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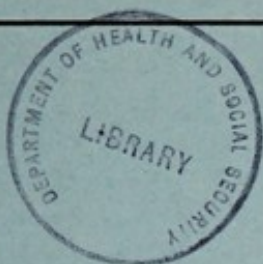
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BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR, 1968



BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman G. W. Gray (Chairman)

The Mayor (ex-officio)
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillor J. W. L. Whincup

Councillor G. N. Riley

Councillor A. T. Brodie

Councillor A. J. Gray

Councillor D. J. Joyce

Councillor Mrs. D. J. Glenn

Councillor F. H. Ladds

Councillor R. J. R. Seamer

Councillor D. W. H. Brabyn

HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Councillor A. T. Brodie (Chairman)

The Mayor (ex-officio)

Councillor T. D. Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman G. C. Swanson

Alderman A. L. Nichols

Alderman Mrs. G. M. Boyfield, J.P.

Alderman G. W. Gray

Councillor H. E. Burney

Councillor F. H. Ladds

Councillor S. C. Parry

Councillor Mrs. D. J. Glenn

TOWN CLERK:

H. BEDFORD, ESQ., Solicitor

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Town Hall, Stamford, Lincs. Tel: 2248, Ext. 52

Public Health Inspector:

G. FOX, M.A.P.H.I.

Town Hall, Stamford, Lincs. Tel: 2248, Ext. 53

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

N. HIBBETT

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BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1968

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Stamford

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report on the
Vital Statistics, Health and Living Conditions of the Borough.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1918
Population (Census 1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11743
Population (Registrar General's estimate 31.12.68)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13800
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£462,659
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,825
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4516

Vital Statistics for the year 1968

Note: Birth and Death Rates

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as "Net" rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Stamford are 1.05 and 0.68 respectively. The corresponding figure when multiplied by the Crude rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Net Rate.

The area comparability factors contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area.

					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	122	107	229
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	118	100	218
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population						-	16.6
Net Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population						-	17.4
Rate for England and Wales						-	16.9
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births						-	4.8

					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...		-	237
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births						-	34.0
Rate for England and Wales						-	14.0

					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	85	82	167
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population						-	12.1
Net Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population						-	8.2
Rate for England and Wales						-	11.9
Natural increase, i.e. Excess of Live Births over Deaths						-	62

Infantile Mortality - Deaths of Infants under one year

					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births						-	13.1
Rate for England and Wales						-	18.0
The number of deaths of infants under one year of age							
was 5 in 1966 and 2 in 1967.							
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births						-	13.8
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births						-	NIL

					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Neo-Natal Mortality i.e. Deaths of infants							
under four weeks of age					1	1	2
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births						-	9.0
Rate for England and Wales						-	12.3

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Early Neo-Natal Deaths i.e. Deaths of infants under one week of age	1	1	2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			- 9.0
Rate for England and Wales			- 10.5
Peri-Natal Deaths			- 10
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (i.e. Still Births and Deaths under one week combined) per 1,000			
Total Live and Still Births			- 42.0
Rate for England and Wales			- 25.0

There was no case of Maternal Death i.e. a death due to Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

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MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED IN THE

BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

1965	102
1966	115
1967	103
1968	120

Weddings this year were the highest ever recorded in the Borough. More and more are shouldering the task of household management and family raising at very early ages. The carefree "between years" are getting as truncated as the minis.

The Live Birth Rate at 17.4 approximated very closely to the National figure of 16.9 which again this year showed a slight downward swing.

Stillbirths were eight in number, double the previous year's figure and giving a rate of thirty-four, more than double the National one. The associated conditions were:

1. Foetal Anoxia. Prolonged first stage labour.
2. Prematurity
3. Hydramnios. Prematurity. Twins.
4. Placenta Praevia due A.R.M.
5. Intra Uterine Death
6. Rh. incompatibility negative and Ante bodies. Toxaemia of pregnancy.
7. Cord prolapse.

The total of illegitimate births at eleven (4.8 per cent) were happily down from the record figure of nineteen the year before and is less than the very disturbing National average of eight per cent.

The Death Rate in the Borough was 8.2 compared with the National figure of 11.9, but this very favourable comparison is only arrived at by using the comparability factor. This takes account of our relatively high proportion of elderly residents.

Half of the deaths were in persons over seventy-five years of age. The increasingly common experience of longevity raises many social implications. For the socio-medical planners there is the need to develop the services which are so necessary now and will be even more so in the future and for the individual is the need to maintain their interests and habits of healthy living so as to die young at a ripe old age.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales has been showing a praiseworthy gradual decline over the past thirteen years. This continued this year to a new low record of 18 per thousand live births. The Rate for the Borough as so often in the past, has improved on this and for the year under review was 13.1. It must however be borne in mind that with the relatively small numbers involved an alteration of only one in the figures can make for a very big variation in the Rate. These figures do testify to the enormous care and skill which are devoted to the expectant mother and to her infant, and which have since the end of the last War reduced the National Infantile Death Rate from 34 per thousand to the present position. In this respect too a tribute must be paid to the mothers themselves for their increased competency in the practical application of their widened knowledge and understanding of child care.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	6	15
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	8	17	25
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	17	38
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	8	6	14
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	11	9	20
Bronchitis	8	1	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	-	1	1
Gastritis, and enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies	-	3	3
Birth injury, difficult labour ...	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	-	-	-
TOTALS	85	82	167

Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular system again head the list of the causes of death, claiming eighty and of these thirty-eight or almost half were due to disease of the coronary arteries of the heart. The defeat of so many of the infections and the triumphs of modern medicine and surgery have increased the expectation of life but since mankind is mortal a preponderance of deaths must fall inevitably into the degenerative categories of disease. This is borne out by the fact that forty-two of those who succumbed to Cardio-Vascular disease were aged seventy-five or over.

Nonetheless, coronary disease still exacts too high a toll of life and disablement in the lower age groups. Whilst our knowledge of the whole process is still incomplete it is known that overweight is a predisposing cause and one in five of all adults in this Country are overweight, so reconnoitre for and win the battle of the bulge. Regular exercise is another essential as the bus conductor is always a better risk than the driver, but the sedentary should not overdo it at weekends. Over indulgence in smoking and drinking should be avoided and finally try to obtain a little time just to unwind each day the tensions of this busy world, which as Robert Bridges put it:

"Toiled, moiled, fussed and scurried,
Worried, bought and sold,
Plotted, stole and quarrelled,
Fought and God knows what".

These are precautions not alone against Coronary Disease but for the maintenance of general good health.

Rather unusually diseases of the Respiratory System with thirty-two occupy unenviably second place in the list. The main entity here was Pneumonia which occurred as a terminal event in other illnesses and also is indicative of the prevalence of Influenza in the early months of the year. There were nine deaths from Bronchitis - "English Disease" as it is known on the Continent. With atmospheric pollution in the Borough minimal - except for the self-inflicted variety - one would expect the incidence to be low.

Malignant growths were third in the league of death with thirty and of these five were due to cancer of the lung. Few if anyone can now be unaware of the association between cigarette smoking and this disease and the best preventive measure! Truly nicotine blindfoldeth fear performing the same office as sand for the ostrich.

Three deaths were due to cancer of the breast and with this disease causing more deaths than cancer of the cervix it would seem advisable that women should learn the easily taught technique of

self examination of the breast to detect it at an early stage when it is most easily treated with success.

Eight deaths were due to accidents and of these two were on the road. Four were due to accidents in the home and all were in the eighth or ninth decade. A fall, as in three of the cases, at this age is most dangerous and every effort should be made to reduce to the minimum the hazards in the homes of such Senior Citizens.

The remaining two accidental deaths were tragic, one being a drowning accident in an eighteen month toddler and the other a cot death by suffocation in a five month old baby.

Home Help

Home Help is provided for the Town of Stamford and the surrounding area of South Kesteven by the County Health Department. Application should be made to Mrs. I. M. Pepper, District Home Help Organizer, Barn Hill Clinic, Stamford.

Monday to Friday 8.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Friday 1.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.

This service is engaged exclusively in providing for the needs of the elderly and the disabled. Though it owes its origin to the service to the expectant mother at her confinement and subsequent lying in period, this has been strengthened by the high cost to the persons who almost universally are called upon to meet the needs of the children per hour.

Twenty Home Help are employed for work in the Borough and on average there are ninety-two calls on the books at any one time, of which eighty-eight are elderly persons. Two Good Neighbours are also available to give additional help in the vicinity of their own homes.

Welfare Ponds

Welfare Ponds can be obtained from the Barn Hill Clinic at the following times:

Monday to Friday 8.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Friday 1.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.

Health Visitors

There is an establishment for two full time Health Visitors to serve the Borough and the Parishes of the surrounding Rural District of South Kesteven. One post has been vacant since December, 1965. Meanwhile, Miss Hetherington, Stamford's Health Visitor has had the

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Nursing in the Home

Under the County Council Scheme the Borough has one District Midwife, Miss Morris, Residence: Drift Road, Stamford. Telephone: Stamford 3591 and one District Nurse, Miss Warby, Residence: 9, Adelaide Street, Stamford. Telephone: Stamford 3218, and both are relieved by Mrs. Ludlow, District Nurse-Midwife, 41, Queen's Walk, Stamford. Telephone: Stamford 3700.

Home Helps

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Twenty Home Helps are employed for work in the Borough and on an average there are ninety-two cases on the books at any one time, of which eighty-eight are elderly persons.

Two Good Neighbours are also available to give additional help in the vicinity of their own homes.

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impossible task of covering the specialised Health Visitor work in three areas - Stamford, Bourne and South Kesteven. This includes amongst others Tuberculosis after care work, the support of Problem Families, visiting the aged in need of special help and the most difficult Infant and Child Welfare cases. Mrs. Stevenson, S.R.N., has given her full support and coped with many Health Visitor duties within the Borough and the Clinic successfully.

Mental Welfare

Mr. H. S. Townsend, Mental Welfare Officer, provides the link between the Family Doctor, the mentally ill patient and the Hospital Service. He also carries out the statutory duties laid down in the Mental Welfare Act of 1959 and does preventive work in this field; covering the Stamford area. Telephone No. Stamford 2906. Home Telephone No. Bourne 2983.

Ambulance Service

This service is a County Council directly controlled one. There are three ambulances and one sitting case car with District Headquarters at Ryhall Road, Stamford. Telephone No. Stamford 2379.

Hospitals

Stamford and Rutland Hospital, Stamford, provides full facilities for general medical, surgical and maternity patients.

The Geriatric and more chronic sick are admitted to St. George's Hospital, Stamford.

Patients with diseases of the chest are catered for at the Chest Hospital, Bourne and Clinics are also held at the Stamford Hospital.

Persons suffering from infectious diseases and requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

All these Hospitals are controlled by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

The services to the mentally disordered patient are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board based on the Harnston Hall and Rauceby Hospitals.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) PROVIDED BY KESTIVEN COUNTY COUNCIL

Child Welfare

Weekly Clinic, - Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon (Minor ailment and
Barn Hill House, Infant Welfare)
Stamford. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Infant Welfare)

This is staffed by a Health Visitor and a State Registered Nurse. The doctor attends each Friday morning and on the first, third and fifth Friday afternoons. Mrs. Grundy and her voluntary band of workers provide invaluable ancilliary services on the Friday afternoons, making available Infant Foods and food supplements at concessionary prices. They also assist with the record keeping and the social side of the Clinic. Their enthusiasm continues year after year undimmed. The Annual Christmas Party is always looked forward to with keen anticipation.

The average attendance at these clinics has been 119 each Friday - a figure which I reiterate is far too high to be desirable for comfort, elbow room or efficiency. The total attendance for the year was 5960, the highest ever figure. The proposed extensions are long overdue as the activities have far outstripped the present accommodation at Barn Hill House. The recurrent descent of the economy axe has once again deferred hope. Nurses taking midwifery courses at the Hospital attend regularly as part of their training.

The number of teenage mothers was again noticeable and equally worthy of comment was the efficiency and aplomb with which these very young women shoulder their domestic and maternal responsibilities in the vast majority of cases.

No case of phenylketonurea was found during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

A Diphtheria Immunisation clinic is held at Barn Hill House, Stamford on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Immunisation is also available at both the Friday morning and afternoon clinics if requested.

Numbers immunised during the year:

	1968	1967
Primary Protection	175	157
Reinforcing Protection	424	367
	<u>599</u>	<u>524</u>

In addition the following children living outside the Borough and the County were immunised:

	1968	1967
Primary Protection	18	19
Reinforcing Protection	<u>65</u>	<u>26</u>
	<u>83</u>	<u>45</u>

136 children were immunised by the Family Doctors, 51 for Primary courses and 85 for Reinforcing protection.

Help at the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic has again been given by Mlle. Dazou and Mrs. Broughton of the British Red Cross Society to whom I would like to express sincere thanks.

School Health Service Clinic

This is situated at Barn Hill, Stamford, providing Ophthalmic, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics. A minor ailment clinic is held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, attended by a State Registered Nurse.

School Dental Service

During the year 1475 school children were inspected and of these 1018 were found to require treatment and were offered it. Of these, a total of 853 completed their course of treatment.

Twenty-seven new orthodontic cases were started on treatment and twenty-four dental appliances were fitted. The ratio of fillings to extractions was 1504 to 968.

During the year 332 sessions were devoted to treatment, 62 to inspections and 39 to Dental Health Education.

Mothercraft Classes

These are held on Tuesday afternoons and are primarily intended for women expecting their first baby. The course consists of eight lectures covering ante natal care, preparation for confinement and infant care. Relaxation exercises are also taught, films are shown and the occasion is made an enjoyably social one.

The Club was run by Miss M. Hetherington, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

The attendance of mothers-to-be was as follows:

	<u>No. of patients</u>
Peterborough and Huntingdonshire	23
Rutland	5
Stamford	36
Northamptonshire	7
South Kesteven Rural District	13
TOTAL	<u>84</u>

The total number of visits made to the Clinic was 345.

Cervical Cytology Clinic

This was the second year of operation of this clinic at Barn Hill and the number of patients availing themselves of the facility were:

	<u>No. of patients</u>
Stamford	208
South Kesteven Rural District	40
Peterborough and Huntingdonshire	50
Northamptonshire	23
Rutland	44
	<u>365</u>

Included in this figure are fifty-four repeat smears.

Two unsuspected cases of early cancer of the cervix were discovered in the 208 who came from the Borough and all had the requisite treatment by the Consultant Gynaecologist. Additionally nineteen were discovered to require treatment for other gynaecological conditions.

The Clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons by either Dr. A. Whiteley or the writer. The demand for the service has increased and at present there is a waiting list. However, every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum.

Children's Department

The Area Child Care Officer, Mrs. E. W. Avison, and her staff who for so long shared the Barn Hill House premises have settled in their new accommodation in St. George's Street (Telephone No: Stamford 3011). From here the full range of Children's Department services are provided. The Play Group which was started late in 1967 operated throughout the year at the Methodist Hall, Barn Hill on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon. The average attendance of children was ten. These children are drawn from all those needing special help with family management or where there is some degree of child deprivation. It has been enormously successful. It is largely staffed by volunteers from the W.R.V.S. and the Women's Institutes for whose services we are most grateful. Once a month there is a "get together" with the mothers, an occasion which is made both educational and sociable.

Mrs. Wells, S.R.N. who runs the group has this to say:

"The Group now merits the title Group. It has form. The children seem to recognise and welcome the fact that they belong and are accepted in the group; their very evident astonishment at our interest in them and willingness to spend time with them has been replaced by a delighted certainty of their reception. They acknowledge and conform to a very few well defined rules; these rules have been made not so much to impose order on the group, but as a basic social training for everyday life. These rules will be tested, not to illustrate any would be orderliness or efficiency in the supervision, but to illustrate the complete lack of basic social training in the lives of the majority of our children. These rules are:-

1. Hands to be washed after using the lavatory - hands are much cleaner on departure than on arrival.
2. All sit round a table for drinks and biscuits. (There is rarely any snatching now - a natural development following from certain knowledge that there will be absolutely fair distribution).
3. Toys and equipment are respected and kept on their separate tables, e.g. the books are never left on the clay table and the older children enjoy correcting the younger children.

Acceptance of these rules has been gradual, but the children now comply with evident pleasure and apparent understanding of the reason for them.

Group behaviour

"This has altered radically from playing for very short periods in isolated units with occasional acts of aggression, to sustained

harmonious play. The harmony is naturally now and again disrupted, but hardly more so than would be expected among more fortunate children.

Language and communications

"One of the outstanding features of the playgroup in its early stages was the lack of the right sort of noise. There was plenty of crying for the usual reasons, but very little chatter between the children. They were capable of demonstrating liking - by putting an arm around another child and dislike by thumping another child; very few other sentiments were expressed. In the past eight months they have begun to communicate verbally, their vocabulary has increased at a rate that is considered much more rapid than is normal at their ages - although some are still very limited, others are beginning to catch up with their peers.

Imagination

"The lives and experiences of these children are so limited and so lacking in stimulation that their imaginations are very undeveloped; e.g. two stalwart boxes, of the orange box type were found in the kitchen. They were carried into our room and we awaited developments - they were ignored. It was suggested that we might drive out in the two "cars" - still no reaction; they were then turned over and we played energetic jumping off games. Since then, in gradual stages, these boxes have been in turn trains, racing cars, aeroplanes and ships in which they have sailed the seven seas. Here is high adventure.

"The girls now play together in the Wendy house - day to day family activities such as eating and putting to bed are acted out in a normally grossly exaggerated form. Possessiveness is less determined, they are beginning to recognise the needs of others, there is some progress towards sharing.

Concentration

"Now that the children have learnt to play and their interest has been aroused they very evidently concentrate for much longer periods. Some of the older children now finish a simple jig-saw puzzle or a clay model, and a few of them will listen enthralled to a short story. (Listening to stories was an entirely new experience for them all). Although story time is still enjoyed or even participated in by as many as had been hoped for; nevertheless, this development of powers of concentration plus an introduction to the written word and a very simple pattern of form and orderliness, must help them to settle in more easily at Primary School. Before going on to brief individual reports, the benefit derived from the

playgroup by the mothers, and explicitly acknowledged by them, must be mentioned.

"They are able for one morning a week to "get away from it". During this brief respite from their children they meet and discuss with other mothers, problems that are mutual. They are both stimulated and helped by the talks that have been organised for them. From their observations of the children at play, and the children's response to play, they are beginning to appreciate the value of play. For many of the mothers and children the weekly playgroup is the only break in the dreary, monotonous week".

The Family Advice Centre is open on Fridays at St. George's Street from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. to deal with all questions or social problems involving children and young persons.

It is most satisfying that the cordial rapport between the staffs of the Medical, Nursing, Home Help, Mental Welfare and that of the Children's Department has continued undimmed and as valued as when they all shared Barn Hill House together.

(b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Tuberculosis

At Stamford Hospital
Weekly Clinics

Tuesdays from 2 p.m.
Fridays from 2 p.m.

Under Dr. G. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician,
Peterborough Group of Hospitals.

Venereal Disease

Clinics are held at the Out Patients' Department, Memorial
Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>
Mondays	5.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Tuesdays	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.
Wednesdays	5.30 - 6.30 p.m.	Thursdays	4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

(c) PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE BOARD

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public
Health Laboratory at Peterborough under the direction of Dr. E. J.
Glenacross. They include brucellosis and antibiotic examinations of
milk, water samples and general bacteriological work. I would like
to acknowledge gratefully the ever generous help, advice and courtesy
which has been extended to us at all times by the Director and his
Staff.

(d) PROVIDED BY THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Family Planning Clinic

Now in its ninth year it provides a service to the married who
wish to plan their families and to the engaged wishing pre-marital
advice. Instruction is given on methods of contraception and advice
on sexual problems, sterility, and infertility.

Twenty-two sessions were held during the year and a total of
158 patients attended, of whom seventy-five were new to Family Planning
Clinics. In addition thirty who had been attending clinics in other
areas transferred to this one. Of the seventy-five new patients,
thirty-nine adopted the oral contraceptive and the remainder mechanical
methods.

The Clinic is run by Dr. M. G. Orrell and she gave 314 consultations during the year.

Cervical smears are also taken as part of the medical examination where these are considered advisable.

Mrs. Achurch of Ryhall and her band of voluntary workers have given every assistance and a keen appreciation of their help is voiced.

The Sessions are held:

First Tuesday in each month	2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Third Tuesday in each month	7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Patients must have appointments for their first attendance and application should be made to Mrs. J. Achurch, Honorary Secretary, Local Branch of the Family Planning Association, c/o Barn Hill House, Stamford.

Telephone No. Stamford 2906.

(e) PROVIDED BY THE HOME OFFICE

Probation Service

Mr. Perrett Cole, Probation Officer attends Barn Hill House on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The responsibility for the supply and distribution of water is vested in the South Lincolnshire Water Board on which the Borough is represented by two elected members.

There has since its inception been a very close liaison between the Health Department and that Authority with exchange of information on all matters of mutual interest such as water sampling results, cutting off of water in the case of non-payment of water rates and constructional work on the one hand and examination of employees including Widal testing on the other. A further indication of this is the Report from Mr. N. A. Eagles, Engineer to the Board for which I am most grateful and which follows:

"The total quantity of water supplied to the Borough of Stamford during the year was 305,824,000 gallons which is an increase of 17,471,000 gallons or approximately 6 per cent above the 1967 figure. The average daily consumption was 836,000 gallons.

"Regular weekly sampling of water for bacteriological analysis was continued throughout the year. Owing to the prolonged heavy rainfall which occurred during the Summer and Autumn months considerable trouble was experienced with bacteriological pollution at several of the sources supplying the area, particularly at Ryhall Road, Northfields (Green Lane) and Bonomill and Pilsgate.

"Immediate steps were taken to increase the level of chlorination and this increase was continued to the end of the year. The source at Northfields (Green Lane) was taken out of service in August and has now been abandoned as a source works. The pollution experienced at the other sources cleared reasonably quickly with the exception of Ryhall Road where the pollution has continued with varying intensity despite the high level of chlorination and almost continuous pumping to waste. Very little has been put into the supply from this source since July.

"The length and diameter of new mains laid in the Borough during the year are shown in the following table:

Foundry Road	88 yds.	-	2"
Casterton Road	632 yds.	-	3"
	50 yds.	-	4"
Welland Street	75 yds.	-	3"
Totals:	88 yds.	-	2" diameter
	707 yds.	-	3" diameter
	50 yds.	-	4" diameter

"The net increase of domestic services during the year was 176".

The figure of water consumption has now risen, it will be seen, to just over 63 gallons per head per day and is commensurate with the rising standards of housing and living generally.

Chemical analysis of the main sources of supply showed these to be unchanged from previous years. There is no fluorine content in them. Commenting upon them the Analyst says:

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is exceedingly hard in character but the content of mineral constituents is not excessive. Organic quality is very satisfactory.

"From the aspect of the chemical analysis and apart from the disadvantageous degree of hardness the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes".

The waters are extremely hard as the figure of nearly 400 parts per million indicate. This is hardly surprising derived as they are from the deep reservoirs in the Lincolnshire Limestone. Whatever derogatory comments the housewife may make as she eyes the scum line in the sink this characteristic removes all dangers from plumbosolvency. Nevertheless those who use domestic water softening installations should beware of the possible effects of the treated water on lead pipes and never use water from the hot tap for culinary purposes.

There were no new additions or alterations to the sewage disposal arrangements this year but plans were in the hands of the Consulting Engineers for the design of a completely new Sewage Disposal Works for the Borough. This will be situated near the River Welland but well away Eastward of the town. Meanwhile work has proceeded well on the scheme for sewerage the village of Uffington and conveying the crude sewage to the present Stamford works for treatment. This arrangement by agreement, illustrates how harmonious two neighbouring Authorities can be in assisting one another and their respective rate payers.

Other works which are under consideration are a new sewer to serve the Tinwell Road, West Street district and a further reconstruction of the outfall sewer from the trunk sewer head in St. Leonard's Street to the disposal works.

The final effluents from the works in spite of all the acknowledged overloading have remained reasonably satisfactory.

Sludge composting with straw has continued and there has been little malodour since this system was introduced over three years ago. The final product has considerable manurial value and also produces valuable top cover for refuse tips if required.

The new Public Conveniences in Red Lion Square were completed by the end of the year and set a high standard. There are numerous novel features including a hot air hand dryer, recessed ablution bowls and a design to reduce the dangers of ill treatment to a minimum.

A weekly house door refuse collection is given and disposal is by controlled tipping. At the start of the year this was to Uffington but this relatively convenient spot was filled up soon afterwards and the long haul to the new site at Yarwell of some twelve miles for the return journey had to commence. It is lucky, however, that there is a site available at all as more and more Authorities are having difficulty in obtaining them and are having to turn their thoughts to Central Destructor plants. With the long hauls now necessary it is essential to have good compression of the loads to avoid carrying cubic yards of air in empty tins, boxes and other containers on each journey. Full rodent control measures are taken.

It was decided this year to charge for the collection of refuse from business premises. The scale of charges to be based on the amount to be collected weekly, as large, medium or small.

The paper and cardboard salvage scheme works well with the continuing co-operation of the Public and the collectors ensuring its success. This service can never hope to be a financial asset but is more than justified by the exclusion of highly inflammable and easily wind blown material from the tipping surface and also in saving freighter space. During the year 209 tons 7 cwt. and 2 quarters was collected and the price obtained was £1827 4s. 3d.

The cleansing services maintained the same high standard throughout the Borough, for which it has become well known far outside its boundaries. It also resounds to the credit of those who use its shops and its roads, that they use aesthetic discretion in getting rid of their litter.

The Borough Swimming Baths are a greatly appreciated amenity for the Town and a wide surrounding area. Every encouragement is given to all school children to learn the art of swimming. The depth of the pool is insufficient to allow spring board diving in safety. Whilst financial stringencies have led to the abandonment of the very expensive project of a completely new heated indoor pool, there are

now plans for what should be a much more economical and ingenious alternative. This would consist of covering the big and small pools and a reorganisation of the dressing cubicles. At a later stage heating and a new chlorination and circulation plant would be installed. It is a grand idea and it is to be hoped will not be too long in coming to fruition. It would have to be a joint effort between the Council and voluntary effort, but Mrs. Smith and her Swimming Baths Appeals Committee have fully accepted the challenge and are making valiant efforts to do their part. It would be such a tremendous asset to have this healthy exercise available for twelve months in the year instead of around four as at present.

On the opening day with a water temperature of 58°F. instead of the 48°F. of the previous there were 252 swimmers and 44 spectators. As a result of the wretched weather during most of the season the attendance was down by 13,300 from 1967, to a total of 44,546, and of these 5682 were spectators only and did not brave the chilly waters and similarly 5600 were school children who had little option!!

A Minuteman Resuscitator is available at all times and is regularly serviced to maintain its at-peak efficiency.

Judging from the school minor ailments clinic the incidence of Verruca (Plantar Wart) was up this year. Any individual affected should refrain from bathing or keep the foot covered either by wearing a swimming shoe or a waterproof plaster to avoid spreading it to others by implantation. The same concern for others should also be shown by those with Athlete's Foot infection.

Sixty samples of water from the Corporation's Baths were taken for bacteriological examinations. These remained satisfactory throughout as also did the Hydrogen Ion concentrations. Additionally ninety-six samples were taken from the heated High School pool, forty-eight from the heated Hospital swimming pool and thirty-four from the more spartan Stamford School one, though an effort was made to heat it using a solar system. It will be seen that it is considered necessary to give the closest possible attention to the hygienic and bacteriological states of all the Public and Club baths in the Town. On the slightest fall from Grace a full investigation is carried out and the cause rectified with a minimum of delay.

Many schools seem to be imbued with the status symbol of having their own swimming baths. It is to be hoped that they will have the technical "know-how" and personnel available to meet the required hygiene and maintenance standards subsequently. This can be no mean problem, necessitating constant and meticulous supervision if the bacterial counts are to be kept down to an acceptable level. Collecting the money to build one is only a preliminary.

With St. George's School so beautifully rehoused, what a disappointment it has been that the financial freeze has resulted in the postponement of the start of the new St. Gilbert of Sempringham School. Their present premises are outmoded and unsuitable.

Mortuary facilities have continued to be adequate and satisfactory under the arrangement made between the Council and the Stamford Hospital Management Committee for the use of the Hospital Mortuary in all cases of need, with suitable reimbursement by the Council.

Stamford has a Joint Burial Board and during the year there were 112 interments in the Borough Cemetery. The nearest crematorium is at Marholm near Peterborough and increasing use is made of it as an alternative to burial, as the figure of 106 from Stamford during the year testifies.

There were no instances of households being infested with vermin this year but there was a noticeable increase in the number of school age children discovered to have louse nits in the hair. Was this commensurate with the longer hair styles of the boys giving increased "cover" or maybe it was just a coincidence?

The problem of nuisance from dogs would appear to be solved best by educating their owners to be more discriminating than can be expected of the dogs themselves. Making unenforceable Bye-Laws is not a solution, asking still more of the Police and enforcement Officers or turning the members of the Public into common informers which is unthinkable. From the Health angle vulnerable Food Stuffs should be protected at all times, by those in possession of them, from chance contamination.

* * * *

At the conclusion of this Section I would like to thank Mr. R. Wall, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for all his generous co-operation throughout the year.

THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Infective Hepatitis	Dysentery	Paratyphoid Fever
0-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
3-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
4-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
5-	-	4	-	-	1	3	2	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	15	-	-	11	7	2	-	-

The total incidence of notifiable disease - excluding Tuberculosis was much lower than in the previous year being 36 compared with 366 in 1967 and 45 in 1966. The drop was due to the small number of measles after the epidemic of the previous year had accounted for the majority of children susceptible at that time. The measles vaccine became fully available this year and met with only a moderate response. How far this was due to the fact that this vaccine does occasion in many instances more reaction than that usually associated with other preventive vaccines in routine use for young children is still not clear.

Certain it is to be hoped that an acceptable vaccine will be available to stamp out the biennial prevalence of this disease which still exacts a heavy toll of unpleasant complications.

Thirteen years have now passed since there was a case of Poliomyelitis in the Town and what a triumph the oral vaccine has had in bringing this about and in annihilating this scourge. Though it is gratifying that 87.9 per cent have accepted the protection yet the aim must remain to make it 100 per cent. The equivalent figure for the County as a whole is 76.2 per cent.

It is twenty-three years since Diphtheria last raised its menacing head in the Borough and a new generation of mothers is arising who knoweth it not and therefore fear it less. Yet it could so easily return with all its pristine virulence if the defences are lowered. It remains vitally necessary for all parents to have their children protected in their early months of life and again at School entry if this immunity is to remain inviolate. Though the Borough's figure of 86.6 per cent of children protected is down compared with the 93.5 per cent of the previous year there is an explanation. In the Autumn it was decided to change the immunisation programme by giving the primary doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough at six, eight and twelve months, instead of at four, five, six and eighteen months. The new schedule gives equal protection with one less injection, but at the end of the year, showed a slight reduction statistically in those fully protected on that date. The average figure for the County was 81.0 per cent.

For many years past in this and other Annual Reports there have been appeals for a change in the list of notifiable disease to bring them into line with the current medical scene. The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations of 1968, give welcome effect to some of the desirable changes by removing Pneumonia, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Puerperal Pyrexia and Acute Rheumatism from the list. In their stead Leptospirosis (Weil's disease), Tetanus and Yellow Fever are added. It was just a pity Brucellosis was not thought worthy of a place also, as early warning of human involvement is as important in this disease as any other, so that the necessary measures in milk control can be taken forthwith.

However, having seen the plea for amendment largely answered, is it not overdue to reconsider the periods of exclusion - particularly from school - of patients with some of the commoner infectious diseases such as German Measles, Chicken Pox and ordinary Measles?

All Council employees who are liable to come into contact with rat contaminated water are given a card of precautions as an aid to avoiding Weil's disease. With the rat population higher than usual due to climatic reasons the advisability of being warned is more

compelling than ever. These warning cards are available at the Health Department to other than Corporation workers who may be at risk in similar situations.

During the year 234 from Stamford were vaccinated against Smallpox and also 22 from the surrounding villages. Of these 178 were vaccinated at the Barn Hill Clinic.

The number of new cases of Venereal Disease from the Borough attending the Peterborough Clinic was twenty and it is most regrettable that four of these were teenagers - the youngest being just sixteen. This adds its share to the National total which gives Venereal Disease contemporaneously the highest incidence of any communicable disease other than Measles and puts it in the epidemic category. Self-control and continence are the only true prophylactics against these diseases. These are not reactionary concepts of behaviour in spite of what some permissive sociologists would have us believe. May it be stressed so that there is no possible doubt about it that "The Pill" does not offer protection against this hazard of promiscuity.

TUBERCULOSIS

Four new cases of the Pulmonary type were recorded during the year but fortunately the non-pulmonary variety was not represented for the second year in succession. The incidence of Pulmonary Tubercle in 1967 was one fresh case.

Infection with active Tuberculosis is now comparatively rare compared with the days when it was known as the White Scourge - as a token of the frequency with which it was contracted and the fear in which it was held. Nonetheless there are still a considerable number of sufferers from the disease as is evidenced by the fact that there were 94 such patients - a drop of eight on the previous year - in attendance at the Local Chest Clinic. Of these one had a positive sputum and was therefore infectious at some time during the year. Death claimed two victims of the disease during the twelve months under review.

There was no common factor in the origin of infection of the four new cases but the constant surveillance of all patients and their contacts remain as vital a facet of control as ever. The regular attendance of our Health Visitor at the Chest Clinic allows for a valuable exchange of information between the Clinic Staff and her, to the great benefit of all concerned and in particular the patient.

The B.C.G. vaccination scheme for school children was continued. Protection was offered to 286 and of these 277 accepted and were Heaf tested. 231 were negative and given B.C.G. 22 were absent from the reading of the test. The remaining 24 were positive and later

had Chest X-rays but no active Tuberculosis was found.

A visit of the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board has been arranged for Stamford in early summer of next year. It is hoped that members of the public will take full advantage of the opportunity then afforded to have a free and confidential Chest X-ray, thus ensuring that they are not harbouring an unsuspected chest infection or other abnormality. With so many new hazards in Society, it is truly well to accept all the weapons available in the fight against the old.

TUBERCULOSIS

HOUSING

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Statistics of new houses erected in the Borough during 1968:

Built by Local Authority

Traditional Brick Houses	(3 bedrooms)	22
	Flats	51

Houses in course of erection at end of year 5

Built by Private Enterprise

Traditional Brick Houses (3 bedrooms) 181

Houses in course of erection at end of year 61

APPLICANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

(As supplied by the Housing Department at December, 1968)

Effective Housing List	180
Old Persons Dwelling Applicants	45
Miscellaneous Applicants	58

Since the commencement of the Council's Clearance of unfit houses programme in 1955, 187 houses have been dealt with, eleven of them during this year as follows:

Demolition Order	1
Closing Orders	9

Additionally one undertaking not to relet for human habitation was given. Following on the Housing Review of 1964, a further full appraisal was made in 1967. It was then established that on 31st December, of that year there was prima facie evidence of forty-eight unfit dwellings in the Borough, so thirty-seven remain to be dealt with now.

Whilst it may be claimed that there is no major slum clearance problem, there will nonetheless always be a programme as houses, like their occupants decline in their fitness and physical attributes and have to be treated appropriately.

Progress was made in the preparation for rebuilding on the site of the High Street St. Martin's Clearance area and by the end of the year building was well under way. It is ardently believed that this

redevelopment will become a worthy successor to what has always been regarded as one of the finest street scenes in the Country, so needless to say, it has been a great challenge to all concerned and naturally will be expensive. Five families will find homes here.

The Council completed seventy-three new dwellings - fifty-one of these being flats - in 1968, and at the year's end a further five were under construction - a dramatic fall from the seventy-three of the previous year. This was the consequence of the failure of the Government to allow the Edinburgh Road scheme for the erection of a further forty-five houses to proceed. A post script to this is that after the contractors had left the site and the production line had been disrupted the decision was changed and the green light given, too late for either efficiency or economy.

Private enterprise however, did much better, producing a further one hundred and eighty-one - an increase of fifty-seven over the previous year and there were a further sixty-one in course of construction at the year's end.

During the year the Edmonds Close Group of Warden supervised dwellings were fully occupied and these forty-six homes for the elderly marked a big and happy step forward in meeting the physical, social and environmental needs of our Older Citizens. The selection of tenants was made with great care and after much deliberation and with one exception all have settled down happily and already a community spirit is becoming evident. On this must the ultimate success of this or any other grouped scheme depend. Much can be done for each other by kindly goodwill and co-operation between the members of the group. Always in the background is the helping hand of the Warden and her husband.

Together with the pioneer group at Clare Close where social integration has been the keynote from the start, these two great schemes have brought immeasurable physical benefit to many and removed the spectre of loneliness and social isolation from many also.

Last year the writer praised the reconstruction of the Sixteenth Century forerunner of the modern group scheme in the Burghley Almshouses marrying modern amenities to the old world atmosphere. It was no surprise to learn that they had been given an award by the Civic Trust for the scheme and the metamorphosis.

The former Council owned Caravan Site on the Empingham Road, having been cleared, has now been the subject of planning permission for a hundred houses and work on this is expected to start in the Spring of 1969. Eventually it will link the Tinwell and Empingham Roads and should greatly improve this approach to the Town from the Oakham direction.

Though the basic yardstick for the allocation of houses is the length of time on the housing list, the fullest consideration is given to applicants who warrant priority on medical or social grounds. A searching investigation of the facts and a personal visit by the writer is a sine qua non for all such special cases. I continue to receive the fullest co-operation from the applicant's family doctor in arriving at a decision on the need, the urgency and the type of accommodation most appropriate to the circumstances. The writer acknowledges the support and help which is always forthcoming from the Housing Manager and the Housing Committee in this humanitarian work of helping those in dire need and distress, whilst always mindful of the rights of the many others who are standing in the queue for housing.

The same procedures are adopted for those already in Council properties who for equally valid socio-medical reasons require a transfer to a different type of Council property. During the year there were nineteen such applications, nine on health grounds and ten on socio-medical.

Every encouragement is given to the owners of suitable premises to apply for Improvement Grants to bring them up to acceptable present day standards and give them a further lease of useful life at a fraction of the cost of building from scratch. In furtherance of this policy, the Council awarded four Discretionary and twenty-three Standard Grants during the year.

Due probably to the high rainfall and humidity in the latter part of the year there have been frequent complaints of damp houses both Council and privately owned. In most cases this was ascribed to condensation. The prevalent vogue of washable plastic and high gloss paints and also washable wallpapers which owe their character to their non-absorbent surfaces play a considerable part in the phenomenon. Whilst ventilation via open windows is highly desirable to combat it few would attempt it in frost, snow and low temperature conditions. It is further aggravated where a house is an inherently cold one, is situated in an exposed position or where there are solid walls and other contributory constructional factors. Recourse is often seen to paraffin heaters which only increase the problem as is understandable when the burning of one gallon of paraffin produces ten pints of water vapour. From a purely health standpoint it makes little difference whether a house is damp from wet penetrating from outside or water vapour condensing from within.

There are still ten Council houses without bathrooms, in addition to the numerous ones without wash hand basins in which recourse has to be made to the kitchen sinks to serve the double purpose. There must be some traumatic and dramatic domestic incidents around it.

A recent survey just published based on a sample census in 1966, estimates that in the Borough there are five hundred and forty homes with no fixed bath and four hundred and seventy without hot water systems. There is obviously plenty of scope for seeking Improvement Grants and maybe the new Grant proposals being more generous, will stimulate the demand.

It has been decided to produce a pilot scheme for a block of approximately thirty of the 390 older type Council Houses to bring them up to the twelve point Parker Morris fitness standard, together with the provision of some form of space heating. If the proposals are implemented this will mark a step of very great significance in bringing these dwellings up to modern standards and increase the happiness of their tenants, as well as increasing the value of the properties themselves.

The Council's Housing List following on the annual routine review fell from the previous year's figure of 406 to 283. The demand for Elderly Persons accommodation remained proportionately much the same at one in five; in spite of the full occupancy of the new Grouped Dwelling Scheme. Longevity associated with locomotory and circulatory defects is a social fact which has to be accepted in all housing schemes and plans. There are increasing demands for two bedroomed ground floor accommodation as the elderly still like to feel they can give hospitality to younger members of the family and why shouldn't they?

Having achieved the completion of 1091 houses and flats since the last War the Council had the thousand mark reached when No. 28, Edward Road was occupied, and this proud record of achievement deserves a worthy mention.

No case of Statutory Overcrowding arose during the year.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Municipal Abattoir with its usual quota of patching repairs managed to complete another year in spite of criticism levelled at it by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as well as those much nearer home. By no stretch of imagination can it be regarded as satisfactory and must inevitably have a limited further life, a fact which is now generally accepted. The consultations between all concerned - the Ministry, the Contractor, the Council and not least the customers have taken place. Undoubtedly, a solution will be found guaranteeing adequate fully inspected meat supplies to the Borough.

The invaluable work of assessment and supervision of all Food Premises by the Public Health Inspector has continued during the year and the back log of former years has now been cleared to the writer's satisfaction and relief. However, this is a continuing process as only by constant vigilance and help can food processors and handlers be assisted in maintaining the impeccable standards which hygiene and the public alike should demand. How they can be achieved in the case of open food on open market stalls exposed as they are to the wind, the elements and flying insects is hard to visualise.

The habit of bringing dogs into food premises whether on or off a lead has long been frowned upon. Legislation prohibiting the habit was considered undesirable and it was left to local public opinion. In helping to mould this the Council decided to make "Dog Notices" reading:

"In the interests of Food Hygiene you are requested not to bring your dog into this shop"

available to the owners or occupiers of all food businesses. The response was excellent with only one or two declining to exhibit it for fear presumably of hurting the dog's feelings or its owners, as I can think of no other cogent reason for their attitude.

Whilst our Health Department continues to play a major role in ensuring the hygienic integrity and the freedom from risk of contamination of the food which is offered to the purchasing public, the Food and Drugs Officer is concerned predominantly with the chemical and compositional quality of the foodstuffs and drugs, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

His duty is to ensure that "No person shall sell to the prejudice of the purchaser any article of food or any drug which is not of the nature, substance and quality of the article demanded". In pursuance of this duty samples are taken regularly and submitted for a full chemical and quantitative analysis to ensure that they are in fact what

they purport to be and that the customer is not being misled.

During the year the following forty-two samples were taken in the Borough:

Butter	3
Colour and flavour	2
Fish products	2
Marzipan	1
Meat Products	3
Milk	27
Sausages	2
Sweets	2

Mr. Hawley, Chief Inspector of Food and Drugs under the 1955 Act comments as follows:

"Butter

"Although Miss Renee Houston has said the English are fast becoming a people who cannot tell butter from margarine, allowance must be made for the fact that she speaks with a Scottish accent and may, perhaps, have her tongue in her cheek. In a more factual context, the Butter Regulations, 1966, define butter explicitly. It must be made exclusively from cows' milk, with or without salt and with or without certain permitted colours, all of vegetable origin. It must contain a minimum of 80 per cent butterfat and not more than 2 per cent of other milk solids. It must not contain preservatives (other than salt) and not more than 16 per cent of water. It may, however contain certain permitted antioxidants under the Antioxidants in Food Regulations, 1966. Antioxidants are complex chemical substances which.....

".....delay, retard or prevent the development of rancidity or other flavour deterioration in edible fats....."

.....and since most fats become rancid on exposure to air and light, the addition of antioxidants is permitted by Law to extend the "Shelf-life" of these essential foods. Antioxidants may not, however, be added to any food intended mainly for babies or young children. The three samples were all found to be satisfactory and contained an average of 15.64 per cent water.

"Sausages

"Just as Melton Mowbray is famous for meat pies and Cheddar for cheese, so Lincolnshire has always had a name for the excellence of its sausages. A sausage, as everyone knows, is simply minced meat

mixed with bread (or cereal) and seasoning; but like all simple things it can vary greatly in its make-up. During the last War, as sausages came to contain more bread than meat, the government intervened and ordered that a beef sausage should contain not less than 50 per cent meat and a pork sausage not less than 65 per cent. When War-time controls were relaxed, some butchers reverted to their former inferior recipes, but in 1955, the Chief Inspector was instructed to inform all butchers in Kesteven that the recently-repealed war-time standards would continue to be observed. It is a tribute to the trade as a whole that since that time only three butchers have been prosecuted for selling sausages seriously deficient in meat.

"As from 31st May, 1969, under new Regulations, the meat content of sausages is to be such that not less than half shall be lean meat. This should meet the frequently-voiced complaint of canteen staffs that sausages yield far too much dripping, since the offending uncooked sausage contains far too much fat. Generally speaking however, the Kesteven pork sausage maintains the high reputation of Lincolnshire sausages."

Milk received a lion share of the sampling programme and all twenty-seven samples exceeded the statutory minimum of 3 per cent butter fat and 8.5 per cent of other solids. In the case of Channel Island milk the butter fat must be in excess, however, of 4 per cent. This latter continues to sell well and for those who like the extra butter fat has many attractions. It has become a convention in the "trade" to use gold caps for bottles of Channel Island milk but this is not a statutory requirement.

Apart from routine sampling under the Act several complaints concerning foodstuffs were investigated:

For example "A Stamford resident complained of finding a copper rivet head - approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter in a wrapped sweet purchased in the Town. As the rivet head was deeply embedded in the sweet and as the wrapper bore the name and address of a London firm of sweet manufacturers the matter was taken up with them and with the Chief Public Health Inspector for the London Borough of Barking. The manufacturers were very concerned and explained that they used up-to-date metal detectors in the sweet production line to obviate (so they imagined) this sort of incident. The Chief Public Health Inspector for Barking confirmed all this and gave the firm his personal commendation. In these circumstances, it was decided to caution the firm in writing rather than institute legal proceedings. The complainant was perfectly happy with this outcome, because, from the start, she had been reluctant to become involved in a "Court case".

"Another rather unusual Stamford complaint concerned a disproportionate amount of "gristle" in Pork Sausages purchased from a Leicester butcher who has a stall in Stamford Market. Two samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and in neither could he detect an abnormal amount of "gristle". What he did find was that the sausage meat was very coarsely cut (what is known in the trade as a Cumberland "cut" because coarse-cut sausages are a speciality of that County); and the sausages in question should have been cooked appreciably longer than ordinary Lincolnshire sausages. Both samples contained well over 70 per cent of meat and were, in the Analyst's opinion, "very good sausages with a high proportion of lean meat".

"Improved public taste and greater all-round affluence maintain the demand for better-quality rather than cheaper products. It is very noticeable that young working wives spend much less time searching for the Best Buy than their mothers and grandmothers; the well-known branded products rather than 'This Week's Bargain' is what they prefer. Nevertheless, all must be protected and we do our best to see that the interests of young and old alike are served with equal impartiality".

The demands for ever increasing food production has met with a full response from the farming community but to safeguard the crops, a corresponding increase in herbicides and pesticides have been produced. Some of these are persistent alike in the soil and in human body fat. As part of a National Survey thirty-two samples of farinaceous food were examined for pesticidal residues. Of these twenty-three showed evidence of contamination with residues such as aldrin, dieldrin, epoxide, heptachlor, BHC and DDT.

Mr. Hawley comments:

"Many of the samples contain more than one contaminant, but none contained a concentration anywhere near the danger limit laid down by the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture. Those best qualified to know have said that one part per million of these toxic substances is the "safe" maximum and, therefore, it was gratifying to find the residues discovered in the twenty-three samples to be well below this level. In fact, the average contamination was less than one-tenth of this "safe" maximum".

Whilst remaining ever vigilant let us accept the opinion of the dietetic experts and continue to lean upon the "Staff of Life" without fear or reservation. The writer only wishes the Pure Water League were equally convinced on the fluoride issue and they could then enjoy a bread and water diet uninhibitedly.

As milk is of such paramount importance to the young and the elderly every effort is made to protect it from contamination; not only from the hazards referred to above but also from infection with organisms transferable from cows to man. Chief amongst these is that causing undulant fever and only a pasteurised milk ensures immunity from the risk of this - and it is a very nasty complaint to be afflicted with as well as being difficult of diagnosis. Let no one take the risk when it can be avoided.

Enormous trouble, expense and technology goes into the production, pasteurisation and retailing of safe clean milk. Then on the last stage of its long journey resting in its container, it is left on the doorsteps and forecourts throughout the land unprotected from the beaks of birds and the attention of dogs who know nought of food hygiene but simply see a "likely spot"!

FOOD POISONING

No case of Food Poisoning was reported or discovered during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

In no instance during the year was it necessary to remove, against their will, any person to Hospital or Welfare Accommodation under the provisions of this Act.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Council give financial support to the Central Council for Health Education and full use is made of all the propaganda material which such membership brings.

With the shorter working week and retirement now the prerogative of the many and not the fortunate few, it is becoming abundantly clear that preparation for retirement and the satisfying use of leisure is a field for Education and Guidance.

A cot death was mentioned in the death returns this year. It is salutary to give a thought to the fact that in 1966, the last full year's statistics available, of 864 children under five who died accidentally, 464 were due to choking and suffocation; 154 were Burns and Scalds; 83 from falls and 42 due to poisoning with the remainder from a wide variety of causes. The lesson in these figures is an obvious one.

With floods of information from the Radio and the Television and advice filling pages in the magazines and daily papers on all manner of Health Topics it would appear that the Public are not uninformed on Health hazards and their prevention. The problem is much more one of persuading the validity for themselves of the knowledge they possess.

The short term gratification and the easy way out at the time are always so much more appealing than self denial for a long term benefit.

Locally, the major event of the year in this sphere was a Dental Health Exhibition and Publicity Drive. Mr. B. Parsons, L.D.S., School Dental Surgeon reports on this:

"In the period September 16th to the 21st, a thorough Dental Health Campaign was held in Stamford for the first time.

"The aim of this campaign was to attempt to educate the children of Stamford Schools in the value and principles of maintaining good oral hygiene.

"A Nationwide statistical analysis shows that in this twentieth Century the state of the Nation's Teeth is rather poor despite the increase in the communication media's use of the "gleaming smile".

"For most people, dental consciousness extends no farther than the smile, as a result of which the state of back teeth is rather neglected. "That the eye does not see.....

"Statistics show that at five years of age, eight out of every ten children have some degree of decay, and this increases with each year of age. Obviously this trend must be reduced and this can only be done by conducting campaigns of this sort.

"The Dental Health Campaign took the form of an exhibition both static and mobile depending on the position of the School.

"The exhibition covered four main aspects:

1. Diet as a preventive measure
2. Use of fresh fruit as a cleansing medium
3. Mechanical cleaning in tooth brushes
4. Regular dental visits

"Examples of the advisable foods and fruit were shown alongside the examples of inadvisable foods.

"Correct methods of toothbrushing were shown, and demonstrations with the electric tooth brushes were made.

"The reasons for regular routine dental checks were graphically illustrated with models showing the process of decay and its effect upon the living tooth.

"Types of filling, orthodontic appliances (braces) etc. were shown and children were asked to give their ideas of how decay develops etc.

"A series of films were shown to each class before its visit to the Exhibition and questions were asked on what children had learned from the films.

"For the young children, there were two very entertaining and instructive cartoons and for older children there were films showing the difference between primitive diet and the decay producing diet of the civilised world.

"These older children were shown in more detail the process of dental decay and just how simply it may be treated by the dentist, and kept to a minimum by regular cleansing.

"The campaign was helped very greatly by many firms producing Nuts, Crisps, Toothpaste, Electric toothbrushes and ordinary toothbrushes. These firms gave liberal supplies of free samples. The Apple and Pear Council also supplied sufficient apples to provide each child with one.

"Campaigns of this sort must be repeated at three year intervals so that children who were not at School at the time of the previous campaign can be reached, and so that those who attended this campaign may be reminded of the dangers of decay, for in three years time they will surely need to be reminded."

Approximately 3,500 children attended the campaign during the two weeks that it was held - one in the Borough and one in Bourne.

"Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax,
Of Cabbages and Kings"

Alice through the Looking Glass.

Frequent demands are made on the Health Department for assistance in solving problems of a socio-medical nature. There were fifteen of them during the year embracing a wide variety of human distress. In each instance a full investigation was made into all the medical and social aspects. One cannot help but be struck by the pathos of elderly persons living alone in unsuitable surroundings with which they are unable to cope. It is one thing while relatively fit to cope with a large and inconvenient house with many stairs, which only has its familiarity to commend it, and quite another to cope with it at seventy or eighty years of age with arthritic changes, deteriorating sight and other disabilities with which to contend. These persons are not so ill as to need Hospital treatment. They are still too independent to be forced into Welfare accommodation and yet are a constant source of anxiety to those who know of and care about their existence. This is a problem which the Grouped Elderly Persons Bungalow scheme can do so much to help, providing the person concerned is not so handicapped as to make unacceptable demands upon the Warden and the Group. Alas there are considerably more candidates than accommodation available to meet their needs.

Typical of these was the Octogenarian lady living alone and without relatives in the area. She had had several severe abdominal operations within the preceding year which had made her frail. Additionally she was substantially crippled with arthritis. She felt the cold and certainly the house in which she lived gave her ample opportunity to feel its rigours for rarely can so many doors have been fitted into the available wall space. She slept in the small living room. Twice having been taken ill she was found on the floor by neighbours. In spite of these physical limitations she was of independent spirit and could cope adequately given small convenient accommodation and supportive help such as a Grouped Scheme and a Home Help could provide. Such cases present a Social emergency and a *crie de coeur* for help. In one instance after another the disabilities of advancing age manifested themselves in limiting mobility, making stair climbing painful and in many cases frankly dangerous. Ground floor accommodation and that alone be it in bungalow or flatlet afford any advantageous change or solution to their physical and environmental housing needs. Old age is now the destination of the many instead of the experience of just a few and all social planning must take a full account of the fact and the attendant problems.

The dilemma frequently presents itself of what to do for the

elderly person who can no longer fend for himself or herself at home. So often at this stage the disability is partly physical ill health, partly mental ill health and partly social mismanagement and muddle. It is sometimes difficult to decide whether such a patient should be admitted to a Geriatric Ward, a Psychiatric Ward or to Welfare Accommodation as at first sight and within the home not one of the three appears entirely appropriate. It would be an enormous advantage if there were an assessment unit based on the Hospital to which such patients could be admitted. Such a unit to be run jointly by the Geriatrician and the Psychiatrist with the Welfare Officer also having some rights of entry would quite quickly establish which speciality could help the patient most effectively and the appropriate transfer made. It has been tried and it works.

The Meals on Wheels Service is run by the W.R.V.S. and it continued throughout the year to provide meals to fifty-four persons, to many of them twice a week, who would otherwise have difficulty in obtaining a nutritious hot cooked meal regularly. In all 6674 meals were delivered to the homes of the recipients. This service has now become so important that there are ever increasing demands upon it. There is now a waiting list of persons requesting it and it is even found necessary to institute searching inquiries into each application in order to assess the need.

The Meals are drawn in the main from the Central School Kitchen but to avoid hardship to those who have come to rely upon them, Messrs. Blackstones have most public spiritedly produced the meal during school holiday periods.

Another and most rewarding domiciliary service is that of the Home Helps. What their assistance has meant to many an elderly or incapacitated person or in a domestic crisis is beyond praise. It has repeatedly provided the answer when the only alternative would have been residential care at much expense and has permitted the recipients to remain in their own home which is where they are always happiest to be. Whatever the financial stringencies may curtail it is to be hoped that this service will be spared, so that the humanitarian work it does will continue unabated.

This year saw the fruition and opening of the Centre at the King's Mill for Mentally Handicapped Children. This has been the result of hard work by the Stamford Society and has owed so much to the dedication of Mrs. L. R. Holt, Honorary Secretary of that organisation, as well as the unremitting zeal of their Appeals Committee and the generosity of the Public as a whole for the entire project has been the result of voluntary effort. Whilst its function is primarily for the recreational and social support of the families which have a mentally handicapped child, the Centre might be used perhaps by other charitable organisations by mutual agreement

between them and the Trustees.

Whilst the "Mills of God grind slowly" this very ancient old mill demonstrates that others can also do so to a very fine purpose.

When a couple have been married and shared each others joys and sorrows and companionship for many years, bereavement by the death of a spouse can and does cause a crisis of the first magnitude for the survivor and it is quite possible to die of a broken heart. It should be our endeavour and that of all the social services to rally round and do all that is possible to bridge the gap of loneliness and sorrow not just for a week or two but for a long period. It must be remembered that in some twenty per cent of instances there are no surviving children to bring comfort and solace, so where can they look for help even if they were articulate enough to voice their need?

The Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of the Elderly and that for the Welfare of Children at Risk continued to meet regularly. Their membership is wide based including Representatives of the Ministry of Social Security, the District Welfare Officer, the Meals on Wheels organiser, the Home Help organiser, the Health Visitor, the Housing Officers, the Consultant Physician to the Peterborough Hospital Group, a family doctor, the Matron of the chronic sick and elderly hospital at St. George's and the writer. Twenty-nine cases from the Borough were reviewed during the year. In addition, the Children's Officer, the Mental Welfare Officer, a Probation Officer, the School Welfare Officer, and the Headmaster of Stubton Hall Educationally Subnormal School sit on the Children's Co-ordinating Committee.

These Committees have fostered the closest possible co-operation between those engaged in work in their respective spheres not only round the table but also at all other times, for the members have become friends and not just faceless people. If such co-operation were universal throughout the Country there would have been no need of or justification for the Seebohm strictures and recommendations.

The Council's booklet "A Guide to Services for the Elderly" was brought up to date and reprinted this year. I would wish to thank the Manager of the Local Offices of the Ministry of Social Security who has continued to include one of these with the pension documents of those reaching retirement age.

The Writer has been honoured with the Chairmanship of the Disablement Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Employment and Productivity, and this has permitted him yet more insight into the employment problems of the physically incapacitated and what can be done to help in a practical fashion.

Founder Membership of the Post Graduate Medical Education Committee of the Peterborough Hospital Group has been a privilege and afforded a chance to put forward the needs of Stamford and the Public Health Service in this sphere.

The National Health Service has Come of Age and it and the Welfare State have brought great benefits in their train. No longer does the spectre of financial disaster loom over a household where the wage earner or other member is sick. Medical treatment is available to all freely - except for the prescription charge! Never have all the potentials for physical health been greater and our children so fit and the financial provisions for those in need more generous. The doors of opportunity appear to be open wide to all - and yet all is far from well in our affluent and well insured society.

Venereal disease as an index of promiscuous sexual relations inside and outside of marriage is on the increase and our own figures reflect this.

Vandalism is rife and ubiquitous and a local example was the new toilets in Red Lion Square. Great thought was put into these to make them worthy of the Town and yet within a few weeks of their opening allegedly vandal proof paper dispensers had been levered off the walls. Holes were drilled through the wooden walls of the water closet sections, tiles were peeled off and the hand driers sabotaged. The situation was no better on the women's side. The incinerator was damaged, the wooden walls were scorched as though in attempted arson and the extremely heavy top was levered off the night store heater. It would appear Tarzan and his Mate had visited Town!

Attempted suicide has increased by six times in six years and probably excessive drug taking is the highest single cause of admission to acute medical beds. Never were the demands for psychiatric help heavier and the consumption of tranquillisers and anti-depressants greater.

The Abortion Act which permits the termination of pregnancy for many reasons which were previously not countenanced became law in April and the rate of abortions is already over 35,000 per year compared with a 6,000 peak of former years. London is now the Abortion Capital of the World and doctors, who subscribed to the Hippocratic Oath to reverence and maintain life are called upon to extinguish it with ever increasing frequency.

There were over 51,000 divorces in 1968 and yet the new Divorce Bill likely to be enacted shortly will make it infinitely easier and will sever the tap-root of marriage as we have known it in the past.

Is there just a ray of hope that the tide of permissiveness is

turning for at least the Euthanasia Bill has been thrown out?

Capital murders were 139 in 1966, 168 and 1967 and nearly 200 in 1968. The Chief Constable of Lincolnshire reports an increase of 13 per cent in crime to a total of 19,322 cases this year.

In the face of all this the deluge of new legislation continues. Eighty new Laws and one thousand, five hundred new Regulations went on the Statute Book making one hundred and sixty-five new Laws and three thousand five hundred new Regulations in two years, all in our name and presumably for our benefit. There is certainly a greatly increased productivity over the Law Givers of Mount Sinai.

Turning to the Health Service itself, it is evident that everyone is not satisfied as two million have made arrangements for private treatment outside it in an already short staffed situation. There is growing up a Service within a Service.

It is against this background that the National Health Service, the Social and Welfare Services and the Local Government Services will be reviewed. On the Health Service front the writer would hope to see a closer integration between the three branches of the medical profession with the Local Authorities medical staff taking a greater part in clinical work, for at a time of alleged medical manpower shortage can many be afforded to go on practising emasculated medicine.

Returning to the main theme it is against this background that Youth is in Rebellion. It is difficult often to understand and easy to criticise their spontaneous and so wide-spread out-bursts but they cannot be ignored or lightly dismissed. One is forced to the conclusion that it stems from insecurity amidst the ruins of the moral standards and beliefs of previous generations and from disillusionment. Are they not looking for a living Faith and a really worthwhile Ideal as the Materialism in which they have been nurtured is they find as brittle and unreliable as the Pound Sterling on which it is based and which within a generation has drifted down to 3s. 6d. in value.

Who then will give them the true inspiration for our Youth have all the potential of greatness if they are shown the way? For true health can only be claimed when healthy minds are clothed in healthy bodies and dwell together within a healthy social community. These factors ultimately are indivisible. Meanwhile they find their outlet in the Marches and Demonstrations of Protest and in Drug taking.

In this ancient Borough we continue to be spared the worst of all these manifestations of this Age of Violence for its traditions and heritage are rooted in over a thousand years of History. This fortunately bestows a stability when times are difficult. The Council make every effort to provide what is most desirable of the new

commensurate with the available resources, whilst maintaining all that is best of the old.

Fortunate are our Youth who spend their impressionable years in this atmosphere of quiet beauty - as also are their elders to have services both statutory and voluntary of the quality which they possess. The response from both age groups in helping others is excellent.

Many of the young people through the agencies of the Action Groups of the Stamford and High Schools bring practical help to the elderly in their homes and also companionship to the lonely. The Voluntary Emergency Service of the Youth Clubs also plays an active part in taking assistance where it is required. The Old People's Welfare Committee continues its humanitarian work through the many organisations represented upon it, culminating in the Christmas Parcel distribution to the elderly living alone. This year 406 were delivered on the Sunday prior to Christmas Day.

In drawing this report and review to a close I wish to express my appreciation of the unremitting efforts of Mr. Fox, Public Health Inspector, in searching out and arranging for the eradication of avoidable Hygiene lapses and Health hazards in many spheres such as Food Premises, Shops and Offices and the air itself, to mention but a few. This he has accomplished with aplomb and self-evident results - assisted by Mr. Hibbett, Pupil Public Health Inspector.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Alderman Gray and the other members of the Health Committee for their sustained interest in and their help and encouragement of the work of the Department which makes it so much more rewarding.

I acknowledge gratefully the cheerful efficiency of Miss Wade, also her understanding and tact when dealing with members of the public and her assistance in producing this report.

In conclusion I wish to thank heartily the Town Clerk, Mr. Bedford, for his advice always so readily given on request and his guiding hand amidst the welter of social legislation to which I have already alluded - "and every statut coude he pleyen by rote".

I also want to acknowledge gratefully the full co-operation of my other colleagues on the Staff and in conclusion thank Dr. Mackay for so kindly standing by for me during my absences.

H. E. Smith

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector
for the Year 1968

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Stamford

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report in respect of the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department during 1968.

1. HOUSING

Slum Clearance

During the year further progress was made with slum clearance. Early in the year a survey was carried out in order to assess the number of dwellings which appeared to be unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense. A total of forty-eight properties were listed and it was decided that these dwellings should be dealt with in the next two years.

However, this scheme received a set-back when the Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that the Council could not be allocated any houses in the 1968/69 Building Programme. Although the Ministry's decision was reversed some six months later when the go-ahead was given for forty-five new dwellings, the delay had caused a break in the Council's Building Programme and it will be several months before building operations are functioning smoothly again.

Formal action was taken in respect of sixteen unfit dwellings. The results were as follows:

Number of Houses in respect of which a Demolition

Order was made 1

Number of Houses in respect of which a Closing

Order was made 9

Number of Houses in respect of which an Undertaking

not to re-let was given 1

Number of Houses in respect of which only a "Notice

of Time and Place" has been served ... 5

One property which had been the subject of an "Undertaking not to relet" during 1967, was repaired and improved to the statutory standard and the Undertaking was therefore cancelled.

Improvement Grants

Every encouragement is given to property owners who show an interest in improving their houses with the aid of an improvement grant.

During the year the occupants of two dwellings made representations to the Council in accordance with Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964, asking that the owner of their dwellings should be required to improve the dwellings. After the Council had served a preliminary notice on the owner, the owner decided to instal the amenities and applied for a Standard Grant.

There were twenty-eight applications for improvement grants during the year, compared with twenty-nine during the previous year. Details are given below:

(a) Discretionary Grants

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-------|
| (1) | Number of applications approved during the year | .... | 4 |
| (2) | Number rejected | .... | Nil |
| (3) | Total cash value of Grants approved during the year | | £1275 |

(b) Standard Grants

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-------|
| (1) | Number of applications approved during the year | ... | 23 |
| (2) | Number rejected | .... | 1* |
| (3) | Total cash value of Grants approved during the year | | £3083 |

* One application for a standard grant was refused because the majority of the work had been completed before the application was received by the Council.

Moveable Dwellings

One new caravan site for a single caravan was approved during the year. There are now three small caravan sites in the Borough.

2. SWIMMING BATHS

The Municipal Open Air Swimming Baths were visited weekly during the swimming season and samples of water from each of the pools were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough for bacteriological examination.

In addition to the Municipal Swimming Baths, there were three other "semi-public" swimming baths in use in the Borough during the year.

The Stamford School have an outdoor pool to which some heating is applied by a system utilising solar heat, the High School have a heated indoor pool, and the Stamford Hospital have a heated outdoor pool. These pools were visited each week while in use, and samples of the water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Each time samples are collected the water is also tested to ascertain the "free" and "residual" chlorine content and the "pH" value. The information from these tests is invaluable and ensures that the pool operators can be given the correct advice should the bacteriological standard be unsatisfactory.

Details of the samples taken are as follows:

Swimming Bath	Inspections	No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination
Stamford High School	48	96
Stamford School	17	34
Borough Council	20	60
Stamford Hospital	24	48

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The Municipal Abattoir was again kept very busy during the year. The total number of animals killed (14,056) established a new record throughout.

Fifteen local butchers from the Borough and the surrounding districts use the Abattoir. Judging by the absence of complaints, they are all satisfied customers which is in no small measure due to the ready co-operation of the slaughtering contractor and his staff.

During the year negotiations and discussions were carried on with all the interested parties in an attempt to come to some arrangement whereby the totally inadequate Abattoir could be replaced by premises of adequate size and modern construction, but at the end of the year no progress had been made. The present premises are "worn-out" and are a constant source of anxiety to the Public Health Department. This is one instance where "euthanasia" is advocated by the Public Health Department and if suitable modern premises are not forthcoming, there appears to be no alternative but to close the

premises.

Although the quality of the majority of the animals slaughtered at the Abattoir was of a very high standard, the work of carrying out a detailed examination of every carcase in order to ensure that the public receives only sound disease-free meat is a time consuming and responsible task. It is only in the minority of cases that a diseased condition renders the whole of a carcase and its organs unfit for human consumption. In most cases condemnation of an organ or part of the carcase is all that is required. The Inspector must not only detect abnormalities but he must be able to determine their precise significance and so decide what must be rejected and what he can safely release for sale. Whilst carrying out meat inspection it has been noted that the incidence of abscess formation in pigs is increasing. This condition, known as "Tail-Bite Pyaemia" is associated with certain forms of intensive pig farming, and after seeing the condition of some of the pigs that have come in for slaughter, one feels that there is an urgent need for legislation to provide some control over the more intensive forms of animal husbandry.

During the year seven bovine carcases were found to be affected with *Cysticercus bovis*. This cyst is the larval stage of a tapeworm, known as *Taenia Saginata*, which infests the intestines of man. The cysts are small semi-transparent bladders containing a serous fluid and vary in size from that of a pin's head to that of a pea according to the stage of development. In each case only odd cysts were found so all the carcases were detained until they had been refrigerated for fourteen days at a temperature not exceeding 14°F. This treatment "kills" any undetected cysts remaining in the carcase.

A similar condition known as *Cysticercus ovis* was detected in twenty-nine sheep during the year. This parasite is not transmissible to man so no action was taken except to condemn the affected organs (usually the heart). *Cysticercus ovis* is the larval stage of the tapeworm *Taenia Ovis* which infests the intestines of the dog.

TABLE 1

	CATTLE		CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
	Excluding Cows	Cows			
No. of Animals Inspected	1348	1	1	7084	5622
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
No. of Whole carcasses and Offals condemned	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	260
Percentage of Animals affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-	4.62%
<u>DISEASES OTHER THAN T.B.</u>					
No. of Whole Carcasses and Offals condemned	-	1	-	11	23
No. of Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	430	-	-	487	1205
Percentage of Animals with diseases other than T.B.	31.89%	100%	-	7.0%	21.86%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Animals affected with Cysticercosis	0.52%	-	-	-	-

TABLE 2

DETAILS OF CONDEMNED MEAT SHOWN IN
TABLE 1

MEAT CONDEMNED	BEEF	MUTTON	PORK	VEAL
Whole carcasses and offals	1	11	23	-
Heads	18	-	304	-
Tongues	14	-	304	-
Pairs of lungs	220	347	1399	-
Livers	186	73	140	-
Plucks (complete)	-	-	61	-
Fats (Mesenteric)	3	-	131	-
Spleens	4	-	35	-
Hearts	10	8	101	-
Kidneys	19	1	231	-
Forequarters (part)	-	5	22	-
Hindquarters (part)	3	1	24	-
Other parts of Carcasses	31	15	7	-

Food Inspection

During the year a total of 7,792 items of tinned food were surrendered and disposed of after they had been inspected and judged to be unfit. A large proportion of these items were considered to be unfit because the cans were badly dented.

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at Slaughterhouse	9	19	21
2. Canned meats		4	108
3. Other Canned Foods	2	13	14
TOTAL	12	17	31

Food Hygiene

The task of ensuring satisfactory standards of hygiene in the handling of food in all the food premises in the town received a considerable amount of attention during the year. However, it was not

possible to spend as much time on this vital work as one would wish.

A total of thirty-eight informal notices requiring improvements to food premises were served. In the majority of cases this work has been completed or is in the process of being carried out.

This service is an important part of what is now commonly called "consumer protection" and is one which is of considerable benefit to the housewife. Unfortunately the majority of housewives seem largely apathetic and take very little active part in the fight for improved hygiene. Although in recent years there have been great improvements in food premises in terms of structure and equipment there has not always been a comparable advance in handling methods and personal hygiene. The housewife could bring about improvements much more quickly than the health department simply by withdrawing her custom from shops which do not observe proper standards of hygiene.

Twelve complaints regarding the unsatisfactory condition of food were investigated during the year. In no case was formal action taken, although two cases were of a serious nature and would no doubt have been the subject of a prosecution, but for certain facts.

The first incident concerned the finding of a cigarette end in a cornet of ice cream. Although there appeared to be no doubt that the cigarette end was in the cornet at the time of sale, the complainant was not prepared to appear as a witness in any court proceedings. The second incident was a complaint about the presence of snails in a jar of jam. Five snails were present in a 1 lb. jar of blackcurrant jam. The snails were approximately the same size as the currants and were probably the result of the use of mechanised picking of the fruit. As the jam had been manufactured in Bulgaria no formal action was possible.

During the year samples of dairy cream and ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below:

DAIRY CREAM

	Satisfactory	Cannot be considered satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
No. of Samples	3	6	9

The bacteriological quality of cream has not received the same attention as milk and ice cream and there are no minimum bacteriological standards or regulations regarding heat-treatment procedures. Provisional standards of keeping quality, based on the methylene blue reduction test were recommended for cream by a working party of the Public Health Laboratory Service in 1958 and the cream samples were examined in accordance with these recommendations. The results indicate that a large proportion of the dairy cream sold is of a low bacteriological standard. There is no doubt that the public is entitled to a safer cream because cream of low quality is a hazard to public health. The results emphasize the need for improved legislation and for the introduction of minimum bacteriological standards for cream. In the meantime, routine sampling will illustrate to the wholesaler and the retailer the need for care in the handling and sale of a highly perishable food.

ICE CREAM

	Provisional Grade 1	Provisional Grade 2	Provisional Grade 3	Provisional Grade 4
No. of Samples	9	2	3	2

When sampling Ice Cream the majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2. All the samples which failed to reach the standard were samples of unwrapped ice cream. Follow-up visits were made to the premises concerned which resulted in improvements in the methods used.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

Milk and Dairies

I have been notified of the following results of samples taken by the County Public Health Inspector in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	7	7	-

4. PEST CONTROL

The system whereby rodent control work in the Borough is carried out by means of a contract with a Pest Control Company continued to operate satisfactorily.

After a lapse of a number of years a rodent control treatment of the sewers was carried out twice during the year:

	From 18th to the 25th January, 1968.	From 10th to the 17th October, 1968.
No. of manholes treated with Warfarin	59	43
No. found to be infested	41	24
No. of baits laid	141	81

During the year 77 complaints were received regarding pests, details of which are as follows:

Rats	54	Rabbits	1
Mice	2	Squirrels	1
Wasps	19		

A number of complaints were also received regarding the nuisance caused by feral pigeons. These pigeons foul the streets and footpaths and deface property with their droppings. There is also a potential hazard from the pigeon droppings from which the psittacosis virus has been recovered as well as other harmful bacteria. Attempts are to be made to reduce the number of pigeons by trapping.

5. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 and 1968.

There were only five complaints of smoke nuisance from industrial premises during the year. Several complaints were made regarding the nuisance caused by garden bonfires.

The most serious complaint was in respect of acid soot emissions from a brickworks. These premises are controlled under the Alkali Works Regulation Act which is administered by the Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This acid soot emission problem is essentially tied up with the firing of continuous Belgian kilns with oil-slug injection methods of firing using medium fuel oils.

The acid soots result from the inefficient combustion of the oil and the deposition of sulphuric acid in the flue or stack on which soot particles collect and build up to form agglomerates. Sulphur present in the fuel gives rise during firing in the kiln to the production of SO_2 and SO_3 , and the SO_3 in the flue gases, at temperatures below the acid dewpoint, combines with the water vapour present to form sulphuric acid. Local condensation of this acid occurs when the flue gases come into contact with surfaces at temperatures below the acid dewpoint temperature.

A Committee composed of members of the National Federation of Clay Industries and representatives of the Alkali Inspectorate have been studying this problem on a National level. In November, the Committee's report was approved by the National Federation of Clay Industries. The Company owning the brickworks at Stamford have undertaken to comply with the recommendations made in the report and it is hoped that this action will remedy the nuisance.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Work carried out under this Act included the revisiting of premises which had been inspected the previous year, and the preliminary inspection of a further eighty premises. Seventy per cent of the total number of registered premises have been inspected in the last two years and it is anticipated that the remainder will be inspected during the next year.

There were no prosecutions instituted during the year. On three occasions when conditions were extremely sub-standard, the facts were considered by the Public Health Committee. However, in view of the prompt action by the owners which resulted in the closing of one shop and the extensive modernisation of the other two premises, no formal action was taken.

If any person employed to work in premises to which the Act applies is involved in an accident on the premises and is disabled from doing his usual work for more than three days, the employer is required to notify the local authority. Five accidents were reported during the year. These were investigated and in only one case was further action considered necessary. As a result of informal action, plans have been prepared for structural alterations to the premises concerned, which will reduce the risk of accidents.

Some indication of the extent of the work carried out during the year is given in the following table:

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS FOUND AND WHICH WERE THE SUBJECT OF
INFORMAL NOTICES

<u>Section</u>	<u>No. of Contraventions found</u>		<u>Section</u>	<u>No. of Contraventions found</u>	
4	Cleanliness	84	12	Clothing accommodation	3
5	Overcrowding	7	13	Sitting facilities	2
6	Temperature	25	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	NIL
7	Ventilation	36	15	Eating facilities	2
8	Lighting	71	16	Floors, passages and stairs	61
9	Sanitary conveniences	19	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	4
10	Washing facilities	33	24	First Aid	25
11	Supply of drinking water	6	-	Other matters	33
				<u>TOTAL</u>	411

The following table shows the number of premises registered in the Borough under the Act, during the year, the total number of premises registered to date and the number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year:

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. of premises registered during the Year</u>	<u>No. of registered premises at end of Year</u>	<u>No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the Year</u>
Offices	3	55	19
Retail Shops	7	116	45
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	9	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	20	13
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	11	200	80

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to premises registered under the Act: 193.

7. GENERAL STATISTICS

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	155	Market	41
Improvement Grants	51	Licensed Premises	24
Public Health Nuisances	34	Smoke Nuisances	22
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	193	Land Charges	69
Food Hygiene	203	Swimming Baths	109
Food Inspection	22	Pest Control	27
Moveable Dwellings	6	Water Supply	11
Meat Inspection	332	Infectious diseases	54
Slaughterhouse	12	Drainage	32
Factories	13	Miscellaneous	29

NOTICES SERVED

Informal

Public Health Acts	19	Clean Air Act	-
Food Hygiene Regulations	38	Factories Acts	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	66	Noise Abatement	1

Formal

Public Health Act, 1936,
(Section 24)

7

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One further property was licensed in accordance with the Act. There are now two licensed premises, both of which are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

The single registration under the Act, which has been in operation

for several years was cancelled during the year because the Company concerned are no longer using materials to which the Act applies.

8. STAFF

The smooth and efficient manner in which the Public Health Department has dealt with the problems that have occurred during the year, is I think, a good indication of the enthusiasm of the Staff. Mr. N. Hibbett, the Pupil Public Health Inspector, now in his final year of training, has been able to accept increasing responsibility and has carried out all his duties in an efficient manner, Miss Wade has undertaken all the secretarial duties in an exemplary manner and Mr. Coulson has ensured the smooth functioning of the Abattoir.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman (Alderman G. W. Gray) and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and confidence, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. H. Ellis Smith) for his friendly encouragement and advice, the Town Clerk (Mr. H. Bedford) for his sound counsel on many occasions, and my other colleagues for their ready co-operation and assistance at all times.

Public Health Inspector.

Town Hall,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire.

May, 1969.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968

8

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which section 1, 2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	8	2	1	NIL
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	11	2	NIL
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	80	13	3	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	1	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	2	-	1	NIL

There were no Outworkers listed during the year.

