
)	10			
E.N.T. (Other))		197		
Trau. & Orth. Surgery)	44	1,300	1,768	5,534
Ophthalmology)	9	254	736	2,876
Radicaltherapy)			42	353
Thoracic Surgery)			24	84
Dentistry)			588	2,336
Neurosurgery		22	13	33
Gynaecology	21	912	856	2,747
Obstetrics ante-natal)		) 884	790	5,908
" post-natal)	29	)	547	547
Special Care Babies	7	56		
Mental Illness			205	846
Allergy			198	198
Recovery	12			
Private Section 5	4	112		
" " 4	6			
Totals	393	7,790	11,814	45,548
Accident & Emergency			11,561	22,689

Maternity: Live births 760
Stillbirths 11

X-Ray Dept: 55,387 units
Physiotherapy Dept: 55,749 attendances

Section C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	6
Whooping Cough	36
Measles	223
Pneumonia	2
Food Poisoning	1
Infective Hepatitis	6
Dysentery	4
Acute Encephalitis	1
Meningococcal Infection	1

Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1966 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the St. Albans City.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	1	1	-	-	1	1
15 - 24 years	2	-	-	1	2	1
25 - 44 years	8	2	-	-	8	2
45 - 64 years	10	-	2	-	12	-
65 years and over	1	-	-	-	1	-
Total	22	3	2	1	24	4

During the year there were 2 respiratory (1 male and 1 female) cases transferred into the Area, and 34 cases were removed from the register.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1966 was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
208	127	18	20	373

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty eighth Annual Report on the work of my Department carried out during 1966.

During the year the remaining occupiers of houses in Albert Street and Old London Road Clearance Areas were rehoused and the houses, totalling forty-three, have since been demolished.

The Pest Control service has again worked well, including the destruction of wasps' nests and pigeons, and the Public readily avail themselves of the free service for private dwellings which is undertaken by the department.

Much attention has been paid to all types of premises used in the preparation and sale of food and I am pleased to acknowledge once again the co-operation of the great majority of traders where matters of food and food hygiene are concerned.

There are no slaughterhouses in the City but members of the staff have continued to carry out meat inspection at Sandridge Slaughterhouse under the standing arrangement with St. Albans Rural District Council.

Excellent results have been obtained from sampling of "Designated" milks which has as usual been carried out regularly.

Talks on the work of the Department have been given to various Organisations in the City, and a number of Scouts have been examined for the Public Health Badge of the Scout Movement.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and all members of the staff for their loyal assistance.

I am,
your obedient Servant,

R.E.C. GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. John's,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
Attest: _____
Date: _____

I have the honor to present to you my annual report on the work of my Department carried out during 1955.

During the year the remaining occupants of houses in Albert Street and Old London Road (formerly 100 and 102) were removed, following forty-three, have since been demolished.

The Pest Control service has again worked well, including the destruction of vermin nests and infestations, and the public health service of the free service for private dwellings which is undertaken by the Department.

Much attention has been paid to all types of premises used in the preparation and sale of food and I am pleased to acknowledge once again the co-operation of the great majority of traders whose masters of food and food trading are maintained.

There are no significant changes in the City of St. John's. The health service has continued to carry out most important and necessary responsibilities under the existing arrangements with the St. John's District Council.

Accidents involving food have continued to be reported, and it is noted that the number of accidents has increased.

There is no work of the Department has been given to various organizations in the City, and a number of grants have been extended for the Public Health Service of the City of St. John's.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and all members of the staff for their loyal assistance.

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 364, and eighty preliminary and twenty statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices, the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

GENERAL

Roofs renewed or repaired	43
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	7
Rainwater gutters / pipes renewed or repaired	33
External walls rebuilt or repaired	22
Wall or ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	35
Floors renewed or repaired	15
Windows or doors renewed or repaired	38
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	7
Stairs renewed or repaired; rails fixed	1
Dampness abated	50
Sub-floor Ventilation provided	1
Ventilation provided or improved	1
Foodstores provided or repaired	4
Yards and passages paved or repaired	3
Accumulations removed	13
Dustbins provided	6
Internal water supply provided	3
Repairs to water supplies	7
Sinks and basins provided	9
Baths provided	1
Drains provided or repaired	5
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	6
W.C's provided or rebuilt	10
W.C's repaired	24
Gullies provided or repaired	4
Waste pipes and soil pipes provided or repaired	16

GENERAL (cont'd)

Drains and cesspools cleansed	18
Dirty premises cleansed	1
Premises rat-proofed	9
Premises disinfected	1
Dangerous and dilapidated structures dealt with	2
Overcrowding abated	1
Smoke nuisance abated	6
Noise nuisance abated	1
Other nuisances abated	28

FOOD REGULATIONS

Rooms cleansed	18
Equipment cleansed or improved	6
Hot water supply provided or improved	11
Staff washing facilities improved	6
Food and equipment washing facilities improved	3
Food storage improved	6
Food handler smoking	1
Food display improved	15
Other matters remedied	17

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

In clearance areas:-

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year <u>Persons</u> <u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	27 13
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	-	- -
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	- -

NOT in clearance areas:-

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	4	4 2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	-	- -
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	-	- -
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	-	- -

B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act 1957	12	5 3
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act 1957	-	- -

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(11) After informal action by local authority	80	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	15	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957	5	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

Position at end of Year

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of separate Dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the Year	-	-

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are ninety-two caravans in the City stationed singly or in groups.

The Corporation owns four sites, one at Abbey Camp, which holds four caravans, one at Folly Lane, which holds five caravans, one at Drake's Drive, which holds thirty-eight caravans, and one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The two remaining Common Lodging Houses in the City, viz. The Goat and the Black Lion, were closed by the owners during the year and the registrations cancelled.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Four licences were renewed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

Two premises within the City are licenced under each of the above Acts. They have been regularly visited and found to be well maintained.

PEST CONTROL

(a) Rats and Mice

There was an increase in the number of rats found in the winter months on roadside verges and other open spaces. This occurred after harvesting of crops, when the rats were seeking other sources of food supply. Poison treatment and gassing soon brought the situation under control.

Treatments were carried out at fifty-six Local Authority premises, One thousand two hundred and seventeen dwelling houses and One hundred and forty other premises, including business premises.

Poisoning of these pests was carried out in accordance with Ministry recommendations, Warfarin being the poison mainly used.

There are sixteen annual contracts for inspection and treatments at business premises, and thirty-seven business premises were treated on casual contract.

Test baiting of the central foul sewer system of the City was carried out during the year and no infestation was discovered.

(b) Verulamium

The islands on the lake were inspected but there was no evidence of rat infestation. Consequently the number of young birds hatched had not been diminished by rats taking the eggs.

(c) Other Pests

In addition to dealing with complaints regarding ants, cockroaches, flies, etc., the Public Health Assistant dealt with Two hundred and fifteen wasps' nests, and destroyed forty rabbits and ninety-one pigeons.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Complaints were received alleging nuisance from noise from the use of equipment at a factory at night time.

Due to increased production, the drains at the factory had become overloaded and to avoid the loss of a day's production in five departments, the necessary work was carried out during the weekend, commencing on Friday evening, involving the use of a compressor and road drills.

Following the removal of windows at another factory, complaint was received of noise from the plant but replacement of the windows and the fitting of an isolating gasket to the ducting, proved satisfactory.

Complaint was also received regarding noise and fumes from paint spraying at a local garage, but this work has now ceased.

At the end of the year investigations were being carried out regarding noise from another industrial plant in the City and the shunting of trains at night at the Abbey Station.

AIR POLLUTION

Two Recording Stations for the National Survey of Air Pollution are operated by the City Council for the determination of smoke and sulphur dioxide emissions from chimneys. This work is carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Technology and the results of the national survey are circulated to interested parties at home and abroad.

One station is situated at Mandeville Clinic in a mainly residential area, the other is at the Housing Department in Victoria Street in a mixed residential and business area.

Local recordings commenced in October 1962, so that it is possible over a period to note changes in the pollution pattern and endeavour to find the cause.

Excessive emissions of smoke from industrial chimneys have been very few and this does not now present a serious problem.

The usual complaints have been dealt with regarding excessive use of garden bonfires.

SWIMMING BATHS

Water at the Corporation Swimming Baths in Cottonmill Lane is obtained from the main supply of the Colne Valley Water Company.

Regular inspections of the Bath have been carried out and twenty samples, ten from the shallow (inlet) and ten from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May to September, and all proved to be satisfactory. Satisfactory reports were also received on samples of water submitted periodically from the Verulamium Paddling Pool.

In addition, samples were taken during the same period from the pool at St. Albans School, St. Albans High School, and Birklands School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a very small number of houses in proposed Clearance Areas, where the supply is by means of stand-pipes.

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination, and all the samples were very satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cesspools, all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Sewage Board.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Slaughterhouses	133
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	26
Fishmongers	20
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	49
Grocers	85
Fried Fish Shops	7
Other Food Shops	36
Bakehouses	20
Licenced Premises	95
Restaurants, Dining Rooms and Kitchens	101
Factory Canteens	13
Mobile Canteens	16
School Canteens	5
Other Food Premises	22
Dairies and Milkshops	106
Ice Cream Premises	62
Water Cress Beds	12
Food Vehicles	11

As will be seen from the foregoing, regular inspections of food premises have been carried out throughout the year.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

All food stalls on the Saturday market have been visited regularly, and the stallholders have co-operated well in the handling and displaying of foodstuffs.

PRESERVED FOODS, ETC.

Fifty-one premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food such as sausages, fish frying, ham cooking and meat pickling.

COMPLAINTS RE FOOD

Fifty-five complaints were received regarding food and food containers and included the following:-

Two milk bottles having been used for the discharge of fireworks, a very common cause for complaint by dairymen - had slight carbon deposits on the inside, which normal bottle washing had failed to remove.

Two complaints of "mouse droppings" in pork pies were found to be, in one instance charred pastry, and in the other, black dough, with no evidence of rodent hairs or other similar contamination. Another complaint of a "dropping" in brown bread was found to be vegetable oil used in baking.

A live caterpillar was found in a wrapped sliced loaf and forwarded to the Entomological Department of the British Museum, who stated that the caterpillar was not a normal bakehouse pest, but was undoubtedly a plant feeding species of moth. It appeared therefore that the caterpillar had found its way into the wrapped loaf at some stage between leaving the bakery and reaching the consumer's table.

A customer alleged that there was purple dye on potato crisps in a packet which he had purchased at a local public house. From the code mark on the carton it was found that the crisps were perfectly fresh, having been manufactured only three weeks prior to the complaint. These purple markings appear on certain varieties of potatoes immediately beneath the skin. They are of vegetable origin and quite harmless, and usually disappear when potatoes are boiled. It is the usual practice of crisp manufacturers to remove the portions of potatoes so marked, although on occasions some slices do pass the inspection.

Complaint was received of a piece of thin wire in a pork pie, the complainant stating that he was unwilling to give evidence in legal proceedings. It appeared that the wire could have come from a wire brush used by maintenance contractors at the bakehouse.

Investigation of a complaint alleging a metal nut in a Madiera cake showed that contractors were installing new machinery in the bakehouse and the nut could have got into the cake mixture through the carelessness of a workman.

These complaints resulted in the issue of warnings or advice to manufacturers or vendors and in all cases the complainants expressed satisfaction at the action taken.

A "Snowball" - a drink composed of Advocaat diluted with lemonade - purchased in a local bar was alleged to be deficient in Advocaat. The drink was submitted to the Public Analyst, who calculated the content of Advocaat as 12%. Although there are no official standards for a drink of this nature, the Analyst was of the opinion that 12% was a reasonable quantity and that the "Snowball" was satisfactory.

Complaint concerning the condition of legs of pork supplied to a local school was reported to the enforcement sub-committee and a warning letter was sent to the suppliers.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

One stallholder was fined £10 under the Food Hygiene Regulations for smoking while handling food, and £1 for not having his name and address conspicuously displayed on his stall.

MEAT INSPECTION

One hundred and thirty-three visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St. Albans Rural District Council, and the following have been examined, viz:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
306	405	300	1,144

HEALTH EDUCATION

Lectures have been given to ladies' clubs and social groups on the work of the Department. These groups appear to be particularly interested in food hygiene and clean air.

Assistance has again been given in lecturing to students taking the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene course on food hygiene.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises

Premises (including seven registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	2
Sale of ice cream	179

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were satisfactory.

Of the twenty-two samples examined, seventeen were placed in Grade 1, two in Grade 2 and three in Grade 3.

(c) Chemical Examination

Two samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream)(Amendment) Order 1953.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.66	1
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.66	50

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Number of persons holding at 31.12.66:-

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Ultra Heat Treated"	4
Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences	1
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	36
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	30

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of "Designated" milk during 1966. In the course of these examinations "Untreated" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1965.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Untreated	21 (15)	21 (15)	- (-)		
Channel Island South Devon (Pasteurised)	23 (19)	23 (19)	- (-)	23 (19)	- (-)
Pasteurised	96 (124)	96 (120)	- (4)	96 (124)	- (-)
Totals	140 (158)	140 (154)	- (4)	119 (143)	- (-)

Two samples of milk were also examined for the presence of *Brucella Abortus* and both were reported as being negative.

FOOD AND DRUGS

The Public Analyst (Mr. J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.) reports on samples submitted during the year, as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act for the year ending 31st December 1966, amounted to 140, of which 70 were Formal and 70 Informal. All the Formal samples consisted of Milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the Milk samples, as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months.

	<u>January 1965 to</u> <u>December 1965</u>	<u>January 1966 to</u> <u>December 1966</u>
Fat:	4.06%	3.98%
Solids-non-fat:	8.98%	8.87%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a slight decrease in both the average fat content and the percentage Solids-non-fat constituents as compared with the previous year, but I do not consider this to be of any great significance.

All the samples of milk were up to standard and complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of their general composition and were free from preservatives.

A miscellaneous selection of samples of various kinds has been examined during the year and these can most conveniently be divided into three categories:- Foodstuffs, Spices, Drugs.

FOODSTUFFS

Instant Coffee
Healthvita
Hamburgers with Gravy
Boned Chicken
Baked Beans with Hamburgers
Gruyere Cheese Spread
Brandy flavour
Olive Oil
Meat Pie
Sausage Rolls
Pork Sausages
Orange Squash

Sugar-free Lime Marmalade
Orange Squash
Sweetened Lime Juice
Ice Cream
Evaporated Milk
Suet
Cream (tinned)
Butter
Double Cream
Chickeroos
Concentrated Gingerade
Pure Dairy Cream

FOODSTUFFS (cont'd)

Diabetic Lime Juice Cordial
Diabetic Lemon Squash
West Indian Marmalade
Crab Paste
Corned Beef Loaf
Almond Flavour
Glucose
Pork Pie
Cornish Pasties
Lime Juice Cordial
Lemon Squash
Diabetic Orange Squash
Lime Marmalade

Dairy Topping
Honey
Canned Minced Beef
Lime Jelly Marmalade
Lime Juice Cordial
Lemon Squash
Unsweetened Lime Juice
Dairy Ice Cream
Minced Beef Loaf
Creamed Tomato Soup
Double Devon Cream
Shorteen
Imitation Cream
Beef Sausages

SPICES

Powdered Nutmeg

Ground Ginger

DRUGS

Camphorated Oil
Cascara Sagrada
Glycerine
Friars Balsam
Soluble Aspirin Tablets
Saccharin Tablets

Tincture of Iodine
Eucalyptus Oil
Tincture of Quinine
Yeast Tablets
Compound Codeine Tablets

Five samples of Sausages were submitted to me for examination during the year, 2 Beef and 3 Pork, and in the following table I set out the Meat content of these samples:-

	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Meat Content</u>
Beef	No.1	62%
	No.2	61%
Pork	No.1	74%
	No.2	74%
	No.3	71%

It will be seen from the table that the meat contents of these Sausages are reasonably high and comply with the minimum recommendations of the Food Standards Committee. The amount of Sulphur Dioxide found in these Sausages was within the permitted limit.

SPICES

The Spices were of good quality and no complaint could be made as to their composition.

DRUGS

All the samples of Drugs submitted to me for examination were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia where applicable.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

I examined two samples of Ice Cream sold in the St. Albans district and the following table shows their general composition:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Fat Content</u>	<u>Milk Solids other than Fat</u>
No.1 Ice Cream: Tominey	12.0%	10.6%
No.2 Dairy Ice Cream: Thrale	11.0%	10.8%

I confirm that the fat in Sample No.2 consisted of butter fat.

TOWN SUPPLY WATER

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months under review, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans water supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used both for drinking and other general domestic purposes.

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INVESTIGATION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, also submitted to me during the year under review, a number of special samples and I will now refer to these under their respective headings.

Foreign Body in Pork Pie

The foreign body consisted of charred dough, probably derived from baking tin scrapings.

"Snowball"

The complaint was made that this "Snowball", which is composed of Advocaat diluted with Lemonade, was deficient of Advocaat.

I did not find this to be so.

Watercress Beds and Watercress

Further samples of water were examined from cress beds in the area and were found to be quite highly contaminated. However watercress examined which had been grown in these beds, was quite wholesome, the contamination not being passed on. Steeping with hydrochlorite solution still remains necessary.

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INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Two hundred and fifty-eight visits were made for the inspection of meat and other foods, and the following list shows the food condemned.

Pork	165 lbs.
Beef	2 lbs.
Pigs Kidneys	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Rabbit	30 lbs.
Tenderloins	216 lbs.
Bacon	781 lbs.
Sausages	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Ham	205 lbs.
Haslet	24 lbs.
Chopped Ham and Pork	150 lbs.
Wet Fish	176 lbs.
Buckling	24 lbs.
Stewed Steak	42 lbs.
Corned Beef	202 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Luncheon Meat	200 lbs.
Jellied Veal	48 lbs.
Tongue	76 lbs.
Steak & Kidney Pudding	3 lbs.
Plums	173 lbs.
Apples	6 lbs.
Olives	8 lbs.
Cooking Fats	232 lbs.
Ground Rice	70 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	2,089 tins
Tinned Vegetables	1,067 tins
Tinned Fish	209 tins
Tinned Milk	126 tins
Tinned Milk Puddings	86 tins
Miscellaneous Tins	113 tins
Cheese Spread	38 pkts.
Chickens	18
Turkeys	2
Polonies	4

Refrigeration Failures

Beef, Lamb & Pork	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone
Frozen Vegetables)	
Frozen Fruit)	10,860 pkts.
Frozen Fish)	
Frozen Orange Juice	64 tins

A P P E N D I X

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	254	22	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	-	-	-
Total	281	23	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases')

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

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Section 133)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing) apparel) Making etc. Cleaning and Washing	15	-	-
Other classes of work	6	-	-
Total	21	-	-

1. The following table shows the number of cases of disease reported in the United States during the year 1910, by the month of occurrence, and by the sex of the cases. The figures are given in thousands.

Disease	Males		Females		Total
	Number of cases	Percentage of total	Number of cases	Percentage of total	
Measles	1,200	1.2	1,100	1.1	2,300
Scarlet fever	800	0.8	700	0.7	1,500
Diphtheria	600	0.6	500	0.5	1,100
Croup	400	0.4	300	0.3	700
Whooping cough	300	0.3	200	0.2	500
Smallpox	200	0.2	100	0.1	300
Polio	100	0.1	50	0.05	150
Cholera	50	0.05	20	0.02	70
Typhoid	40	0.04	30	0.03	70
Typhus	30	0.03	20	0.02	50
Paratyphoid	20	0.02	10	0.01	30
Parasitic diseases	10	0.01	5	0.005	15
Other diseases	5	0.005	2	0.002	7
Total	3,000	3.0	2,700	2.7	5,700

