

**[Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.,  
Hatfield R.D.C., Welwyn R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Welwyn Garden City (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1961

**Persistent URL**

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4421(3)

18 OCT 1962

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT  
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND  
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health  
and Public Health Inspectors  
of the Districts**

for the year

**1961**



THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL  
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your Districts for the year 1961. While dealing mainly with the environmental health services for which the Councils as Local Sanitary Authorities are responsible, a brief account of the related personal and social health services of the County Council has, as in previous years, been included.

The high standard of health enjoyed throughout the three Districts was well maintained throughout the year, the standardised birth, death and infant mortality rates comparing favourably with the national rates with the exception of the high infant mortality rate for Welwyn Garden City. This has been carefully studied with the views of the Paediatrician, Medical Practitioners and Midwives, and as there has been no variation in the pattern of ante natal and obstetric care, the increase is probably fortuitous, the rate being based on relatively small numbers.

I can report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease including smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis. Measles was again troublesome among young pre-school children in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield for the third successive year, but by the Autumn there was a sharp fall in notifications probably because the majority of children over one year of age had already had the disease. Two minor outbreaks of gastro enteritis were reported to the Health Department at Hatfield in the Autumn for investigation and advice, and several families in the North West area of Welwyn Garden City showed symptoms of mild gastro enteritis of virus origin in the Spring. Apart from these relatively minor troubles there were no outbreaks of food poisoning or enteric infection during the year.

In 1798 Edward Jenner published his pamphlet on "An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae" since when no public health measure has given rise to such prolonged and heated argument as the prevention of smallpox by vaccination. When Smallpox, which ceased to be endemic in this country at the end of the last century, makes a brief re-appearance due mainly to the difficulty of ensuring complete quarantine measures in this age of rapid air transport, there

is loud clamor for compulsory vaccination, to be followed in a few months, when the outbreak has been controlled, by an equally strong plea from a body of informed people for the end of routine vaccination of young children. The man in the street can well be excused for being perplexed by the mass of data and dire prophesies produced by either side while the medical profession itself is far from united in its views on the value of smallpox vaccination in the community. There is no doubt that recent successful vaccination is a sure protection from smallpox, and that when smallpox is diagnosed in a community the most effective control measures are early expert diagnosis, isolation and treatment of cases followed by prompt vaccination of all contacts and if necessary the contacts of these contacts. The proportion of infants vaccinated has risen steadily year by year since compulsory vaccination was dropped so no purpose would be served by re-introducing compulsion at the present time. Primary vaccination is, very rarely, followed by serious complications, e.g. encephalitis and generalised vaccinia which can be just as harmful as Smallpox. When therefore the number of these serious complications, due to the very large numbers of persons vaccinated, is likely to exceed the number of cases of smallpox to be expected in the unvaccinated population, then one begins to question the true value of smallpox vaccination as a general routine measure under the prevailing circumstances. There are of course many other side issues relative to the whole position, e.g. the demand for vaccination for foreign travel; the difficulties of ensuring effective quarantine measures in these days of increasing air travel, and modified smallpox in partly protected persons. The British Medical Association has passed a resolution urging the Minister of Health to enquire into the whole position relating to the routine vaccination of children in the country, and the time would seem to be opportune, with the evidence now available from the recent outbreaks in this country and the changing international picture.

One of the penalties of a high living standard in this modern age is the increase in dental caries that accompanies it. The dental condition of children in this country has deteriorated seriously over the last two decades in sharp contrast to the improvement in most other criteria of sound physical growth. The publication of the official report on "The Conduct of the Fluoridation Studies in the United Kingdom and the Results achieved after Five Years" is therefore of particular interest to the dental profession and all engaged in the Public Health Service. The results in the three areas selected for these studies - Watford, part of Anglesey and Kilmarnock, where the public drinking water has been fluoridated since 1955 showed a striking improvement in the dental condition of children aged 3 - 7 years, most marked in those children born after the onset of the fluoridation process. The reduction in dental caries ranged from 66% in 3 year olds to 50% in 5 year olds which is in general agreement with findings from

similar investigations in other countries. In the United States over 30,000,000 people are consuming drinking water which has been fluoridated as a routine public health measure, and Health Authorities in this country will now be faced with the decision whether to take this step. The Standing Dental and Medical Advisory Committee has endorsed the report and advised the general adoption of fluoridation. The pilot studies were a properly cautious approach to fluoridation but the way now seems open to make the benefits of this measure available to a greater proportion of the population.

The publication of the Ten-year Plan outlining the proposals for the development of the hospital service over the next ten years has been followed by Circular 2/62 calling upon Local Health Authorities to prepare complimentary long term plans for the future health and welfare services. As a first step, a critical assessment of the adequacy of the present Local Authority services is essential while some routine measures tend to be continued beyond their time of usefulness. New priorities emerge with the changing social pattern, e.g. the pressure on the domiciliary midwifery and nursing service resulting from earlier discharge from maternity units, the increasing number of old people, the changed outlook on mental health and other trends. The preparing of long term plans is of course no novelty in the New Towns but it is stimulating to meet this new call although proposals now formulated may later need to be modified by short term economy campaigns and the overall shortage of suitable young women for specialised training.

The Public Health Inspectors have had a busy year supervising the environmental health of the Districts with close attention to food hygiene, unsatisfactory housing conditions and problems arising in the various industrial units in the Districts. Much of the work is of a routine nature which does not figure prominently in the monthly reports to the Committees, but plays an important part in raising standards mainly through sound practical health education. The problems of caravan dwellers has continued to receive special attention in the Hatfield Rural District.

Dr. J.L.Dunlop retires at the end of August on completing 21 years service as County Medical Officer. It has been largely due to his wise guidance that the Divisional scheme of administration of the County Health Services has evolved so successfully, linked with the work of the District Councils' Health Departments over the past thirteen years. I am greatly indebted to him for his interest and support in the development of the Health Services in Mid Hertfordshire and especially his readiness to consider and foster new proposals and schemes put to him.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation

of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1962.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1961.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. Y. ANDERSON, M.R.SAN.I. (Left)

L. GARDINER, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced  
13th March, 1961)

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS.

Clerks:

Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	4,231
Population (mid-year 1961 estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	35,250
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1962	...	...	...	...	10,847
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1962	...	...	...	...	£861,395
Product of a penny rate, 1961-62	...	...	...	...	£3,589

Welwyn Garden City is a modern residential and industrial town founded in the midst of rural Hertfordshire in 1920 by Ebenezer Howard and a small group of pioneers in practical town planning. The earliest development was based on the experience gained at Letchworth the first Garden City, and combined the planned open layout in the grand manner of Parkway and The Campus on the west side of the town with industrial, commercial and residential areas. Since the war the town has been further extended by the Development Corporation and District Council as a New Town. The well laid out homes, fine schools and facilities for the widest range of social activities and interests, provide a healthful and convenient way of life for all ages and sections of the community at work and leisure. The present building programmes of the Council and Development Corporation continue the early tradition in the outlying development schemes, new factory premises and central administrative and commercial buildings.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	117	91	208
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	399	355	754
Rate per 1,000 population			21.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			4.1
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	1	11	12
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			15.7
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			766
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	14	4	18

INFANT MORTALITY RATES:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	23.8
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births	23.5
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "	32.2
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	19.9
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	18.5
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	34.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	1.3

Deaths:

The slight rise in the mortality rate was caused mainly by more deaths from heart diseases and cancer. With more persons living to an advanced age in the town, some increase in these two causes of death is to be expected although it is worthy of note that 30 persons died from coronary heart disease and 9 from lung cancer. Deaths from road traffic and other accidents were below the average of previous years.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	-	2	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	18	26	44	34
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	7	10	17	19
Heart Diseases	39	30	69	50
Other Circulatory diseases	2	4	6	8
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	2	8	7
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	10	-	10	9
Ulcer of the stomach, etc.	2	2	4	2
Road Traffic and Other accidents	5	-	5	7
Diabetes	2	3	5	2
Suicide	1	1	2	4
Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	1
Nephritis	1	2	3	-
Other defined causes	21	10	31	21
	117	91	208	

Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract	9
Alimentary tract and liver	17
Breast and uterus	15
Others	3

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1957 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1961.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births.	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths.	Standardised Death Rate.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.
1957	23.7	0.79	18.7	5.9	1.81	10.8	13.5
1958	26.49	0.78	20.6	5.7	1.85	10.5	10.16
1959	22.86	0.77	17.6	5.8	1.88	10.9	15.4
1960	22.9	0.77	17.6	5.1	1.90	9.6	8.0
1961	21.4	0.75	16.0	5.9	1.97	11.6	23.8
England and Wales 1961			17.4			12.0	21.4

The Standardised birth rate continuing its gradual decline fell below the national rate for the first time since 1953.

The sharp rise in the infant mortality rate due mainly to deaths in the early neonatal period resulting from prematurity or congenital defects comes as a disappointment particularly as it follows the good figures of the preceding years. Close enquiry shows that these deaths occurred after both hospital and domiciliary confinements with no abrupt change in ante natal care or obstetric practice to account for the decline from the previous high record.

Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer for 1961 for detailed information on the development of these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Health Centre, Cole Green Lane

Ante and Post Natal ... Friday, 2-4 p.m.

Infant Welfare ... Monday, 2-4 p.m; Tuesday 9.30 a.m.  
- 11.30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.  
Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Dental and Orthodontic )  
                                  )  
Ophthalmic                    )  
                                  )  
Speech Therapy                )  
                                  ) By Appointment  
Child Development            )  
                                  )  
Child Guidance                )  
                                  )  
Orthoptic                      )

Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

Infant Welfare ... Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.  
Thursday 2-4 p.m. (Doctor's session)

Child Development ... By Appointment

Mobile Clinic - Haymeads

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Thursday,  
9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Scout Hut, Great Dell

Infant Welfare ... Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Ante and Post Natal ... Friday, 2-4 p.m.

## New Centres.

Three new projects in the town received the consent of the County Health Committee during the year:-

- (a) Viaduct Subsidiary Health Centre adjacent to Harwood Hill School - to be completed in the Autumn of 1962.
- (b) Junior Training Centre, Lemsford Lane - Conversion of hall to be completed by September, 1962.
- (c) Day Nursery (40 places) adjacent to Gooseacre Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, to replace temporary premises in Woodhall Lane.

## Midwifery Services.

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives. Specialist advice and care are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases.

Five District Nurse/Midwives are now employed by the County Council for home confinements in Welwyn Garden City, weekly ante natal and post natal sessions being held at the Health Centre on Friday afternoons by the midwives for the examination and supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. Domiciliary cases are delivered at home by the family doctor with the midwife in attendance as maternity nurse, or by the midwife herself at the wish of the patient and doctor. The pupil midwives during their period of training at the Maternity Hospital and on the District, work under the supervision of the midwives.

The scheme for priority booking for hospital delivery on obstetric or social grounds continues to work satisfactorily due to the ready co-operation of the medical practitioners and midwives. The demands for hospital delivery continue to increase due to the growth of the two New Towns so that the hospital is now about at the limit of its capacity and Matron and her staff look forward to the transfer of the unit to the new hospital in 1963.

The Maternity Services Liaison Sub-Committee set up last year by the Hospital Management Committee under the chairmanship of your Medical Officer of Health has reviewed the arrangements for emergency domiciliary obstetric care in the area, and the special needs of prematurely born infants.

### Nursing Services.

At present eight Health Visitors, two Home Nurses and five District Nurse/Midwives provide a comprehensive nursing service for the town. The Health Visitors undertake school health work in addition to their clinic duties, health visiting and after care visits in the home. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by the voluntary workers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

### Medical Loan Depot.

Increasing use is now being made of the wide variety of aids for the handicapped and specialised nursing equipment available through the Medical Loan scheme of the County Council at a small charge. A medical loan depot staffed by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Divisional Officer P. Stevens) on behalf of the County Council is situated on each side of the town for the loan of many items of medical equipment required for the nursing of sick and injured persons in the home. Application for the loan of equipment should be made at the following times:-

Health Centre, Gooseacre ... Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7-8 p.m.

Trevelyan House,  
Church Road ... Monday - Friday, 8 p.m.

### School Health Service.

Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer on the School Health Service 1961 for detailed information. The medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8 year old group, was completed during the year.

Pupils attending the Mater Dei School in Parkway now come within the County School Health arrangements. The specialist clinics for school children are based on Gooseacre Health Centre, and the speech therapist, audiologist and psychologist also see children in the schools.

### Welfare Foods.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A and D tablets can be obtained at all Child Welfare Centres and also at the following places:-



Gooseacre Health Centre ... Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and  
 2-5 p.m.

Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.  
 and 2-4 p.m.

W.V.S. Stonehills House ... Monday - Friday, 10.30 a.m. -  
 12 noon.

Tuesday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.

The vitamin supplements are now issued without coupons for the use of expectant and nursing mothers, children up to the age of five years and one month, and handicapped children. The new prices are:-

Concentrated orange juice	...	1s.6d per bottle
Cod liver oil ..	...	1s.0d per bottle
Vitamin A and D tablets	...	6d per packet of 25.

#### Immunisation and Vaccination.

Most parents are now anxious to obtain for their children the protection against infectious diseases afforded by the increasing range and use of immunising injections. There is a growing tendency to combine several immunising antigens for ease of administration as in the combined diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus injections, and also to consider more carefully the need for reinforcing injections in older children to maintain live protection.

The following table gives the latest recommendations of the County Medical Officer on the spacing of the various protective measures:-

2 - 6 months	Diphtheria	)	3 injections
	Whooping Cough	)	
	Tetanus	)	
7 - 10 months	Poliomyelitis	3 doses	Oral Vaccine
Up to 2 years	Smallpox Vaccination	1 injection	

Reinforcing doses are necessary to obtain full protection against the following:-

Diphtheria	)	15 - 18 months
Whooping Cough	)	
Tetanus	)	
Poliomyelitis	-	Before school at 5 years.

Diphtheria            -    Before school at 5 years  
Tetanus

Smallpox  
Re-Vaccination       -    At school. 8 - 12 years

also

First B.C.G.  
Vaccination  
against  
Tuberculosis         -    At school. 13 years.

### Smallpox.

The number of young children given primary vaccination by family doctors and clinic medical officers continues to rise. In Mid Herts the acceptance rate was 77% in 1961 compared with 31% in 1947 the last year for compulsory vaccination in this country.

### Poliomyelitis.

Early in the year the Joint Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccination advised the Minister of Health that fourth injections should be given to children aged 5 - 11 years in view of the greater risk of infection to which children attending school are exposed. The fourth doses were to be given not earlier than a year after the third dose. Special school and clinic sessions were arranged with the co-operation of the heads of schools and every effort made to get totally unvaccinated children protected. The acceptance rate was high, a total of 6,774 children in Mid Herts receiving this extra protection until shortage of vaccine later in the year curtailed the programme. Notice of the general introduction of oral vaccine for routine use was received at the end of the year.

### Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus.

The combined triple antigen has now been in use by family doctors and clinics throughout the year with a high acceptance rate. 1,593 children in Mid Herts completed a full primary course of three injections throughout the year and 335 children reinforcing injections.

### Home Help Service.

The demands upon this service have increased a little during the year, some 110 households receiving domestic help each week. Each Home Help gives such time as she can spare from the needs of her own home to this rewarding service to the community but at times the organiser is hard pressed to provide the help needed by the elderly and more recruits from each area

of the town are urgently required.

The special needs of mothers during the lying in period, and long term illness receive close attention and there is thus a close link with the domiciliary midwifery and nursing services. Mrs. J.M.Cosgreave has now taken over the duties of Divisional Home Help Organiser at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22190.

#### Day Nursery, Woodhall Lane.

A small unit taking 40 children for long or short term stay depending upon needs of the family. Application should be made directly to the Matron, Mrs.B.Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 23692).

#### Priorities for admission:-

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e. mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (5) Children of Parents in Prison.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

A start has now been made on building the new Day Nursery with 40 places adjacent to the Health Centre in Cole Green Lane.

#### Ambulance Service.

The ambulances of the County Ambulance Brigade attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station operate in conjunction with the Fire Brigade to maintain a 24 hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford.

The Hospital Car Service continues to give steady support particularly for transporting persons with minor injuries and illness who are unable to travel by public transport, thus relieving the ambulance for more urgent work.

The total demands on the ambulance service were about the same as in the previous year, but the number of calls upon the service remains very high, and the public are urged to make use

of private cars or public transport whenever possible.

### Old People's Welfare.

The Old Folk's Club at their premises in Woodhall Lane has a membership of 200 with a wide variety of amenities and activities for its members, including chiropody, sick visiting and Samaritan Fund, a lending library of some 1,000 books, and a thrift club. Many outings were arranged during the year linking up with other clubs from neighbouring towns and local events of interest.

Discussions took place during the year between representatives of the churches in the town with a view to starting another Old Folks Club at St. Francis Church Hall to provide a more convenient centre for those living on the west side of the town.

The chiropody sessions on Monday evenings are proving increasingly popular, the cost of treatment to the members remaining at 2s.6d with financial aid from the County Council. The annual At Home in May and the Christmas Pary are both very popular functions with the members, and it is pleasant to see the support that the Club still receives from many interested bodies in the town, and also the increasing part which the old people themselves play in arranging their Club activities.

The Churches, W.V.S., Alice Glyn Trust and other organisations render valuable service in visiting old folk in their homes, and in this sphere there is a close link with the work of the Health Visitors, Home Nurses and Home Helps. The meals-on-wheels service continued to provide hot meals twice weekly to some twenty elderly persons in their homes.

The Geriatric Services Sub-Committee has been set up by the Mid Herts Group Hospital Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. A.S.Blofeld to strengthen the hospital services for the elderly in the area and ensure smooth co-ordination with the local health authority and voluntary services.

The new home for the aged now being built adjacent to the Gooseacre Health Centre will be completed in October, 1963, and will provide accommodation for 59 Part III residents with a staff of seven.

### Hospital Services.

Steady progress has been maintained in building the new General Hospital at Howlands during the year. The internal fitting out of the main ward and treatment blocks is now in hand together with the building of the resident staff quarters. The hospital will be ready to admit patients and for the

transfer of services in June, 1963, although parts, e.g. boiler house, some staff quarters and stores may be taken over during the preceding months.

The Matron, Secretary and Supplies Officers of the new hospital are now installed in temporary office accommodation at Kennelwood, Hatfield, and two wards and an operating theatre suite at Hill End Hospital are being prepared for opening as a nucleus unit of the new Hospital with a medical and a general surgery ward in August, 1962. A start has also been made in the appointing of senior medical staff and key technical officers.

The equipping and commissioning of a new General Hospital of this size will undoubtedly prove a major task for the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, but in this I am sure they will have the active support and interest of each member of the public and local bodies in the two towns.

Some 16 young girls have enrolled in the pre nursing course at the Mid Herts College of Further Education.

#### General Medical Services.

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. W.F. Banks) has his offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

#### Family Planning.

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane on Mondays 6.30 - 8 p.m., and Thursdays 1.30 - 3 p.m. The fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L.O. Bowmer, 5, Aldock, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22270).

#### Marriage Guidance.

The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council, Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L.R. Pearce, 38, Elmwood, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 23683, continues its valuable work both in Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and Hoddesdon. During the past year 63 persons sought the help of the Council in addition to 18 continued from the previous year, involving a total of 272 interviews with Counsellors. 38% of those seeking advice came from Welwyn Garden City, 17% from St. Albans, 15% from

Hatfield and the remaining 30% from Hertford, Hoddesdon and other outlying districts. Some 80 children were concerned with the marriages where help was sought, a matter worthy of reflection when one remembers that many children from unhappy homes are prevented from enjoying a full and happy life. There is an urgent need for more people to come forward for this work as the number of Counsellors at the end of the year had fallen to 6. It is hoped in the future to establish another centre at Hatfield but this will depend largely upon the number of suitable people for training as Counsellors. Persons usually seek help on their own accord, or are directed to apply to the Council by friends, by the Citizens Advice Bureau, local doctors, clergy, Health Visitors and Factory Welfare Officers. In addition to the remedial work, the Council is also active in the educational sphere, and a one day Conference on "Education for Family Life" was organised by the Council in November when 35 youth leaders, teachers and clergy attended, and many useful suggestions for further discussion arose. A marriage preparation course was also run in co-operation with a member of the local clergy in February, and several general talks on the work of the Marriage Guidance Council were given during the year.

#### Mortuary.

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices. 38 bodies were received during the year and 14 post mortem examinations were carried out at the order of the district coroner.

#### Laboratory.

The laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, and the Health Department is also the centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Regular monthly reports are received from the Lee Valley Water Company following chemical and bacteriological examination of the public water supply. My thanks are due to Mr. Harris, Chief Bacteriologist for his ever ready co-operation in providing full details of particular samples, on request.

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	- 21	Diphtheria	- Nil
Whooping Cough	- 23	Poliomyelitis	- Nil
Measles	- 986	Erysipelas	- 1
Pneumonia	- 19	Puerperal Pyrexia	- 1
Dysentery	- 14		

Measles affecting mainly young pre-school children was widespread in all areas of the town throughout the year, particularly during the first six months. As some 1,700 children in the town have now developed measles over the past two years the supply of susceptibles must be coming to an end, and it is probable that the numbers will fall considerably during 1962.

Apart from this it was a remarkably light year for the common infectious illnesses with a fall in scarlet fever and whooping cough, and only 14 notifications of dysentery which were mainly gastro enteritis of familial spread. I am pleased to report a second year of complete freedom from diphtheria and poliomyelitis, and no outbreak of food poisoning requiring investigation by the department.

### Tuberculosis.

The steady decline in both the notification and deaths from tuberculosis throughout the County continues. In Welwyn Garden City 10 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1961 giving an attack rate of 0.28, which compares favourably with the attack rate of 0.37 per 1,000 for the urban communities in the county. There were two deaths from tuberculosis during the year. A high proportion of the new cases notified are early infections which respond well to medical treatment, many needing only short periods in hospital followed by continued treatment and after-care at home. 8 notified cases transferred into the town mainly from the London area during the year, all being quiescent cases under observation following medical treatment. In spite of the tight housing situation in the town, both the Council and Development Corporation continue to give priority to persons with tuberculosis where their living conditions are unsatisfactory. A review of all notified cases of tuberculosis on the Welwyn Garden City list has been undertaken in conjunction with the Chest Physician so that the department has up-to-date knowledge of patients still under active treatment and surveillance.

Arrangements were made for the Mass Radiography Unit to visit the town early in the New Year for sessions at local industrial centres and also at public sessions at convenient places throughout the town. The B.C.G. protection of school





Section D - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY:

From the 1st August, 1960, the Council's Water Undertaking was taken over by the Lee Valley Water Company. The Company's Chemist and Bacteriologist sends monthly reports in summary form of the quality of water supplied to this district. During 1961, twelve such reports have been received from him. The table summarises these:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
<u>1961</u>			
January	9	8	1
February	10	9	1
March	13	9	4
April	7	7	-
May	12	10	2
June	9	9	-
July	14	11	3
August	14	11	3
September	10	10	-
October	14	11	3
November	12	9	3
December	9	8	1
	<u>133</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>21</u>

All the 133 samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for a public supply.

Routine Water Sampling by the Public Health Department.

The Department obtained nine samples during the year as a further check on the quality of the public water supply. Eight of the samples were examined bacteriologically and one chemically. All were reported as being of wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

The town is served on the separate system.

Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from South West to North East and since 1st April, 1959, has discharged into a new outfall sewer in the Black Fan Valley and thence via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Rye-meads.

The Council's existing works in the Black Fan Valley have been demolished and the whole site is being converted to public parkland in conjunction with new playing fields to the East of the valley.

Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram and during operations in Black Fan Valley the opportunity was taken to improve the surface water outfall which discharges through the site of the sewage works. It is hoped to retain one lagoon in the valley which should add to the amenities of the area.

### Rivers and Streams.

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the southern portion of the district.

## 3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of three cottages (rural in character) situated on the boundaries of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens. Two of these cottages will be demolished during 1962 and there are not any sewers in the vicinity of the third cottage.

(a) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years 63

(b) Number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1961 . . . . . 3

## 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. All premises have galvanised metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act, 1932. House refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by

the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

House refuse is tipped at the Council's refuse tip near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Any rats or mice which gain access to the tip or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department. Only slight infestations required attention during the year.

(b) Street Cleansing. This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) Gully Cleansing. All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing Limited who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins. The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of defective dustbins they find at houses and other dwellings. Thirty six new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:-

Urban District Council ...	...	...	14
Development Corporation ..	...	...	15
Other Owners ...	...	...	7

## 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	206
" " " (without mechanical power)	...	11
" " Workplaces	... ..	40
" " Milk Depots	... ..	8
" " Licensed Premises	... ..	17
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	3,442	
Inspection of Shops	... ..	420
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	...	177
" of Dwellings (not otherwise included)	...	116
" of Schools	... ..	33
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	... ..	44
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under Housing Act, 1957		38
Special Inspections or Visits made re:-		
Drainage	... ..	78
Infectious Diseases (including Food Poisoning)	...	101
Smoke observations	... ..	207
Council Property (excluding houses)	... ..	90
Destruction of Bed Bugs	... ..	4
Water Supply	... ..	17
Dustbins	... ..	99
Accumulations of refuse	... ..	95
Air Pollution observations	... ..	172
Miscellaneous Visits	... ..	199

(b) Number of Informal Notices (these were complied with) ... .. 99

(c) One Formal Notice was served and complied with.

6. (a) SHOPS:

There are one hundred and forty one shops in the district. Four hundred and twenty inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	15	15
Sanitary Defects ... ..	3	3
Other Nuisances or Defects ... ..	40	40

Fifty eight Informal Notices were given and fifty eight Informal Notices were complied with.

The defects found were of a minor nature. The most common defects were defective or an insufficient number of dustbins; dustbin lids not being replaced; dirty yards; washing facilities or sanitary conveniences not being kept clean.

With one exception, all shops are of modern construction. The majority have been built since 1945. Structurally and decoratively they generally attain a high standard. The town centre now provides first class shopping facilities; this, together with the completion of the large free car park in Church Road, is proving very attractive to shoppers from the surrounding areas. In addition to this, the opening of branch shops in the town by multiple firms enables residents to shop locally for goods which they previously bought at out of town branches.

Greater demand has caused some shops which were well planned and were originally adequate in size for their trade to be faced with the problem that their size is to a degree inadequate to cope with their present trade. As a consequence of this, inspection disclosed cases of stock obstructing staff

passages and the entrance lobbies to sanitary conveniences.

(b) OFFICES:

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. All buildings in the town, with few exceptions, are constructed without basements. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT:

Smoke observations made	...	...	...	207
Smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions	...	...	...	24
Air pollution observations	...	...	...	172
Air pollution nuisances	.....	...	...	50

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, in general prescribes varying periods of time which "shall be left out of account" in calculating the time during which dark smoke is emitted. Any dark smoke emitted in excess of such periods contravenes the regulations. The regulations further provide that nothing in the regulations shall authorise -

- (i) the continuous emission of dark smoke caused otherwise than by soot-blowing for a period exceeding 4 minutes, or
- (ii) the emission of black smoke for more than 2 minutes in the aggregate in any period of 30 minutes.

Industrial Area.

Conditions in the industrial area were regarded as satisfactory. Any contraventions of the regulations observed were of a minor nature. Notice was continually taken of the general condition in the area to judge if the atmosphere was being smoke polluted. It will be noted that the regulations allow a degree of smoke pollution, but this should not appreciably affect the purity of the air.

(a) General.

From the practical aspect the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. Cases of serious pollution by smoke, fumes or chemical odour occasionally arise and are dealt with. Two serious cases arose during the year and detailed investigations were made. These are reported in summary form on pages 27 and 28. They were found to be causing nuisance on 50 occasions by reason of offensive odour present in the air, which in both cases arose from chemical processes.

(b) Miscellaneous.

Nearly every house is wired for electricity. Cooking is normally carried out on gas or electric stoves. Domestic consumption of electricity is believed to be proportionately as high as anywhere in the country.

In the town's factories, electricity is believed, in nearly all instances, to provide the motive power. Steam or oil boilers are used for heating or trade processes only.

Whilst the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted, improvement is still possible and the Council is determined that the improvement so far secured, shall be continued.

(c) Offensive Odour - Number 1.

Towards the end of the year numerous complaints were received from the occupiers of a group of nineteen sectional factories and two semi-detached factories regarding an offensive odour. This was apparent each morning particularly when the factories were first opened. Investigations revealed that the effluvia emanated from the two foul sewers serving the factories. The chemical compound causing the odour could be smelt but not seen. Thorough testing revealed no defects in these sewers or branch drains. Work was put in hand to eliminate all the likely ways in which the foul air (including the noxious chemical odour) could get into the factories. The soil vent pipes were raised to a greater height and man-hole covers were made airtight with grease and sand. Intercepting traps were also fitted at the lower ends of the two sewers to stop these sewers from acting as vents for the town's main foul sewer. Meanwhile the factory concerned with the discharge of the chemical into the foul sewer was found, and further discharges were prevented.

The investigations and work continued well into the New Year, but visits since that time show that the nuisance has been abated effectively.

(d) Offensive Odour - Number 2.

A complaint was received on the 27th March, 1961 that a most unpleasant odour was present in the vicinity of Bridge Road/Bridge Road East. The odour was traced to a Production Shop of a factory. Successive measures taken by the management included the extension of the Shop ventilating system in order to discharge any fumes from the Shop at a height of 30 feet above ground level; the provision of a water scrubber; the piping of the washing liquid discharged from the water scrubber.

Observations were made between mid May and the 7th June and the odour was not then found to be evident in the town though a slight localised odour was noticed at the factory. It was hoped that a cure had been achieved.

Unfortunately from the 19th July onwards the first of a new series of complaints, mainly from factories in the area, was received. Numerous visits were made to the Shop concerned and virtually daily observations were made in the area. The chemical odour causing complaint could be smelt as far as half a mile away from the source. Its nature was very pungent and persistent. Complaints were received even when the process was not working. After standing in the Shop on such occasions, one's clothes absorbed the odour to such an extent, that it was noticeable even half an hour later. This was due to the odour having permeated the structure of the Shop, and gave an indication of how difficult it would be to secure its abatement. The management undertook research but the nuisance continued. They did not appear to fully realise the urgency of finding an effective means of curing the trouble. In October the Council authorised the service of a statutory notice. This was served on the 1st November and allowed 56 days to abate the nuisance. At an interview on the 9th November the management stated they would adopt the best practical means of achieving this and a later letter stated that it had been decided temporarily at least to discontinue the process.

From the 27th December, 1961 when the notice to abate became effective, to the present time - 3rd July, 1962 - no further complaints have been received and observations made indicate that the nuisance has been abated.

## 8. SWIMMING POOL

The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The continuous systems of chlorination and filtration have continued to prove most efficient. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator at the Pool to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result showing the amount of chlorine present in parts per million. In addition the Swimming Pool Superintendent adjusts the chlorine dose according to the number of bathers he expects will use the pool and further adjusts it should the number of bathers using the pool indicate that this is necessary. Routine tests are also made to gauge the alkalinity of the pool water, in order to maintain a slightly alkaline reaction.

During the year three samples of water were obtained from

the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reports indicated that the three samples were of the highest standard of bacterial purity and they did, in fact, attain the bacteriological standard of a pure drinking water. When obtaining samples it is a pleasure to note the clear and attractive appearance of the water in the pool.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

Two houses were found to be infested during the year. Present day liquid insecticides, applied with care, enable complete destruction to be immediately achieved, providing the operative uses reasonable care. The complete destruction of these insets in the two houses concerned was achieved without difficulty.

Section E - HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	49
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	146
(2)		Number of dwellinghouses found not to be fit for human habitation or in which defects were found ... ..	27

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:-

	Number of unfit houses rendered fit or in which defects were remedied as a consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	25
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3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.



Section F - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

1. CONTROL OF FOOD

(a) MILK

(i) General

There are six milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy milk depots in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(ii) It is estimated that over ninety per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed.

(iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953, provided that all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised.

(iv) The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.  
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

A close watch is kept on the handling and distribution of milk in the town. Three minor infringements of the former regulations were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned who then complied with the regulations.

During the year eight inspections were made at milk depots.

(v) Biological Examination.

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. It is gratifying to note that of 925 such samples obtained throughout Hertfordshire in 1961 and examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, not a single positive was found. All the samples were also examined for Brucella Abortus and 17 were found positive, giving a percentage of 1.8. Ten or fifteen per cent being found positive a decade ago. In neither category were Welwyn Garden City samples affected.

(vi) Milk Sampling.

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at approximately monthly intervals. The majority of the samples are taken on the public highway from distributors who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. Seventy eight samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for

examination by the prescribed tests. The number of samples of the various designations obtained were as follows:-

Pasteurised	39	Tuberculin Tested	
Sterilised	10	(Pasteurised)	29

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, came into operation on the 1st October, 1960. The regulations provide, amongst other requirements, that a sample which is to be examined by the Methylene Blue test shall be stored at atmospheric shade temperature for a period of time depending on the time of year when the sample was obtained. "If during the period of storage at atmospheric shade temperature to which a sample is subjected the temperature at any time exceeds 70° F. the test shall not be applied." Previous regulations now revoked had provided a limit of 65° F.

Of the seventy eight samples of milk obtained during 1961, seventy six passed all the tests prescribed. This involved a total of one hundred and forty six tests. The remaining two samples were of Pasteurised milk and were obtained from two distributors. These samples, whilst passing the Phosphatase test, failed to pass the Methylene Blue test. In one case the atmospheric shade temperature attained 78° F. and this test was therefore void. Informal representations were made in both cases to the Pasteuriser concerned.

#### (b) ICE CREAM

The bacterial quality of ice cream has been checked throughout the year with the aid of routine sampling and laboratory examination. A total of forty samples were obtained from nineteen retailers and covering seven different makes of ice cream being retailed within the district.

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
	<u>Satis-</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u>			
	<u>factory</u>	<u>factory</u>			
Wrapped brickettes ... ..	15	1	-	-	16
Wrapped Choc-bars ... ..	9	-	-	-	9
Partly wrapped ... ..	3	1	1	1	6
Part of previously opened carton	2	2	-	1	5
Soft Ice Cream ... ..	1	3	-	-	4
Percentage Results	75%	17½%	2½%	5%	100%

This year the number of samples purchased from mobile ice cream vehicles has been increased to 50% of the total number of samples, as compared with 6½% the previous year. The three unsatisfactory samples were taken from these vehicles, and the manufacturers and dealers were contacted regarding the results. A letter was also sent to the Chief Public Health Inspector of the area in which the ice cream was manufactured.

### Fruit Lollies.

Six samples were obtained from five different manufacturers and submitted for bacteriological examination. In the case of four of them the acidity of the products was such that bacterial growth would not occur. The remaining two were placed in Provisional Grade 1 and, although presumptive coli were found in 1.0 m.l. in one of these samples, no faecal coli were found.

### Cream Lollies.

Five samples of cream lollies, obtained from three different manufacturers, were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the cream lollies submitted had been wrapped by the manufacturers.

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Producer	No. of Samples	No. free from Pres. Coli	No. with Pres. Coli only	Dilution of 10 cc	No. containing in addition to Pres. Coli. Faecal Coli in		
					10 ml	1.0 ml	0.1 ml
A	3	1	-	-	2	-	-
B	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
C	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

---

Fewer samples were taken this year of the cream lollies and no comparison can be drawn properly with the previous year. In each case where Faecal Coli were found on examination the manufacturers were informed so that their methods of manufacture and storage could be examined for possible faults.

### (c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM:

Regular examination of food exposed for sale was carried out throughout the year, all food shops being visited at frequent intervals. Special attention is always given to food which is offered at reduced prices, but no unfit food was found as a result of these visits.

The amount of unsound food surrendered during 1961 was 7,862 lbs., a considerable decrease on the previous year. Hitherto large quantities of food were surrendered by one firm, and, whilst the bulk of the food surrendered still comes from this firm, the amount has decreased due to their new policy of having an increasing amount of the food surrendered by their branches throughout the country to the Sanitary Authority for the area in which the branch is situated, instead of returning it to the depot in this town.

(i) <u>Uncooked Food</u>					<u>lbs.</u>
Meat	...	...	...	...	466
Fish	...	...	...	...	749
(ii) Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown)	...	...	...	...	638
(iii) <u>Food in Cans</u>					
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	2,118
Meat	...	...	...	...	1,837
Fruit	...	...	...	...	627
Milk	...	...	...	...	685
(iv) <u>Other Miscellaneous Foods</u>				...	742

(d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD:

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out at:-

Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
Thresh House, Verulam Street, Gray's  
Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

Public Analyst, 20, Eastcheap, London,  
E.C.3.

Public Health Laboratory, Luton and  
Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton.

Bacteriological examination only is  
carried out at:-

Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital,  
St.Albans.

(e) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 2 AND 6:

The County Council is the authority charged with the duty of administering these sections. Section 2 deals with food and drugs which are not of the nature, substance or quality "demanded" by the purchaser.

In practice in Welwyn Garden City, the County Council deals with adulteration and with securing that food and drugs are of the nature and substance demanded and the Council's Public Health Department administers the provision requiring that food shall be of the quality "demanded" by the purchaser. A bun with a piece of metal in it, or a cake exhibiting mould growth sold to a purchaser would not be of the quality "demanded". Of seventeen samples of food taken during the year in Welwyn Garden City by the Sampling Officers of the County Council, all

were found to be genuine by the Public Analyst.

Section 6 provides that food and drugs where labelled shall be correctly described and that such label shall not be calculated to deceive. Two samples obtained by the County's Sampling Officers were found to contravene this section. In one case the manufacturer amended a false claim on the label and in the other case the manufacturer were convicted of selling a product which was grossly deficient in the amount of two ingredients, which the label stated it contained. The manufacturer was fined £20 and £8.8.0d. costs.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD PURCHASED:

During 1961 a total of sixteen complaints were made to the Public Health Department. The Department made detailed enquiries into all these complaints and found that five complaints were not justified. One complaint concerned a technical offence under The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, by which a clean "comic" packed with a food product had, due to a packing error, come into contact with food thereby contravening the Regulations. The remaining ten complaints were found to be justified.

Where the original default arose outside the district (six cases) normally the Public Health Department of the district concerned was asked to investigate and report back. In several cases the manufacturers were directly contacted.

Where the original default arose within the district (four cases) inspection was made to trace where and how the default arose, and also to secure agreement on the measures necessary to prevent a recurrence. After sifting the information so obtained a warning letter was sent to the firm concerned. In all cases found to be justified the complainant was informed of the action taken.

(g) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD:

Milk Sampling ... ..	40
Ice Cream and Iced Lolly Sampling ...	39
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods ...	112
Laboratory Visits ... ..	17

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES:

(Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one premise, each such trade is separately recorded)

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Building Site Canteens	5	11
Industrial "	37	32
School "	22	29
Cafes and Restaurants	6	45

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Licensed Premises	13	17
Food Manufacturers	9	26
Butchers	17	72
Fishmongers	5	42
Grocers	19	171
Greengrocers	14	24
Confectioners	16	27
Miscellaneous Food Premises	11	45
Informal Notices	28	
Notices complied with	28	

Infringements of the regulations, when found, usually consisted of the absence of necessary equipment such as adequate facilities for hand washing. Refuse storage facilities were found to be poor in a number of cases but, towards the end of the year, a big improvement was in evidence, particularly where the firms using a large number of bins agreed to supply racking for the bins. This racking serves a double purpose. The bins are contained in one place (and usually properly lidded) and the yard can be swept and washed easily because the bins are raised off the ground and do not have to be moved for this purpose. Most of the larger food shops now have these racks provided on the premises.

### 3. MOBILE VEHICLES SELLING FOOD:

During the year 45 inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling ice cream and 70 inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling other foods. These inspections revealed only minor infringements of the regulations. A number of evening and weekend inspections were made of those vehicles which do not trade in the town during normal working hours.

Section G - GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION  
OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES:

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	206	20	-
FACTORIES without " "	11	1	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>238</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>-</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND:

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M Inspector</u>	<u>Number of Offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</u>
(1)	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	(4)	(5)
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-				
Insufficient	1	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	18	18	-	-
Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Totals	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1937:

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to fourteen local out-workers and also to five out-workers living elsewhere in Hertfordshire. The local outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition, four local out-workers are employed by firms whose premises are in London.

(b) Factories - General Information.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and

have been built during the past forty years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with sections 37, 43, or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured. Where there was no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans was likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this was pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts.

#### 4. RODENT CONTROL:

##### (a) Administration.

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed.

##### (b) Rodent Destruction.

Rats, mice or rats and mice were found to be present on 224 premises. Details of the type of infestation found on those premises are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats ... ..	197	2,424
Mice ... ..	23	434
Rats and Mice ...	<u>4</u>	<u>108</u>
Totals	<u>224</u>	<u>2,966</u>

Details of the various types of premises found infested are as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business and Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	2	164	31
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	13	10
No. of premises infested by Rats and Mice	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>44</u>



Four hundred and seventy-six visits were made of premises during the year in which neither the presence of rats or mice was confirmed.

Details of visits paid to the various types of property whether they were found infested or not are as follows:-

	<u>Number of Visits</u>		
	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Rats and Mice</u>
Business and Commercial Premises ... ..	794	429	190
Local Authority Property (excluding houses) ...	69	5	27
All houses ... ..	1,809	119	-

The total of all visits was 3,442

Where premises are found to be infested repeat treatments are carried out at intervals until the results show that all rats or mice which were present have been destroyed. Rats were not found inside any dwellinghouses. Where complaints were received from the occupiers of these the rats were found either in gardens or adjacent land.

(c) Chargeable work.

Houses are treated free but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Commercial and Industrial premises. The charge is levied either by Contract or "Private Works" in respect of Commercial and Industrial premises. In either case the agreement of the occupier of such premises is obtained before the work is commenced. At the 31st December, 1961, twenty-four firms had taken out twenty-seven contracts in respect of twenty-seven premises, the income from these contracts being at the rate of £171.10.0d. a year. The income from "Private Works" during the year was £55.14s.6d.

(d) Sewers.

No evidence of infestation by rats in the Council's sewers which convey foul water, was found during the year.

5. INSECT PESTS:

During the year ninety-five complaints were received of which four, on inspection, were not confirmed. The remaining ninety-one complaints received personal attention and one hundred and eighty-one visits were made to destroy the pests found present.

The table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the

staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises.

<u>Pest</u>	<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Fleas ... ..	2	3
Ants ... ..	1	2
Moths ... ..	1	1
Silver Fish ... ..	1	2
Bed Bugs ... ..	2	4
Woodworm ... ..	2	7
Wasps ... ..	80	159
Miscellaneous Insects ... ..	2	3
	<u>91</u>	<u>181</u>

Insect powder is supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case make personal attention either not possible or unnecessary. Thirty-three occupiers were supplied with the free issue. The Council has instructed that a charge of 5s.0d. shall be made where visits are made to a house to destroy ants.

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1961.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. A. BAILEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J. CABOURNE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector:

D.G.L. MONTGOMERY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A.LAWRENCE.

Clerks:

Mrs. J.E.SKILTON.

A.A.W. CALLABY.

## HATFIELD SECTION

### Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ... ..	21,945
Population (mid year 1961), estimated by the Registrar General) ... ..	39,990
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1962 ...	11,979
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1962	£711,714
Product of a penny rate ... ..	£2,859

#### Social Conditions:

Hatfield Rural District is an agricultural and residential area extending from the northern perimeter of the outer metropolitan area to the middle of Hertfordshire. Much of the District lies within a designated Green Belt area including the extensive Gascoyne Cecil Estates and the Great Wood of Northaw, thus preserving its rural character and charm. The ancient town of Hatfield, the social and administrative centre of the District, has undergone rapid residential and industrial development as a New Town during the past ten years and includes the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company. Limited urban development has also taken place at Brookmans Park, Cuffley and North Mymms.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	155	174	329
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	372	403	775
Rate per 1000 population			19.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			3.4
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	5	7	12
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			15.2
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			787
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)			3
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births			3.8
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			4.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			NIL

	<u>Total</u>
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	19.3
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	18.0
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	33.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	1.3

Deaths:

No major event affected the mortality rate which was a little lower than in the previous four years. The following table gives the causes of death, heart disease, cerebral vascular accidents and cancer being the major causes. There was a slight increase in deaths from pneumonia and respiratory diseases, but deaths due to road accidents were the lowest for several years.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ..	-	-	-	2
Cancer ... ..	35	27	62	55
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ... ..	32	39	71	56
Leukaemia ... ..	1	2	3	-
Heart Diseases ... ..	50	48	98	83
Other circulatory diseases	4	8	12	14
Pneumonia ... ..	7	12	19	10
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ... ..	14	7	21	15
Diabetes ... ..	-	2	2	1
Nephritis ... ..	-	1	1	-
Ulcert of stomach, etc. ... ..	1	4	5	4
Pregnancy ... ..	-	1	1	-
Congenital malformation ... ..	-	-	-	2
Road Traffic and Other accidents ... ..	1	3	4	9
Suicide ... ..	1	1	2	2
Other defined causes ... ..	9	19	28	26
	<hr/> 155	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 329	

Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract	16
Alimentary tract and liver	20
Breast and uterus	10
Unclassified	16

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1957 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1961. The standardised rates for 1961 compare favourably with the corresponding rates for the country, the low infant mortality rate perhaps being to some extent fortuitous as wide fluctuation can occur in rates based upon such small actual numbers.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births.	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1957	20.38	0.88	17.93	8.53	1.14	9.72	11.75
1958	19.4	0.87	16.9	8.2	1.09	8.9	16.5
1959	19.2	0.87	16.7	8.8	1.20	10.6	14.8
1960	19.6	0.86	16.8	8.5	1.22	10.4	16.6
1961	19.4	0.84	16.3	8.2	1.22	10.0	3.8
England and Wales 1961			17.4			12.0	21.4

## Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services for the district are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for those services under the National Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also the Divisional Medical Officer for the County Health Services which facilitates full co-ordination of the various functions.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

#### INFANT WELFARE CLINICS:

Queensway Health Centre	2 - 4 p.m. Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m. Wednesday 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Thursday
Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield	2 - 4 p.m. Friday (alternate)
Hilltop, Hatfield	9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. } Friday 2 - 4 p.m. }
Brookmans Park Hotel	2 - 4 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd)
The Cabin, Cuffley	2 - 4 p.m. Monday
" " " I & V Clinic	2 - 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday
Village Hall, Essendon	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday (2nd and 4th)
Memorial Hall, North Mymms	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday

#### QUEENSWAY, HATFIELD:

Ophthalmic	)	
Orthoptic	)	
Speech Therapy	)	By Appointment
Dental and Orthodontic	)	
Audiology	)	
Chiropody	)	

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1961 for detailed information on the development of these services.

#### WELFARE FOODS:

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold daily at the Queensway Health Centre. They are also available from Child Welfare Centres.



## NURSING SERVICES:

The work of the District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors continues to expand to meet the increasing needs of the District. The outlying centres share with the New Town in this increase as shown by the position at Cuffley where due to the building of houses for private ownership the number of domiciliary births attended by Midwives has risen from 14 in 1959 to 27 in 1960 and 39 in 1961. Here also the number of children under 5 years of age attended by the Health Visitors increased from 250 in 1959 to 355 in 1960, and 475 in 1961, with a corresponding increase in attendances at the Child Welfare Centre at The Cabin.

Miss Sadler, District Nurse/Midwife retired in May after 36 years service in the Welham Green and Brookmans Park area. She was presented with a cheque from the people of the district she had served so loyally and a gift from her colleagues and friends in the Health Department. Miss Randall a young District Nurse/Midwife was appointed in her place.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE:

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school, was carried out in all maintained schools with an additional group at eight years.

Dr. J.M.Ponsford joined the County Medical Staff in July to undertake School Medical and Clinic duties in Hatfield where many new schools have recently been opened. By the end of the year the new Queensway Principal Health Centre was nearing completion and will provide a worthy base for the specialist medical and dental services of the Hatfield District. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer for more detailed information on the development of the service.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION:

It is encouraging to find that acceptance of the need for the various immunising and vaccination measures for young children is increasingly recognised by parents, the result of many years of education and persuasion. Thus the acceptance rate for vaccination against smallpox of children under one year of age has risen from 31% in 1947 - the last year in which vaccination was compulsory under the vaccination acts, to 70% in 1961.

Diphtheria Protection. A combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus antigen is now in common use by medical practitioners and at clinics throughout the District, over 85% of children being protected during their first year of life.

Poliomyelitis Protection. In April the Joint Committee on poliomyelitis vaccination advised that a fourth injection should be given to children aged 5 - 11 years in view of the greater risk of infection to children in school. Special sessions were arranged with the co-operation of the Heads of Schools and there was a good acceptance rate for this additional protection. Shortage of vaccine later in the Autumn did not seriously interfere with the programme.

The most recent table setting out the ages at which the various immunising measures are recommended is given in the Welwyn Garden City section of the report. The success of these schemes is due to the continued support of the General Practitioners, Nurses, Teachers and Parents.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE:

The demands upon the Home Help Service have remained about the same as in the previous year, some 400 - 450 hours service in the home being provided weekly. The special needs of the elderly, long term illness and help to mothers in the perinatal period receive close attention. The local organiser has her office at Queensway (Telephone Hatfield 4377).

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE:

One ambulance and one sitting case car are maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the daytime only, by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City and other adjoining stations.

The hospital car service supplements the work of the County Ambulance Service in carrying patients to and from hospitals and clinics. Requests should be directed to the Ambulance Station (Telephone: Hatfield 2222).

In view of the great increase in the demands upon the Ambulance Service over the past ten years every effort should be made by the public to restrict requests for ambulance transport or private cars when possible. Except in cases of emergency or accidents, ambulance transport is provided on the recommendation of the doctor or hospital in medical charge of the patient.

#### OLD PEOPLES WELFARE:

The Hatfield District Old Peoples Welfare Council has continued to co-ordinate and promote the work of the seven local clubs which meet regularly in the District. A varied programme of visits, excursions and other interests is arranged for the members, the clubs being largely self supporting with the help of a small group of voluntary supporters.

Some 90 members attend the luncheon clubs which meet regularly each week at the Hilltop, Cavendish and Birchwood Centres followed by an afternoon devoted to club activities. An additional club has started at the Village Centre, North Mymms where membership has already grown to 25. The Meals on Wheels Service organised by the Womens Voluntary Service has expanded during the year as more voluntary lady drivers have come forward in response to an appeal by the County Meals on Wheels Organiser. Some 20 elderly folk in Hatfield have meals delivered to their homes twice weekly and 10 at North Mymms.

The luncheon clubs and Meals on Wheels Scheme receive financial support from the District Council and a local co-ordinating Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of your Medical Officer of Health.

The chiropody arrangements in Hatfield continue to expand mainly in association with the clubs for the elderly although domiciliary units are made where necessary. Mrs. Williams a chiropodist working in the County Chiropody Scheme holds regular sessions at Hatfield and Lemsford in addition to Mrs. Smith's sessions at the Cavendish Club and the Memorial Hall.

The Health Visitors are increasingly concerned in helping the general practitioners with the care of infirm old people who are living alone and whose failing health is complicated by social problems. Their efforts are devoted to the prevention of illness, to keeping old people active and to arranging for the after care of those who have been ill. Old people are particularly liable to suffer falls, many of which can be prevented by simple advice on house management, lighting and adaptations. The Medical Loan Scheme of the County Council enables specialised items of nursing equipment to be available at little cost, while the Home Help Service assists many in continuing to look after themselves in their own homes and prepare meals of adequate standard.

Regular weekly meetings at the new centre at Hilltop, South Hatfield, inaugurated during the year have been well supported, some thirty members taking lunch together followed by various club activities during the afternoon.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. W.F.Banks is the Clerk of the Council and has offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford. (Telephone Hertford 3195).

#### HEALTH EDUCATION:

Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. W.O.Clark the Home Safety

Sub-Committee arranged for local publicity to be given to the prevention of fire in the home during the National Fire Prevention Week at the end of October. The opportunity was taken to stress the dangers from careless handling of fireworks as well as other frequent causes of fire. Miss G. Shadek the County Health Education Officer is now conveniently located in premises adjacent to the Civil Defence Hut in Hatfield and is available for advice and consultation on all Health Education matters.

The co-ordination of the activities of the various District Councils Home Safety Committees in Hertfordshire is at present under consideration by the County Health Committee as there are obvious advantages to be gained from the combined use of display materials, films and posters.

The Public Health Inspectors give much of their time to Health Education over a wide field in particular the education of food handlers in clean food standards, the purity of local water sources and the regulations regarding infectious diseases.

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received from medical practitioners during the year:-

Diphtheria	-	Dysentery	3
Whooping Cough	10	Erysipelas	2
Measles	403	Pneumonia	7
Scarlet Fever	17	Food Poisoning	1
Poliomyelitis - Nil			

Measles was again prevalent among young children early in the year, but apart from this there was little of note. Notifications of whooping cough and scarlet fever relate to mild scattered cases responding rapidly to treatment at home. There was no outbreak of food poisoning and the District was free from poliomyelitis and diphtheria. A small outbreak of sickness among the children attending a junior school in Hatfield during December was investigated by the department but no evidence of bacterial origin was found. The children affected were usually well enough to attend school the following day and the outbreak ceased a few days after being reported and has not recurred. Practitioners in the Brookmans Park area reported similar symptoms among a few young children earlier in the year, and here again the symptoms soon subsided and the upsets appeared to be of virus origin not directly related to school attendance.

### Tuberculosis.

The register of notifications has been maintained and is constantly reviewed by reference to the records held by the Chest Physicians and County Medical Officer of Health.

Nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the district by the Chest Physician during the year, and two non pulmonary cases. There were also five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis already under treatment or observation, transferred mainly from the London area. The steady fall in the number of new cases of tuberculosis and the number of deaths each year continues in Hertfordshire, although the detection of early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the prompt examination of close contacts at home and at the place of work, is still of the utmost importance, if we are to achieve our goal of eradication of pulmonary tuberculosis in the next 20 years.

The availability of the mobile X-ray units in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City, periodic visits of the Mass X-ray units to the local factories and open sessions, and also the close attention given to the B.C.G. vaccination of school children, all play their part in the diagnosis of early cases of tuberculosis, and it is gratifying to note the good co-operation from the members of the public in these diagnostic measures.

The Housing Committee of the District Council continues to give special attention to the housing needs of tuberculous persons, priority for early housing being granted where necessary. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

#### SECTION D - HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following data relating to the Council's housing estates in the District:-

(a) Number of properties owned by the Council 2,364

(b) Number of families housed during the year: 205  
Direct allocations 172  
Exchanges and Transfers 33

(c) Number of applicants on the housing list:

Families in shared accommodation and caravans 327

Families in separate accommodation 265

The detailed drawings and specifications for the new housing scheme at Essendon were approved to provide 22 three bedroomed houses, 5 two bedroomed houses and 5 old age pensioner bungalows. Completion of the new houses is anticipated to commence in September 1962. The Development Corporation have assisted by housing 103 applicants on the Council housing lists in Corporation houses during the year.

The Development Corporation continued to make rapid progress in the development of the Oxlease Estate, private housing in The Ryde, and further commercial development in the Town Centre. A total of 386 families were housed during the year mainly from the London area.

SECTION E - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF  
THE AREA

WATER:

(a) Public Supplies.

The Rural District is very well covered by a piped supply of water provided by the Lee Valley Water Company.

A summary of the bacteriological results of samples taken by the Company is received by the Health Department quite frequently and in addition the Public Health Inspectors submit at least one sample a year to a public analyst for physical and chemical examination. Results have always been completely satisfactory for all domestic purposes.

(b) Private Supplies.

For a rural district of 22,000 acres, considering the number of estate properties and other isolated dwellings the number of well supplies etc. at present totalling 23 is surprisingly low. As far as can be ascertained 116 dwellings are supplied from these sources. Two owners have, in fact, main supplies available but prefer to continue to use their "natural waters" for domestic use and these are therefore included in the figure of 23.

Three of these well supplies are chlorinated regularly by the consumers on the advice of the Public Health Inspectors, following a series of sampling to determine the frequency and dosage required.

During the year approaches to the owners concerned resulted in the undermentioned dwellings etc. being connected to the piped main supply:-

Upper Cromer Hyde Farm House and two Farm cottages.  
St. Dominics Priory and School, Newgate Street.

Following is a list of supplies and the number of bacteriological samples taken:-

	<u>No. of Sources</u>	<u>No. of dwellings served</u>	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Astwick	1	2	2	2	-
Coopers Green	3	6/1/1	7	5	2
Essendon (Hat- field Parish)	1	2	3	3	-
Mill Green	2	2	1	1	-
Newgate Street	2	14/1	6	4	2

	<u>No. of Sources</u>	<u>No. of dwellings served</u>	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	8	6	2
Northaw	1	17	-	-	-
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	3	3	-
Stanborough	4	32/1/1/1	3	3	-
Symondshyde	1	6	1	1	-
Woodside	2	2/1	6	5	1
Lemsford (cress beds)	-	-	2	2	-
	23	116	42	35	7

No case of protracted failure to satisfy the bacteriological standard arose.

A routine sample of water taken from the public supply was despatched to a public analyst for physical and chemical examination, details of which are as follows:-

Reaction ph ... 7.2

	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>			
Free and Saline ammonia ...	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	...	...	...	0.005
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter ...	...	...	...	0.02
Nitrite ...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate ...	...	...	...	2.0
<u>Hardness (as Calcium Carbonate)</u>				
Temporary ...	...	...	...	23.6
Permanent ...	...	...	...	6.9
Chlorine (as Cl) ...	...	...	...	3.1
<u>Total dissolved solid matter</u>				
(Dried at 140°C) ...	...	...	...	43.5
	<u>Parts per million</u>			
Copper ...	...	...	...	0.01
Lead ...	...	...	...	Insignificant trace.
Zinc ...	...	...	...	" "

The total number of dwellings in the Rural District is 11,979 and details of the public mains supply in the four parishes are as follows:-



	<u>No. of dwellings</u>	<u>No. supplied from public water mains</u>	
		<u>Direct to house</u>	<u>by standpipe</u>
Hatfield	6349	6271	1
North Mymms	3732	3713	Nil
Northaw	1663	1646	Nil
Essendon	235	235	Nil

Although approximately 116 dwellings rely on private supplies (wells, bores, springs, etc.) 19, of these are in fact connected to the public main, but used only in emergency. Of these two private sources 17 houses are in Northaw and 2 in Hatfield Parish.

(c) Connections to Main Supply.

Upper Cromer Hyde Farm House and two Farm Cottages

Samples taken from the well serving the above three dwellings were generally unsatisfactory, between 1957-1960, and as the Company main was reasonably convenient the owner was prevailed upon to connect. This was brought about in March.

St. Dominics Priory and School, Ponsbourne Park.

The above premises house approximately 150 school boarders and day pupils and 30 resident staff, who were dependent upon a well supply. Bacteriologically the water has been consistently good with two recent exceptions, but the supply has been very poor in quantity. In November, following a dry Autumn, the supply completely dried up and a contractor had to be engaged urgently to replenish the reservoir - a costly and slow operation. Apart from the domestic crisis, the fire fighting facilities were of course a major concern.

The situation was remedied at the turn of the year when 600 yards of 4" main was laid and all the school premises connected to the Lee Valley Water Company main at considerable expense.

The following details have been kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor:-

Sewerage.

Schemes completed - Bell Bar £11,249.0.4d.  
Dixons Hill Road - £5,046.5s.8d.

Council contribution of 50% of cost of connection to encourage owners to use main sewer.

Relief sewers to avoid surcharging in heavy rain:-

Welham Green	£1,341. 9s. 7d.
Brookside Estate, Cuffley	£894.17s. 1d.

### Sewage Disposal.

Following public enquiry the Council obtained Ministry approval to proceed with detailed plans for modernisation and extension of Mill Green Sewage Disposal Works to take flow from Northern Hatfield.

### Gully Emptying.

Gullies in private streets were emptied by direct labour.

### Refuse Collection.

The purchase of a new large capacity collection vehicle, the successful introduction of a bonus scheme and a reorganisation of the collection rounds enabled a regular weekly collection of refuse to be maintained throughout the district.

### Housing.

Work started on contract for 30 houses at Essendon.  
Contractors - George Mott & Son.

Improvement to provide better bathrooms, lavatory basin and hot water supply to 61 houses in Stockbreach Road and Lemsford Road started.

### Road Accidents.

Accidents involving personal injury	248
People injured	322
People killed	9

### Drainage.

#### Conversions from Earth Pails to main drainage.

Church Lane, Northaw - 8 dwellings, and Vineyards Road - 1 dwelling.

During the year notices were served on the owners of the above properties under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 to abolish the earth pails and connect to the recently installed sewer. Flush toilets were provided and in two instances, brick built apartments were constructed to replace primitive wooden structures at the foot of gardens.

The Council reimbursed the owners to the extent of 50% of the expenses reasonably incurred in effecting the replace-

ments, except in two cases where advantage was taken of Improvements Grants for more extensive works.

### Earth Pails.

The number of earth pails in the district is diminishing steadily, and a recent check on the records indicates that the total is now down to approximately eighty.

### Cesspools.

Agreat many re-visits have been made to cesspools in the district, often on the occupiers complaints, and opportunity has been taken to visit a number of these while actually being emptied, so that a better appraisal of the system can be made. In a number of instances, owners have been persuaded to convert the cesspools into settlement tanks, construct filter beds and lay submerged land drains in clinker, thus changing to the septic tank principle, a much more satisfactory method.

It is often asked, what is the difference between a cesspool and a septic tank and perhaps the following will help to explain the salient points:-

A cesspool is merely a watertight "tank" sunk in the ground, usually constructed of 9" brickwork rendered inside with cement and sand, or alternatively built of precast concrete sections, with a holding capacity of not less than 750 gallons. These of course require frequent emptying.

A septic tank in its simplest form is a three stage treatment. (a) a watertight "tank" to collect crude sewage and enable considerable settlement of solids, the liquid running off into (b) a brick built filter bed containing approximately three feet or so of clinker, followed by a run off of effluent into submerged unjointed land drains surrounded by 6" clinker.

The only attention usually required of this system is that the sludge deposited at the bottom of the settlement tank should occasionally be removed.

## HOUSING:

### Slum Clearance Progress Report.

The following figures refer only to those houses actually "demolished" or "closed" during 1961. It will be appreciated that the time lapse between a "demolition order" being made and the house being demolished is sometime protracted and likewise although a "closing order" is made in say, November, it may well be April in the following year before the tenant is rehoused and the closing order becomes fully operative.

(a) Houses demolished.

1. In Clearance Areas ... ..	Nil
2. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	10
(b) <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u> .. ...	6
(c) <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit</u> ... ..	52

Note - Item (a) 2 = (17 2nd Right of Way, Hatfield 1  
(Stanborough Farm House 1  
(Nos. 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32,  
(34 and 34a Batterdale, Hatfield 8

Item (b) = (Nos. 37 and 39 Park Street, Hatfield 2  
(No.18, Beaconsfield Road, Hatfield 1  
("Chapel Cottage" rear of 20 Park  
(Street, Hatfield 1  
(1, Rookery Cottage, Great North  
(Road, Marshmoor 1  
("Hillside", West End Lane,  
(Essendon 1

Rent Act, 1957.

Six applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year from tenants, two Certificates were, in fact, issued and four official undertakings were given by the owners to do the work.

A considerable amount of work was carried out in connection with earlier notices served under the Rent Act, in the Garden Village during the year.

Altogether, since the Act came into operation in 1957, fifty-eight applications have been dealt with.

Housing Act, 1957 - Improvement Grants.

During the year there were 7 applications for Standard Grants and 14 applications for Discretionary Grants. Of the 7 Standard Grant applications, 4 were in respect of tenanted dwellings (57%). Of the 14 Discretionary Grant applications, 6 were in respect of tenanted dwellings (43%).

The Council in September, 1961 resolved to suspend the operation of the Discretionary Improvement Grant Scheme following financial restrictions imposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in July. This involved the deferment of two applications for Discretionary Grants, although these were

approved in principle pending reintroduction of the scheme by the Council.

One application for Discretionary Grant was refused.

The total number of Improvement Grants approved by the Council to the end of 1961 was 254.

A system of triennial visits is made by the staff of all properties which have received grants since the scheme came into operation some seven or eight years ago, the object being to ascertain that the dwellings are maintained satisfactorily. A number of letters have been sent to owners concerning minor matters of repair where appropriate.

#### INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

<u>Public Health Acts:</u>		<u>Total</u>
Complaints investigated	119	
Houses, Primary Inspections	76	
Re-visits re. above	271	
Moveable Dwellings	246	
Infectious Diseases and other ailments	47	
Schools	16	
Cinemas and Public Halls	15	
Workplaces	4	
Rivers, Streams and ditches	32	
Drainage	216	
Cesspools	304	
Dirty and Verminous Premises	22	
Flies, Insects, etc.	28	
Water Supplies	98	
Stables and Piggeries	39	
Keeping of Animals	7	
Vacant Land and Dumps	33	
Smoke Observations	91	
Boilerhouses	23	
Sundry Nuisances	31	
Sewage Works	<u>2</u>	1,720

(Note: 48 Notices under the Public Health Acts were served during the year, ten of which were statutory).

#### Housing Acts:

Houses, Primary Inspections	107	
Re-visits re. above	<u>146</u>	c/f 253

		<u>Total</u>
		b/f 253
Overcrowding	7	
Council House applicants	10	
Improvement Grants	199	
Certificates of Disrepair	<u>200</u>	<u>416</u>
		669

(Note: 5 informal notices under the Housing Act, 1957 were served during the year)

Factories Act:

Factories with Power	34	
Factories without Power	7	
Outworkers Premises	<u>-</u>	41

Food and Drugs Act:

Slaughterhouse	125	
Butchers Shops	55	
Food Preparing Rooms	56	
Fishmongers	23	
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	35	
Grocers and Other Food Shops	162	
Fried Fish Shops	5	
Bakehouses	10	
Licensed Premises	45	
Restaurants and Kitchens	99	
Factory Canteens	23	
School Canteens	20	
Public Market and Food Stalls	172	
Other Food Premises	23	
Food Inspection	17	
Dairies and Milk Shops	6	
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	57	
Water Cress Beds	<u>3</u>	936

(Note: 17 informal notices were served under the Food and Drugs Act during the year)

Shops Acts:

Pet Animals Act	2	
Inspections	17	
Mobile Shops	<u>69</u>	88

Pests Act:

Business Premises - Primary	27
Re-visits	17

Private Dwellings - Primary	4	<u>Total</u>
Re-visits	<u>2</u>	50
Miscellaneous Visits	217	
Interviews	<u>61</u>	278

SECTION F - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

MEAT:

Inspection at Slaughterhouse (Pigs only)

The one licensed slaughterhouse in the district, occupied by Mr. B. G. King at White Lodge Farm, Bulls Lane, Bell Bar, was visited, usually twice a week, for the purpose of meat inspection. Pigs only are slaughtered and the total kill for the year was 840. 100% of the carcasses and offal were examined.

Following is a list of carcasses and offal condemned:

Number of PIGS killed and inspected 840

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	19
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	2.26%

All Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	140
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	16.6%

Reason for Condemnation.

Lungs (whole or part) pneumonia, congestion, etc.	123
Heads - Tuberculosis	19
Abscessed	3
Mesentery - Tuberculosis	11
Linguatula	5
Kidneys - Nephritis	2
Spleen - Congestion	1
Livers - Hepatitis 1, Parasitic 5, White Spot 22, Pleurisy 1, Necrosis 1, Adhesion 1 =	31
Flank - Abscessed	1
Carcase Skinned - Urticaria	1
Hearts - Pericarditis	4
Carcase (part) - Bruising	1
Pleura - Pleurisy	2

Food Condemned at Shops, Stores, Warehouses, etc. and meat other than at Slaughterhouses.

The following list of food dealt with by the Public Health



Inspectors is far greater than for any previous year. There are several reasons for this. In the first case, the New Town of Hatfield is expanding rapidly, secondly, some of the new supermarkets require a condemnation certificate from the Health Department for every food item which is unfit and this has entailed an agreed weekly visit for the purpose. Thirdly, a large wholesale distributor recently established at Cuffley also requires a weekly visit for condemnations.

An additional reason is the modern trend towards deep-freeze food display cabinets. These sometimes break down through mechanical failure and the rapid rise in temperature if undetected causes total loss, if not through actually being unfit for food, certainly because of unsaleability. Two such cases have been dealt with involving scores of articles. Other contributory causes include damage to tins and packeted food, by crushing, piercing or water spoilage, etc.

<u>Food</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>lbs</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Corned Beef	46	91½	Fruit Juice	31 botts.	23 pints
Luncheon Meat	40	41½	Tomato Ketchup	2 "	2 lbs.
Boneless Ham	1	13½	Sweet Pickle	17 jars	4 "
Meat Balls	3	3	Pickled Onions	60 "	52 "
Ham	7	28½	Piccalilly	6 "	4 "
Veg. Juice	4	3	Lard	35 pkts.	17½ "
Baby Food	1	½	Butter	40 "	35 "
Spaghetti	3	2½	Frozen Foods	477 "	-
Fish	126	87	Salt	19 "	42½ "
Fruit	1309	1792	Sugar	20 "	61 "
Veg.	193	250	Cake Mixture	44 "	31 "
Soup	110	102	Cereals	25 "	14 "
Jam	96	107	Butter Beans	26 "	26 "
Tomato Puree	15	24	Rice	22 "	18 "
Cream	13	7½	Peanut Butter	6 jars	3 "
Coffee	22	5½	Lentils	73 pkts.	73 "
Baked Beans	9	19	Tea	-	12 "
Beef	-	500	Bread	loaves	9 "
Chicken	-	3¾	Scots Oats	6 pkts.	10 "
Hogmeat	-	82½	Ice Cream	-	7 "
Marshmallows	-	288	Jellies	-	20 "
Tinned Milk	68	63	Total of 3,956½ lbs.		

(Bottles of fruit juice and frozen foods not included in total weight).

#### MARKET FOOD STALLS:

The open air market functions on Wednesday and Saturday of each week on the Market Square in the New Town Centre.

Visits are made to the Market every week to ensure that the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations are carried out. There are now no butchers or fishmongers stalls, and

the only food businesses operating are 3 fruiterers and greengrocers and a cake stall. The most common transgression here is that foodstuffs are sometimes placed less than 18" off the ground (the prescribed minimum height).

Hot and cold water over sink units are set aside for the exclusive use of the stallholders adjacent to the public conveniences at the west side of the market. These are provided and maintained by the Development Corporation.

#### FOOD SAMPLING:

Hatfield being a Rural Authority, is not a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and sampling of this nature is covered by the County Council.

Early in the year one or two incidents were reported in other parts of the country of sickness arising from consumption of desiccated coconut. A search was made in this district and three samples of marshmallow topped with this product were sent to the analyst. The report was negative for the particular organisms, but very soon afterwards two of the multiple shops in Hatfield requested the department to collect and destroy the entire stock of foodstuffs containing desiccated coconut.

#### FOOD PREMISES:

The number of food shops now operating in Hatfield Rural District is as follows:-

Butchers Shops	22	Licensed Premises	46
Mobile Butchers Shops	4	Off Licence Premises	9
Slaughterhouses	1	Hotels	5
Bakehouses	3	Clubs/Guest Houses	4
Bakers Shops	9	School Canteens	30
Mobile Bakers Shops	1	Factory Canteens	17
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	20	Wet Fish Shops	9
Mobile Fruiterers and Greengrocers Shops	3	Fish Fryers	4
Grocers	43	Restaurant/Cafes	31
Mobile Grocery Shops	6	Transport Cafes	6
Drugs/Special Foods Manufacturers	2	Mobile Ice Cream Vendors	8
		Confectioners	23
		Total	<u>306</u>

#### MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES:

The practice of retailing foodstuffs from vehicles in the New Town and Rural district does not diminish. The number of such vehicles is now twenty-two, including eight ice cream vendors. These are regularly inspected, most are very well equipped and maintained, with the exception of greengrocery vans which are of rather a different category.

## ICE CREAM:

During the year 46 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the laboratory for grading. Of these 20 were obtained from mobile vehicles and 26 from cafes and shops.

Samples are subjected to the methylene blue test, and all results are placed into one of four categories or provisional grades. Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

Following is a summary of the results obtained:-

<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Mobile Vehicles	11	5	-	4	20
Shops	18	-	-	-	18
Cafes	8	-	-	-	8
	37	5	-	4	46
Percentage	80.4%	10.9%	-	8.7%	100%

It will be seen therefore that 91% of samples taken were satisfactory. Where results are otherwise, methods of handling, sterilising, temperature control, etc. are checked and repeat samples are taken until consecutive satisfactory results are obtained.

As in many other commodities, production trends change with the times and it is evident that this is so with ice cream. "Soft" ice cream, i.e. ice cream sold direct from specially designed freezers, shortly after production, has been on sale for a few years, but it is only recently that "soft" ice cream has been produced from sales vehicles, due to the development of much smaller and more compact freezers. The freezers have a number of moving parts which must be taken down, cleansed and sterilised after each working day, and it is to be expected that new difficulties will arise, compared with the retail of the usual pre-packed ice cream.

An increasing number of vehicles now serve the rural district and the New Town particularly. The great majority of these are beautifully constructed, equipped, clean and well maintained, the personnel manning the vans are generally satisfactory, but a few do not appreciate the extreme care required in the handling of the very susceptible produce of ice cream and it has been necessary to write to the manufacturers and verbally instruct the drivers on occasions, on such matters as personal hygiene, sterilisation of cutting knives, servers and clean overalls, etc.

SECTION G - GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION  
OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

CARAVANS:

Since the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into operation the year 1961 has been an active one in the district. There is no doubt that as far as local authorities are concerned, rural districts in particular have been faced with a major problem in improving sites to the requirements of the new Act, and Hatfield has had its share.

Extensive improvements have been carried out in the Lemsford Track area and at Toms Field, Roe Green, and further works are progressing on other sites.

The total population of caravans in this district varies of course and it is difficult to be precise, but it approximates to 250.

The major public health requirements on the larger sites (4 or more caravans in this district) are briefly as follows:-

Water Supply - Each caravan to have water standpipes with an adequate supply of water available within 60 feet of any standing.

Drainage and amenities - Men - 1 W.C. and 1 urinal per 10 caravans or part thereof in excess of 3.

Women - 2 W.Cs. per 10 caravans or part thereof in excess of 3.

1 wash basin for each W.C. or group of W.Cs. 1 shower or bath (with hot and cold water) for each sex per 15 caravans.

Laundry facilities provided on the scale of not less than one deep sink with running hot and cold water per 15 caravans.

Refuse disposal - Every caravan standing to have a refuse bin with close fitting lid.

Gipsy Caravans.

During the year the number of itinerant vehicles in the district was approximately 25, with considerable variation of course, according to season. No major public health problems arose, but at times Coopers Green attracted far too many. One detects a hardening on the part of the gypsies against visiting officials; one district's loss is another's gain, and they must settle somewhere. From a public health point of view the chief

concern is the establishment of roadside sites for continuous periods of several months on end.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956:

Without a doubt 1961 was the "cleanest" year since the Act came into operation. No complaints were received by the Department, but nevertheless occasional incidents did occur, and investigations at the boilerhouses usually shewed that dark smoke emission was for a short period and due to a lapse on the part of the personnel responsible, either through overloading the furnace or temporary negligence.

During the year ninety-one observations were made on susceptible chimneys, the great majority of these were, as indicated, negative.

#### PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT:

Each year the Hertfordshire County Council, as the licensing authority for places of entertainment, request a report from County Districts as to the adequacy and suitability of toilet accommodation, etc. The Public Health Inspectors visit for this purpose, and it is a useful means of securing general repairs and minor improvements prior to the annual licensing.

#### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959:

Number of Factories on the Register	...	118
Number of Inspections made	... ..	41
Number of Notices served as result of notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories	... ..	Nil
Number of Defects remedied	... ..	2

#### Defects found

Ineffective drainage of floors	... ..	Nil
Unsuitable sanitary conveniences	... ..	Nil

#### Factories

Factories <u>with</u> mechanical power (where Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937 is enforced by local authority)	...	105
Factories <u>without</u> mechanical power (where Sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by local authority)		13

Visits made to Factory Canteens are not included in the above details.

## RODENT CONTROL:

The number of visits made by the Council's Rodent Officer during 1961 was 1,656 in the course of infestations and surveys at dwellinghouses, trade premises and farms, etc. The under-mentioned table is a breakdown of visits in a form requested by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thirty-three annual contracts were agreed for regular visits during the year, most of which were farms. The total income to the Council for these contracts was £414.19s.0d. In addition, a few casual contracts were carried out on request, as required. The Rodent Officer, Mr.L.Lawrence, has done this work most efficiently.

The sewer systems throughout the district are surveyed, baited and poisoned in the spring and autumn each year at man-hole points. Usually the "takes" are continued to the older systems only, i.e. Old Hatfield and Essendon. This treatment is also requested by the Ministry of Agriculture.

	<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri-cultural</u>	<u>Business etc.</u>	
<u>Properties</u> found to be infested by RATS and treated	9	300	29	58	396
Number of <u>treatments</u> (including re-treatments)	26	845	330	148	1349
<u>Properties</u> found to be infested by MICE and treated	-	29	6	7	42
Number of <u>treatments</u> (including re-treatments)	-	72	13	23	108
Number of <u>visits</u> recorded by Rodent Operative	37	1051	343	225	1656

(The above figures do not include bi-annual treatments of the Rural District Council sewers.)

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION:

Bed bug infestation is now rare compared with pre-war and even wartime. Insecticides are more efficient, and householders prefer to deal with the problem personally and quite naturally are reluctant to call in the Health Department. However, one couple with a very young family did so in desperation, and it was remarkable to find an infestation of a

truly major nature.

The Department eliminated the infestation after several visits. It was difficult to reconcile the circumstances with the tenants or the house, but probably the purchase of a piece of secondhand furniture was the cause in this case.

Premises treated:-

Ants	8	Wasps Nests	130
Bugs	5	Flying Ants	2
Earwigs	2	Crickets	3
Woodworm	23	Ladybirds	1
Flies	2	Cockroaches	1
Insects	1	Bees	2
Hornets	1	Mosquitoes	1

#### Wasps Nests.

The number of calls from ratepayers asking for assistance in the destruction of wasps nests creates quite a problem during the summer months. The absence of cold spells, and frost in particular, during the spring appears to indicate a busy time in the following summer in this direction.

In 1961, one hundred and thirty were dealt with by request, compared with 207 in 1960, 268 in 1959, 23 in 1958 and 34 in 1957.

The Rodent Officer, Mr. Lawrence, deals with the problem of elimination.

#### Woodworm Infestation.

All Council houses on change of tenancy are inspected for woodworm infestation, and it is a worthwhile routine. As mentioned in previous years, this type of infestation is on the increase. Affected properties are pressure injected, but where severely infested the only sensible thing to do is to remove the woodwork completely, and in such cases this action is recommended.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1961.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Public Health Inspector:

P. B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.

## WELWYN SECTION

### Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid year 1961 as estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	6,960
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1962	...	...	...	...	2,285
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1962	...	...	...	...	£92,378
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£376

#### Social Conditions:

The District is mainly agricultural and residential in character, the small town of Welwyn where the old Great North Road crosses the River Mimram being the natural centre of the area.

The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, although only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas.

The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded agricultural country in Hertfordshire much of which lies within a designated green belt area which preserves its rural charm.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	29	31	60
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	77	64	141
Rate per 1000 population			20.2
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			6.4
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	-	2	2
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			14
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	77	66	143
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	1	2	3
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)			27.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			Nil

## Deaths:

The following tables give the various causes of deaths in the district during the year. The slight fall in the number of deaths compared with the previous year is mainly due to fewer deaths from cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis, the other figures agreeing with the averages over the past five years.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years.</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	5	3	8	10
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	1	4	5	8
Heart Diseases	11	12	23	20
Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3	4
Pneumonia	1	3	4	2
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	-	1	1	1
Gastritis	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	1	-
Nephritis	1	-	1	-
Congenital Malformation	-	1	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2	2
Suicide	1	-	1	-
Other defined causes	5	5	10	7
	29	31	60	

## Sites of Cancer

Respiratory	2
Alimentary tract and liver	3
Breast and Uterus	1
Others	2

Comparison of Annual Rates:

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1957	17.4	0.87	15.14	10.3	1.11	11.4	9.7
1958	21.6	0.87	18.8	13.6	1.11	15.1	15.0
1959	16.9	0.86	14.6	7.4	1.14	8.4	NIL
1960	21.2	0.85	18.0	9.9	1.18	11.7	41.4
1961	20.2	0.85	17.2	8.6	1.18	10.1	21.3
England and Wales 1961			17.4			12.0	21.4

The standardised Birth Rate corresponds closely to the national rate while the Death Rate is a little lower. The Infant Mortality Rate is based on three infant deaths in the early neo natal period, two being premature deliveries with congenital defects, and the third due to cerebral haemorrhage following difficult delivery.

## Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

#### WELWYN (The Hill)

Infant Welfare	2 - 4 p.m. Friday.
Ante and Post Natal	9 a.m. - 12 noon Thursday (1st only)
Dental	By Appointment

The Clinic Committee which had been responsible for the maintenance of the clinic building for many years in addition to assisting each week at the child welfare sessions, decided during the year to transfer their functions relating to the maintenance of the premises to the County Council while continuing to give active voluntary support to the doctor and Health Visitor at the clinic. The Health Committee of the County Council has recommended certain repairs and renovations to maintain the premises until Ministry approval has been granted to the scheme for a new clinic suite incorporated with the proposed civic assembly hall at Prospect Place.

#### WOOLMER GREEN

The Mobile Infant Welfare Clinic attends at The Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

#### Nursing Services:

Two nurses undertake the domiciliary nursing, midwifery and health visiting of the district with occasional assistance from neighbouring areas in the outlying parishes.

Miss E. Lucey, Home Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor,  
10, Dolesbury Drive, Welwyn.

Miss I.A.Green, Home Nurse/Midwife,  
1, The Crescent, Welwyn.

Miss Lucey attends the Infant Welfare Centre on Friday afternoons and the mobile clinic at Woolmer Green to advise mothers on all questions of infant welfare.

#### School Health Service:

The regular visits to schools for the routine medical

inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups and the reinspection of children with handicaps or defects were well maintained throughout the year. The Health Visitor regularly visits the schools to undertake the treatment of minor ailments and foot troubles while the special diagnostic and treatment sessions at Gooseacre Health Centre, Welwyn Garden City are available as required. Detailed information on the development of the School Health Service is available in the Annual Report of the Principal Medical Officer of the County Council for 1961.

#### Immunisation and Vaccination:

The need for primary immunisation of infants and young children against diphtheria and whooping cough is now recognised by the majority of young mothers, the combined vaccine now being available to general practitioners and the infant welfare sessions at the Welfare Hut and at Woolmer Green. The acceptance rate is now well over 80%, the majority being protected in their first year. The recent outbreaks of small-pox in the Midlands and Wales has resulted in more mothers asking for primary vaccination of their infants so that 65% of children are now protected in their first two years.

Two changes in the administration of poliomyelitis vaccine occurred during the year, firstly the recommendation for fourth doses to children of school age, a group at higher risk than other ages, which were given during the Summer Term, mainly in the schools, and secondly the release of polyvalent oral vaccine at the end of the year which will greatly ease the giving of the vaccine while providing a high degree of protection.

#### Old People's Welfare.

The Welwyn Jubilee Old Folks Club has had an active year with the membership continuing to increase. The full programme of activities and excursions is greatly appreciated by the members, while the fortnightly chiropody sessions meet a very real need.

A preliminary scheme for the building of a new centre on a less restricted site was promoted during the year. The ladies of the local branch of the W.V.S. have actively maintained the meals on wheels service for elderly and handicapped persons, some 24 persons now having meals regularly twice weekly.

#### Home Help Service:

The service continues to provide valuable help in the home for the elderly and chronic sick, and also short term assistance in maintaining standards in the home in acute

illness and confinement. Local arrangements are under the supervision of Mrs. J.M.Cosgreave the Divisional Home Help Organiser at Gooseacre Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22190. The service has been well maintained during the year but the Organiser has at times extreme difficulty in meeting the demands upon this essential service. There is still an urgent need for women residing in the District to come forward and offer their part-time services, if only for a few hours each week in a most worthy and rewarding cause.

#### Hospitals:

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has forty beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within easy reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

The Danesbury Hospital under the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee is a unit providing long stay care for multiple sclerosis and allied chronic disorders.

#### Executive Council:

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. W.F.Banks, the Clerk of the Council, has offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

#### Ambulance Service:

Requests for ambulance transport from hospitals, doctors and the general public in emergencies and at accidents are met by the staff and vehicles attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

#### Welfare Foods:

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Infant Welfare Centre on Fridays from 2 - 4 p.m.

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year:-

Measles	116	Whooping Cough	5
Scarlet Fever	3	Pneumonia	2

The usual biennial surge in the incidence of measles was shown by the mild outbreak in the Spring. Apart from this the District was relatively free from infectious disease with no poliomyelitis, diphtheria, smallpox or outbreaks of food poisoning.

### Tuberculosis:

One new notification of tuberculosis was received during the year, a non pulmonary case, and two persons under the supervision of the Chest Clinic transferred into the District. The total number on the register 44, remains the same as in the previous year.

The Chest Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St.Albans, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

Arrangements were made for a visit of the Mass Radiography Unit and the annual B.C.G. vaccination of children aged 13 years attending St. Mary's School was undertaken in the Spring.



Section D - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY:

The Lee Valley Water Company is responsible for the water supply of the Welwyn Rural District.

Complaints as to inadequacy of supply are passed on to the Company's Offices at Stevenage.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses are carried out regularly. I set out below the results obtained during the year:-

Bacteriological	63
Chemical	28

In all these cases the samples conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

It is hoped that, by having control of all the sources of supply previously in separate control, the Company will be able to resolve speedily the few supply problems still existing in the district.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

Reference was made in the report for the year 1960 to the main drainage scheme for Digswell Ward.

Work was commenced this year by William Press Ltd., Civil Engineering Contractors of Tottenham.

The whole of the Digswell Ward, with the exception of 9 houses, will be served by the new Sewers, which will discharge into a Sewer controlled by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council. Final treatment will be carried out at the Rye Mead Works of the Middle Lee Regional Drainage Scheme.

The scheme is designed so that, wherever possible, the sewers are to be laid in the highway and lateral connections taken to the boundary of each of the premises to be served. However, owing to the contours of the district, it has been necessary to pass through private land with some of the sewers and the Rural Council have served 49 formal notices upon land owners, under Sections 15 and 16 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which gives drainage authorities power to lay sewers through private land.

A good deal of interest in this scheme has been shown by the residents of Digswell and it is hoped to achieve 100%

connections of properties within a few years.

No material progress has been made with the Fulling Mill Scheme since the last Report. This is not due to any fault of the Welwyn Rural District Council but to circumstances over which they have no control. It is felt that administrative difficulties will be resolved in 1962 and then this scheme and the schemes for Mardley Heath Ward and Ayot St. Peter Parish can be proceeded with.

There has been a heavy demand for cesspool emptying service during the year and it has been necessary to call in the help of Contract Gulley Cleansing Ltd. in order to shorten the waiting period.

One of the problems in administering a cesspool service where it is necessary to "empty on request" is the inability to make a distinction between those cases where sewage effluent is either backing up the drainage system or flowing over the surface of the ground and those cases where the disposal of effluent is satisfactory but the owner feels it advisable to have 3 emptyings in the year regardless of circumstances. This means that except where attention is drawn to a bad case, all applications are dealt with in date order of receipt, and the waiting list is often not truly indicative that a serious situation exists.

Set out below are the emptying figures for the past six years, showing a steady increased demand on the one vehicle available:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Services</u>
1956	819
1957	932
1958	1023
1959	1025
1960	1105
1961	1166

The increase in demand is attributable to a number of factors. There are more houses on septic tanks than in 1956, the ground in the vicinity of tanks which have been in use for over 30 years is bound to become progressively less porous, and greater freedom has been given to householders by offering 3 free emptyings instead of 2 in October, 1957.

#### RAINFALL:

Readings of rainfall were taken during the year at the Rural District Council's weather station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 145 days yielding a total rainfall of 23.8" for the year. The heaviest fall

recorded on the 12th June, 1961, was 1.01". The wettest month was December, with a fall of 3.32" and the driest month was March, with a fall of 0.12".

The total rainfall for 1960 was 29.45".

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A satisfactory weekly collection of domestic refuse has been carried out during the year.

Slight dislocation is experienced at Bank Holiday periods but this is offset in the main by working overtime immediately before and after the periods referred to.

It is still most difficult to get a supply of reliable labour to undertake this hard and often unpleasant job. It is considered that this work will eventually be done almost entirely on an "incentive" or "contract" basis by men still using vehicles owned by the Council.

The Council still has under consideration the question of whether to close the existing refuse tip at Welwyn and either go to a commercial tip or open a new tip within the Welwyn Rural District boundaries. This matter is being dealt with in more detail in another report.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

During the year 3 discretionary grants in the sum of £1,001 and 5 standard grants in the sum of £624.10s.0d. were made by the Council. The discretionary grants were made in respect of tenanted houses. The standard grants were made in respect of 4 owner/occupied houses and 1 tenanted house.

The greatest interest in the standard grants appears to come from new owner/occupiers of cottage type properties. The discretionary grant is still not attractive to the owner/occupier of cottage properties because it appears the majority cannot afford to pay for the complete repairs, for which there is no grant aid.

#### RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

The Joint Pests Control Scheme with Hitchin Rural District Council continued to operate with satisfactory results. A set-back was received necessitating stop gap arrangements when in February the rodent operator died after having suffered a lengthy period of declining health. The Council were sorry to lose Mr. W.A. Saunders in this way as he had proved a most agreeable colleague and was well regarded in the district.

In May, Mr. J. Knapton was appointed to fill the vacancy, and

in the intervening period treatments were carried out by the Foremen of the two districts.

The load of work to be carried out was extremely heavy from October due to weather conditions driving rodents into the shelter of the residential areas, where they became noticed by householders and were reported. It is understood that this experience has been nation wide.

Details of the work carried out by the operator are as follows:-

Summary for the period 1st January to  
31st December, 1961.

AREA	Number of Hours worked						TOTAL
	Sewer	Tips etc.	Private dwellings	Business Premises	Block Insp:	Agric. land etc.	
Hitchin R.D.C.	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	440 $\frac{3}{4}$	316	92	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	191	1097 $\frac{3}{4}$
Welwyn R.D.C.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	-	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
	66 $\frac{1}{4}$	501 $\frac{1}{2}$	426 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	192 $\frac{1}{4}$	1291 $\frac{3}{4}$
Other figures	Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instructions, reports on visits, bait handling, etc.						
Total mileage covered 7797							
Petrol used 204 $\frac{1}{2}$ galls. approx. M.P.G. 38.1.							162 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Total hours worked						1454 $\frac{1}{2}$

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The following is a list of miscellaneous Public Health Visits carried out:-

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	51	Moveable dwellings	40
Canteens	12	Statutory nuisances	35
Food shops	42	Slaughterhouses	Nil
Cafes	12	Bakeries	8
Cesspools	21	Factories	62
Building Byelaws	287	Improvement Grants	30
Trade effluent	4	Rodent Control	297

There are no serious problems in Welwyn Rural District for the Public Health Inspector. It is a pleasant district and the public generally all contribute by their own efforts in maintaining it so.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION:

All fresh meat is now imported into the district.

The following are details of food surrendered during the year:-

Fibrosis	-	1 lbs. Loin of Pork.
Decomposition	-	10 lbs Ham.
Blown Tins	-	21 Tins of various foods.

#### HOUSING:

A total of 55 houses were completed during the year, 51 by private enterprise and 4 bungalows by the Rural District Council.

There were 19 houses under construction at the end of the year.