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RC-421(5)  
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**

LESLIE LOWE, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1967

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor A.G. Cutmore, (Chairman)  
Councillor R.V. Sparrow, (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor A. Angelow,  
Councillor G.K. Dickens,  
Councillor Mrs. C.M. Hadow,  
Councillor J. Hoey,  
Councillor B.E. King,  
Councillor W. Pitt,  
Councillor E. Steele,  
Councillor G. Vancliffe.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

David J. Graham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., (Resigned 9.7.67)  
Chief Public Health Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent.

L. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I., (Appointed 10.7.67)  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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

D.J. Litherland, Dip: P.H.I. Educ-Board, (Appointed 1.1.68)  
Additional Public Health Inspector.

F.V. Jennings,  
Student Public Health Inspector.

Mrs. D. Day, (Resigned 8.10.67)  
Chief Clerk.

Mrs. D. Jones (Appointed 1.1.68)

Miss M. Oakley, (Transferred 14.6.67)  
Junior Clerk.

Miss P. Woolman (Appointed 10.7.67)

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

- Councillor A.G. Osborne, (Chairman)
- Councillor K.V. Sparrow, (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor A. Angell
- Councillor G.W. Dickens
- Councillor Mrs. C.M. Hadow
- Councillor J. Hogg
- Councillor B.H. King
- Councillor W. Pitt
- Councillor E. Steele
- Councillor G. Vassell

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

C. Barnes, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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

(Reassigned 9.7.67)

(Appointed 10.7.67)

L. Jones, M.A.P.H.D.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

W.A. Beatty, M.A.P.H.D., M.B.B.S.,  
Deputy Public Health Inspector.

(Appointed 1.1.68)

D.B. Lishchansk, M.B., B.S., B.D.S.,  
Additional Public Health Inspector.

P.V. Jennings,  
Student Public Health Inspector.

(Appointed 5.10.67)

Mrs. G. Day,  
Chief Clerk.

(Appointed 1.7.68)

Mrs. G. Jones

(Transferred 1.8.67)

Mrs. A. Oakley,  
Junior Clerk.

(Appointed 10.7.67)

Mrs. F. Wallace

Section A

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 my annual report on the health of the Rural District of St. Albans for the year of 1967.

I am happy as in previous years to be able to report that the general health of the area remains good. The crude death rate fell from 13.0 to 11.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1967 as compared with 1966. The comparable death rate, which is corrected to allow for the population structure of the area as compared with the rest of the country was 8.2, compared with the rate for the whole of England and Wales of 11.2. As in previous years the major causes of death were the degenerative and the malignant diseases particularly cardio-vascular disease which was the largest single cause of death.

The falling trend in the birth rate continued with a drop from 14.7 live births per 1,000 population in 1966 to 14.3 in 1967. This is in line with the national trend and is no doubt associated with the availability of more effective forms of contraception.

The biennial epidemic of measles led to 633 cases of the disease being notified in 1967 compared with 333 in 1966. This disease causes a great deal of ill health amongst young children and an effective vaccine has recently become available which at the time of writing is being offered to all children in the age group 4 - 7 years, who have not already had the disease in the hope of preventing the next epidemic, which is due in 1969.

As in previous years my thanks are due to the many people, both within the Public Health Department and in other agencies, without whose co-operation the work of the Department would have been impossible. Finally I should like to express my gratitude to you Mr. Chairman, and Ladies and Gentlemen for the interest you have taken in the work of the Department throughout the year and for all the help and consideration you have given to myself and my staff.

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	42,830
Area (in acres)	32,084
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	11,438
Shops with Living Accommodation	71
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	55
Rateable Value	£1,946,748

### Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	611
Rate per 1,000 population	14.3
Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	37
Rate % of total live births	6.1
Stillbirths -	
Number	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	8.0
Total live and stillbirths -	616
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	
Number	4
Rate per 1,000 live births	7.0
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	7.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	7.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live births	3.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live births	3.3
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	7
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	11.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	NIL

## Deaths

Number of Deaths

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population

511

11.9

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:-

<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Comparable Birth Rate</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Comparable Death Rate</u>
14.3	13.0	11.9	8.2

## 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	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
1967	11.9	14.3	7.0	8.0	11.0

# Causes of Death

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	3	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	22
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	5	1
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	34
18. Coronary disease, angina	49	30
19. Hypertension	1	6
20. Other heart disease	24	46
21. Other circulatory disease	11	19
22. Influenza	-	2
23. Pneumonia	27	68
24. Bronchitis	11	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	4	4
35. Suicide	4	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Totals	216	295

## Vital Statistics, 1967 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

### Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	17.2
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	14.8

### Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.2
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	18.3
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.2
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.5
Peri-Natal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	25.4

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, 1967.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1967 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	1,322	475	1,797	56	19	37
Other Tuberculosis	112	132	244	5	5	5
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	23,546	4,704	28,250	999	189	584
Other Cancer	36,075	45,730	81,805	1,531	1,842	1,691

## COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS - ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

### BIRTHS

There were 611 births in the Rural District in 1967, compared with 623 in 1966. The birth rate in 1967 was 14.3 compared with 14.7 in 1966. This is the lowest birth rate since 1952.

### STILLBIRTHS

There were 5 stillbirths in 1967, compared with 7 in 1966, giving a stillbirth rate of 8.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 11.1 in 1966.

### INFANT DEATHS

4 children died under the age of 1 compared with 5 in 1966, a decrease of 1. This makes the infant mortality rate in 1967, 7.0 compared with 8.0 in 1966. 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
Respiratory Failure				1	1					1
Other defined & ill defined diseases.	2			1	3					3
Total	2			2	4					4

Breaking down the number of children who died under the age of 1 year, 2 children died in the first week of life compared with 3 in 1966, giving an early neo-natal mortality rate of 3.3, compared with 4.8 in 1966. In 1967 2 children died under the age of 1 month, compared with 3 children in 1966, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 3.3 (4.8 in 1966)

There were no deaths of children between 1 month and 1 year old in 1967, compared with 2 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 11.0 compared with 15.9 in 1966. 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 figures for England and Wales are given on page 5 for comparison.

## DEATHS

There were 511 deaths in the district in 1967, compared with 552 in 1966. This gives a death rate of 11.9 compared with a death rate of 13.0 in 1966. 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 8.2 in 1967 and 8.7 in 1966. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 11.2.

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. 49 men and 30 women died of this disease. The ages at which they died can be seen in the Table set out below.

### 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	-	6	1	11	3	15	3	16	23	49	30

Cancer 72 people died of cancers, 32 men and 40 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	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Lung	Men	-	-	1	3	6	2	12
	Women	-	-	-	4	1	-	5
Breast	Women	-	2	1	1	3	-	5
Uterus	Women	-	1	2	-	1	1	5
Bladder	Men	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Women	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Rectum	Men	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Oesophagus	Men	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
	Women	-	-	2	-	-	2	4
Prostate	Men	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pancreas	Men	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	Men	-	-	2	3	-	1	6
	Women	-	-	-	3	2	1	6
Others	Men	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	Women	-	-	1	1	3	5	10

### Lung Cancer

This was again the most common cause of death from the cancers. Despite fluctuations in the local figures the national figure has risen inexorably year by year. Between 1956 and 1966 the annual number of deaths from this cause rose from 18,185 to 27,019 which is a rise from 3.5% to 4.8% of the total number of deaths. The habit of cigarette smoking is responsible for the vast majority of these deaths as well as contributing in large measure to the increasing mortality from coronary artery disease.

## Section B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall.

Infant Welfare

Vaccination & Immunisation

Colney Heath - The Pavilion,

Infant Welfare

Harpenden - 40 Luton Road,  
(Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic

Vaccination & Immunisation

Speech Therapy

Infant Welfare

Dental

Cytology Clinic

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

Infant Welfare

Speech Therapy

Harpenden - Southdown,  
Methodist Church Hall.

Infant Welfare

London Colney - Primary School,  
Alexander Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.

(Dr. attends)

3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2.30-4.00 p.m.

(Dr. attends)

Mondays - 9.30-11.30 a.m. (By appointment)

2nd and 4th Wednesday in month - 9.30 a.m.

(Dr. attends)

12 noon.

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.

(By appointment)

Wednesdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.

(Dr. attends)

Tuesdays - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.

Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.

Fridays - 9.30-12 noon.

(By appointment)

Thursdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

(By appointment)

2nd and 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.

(Dr. attends)

Tuesdays - 9.30-12 noon.

Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m.

(Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)

Fridays - 9.30-12 noon

(Dr. attends)

London Colney - Primary School, (continued)

Section B

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

Tuesdays - 1.30-4.00 p.m.  
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

Tuesdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Dental

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

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre,  
Civic Centre.

Telephone : 59211

Immunisation & Vaccination

Mondays - 9.00-12 noon  
(Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)

Dental

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

Orthoptic

Monday - 9-12 noon:2-4.30 p.m.  
Wednesday - 9.00-12 noon : 2.-4.30 p.m.  
(By appointment)

Ophthalmic

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon  
Friday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.  
Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.  
(By appointment)

# St. Albans - Principal Health Centre (continued)

## Speech

Antenatal  
Infant Welfare

Audiometrician

Audiology

Tuesday - 9.30-12 noon.

(By appointment)

Tuesday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Thursday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Wednesday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Tuesday & Friday - 1.30-4.00 p.m.

(Dr. attends Friday and 2nd & 4th Tuesday)

Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays - 9.30-12 noon  
2.-4.30 p.m.

1st Friday - 9.30-12noon.

(By appointment)

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

Immunisation & Vaccination

Speech

Mondays - 2.00-4.30 p.m.

(Dr.attends)

1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30- 12 noon.

(By appointment)

Fridays - 9.30-12 noon.

(By appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,  
Marshalswick Estate.

Telephone : 57041

Infant Welfare

Immunisation & Vaccination

Speech

Antenatal

Dental

Monday and Friday - 2.00-4.30 p.m.

(Dr. attends)

1st & 3rd Tuesday - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

(By appointment)

Thursdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

(By appointment)

Thursdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Mondays - 10.00-12 noon : 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Tuesdays - 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Wednesdays - 10.00-12 noon.

Thursdays - 10.00-12 noon.

(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)  
V.D. (Men)  
Post-Natal  
Chest Clinic

Tuesdays - 5.00-7.00 p.m. Fridays 2-4 p.m.  
Tuesdays - 5.00-7.00 p.m. Fridays 10-12 noon  
Wednesdays - 11.00 a.m.  
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 organisations 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	770	Psychiatric
No. of discharges	1,234	
<u>Out-Patients</u>		
No. of new patients	176	
No. of attendances	1,041	
<u>Day Patients</u>		
No. of new patients	53	
No. of attendances	7,712	
X-ray department	3,358	
Physiotherapy department	3,665	

#### HIGH WICK

#### Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	4

# ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

Section C.

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients	
			New	Total Attendances
General Medicine	71	1,166	735	4,485
Paediatrics	20	406	374	2,060
Infectious Diseases	9	83		
Diseases of the Chest	6	11	788	4,537
Dermatology		4	545	1,532
Neurology			90	246
Physical Medicine			375	3,187
M.D.			192	997
Geriatrics	78	169		
General Surgery	66	1,975	1,598	4,418
M.N.T. (T & A)	)	212	)	)
M.N.T. (Other)	8		1,324	2,674
Trau. & Orth. Surgery	)	142		
Ophthalmology	44	1,355	1,603	4,791
Radiotherapy	3	252	786	3,284
Thoracic Surgery	)		48	499
Dentistry	)	19	9	70
Neurosurgery			637	2,567
Gynaecology	21	888	9	19
Obstetrics ante-natal	)	)	891	2,598
" post-natal	29	860	746	5,938
Special Care Babies	7	75	525	525
Mental Illness			244	904
Allergy			222	225
Private Section 5	4	125		
" " 4	6			
Totals	372	7,742	11,741	45,556
Accident & Emergency			12,224	22,631

Maternity: Live births 745  
Stillbirths 12

Ray Dept: 57,273 units  
Physiotherapy Dept: 47,013 attendances

# Section C.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Scarlet Fever	9
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	633
Food Poisoning	2
Infective Hepatitis	6
Dysentery	1
Erysipelas	1
Pneumonia	3
Typhoid Fever	1

### Food Poisoning

There were two cases of food poisoning notified during the year. The causative was identified as salmonella typhimurium in one case and the other case was caused by salmonella stanley.

### TUBERCULOSIS 1967.

During 1967 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	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 14 years	3	-	1	-	4	-
15 - 24 years	2	-	-	-	2	-
25 - 44 years	-	-	1	1	1	1
45 - 64 years	3	1	-	-	3	1
65 years and over	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	8	3	2	1	10	4

During the year 29 cases were removed from the register, and there were 6 respiratory (2 male and 4 female) cases transferred into the Area.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1967 was as follows:-

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
182	129	15	18	344

## ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1967.

This is my first Annual Report to the Council, and much of the work recorded must be credited to my predecessor, Mr. David J. Graham, who retired in July, 1967.

During the year 1967, despite staff changes, and, indeed, at times, staff shortages, normal routine work was maintained. No major public health problems arose, though it is noticeable that complaints concerning industrial operations are becoming more frequent.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the help given to me by members of my staff, and also colleagues of other departments which did so much to facilitate the assumption of my new duties. I am also indebted to members of the Council for their consideration and keen interest demonstrated throughout the year.

#### GENERAL SANITATION

##### WATER SUPPLIES

The supplies of water distributed in the area by the statutory undertakers have been satisfactory in quantity and quality, and there is no evidence that the water is liable to plumbo-solvency.

There are no dwelling houses within the district served by stand pipes, but 125 houses still rely on private bores or wells, of which there are now 80 in the district. One dwelling lacks a wholesome supply of water within a reasonable distance. These 126 dwelling houses are located as follows:-

	<u>With Wells or Bores</u>	<u>No Supply</u>
Colney Heath	10	-
Harpenden Rural	6	-
London Colney	2	-
Redbourn	8	-
St. Michaels	2	-
St. Stephens	22	-
Sandridge	32	-
Wheathampstead	43	1
	<hr/> 125	<hr/> 1

During the year at least one sample of water from each private well or bore was taken for bacteriological examination, and suitable follow-up action was initiated where there were indications that the quality was in doubt. The most common cause of pollution was the fouling of storage tanks with bird excreta, or, in some cases, even dead birds. In all, a total of 94 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton, and the laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, for such examination.

Three houses within the area are supplied by a private well situated in the area of a neighbouring Authority. A further five bores are in use to supply Institutions or other large establishments and their associated dwellings within the district.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

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

Public sewers in the Rural District vary in diameter from 6" to 15" and with a total length of approximately 16 miles, serve all the principal centres of population which contain about 95% of the dwellings in the district.

The Rural District Council is a constituent authority member of the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority with whose trunk sewers most of the public sewers connect. The trunk sewers convey sewage to the Authority's treatment works at Maple Cross near Rickmansworth.

There are agreements with all the neighbouring authorities to provide for the intercommunication of public sewers vested in the several Councils and such arrangements are most economical and, in remote areas, have enabled properties to have the benefits of main drainage when otherwise this facility could not have been provided.

The Rural District Council's only sewage disposal works is situated at Wheathampstead and treats an average daily flow of approximately 180,000 gallons. A high standard of effluent is demanded by the Lea Conservancy Catchment Board, and to achieve the necessary standard the whole of the flow to the Works receives double filtration and settlement. During the year, investigations were started at the disposal works with a view to modernising and extending the treatment to ensure that the Catchment Board's standards are met in the future as the population of the area served increases.

## SANITATION

Despite all the efforts by the Department there are still some pail closets in use in the area. The number of occupied dwellings with pail closet sanitation is now thought to be 12. The dwellings concerned are located as follows:-

Wheathampstead	5	
Sandridge	1	(A house which is the subject of a suspended Demolition Order)
St. Stephens	3	
Redbourn	1	
Harpenden Rural	2	

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

## SWIMMING BATHS

The Council has no swimming baths under its management, but there is one pool in the district open to the public on payment of an admission charge. This pool, together with two private pools, are extensively used by schools during the summer season under arrangements between the Education Authority and the managements concerned. These three pools, operated on the system of continuous circulation and purification, are closely supervised during the summer season. Two private clubs within the area also operate swimming pools, though in a less refined manner. Attempts to persuade the clubs concerned to instal modern purification plant have so far proved unfruitful, but, nevertheless, co-operation between the department and the clubs concerned is good, and the pools are regularly sampled by arrangement with the managements.

In all, a total of 109 samples of swimming bath water were taken for bacteriological examination in addition to regular chlorine readings made at the pool side.

## AIR POLLUTION

During the year the department continued to operate the Station for measuring atmospheric pollution at St. Helens Junior School, Wheathampstead. Readings were supplied monthly to the Ministry of Technology Air Pollution Station, Warren Springs, for computer calculation forming part of the national survey of air pollution.

Results obtained during the year 1967 continued to support the earlier finding that at Wheathampstead the figure for smoke is favourable compared

with most small inland towns or villages, although the sulphur dioxide content of the air is higher than would be expected in such areas. This high sulphur dioxide content is attributed to industrial plants in the village which burn fuel oil both summer and winter.

### NUISANCES

A total of 126 complaints of alleged nuisance were received during 1967. While the majority of these nuisances were simple of remedy, three types of nuisance proved persistent and more difficult to resolve.

Firstly, the question of disposal of animal waste, particularly poultry manure, gave rise to many complaints when spread in dry weather. The best that could be achieved here was to seek the co-operation of farmers in an endeavour to get the treatments carried out in rainy weather so that nuisance was short-lived.

The next two sources of nuisance were associated with industry, one being intermittent smells from a chemical factory, and the other, noise from a concrete components factory. In the case of the smell nuisance, the Council were obliged to serve an Abatement Notice under the Public Health Act, 1936. This proved effective for a while, but at the end of the year complaints were again, justifiably, being received. The Company are no less concerned about this matter than the public, and measures were being taken to overcome the problem.

The second industrial nuisance arose by reason of noise emanating from a factory situated just outside the boundary of this local authority. The type of work carried on is the moulding of concrete components for civil engineering works, and the noise in the main was attributable to the vibration of the moulds in which the components are cast. In this particular case the Council engaged consultants, but, despite protracted negotiations with the Company concerned, periodic noise nuisance was still experienced by neighbouring residents at the end of the year.

These two industrial nuisances emphasise the encroachment of modern industrial life even into the rural scene.

### WASPS

The Council continued their policy of undertaking the destruction of wasps' nests free of charge. During the summer season of 1967 a total of 118 were destroyed. This service is one which is greatly appreciated by residents throughout the district.

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within their district, and since the coming into operation of this Act it has been the Council's policy to carry out free treatment at domestic premises. In the case of commercial premises and agricultural holdings charges are made on a scale regarded as sufficient to cover the cost involved, the department being prepared to quote for either single treatments or for a contract period of one year. On 31st December, 1967, forty-two contracts were running to the annual value of £446.15.0d. Of these, twenty-four related for farms, and eighteen to industrial premises.

The early part of 1967 saw a large increase in the number of rats and mice in the area in common with many other parts of the county, and this necessitated some assistance from the Health Inspectors to bring the position under control. By the end of the year the situation was very much improved, and a marked decrease in the rodent population was observed.

Statistics in respect of rodent control works are shown below.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agri-cultural	Agricul-tural
1. Number of properties in district.	13658	377
2.(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	540	25
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	486	25
(ii) Mice	54	-
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notifications.	248	271
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	3	53
(ii) Mice	1	-

## HOUSING

1. Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders 9
2. Number of demolition or closing orders made:
  - (a) Demolition Orders 7
  - (b) Closing Orders, whole premises 2
  - (c) Undertakings accepted that houses would be made fit 4
  - (d) Undertakings carried out to the satisfaction of the Council 5
3. Number of houses demolished:
  - (a) As a result of demolition orders 15
  - (b) In clearance areas 0
4. Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants approved by the Council 3
5. Number of Standard Grants approved by the Council 37

In general, property within the district is good, approximately half the housing being of post-war construction. Property is much sought after, and many older cottages have been comprehensively reconditioned, finding a ready market when offered for sale.

## SLUM CLEARANCE

The relatively few houses requiring demolition action are scattered, and can now only be dealt with as individual unfit properties.

## IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The total number of houses in the area lacking one or more of the standard amenities is thought to be less than 350. Again, these are mostly single houses or small groups scattered over seven parishes, and this fact, together with the satisfactory rate at which voluntary improvements are proceeding, obviates the necessity for the declaration of Improvement Areas under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1964.

## COUNCIL HOUSES

I give below statistics provided by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, showing the present position of Council houses in the various parishes.

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOR LETTING UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967					ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING PROGRESS FROM 1st JAN., TO 31st DEC., 1967		
PARISH	PRE- WAR HOUSES	POST- WAR HOUSES	ACQUI- RED PROP- ERTIES	TOTAL	NEW HOUSES COMP- LETED IN 1967	NO. OF PROPER- TIES VACATED IN 1967 OTHER THAN BY TRANSFER	NO. OF FAMI- LIES HOUSED IN 1967
London Colney	100	821	3	924	249	14	105
Redbourn	128	286	9	423	-	11	23
St. Stephens	34	198	2	234	-	7	42
Colney Heath	108	165	10	283	-	2	46
Sandridge	57	206	-	263	-	6	22
Wheathamps'ead	90	209	7	306	-	6	24
St. Michaels'	16	-	-	16	-	-	2
Harpenden U.D.	-	14	-	14	-	-	-
Harpenden Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
City Area	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	533	1899	34*	2466	249	46	265

\* Does not include Bennick House and 100 Hatfield Road.

These figures show a big increase in the number of houses completed during the year, which was mainly due to the industrialised building at the Council's Cotlandswick site. The improvement in the situation is reflected in the Council's new policy that applicants for Council houses may be considered after one year on the Waiting List instead of after two years as formerly.

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep, and pigs for human consumption continued to be carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses in the area, namely, Sandridge, Wheathampstead, and London Colney. The latter slaughterhouse is also concurrently licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Again, all carcasses and their associated offals were inspected during the year.

I give below details of the number of animals slaughtered, and the condemnations necessary, during the year.

### CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1967

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1675	298	494	3453	4929	44
Number inspected	1675	298	494	3453	4929	44
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	1	2	10	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	238	83	6	78	394	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	5	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned						

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector of the City of St. Albans, and his staff, who continue to help with the meat inspection of Sandridge Slaughterhouse. Their assistance and co-operation is much valued by this department.

#### The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966

The Council took advantage of these regulations to determine slaughtering times within the district, such times being brought into operation from 1st March, 1967. In general, the system worked well, though in saying that it should be borne in mind that the hours during which slaughtering is permitted are somewhat generous to the trade. Since they extend beyond normal office hours and also include Saturday morning, some overtime working by the inspection staff is still necessary.

### FOOD HYGIENE

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

##### Registrations under Section 16

Sixty-nine premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved foods, etc. Of these, 54 are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

##### (a) Milk Supplies

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

##### (ii) Brucella Abortus

A total of 44 samples of untreated milk were taken during the year, and 44 examined for the presence of Brucella Abortus, 8 being taken as a continuation of the control being exercised at one farm where the infection is now restricted to one cow, and 36 samples being in completion of the investigation referred to in the last Annual Report, it now being thought that all Brucella positive cows have been eliminated from that herd. Both these farms remain subject to Pasturisation Orders.

##### (iii) General

Additionally, two samples, which were satisfactory, have been taken from a milk vending machine, and one sample at a farm following the death of a calf from Salmonellosis. This sample was negative.

##### (b) The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

A total of 235 premises in the district are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. The table below shows the grouping according to the categories of trade carried on in these premises, the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16, and the number of premises affected by Regulation 19.

DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1967, GROUPED IN TRADE CATEGORIES, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Type of Food Premises	Total No. of Premises	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. Grocery, Provisions & General	43	42	43	43
2. Grocery, Provisions, Butcher	2	2	2	2
3. Butcher	13	13	13	13
4. Baker's shop	7	7	7	7
5. Bakeries	4	4	4	4
6. Sweets, Confectionery and/or Ice Cream	13	13	13	13
7. Greengrocery	11	11	11	10
8. Fish	2	2	2	2
9. Fish & Greengrocery	3	3	3	3
10. Food Factories/ Wholesale Food Depots	4	4	4	4
11. Schools & Institutions	32	32	32	32
12. Hospitals & Nursing Homes.	6	6	6	6
13. Factory Canteens.	18	18	18	18
14. Cafes including Clubs & Licensed Restaurants	15	14	15	15
15. Licensed Hotel/ Restaurant	6	6	6	6
16. Off Licences	6	6	5	2
17. Public Houses	50	49	50	50
TOTALS	235	232	234	231

In general, premises have been found to comply with the Regulations, though in one case it was only after a summons had been taken out that certain works were carried out at those premises in order to make them comply with the Regulations.

### HEALTH EDUCATION

During the Spring a ten-lecture course in Food Hygiene in preparation for the appropriate certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was held at the St. Albans College of Further Education. Four of the lectures were given by an officer of this department. One person working in food premises in the Rural District attended the course and was successful at the subsequent examination.

One lecture on meat inspection was given to students at the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture at Oaklands, St. Albans, by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

### POULTRY INSPECTION

There are three premises within the district on which some poultry processing is done, though only to the rough plucked stage. Nine visits were made to these premises during the year, but no carcass inspection as such was carried out.

At the first of these places, some 7,000 turkeys are raised annually, being slaughtered entirely in December for the Christmas trade.

At the second establishment more regular trade is carried on, some 60 to 70 turkeys being slaughtered and rough plucked each weekend, with a seasonal rise in December.

The third poultry station is confined to chickens, about 100,000 birds being reared from day-old chicks during the year. Formerly the whole of the output was sent direct to the London markets in a live state, but during 1967 the firm started to slaughter poultry on a larger scale than hitherto, and roughly half the birds were sent to the market rough-plucked. About 500 birds were rejected as being unfit for human consumption by the firm itself.

The build-up in poultry slaughter in the district, though small, will have to be watched carefully, since premises used are barely adequate for present needs, and, in addition, merely meet a minimum standard of hygiene. With present staff, however, detailed inspection remains out of the question, even with the limited kills now being experienced.

# FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act.

## PART I OF THE ACT

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number of 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	86	36	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	6	-	-
TOTALS	97	44	1	-

2. CASES in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

None of the factories in the district at present employ outworkers.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES REGULATIONS 1963

The number of infringements under the Regulations noted during the year was 19, being mostly of a minor nature such as failure to maintain First Aid box correctly, or the absence of abstract of the Regulations. No great difficulties were experienced in administering the Regulations, or, where defects were found, in having them remedied, the Regulations having by now reached a stage of acceptability by the established firms, though in the case of newcomers there is gross ignorance of the Regulations, and extreme difficulty in ensuring initial registration.

No notifications of accidents were received during the year.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

### (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	31	13
Retail shops	10	106	65
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public; Canteens	1	11	8
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	15	148	86

(II) ANALYSIS of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed		
	Males	Females	Totals
Offices	169	100	269
Retail Shops	101	238	339
Wholesale departments, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public; Canteens	35	29	64
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	305	367	672

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

LESLIE LOWE

Chief Public Health Inspector

# OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES REGULATION 1961

The number of establishments under the Regulations which were inspected in 1961 was 19, being mostly of a minor nature such as failure to comply with the Regulations, or the absence of abstract of the Regulations. No great difficulties were experienced in administering the Regulations, or, where defects were found, in getting them remedied, the Regulations having been brought to the attention of the establishments and by the establishment staffs. In the case of establishments which were inspected in 1961, the number of establishments which were inspected in 1961 was 19, being mostly of a minor nature such as failure to comply with the Regulations, or the absence of abstract of the Regulations. No great difficulties were experienced in administering the Regulations, or, where defects were found, in getting them remedied, the Regulations having been brought to the attention of the establishments and by the establishment staffs.

Offices	100	100	100
Small Shops, etc.	100	100	100

## (1) PARTICULARS OF ESTABLISHMENTS

Establishment	1961	1960	1959
Offices	100	100	100
Small Shops, etc.	100	100	100
Wholesale Shops, etc.	100	100	100
Catering Establishments	100	100	100
Fuel Storage Depots	100	100	100
Other	100	100	100
Total	100	100	100



