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THE HEALTH OF WATFORD 1968





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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Extract from the Fifth Report for the year 1967 to the Watford Local Board of Health by A. T. Shaw, M.D., M.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

for the year

## 1968

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A. SHAW

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

K. H. MARSDEN

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

HYDROPHOBIA

1867 - 1868

This disease has caused great panic in Watford during the last year. Till lately I had never seen a case or knew of any doctor who had seen a case in Hertfordshire. A case of a child has occurred in the West Herts Infirmary, and one at Bushey. No one who has ever seen the disease could mistake it for any other complaint or could forget it. It would be very desirable for all dogs in the street to have collars and be numbered.

Councillor Mrs D. M. Scaven  
Alderman F. Mackenzie  
Alderman A. G. Dillingham J. P.  
Councillor R. G. Armstrong LL.B.  
Councillor C. T. Bell  
Councillor G. Braybrooke  
Councillor Mrs. H. M. Dodd

Councillor L. E. Ecclehall L.S., L.A.  
Councillor J. E. Green  
Councillor R. S. Horner  
Councillor R. W. Jackson  
Councillor R. A. Page L.F.D.  
Councillor A. J. Quinn  
Councillor J. E. Roake  
Councillor J. P. Turbwell

Extract from the Fifth Report for the year 1877 to the Watford Local Board of Health by A. T. Brett, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

1867 - 1868

Chairman

Alderman J. S. Oliver

Vice-Chairman

Councillor W. T. H. Price

Members:

Alderman A. L. Mansfield J. P. (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs D. M. Scaven (Deputy Mayor)  
Alderman A. G. Dillingham J. P.  
Alderman F. Mackenzie  
Councillor R. G. Armstrong LL.B.  
Councillor C. Braybrooke  
Councillor S. L. Drake  
Councillor Mrs. H. M. Dodd

Councillor D. A. L. Ecclehall L.S., L.A.  
Councillor W. J. C. Ford, T.D., C. ENG.,  
A. M., L. M.D., F. R. S., A. M. DIST. H. E.  
Councillor J. H. G. Green  
Councillor R. S. Horner  
Councillor R. W. Jackson  
Councillor R. A. Page L.F.D.  
Councillor R. B. Norman Smith



B O R O U G H O F W A T F O R D

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

1967 - 1968

Chairman

Alderman J. S. Oliver

Vice-Chairman

Councillor W. T. H. Price

Members:

Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen J.P. (Mayor)  
Alderman F. Mackenzie (Deputy Mayor)  
Alderman A.G. Dillingham J.P.  
Councillor R.G. Armstrong LL.B.  
Councillor C.T. Bell  
Councillor C. Braybrooke  
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall L.S.I.A.  
Councillor J. Evett  
Councillor R.S. Horner  
Councillor R.W. Jackson  
Councillor R.A. Page E.R.D.  
Councillor A.J. Quinn  
Councillor J.R. Rourke  
Councillor T.P. Tuckwell

1968 - 1969

Chairman

Alderman J. S. Oliver

Vice-Chairman

Councillor W. T. H. Price

Members:

Alderman A.L. Merrifield J.P. (Mayor)  
Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen (Deputy Mayor)  
Alderman A.G. Dillingham J.P.  
Alderman F. Mackenzie  
Councillor R.G. Armstrong LL.B.  
Councillor C. Braybrooke  
Councillor S.L. Deakin  
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall L.S.I.A.  
Councillor W.J.C. Ford, T.D., C.ENG.,  
A.M.I.MUN.E., A.M.INST.H.E.  
Councillor J.H.G. Green  
Councillor R.S. Horner  
Councillor R.W. Jackson  
Councillor R.A. Page, E.R.D.  
Councillor K.R. Norman Smith





## STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health:

William Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H. - Retired 31.7.68  
A. Shaw, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. - Appointed 1.8.68

Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford.

Phone: Watford 26400

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. - Resigned 30.8.68  
F. Barasi, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. - Appointed 16.9.68

### Chief Public Health Inspector:

K.H. Marsden, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

### Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G.F. Willcox, M.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

### District Public Health Inspectors:

J.L. Willoughby, 1, 3, 4, 5	Ronald Watkins, M.A.P.H.I., 2
T.B. Rosamond, 1, 3, 4	Resigned 8.3.68
D.C. Cahill, M.A.P.H.I., 1, 3, 5	Joseph Brown, M.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 5
	Michael J. O'Brien, M.A.P.H.I., 1, 3
	Appointed 16.9.68

### Senior Meat Inspector:

J.L. Mackenzie 1, 3, 6

### Authorised Meat Inspectors:

John O'Brien Brian Christie

### Student Public Health Inspectors:

G.J.A. Woolfe - Resigned 16.2.68 Simon Bisseli  
Peter Montandon - Appointed 26.5.68

### Chief Clerk:

Mary Sherlock

### Senior Clerk:

Marion Johnson

### Clerks:

Doreen Roberts	Mavis Tilbury - Resigned 16.2.68
Geraldine Pugh - Resigned 19.1.68	Betty Maxfield - Appointed 12.2.68
	June McTernan - Appointed 16.4.68,
	Resigned 13.9.68

1. Certificate, Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Joint Board.
2. Diploma, Public Health Inspectors Examination Board.
3. Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Society of Health.
4. Certificate of Sanitary Science, Royal Society of Health.
5. Diploma in Smoke Inspection, Royal Society of Health.
6. Higher Certificate of the Institute of Meat.



B O R O U G H O F W A T F O R D

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
WATFORD.

September 1969.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my first Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Dr. William Alcock, my predecessor in office, who enabled me to take over the control of the department much more easily than could have been the case.

**Illegitimate  
Births.**

A full commentary on the borough's vital statistics is given in the report, and I wish only to draw attention to the figures relating to illegitimate births. Over the past five years, apart from last year, the number of illegitimate births has risen until this year one birth in every eleven is illegitimate. The rise mirrors a National trend and gives rise to grave concern, because even in our present society the illegitimate child starts life with a substantial handicap and this disadvantage hardly lessens as time goes on.

If unwanted and unsupported children are not to be born, greater efforts must be made nationally to implement fully the recent Family Planning Act, which, sad to say, has met opposition in all of the expected places and also in a few where positive encouragement had been anticipated. A further approach to the problem is increased Health Education activities in which human relationships feature. Teachers can play a great part in this field by acquiring new skills or using their existing skills of communication with children in a new way. It is unfashionable to say that premarital sexual intercourse is wrong, but many do say so, if only to point out that the illegitimate child may have to be raised without the loving care of both parents living in a stable marriage. The unfashionable are to be applauded in their courage in remaining unfashionable.

**Fluoridation**

Every practitioner in Public Health has heard of fluoridation and approves, if only in theory. If every such doctor could examine the teeth of children in Watford and compare them side by side with the teeth of children from an area where the water is not fluoridated, then his theoretical approval could be turned rapidly to practical enthusiasm. The same thing could also be said for members of those authorities who have rejected fluoridation. It is my privilege from time to time to conduct distinguished foreign visitors to some of our schools to show them the end results of fluoridation and it is a pleasure to see how quickly they can distinguish by dental appearance the teeth of children native to Watford from those who have come to live in the borough some time after birth. Not only are the teeth of Watford children more free from decay and fillings but they look better, being more regular, glistening and white.

A summary of the eleven-year report on fluoridation in Watford is included in the body of the report.

Housing  
Improvement  
Areas.

The work of the Public Health Inspectorate continued unheralded and unsung during the year. A close examination of that part of the report written by the Chief Public Health Inspector shows in detail the volume of work concerned with making life better by the control of the environmental health hazards which may arise with the food we eat, the air we breathe and the conditions under which we live and work. An important part of the work deals with improvement areas and the Housing Act of 1964 despite its cumbersomeness was beginning to show results in the numbers of houses improved. It was therefore a sad blow when the White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" recommended far reaching changes in the law, which will make the task of this Authority, at least, much more difficult in the field of housing improvement.

Members of the Council, fellow Chief Officers and colleagues in the borough's service have shown the greatest kindness to me in my first year of office and it is a pleasure to thank them for their forbearance in those early days, which are always the most difficult in a new appointment.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. SHAW

Medical Officer of Health

## VITAL STATISTICS

It is customary in annual reports to give birth and death rates, to subdivide these indices into different categories and to express the rates as so many births or deaths per 1,000 population. The system works very well with large populations and gives a reliable yearly picture of the state of health of the population. When expressing rates of small populations, comparatively minor changes in the numbers of births, or deaths from various causes may give wide swings in rates. The rates for Watford should therefore be interpreted cautiously in relation to those for Hertfordshire and England and Wales in Table III. Various rates for the borough over the previous ten years are shown in Table II.

**Births** Table I shows that there were 1,429 births to Watford mothers in 1968, 70 fewer than in 1967. 130 of the births were illegitimate, a substantial rise on 1967 and one which gives cause for concern.

**Stillbirths** There were 15 stillbirths, and if these deaths are added to the 18 deaths of infants during the first week of life there were 33 perinatal deaths giving a perinatal mortality rate of 23.0 per 1,000 total births.

**Infant Mortality** After the 28th week of pregnancy and during the first week of life the same factors operate to bring about the death of the infant. The main causes of perinatal mortality are prematurity and congenital malformation and in both of those conditions the mechanism is not understood. The Perinatal Mortality Survey, started in 1958, did a great deal to reduce both the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate by drawing attention to defects in services and techniques and even now interesting and useful facts come to light as a result of information gathered during the survey. It is now established, to quote only one example, that mothers who smoke during pregnancy not only have babies of a lower birthweight than non-smoking mothers, but that perinatal mortality is higher too. As far as congenital abnormalities are concerned, improvements in surgical techniques mean that many babies who would previously have died from spina bifida now live. By reason of increased knowledge, therefore, the perinatal mortality rate is falling.

**Infant Mortality** The infant mortality rate in 1968 was 17.0 per 1,000 live births. Of the 25 children who died before reaching the first birthday, 19 died during the first month of life (neonatal deaths), and 18 during the first week (early neonatal deaths). The causes of death are shown in Table IV.

**Causes of death** There were 883 deaths of Watford residents during the year, giving a corrected death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 population. The principal causes of death are shown in Table V to be cancer, chronic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.

**Cancer** Cancer caused 194 deaths during the year and the biggest specified category of cancer deaths is 48 of the lung and bronchus, 38 in men and 10 in women. Twenty-five of these deaths were between the ages of 35 and 55. Most, if not all of these deaths were awful tributes to "twenty a day for twenty years" and were preventable. Cancer of the stomach caused 29 deaths and cancer of the female breast caused 22 deaths. 22% of all Watford deaths were due to cancer.

**Coronary Disease** Ischaemic heart disease caused 184 deaths, or 20% of all deaths. 56% of the deaths occurred between the ages of 35 and 65 and 16% between the ages of 35 and 55. It is worth repeating that coronary artery disease is preventable by not eating and drinking too much, by not smoking cigarettes and by taking regular physical exercise. It is likely that by following such simple rules many men would not leave behind them widows and young families in need of a husband's and father's support.

**Cerebrovascular Disease** There were 130 deaths due to cerebrovascular disease or strokes, most of which occurred over the age of 75.

**Deaths between 1 and 45 years** Overall, only 60, or about 7% of all deaths occurred before the age of 45 years and apart from the 25 infant deaths, the remaining 35 were due to :

Cancer	.....	7
Diseases of the nervous system		2
Hypertensive heart disease	.....	1
Ischaemic heart disease	.....	3
Diseases of the circulatory system		2
Pneumonia	.....	2
Endocrine disease	.....	1
Asthma	.....	2
Congenital anomalies	.....	3
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	4
All other accidents	.....	4
Suicide	.....	2
Cirrhosis of liver	.....	1
All other external causes	.....	1

Seven of the deaths in this age group were due to cancer, three being due to cancer of the female breast. Eight deaths were due to accidents, four of these road accidents, and there were two suicides, both in men under the age of 25.

**Deaths between 45 and 65** There were 200 deaths between the ages of 45 and 65. The biggest single cause of death between these ages was ischaemic heart disease from which 53 people, 44 men and 9 women, died. This is followed by 24 deaths from lung cancer, 2 of which were women. There were 11 deaths from cancer of the female breast in this age group.

At later ages, and especially about 75, the causes of death can be less successfully delineated often among a mixture of pathology, but of the 671 deaths above the age of 65 degenerative diseases play a large part.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Under regulations promulgated during the year there are now only 24 diseases in addition to food poisoning which are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health. These are listed in Table VI. Table VII shows the number and age distribution of cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, notified in Watford in 1968.

### Measles

Only 152 cases of measles were notified in 1968, as against 1,068 in 1967 which was a "measles year". Now that measles vaccination is in operation it will be interesting to note the number of cases occurring in the next "measles year", which is in 1969. Measles undoubtedly causes a great deal of misery among children and frequently has complications which may be serious. It is very unfortunate that there is a possibility that the measles vaccination programme may suffer a setback because of the public concern aroused when one manufacturer withdrew supplies because of the occurrence of three cases of suspected encephalitis following vaccination. This cautious attitude is to be commended. Vaccinations continue meanwhile with supplies from the other main manufacturer.

### Dysentery

Only seven cases of dysentery were notified, the same as last year. It is known that dysentery is a disease which is considerable under-notified and so the true incidence was certainly higher than stated.

Person-to-person infection is an important factor in dysentery, particularly that type caused by the *Shigella sonnei* (sonne dysentery).

Children of infant school age with diarrhoea coming un-notified to school and without the knowledge of the teacher may spread the condition. In the early stages of the disease the explosive stool spreads widely over the w.c. bowl and flushing causes a fine film of bacteria-containing water droplets to be deposited on the under-surface of the lavatory seat. Young children often sit gripping the edge of the seat and in this way infection may be transferred to hands, toilet paper, toilet paper holder, lavatory handle and door handle and thus by hand to mouth spread to the uninfected.

In the absence of an antibiotic to kill the organism preventive measures are imperfect. No antibiotic has universal success and some children who are clinically perfectly well carry the organisms for weeks and may have to be excluded from school. In the presence of an epidemic it is necessary to operate a strict exclusion procedure and to institute a strict handwashing routine. The difficulties of maintaining this regime, especially with infant school children are obvious.

In times of increased prevalence of sonne dysentery school lavatories often come in for uninformed criticism, especially if the school is an old one. Lavatories are the vehicle of infection, but the main factor in spread is the age of the children involved. It is important, however, to have adequate hand-washing facilities easily available.



### Food Poisoning

Food poisoning notifications continue to be low, only five cases being reported and otherwise ascertained in 1968. In two cases salmonella panama was isolated and in a further three cases untyped salmonellae were discovered. Unless a moderately large outbreak occurs in a circumscribed area, it is often impossible to trace the source of food poisoning because by the time the case comes to notice, suspected food has been discarded. When a large number of cases occur simultaneously, as in an outbreak following consumption of infected food in a canteen the cause is often traced to faulty food hygiene but this has little effect on the national figures unless the contaminated food can be linked with other outbreaks in other parts of the country. Imported animal feeding stuffs are an important source of food poisoning organisms; by infecting the animals whose intestinal contents may, in turn, infect their slaughtered flesh food poisoning may be spread over a wide area. The fact that food poisoning figures are not higher is attributable to intervention of and inspection by Public Health authorities at all stages of production, manufacturing and retailing of food.

### Infective Jaundice

Infective Jaundice has been notifiable nationally only since 1968 although in Watford it has been notifiable since 1943. In 1968 eleven cases were notified. The disease is usually transmitted by faecal-oral route but respiratory spread or spread by infected syringes is possible. The Watford cases were at all ages between 5 and 65 years and none of them showed evidence of syringe transmission.

### Whooping Cough

Whooping Cough notifications rose sharply to 67 in 1968. There were 26 cases between the ages of 2 and 4 and 28 cases between 5 and 9 years. There has been a recent national rise in the incidence of whooping cough, thought to be due to the emergence of a whooping cough bacillus which until two or three years ago was not included in the vaccine. A large number of the cases were not the characteristic picture of machine-gun cough followed by prolonged respiratory whoop, but were of persistent cough with other symptoms in older children.

### Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurred during the year, a tribute to the excellent level of immunisation in the borough. Separate figures of immunisation in Watford are not kept but the level of protection in Hertfordshire as a whole is shown in Table VIII. It will be seen that the proportion of children immunised approaches 90% and is well above the national average.

### Influenza

Late in the year it seemed as though a variant of Asian influenza was about to invade the country. Key personnel were vaccinated and a contingency plan rapidly drawn up with voluntary organisations to assist in the event of the health services being overwhelmed. Fortunately the epidemic did not materialise but serious deficiencies in the distribution arrangements for the scarce vaccine were made apparent. The vaccine for key personnel had been delivered and administered before the information reached us that priority groups, notably bronchitics, were unable to obtain supplies for their own protection. It is to be hoped that in any future threatened emergency, sufficient information is given early so that proper priorities can be observed.

### Tuberculosis

There has been a steady improvement in the incidence of tuberculosis, most marked in the past five years. Table IX shows the numbers and age incidence of cases and it will be seen that the disease occurred most frequently between the ages of 25 and 34.

The closest contact is maintained with the Chest Clinic and contact tracing is rapid and thorough. I am grateful to the Chest Physician, Dr. P. Watney Roe, for his help and advice during the year.

Dr. B. R. Eaton, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, has been most helpful and co-operative, and I extend to him my thanks.

## FLUORIDATION

The eleven-year report on fluoridation, which will be published in mid-1969, as well as demonstrating the beneficial effects of fluoridation confirms its complete safety.

Children aged  
3 - 7 years

The effects of fluoridation on the temporary teeth of children aged 3 to 7 who have drunk fluoridated water since birth are striking. The average number of decayed teeth in Watford children fell by two-thirds. The proportion of children free from decay doubled in the 3 and 4 year olds and was nearly double in the 5 to 7 year olds. The increase in the proportion free from decay in fluoridated areas was four times greater than in non-fluoridated (control) areas.

Permanent teeth  
8 - 10 years

In assessing results here it should be appreciated that by the age of ten years only half the permanent teeth have erupted, some of them very recently. To show the full benefit all of the teeth must have erupted and been exposed for a sufficient length of time for decay to develop. Nevertheless, even with this reservation the number of decayed permanent teeth in Watford children fell by one half.

Permanent teeth  
11 - 14 years

At the time the examinations took place, children in this age group had not been drinking fluoridated water from birth. Nevertheless the average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth, showed a considerable interim improvement.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Year	1968		Average 1958/67
	Low Income Area	High Income Area	
Area in acres ...	...	5,275	
Estimated mid-year population ...	...	76,730	
Number of inhabited dwellings ...	...	25,252	
Rateable value ...	...	£6,205,747	
Sum represented by penny rate ...	...	£26,100	
Number of births ...	...	1,429	1,353
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) ...	...	18.6	18.0
Area comparability factor ...	...	0.98	-
Standardised birth rate ...	...	18.2	17.6
Number of illegitimate births ...	...	130	88
Percentage of illegitimate births ...	...	9.1	6.5
Number of deaths ...	...	883	860
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	...	11.5	11.4
Area comparability factor ...	...	0.95	-
Standardised death rate ...	...	10.9	11.1
Natural increase of population ...	...	484	494
(excess of births over deaths in year)			
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year ...	...	25	24
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ...	...	17.0	17.2
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month ...	...	19	17
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 month per 1,000 live births) ...	...	13.3	12.5
Number of deaths of infants under 1 week ...	...	18	16
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 live births) ...	...	12.6	11.2
Number of stillbirths ...	...	15	23
Still birth rate (rate per 1,000 births, live and still) ...	...	10	17.1
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and early neonatal deaths per 1,000 births, live and still) ...	...	23	28.1
Number of maternal deaths (including abortions) ...	...	-	0.6
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ...	...	0.0	0.44

TABLE II

TABLE SHOWING VARIOUS STATISTICAL DATA FOR WATFORD 1958 - 1967

Year	Population	Number of Births	Crude Birth Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Birth Rate	Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Area comparability Factor	Standardised Death Rate	Natural increased Population
1958	73,350	1,088	14.8	1.0	14.8	884	12.1	0.98	11.9	204
1959	73,780	1,157	15.7	1.0	15.7	870	11.8	0.97	11.4	287
1960	74,340	1,232	16.6	1.0	16.6	781	10.5	0.98	10.3	451
1961	75,000	1,329	17.7	1.0	17.7	865	11.5	0.98	11.3	464
1962	75,540	1,353	17.9	1.0	17.9	859	11.4	1.0	11.4	494
1963	75,780	1,399	18.5	0.98	18.1	909	12.0	0.98	11.8	490
1964	76,340	1,474	19.3	0.98	18.9	845	11.1	0.98	10.9	629
1965	76,470	1,518	19.9	0.98	19.5	833	10.9	0.95	10.4	685
1966	76,350	1,499	19.6	0.98	19.2	882	11.6	0.96	11.1	617
1967	76,310	1,485	19.5	0.98	19.1	869	11.4	0.93	10.6	616
Average		1,353	18.0		17.6	860	11.4		11.1	494

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Infant mortality Rate	Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	Neonatal mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	Early neonatal mortality	Number of still-births	Still-birth Rate	Perinatal mortality	Number of maternal deaths	Maternal mortality rate
1958	20	18.4	13	11.9	13	11.9	27	24.2	35.9	-	0.00
1959	9	7.8	6	5.2	6	5.2	25	21.2	26.2	-	0.00
1960	19	15.2	10	8.1	9	6.5	22	17.5	23.8	-	0.00
1961	19	14.3	15	11.3	14	10.5	22	16.3	26.6	4	2.96
1962	24	17.6	18	13.3	15	11.1	24	17.4	28.3	-	0.00
1963	24	17.2	16	11.4	15	10.7	23	16.2	26.7	1	0.70
1964	29	19.7	23	15.6	20	13.6	20	13.4	26.8	-	0.00
1965	30	19.8	24	15.8	21	13.8	24	15.6	29.2	-	0.00
1966	28	18.7	18	12.0	15	10.0	18	11.9	21.8	1	0.70
1967	35	23.6	30	20.2	28	18.9	26	17.2	35.7	-	0.00
Average	24	17.2	17	12.5	16	11.2	23	17.1	28.1	0.6	0.44

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS OF WATFORD, HERTFORD COUNTY  
AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	Watford	Hertford County	England and Wales
Live birth rate	18.6	16.2	16.9
Area comparability factor	0.98	0.9	-
Standardised birth rate	18.2	15.2	-
Stillbirth rate	10.0	12.8	14.0
Infant mortality rate	17.0	16.2	18.0
Legitimate	16.9	15.4	-
Illegitimate	23.1	26.3	-
Neonatal mortality rate	13.3	11.1	12.4
Early neonatal mortality rate	12.6	9.9	10.5
Perinatal mortality rate	23.0	22.6	25.0
Maternal mortality rate	0.0	0.1	0.2
Death rate	11.5	9.5	11.9
Area comparability factor	0.95	1.1	-
Standardised death rate	10.9	10.7	-

TABLE IV

MAIN CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS 1968

Cause of death	Number of deaths
Enteritis	1
Meningitis	1
Pneumonia	1
Intestinal obstruction	1
Congenital abnormalities	4
Birth injury, difficult labour	3
Other causes, mainly prematurity	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

TABLE V

## DEATHS 1968

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm-stomach	M	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6
Malignant Neoplasm-lung, bronchus	M	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	18	11	5
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	4
Malignant neoplasm-breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6	4	4
Malignant neoplasm-uterus	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Leukaemia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	M	47	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	10	17	18
	F	38	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	8	6	20
Benign and un-specified neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Diabetes mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental disorders	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meningitis	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	M	6	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Hypertensive disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	8
Ischaemic heart disease	M	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	32	39	31
	F	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	21	37
Other form of heart disease	M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11
	F	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	7	21
Cerebrovascular disease	M	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	19	25
	F	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	15	54



Table V Cont'd.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks and under		Age in years								
			Under 4 weeks	1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	4	8
Influenza	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	M	29	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	6	19
	F	39	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	10	27
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	16	11
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	8
Asthma	M	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Peptic ulcer	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of digestive system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital anomalies	M	7	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
	F	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of peri- natal mortality	M	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill- defined conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	M	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	2
	F	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All other accidents	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	1
	F	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	6
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
All other external causes	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Total all causes	M	463	13	5	1	1	5	4	11	28	98	138	159
	F	420	6	1	2	-	1	3	7	24	50	91	235

TABLE VI

HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases now to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are :-

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping Cough
Measles	Yellow fever

To this list the local authority should add any disease made notifiable in its area under an order made under Section 147 of the Public Health Act 1936 or Section 52 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF CASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN WATFORD 1968

Age group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Food poisoning	Dysentery	Infective hepatitis
Under 1 year	8	5		1		
1 -	17	2	1		3	
2	28	8			2	
3	22	9	3			
4	21	9	3			
5 - 9	47	28	4			1
10 - 14	3	4	3		2	
15 - 24	4	1				4
25 and over	2	1		3		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

TABLE VIII

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN

	Children born in 1967			Children under 2
	Whooping cough (1)	Diphtheria (2)	Poliomyelitis (3)	Smallpox (4)
England and Wales	76	78	74	38
Hertfordshire	87	89	88	56

The figures in columns (1) - (3) are calculated to show the percentage of children born in 1967 who have been vaccinated at any time.

Column 4 includes only children who were vaccinated during 1968 and were under 2 years old at the time, and is calculated as a percentage of children born during 1967. This is considered to give a reasonable estimate of the proportion of young children being vaccinated against smallpox.

TABLE IX

TUBERCULOSIS

Age group	RESPIRATORY		MENINGES & C. N. S.		OTHERS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year						
1 -						
2 - 4	1			1		
5 - 9	2	2				
10 - 14						
15 - 19		1				
20 - 24	2	1			1	
25 - 34	3	2			2	2
35 - 44					1	
45 - 54	2	1			1	1
55 - 64	3					
65 - 74						
75 and over						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

TABLE X

## RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE 1968

MONTH	RAINFALL		DAY TEMPERATURE °C (°F)	
	Inches	% of Average	Highest	Lowest
January	2.30	102%	11 (52)	- 2 (29)
February	1.03	59%	8 (47)	2 (35)
March	1.00	76%	19 (66)	- 1 (30)
April	2.23	119%	22 (71)	5 (41)
May	1.65	78%	22 (71)	8 (46)
June	2.73	140%	25 (77)	17 (60)
July	2.34	94%	31 (87)	17 (60)
August	2.80	124%	23 (74)	15 (59)
September	5.26	229%	23 (74)	10 (50)
October	2.49	96%	18 (65)	11 (51)
November	1.87	65%	13 (56)	4 (40)
December	3.10	129%	10 (50)	- 1 (31)
TOTAL	28.80	110%		

These measurements were taken at Watford Fields and supplied by the Water Engineer.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Report on the Water Supply

Mr. J.R. Collins, C.Eng., F.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., M.R.S.H., the Borough Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information :-

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.
2. 1,430 million gallons were supplied during the year averaging 3.967 million gallons per day and the supply on the maximum day (21st October 1968) was 4.868 million gallons.
3. The population supplied was approximately 76,135 and the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was 47.92 gallons per head per day. 237 new supplies were connected during the year.
4. All water going into supply was softened to approximately 175 parts per million.
5. Fluoridation was continued at both pumping stations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The fluoride content of the supply was regularly tested and found to be at the correct level of 1 part per million.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination on all water supplied was carried out on the supplies from both pumping stations. Chlorine residual tests were taken at regular intervals to ensure that the sterilisation processes were operating correctly.
7. 167 bacteriological analyses were made of the water drawn from various parts of the supply system, and of the raw and untreated water from both pumping stations and have indicated that the supply has at all times been of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.
8. Chemical analysis also indicated satisfactory chemical quality of the untreated and treated water. There was no plumbosolvency.
9. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings within the water supply area revealed the following situation :-

Rear of 227 Horseshoe Lane	One caravan
Rear of 289 Sheepcot Lane	Three caravans
Rear of 275 Sheepcot Lane	Six caravans
Rear of 106 High Road, Leavesden	Two caravans
Rear of 82 High Road, Leavesden	One caravan (vacant)
"Rosebarn", Lady Capel's Wharf, Hempstead Road	One caravan
10. There was one permanent dwelling within the water supply area without a main water supply piped into the premises. This was "Rosevilla", North Orbital Road where a standpipe and flush w.c. were available.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The primary function of the Public Health Inspector is the improvement of our environment by the elimination of conditions that are prejudicial to health. Just as there are continual changes in our environment, so there are changes in the day-to-day activities of the Inspectors. As, for instance, we completed our slum clearance campaign in Watford and found that it was less and less necessary to enforce repairs in other old houses, our main housing purpose became the improvement of the remaining stock of houses that lack modern facilities, and the control of overcrowding. At the same time, stronger legislation has given the Council the required powers of enforcement.

During recent years there has, in fact, been a spate of new legislation extending the responsibilities of the public health inspectorate in most branches of their work, in particular, in offices and shops, food protection and clean air. It is increasingly necessary to establish priorities for inspections and during the six months that we were without one district public health inspector there had to be a curtailment of a number of routine inspections. Tribute must be paid to the other district inspectors for the conscientious way they filled the gap while we were below establishment.



2. UNFIT DWELLINGS

The Council made a demolition order on 1 The Avenue, Villiers Road and a closing order on a flat over 103 St. Albans Road. Closing Orders were also made on underground rooms at three houses - 93 and 95 Durban Road and 31 St. John's Road.

The Closing Order on 36 Bedford Street made in 1966 was determined following reconstruction and improvement.

3. REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

REPAIR

The number of privately rented houses in the Borough continues to fall. Many tenants have bought their houses and it is the general practice for a house to be sold for owner-occupation whenever a landlord obtains vacant possession. With very few exceptions the standard of maintenance of houses in Watford is good. Action taken by the Council to enforce the repair of houses is set out in Table III in the Appendix.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

Apart from the construction of new dwellings the main housing task in Watford is the modernisation of houses lacking essential facilities.

(i) Improvement Areas

Since the Housing Act 1964 came into force the Council have declared four improvement areas containing 333 rented and 605 owner-occupied houses; 262 of the rented and 242 owner-occupied houses were in need of improvement. Legal procedures are complicated and time-consuming and it was not until the latter part of the year that substantial progress could be seen. The enforcement of all the outstanding immediate improvement notices was undertaken by the Borough Engineer carrying out the works in default. The number of houses where works were completed during the year was 43 rented and 35 owner-occupied.

In two of the areas 99 houses which were owned by British Railways were sold to the Callowland Housing Association who immediately sold 73 of them to the tenants for owner-occupation with the requirement that they be fully improved. Work was in progress on many of these at the end of the year. Altogether in the four areas improvement works were completed or in progress in 78 rented and 95 owner-occupied houses.

In February 1968 the Council authorised the survey of a further 640 houses with the intention of declaring another improvement area. This was not completed before the publication of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" which recommends such radical alterations in procedures for dealing with improvement areas that the Council decided to await the new legislation before embarking on a new improvement area.

## (ii) Improvement of Houses outside Improvement Areas

The tenants of 12 houses made representations to the Council to exercise their powers under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the owners to improve their houses. The necessary enforcement proceedings were authorised in all cases.

12 rented and 67 owner-occupied houses were voluntarily improved.

A statistical Summary of the action taken by the Council to enforce the improvement of houses is shown in Table IV in the Appendix.

## 4. OVERCROWDING AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

Most of the overcrowding of houses in Watford occurs in dwellings which are occupied by members of more than one family and in the great majority of these immigrants are involved.

At the beginning of the year there were 70 houses where notices and directions were operative controlling the numbers of persons who could live or sleep in the houses.

During 1968 the Council made 14 directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 and served 4 notices under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1957. One house reverted to single family occupation leaving 85 houses under supervision at the end of the year.

There was one prosecution for failure to comply with a Notice. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £15 and £5 costs.

One notice was served under Section 15 of the 1961 Act requiring the provision of additional amenities.

Adequate supervision of these houses can only be maintained by regular day and night inspections.

## 5. CARAVANS

Part I of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 came into force on 26th August 1968. This provides for the protection of residential occupiers of caravans broadly corresponding to the protection given to tenants of permanent dwellings under Part III of the Rent Act 1965.

Part II of the 1968 Act will come into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister when an obligation will be imposed on County Councils to provide gipsy encampments. After these sites have been provided local authorities will have more effective powers to deal with unauthorised camping by gipsies.

The number of residential caravans in Watford has been reduced to seven on five licensed sites.

## FOOD

### 6. FOOD HYGIENE

Apart from daily inspections at the slaughterhouse, eight hundred inspections were made of food premises of all kinds and of stalls and vehicles to check compliance with the relevant hygiene regulations.

The proprietor of a restaurant who had been convicted of fourteen offences in 1967 was charged with a further nine offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and was convicted and fined £5 for each offence (see Table X). In addition, the magistrates disqualified him from using the premises for catering for a period of twelve months. Authority was given for legal proceedings for failure to provide adequate supplies of hot water in a restaurant. A warning letter was sent to an ice-cream vendor and legal proceedings authorised in the case of a fruiterer and greengrocer, in respect of offences against the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations.

A clean food handbook explaining in simple terms the elementary facts of food hygiene was sent to all the food premises in the town.

### 7. FOOD INSPECTION

#### (a) Meat

Meat Inspection was carried on satisfactorily through the year.

There was a contravention of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations by the use of unsterilised wiping cloths, for which offence the slaughterhouse manager was fined £10 with £6.6.0 advocate's fee.

The Council continued to charge for meat inspection at the maximum rate but were unable to make any refund to the slaughtering company in respect of the year ended March 1968, as had been done in previous years. The actual cost of the meat inspection service continues to rise and, if no increase in inspection fees is authorised, will in future be carried out at some cost to the ratepayers.

The slaughterhouse manager has continued to permit students of meat inspection to gain practical experience in the abattoir. Such facilities are very limited and local authorities over a wide area are indebted to him for the opportunity for their staff to receive the required training.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act

Twenty licences to slaughter all classes of animals except horses were issued. In addition two licences were issued enabling the holders to slaughter animals under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman.

#### (b) Milk

The London Co-operative Society (Formerly Watford & Harrow Society) Dairy ceased to process milk during the year. There is now no milk processing plant in Watford. Satisfactory reports were received in respect of samples submitted for bacteriological tests.

Two complaints of milk sold in dirty bottles were reported to the Council. No formal action was authorised, and five further complaints were referred to the Public Health departments of the districts in which the milk was bottled.

(c) Unsound Food

Sixty-eight complaints were received of food (other than milk) sold in an unsatisfactory condition. Twenty-seven complaints referred to foreign bodies, twelve of which were in bakery products. Staleness, mould growth or decomposition accounted for thirty-eight reports.

The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings (Table X) in fourteen of the cases reported to them and instructed warning letters to be sent in twelve cases. All complaints are thoroughly investigated and, wherever possible, means are sought to prevent a recurrence of the unsatisfactory circumstance which led to the complaint.

8. FOOD POISONING

Five cases of food poisoning were notified; two of these were in one family. Careful investigations failed to establish a common link. One of the patients had just returned from West Africa and had apparently contracted the infection outside this country. Two of the single cases were severely ill; one of them died but the cause of death was an unrelated illness.

A tabular statement of the notified cases is set out in Table XII in the appendix.

The staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Watford, have again been most helpful in the investigations.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The report of the Public Analyst, Mr. J.D. Curzon, on the samples submitted for examination during the year 1968 is summarised as follows :-

Formal samples	-	6	Informal samples	-	147
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(i) Routine Samples

(a) Foods

- Cream, milk products and ice-cream
- Meat and fish products
- Butter and margarine
- Tea and coffee
- Flour and cereal foods
- Vegetarian and patent foods

(b) Drugs

Twenty-seven assorted drug samples were taken

All the routine food samples were satisfactory and the samples of drugs complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia where applicable. A comparison of margarines, for which dietetic claims were made, with other margarines showed the former to be only marginally better than the latter.

(ii) Special Samples

Processed cheese which was very old stock was decomposed and had a gross fungal growth.

Minced meat contained strands of sacking or netting.

Rice (in a chicken curry and rice pack) was discoloured due to faulty lacquering of the can.

(iii) Pesticide Residues

The Council participated in a systematic scheme of sampling for the detection of pesticide residues in food.

Four samples were taken; none contained pesticide residues.

The law was materially strengthened when the Clean Air Act 1968 received Royal Assent on the 25th October. This is an enabling Act and the various provisions will become effective when commencement Orders are made by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The first of these Orders was made on the 2nd December, making the first of April 1969 the appointed day for the coming into operation of ten of the fifteen sections of the Act. From that date the Council will have stronger powers of control over the emission of grit and dust from chimneys, the height of chimneys and the sale of unauthorised fuels in smoke control areas.

#### 10. INDUSTRIAL

Most of the boiler plants in Watford are modern oil burning installations. Only eight excessive smoke emissions were recorded during the year.

##### Prior approval of New Furnaces

Whenever there is a proposal to instal new boiler plant, the developer is advised to take advantage of the prior approval provisions of the Act. The granting of prior approval is subject to satisfactory chimney height and design whether or not Section 10 of the Clean Air Act applies to the premises. Ten applications were granted.

##### Height of Chimneys

Plans were submitted to the Borough Engineer for the erection of twelve chimneys. It was necessary to require alterations to the dimensions of five of these. Four of the plans referred to premises exempted from the requirements of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

##### Watford Gas Works

For many years the production of gas from coal and coke has caused intermittent nuisances to residents in the vicinity of the Watford Gas Works. This method of gas production ceased on the 2nd October 1968 and the new gas reforming plant came into production on the 12th November.

From the early design stage considerable thought was given to the avoidance of nuisance from noise, fumes and mal-odour, but unfortunately there were some minor "teething troubles" that produced a number of complaints, principally from residents in the adjoining Bushey area. With the exception of excessive noise, all of these were soon rectified.

##### Electricity Generating Station

The Cardiff Road Power Station which has been used as a standby during recent years was closed down completely during Spring 1968.

## 11. SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Due to financial stringency the Council decided to curtail expenditure on smoke control areas and to give priority to making smoke-free the Housing Improvement Areas. It was thus necessary to ask the Minister for the second time to defer confirmation of the Harwoods Smoke Control Order (No. 6) which was made in August 1966. The Minister was asked to confirm the Callowland Order (No. 7) which covers 413 houses in two Improvement Areas; this was confirmed on the 7th May 1968. The Council also made the Acme Smoke Control Order (No. 8) which covers an area of 27.6 acres containing the 449 dwellings in the 4th Housing Improvement Area. This Order was confirmed on the 29th October, 1968.

The Exhibition Van of the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation was stationed at various sites in these two areas during the first week in November.

The number of houses covered by the seven confirmed smoke control orders in Watford is 7,006 with a total acreage of 1,942.

## 12. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RESEARCH

The Council co-operate with the Ministry of Technology in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution by maintaining in the Borough five volumetric gauges for the recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. The gauges are situated in an industrial area; the commercial centre of the town; the Meriden Smoke Control Area and residential districts of high and low population densities.

During the early Spring a study was made of the daily recordings extending over the 6 year period that the gauges have been used in Watford. It was decided that, with one exception, little useful purpose would be served by continuing the recordings during the summer months. The exception was the gauge adjoining the Gas Works which was ceasing to make gas from coal later in the year.

The domestic and industrial consumption of coal in Watford and the natural ventilation of the town are all classified as of medium level by Atmospheric Pollution Division of the Ministry of Technology.

The tables in Appendix XVI show the average monthly recordings during the six winter months.

## PLACES OF WORK

### 13. FACTORIES

There is close co-operation with the Borough Engineer on all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the premises will comply with the various legislative requirements before structural work commences.

The items which have concerned the Health Department during the year are the layout and equipment of works canteens, sanitary accommodation, the prior approval of boiler plant, height of chimneys and the prevention of atmospheric pollution and other nuisances and the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures.

#### Factories Acts 1937 and 1959

Certain health provisions of the Act are enforced by the Council; a summary of the work carried out during 1968 will be found in tabular form in the Appendix (Table XIV(i)).

#### Part IV - Special Provisions - Section 54 - Underground Bakehouse

The last underground bakehouse in Watford, at 24 Langley Road, was voluntarily closed during the year.

#### Part VIII - Section 110 - Homework

The nature of the work undertaken by outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XIV(ii).

### 14. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

#### 1. Registration and Inspection

The number of premises in Watford newly registered during the year and on the register at 31st December 1968 with the numbers of persons employed therein are as follows :-

	<u>Number of premises newly registered during the year</u>	<u>Registered premises</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	28	401	7,544
Retail Shops	33	651	5,120
Wholesale shops and Warehouses	7	44	610
Catering Establishments and Canteens	9	68	925
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>77</u>	<u>1,165</u>	<u>14,205</u>

(6,534 males and 7,671 females)



In considering the above figures it must be borne in mind that many persons are employed in the above classes of business which are not registered by the Local Authority, namely :-

1. Businesses in which only the employer's relatives work;
2. Businesses in which employees work less than 21 hours per week; and
3. Businesses which are registered by the Factory Inspector, e.g.  
     offices in factories, Local Authority and Government buildings,  
     certain railway premises, etc.

All registered premises in Watford have received a general inspection. The necessity for inspection is accepted by occupiers and there has been a general willingness to comply with the informal notifications of infringements of the Act.

It was, however, necessary to report to the Council nine cases where contraventions had not been remedied within a reasonable time. The immediate threat of legal proceedings sufficed to secure full compliance with the Act.

During the year 301 general inspections of registered premises were made by the Public Health Inspectors and 264 other visits and inspections.

## 2. Accidents

Forty accidents were reported. In all probability there were many other accidents that were not reported.

(See Table XIII for Analysis of causes of accidents)

## 15. SHOPS ACT 1950

The Public Health Inspectors are also appointed as Shops Act Inspectors. It is the general practice to check that there is compliance with the conditions of employment provisions of the Act when shops are inspected under other legislation.

With the exception of trading on Sundays there are very few infringements of the closing hour provisions of the Act. Three car dealers were prosecuted for Sunday trading offences; fines totalling £30 with 16 gns. costs were imposed.

16. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

160 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirits and petroleum mixtures and one railway depot for the storage of carbide of calcium. There are now four self-service post payment fillings stations in the town. 261 inspections were made during the year.

An investigation into a complaint of petrol fumes in the water closet of a private dwelling revealed an explosive mixture of petrol vapour in the main sewer. The source of this petrol was traced to a garage some 250 yards distant where a leaking suction pipe from an underground storage tank was found. There was also an accumulation of petrol in a basement under a car showroom adjoining the defective suction pipe. I would like to record my appreciation of the help I received from the County Fire Brigade and the Borough Engineer in dealing with the hazardous conditions on the garage premises and in the main sewer.

The Petroleum (Inflammable Liquids) Order 1968 and subsequent Regulations materially strengthen the Council's powers for protecting persons and property from danger during the conveyance by road of a large number of specified inflammable substances.

In August 1968 the Home Office issued a revised Model Code for petrol filling stations and can stores. The Council amended the conditions subject to which petroleum storage licences are granted in Watford to bring them into conformity with the new code.

17. NUISANCES

The abatement of a wide variety of public health nuisances continues to be an important part of the work of the public health inspector and makes a substantial contribution towards the maintenance of a healthy environment.

Most of the nuisances are dealt with informally but in one case the Council had to take unusual legal proceedings following the enforced removal to hospital of an old lady who was incapacitated and in need of care and attention. The large house in which she was living and which she owned was in such a dilapidated and hazardous condition that the Council applied to the Magistrates for a Nuisance Order prohibiting its use for human habitation until it was made fit.

Noise from road and air traffic increases every year and is now of such a high level that it is beyond doubt a social nuisance to all who live near to the main thoroughfares in the town. The few complaints we receive clearly indicate that the public can see little effective action that the Council can take to reduce this noise. Where, however, noise is caused by commercial or industrial activities the public are more sensitive. Complaints concerning seven such premises were investigated and improvements were achieved without recourse to legal proceedings.

18. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council continue to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice on domestic premises. Rodents on commercial and industrial premises and wasps nests on occupied premises are dealt with on payment of a fee which for wasps nests is 10/-.

A commercial undertaking laid "1,081" (Sodium Fluoroacetamide) poison baits in those sewers which have been found in the past to be rat-infested.

Table XV sets out details of rat and mice infestations treated during the year. 55 wasps nests were destroyed.

APPENDIX

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1968

TABLE I

<u>Complaints</u>	...	...	...	947
<u>DWELLINGS</u>				
Public Health Act (disrepair)	...	...	...	460
Housing Act (disrepair)	...	...	...	706
Housing Act (improvement)	...	...	...	685
Housing Act (overcrowding)	...	...	...	351
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	25
<u>PLACES OF WORK</u>				
Power Factories	...	...	...	117
Non-power factories	...	...	...	5
Building Sites, etc.	...	...	...	14
Outworkers	...	...	...	8
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963</u>				
(a) Offices	...	...	...	93
(b) Retail Shops	...	...	...	166
(c) Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	...	...	18
(d) Catering establishments and Canteens	...	...	...	24
(e) Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	-
Revisits	...	...	...	264
<u>Shops Act</u>	...	...	...	99
<u>FOOD</u>				
Food inspection	...	...	...	208
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	345
Food factories	...	...	...	31
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	50
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	...	...	...	270
Retail food shops	...	...	...	296
Public Market	...	...	...	42
Mobile shops, stalls	...	...	...	81
Other food premises	...	...	...	37
Food (adulteration) samples	...	...	...	142
Food (bacteriological) samples	...	...	...	62

Cont'd....

<u>AIR</u>			
Volumetric Instruments	...	...	126
Industrial smoke control	...	...	170
Smoke control areas	...	...	445
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</u>			
Drainage	...	...	751
Refuse	...	...	201
Insect pests	...	...	131
Conveniences	...	...	35
Nuisances	...	...	634
Infectious disease	...	...	179
<u>OTHER ACTS</u>			
Home Counties (music and dancing) Act	...	...	10
Pests Act	...	...	114
Petroleum Acts	...	...	261
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>			
Interviews	...	...	290
Attendance at Court	...	...	14
Lectures	...	...	20
Unclassified visits	...	...	217
Water samples	...	...	39
			8,326

HOUSING

TABLE II

(a)	Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1968	161
(b)	Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1968	138
(c)	Total number of dwellings built by Council since 1945	5,154
(d)	Total number of dwellings built by private enterprise since 1945	3,104
(e)	Number of Council dwellings occupied on 31st December 1968 = 6,741 + 35 prefabricated bungalows.	

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

TABLE III

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>			
As a result of formal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u>			
Under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957	4	9	3

	By Owner	By Local Authority
<u>UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED</u>		
After informal action by Local Authority	47	Nil
After formal Notice under :		
(a) Public Health Acts	17	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957	8	3

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

TABLE IV

		1965/67	1968
1. Area Improvement	Areas declared	4	Nil
	Containing - total dwellings	935	Nil
	Improvable dwellings (tenanted and owner/occupied)	538	Nil
	Tenanted improvable dwellings	260	Nil
	Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to - full standard	253	Nil
	Undertakings given	10	1
	Improvement notices served - Immediate	87	34
	Suspended	91	22
	Final	14	2
	Appeals under Section 27	Nil	Nil
	Notices withdrawn - Immediate	8	2
	Suspended	Nil	Nil
	Final	1	Nil
Improvement works completed	6	43	
2. Improvement of dwellings outside Improvement Areas	Preliminary Notices served: proposing improvement to full standard	10	11
	Undertakings given	1	Nil
	Improvement Notices served	5	6
	Appeals against Notices	Nil	Nil
	Improvement Notices withdrawn	1	Nil
	Improvement Works completed	Nil	3
3. Improvement of dwellings in tenement blocks	NIL	Nil	Nil
4. Enforcement	Work carried out by Council in default of compliance with an improvement notice or failure to fulfil undertaking	Nil	18
5. Purchase	Purchase Notices received - dwellings	Nil	3

FOOD

Types of Food premises within the Borough at 31st December 1968

TABLE V

Retail Food Shops	...	407
Hotels and Public Houses	...	56
Cafes and Restaurants	...	68
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	79
School Canteens	...	34
Clubs	...	14
Bakehouses	...	9
Wholesale Food Merchants	...	19
Food Factories	...	4
Public Market	...	1
Slaughterhouse	...	1
Dairy	...	1

All these premises comply with Regulation 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, where applicable.

Food Premises Registered by the Council

1. Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	4
Ice Cream Dealers	...	174
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	43

2. Article 8 of the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Dairies	...	1
---------	-----	---

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963/65

The Council has granted one dealer's licence to pasteurise milk and one dealer's licence to sterilise milk at a dairy. Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were held as follows :-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences
Untreated Milk	14
Pasteurised Milk	58
Sterilised Milk	42
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	29

All licence holders are registered as milk distributors. One distributor is registered solely for the sale of cream.



INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD DURING 1968

TABLE VI

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	11,688	1,374	4,905	22,313	81,767
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	2	47	7	96
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6,580	741	46	4,672	39,962
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	56.3	54.0	1.9	20.9	49.0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	227
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.12	-	-	-	0.28
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcasses in which cystercosis was found	121	15	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	121	15	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	121	15	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

LOCATION AND NATURE OF CYSTERCERCUS BOVIS INFECTIONS

TABLE VII

121 cases of cystercercus bovis were discovered in the 13,062 cattle slaughtered in Watford. This gives an incidence rate of 1.04%. The location of the cysts are as follows :-

	Head	Heart	Skirt
Viable cysts	12	3	-
Degenerate cysts	43	77	8

The cysts in 15 cases (11.0%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. In 5 cases there were more than one cyst.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF MILK

TABLE VIII

Pasteurised	7	Sterilised	1
All the samples were satisfactory			

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

TABLE IX

Bacteriological Samples

Satisfactory	Grades 1 and 2	33
Unsatisfactory	Grades 3 and 4	30
52% of all samples were satisfactory. After an unsatisfactory sample, repeated samples are taken from the same source until a satisfactory result is obtained.		

Chemical Samples

8 samples complied with the statutory standards.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - TABLE X

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

No.	Section	Alleged Offence	Result	Fines	Costs payable by Defendant	Remarks
1	2	Sale of mouldy sausages	Conviction	£25	£. s. d. - - -	
2	2	Sale of mouldy sausages	Conviction	£25	- - -	
3	2	Sale of mouldy croquettes	Conviction	£10	6. 6. 0	
4	2	Sale of decomposed cheese	Conviction	£25	- - -	
5	2	Sale of mouldy fruit pie	Conviction	£5	6. 6. 0	
6	2	Sale of mouldy fruit pie	Dismissed	-	- - -	Vendor relied on warranty. Magistrates asked to state a case.
7	2	Sale of mouldy fruit pie	Conviction	£10	6. 6. 0	
8	2	Sale of mouldy Yoghourt	Conviction	£25	- - -	
9	2	Sale of mouldy sausage roll	Conviction	£20	6. 6. 0	
10	2	Sale of pastry containing glass	Conviction	£20	6. 6. 0	
11	2	Sale of bread containing beetle	Conviction	£10	- - -	
12	2	Sale of beans containing glass	Conviction	£10	6. 6. 0	
13	2	Sale of sandwich containing insect	Conviction	£10	6. 6. 0	
14	2	Sale of cereal containing maggots	Conviction	£25	6. 6. 0	
15	13	Mobile shop - 4 offences against Food Hygiene (Markets etc.) Regulations	Conviction	£12	- - -	
16	13	Cafe - 9 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	Conviction	£45	6. 6. 0	Proprietor disqualified for one year.

FOOD POISONING

TABLE XI

	No.	Number of cases		Organism Responsible	Food Suspected
		Notified	Otherwise Ascertained		
Family outbreaks	1	2	Nil	Salmonella Panama	Unknown
Single cases	1	1	Nil	Salmonella - not typed	Pork Brawn
	2	2	Nil	Salmonella - not typed	Unknown

OFFICE, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

TABLE XII

Infringements of Act in 295 premises inspected during 1968

Uncleanly condition of premises or furnishings	6
Inadequate provision for maintaining reasonable temperature	2
Inadequate light or ventilation	10
Unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	11
Inadequate hot water, clean towels, etc. for hand washing	9
Inadequate supply of drinking water	2
Inadequate provision for accommodating clothing	-
Defective condition of floors or stairs	10
Inadequate fencing of dangerous parts of machinery	9
Suitable or sufficient sitting facilities not provided	-
Inadequate first aid equipment	32
Failure to display prescribed abstract of the Act	34
Other matters	14
	<hr/>
	139
	<hr/>
	TOTAL

TABLE XIII

Analysis of Causes of Accidents notified during 1968

Falls of persons	20
Stepping on or striking against objects or person	5
Handling of goods	6
Struck by falling object	2
Use of hand tools	2
Not otherwise specified	5
	<hr/>
	40
	<hr/>
	TOTAL

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 TO 1961

TABLE XIV (i)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	29	5	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	368	117	2	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	14	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

TABLE XIV (ii)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list notified to Local Authority
Wearing apparel (Making, alterations, etc.)	15
Brush Making	1
Carding of buttons, belts, etc.	15
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>
<p align="center">There were no cases of default in sending lists of outworkers as required by Section 133 (i) (c).</p>	

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

TABLE XV

		Dec	Nov	Oct	Mar	Feb	Jan	Site No.
1.	Number of properties in district							30,720
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification							498
	(b) Number infested by :-							
	(i) Rats							430
	(ii) Mice							68
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rates and/or mice for reasons other than notification							4
	(b) Number infested by :-							
	(i) Rats							2
	(ii) Mice							1
	Type of Area							
	Industrial							
	Commercial							
	Low density residential							
	High density residential							
	Smaller houses etc.							
	Lower High Street							
	Market Place							
	Langley Road							
	Judge Street							
	Blendon Estate							



TABLE XVI

Smoke concentration (Micrograms per cubic metre)						
Site No.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	58	49	22	34	*	65
3	81	84	37	49	83	124
4	55	56	25	34	58	87
5	52	46	21	21	47	75
6	62	91	51	*	59	83

Sulphur Dioxide concentration (micrograms per cubic metre)						
Site No.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	132	93	76	84	*	153
3	165	147	109	109	161	225
4	121	122	78	76	133	193
5	134	130	94	81	441	208
6	183	296	159	*	*	207

\* Insufficient results to obtain an average.

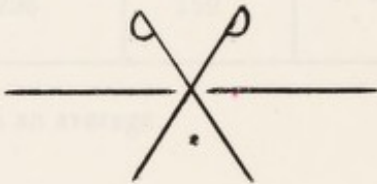
Site No.	Location	Type of Area
2	Meriden Estate	Smoke control area
3	Judge Street	High density residential
4	Langley Road	Low density residential
5	Market Place	Commercial
6	Lower High Street	Industrial



TABLE NO. 1

Smoke concentrations (Micrograms per cubic meter)						
Site No.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	55	43	14	54	*	58
2	81	61	20	59	20	104
4	85	88	18	54	58	87
5	88	68	21	23	47	75
6	92	94	21	*	28	31

Sulphur Dioxide concentrations (Micrograms per cubic meter)						
Site No.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	147	95	78	66	*	153
2	165	147	108	158	121	128
4	121	122	78	78	105	104
5	134	120	38	21	48	108
6	182	226	122	*	*	127



\* Insufficient results to obtain an average.

Site No.	Location	Type of Area
1	Market Street	South school area
2	Edgely Street	High density residential
4	Langley Road	Low density residential
5	Market Street	Commercial
6	Lower High Street	Industrial



