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Contributors

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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

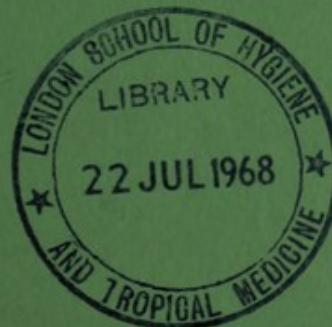
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1966





PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor N.J.D. Hodges, (Chairman)
Councillor R.V. Sparrow, (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A. Angelow,
Councillor A.G. Cutmore,
Councillor Mrs. C.M. Hadow,
Councillor J. Hoey,
Councillor B.E. King,
Councillor L.R. Noblett,
Councillor W. Pitt,
Councillor G. Vancliffe.

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

David J. Graham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent.

W.A. Beere, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Deputy Public Health Inspector.

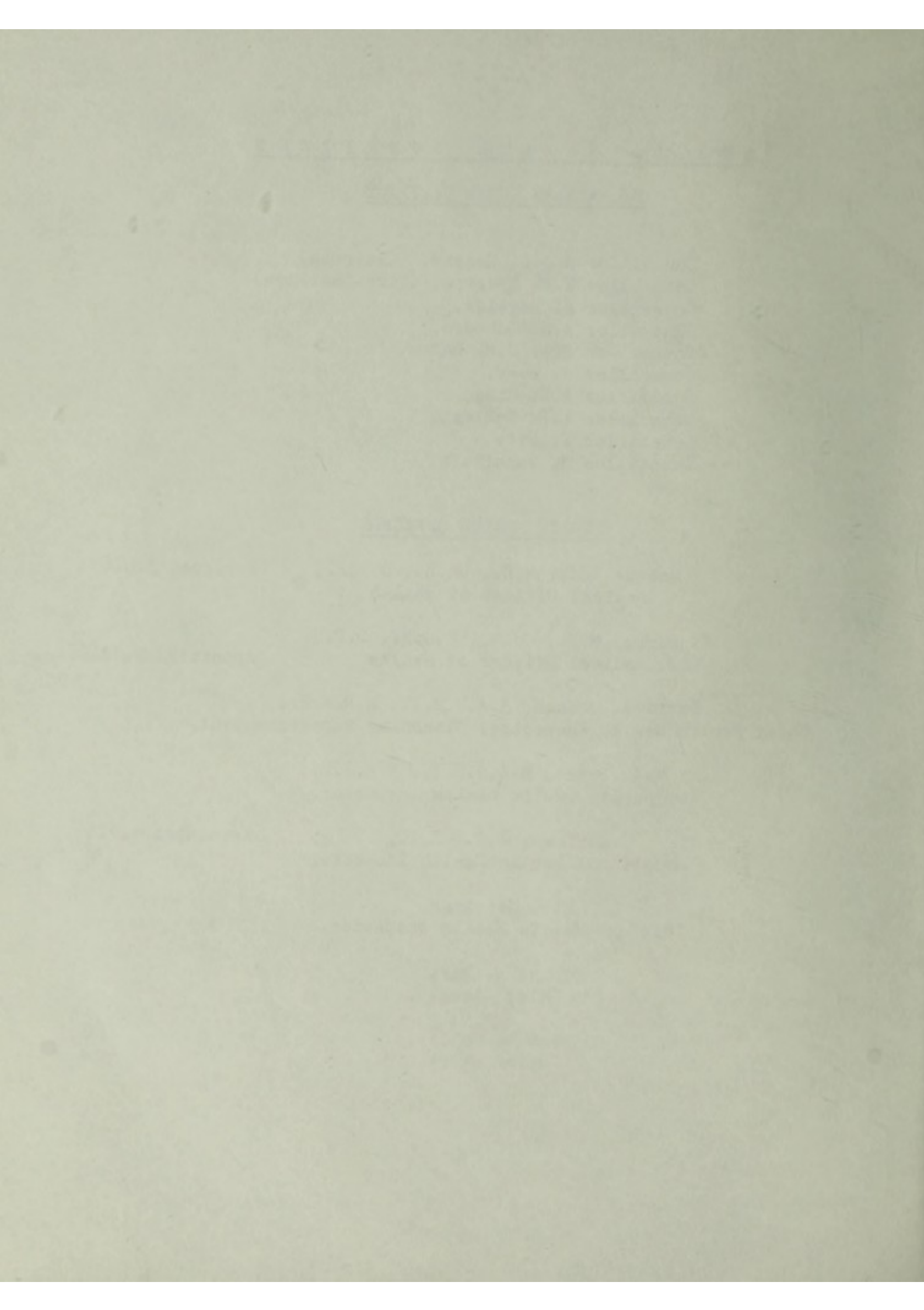
L. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I., Appointed 1.7.66.
Additional Public Health Inspector

F.V. Jennings,
Student Public Health Inspector.

Mrs. D. Day,
Chief Clerk.

Miss M. Oakley,
Junior Clerk.

Medical Officer of Health



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the St. Albans Rural District 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 pleased to report that the general picture of the health of the people of the District remains very good. There was a slight rise 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 the degenerative diseases, cardio-vascular disease and the cancers. The birth rate fell again in 1966 and in fact at 14.7 per thousand, this was the lowest birth rate since 1955.

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 and the other medical officers, Miss Seymour and the nursing staff, Mrs. Taylor, and the home helps, Mr. Jewell and the office staff, Mr. Graham and the public health inspectors, and to the public of the St. Albans Rural District.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you Mr. Chairman and 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	42,420
Area (in acres)	32,084
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	11,096
Shops with Living Accommodation	76
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	57
Rateable Value	1,950,402

Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	623
Rate per 1000 population	14.7
Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	31
Rate % of total live births	5.0
Stillbirths -	
Number	7
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	11.1
Total live and stillbirths -	630
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	
Number	5
Rate per 1000 live births	8.0
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	8.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	8.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	3
Rate per 1000 total live births	4.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	3
Rate per 1000 total live births	4.8

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week) 10
 Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths 15.9

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) NIL

Deaths

Number of Deaths 552
 Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population 13.0

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 Rural District, the following results are given:-

Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
14.7	13.4	13.0	8.7

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>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>
1947	9.2	16.5	54.0		
1948	7.0	14.5	18.1		
1949	8.2	14.8	22.2		
1950	7.7	13.2	22.5		
1951	7.7	13.3	29.1		
1952	6.8	12.8	8.1		
1953	18.1	14.5	28.6		
1954	17.7	14.5	16.6		
1955	19.1	15.2	15.3		
1956	19.3	14.4	19.8		
1957	16.0	15.3	17.8		
1958	13.6	17.3	18.5		
1959	12.1	17.7	23.5		
1960	12.4	17.6	22.9		
1961	12.3	17.4	16.5	19.2	35.4
1962	12.7	18.7	20.4	9.5	21.6
1963	13.6	18.2	8.2	12.2	14.9
1964	10.7	17.9	9.5	6.7	10.8
1965	12.3	15.3	13.9	12.2	22.9
1966	13.0	14.7	8.0	11.1	15.9

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	1
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	19	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	13
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	53
18. Coronary disease, angina	52	40
19. Hypertension	2	9
20. Other heart disease	21	24
21. Other circulatory disease	10	17
22. Influenza	4	2
23. Pneumonia	35	53
24. Bronchitis	20	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
34. All other accidents	3	10
35. Suicide	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	
Totals	254	298
	<hr/>	

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 RURAL DISTRICT

BIRTHS

There were 623 births in the Rural District in 1966, compared with 646 in 1965. The birth rate in 1966 was 14.7 compared with 15.3 in 1965. This is the lowest birth rate since 1956.

STILLBIRTHS

There were 7 stillbirths in 1966, compared with 8 in 1965, giving a stillbirth rate of 11.1 per 1000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 12.2 in 1965.

INFANT DEATHS

5 children died under the age of 1 compared with 9 in 1965, a decrease of 4. This makes the infant mortality rate in 1966, 8.0 compared with 13.9 in 1965. The causes of these deaths are shown in the Table set out below.

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
Haemolytic Disease	2				2					2
Infection					-	1			1	2
Pulmonary Atelectasis	1				1					1
Total	3				3	1			1	5

Breaking down the number of children who died under the age of 1 year, 3 children died in the first week of life compared with 7 in 1965, giving an early neo-natal mortality rate of 4.8, compared with 10.8 in 1965. In 1966 3 children died under the age of 1 month, compared with 7 children in 1965, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 4.8 (10.8 in 1965).

There were 2 deaths of children between 1 month and 1 year old in 1966, as in the previous year. Considering together the stillbirths, those children who died in the first week of life (that is, those children whose death resulted as a complication of pregnancy and childbirth), the peri-natal mortality rate was 15.9 compared with 22.9 in 1965. Although all of these rates vary from the previous year, all these differences are really very small and all could be due to chance variations. The national figure for England and Wales are given on page 5 for comparison.

DEATHS

There were 552 deaths in the district in 1966, compared with 518 in 1965. This gives a death rate of 13.0 compared with a death rate of 12.3 in 1965. When these figures are corrected, using the "comparability factor" provided by the Registrar General (which takes into account the differences in age, composition of the population, difference in sex incidence in the population, and makes allowances for the deaths occurring in the mental hospitals in the district) the death rate treated in this way becomes 8.7 in 1966 and 9.0 in 1965. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 11.7.

There is nothing special about the causes of death in this area after one has made allowances for the deaths in the large mental hospitals in the district. Diseases of the heart and arteries account for most of the deaths, with cancers being the second cause of death.

Coronary Artery Disease This was the heart disease causing the most deaths. 52 men and 40 women died of this disease. The ages at which they died can be seen in the Table set out below. 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 men rather than women, in those who overeat and are obese, in those who take insufficient exercise.

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	1	6	-	13	5	12	12	20	22	52	40

Cancer 81 people died of cancers, 39 men and 42 women. Lung cancer was the most common cancer. The Table set out below and compiled from local records shows the ages of death, and the sites of the cancers in these people.

		Under 25	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+	Total
Stomach	Men	-	-	-	2	1	1	8
	Women	-	-	1	1	1	1	
Lung	Men	-	-	1	7	7	4	22
	Women	-	-	1	-	1	1	
Breast	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
	Women	-	1	3	4	2	3	
Uterus	Women	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Bladder	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Women	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Rectum	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Women	-	1	-	-	1	-	
Oesophagus	Men	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
	Women	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Prostate	Men	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pancreas	Men	-	-	-	1	2	-	5
	Women	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Caecum	Men	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ovary	Women	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
Brain	Men	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	Women	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Colon	Men	-	-	1	2	1	1	10
	Women	-	-	1	-	2	2	
Others	Men	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
	Women	-	-	1	1	2	1	

Lung Cancer

This was again the most common cause of death from the cancers. The association of this disease with cigarette smoking is now well known.

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)

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)

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)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall.

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

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

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

Vaccination & Immunisation 1st Monday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Centre,
Mandeville Drive.

Telephone : 50471

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

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

Immunisation & Vaccination 4th Thursday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Centre,
High Oaks.

Telephone : 56994.

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

Speech Therapy Mondays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

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

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre,
Civic Centre.

Telephone : 59211.

Immunisation & Vaccination Mondays - 9.00-12 noon
and Minor Ailments (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)

Dental Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m.
Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)

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

Ophthalmic Thursday - 9.30-12 noon.
Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.
Speech Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9.30-12.30

Tuesday 1.30-4.30 p.m.
Friday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Antenatal Wednesday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Infant Welfare 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)

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

Section 2

STATEMENT OF AND DETAILS OF THE PATIENTS' ATTENDANCE

	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
Radiotherapy)			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

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Scarlet Fever	13
Whooping Cough	13
Measles	333
Food Poisoning	6
Infective Hepatitis	20
Dysentery	35
Erysipelas	4
Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Food Poisoning

There were six cases of food poisoning notified during the year. All were single cases not connected with any other cases, and in four of the cases the causative was identified as salmonella typhimurium, and one of the cases was salmonella Worthington. In the remaining case the cause was not identified.

TUBERCULOSIS 1966

During 1966, the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Rural District.

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

During the year 11 cases were removed from the register, and there were 4 respiratory (1 male and 3 female) cases transferred into the Area.

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>	
193	130	13	17	353

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1966.

WATER SUPPLIES

In general, the supplies of water in the area have been satisfactory in quantity and quality. There is no evidence that the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Wherever practicable one sample of water is taken each year from each private well or bore and repeat samples where there are indications that the quality may be in doubt.

In all a total of 162 samples of drinking water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton and the Laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans for bacteriological examination.

All the dwelling houses in the district have a piped water supply with the exception of 137 of which 136 draw from private bores or wells, but the remaining dwelling has not within a reasonable distance, a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the occupants. These 137 dwelling houses are located as follows:-

	<u>With Wells or Bores</u>	<u>No Supply</u>
Harpenden Rural	6	-
Redbourn	12	-
Wheathampstead	41	1
Sandridge	39	-
Colney Heath	11	-
London Colney	2	-
St. Stephens	21	-
St. Michaels	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	136	1

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to Mr. H. Wilkinson, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, for the following note on the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal:-

The Rural District is well served by public sewers, of which there are approximately sixty miles varying in diameter from six to fifteen inches, designed on the separate system. The principal centres of population are served and about 95% of the dwellings in the District enjoy the benefits of main drainage.

The Rural District Council is a constituent authority member of the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority, into whose trunk sewers the major part of the district drains. The Authority's sewage treatment works are at Maple Cross, near Rickmansworth.

There is considerable inter-communication of public sewers vested in neighbouring authorities, viz. City of St. Albans, Boroughs of Hemel Hempstead and Watford, Harpenden Urban District Council and the Rural District Councils of Hatfield, Hitchin and Watford.

The parish of Wheathampstead, being within the Lee Conservancy Catchment area, is drained to the Council's sewage disposal works situated adjacent to the river Lee in that village. Filter beds at the works have been reconstructed and the standard of the effluent discharge is high, complying with the Board's requirement of 10 ppm for suspended solids and for biochemical oxygen demand.

SANITATION

The number of occupied dwelling houses with pailcloset sanitation is 14. All possible measures are being taken to encourage the replacement of these by waterclosets. The dwellings concerned are relocated as follows:-

Wheathampstead	7	
Sandridge	1	(a condemned house)
St. Stephens	3	
Redbourn	1	
Harpenden Rural	2	

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one swimming bath not under the Council's management which is open to the public, and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors it is used extensively by the schools. There are also two private swimming pools which, by arrangements with the Education Authority, are used by the schools. The system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season, and a total of 102 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton and to the laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans for bacteriological examination.

A total of 25 samples were taken from other swimming pools in the distri

HOUSING

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders | 8 |
| 2. | Number of demolition or closing orders made: | |
| | (a) Demolition Orders | 15 |
| | (b) Closing Orders, whole premises | 6 |
| | (c) Undertakings accepted that houses would be made fit | 7 |
| | (d) Undertakings carried out to satisfaction of the Council | 8 |
| 3. | Number of houses demolished: | |
| | (a) As a result of demolition orders | 8 |
| | (b) In clearance areas | 6 |
| 4. | Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants approved by the Council | 1 |
| 5. | Number of Standard Grants approved by the Council | 40 |

Improvement of Houses

The total number of houses in the district which lack one or more of the standard amenities is less than 500. In general they are single houses or small groups spread over seven parishes and because of this and the not unsatisfactory rate at which the improvements are proceeding on a voluntary basis no improvement areas have been declared under Part II of the Housing Act 1964 and none are contemplated at present.

Slum Clearance

In the district there are 15 houses in respect of which it has been agreed to take Slum Clearance action as soon as the circumstances are appropriate and there are a further 34 houses which it is considered should be reviewed from time to time over the next ten years on the question of whether slum clearance action should be taken in respect thereof.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, The Council's Housing Officer are shown in Appendix I.

AIR POLLUTION

1. In October 1962, following upon a report from the Medical Officer of Health, the Public Health, Lighting and Road Safety Committee authorised the establishment, within the rural district, of stations for measuring the smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air.
2. The Nature of Pollution
 - (i) Smoke is produced by the inefficient combustion of coal and other solid fuels and consists of small particles of carbon which remain airborne for long periods and can pass into the human lungs. Not only is there a danger to human and animal health but a nuisance value from soiling and staining of buildings and clothing.
 - (ii) Sulphur dioxide is produced from the sulphur present in coal, coke and fuel oils and cannot be economically arrested. Smokeless solid fuels contain approximately the same amount of sulphur as the coal from which they are made, i.e. between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent by weight. Heavy fuel oils as used in large installations contain 3 to 4 per cent but distillate oils as used in domestic equipment contain very little sulphur. Sulphur oxides in the air cause respiratory troubles when breathed and are by their corrosive effects responsible for the deterioration of masonry, paintwork and fabrics.
 - (iii) Other pollutants are present in the air but the quantity of smoke and sulphur dioxide detected can be taken as a representative indication of the whole pollution.
 - (iv) In normal circumstances approximately equal weights of smoke and sulphur dioxide are produced by the burning of coal, whereas the efficient combustion of fuel oil releases only sulphur oxides there being no smoke from properly operated oil fired furnaces. With the changing pattern in fuel consumption the smoke content of the air is steadily falling.
3. The Measurement Equipment
 - (i) The measuring apparatus operates by drawing by a small electric pump a metered quantity of air (about 65 cub.ft. per day) through a filter paper which arrests the smoke and then through a solution which absorbs the sulphur dioxide.
 - (ii) It is necessary for the smoke stains to be subsequently assessed for darkness, which is the indication of the amount of smoke arrested using a reflectometer and for the solution to be titrated to ascertain the sulphur dioxide absorbed.

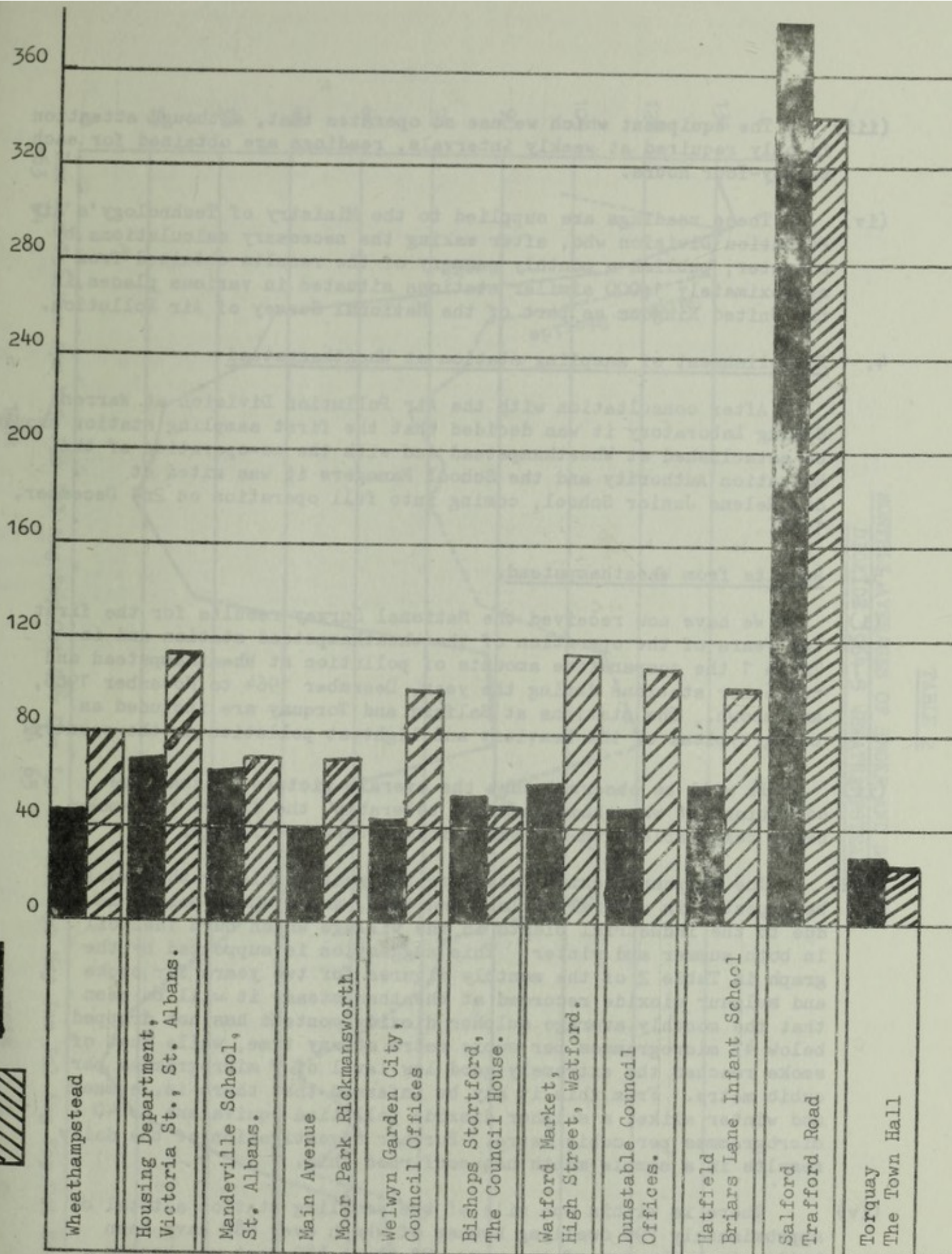


TABLE 1
 AVERAGE COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN AIR AT WHEATHAMPSTEAD AND TEN OTHER SITES. DEC. 1964 TO NOV. 1965 INCLUSIVE

- (iii) The equipment which we use so operates that, although attention is only required at weekly intervals, readings are obtained for each twenty-four hours.
- (iv) These readings are supplied to the Ministry of Technology's Air Pollution Division who, after making the necessary calculations by computer, publish a monthly summary of the results obtained from approximately 1,000 similar stations situated in various places in the United Kingdom as part of the National Survey of Air Pollution.

4. Establishment of sampling station at Wheathampstead

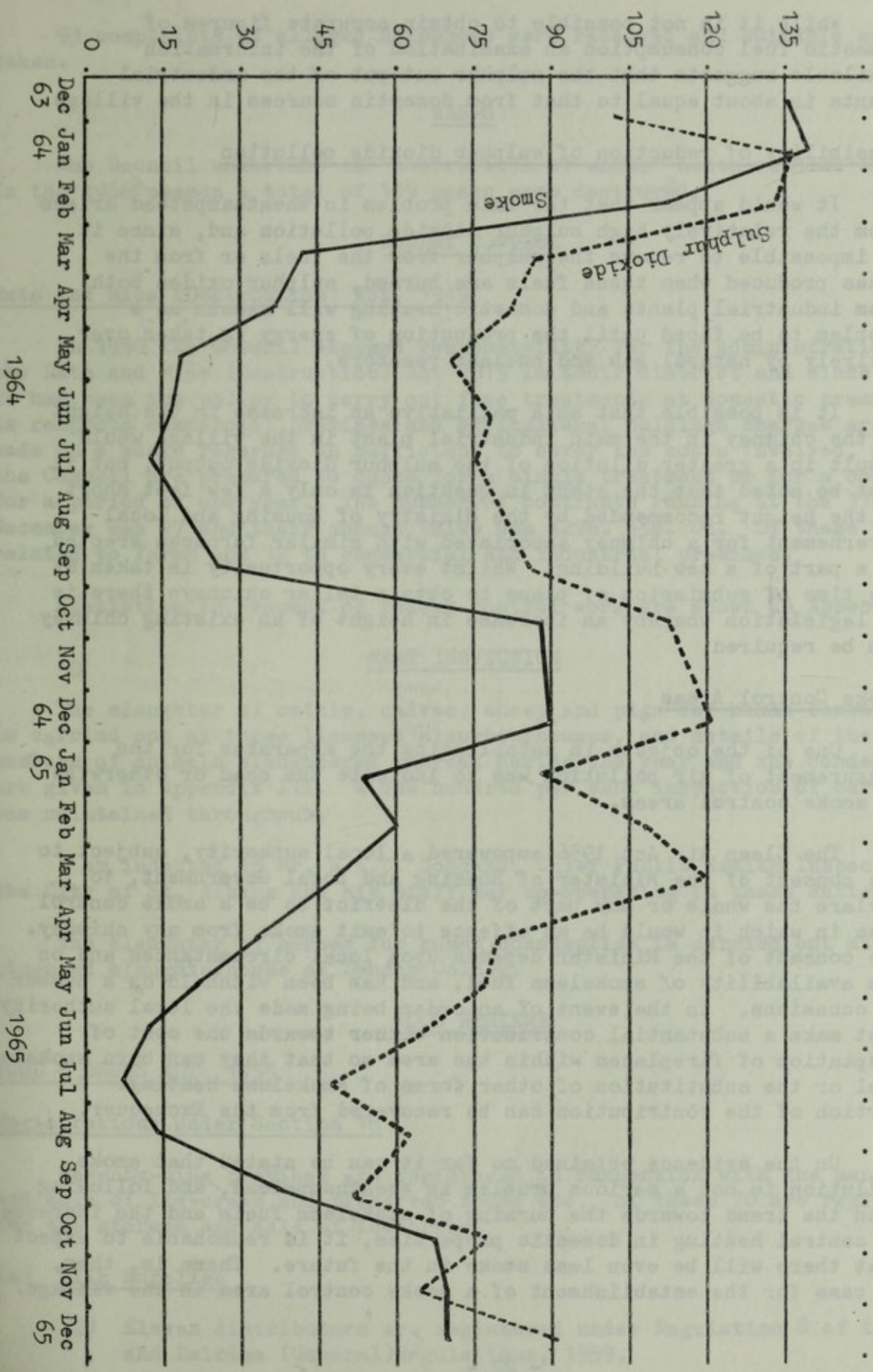
After consultation with the Air Pollution Division at Warren Spring Laboratory it was decided that the first sampling station should be established at Wheathampstead and with the co-operation of the Education Authority and the School Managers it was sited at St. Helens Junior School, coming into full operation on 2nd December, 1963.

5. Results from Wheathampstead.

- (i) We have now received the National Survey results for the first two years of the operation of the Wheathampstead station and in Table 1 the comparative amounts of pollution at Wheathampstead and ten other stations during the year, December 1964 to November 1965, are shown. The stations at Salford and Torquay are included as being typical of the heaviest and lightest pollution in the country.
- (ii) It will be observed that the overall picture is that the conditions at Wheathampstead are tolerable, the figure for smoke being comparable with any small inland town or village.
- (iii) The Sulphur Dioxide total for the year is higher than would be expected in a rural village and this, as is shown below, is due to the industrial plants in the village which burn fuel oil in both summer and winter. This suggestion is supported by the graph in Table 2 of the monthly figures for two years for smoke and sulphur dioxide recorded at Wheathampstead, it will be seen that the monthly average sulphur dioxide content has not dropped below 47 microgrammes per cubic metre at any time, while that of smoke reached the extremely good low level of 7 microgrammes per cubic metre. From this it may be inferred that there is, summer and winter alike, a sulphur dioxide pollution equivalent to 40 microgrammes per cubic metre. Further investigation of the daily results in a sample month has confirmed this.
- (iv) There is within one mile of the sampling station a total of approximately 790 dwelling houses of which over 480 have been built since the end of the war. Of these 480 post war houses just over 200 have been erected and are owned by the Council.

TABLE 2

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1964-5 WHEATHAMPSTEAD 1



- (v) While it is not possible to obtain accurate figures of domestic fuel consumption an examination of the information available suggests that the sulphur out-put of the industrial plants is about equal to that from domestic sources in the village.

6. Possibility of reduction of sulphur dioxide pollution

- (i) It would appear that the main problem in Wheathampstead arises from the relatively high sulphur dioxide pollution and, since it is impossible to remove the sulphur from the fuels or from the gases produced when these fuels are burned, sulphur oxides both from industrial plants and domestic heating will remain as a problem to be faced until the production of energy is taken over entirely by natural gas and nuclear reactors.

- (ii) It is possible that as a palliative an increase in the height of the chimney in the main industrial plant in the village would result in a greater dilution of the sulphur dioxide output, but it must be noted that the stack in question is only a few feet short of the height recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a chimney associated with similar furnaces erected as a part of a new building. Whilst every opportunity is taken at the time of submission of plans to obtain taller chimneys there is no legislation whereby an increase in height of an existing chimney can be required.

7. Smoke Control Areas

- (i) One of the objects in establishing the apparatus for the measurement of air pollution was to indicate the need or otherwise of smoke control areas.
- (ii) The Clean Air Act 1956 empowered a local authority, subject to the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, to declare the whole or any part of the district to be a smoke control area in which it would be an offence to emit smoke from any chimney. The consent of the Minister depends upon local circumstances and on the availability of smokeless fuel, and has been withheld on a number of occasions. In the event of an order being made the local authority must make a substantial contribution either towards the cost of adaptation of fireplaces within the area so that they can burn smokeless fuel or the substitution of other forms of smokeless heating. A portion of the contribution can be recovered from the Exchequer.
- (iii) On the evidence obtained so far it can be stated that smoke pollution is not a serious problem in Wheathampstead, and following upon the trend towards the burning of smokeless fuels and the increase of central heating in domestic properties, it is reasonable to expect that there will be even less smoke in the future. There is, then, no case for the establishment of a smoke control area in the village.

NUISANCES

93 complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken.

WASPS

The Council undertake the destruction of wasps' nests without charge. In the 1966 season a total of 119 nests were destroyed.

RODENT CONTROL

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

In 1950 the Council assumed responsibility for the administration of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 in their district and since then it has been the policy to carry out free treatments at domestic premises. As respects commercial premises and agricultural holdings charges are made on a scale regarded as sufficient to cover the costs involved, and the Council are prepared to quote for a single treatment or for a contract for a period of one year. The number of contracts running at the 31st December was 27 and their annual value was £296. 15s. Od. Of these 15 related to farms and 12 to commercial and industrial premises.

Statistics in respect of rodent control work are shown in Appendix II.

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses, and details of the numbers of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and the condemnations are given in Appendix III. A one hundred per cent inspection of carcasses was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector of the City of St. Albans and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

FOOD HYGIENE

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Registrations under Section 16

Seventy-nine premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved foods etc., of these 70 are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

(a) Milk Supplies

- (i) Eleven distributors are registered under Regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

(ii) Brucella Abortus

During the year a total of 177 samples of raw milk were taken for examination for Brucella Abortus of which 21 were positive.

The sampling has been restricted to three farms. In one case where 53 samples were taken the sampling formed part of a programme which has continued since 1963 and has now established that the infection is contained within two cows. This farm is subject to a Pasteurisation Order. In the second case a total of 120 samples have been taken in an endeavour to find the infected animals. So far three infected animals have been identified and removed from the herd. It is hoped that all positive cows will have been eliminated by the middle of 1967. This farm is also subject to a Pasteurisation Order. At the third farm four samples were taken to confirm that the herd, which was brucella abortus positive in 1965, was free from infection.

(b) The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

There are 233 food premises in the district which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. A statistical table is given in Appendix IV showing the grouping according to the categories of trade carried on in them, the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16, the number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies and the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.

Health Education

A ten-lecture course in Food Hygiene in preparation for the appropriate Certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was held during the Spring at the St. Albans College of Further Education. Four of the lectures were given by an officer of the Council. Two persons working in food premises in the Rural District attended the course and both were successful at the subsequent examination.

One lecture in meat inspection was given to students at the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture at Oaklands, St. Albans.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 are shown in Appendix V.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

ANNEXURE (III)

I) Particulars of Registrations and Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	4	28	23
Retail Shops	17	104	95
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	1	10	10
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	22	142	128

II) Analysis of Persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

Class of workplace	Number of Persons employed		
	Males	Females	Totals
Offices	187	102	289
Retail Shops	89	249	338
Wholesale departments, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens.	33	32	65
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	309	383	692

PARISH	Number of Properties for letting under the control of the Council at 31st December 1966				Analysis showing housing progress from January 1st. to December 31st. 1966			
	Pre-war Houses.	Post-war Houses.	Acquired Properties	TOTAL	New Houses completed in 1966.	No. of Properties vacated in 1966 other than by transfer.	No. of Families housed in 1966.	
London Colney	100	572	3	675	-	15	25	
Redbourn	128	286	9	423	-	7	16	
St. Stephens	34	198	2	234	-	6	18	
Colney Heath	108	165	11	284	16	2	20	
Sandridge	57	206	4	267	48	5	16	
Wheathampstead	90	209	7	306	-	9	10	
St. Michaels	16	0	-	16	-	-	2	
Harpenden U.D.C.	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	
Harpenden Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
City Area	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	
TOTALS	533	1,650	39 *	2,222	64	44	107 †	

* Does NOT include Bennick House and 100 Hatfield Road.

† Includes letting of 5 properties vacant at 31.12.65.

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX II

RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st December, 1966.

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (inc. business premises) (4)	Total (5)
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	11,096	192	388	11,681
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the year ended 31st December, 1966, as a result of -					
(a) Notifications	-	568	-	-	568
(b) Survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	5	568	33	8	614
(c) Otherwise, e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	250	-	350	600
3. Number of properties (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by rats	2	499	21	3	525
4. Number of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by mice.	-	42	-	2	44
5. Number of infested properties (see Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority.	2	541	18	-	561

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Appendix III

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1966.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,625	316	692	3,377	4,927	38
Number inspected	1,625	316	692	3,377	4,927	38
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	3	7	9	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	155	69	7	89	285	10
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	35	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

ST. ALBANS RURAL

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL)DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1966 GROUPED

Type of Food Premises	London Colney	Colney Heath	St. Stephens	Wheat-hampstead	Red-bourn	Sand-ridge
1. Grocery, Provisions & General	10	6	12	6	9	2
2. Grocery, Provisions Butcher	-	-	1	-	-	1
3. Butcher	3	1	4	1	3	-
4. Baker's Shop	2	-	4	1	1	-
5. Bakeries	1	1	1	1	-	-
6. Sweets, Confectionery and/or Ice Cream	3	-	5	2	2	1
7. Greengrocery	2	-	5	3	2	-
8. Fish	-	-	1	-	-	-
9. Fish & Greengrocery	1	-	-	1	1	-
10. Food Factories/ Wholesale Food Depots	-	1	-	-	1	-
11. Schools & Institutions	4	3	6	3	4	6
12. Hospitals & Nursing Homes	3	2	2	-	-	-
13. Factory Canteens	2	7	2	3	2	3
14. Cafes including Clubs & Licensed Restaurants	3	-	4	3	2	1
15. Licensed Hotel/ Restaurant	1	-	1	-	1	-
16. Off Licences	1	1	3	-	-	1
17. Public Houses	7	9	8	13	9	4
TOTALS	43	31	59	37	37	19

DISTRICT COUNCILAPPENDIX IVREGULATIONS, 1960IN TRADE CATEGORIES, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

St. Michaels	Harpenden Rural	Totals	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
-	1	46	45	46	46
-	-	2	2	2	2
-	-	12	12	12	12
-	-	8	8	8	8
-	-	4	4	4	4
-	-	13	12	7	6
-	-	12	12	12	12
-	-	1	1	1	1
-	-	3	2	3	3
-	-	2	2	2	2
-	-	26	26	26	26
-	-	7	7	7	7
-	-	19	19	19	19
1	-	14	13	14	14
3	-	6	6	6	6
-	-	6	6	5	2
1	1	52	51	52	52
5	2	233	228	226	222

APPENDIX V

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the 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	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	42	5	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	3	1	-
TOTAL	94	47	6	-

