[Report 1969] / Medical Officer of Health, Stevenage U.D.C.

Contributors

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Mr Muston

2. Mr Morley Parry

B.415 A.421

A.405

3. Mr Perry





THE HEALTH OF STEVENAGE



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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRCT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December, 1969 Chairman of the Council: J. Boyd.

Vice-Chairman of the Council: K. C. McKechnie

Chairman of the Public Health Committee: D. Devonald

Members of the Public Health Committee:

J. Boyd J. N. Cockerton, J.P.

Mrs. W.A.Boyd, C.C. K.J.W. Fisher

D. Adams

Mrs. B.M. Goble

D. C. Burr

F. Scholfield

Medical Officer of Health: J. D. HALL, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. Chief Public Health Inspector: R.V. LAMEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Doputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.E. FLINTOFF, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PREFACE

Public Health Department,
Southgate House,
Stevenage.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage Urban District Council.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1969.

The population again increased in 1969 but as in the previous year this was mainly due to the movement into the area and not to an increased number of births. Although the birth rate for Stevenage was only very slightly lower than 1968, it was still in fact lower than for both England and Wales as a whole and the remainder of the county. No maternal deaths occurred.

There was a slight increase in the number of deaths of children under the age of one year. As in the previous year the higher proportion of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. However, in contrast to the two previous years the rates associated with infancy were in general rather higher than the national average, the remainder of the county and the division as a whole, although not statistically significant. There was a slight increase in illegitimate births.

The total number of deaths from all causes was again slightly higher than the previous year, the commonest cause of death still being diseases of the heart and blood vessels and the second commonest cancer. Whereas in 1968 there was a significant increase in the number of deaths in the over 75 age group, in 1969 there has in fact been a decrease, with an increase in deaths in the 64 - 75 age group.

No serious outbreaks of epidemic disease occurred and the state of the public health in Stevenage remains satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to all the public health and health and welfare staff in Stevenage, including those concerned with administration for their help and cooperation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Telephone No.: Hitchin 50411.

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) General Statistics

Area (in acres)	5,895
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population	
Mid-1969	61,710
Number of inhabited houses at 1.4.70	26,249
Rateable Value at 1.4.69	£4,108,262
Net Product at 1d. rate - estimated Penny Rate	
1969/70	£16,800

(b) Physical and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for mid 1969 revealed an overall increase of 1,340. The natural increase of population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths for the whole year was 1,866.

The employment position in Stevenage is most satisfactory. Few are employed outside the area. The population is largely concerned in vehicle manufacturing and electro-engineering. The majority are engaged in professional and scientific services, and others are employed in the distributive trades, construction building and civil engineering, and other manufacturing industries.

STEVENAGE VITAL STATISTICS 1969			
LIVE BIRTHS:	Males	Females	TOTAL
Total	627	572	1,199
Legitimate	594	531	1,125
Illegitimate	33	41	74
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	19.4
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population		1 -	14.2
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	- /		6.0
STILL-BIRTHS:			
Total	6	7	13
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	11
Total live and still-births	633	579	1,212
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:			1 10
Total	9	11	20
Legitimate	8	10	18
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	16.0.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		-	27.0
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000			
total live births)	-	-	15.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per			
1,000 total live births)	-	-	13.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1			
wook combined per 1,000 total live and still-births).	-	-	23.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION	187		1
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS	181	152	333
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	- 10	5.4
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	12.7
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,866
Overall increase of population _ 3 -	-	-	1,340

CAUSES OF DEATH AT	THE AN INTERPRETOR OF THE
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		THE URBAN	UBAN DISTRICT	RICT OF	STEVENAGE	NAGE							
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B15(2) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM,	M	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
OESOPHAGUS	E4	-	1	ı	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
B19(3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM,	M	2	1	1	ı	1	1	ı	1	1	-	4	1
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	1	1								-			
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	4	V	1	1	ı	1	ı	1	1	-	ı		1
319(11) OTHER MALIGNANT	N	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	m	3	4	-
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B20 BENICK & UNSPECIFIED	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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CARRIED FORWARD:-	B31 INFLUENZA	B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	B28 ISCHARMIC HEART DISEASE	B27 HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	B26 CHRONIC RHBUMATIC HEART DISEASE	B46(4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM ETC.	B24 MENINGITIS	B23 ANAEMIAS	B46(1) OTHER ENDOCRINE ETC. DISEASES	B21 DIABRES MELLITUS	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD:-	CAUSE OF DEATH S
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TOTAL ALL CAUSES	BE49 SUICIDE AND SELF-	BE48 ALLOTHER ACCIDENTS	BE47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL DEFINED CONDITIONS	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD:-	ation Hirths	CAUSE OF DEATH
E .	中国	甲昌	দার	カば	中国	PFES	Sex
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POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1969 Stevenage U.D.C.	North Hertfor shire Division		Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	61,710	151,870		903,390	48,826,800
Live Births (Crude) Live Births (Corrected)	19.4 14.2	18.3		15.8 14.9	16.3 16.3
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	5.4	8.3		9.1	11.9
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	12.7	ne.		10.4	11.9
Infective & Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but		44.44			
including Syphillis and other	0.02	0.05			
V.D.	0.03	0.05			*
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	0.01	0.01	3		0.01
Other Forms All Forms	0.00	0.00	3-	0.63	0.01
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs.	0.42	0.53	3-	1.95	0.20
Other	1.07	1.37	3	1.77	1.90
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.04	0.06		1.32	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2.46	4.07		2.17	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.5	0.91		1.27	-
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.34		0.07	0.19
Infantile Mortality	17.0	18.0		13.6	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality	15.0	12.1		10.0	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality	13.0	10.3		9.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality	23.0	20.2	ale la c	20.0	23.0
Still-Births	11.0	9.9		10.9	13.0

^{*} Not available.

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1969

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents a relatively small basis for comparative purposes. Population of the North Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered sufficiently large for valid statistical deductions to be made, and for this purpose the table giving the overall picture of the vital statistics also includes similar statistics for the Division as a whole for comparison with each individual district.

Briefly, from a divisional point of view all the rates may be considered satisfactory. The infant mortality rate slightly exceeds the remainder of Hertfordshire but not England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate was higher than for the remainder of the county and the country, and the population of the Division increased during 1969 by 3,320, natural increase being 1,567. The continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to migration into the area rather than to any other factor.

LIVE BIRTHS:	Males	Females	TOTAL
Total	1,458	1,432	2,890
Legitimate	1,362	1,321	2,683
Illegitimate	96	111	207
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected)per 1,000 population	-	-	18.3
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	-
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live		An A-Latin	
births	-	-	7.2
STILL-BIRTHS:			
Total	16	13	29
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	10.0
Total live and still-births	1,474	1,445	2,919
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:			
Total	27	25	52
Legitimate	25	21	46
Illegitimate	2	4	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live birt	hs -	-	15.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live			
births	-	-	2.07
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks pe	r		
1,000 total live births).	-	- 1	12.1
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 we	ek		
per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	10.3
Perinatal mortality rate(still-births and deaths			
under 1 week combined per 1,000 total li	ve		
and still-births	-	-	20.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:			
Number of deaths	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	676	647	0.34
TOTAL DEATHS:	010	647	1,323
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.4
Death Rate (corrected) Natural increase of population		1000	1 567
Overall increase of population			1,567
Overall increase of population			3,320

PACE SOFTSTEAMS MATTY JAROUSIVED

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that
the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents
the population of said for nomperative purposes. Population of the Worth
Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered
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In continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to my citer factor.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN STEVENAGE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children - Section 22 - Stevenage

Ante-Natal Booking Clincs

The completion of the attachment of midwives to groups of general practitioners made ante-natal booking sessions at some clinics unnecessary and ante-natal cases were seen at general practitioners' surgeries.

ATTENDANCES:	No. of patients who attended 1969	No. of attendances
Stevenage G.P. Surgeries	972	6,176

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

In 1969 attendances were 30% lower than in 1968. Ante-natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation exercises but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Clinic	No. of Attendances
Stevenago	458

Family Planning Clinic

Family planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin, Bedford Road - Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)

Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)

Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included.

Three hundred and eighteen new patients attended during the year and a total of 3,168 patients attended. The highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

Family Planning contd.

187 doctor sessions were held for General Birth Control and 39 I.U.D. sessions. Oral contraception was the most used method.

Letchworth, Nevells Road, Health Centre. - Monday evening (Single doctor session)

208 new patients attended during the year and a total of 1,383 patients attended.

The highest number of new patients came within the same age groups as the Hitchin and Stevenage clinics.

Stevenage Family Centre - Tuesday afternoon (Troble Doctor Session)
Wednesday morning (Troble Doctor Session)
Thursday evening (Troble Doctor Session)
Friday morning (Troble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

None hundred and thirty one new patients attended during the year and a total of 8,168 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method. Again the highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

532 doctor sessions were hold for General Birth Control.

At all clinics cervical cytology smears were taken routinely, the numbers being

Hitchin - 575 none positive Stevenage - 973 one positive Letchworth - 260 none positive

in the are grown first, at a stage and 25-29 a close december.

Infant Welfare Clinics

County Health Centre, Southgate, Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Stevenage. Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Tuesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Friday 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Dr. A. Derola Health Visitor Health Visitor Dr. E.McClean Health Visitor Health Visitor

Infant Welfare Centre, 27 High Street, Stevenage.

Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. Friday 2-4 p.m.

Dr. K.P. Baylos Health Visitor

Lodge Farm Health Annexe, off Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage

Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m.

Dr. A. Derola Health Visitor Health Visitor Dr.E. McClean Health Visitor

Peartree Health Annexe, off Hydean Way, Stevenage. Tuosday & Wodnesday 2-4 p.m.

Dr. A. Dorola

Infant Welfare Centre, St. Peter's Monday 2-4 p.m. Church Hall, Broadwater, Friday 2-4 p.m. Stevenage.

Health Visitor Dr. K.P. Bayles

Trotts Hill Clinic, Wisden Road, Alternative Wednesdays Stevenage.

2-4 p.m.

Dr. F. Moynihan.

Clinic	Children Born in 1969	Children Born in 1968	Children Born in 1964-67	No. of attendances.
Stevenage	1,091	406	472	13,335

The attendance at these clinics has decreased by 1.8% in 1969.

CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT

Children born in	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965 & over
Stevenage	3	16	15	7	38

A new Child Health clinic was opened at Trotts Hill Infants School in Stevenage in July 1969.

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs 5½lb. or less at birth. Observations on the risks of prematurity are included elsewhere in the discussion on divisional vital statistics.

The incidence of premature births again increased during 1969.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1969

					S	TEVEN!	AGE			3.50	1 100	tat	
And the same		Born A	livo	St	illbi:	rths	1 100		d und days	er		o surv	
District	At Homo	In Hosp.	To- tal	At Home	In Hosp	To-	Number removed to Hosp. after birth	At	In Hosp	To- tal	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Born in Hosp.	
Stevenage	7	3 Twins 56	66	0	4	4	2	1	6	7	6	53	

Day Nurseries - North Herts.

	Category	No. on Registe
1.	Children of Widows or Widowers	1
2.	Children of Unmarried Mothers	12
3.	Children of deserted wives or husbands	20
4.	Children of parents in prison	Nil
5.	Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	1
6.	Temporary cases, for example, mothers's illness or confinement	3
7.	Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help	2
8.	Children of parents coming within the "Essential Service categories for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required).	
9.		100 mm
10.	Children living in bad housing conditions	Nil
10.	Children of families where there was a risk of break-up	
	in family	Nil

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December 1969 was 41.

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

The development of the domiciliary midwifery service to include hospital deliveries has not advanced during the year.

Guthrie Testing for Phenylketonuria

From the 1st October 1969 the laboratory work involved in screening infants born in this area for phenylketonuria by the Guthrie Test was taken over by the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The Guthrie blood test has replaced phenistix testing, and the midwives are now responsible for collection of blood samples.

During the year 26 pupil midwives were placed with the 7 training midwives in the Division.

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse/midwives continued during 1969.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car-purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users."

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - STEVENAGE

	1969
Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	5,283
Home Condition Reports for Hospitals	181
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	553
Deliveries - Home	425
Deliveries - Hospital	758
Total - Live and Stillbirths	1,212
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	51

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - STEVENAGE

Thirteen health visitors were employed in Stevenage during 1969 with the assistance of six State Registered Nurses who attended school and infant welfare clinic sessions.

The Health Visitors continued to give talks on Health Education illustrated by films and film strips.

Health Visiting

Child Welfare	Visits	17,773
Aged	Visits	1,407
Others	Visits	3,216
School Inspections	Sessions	972
Maternity & Child Wolfare	Sessions	860

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25 - STEVENAGE

The staff of the home nursing service in the division at 31st December 1969, consisted of ten district nurse/midwives, five midwives, three district nurses and one state enrolled nurse. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1969. It will be seen that they made 16,889 visits to 772 patients; 43 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 11,577 occasions; 68 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.

HOME NURSING

Classification	No. of cases attended	No. of visits	
Medical Surgical Tuberculosis Others	586 160 3 23	13,329 3,452 66 42	
TOTALS	772	16,889	
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	335	11,577	
Children included above who were under 5 or less	14	138	

There has been a general increase during the year in the number of visits paid with a slight decrease in the number of patients attended.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION - SECTION 26

In view of the introduction of the use of the computer no details of vaccination and immunisation figures are included in this report.

It is of interest to note, however, that in the first completed year of measles vaccination only 5.6% of the population have required to be vaccinated.

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27 - NORTH HERTS.

Number of patients convoyed Number of Journeys	66,783
Total Milcago	441,483
Details of Journeys	
Accidents	1,752
Sudden Illness	704
Romovals	63,558
Maternity	769

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly surplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER CARE - SECTION 28

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delogated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and these organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting: Tuberculosis Households - Visits 321 B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits 55 Contacts - Visits 205 Non-Tuberculosis - Visits 98

New Cases:

Immigrants	5
Others	25
Contacts of New Cases	181
Heaf Negative	84
B.C.G. Vaccination	77

The figures reveal no significant change in incidence of tuberculosis during 1969.

VENEREAL DISEASES - NORTH HERTS

SPECIAL CLINIC	Number of New Cases in 1969					
	Syphilis Gonorrhoe				Other Venereal	
	Total all Venereal Conditions	&	Other	windly and o	Conditio	
Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge	43	Nil	Nil	5	38	
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	233	1 1	4	48	180	
TOTAL	276	1	4	53	218	

All venereal conditions increased by 11% in 1969.

It should be noted that a 13% increase over the previous year was reported in 1968 and 1969 reveals an additional increase of 11%. If to these local statistics the unknown number of cases attending Special Clinics elsewhere is added, the situation is not one which should be viewed with complacency. The increase in V.D. in young people is the responsibility of the whole community and its remedy is not within the field of medicine.

ROYSTON	STEVENAGE	LITCHWORTH	нттонти	CLINICS
133	621	337	336	No.1st Attend- ances
i)0.53 ii) 2	1).8 11)11	i) 3 ii) 3	i) 3	No.1st % Pop.at Attend- risk ances attend- ing
122 91.7	548 88.24	173 51.33	No. % 297 88.4	Negative
- 	el egar es	-	No. 3	Positive
thods none	2	iso le	No.	Unsatis- factory Specimens
0.75 105	0.32 137	ao ito	% No.	tis- ory mens
THE REAL PROPERTY.	State 201 (2011)	ton 41		Inflam- matory Changes
78.9 10	22.06 14	12.16	34.2	am- ry ges
10	14	9	No.	Tricho- monas Vaginal
7.5	2.25	2.67	5.95	Tricho- monas Vaginalis
Equi we	10 1.61	1 0.29	No. %	Monilia
1	.61	.29		1: 1:
117.	w Ja	001261	- %	Susp- icious
blo s	Te Lo olides	d elfo		H
of all of	para para	saldo saldo	No. 1 %	Cell Irregul- arities

WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1969

Royston Letchworth Stevenage Hitchin Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m. Byery third Wednesday in the month a.m. Every Wednesday a.m. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.

continued satisfactorily although attendances did not warrant holding an extra session. This continues lower at Stevenage and Hitchin than in 1968. The Royston clinic, started in September 1968 interest in these clinics. to give cause for concern and perhaps a publicity campaign during the coming yar would renew public In 1969 attendances at the Cytology Clincs showed a slight increase at Letchworth but were

From a total of 1,427 no positivos were discovered.

Cervical Cytology continued:-

(i) Aged 20 and over (ii) Aged 30 and over

Population At Risk Womon (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient).

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080 (ii) 1,740	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260 (ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540 (ii) 7,900	Stevenago U.D.	(i) 16,200 (ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480 (ii) 7,950	Hitchin R.D.	(i) 8,560 (ii) 7,200
	TOTAL AT RISK	(i) 48,120 (ii) 39,000	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1949 - SECTION 47

The section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1969.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21 - 36

During 1969 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being nine men and forty-eight women. The position will not be eased by Government restrictions on new buildings and the situation has worserod.

BLIND WELFARE - NORTH HERTS

The number of blind persons on the register at 31st December 1969 was 240 and of partially sighted 117.

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wireless, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

_ 19 _

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959 - SECTIONS 25, 26 & 29 - NORTH HERTS

During 1969, 83 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 22 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealt with 549 mental health cases during 1969.

Training Contres

Junior Training Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Special Care Unit 12
General Unit 43
Nursery 14
TOTAL 69

Adult Training Centre, Leyden Road, Stevenage

Trainces on roll 1st January 1969 43
" " " 31st December 1969 61

10 Males
16 Females) joined the centre during 1969.

1 Male
7 Females) left the centre during 1969.

A hairdressing salon was opened at the training centre during 1969 with great success.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29

Number of Home Helps employed at 31.12.69 75 Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31.12.69 14

Mrs. J. Williams commenced August 1969 as full-time Clerk to the Home Help Service and Mrs. J. Hessey became a part-time Clerk in the Service, working 20 hours per week.

Night Sitter Service

Approval was given by the Social Welfare Sub-Committee on 8th September 1969 for Night Sitters to be paid at the same rate as home helps, (at present $5/5\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour) for a maximum of 4 nights per week and the householder to receive a maximum of 2 nights per week unless there are special circumstances.

This is a much more realistic rate of pay than the former 15/- per night and it has enabled a register of Night Sitters to be set up in the division, who are available at 24 hours notice. The Service has been used twice and one case is continuing in Stevenage at the present time.

- 20 -

Domestic Help Service contd.

GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

		No. of Cases	No. of hours given
1.	Maternity (including expectant mothers)	64	1,489
2.	Chronic sick: (a) Aged 65 plus (b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	468 35	50,034
3.	Others: Including: (a) Mental Health (b) Blind (c) Miscellaneous Acute cases Accidents	103	7,000
	TOTAL	670	58,523

69 per cent cases in 1969 were over 65 and 85 per cent total hours was given to this age group. 9 per cent were maternity absorbing only 2 per cent total hours.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service has undergone a certain amount of streamlining, and a selective medical system has now been introduced and satisfactorily established in this division. This system has not in any way reduced the scale of the school health service but channelled it into dealing in a different way with problems as they arise.

It is now possible for the headteachers to have specific consultation sessions with their school medical officer apart from routine medical examination periods. This extension of the service should be encouraged since it will promote a closer understanding of each others problems between the schools and the school health service. These arrangements have also greatly facilitated the discussion of problems as they arise.

School Health Service contd.

- Dr. F. E. Woodthorpe School Modical Officer reports:
- 1. Cleanliness: On the whole I found the standard of cleanliness quite high, there were the odd few children who appeared in rather grey underclothes.
- 2. Teeth: I have seen only few cases of dental caries, and most of these seem to be having dental treatment.
- 3. Skin: Seen very few plantar warts, the Health Visitors seem to deal with this problem very adequately. There are plenty of cases of eczema of hands, face, elbows, knees and I have seen about two cases of ichthyosis.
- 4. Warts: These seem to be quite common on the hands and more frequently in the boys, and also seem to occur in all age groups.
- 5. Eyes: Defects of vision seem to be very common between the ages of 9 13 years. Have picked up several cases of colour blindness again more so in the boys.
- 6. Hearing: Audiology clinics and general ear testing proves quite invaluable in school health work.
- 7. Nose & Throat: Nasal catarrh seems to be very common. There are also plenty of enlarged tensils to be seen and mouth breathers around the junior schools.
- 8. Dovelopment: There seems to be a lot of overweight children. The breakfasts of the juniors seems to be starchy coreals. The boys and girls of the Grammar and Secondary schools all seem on the whole to be tall and of big build.
- 9. Feet: Have seen very few corns or callosities.
- 10. Stability: With very few exceptions the children seem to be very happy at school, and a great many seem to prefer school to being at home. With mothers and fathers out at work home seems to be a shelter for eating and sleeping. The great majority of the toenagers seem to have very little in the way of hobbies at home, but this may be due to the pressure of school work for future examinations.
- 11. Abdomen: Except for the cases of undescended testes in the boys

 I have not found any abnormal abdomens. I have also been rather
 amazed that the incidence of hernia has been so uncommon.

School Health Service contd.

- Dr. A. Derola School Medical Officer reports:
- 1. Cleanliness: I find a high standard of personal hygiene among the children of 5 6 years old, with a few exceptions (children belonging to problem families).
- 2. <u>Infestation</u>: I have not seen any children with lice infestation.

 This is probably due to the thorough work of health visitors who inspect and exclude the children from school and see that treatment is carried out.
- 3. Teeth: High incidence of dental caries. Quite good attendance at dental clinics. It appears that fluoride is indicated. In cases of multiple caries, I advise parents to buy fluoride at local chemists (1 drop daily in a glass of water). This seems to have a beneficial effect.
- 4. Skin: Infantile eczema as in previous years. I have seen three cases of impetigo in the same school, but all were under treatment.

 One case of scabies (on hands and chest). Warts and athletes foot not infrequent. Occasional plantar warts.
- 5. Speech: Quite a number of school entrants with speech defects improve after the first school term and after about a year speech becomes normal. The true dyslalia case is not common.
- 6. Lymph Glands: I noticed palpable corvical lymph glands among school children. This was confined to certain schools only. I think it would be interesting to follow the pattern of distribution and cause of this seasonal (autumn and winter), symptomless, enlargement of cervical lymph glands.
- 7. Lungs: I came across about 5 cases of cystic fibrosis, aged from 5-15, all being under constant medical supervision and treatment, and make satisfactory school progress.
- 8. Hernia: Low incidence of hernia.
- 9. Orthopaedic: I have seen one case of typical "kissing patellae" condition in a 5 year old girl. She attends surgical follow up clinic. ? awaiting operation at the age of 6/7 (Roebuck Infants).

One bilateral Perthe's disease in a boy of 5 years old under treatment. Wears bilateral calipers and is making satisfactory progress.

I have seen at least 2 children with spina bifida (all surgically treated) attending normal school.

School Health Service contd.

Dr. A. Derola's reports

- 10. Posture: Rare incidence of mal posture among 5 year olds.
- 11. I have noticed a high incidence of nocturnal ensuresis. This causes great anxiety to parents and children.
- 12. A great number of overweight children among juniors and seniors mainly due to faulty diet and some due to compulsive eating.

TABLE I

Inspection of School Children 1969

Entrants Secondary	selective	725 49
	Secondary consultative	907
	special inspections re-inspections	243

Physical condition of Pupils inspected

Satisfactory

3,031

I am happy to record that the divisional education officer and the school heads have shown a ready appreciation of the current difficulties.

TABLE II

B.C.G. Vaccination - 11, 12 and 13 years and older school children:

Number of	children	offered	testing	and vaccination	2 715
Number of Percentag				if necessary	2,715 2,488 91.6%

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested 2.486

TABLE II contd.

Result of Test:

Number positive	172
Number negative	2,035
Number not ascertained	350
Percentage positive	6.9%
Percentago negativo	81.0%
Number vaccinated	2,035

Note: The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse re-actions to B.C.G. vaccinations were reported during the year.

The number of skin tests carried out during 1969 decreased by 511 and of vaccinations by 517.

TABLE III - NORTH HERTS

Audiometry

Number tested 380 Number with no loss 140

DETAILS OF EYE TESTING PROGRAMME 1969

Ago Group	Number Schools entered	Number Sessions	Number Tested		focts	No.referred to school ophthalm clinic
Entrants	47	85	2,205	251	11.3%	
8 - 11 yrs 12 -16 yrs.	24 25	121 131	7,070 7,330	246 765	3.4% 10.4%	
TOTALS	96	337	16,605	1262	7.6%	.278

It will be seen from the above statistics that of the 16,605 children tested, 7.6% were found to have defects.

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr.C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician - and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Drs. Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridgo Hospitals.

General Hospital Service

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin. Lister Hospital, Hitchin. Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Mental Hospital

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin.

Maternity Hospital Services

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin.

Chost Clinic

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

Laboratory Services

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1969

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(i) Water Supply

The Lee Valley Water Company is the water undertaking for the area and an adequate supply of water is maintained.

Apart from a small bulk supply of water taken from the Watton Road pumping station at Knebworth, the Town's water supply is obtained from boreholes at Whitehall pumping station which is situated just outside the Urban District boundaries and from Broomin Green pumping station within the Town of Stevenage.

In addition, there are boreholes at Rooks Nest within the Town of Stevenage, but this source is not at present used for public supply.

The water from the pumping stations is subjected to chlorination, de-chlorination and aeration before going into supply.

Regular chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of the water supplied to Stevenage is made by the Water Authority and the results are forwarded to the Council. The number of water samples examined during the year were as follows, and all the treated samples were satisfactory in quality.

	Raw Water 1969	Water in Suppl	
Chemical	17	14	
Bacteriological	227	421	

Routine tests were made throughout the year on the distributive system and on examination the fluoride content was found in all cases to be less than 0.2 parts per million. The water showed no indication of plumbo-solvency.

In addition, your Public Health Inspectors regularly sample water at domestic and business premises and these are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for bacteriological examination. During the year 57 such samples were taken and all proved satisfactory.

There are only two houses in the Urban District which obtain their water from private boreholes. These boreholes are approximately 200 ft. deep and have always given satisfactory results on bacteriological examination.

The Swimming Bath waters are regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis and a satisfactory standard has been maintained throughout the year.

(ii) Sewage Disposal

All main foul water drainage is dealt with at the Ryemead Sewage Works near Harlow. Few properties remain connected to cesspools or septic tank installations and these will further decrease as extensions of the main sewerage systems take place with the development of the Town.

(iii) Refuse Collection

The Public Cleansing Service is controlled by the Council's Surveyor. The refuse is transported to the Broadfield Tip, Hertford, where it is disposed of by controlled tipping.

In addition to the normal household refuse collection, the Council operate a Trade Refuse and Junk Collection Service.

During the year experiments with paper sack collections were carried out and following these trials and also after studying householders' reactions, the Council have now decided to extend the use of paper sacks to all areas of the Town during 1970.

(iv) Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in Stevenage.

(v) Rodent Control

The public continue to co-operate by reporting evidence of rodent infestations and I am pleased to record that at all times the situation in Stevenage has been kept well in hand. All complaints are normally investigated within 24 hours of reporting.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out during the year are as follows:-

Total inspection	ns		8,068
No. of infested	properties	found	1,980
No. of infested	properties	treated	1,980
Complaints recei	ived		543

The annual test baiting of the sewers revealed no infestations.

(vi) Open Air Market

The Council operate an Open Air Market in the Town Centre on Fridays and Saturdays. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls. Fish, shell fish, ice cream, and refreshments may be obtained from three mobile shops, which each satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Hot and cold water supplies, together with sinks, are provided for the washing of stallholders' equipment, and a public convenience, with hot and cold washing facilities and hand-drying equipment, is also available.

The Market is administered by the Public Health Department and complies with the provisions of the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966.

(vii) Poultry Processing Establishments

A new poultry processing plant is now operating within the District During 1969 the use was limited to the processing of about 17,000 Turkey

(viii) Knackers Yard

The licensed Knackers Yard is of model design and is maintained in a satisfactory condition. The premises are regularly inspected.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

(i) Milk Supplies

All milk sold in Stevenage is either pasteurised or sterilised and there are no bottling plants. Samples of raw milk have, therefore, not been taken.

(ii) The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no liquid egg is being used at the local bakehouses.

(iii) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

All food premises, which are, in the main, of modern construction, satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the hygienic standard maintained is generally good.

Details of the food trades, including those contained in the Supermarkets, are as follows:-

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
Bakers	22	22	22	22
Butchers	34	34	34	34
Cafes	20	20	20	20
Canteens (including			1 Till 1	
Schools)	79	79	79	79
Confectioners	30	30	_	-
Fishmongers	12	12	12	12
Greengrocers	32	32	4	4
Grocers	45	45	45	45
Guest Houses	6	6	6	6
Hotels	4	4	4	4
Licensed Premises	40	40	40	40

(iv) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows:-

Sale of Ice Cream 76
Sale of Preserved Food, etc. 40

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the Town. Licences have been granted to 52 dealers, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

(v) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Regular visits were made to premises registered for the sale of ice cream and the preparation or manufacture of sausages and other food. Those premises selling ice cream, but excluded from registration under the Food and Drugs Act, were also inspected. Details of the ice cream samples taken are given overleaf (Para. viii).

(vi) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouse, 3 tons 2 cwts. 7 lbs. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises. All condemned food is stained with a naphthalene dye and removed from the food premises for disposal under supervision at the Council's tip.

(vii) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in Stevenage but a regular check is made of the many ice cream vendors operating within the district and their products are regularly sampled.

(viii) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	66	2
Ice Cream	63	7

The two unsatisfactory milk samples failed the methylene blue test and immediate follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

Of the 7 unsatisfactory ice cream samples 5 were classified as Grade 3 and two as Grade 4. Once again immediate follow-up samples proved satisfactory in all cases.

(ix) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Council instituted proceedings in the following eight instances in respect of complaints regarding foreign matter in food. Convictions were obtained in each case and total penalties amounted to £260.

Food	Contravention	Penalty
Bread	Contained cigarette end	£50
Bread	Mouldy	£15
Sponge Pudding	Mouldy	£30
Lollipop	Contained metal	£30
Chicken & Ham Pie	Mouldy	£50
Cornish Pasty	Contained a staple	£25
Puff Pastry	Mouldy	£30
Dairy Cream Dessert	Mouldy	£30

(x) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

There is one privately-owned licensed Slaughterhouse in Stevenage and ten persons are licensed to act as slaughtermen.

18,170 animals were slaughtered during the year and 7 tons 3 cwts. of meat were condemned by the Council's Public Health Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption.

The Council have maintained a 100% meat inspection service since the re-opening of private slaughterhouses in 1954 and I am pleased to report that this service has again been maintained during 1969.

Details of animals slaughtered during the year are as follows:-

1969	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
	1,606	22	16,536	6	18,170

Details of the carcases inspected and condemned during 1969 are given on the following page.

(x) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection (Cont'd.)

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

unds of the new act enique togetherests a	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor
NUMBER KILLED	1,606	22	16,536	6	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	1,606	22	16,536	6	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	748	1	2,353	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	46.5	4.9	14.2	Nil	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.06	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	- 6	Nil	134	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(PART 1)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises		Number	Number of			
		on Register	Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	20	ne colvinent neithfunch invigen sol n mo-ella fonical fon ming to gail	(a) (a) (a) (a) (a) (a) (a) (a)	
(2)	Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	104	28	102 - 1 -	-	
(3)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	29	59	Stow 1	o water	
	Total	138	107		-	

Cases in which defects were found

	COLOREAL ROLL	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in	
	Particulars	Found	Remed	Ref To H.M. Inspector	erred By H.M. Inspector	which prosecu- tions were instituted
200	Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	and		Nil		
	Total			apurione san		

PART VIII OF THE ACT CUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

		Section 111				
Nature of Work	No. of Out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Not- ices served	Pro ecu ion
Wearing apparel making, etc. Leather Goods	70	-	-	-	-	
Total	71	-	-	_	-	-





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