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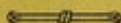


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WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1964

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1964

CORRIGENDA

(Page 8)

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of estimated population for Administrative County of Norfolk (1964)	-	10.5
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population (1964)	-	11.3



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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Waterworks Superintendent

Mr. R.A. GALL

Clerk of Works for Water and Sewerage Contracts

Mr. D.G. SHIRLEY

Clerical Assistant

Mr. L.C. SADLER

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

1964

Chairman	-	Mrs. J.M. Gosselin
Vice-Chairman	-	Mrs. D.B. Thistleton-Smith
Members	-	Mr. C.B. Andrews, M.B.E.
	-	Mr. E.E. Artherton
	-	Mr. H.A. Bond
	-	Mr. N.G. Edwards
	-	Mr. A.E. Flood
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	-	Mrs. P.H. Labouchere
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	-	Miss V.M. Sprott
	-	Mrs. E.G. Whitehead

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year ended 31st December, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Public Health of the District for 1964.

The report incorporates that of the Housing Manager and also that of the Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for the District was 19,550 which was 860 less than in 1963. If one goes back over the past ten years, during this period the natural increase of births over deaths was 1,754, and the decrease in the population has been 5,230. This means that 6,984 persons have 'emigrated' from the District in ten years.

The rise in illegitimate births continued, and in 1964 the percentage of illegitimate births to total live births was 6.4.

At the same time, the infant mortality rate continued its fall and reached the low figure of 6.1 per 1,000 live births. For the same period the rate in England and Wales was 20.0, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk was 15.58. All the infant deaths were due to causes in utero.

No deaths were caused in the District by tuberculosis showing that this once dreaded disease has been mastered.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the District or in the County. In England and Wales, there were only ~~2~~31 cases of paralytic and ~~1~~8 of non-paralytic poliomyelitis. During the past three years, the general incidence of poliomyelitis in the country has fallen to the lowest level ever recorded, mainly due to the oral type of Sabin poliomyelitis vaccine. It is to be hoped that this happy state of affairs continues but if, through the carelessness and indolence of the population, the level of non-vaccinated persons rises, then the disease will appear again, leaving behind its dead and paralysed.

In my last report, I stated the case for Fluoridation of Water Supplies. In Section V a summary of the case is given. The Minister has now stated that in his view fluoridation is now an established and well proven public health measure, which confers benefits to dental (and, in consequence, general) health greatly exceeding the cost of introducing it. He is convinced that it is completely safe. He hopes, therefore, that all local health authorities will now take steps to make arrangements for its introduction.

I should like to express my thanks to the Committee for their support and to the Staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office for their help in the compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW A.G. CARSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

GENERAL STATISTICS

- (a) Area :- no change - 39 parishes; 88,818 acres.
- (b) Population:- the estimated Mid-Year Home Population for the District for 1964 was 19,550. This was 860 less than in 1963.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Estimated Mid-Year Population	24130	24190	23850	23680	23890	23640	22830	22390	20410	19550

The total number of deaths was 198; the number of live births 329, showing a natural increase of births over deaths of 131.

- (c) The Rateable Value of the District was £452,875.
- (d) The Product of Penny Rate was £878.
- (e) Meteorological Factors:- the data, acquired by courtesy of the R.A.F. West Raynham, is shown in the table below, the figures in brackets being the corresponding data for 1963.

Month	Mean daily maximum Temp (°F)	Mean daily minimum Temp (°F)	Mean daily temperature (°F)	Total rainfall Inches	Mean relative humidity
Jan.	38.8 (31.5)	30.6 (23.9)	34.7 (27.7)	.67 (1.19)	93.75 (86.75)
Feb.	43.9 (33.4)	34.7 (24.4)	39.3 (28.9)	.75 (.79)	89.75 (89.75)
Mar.	41.7 (48.0)	34.2 (35.4)	37.9 (41.7)	2.81 (3.35)	86.0 (89.25)
April	53.8 (53.8)	40.8 (39.6)	47.3 (46.7)	2.55 (2.05)	81.0 (87.0)
May	64.2 (57.5)	45.9 (41.9)	55.1 (49.7)	1.57 (2.34)	77.50 (82.0)
June	63.7 (65.5)	49.3 (49.5)	56.5 (57.5)	4.50 (1.51)	82.25 (83.25)
July	69.6 (66.9)	52.5 (50.0)	61.1 (58.5)	1.39 (1.93)	78.25 (82.25)
Aug.	68.9 (63.3)	52.2 (49.8)	60.5 (56.5)	1.16 (4.73)	79.25 (89.75)
Sept.	66.7 (61.9)	47.3 (48.0)	57.0 (54.9)	.53 (2.03)	76.25 (88.75)
Oct.	53.6 (56.3)	40.1 (44.8)	46.9 (50.5)	2.22 (1.26)	86.75 (88.75)
Nov.	49.5 (50.9)	39.2 (40.6)	44.3 (45.7)	1.95 (2.78)	89.0 (91.0)
Dec.	41.5 (40.3)	33.4 (32.5)	37.5 (36.4)	2.16 (1.05)	88.75 (91.0)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The Registrar General's figures for live and still births in the District for 1964 were 329 and 2 respectively.

Table showing legitimate and illegitimate live births
(the figures in brackets are corresponding numbers for 1963)

Live Births	Males		Females		Totals
Legitimate	153	(157)	155	(158)	308 (325)
Illegitimate	11	(8)	10	(8)	21 (16)
Totals	164	(165)	165	(176)	329 (341)

Table showing stillbirths for 1964

Stillbirths	Males		Females		Totals
Legitimate	1	(1)	1	(4)	2 (5)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	- (-)
Totals	1	(1)	1	(4)	2 (5)

Live Birth Rate

The crude rate was 16.8 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 16.7 in 1963. The corrected birth rate (using a comparability factor of 1.09) was 18.3 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 18.4 for England and Wales, and 17.84 for the Administrative County of Norfolk.

Illegitimate Births

The number of illegitimate births was 21 compared with 16 in 1963, 9 in 1962 and 14 in 1961. The percentage of illegitimate births to the total live births was 6.4% compared with 4.7% in 1963, 2.6% in 1962, 3.9% in 1961 and 6.3% in 1960.

Stillbirths

There were two stillbirths in 1964, both in legitimate births, giving a stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths of 6.0 compared with 14.5 in 1963. The rate for England and Wales was 16.3 for 1964, and 15.77 for the Administrative County.

Infant Deaths

Two infants under one year of age died in 1964 compared with 5 in 1963. Both of these died during the first week of life. One, a female infant aged two days, died from congenital heart disease, whilst the other, a male infant, died from respiratory failure due to prematurity.

Infant Mortality Rate

This is calculated as the total infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and for 1964 was 6.1. Comparison of figures for the past nine years shows the following:-

1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
6.1	14.7	17.5	16.6	27.9	13.5	27.1	29.4	21.4

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 20.0, and for the Administrative County 15.58.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is deaths in legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, and for 1964 was 6.5. In 1963 this rate was 12.3.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is deaths in illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, and for 1964 was zero.

Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births. Of the two deaths of infants under one year, both were in infants under four weeks. The rate for 1964 was 6.1 compared with 11.7 in 1963, 17.5 in 1962 and 13.8 in 1961.

The Early Neonatal Mortality rate was also 6.1, as both infants died during the first week of life.

Perinatal Mortality Rate

This is combined stillbirths and deaths under one week of age per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. The rate for 1964 was 12.1, compared with 20.2 in 1963, 28.7 in 1962 and 24.5 in 1961.

Maternal Mortality

No deaths occurred in 1964, therefore the maternal mortality rate is zero. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 0.25 and in the Administrative County was 0.43.

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths and they are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the abbreviated list of International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Deaths, 1955. Where headings are omitted from the table, there were no deaths due to these causes in the District.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	Age in Years							75 & over
				15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-		
3. Syphilitic Disease	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	2	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	2	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	4	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	
	F	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	4	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	--	
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	13	--	--	--	2	1	1	3	6	
	F	16	--	--	--	2	1	8	1	4	
16. Diabetes	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	
	F	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	13	--	1	--	--	--	1	4	7	
	F	9	--	--	--	--	--	1	4	4	
18. Coronary Disease Angina	M	22	--	--	--	--	3	4	5	10	
	F	7	--	--	--	--	--	2	3	2	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	
20. Other Heart Disease	M	15	--	--	--	--	--	1	4	10	
	F	15	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13	
21. Other Circulatory Disease	M	3	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	
	F	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	
22. Influenza	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
23. Pneumonia	M	8	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	6	
	F	7	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	6	
24. Bronchitis	M	2	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	
	F	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	
	F	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	
31. Congenital Malfor- mations	M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	F	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	14	1	--	--	--	1	2	2	8	
	F	8	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	6	
34. All Other Accidents	M	3	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	
	F	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	
35. Suicide	M	3	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	1	
	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Total All Causes	M	109	1	2	1	5	7	15	20	58	
	F	89	1	--	1	2	3	16	19	47	

The total number of deaths was 198. It is interesting to note that up to the age of 54 years, only 23 deaths occurred, the other 175 taking place after the 55th year.

Heart disease, with 60 deaths, headed the list of causes of death and caused 30.3% of all deaths. There were 29 cases of fatal coronary disease, these accounting for 14.6% of all causes. Vascular lesions of the nervous system, with 22 deaths, gave a percentage figure of 11.1.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (which includes vascular lesions of the nervous system) are totalled, a figure of 88 deaths is arrived at - thus causing 44.4% of all deaths in the District.

Cancer caused 43 deaths giving a figure of 21.7%. Cancer of the lung and bronchus caused 5 deaths - in other words, cancer of lung and bronchus caused 11.6% of deaths from all types of cancer. Malignant neoplasms of the uterus caused 6.98% of all cancer deaths. With the advent of cervical smear techniques, many of these will be preventable.

Accidents and suicides, which should be preventable, caused 5.5% of all deaths.

It is worth noting that only 2 deaths occurred in infants under one year and both were due to congenital causes.

Death rate (crude) per 1000 of estimated population	-	10.1
Death rate (corrected, using comparability factor of 1.87) per 1,000 of estimated population	-	18.89
Corrected death rate per 1,000 of estimated population for Administrative County of Norfolk (1964)	-	17.84
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population (1964)	-	18.4

When the crude death rate is corrected for age and distribution of population etc., this corrected rate of 18.89 can be compared with that for other parts of the Country.

SECTION II

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The number of infectious diseases notified was 125, which was 36 less than last year.

Table showing types and numbers of infectious diseases notified in 1964

Disease	No.
Measles	98
Whooping Cough	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Pneumonia	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

The distribution of these diseases is shown by parishes in the following table:-

Parish	Total	M.	Wh.C.	P.T.B.	N.P.T.B.	Pn.	P.P.
(Brinton) Sharrington	1	1					
Briston	2	1		1			
(Dunton) Toftrees	3	2	1				
Fakenham	69	59	6	1	1	1	1
Field Dalling	3	3					
(Gunthorpe) Bale	2	1		1			
Helhoughton	1					1	
Hempton	15	10	5				
Hindolveston	3	1	2				
Hindringham	1	1					
Melton Constable	1	1					
Pudding Norton	7	7					
Raynham	9	7	2				
Ryburgh. Gt. & Lt.	3	2			1		
Snoring. Gt. & Lt.	1		1				
Stibbard	1	1					
Walsingham. Gt. & Lt.	2	1	1				
Wiveton	1		1				
Total	125	98	19	3	2	2	1

Measles

Measles, with 98 cases, formed the bulk of infectious diseases notified. Eighty-four of these cases occurred in Fakenham and Hempton, the remaining 14 cases being scattered around the District.

The following table shows the distribution of measles by age groups:-

	Under 1 Yr.	1 +	2 +	3 +	4 +	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 +	Total
Males	1	1	6	11	3	28	-	1	-	51
Females	-	2	3	3	5	32	1	-	1	47
Total	1	3	9	14	8	60	1	1	1	98

This table shows that measles is a disease of childhood, and particularly of school attenders, sixty of the cases occurring between the age of 5 and 9 years. The congregation of children in classes forms an excellent means for those suffering from the disease to pass it to their non-immune classmates.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of pulmonary and two new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in 1964. If reference is made to the table on Page 7 showing the causes of death, it will be seen that none was caused by tuberculosis, showing that this once dreaded disease has been mastered. One has only got to reflect that as short a time as twenty years ago, a diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis was an almost certain sentence of death on the unfortunate sufferer.

Tuberculosis in the Walsingham District in 1964 (The figures in brackets show the corresponding numbers for 1963)

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
New cases	2 (1)	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (1)	5 (2)
Inward transfers.	1 (1)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (2)
No. on Register at 31/12/64	23 (23)	17 (17)	1 (-)	4 (3)	45 (43)
	40 (40)		5 (3)		(43)

B.C.G. Vaccination

Vaccination against tuberculosis with the B.C.G. vaccine is offered by the County Council to all school children about the age of thirteen. Of the 328 school children offered vaccination, 261 accepted, giving an overall acceptance rate for the District of 79.6%. In 1963 the acceptance rate was 76.5%, in 1962 59.8% and in 1961 58.3%. This improvement was brought about by following up refusals in 1963 by letter to parents explaining the benefits and asking them to reconsider. There is still room for further improvement, however, - for example, Melton Constable Secondary Modern School had an acceptance rate as low as 60%.

The following table gives more information by schools of B.C.G. vaccination in the District in 1964:-

<u>School</u>	<u>Number due</u>	<u>Number accepted</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Neg. & vaccinated</u>	<u>Tuberculin Index</u>
Melton Constable Sec. Mod.	65 (68)	39 (57)	37 (51)	37 (48)	0 (2)	37 (46)	0 (4.2)
Fakenham Sec. Modern	153 (189)	119 (129)	110 (114)	108 (110)	6 (5)	102 (100)	5.5 (4.5)
Fakenham Grammar	110 (75)	103 (67)	98 (64)	98 (64)	3 (9)	95 (54)	3.0 (14.1)
Total	328 (332)	261 (253)	245 (229)	243 (222)	9 (16)	234 (200)	3.7 (7.2)

(The figures in brackets show the corresponding numbers for 1963).

The tuberculin index, which gives an indication of the degree of infectivity in the District was 3.7. It does not necessarily indicate tuberculous disease, as the resistance of the great majority is sufficient to overcome the invading bacteria; however, it does indicate the degree of opportunity for invasion and is thus a useful index of infectious cases in a community.

In 1961 the rate was 6.2, in 1962 it was 13.2 and in 1963 it had reverted to 7.2. In 1962 six new cases of pulmonary were notified in the District.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the District in 1964. Immunisation is offered by the County Council.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1964 in Area 8 (which comprises Walsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts) and in Walsingham R.D.

Age Groups	Area 8	Walsingham R.D.
Children born in 1964	55	15
Children born in 1963	346	119
Children born in 1962	76	34
Children and Young Persons born 1944-61	175	69
Young Persons born in 1934-43	16	-
Adults born 1933 or before	6	1
Re-inforcing doses (all ages)	583	237
Total	1257	475

Smallpox

There were no cases of smallpox in the District in 1964, nor were there any in the County.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations, by age groups, carried out in Area 8 and Walsingham Rural District in 1964.

Age at date of Vaccination	Area 8		Walsingham R.D.	
	Primary	Re-Vacc.	Primary	Re-Vacc.
0 - 3 months	11	-	7	-
3 - 6 "	9	-	8	-
6 - 9 "	20	-	11	-
9 -12 "	51	-	29	-
1 year	196	-	65	-
2 - 4 years	36	1	7	-
5 -14 "	15	1	5	-
Total	338	2	132	-

Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus

Nineteen cases of whooping cough occurred in 1964, eleven occurring in Fakenham and Hempton. Of these nineteen, there were no records available to show whether or not three had been immunised against whooping cough, but the other sixteen had been immunised but in all, as far as can be ascertained, the infection was mild.

There were no cases of diphtheria or tetanus.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in Area 8 (Area 8 comprises Walsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts) and in Walsingham R.D. in 1964.

Type of Antigen	Initial		Booster		Total Nos. Protected	
	Area 8	Walsingham R.D.	Area 8	Walsingham R.D.	Area 8	Walsingham R.D.
Triple Antigen	510	200	234	72	744	272
Diphtheria/Tetanus	76	34	695	337	771	371
Diphtheria	9	8	364	132	373	140
Tetanus	298	117	191	55	489	172

HOUSING

The Housing situation in the District at the end of the year was as follows:-

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Council houses completed during year	-	42
Council houses under construction at end of year	40	37
Number of applicants on Waiting List	218	193

Analysis of Waiting List

Urgent Cases - Category "A"	184	162
Other Cases - Category "B"	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>
	218	193
Number of applications received during 1964	122	136

Families living in hutments to be rehoused

Little Snoring - owned by Council. (Converted under Para.6 of Ministry Circular 20/46)	18	18
Pudding Norton - owned by Council. (Converted under Para.6 of Ministry Circular 20/46)	9	13
Langham - Married Quarters taken on 21 year lease.	13	13

Summary of dwellings let during the year

New dwellings	-	42
Re-lets during the year	46	52
Applicants on Waiting List	43	45
Families living in hutments	2	3
Families living in condemned houses	1	2
Families living in pre-fabricated bungalows	-	2
Hutments re-let on sites retained by the Council -		3
Exchanges effected	6	11

Families living in hutments

Little Snoring

During the year it had not been possible to reduce the number of occupied hutments. It had been the Council's intention during 1964 to commence work on the re-development of the Bell Close Site for the erection of sixteen dwellings and one shop, but owing to financial restrictions and shortage of building materials, the Council deferred commencement of this work until mid-1965 when building materials would be available.

Pudding Norton

During the year the number of occupied hutments was reduced from thirteen to nine, and these remaining nine will be rehoused in early 1965, when the dwellings now under construction at Crammer Court, Pakenham, are completed. The hutments will then be removed.

The Council has approved layout plans for the re-development of Green Lane Estate, but owing to financial restrictions a date cannot be set when this re-development can commence.

Padding Norton - Cont'd

At the present time there are twenty-five caravans stationed on this Estate. It is now a matter of urgency that this permanent caravan site be brought up to standard to conform with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Housing Programme 1964

No new dwellings were completed during 1964, but work was well advanced at the end of the year in the re-development of the pre-fab. site at Lancaster Avenue/Cranmer Court, Fakenham, consisting of thirty-seven dwellings and twenty-nine garages, and twelve dwellings would be ready for occupation in January 1965, and the remainder would be completed by May 1965.

Work was also commenced on three bungalows at Great Snoring, and work on two bungalows at Thursford would commence in early 1965.

Modernization of pre-war Council Houses

During the year work was well in hand for the modernization of the undermentioned pre-war houses and would be completed in early 1965:-

The Close, Swanton Movers	.. .. .	6
The Street and Dildash Lane, Gt. Snoring	..	6
Greenway Park, Fakenham	.. .. .	6
Sculthorpe Road/Sandy Lane, Fakenham	.. ..	18

Ministry approval has been given for the modernization of the undermentioned pre-war houses and it was hoped that these would be completed during 1965.

Thursford	.. .. .	6
Sharrington	.. .. .	4
Scarborough Road, Gt. Walsingham	.. ..	10
Hollow Lane, Langham	.. .. .	6

Housing Programme 1965

Owing to financial restrictions the Council has decided that the only new dwellings to be erected during 1965 would be sixteen dwellings and a shop at Bell Close, Little Snoring.

Grouped Homes for Old People - Lea Warner Avenue, Fakenham

This scheme has now been in existence for 5½ years and is running very smoothly. The credit for this must be given to the Warden and her husband.

During the last year there have been only seven changes of tenancy, and as there is still a great demand for this type of accommodation, the Council must give consideration for the provision of another similar scheme.

General

The main housing problem of the District is still centred in and around Fakenham, and until a programme of at least fifty dwellings per year is undertaken for Fakenham it will be impossible to reduce the Waiting List. A small number of dwellings are required in the larger parishes, but in the main the needs of the smaller parishes can be met by re-lets.

At the present time there are one hundred and five applicants on the Fakenham Waiting List out of a total of two hundred and eighteen for the whole District.

SECTION IV

REPORT

OF THE

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR, AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

1964

Public Health Acts

Initial Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	76

<u>Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act</u>	..	..					68
---	----	----	--	--	--	--	----

Housing Acts

House inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Re-visits in connection with above	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Visits in connection with application for grants under Housing Act 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	207
Visits re Slum Clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Food and Drugs Act

Premises Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	279
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice cream	..	..					16
Visits re Dairies and inspection of milk retailers vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection Visits	..	..					452
Visits re Shellfish	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Diseases of Animals Act, Waste Foods Order	..	..					1

Sewerage

Inspection of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	..	..	..	..	..	..	320
Contract (Sewerage) Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
Closet Conversion Visits (Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936)	..	..	..	..	..	..	43

District Scavenging

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints, etc.							209
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	60

Factories Act

Inspection of Factories with power	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Inspection of Factories without power	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

Building Byelaw Inspections

Inspections during course of construction	..	..					1116
Town and Country Planning Act Regulations	..	..					26

Infectious Diseases

Cases investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

<u>Rooms Disinfested</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
--------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Petroleum Acts

Installations inspected and tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act

Valuations and visits for purposes of loan	..	..					24
--	----	----	--	--	--	--	----

<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Knackers Yard

Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
-------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

<u>Street Naming and Numbering Visits</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

<u>Animal Boarding Establishments</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
---------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

1964

<u>Car Parks</u>	.. .. .	18
<u>Water Supply</u>		
Existing Mains	.. .. .	54
New Contracts	.. .. .	37
<u>Other Inspections</u>		
Not classified under headings above but made in connection therewith	.. .. .	<u>184</u>
Total visits made		<u>3852</u>

NOTICES SERVED

		<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
<u>Informal Notices</u>			
Public Health and Housing Acts	.. ..	79	93
Food and Drugs Act	.. ..	22	25
Factories Act	.. ..	1	1
Building Byelaws	.. ..	109	103
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	.. ..	7	6
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960	.. ..	9	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	.. ..	<u>5</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Total Notices served		<u>232</u>	<u>233</u>
<u>Formal Notices</u>			
<u>Public Health Acts</u>			
Permission to serve	.. ..	7	16
Served	.. ..	7	15
Section 42 (Drainage reconnection) served	.. ..	62	30
Section 47 (closet conversion) served	.. ..	36	Nil
<u>Housing Acts</u>			
Permission to serve	.. ..	1	1
Served	.. ..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Notices served		<u>106</u>	<u>46</u>

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance

The following table sets out work done under this heading:-

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Houses <u>demolished</u> as a result of formal or informal procedure	5	7
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of <u>informal</u> action by the Council	2	5
Number of houses <u>made fit</u> by owners as a result of formal action	4	7
Number of houses made fit after service of <u>formal notices</u> by the Council in default of owners	Nil	-
<u>Undertakings</u> given by owners not to relet	1	-
<u>Undertakings</u> given by owners that houses will cease to be used for human habitation	6	10
Number of <u>demolition orders</u> made during the year	1	1
Number of <u>closing orders</u> made during the year	-	-
Estimated number of unfit houses still to be dealt with following review	16	Nil

(b) New Dwellings

The following figures include conversions of non-domestic buildings to habitations:-

By private persons - 66 completed and 32 under construction at the end of the year.

By Local Authority - None completed and 40 under construction at the end of the year.

(c) Improvement Grants - Discretionary

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception in 1949 is as follows:-

Total amount notified to rank for grant	For occupation by		Grant essential to preserve house and provide amenities	Grant to improve amenities only
	Owner	Tenant		
<u>Up to December 1963</u>				
£103,440.13. 0.	122	223	82	247
(£ 96,364.13. 0.)	(115)	(211)	(75)	(235)
<u>January to December 1964</u>				
£ 5,328. 0. 0.	10	7	2	15
(£ 7,076. 0. 0.)	(7)	(12)	(7)	(12)

(Figures in brackets relate to preceding year)

(d) Improvement Grants - Standard

The Standard grants for the installation of the five sanitary amenities, viz:- water closet, hot water supply, bath, wash hand basin, and foodstore, continue to attract attention, especially where mains water supply and sewerage has been brought to the village.

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception in July 1959 is as follows:-

Total amount notified to rank for grant	For occupation by:-	
	Owner	Tenant
<u>From July 1959 to December 1963</u>		
£ 32,848. 10. 0.	125	105
	(94)	(89)
<u>January to December 1964</u>		
£10,978. 0. 0.	52	26
(£6,545. 0. 0.)	(31)	(16)
<u>Reduced Standard as from August 1964</u>		
£300. 0. 0.	-	4

(Figures in brackets relate to preceding year)

Improvement Grants

The Housing Act 1964 came into operation on 16th August, 1964, and provides for a reduced standard of improvements to qualify for a grant. It also introduces compulsory improvement areas of houses suitable for grant, but no work under the latter heading had occurred by the end of the year under review.

PLANS BROUGHT BEFORE THE PLANS COMMITTEE

The following table sets out the number of plans considered by the Plans Committee during the year. A total of four hundred and ninety-nine plans were considered compared with four hundred and twenty-five last year.

<u>New dwellings</u>	<u>Alterations to Dwellings</u>	<u>Factories</u>	<u>Domestic Garages</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
69	115	7	93	140
<u>Outline applications</u>				
59	Nil	2	Nil	14

DISTRICT SCAVENGING

The use of a double rear-wheeled tractor has improved consolidation in the tips in use which are situated at Fakenham, Bilsey Hill and Thursford. Wighton Tip was sealed off with surplus soil from the sewerage contract being carried on in the village. A pit on Hempton Green which had become an eyesore from unauthorised tipping of rubbish was filled and sealed with soil.

The Public Health Committee accepted my recommended use of railway cuttings and embankments for refuse disposal, and during the year negotiations for the purchase or hire of almost a mile of such land has been going on.

SEWERAGE

The important duty of sewerage the District continues to be tackled with some vigour, and is likely to be the Department's major function for some years to come.

During the year under review connecting properties to the newly laid sewers in Binham was completed. Also during the year Wighton sewerage was commenced and almost completed.

An Inquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding the Council's proposals for the Melton Constable and Briston area.

The surface water sewerage contract in Fakenham which was completed last year appears to have been successful, and no further street flooding from surcharged sewers is reported.

An extension of the 6" sewer at Hempton was carried out by a private contractor to serve his building estate, and this sewer will be vested in the Council at a later date.

Messroom and toilet facilities were improved at the Pudding Norton Sewage Works, and better facilities have been incorporated in the Wighton and Binham and Langham schemes.

Two types of extended aeration sewage treatment plants were investigated, and visited by members of the Public Health and the Housing Committees.

Complaints of offensive smells from new sewerage systems at Blakeney and Langham were dealt with by the installation of interceptors at a few individual houses and an additional ventilator near points of discharge from rising mains into the gravity sewers.

A serious blockage of a sewer fifteen feet deep, laid in 1938, occurred in August.

The Council purchased a mechanical sludge loading plant for use primarily at the Pudding Norton Works.

Sewerage generally is taking an increased amount of time in the Department, both so far as supervision of capital works and the maintenance of a high standard in existing sewage works is concerned. The Committee's interest was demonstrated in an inspection of the Pudding Norton Works, the largest in use in the District, during the summer.

Trees have been planted at Horston, Wiveton and Blakeney pumping station sites in an attempt to merge these buildings and sites into the surrounding countryside.

TRADES EXHIBITION, FAKENHAM

The Department provided a Model Village illustrating the various functions of the Council such as the provision of houses, water supplies, sewerage, car parks, public conveniences, etc., and the model later featured in a B.B.C. Television programme.

PUPIL INSPECTOR

The lack of suitable local technical college training prevented an appointment authorised by the Council late in the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Five thousand and twenty-six inspections of properties were made, and eight hundred and ninety treatments given to dwelling houses found to be rat infested. Treatments were also given to twenty-nine properties occupied by the Council, and to one hundred and twenty-nine other properties including business premises, parish allotments, building sites, etc.

Two hundred and thirteen treatments of farm land and premises were carried out and charges made for these and other treatments to business premises amounted to £454.7.8.

The number of men employed on this service was three, with the tip attendant/tractor driver being responsible for rat destruction on refuse tips.

FOOD

(a) Food preparing premises

The numbers of these in the District are:-

Bakehouses	.. ..	10	Fish Shops	.. ..	9
Butcher's Shops	.. ..	16	Market Stalls	.. ..	8
Catering Establishments		15	Provision Stores	.. ..	72

Market foodstalls continued to be satisfactory.

One more premises was registered for the sale of ice-cream. Eleven samples of ice-cream were taken, eight being classified as Grade 1, and three as Grade 2, all being satisfactory results. One iced "lollie" sample taken was satisfactory.

(b) Milk

There has been no increase of registered distributors of milk in the District during the year.

One hundred and fifteen samples were taken by the County Council Officers. All but one satisfied the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment and twelve failed the methylene blue or cleanliness test.

(c) Meat Inspection

100% inspection of meat has again been achieved this year with the co-operation of the butchers, and week-end slaughtering and inspection has been avoided. Charges for meat inspection were made and subsequently the Council agreed not to charge for inspections made during office hours.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned for the year 1964

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	459 (476)	7 (13)	778 (752)	868 (731)
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole Carcases condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (1)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29 (28)	- (-)	5 (3)	31 (22)
Percentage of the number inspected) affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci.	6.3%	-	0.6%	3.7%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	- (1)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	30 (36)
Percentage of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	3.5%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ) was condemned	6 (3)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcases submitted to treatment by) refrigeration	6 (3)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Generalised and totally condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

(Figures in brackets are for 1963)

(d) Slaughterhouses

The four slaughterhouses in operation have continued to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were taken at Fakenham Court against a cafe proprietor and his manager for offences under the Food Hygiene regulations, and fines totalling over £180 were imposed by the magistrates.

At Walsingham Court, action against the owner of "Thursford Castle" resulted in orders being made by the Magistrates under Sections 93 and 39 of the Public Health Act 1936 requiring the performance of all the works required by the Council. Fines totalling £8.0.0. and costs of £22.10.0. were imposed.

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An order quashing a Demolition Order made by the Council in July was made at the Fakenham County Court in respect of No.5 Queens Road, Fakenham. The Council did not oppose the action.

FACTORIES

Factories Act 1961
Annual Report for 1964 under Section 153(1) of the Factories
Act 1961

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

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspection (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	7	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	78	7	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	4	8	-	-
Total	89	25	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
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	1	--	--	1	--
(b) Unsuitable or defective	--	--	--	--	--
(c) Not separate for sexes	--	--	--	--	--
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	--	--	--	--	--

3. Part VIII of the Act. Outworkers - One

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	27	27	3
Retail shops	77	77	3
Wholesale shops and warehouses	2	2	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens.	12	12	-
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	-

TABLE B

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises:-

162, including six general inspections.

TABLE C. ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	170
Retail shops	352
Wholesale departments, warehouses	20
Catering establishments open to the public	54
Canteens	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Total	599

Total males ... 238
Total females... 361

TABLE D. EXEMPTIONS

No applications for exemption under the Act were made during the year.

TABLE E. PROSECUTIONS

No prosecutions were made during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Pumping statistics for Walsingham Rural District for 1964

Month	<u>Houghton Pumping Station to Gunthorpe Reservoir</u>		<u>Average Daily Consumption</u>	
	<u>Total gallons 1963</u>	<u>Total gallons 1964</u>	<u>Gallons 1963</u>	<u>Gallons 1964</u>
January	10,250,000	10,814,000	330,645	348,838
February	9,256,000	9,996,000	330,571	344,689
March	10,100,000	11,518,000	325,806	371,548
April	9,900,000	10,872,000	330,000	362,400
May	10,464,000	12,922,000	337,548	416,838
June	11,752,000	11,650,000	391,733	388,333
July	11,472,000	13,694,000	370,064	441,741
August	11,214,000	13,529,000	361,741	436,419
September	10,240,000	12,559,000	371,333	418,633
October	10,376,000	11,454,000	334,709	369,483
November	9,893,000	10,852,000	329,766	361,733
December	10,909,000	11,136,000	351,903	359,225
Total	125,826,000	140,996,000		

<u>Gunthorpe Reservoir to Fakenham Tower</u>					
January	4,935,000	4,862,000	(1)	159,193	156,838
February	4,307,000	4,705,000	(2)	153,821	162,241
March	4,953,000	4,987,000	(3)	159,774	160,870
April	4,806,000	4,940,000	(4)	160,200	164,666
May	4,986,000	5,457,000	(5)	160,838	176,032
June	5,391,000	5,117,000	(6)	179,700	170,566
July	5,341,000	5,716,000	(7)	172,291	184,387
August	5,096,000	5,707,000	(8)	164,387	184,096
September	4,818,000	5,479,000	(9)	160,600	182,633
October	5,030,000	5,291,000	(10)	162,258	170,677
November	4,712,000	4,947,000	(11)	157,066	164,900
December	4,740,000	5,106,000	(12)	155,903	164,709
Total	59,115,000	62,314,000			

Gallons pumped from Fakenham Well included in above totals

(1)	1,470,000
(2)	1,526,000
(3)	1,584,000
(4)	1,760,000
(5)	2,046,000
(6)	1,896,000
(7)	2,294,000
(8)	2,382,000
(9)	2,186,000
(10)	1,790,000
(11)	1,640,000
(12)	1,612,000

During 1964 Total of 22,186,000 gallons were pumped from Fakenham Well.

<u>North Creake Bore</u>					
	<u>Total gallons</u>	<u>Daily average</u>		<u>Total gallons</u>	<u>Daily average</u>
January	803,000	25,903	July	613,000	19,774
February	601,000	20,724	August	1,787,000	57,645
March	271,000	8,741	September	1,364,000	45,466
April	286,000	9,533	October	906,000	29,225
May	373,000	12,032	November	716,000	23,866
June	422,000	14,066	December	808,000	26,064

Connections to the main were made, 120 being domestic supplies, 32 metered, and 8 other premises.

Extensions to the mains by direct labour were:-

24 yards of 4" main at West End, Briston.

300 yards of 4" main at Thurning Road, Briston.

24 yards of 4" main at The Heath, Fakenham.

320 yards of 4" main at The Heath, Fakenham.

90 yards of 3" main at Coronation Lane, Blakeney.

41 yards of 3" main at The Heath, Fakenham.

A contract for the laying of 1,400 yards of 3" main at Briningham and Brinton was completed, and a contract for laying 456 yards of 4" main at Melton Constable was well in hand at the end of the year. This latter main is to replace the existing original M. & G.N. Joint Railway main laid many years ago. The owner of the 97 houses concerned has undertaken to connect his premises through new service pipes to each house.

A severe shortage of water was experienced in July and August following two years of light rainfall. At the peak of the holiday season in the last week of July and the first week of August, the demands by Wells-next-the-Sea U.D.C. could not be met from the Houghton source owing to the Rural District's own inflated consumption. A source from North Creak through Holkham had to be used to give Wells some supplementary supply, and it has not been possible to renew the supply from Houghton via Binham since that date.

The position generally throughout the District was reported to the Water Supplies Committee, and the Council later in the year ordered the preparation of a comprehensive scheme for augmenting the District's water supplies to meet up to date and future requirements.

The following figures show the number of houses by Parishes where Council mains water is piped into the house:-

Number of Houses with Mains Water Supply
in Walsingham Rural District

Bale	..	..	..	45
Barney	..	..	..	71
Barsham E.N.W.	..	..	..	64
Binham	..	..	..	114
Blakeney	..	..	..	369
Briningham	..	..	..	42
Brinton	..	..	..	28
Briston	..	..	..	352
Cockthorpe	..	..	..	16
Dunton	..	..	..	-
Fakenham	..	..	..	1,434
Field Dalling	..	..	..	61
Fulmodestone	..	..	..	49
Gunthorpe	..	..	..	54
Helhoughton	..	..	..	69
Hempton	..	..	..	174
Hindolveston	..	..	..	88
Hindringham	..	..	..	138
Holkham	..	..	..	86
Houghton	..	..	..	27
Kettlestone	..	..	..	32
Langham	..	..	..	85
Melton Constable	..	..	..	209
Norston	..	..	..	44
Pudding Norton	..	..	..	89
Raynham E.S.W.	..	..	..	117
Ryburgh Gt. & Lt.	..	..	..	152
Saxlingham	..	..	..	17
Sculthorpe	..	..	..	181
Sharrington	..	..	..	35
Shereford	..	..	..	-
Stibbard	..	..	..	92
Stiffkey	..	..	..	119
Swanton Novers	..	..	..	65
Snoring Gt.	..	..	..	95
Snoring Lt.	..	..	..	97
Tatterford, Tattersett	..	..	..	40
Toftrees	..	..	..	6
Thurning	..	..	..	5
Thursford	..	..	..	49
Walsingham Lt. & Gt.	..	..	..	367
Warham	..	..	..	80
Wighton	..	..	..	108
Wiveton	..	..	..	62
Wood Norton	..	..	..	49
Total	..	..	..	<u>5,476</u>

Twelve houses are supplied by standpipes.

The estimated total population supplied was approximately 21,000, and the number of houses 6,249 (including 25 caravans).

TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES

Sources of Samples and Cites taken	Houghton St. Giles Public Supply	Little Snoring Public Supply	North Creake Public Supply	Bore, Fakenham Public Supply	Welton Constable British Railways Supply.
	9th December 1964	9th Dec. 1964	9th Dec. 1964	9th Dec. 1964	9th Dec. 1964
Appearance	Clear	Clear with yellow deposit	Clear with trace of yellow deposit	Clear	Clear with yellow deposit
Nature of deposit	Nil	Iron	Iron	Nil	Iron compounds, vegetable fibre
Colour	Nil	Faint yellow	Faint yellow	Nil	Faint yellow
Reaction	Faintly alkaline	Faintly alkaline	Neutral	Neutral	Faintly alkaline
Taste	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.6
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.04	0.03	Negligible trace	0.01	0.03
Nitrite Nitrogen	7.5	0.5	Nil	6.5	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	Nil	Nil	Faint trace	Nil	Practically Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hr)	24	22	22	44	26
Total hardness	0.10	0.20	0.2	0.2	0.10
Temporary hardness	320	285	290	405	240
Metals in solution	245	255	260	205	200
Fluoride	Nil	Nil	Absent	Copper - very faint trace	Nil
Opinion	Nil	Nil	0.05	Nil	0.05
	Suitable for drinking and general purposes	Provided iron is removed by suitable treatment	High iron content, but fit	Fit	High iron content, but fit

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

Fluoride occurs naturally in almost all the world's water supplies, varying from a trace to 14 parts per million or more. In Gt. Britain the highest natural concentration is about 6 parts per million.

It has long been known that there is correlation between the incidence of dental caries and the level of fluoride naturally occurring in water supplies, and where a high level occurs, there is an increased resistance to decay of teeth.

In 1954 a study was undertaken in the United Kingdom to correlate the incidence of dental caries and mottling of the teeth with the different levels of fluoride in various waters.

Four areas in which fluoride was naturally present in water supplies were selected and groups of children aged 12 to 14 years were studied in these areas. Similar groups of children were examined in four other areas where there was only a trace of fluoride in the water. It was found that where fluoride was present in the water there was less dental decay and where there was no fluoride the level of dental decay was high. It was also found that the higher the level of fluoride in the water, the less dental decay appeared.

From these and other studies in other countries, it was decided that the level of fluoride at which maximum reduction of caries occurred without mottling was about 1 part per million.

Comparisons of the vital statistics in the United Kingdom showed that between high and low fluoride areas, there were no differences in the mortality rates which could be interpreted as indicating any harmful effects on health. In 1956 a conference of experts convened by the Medical Research Council agreed that "despite considerable interest and research there is no definite evidence that the continued consumption of fluorides in water at a level of about 1 part per million in drinking water is in any way harmful to health and that if any untoward effect is revealed by future research it is most unlikely to be serious".

It was decided to fluoridate the water supplies of at least three communities and to establish a corresponding "control" area as nearly as possible comparable to each of the areas whose water supply was to be treated.

To be fully effective, fluoride must be absorbed continuously during the whole period of tooth formation and calcification. The teeth must then erupt and be exposed to the risk of caries for a reasonable period before any reliable assessment can be made of the extent of caries prevention.

For the few years that fluoridation has been in operation in the study areas, therefore, its full effect can now be observed only in children up to the age of 5 years. Some improvement might now also be expected in children who have had fluoride from birth but little in older children who have not had the benefit of fluoride in their earlier years while their teeth were being formed.

It has been found that the proportion of children in the study areas free from caries has been increased by about three quarters. Further, the proportion of children in study areas with ten or more carious teeth has been reduced by as much as six sevenths in the case of children aged 3 to 4 years.

Thus, fluoridation has brought a substantial improvement in the dental condition of the deciduous teeth of children in the study areas, and there is good reason to believe that the longer term effects of fluoridation will equally be beneficial.

Safety of Fluoridation

No harmful effects from the addition of one part per million of fluoride to drinking water has been demonstrated in any of the extensive medical evidence collected and viewed by the Research Committee.

The World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation has also reported - "The most convincing evidence of the safety of water fluoridation comes from the numerous populations (3 millions in the U.S.A. and 0.5 millions in the U.K.) who have drunk naturally fluoridated water containing 1 part per million or more during their lifetime. In these groups water drinking has been, of course, uncontrolled and there have been well and ill babies, as well as healthy young adults and frail elderly people. Medical Practitioners and Specialists in these areas have never detected or defined a systematic aberration in health of any kind related to fluoride consumed".

Fluoridation is supported by such influential bodies as The World Health Organisation, the Ministry of Health, British Medical Association and the British Dental Association.



