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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

1962



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 1962. While this deals mainly with the environmental health services for which the three 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 vital statistics for the year are generally favourable allowing for the usual small annual variations, while the infant mortality rate in each district was encouragingly low. Infant deaths in Welwyn Garden City fell from the unusually high figure for 1961 to the average for previous years.

Notifications of infectious disease were light with the exception of measles which was prevalent early in the year. Measles is now a very mild disease and there would seem to be little justification for its compulsory notification except perhaps in assessing the effectiveness of vaccination against this disease soon to be introduced. The complete absence of major infectious disease including smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis is again worthy of note, and whooping cough has been drastically modified and reduced by immunisation. Families taking a Continental holiday during the summer, particularly those visiting Spain, should exercise care and restraint in the choice of food and drink while away if they wish to avoid the risk of their holiday being spoiled by several days of acute discomfort from abdominal upset.

The Ten Year Plan for the Development of the Health and Welfare Services, prepared by the County Council during the year, sets out in some detail proposals for expanding and improving the domiciliary and community services in Hertfordshire as a corollary to the proposals previously published in the Ten Year Plan for the Hospital Services. The report illustrates the increasingly wide range of services to be provided with details of the capital building programme, estimated net revenue expenditure and the staff required for bringing these proposals into effect. The selection and training of specialist staff, particularly mental health and specialist after-care workers, health visitors, and midwives, is receiving close attention from the County Health Department as well as the support and fostering of voluntary agencies all of which must continue to play an important part in community care work throughout the area.

Each Council adopted the recommendation of the Public Health or General Purposes Committee giving approval to the general principle of fluoridation of the public water supply although, not without some opposition, and the matter is now before the County Council for consideration. Among the anti-fluoridationists I find a group of informed people whose main objection to an adjustment of the fluoride level in the water supply is that an equal improvement in the nation's teeth could be achieved by more intensive education on sound dietary principles and oral hygiene. Many members of the Vegetarian Society in Welwyn Garden City hold this view. I am half in agreement with these good people, although with some years of experience in health education I know the very great difficulties of persuading people to change their eating habits, habits acquired throughout their lifetime and supported by daily advertisement in the press and by television. I am therefore convinced that it would take many years, perhaps a generation or more, to achieve the improvements which could be assured for all so readily by fluoridation. I am prepared to accept the assurances of the Ministry of Health and leading medical and dental authorities that fluoridation of the water supply at the amount recommended by the trials, in this and other countries, is completely safe and practical.

The thalidomide disaster raises questions on the control of therapeutic trials and the difficulties of anticipating in advance the side effects of all new therapeutic materials. Faced with these infants so tragically deformed, the two immediate needs were to ease the emotional stress which the parents were called to face, and for the community to compensate these and similarly deformed infants as early as possible. The catastrophe has stimulated further enquiry into infants born with congenital abnormalities and possible causes during the early weeks of pregnancy, and the newly formed Drug Safety Committee will in future advise on the adequacy of toxicity tests before drugs are submitted to clinical trials. In Mid Hertfordshire two infants were born with deformities which were probably due to their mothers taking thalidomide, one fortunately having only a relatively minor defect.

The latest housing schemes of the District Councils and Development Corporation include a high proportion of bungalows and other accommodation suitable for the elderly which will, it is hoped, help towards meeting the increasing need for these small units in the area. I am indebted to the Housing Manager of the Development Corporation for his sympathetic support, guidance and forbearance in seeking suitable accommodation for severely handicapped persons, and for arranging necessary modifications in conjunction with the Welfare Authority. In Hatfield, Mr. Bailey has maintained his positive approach to the owners of unsound properties considered suitable for improvement with the aid of Improvement Grants, and the achievements there over the past 10 years have been encouraging.

The opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital by Her Majesty the Queen on the 22nd July, 1963, was a momentous day in the development of the health services in Mid Hertfordshire and marked the successful completion of many years of discussion and planning by the Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee. This magnificent new general hospital

provides a worthy centre for the whole range of specialist diagnostic and treatment services for the area, and it is encouraging to note the enthusiastic support given to the staff by the newly formed branch of the League of Hospital Friends and by many other voluntary societies in both towns. It is to be hoped that the Ministry of Health will give approval to the proposals of the Hospital Management Committee for the Cottage Hospital in Welwyn Garden City to be retained and improved for the long term care of elderly patients in association with the geriatric ward at the new hospital.

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, 1963.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1962.

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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:

L. GARDINER, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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 1962 estimated by the Registrar General) ...	36,860
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1963... ..	11,189
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1963 ... ..	£885,749
Product of a penny rate, 1962/63 ... ..	£13,170

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 early development as a Garden City during the inter war years, based upon the experience gained at Letchworth can now be seen to advantage in its maturity in the older parts of the town, while more recent growth as a New Town to house young families from the London area, continues in harmony with the original scheme. The well designed 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.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	105	102	207
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	397	374	771
Rate per 1,000 population			20.9
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			4.1
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	8	6	14
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			17.7
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			785
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	5	6	11
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			14.3
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			14.8
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			-
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			9.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	7.7
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	25.4
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):	
Number of deaths	1.0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	1.3

### Deaths.

There was little significant change in the mortality rate, the number of deaths being about the same as in the previous year. The following table giving the main causes of death shows a marked rise in deaths from cancer (including 17 deaths from lung cancer) and Road Traffic and other accidents. 37 persons died from coronary heart disease.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	22	28	50	37
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	8	10	18	19
Heart Diseases	33	29	62	52
Other Circulatory diseases	2	3	5	7
Luekaemia	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	4	4	8	7
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	8	2	10	9
Ulcer of the stomach, etc.	1	3	4	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	7	8	15	8
Diabetes	1	2	3	2
Suicide	2	1	3	4
Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	1
Nephritis	1	-	1	-
Other defined causes	14	10	24	21
Pregnancy	-	1	1	-
	105	102	207	

### Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract	17
Alimentary tract and liver	16
Breast and uterus	10
Others	7

### Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1958 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1962.

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.
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
1962	20.9	0.75	15.7	5.6	2.0	11.2	14.3
England and Wales 1962			18.0			11.9	20.7

The Standardised birth rate continues its gradual decline and is now well below the national rate. The Infant Mortality Rate fell sharply from the abnormally high figure of the previous year and now once again compares favourably with the National and County rates.

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 1962 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 )  
Child Development )  
Child Guidance )  
Orthoptic )  
By Appointment

Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

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

Child Development ... By Appointment

Viaduct Health Centre

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

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

Dental ... By Appointment.

New Centres.

The Junior Training Centre in Lemsford Lane, opened in September, takes some 22 mentally subnormal children aged 5 - 15 years from Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and surrounding areas. This adaptation of the Handside Church Hall has created a most successful small centre to meet the immediate needs for training these handicapped children, and will be superseded by a larger purpose built centre nearby in 1965.

The Viaduct Subsidiary Health Centre adjacent to Maran Primary School completed by the end of the year serves the needs of the newly developed N.W. area of the town for ante natal, infant welfare and dental clinic facilities, with a base for the Health Visitors and rooms for special treatment facilities. This is the first of the three small centres planned to support the comprehensive services available at the Gooseacre principal centre.

#### Midwifery Services.

The scheme of priority booking for hospital delivery on obstetric or social grounds has worked well during the year due to ready co-operation between medical practitioners, the midwives and the maternity hospital. The requests for hospital delivery continued to increase with the growth of the two New Towns so that the present unit at Peartree will be working at full capacity until it transfers to the new hospital in 1963 where 60 maternity beds will eventually be available for the area in the well equipped maternity department.

Five District Nurse/Midwives are employed by the County Council for home confinements in Welwyn Garden City, weekly ante 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.

Of the 765 births in Welwyn Garden City during the year, 447 or 59% were delivered in hospital. This proportion will probably increase when the additional accommodation provided in the new hospital comes into full occupation.

#### Nursing Services.

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. The voluntary helpers at the Clinics come from various womens' organisations in the town their activities being co-ordinated and supported by the Health Association which has regular meetings with the doctors and health visitors. They keep the registers, weight and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

Miss W. Wicks, Health Visitor, retired from full time duties in the autumn after several years of devoted service to the mothers and children in the town and unfortunately it has not been possible to find a suitable applicant to succeed her.

#### Medical Loan Depot.

Good use was made during the year 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 1962 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.

Group audiometric testing of all children attending infants schools for the precise detection of hearing difficulties was instituted during the year, those children failing to respond at satisfactory level being referred for further investigation and follow up.

There is a good working relationship with the Educational Psychologists and Child Guidance team in a wide variety of problems arising in schools particularly behaviour difficulties, backwardness and persistent refusal to attend. The increasing use of school swimming pools has lead to minor problems, e.g. verrucae and other foot troubles upon which advice is given.

#### 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 and 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, at the following charges:-

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 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 Whooping Cough Tetanus	} 3 injections
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 Whooping Cough Tetanus	} 15 - 18 months
Poliomyelitis Oral Vaccine	- At school entry
Diphtheria Tetanus	- Before school at 5 years
Smallpox Re-vaccination	- At school. 8 - 12 years
	also
B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis	- At school. 13 years.

### Smallpox.

Primary vaccination against smallpox during the first two years of life is undertaken by family doctors and clinic medical officers with an

acceptance rate of 91% in 1962.

### Poliomyelitis.

The oral (Sabin) Poliomyelitis Vaccine has now largely superseded the injections of Salk vaccine because of ease of administration and the more effective immunity produced.

A fourth reinforcing dose is given during the first year at school to maintain a high level of immunity during school life.

### Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus.

The combine triple antigen given by family doctors and at the clinics throughout the year keeps the number of injections required to a minimum. 1415 children in Mid Herts completed a full primary course of three injections throughout the year and 251 children received reinforcing injections.

### Home Help Service.

In spite of increasing difficulty in enlisting suitable women into the Home Help team, the service has been well maintained with some 80 - 120 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 "Good Neighbour" scheme introduced throughout the County during the year aims to provide a more flexible scheme of help from near neighbours for those in need avoiding the necessity for rigid time schedules.

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, the Divisional Home Help organiser, has her office at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22190.

### Day Nursery, Cole Green Lane.

The day nursery was transferred at the end of the year from the old temporary building in Woodhall Lane to new premises adjacent to the Goose-acre Health Centre. The new nursery provides excellent modern rooms and equipment for the 40 children and staff. Application for admission should be made directly to the Matron, Mrs.B.Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 24542).

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 Visitors for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

#### 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 have a membership of 200 with a wide variety of amenities and activities including chiropody sessions, sick visiting and Samaritan Fund, a lending library and thrift club. Many outings were arranged during the year linking up with other clubs from neighbouring towns and local events of interest.

The Sixty-Five Club inaugurated by five local churches early in the year for elderly people living on the West side of the town proved an immediate success and now has a membership of over 200. The Club meets in the St. Francis Hall on Thursday afternoons 2 - 4 p.m., under the guidance of Mrs. G.W. Whiston and her Committee, and has already built up as wide a range of activities as the original Old Folk's Club. The annual report of the Club gives in detail the wide range of benefits and activities arranged during the first year and is a truly splendid record of joint voluntary effort for the welfare of the elderly.

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.

Hyde Valley Home for the elderly with accommodation for 59 persons was nearing completion by the end of the year. When equipped and open this home will go far to meet the increasing need for residential accommodation for the elderly in Welwyn Garden City.

## Hospital Services.

Steady progress was maintained in building the new General Hospital in Howlands and in fitting out the completed ward block during the year. At the end of August the nucleus unit of the new hospital at Hill End Hospital commenced to admit patients, building up the nursing and ancillary staffs, the out patients attending at Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield, and the Cottage Hospital in Welwyn Garden City until the outpatient department at the new hospital is ready.

In addition to the progress in building the new hospital there has been increasing interest by the local branch of the League of Hospital Friends, W.V.S., and other voluntary organisations in preparing a co-ordinated scheme of support and interest in both towns which shows great promise for the future.

The St. Albans City Hospital with the Cottage Hospital in Church Road and the Maternity Hospital have continued to provide the comprehensive range of diagnostic and treatment facilities for the area, the staff in the smaller units at times being hard pressed to meet the increasing demands of the two towns until the new hospital is opened.

## 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.

The local branch of the Family Planning Association have continued their busy sessions at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, on Monday 6.30 - 8 p.m. and Thursday, 1.30 - 3 p.m., while the number of women referred by their doctors to the fertility clinic held each Friday continues to increase.

At the annual general meeting of the local branch, tributes were paid to the outstanding work of Miss M. Moore White the consultant gynaecologist who has played such an important part in starting the fertility clinic in Welwyn Garden City and building up the sessions over many years on a sound clinical basis linked with the Hospital Service.

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 continues to provide a most valuable service of help in personal relationships both through the marriage counselling service and also to young people looking forward to marriage.

During the year 75 persons sought help, slightly more than in the

previous year, with a total of 280 interviews. It is realised however that in view of the continuing growth of the local populations a larger increase in the numbers requiring help is to be expected so that there is a need for greater publicity for the services offered by Marriage Guidance. Four counsellors have been working regularly during the year at the Gooseacre Health Centre and a fifth was selected and has now started counselling.

In the educational sphere the Council arranged 20 sessions in schools and youth clubs attended by 250 young persons, 8 talks on the work of Marriage Guidance and 4 marriage preparation courses in conjunction with local churches attended by 18 couples.

There is an urgent need of suitable persons interested in marriage guidance work for training as Group Leaders and Counsellors within the local Council. Further information can be obtained from the annual report for 1963 of the Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council.

#### Mortuary.

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices. 39 bodies were received during the year and 16 post mortem examinations were carried out at the order of the district coroner.

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Scarlet Fever	20	Diphtheria	Nil
Whooping Cough	3	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Measles	347	Dysentery	153
Pneumonia	13	Erysipelas	2

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was remarkably light with a marked fall in the number of children with measles. A high proportion of the notifications of dysentery relate to enteritis of uncertain bacteriology probably of virus origin. In very few instances were dysentery organisms isolated from specimens. These notifications are however visited by the Public Health Inspectors to enquire into the health of the other members of the family and the occupation of the patient. Food handlers and those in close contact with children at work are advised to discontinue work pending bacterial investigation and treatment.

Once again I am pleased to report that there were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the town during the year, and another year of freedom from diphtheria and poliomyelitis.

### Tuberculosis.

In addition to the periodic visits of the Mass Radiography Unit to the major industrial units in the Town a mobile unit now visits each Tuesday afternoon to take chest X-rays of persons referred by the local medical practitioners without the need for prior appointment. In Welwyn Garden City, 19 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1962 giving an attack rate of 0.51 per 1,000. This figure is higher than the attack rate of 0.39 for the County probably because of energetic case finding and excellent facilities for chest X-rays now available. There were no 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. 9 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 Council and the Development Corporation continue to give priority to persons with tuberculosis where their living conditions are unsatisfactory.

The B.C.G. protection of school children aged 13 years was as usual carried out during the Spring Term, some 920 children receiving the protecting inoculation.

### Housing.

Good progress was maintained during the year with housing scheme No. 18, although the severe weather conditions prevented completion by the end

of the year. This scheme provides 262 dwellings including 40 elderly persons flats and 167 garages, the majority of which were occupied during the year.

Clearance of the Wellcroft/Wheatley Road prefab site continued, 96 tenants being rehoused. Redevelopment of this area will commence in June, 1963 to provide 44 units of accommodation for elderly persons linked by a bell system to wardens accommodation and also a communal room for recreational activities.

The Development Corporation continued their policy of allocating 50 vacancies per year to sons of Development Corporation tenants who were registered upon the Council's waiting lists.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following figures:-

	<u>As at</u> <u>31.12.62</u>
Number of houses and flats owned by the Council	2,843
Number of garages owned by the Council	600
Number of temporary bungalows	50
Number of families housed during the year	217
Position of Application Register:-	
Priority Grades	273
Non-Priority Grades	22
Engaged couples	156
Number of applicants (all grades)	304
Number of applicants for garages	141

Steady progress was maintained by the Development Corporation with their housing scheme in the north-west area of the town, although the severe weather at the end of the year caused unavoidable delay in completion of contracts. 347 houses and 48 flats were completed and occupied during the year.

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 1962, 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>1962</u>			
January	11	10	1
February	14	12	2
March	9	8	1
April	12	9	3
May	17	14	3
June	17	16	1
July	16	14	2
August	7	7	-
September	14	11	3
October	12	9	3
November	11	10	1
December	23	20	3
Totals	<u>163</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>23</u>

All the 163 samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for a public supply.

A typical sample of water obtained from the public supply and submitted for chemical examination gave the following results:-

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Appearance:	...	...	Clear and Bright
Colour	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	7.2
Electric Conductivity	...	...	530
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	17
Hardness: Total	...	...	290
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.000
Turbidity	...	...	0.35

Odour	Nil
Free Carbene Dioxide	30
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	350
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	255
Carbonate	255
Non-carbonate	35
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed	0.20
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals Iron, Zinc, Copper and Lead:	Absent

## 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 Ryemeads.

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. An oil trap is being provided on the Mimram outfall sewer in the Black Fan Valley to improve the standard of discharge.

### Rivers and Streams.

A portion of the River Mimram, one 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:

At the beginning of the year all closet accommodation was on the water carriage system, with the exception of three cottages situated on the boundaries of the district, which were provided with pail closets. Two of the cottages were demolished in September, 1962. There are not any sewers in the vicinity of the third cottage.

## 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 at the Cole Green Lane tip. Any rats or mice which gain access

to the Stanborough Lane tip or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department. Regular routine treatments were carried out during the year to ensure that this tip was kept free of rats. A fairly severe infestation by rats was found present at the end of November, bait takes being then registered at a total of twenty baiting points. Poison treatments successfully cured the infestation by the end of January 1963, a total of nineteen poison treatments being carried out during 1962.

(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. Twenty six new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:-

Urban District Council	...	...	4
Development Corporation	...	...	2
Other Owners	...	...	20

#### 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

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

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	301
" " Factories (without methanical power)	...	...	9
" " Workplaces	...	...	11
" " Milk Depots	...	...	11
" " Licensed Premises	...	...	20
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	...	...	3,101
Inspection of Shops	...	...	353
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	...	...	114
" of Dwellings (not otherwise included)	...	...	85
" of Schools	...	...	9
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	...	...	60
Inspections of Dwellinghouses under Housing Act, 1957	...	...	44
Special Inspections or Visits made re:-			
Drainage	...	...	171
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning)	...	...	310
Smoke observations	...	...	184
Council Property (excluding houses)	...	...	105
Noise	...	...	52
Water Supply	...	...	7
Dustbins	...	...	40
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	73
Air Pollution observations	...	...	150
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	414

(b) Number of Informal Notices ... .. 104  
(of these 104 were complied with and none were outstanding)

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

6. (a) SHOPS:

There are one hundred and fifty four shops in the district. Three hundred and fifty three 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	...	...	...	5	5
Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	6	6
Other Nuisances or Defects	...	...	...	19	19

Twenty seven Informal Notices were given and twenty seven 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; or sanitary conveniences not being kept adequately maintained.

The general standard of maintenance found is a credit to both management and employees.

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 and the growth of trade there is encouraged by the three large free car parks which are provided in it although, on occasions, these prove inadequate. A large additional car park is to be constructed adjacent to The Cherry Tree.

The wide selection of goods available in the town centre, and the attractive way in which they are displayed, also continues to attract shoppers from surrounding areas.

(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:

(a) Smoke observations made	...	...	...	184
Smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions	...	...	...	17
Air pollution observations	...	...	...	150
Air pollution nuisances	...	...	...	2

### (b) Industrial Area.

Throughout the year when travelling in the industrial area, notice was taken of the standard of purity of the air. Generally it was seen to be clear and free from noticeable pollution. If noticeable pollution was observed, an attempt to trace the source was then made, unless prior appointments prevented this.

Regarding the seventeen smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions found during the year, with one exception it was rare to find a particular firm offending more than once. The exception arose from a factory which emitted smoke which was neither dark smoke as defined by the Clean Air Act, 1956; or black smoke as defined by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, and powers with respect to smoke in those categories were therefore inoperative. The smoke emitted was of various colours and amongst the colours seen were dark brown, yellow and white. The vital point was that on many occasions the smoke caused serious pollution by blanketing down and obscuring visibility and the natural clearness of the air over a considerable area. Informal representations were made to the firm concerned without any noticeable improvement.

The opinion of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Area Inspector under the Alkali etc. Works Regulations etc. Acts was sought since it appeared that the Council could not take proceedings except with the consent of the Minister, if the premises were subject to control under these Acts. The Area Inspector ruled that such control did not apply.

Further representations were made to the firm that new plant must be provided to abate the serious smoke nuisance being caused. In no way was it suggested that production should cease. The matter culminated in October, 1962 when a Director of the firm was interviewed and said that the cost of the new plant required to abate the nuisance would be £15,000 - £16,000 and the size of the business would not justify such expenditure and that the business would therefore be closed down. The serious nuisance arising could not be allowed to continue indefinitely and agreement was reached that the date of closure should be the end of March, 1963. This agreement was kept.

### (c) 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 cases of atmospheric pollution causing complaint from offensive odour were investigated during the year and found to be caused by chemical odours from private sewers. These arose from the by-products of chemical processes. Action was taken to increase the ventilation of the private sewers concerned by raising the height of the vent pipes of the private sewers. This also resulted in sewer air being discharged at a greater height and satisfactorily dispersed.

Manhole covers were also effectively sealed to prevent the escape of sewer air from them at ground level.

(d) Miscellaneous.

Nearly every house is wired for electricity. Cooking is virtually all 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.

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 four samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reports indicated that the four 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:

No houses were found to be infested during the year.

10. NOISE ABATEMENT:

(a) A total of fifty two visits were made during the year to deal with or to investigate noise problems. The abatement of noise is generally a new departure for Public Health Departments and presents difficult problems. Professor Richards of Southampton University stated at the Public Health Inspectors Annual Conference in 1962 that the present methods used to abate noise were only tentative and that acoustics had never been really studied.

(b) A Heating and Ventilating firm occupying a factory in Potters Bar

proposed to leave there and commence production in a vacant factory in Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City. Their Managing Director had visited the latter and, in view of the nearness of adjacent Council houses, thought it possible that his firm might cause a noise nuisance. The matter was considered with the Estates Department of the Development Corporation and it was agreed that an inspection would be made by the Public Health Department, of the processes carried on at the Potters Bar factory. Amongst other noisy processes observed there, the shaping of metal by hammering was particularly noisy.

The Development Corporation was informed that if the similar noise was created at Woodfield Road a statutory nuisance under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 would occur and that trade must therefore not be transferred to Woodfield Road. It was suggested to them that there were other factories in Welwyn Garden City which, if one became vacant, could be let to the firm, the prime consideration being that it should not be near any dwellinghouses.

The Development Corporation decided not to let a factory to the firm concerned.

(c) The Development Corporation asked for a ruling as to whether a firm occupying a factory in Broadwater Road, which was not near any dwellinghouses, could transfer to a factory in Woodfield Road, without causing a future noise nuisance there. The latter factory was adjacent to a number of Council houses. The firm carries on the trade of precision engineers making parts for gauges, measuring equipment and press tools. Inspections were made and the proprietor stated that the machines would be fixed in the front part of the Woodfield Road factory, if he was given the tenancy. They would thus be as far away from the adjacent Council houses as circumstances permitted. The trade only caused slight noise.

The Development Corporation were informed that it was not considered that a transfer of this trade to the Woodfield Road factory would involve the creation of a statutory noise nuisance there and granted the firm the tenancy.

(d) Complaints were received regarding the noise emitted from a factory making plastic articles. This factory is adjacent to a number of Council houses which are situated in an area which can be considered a quiet one and the problem was made more difficult by the fact that the factory engages in continuous production throughout each period of twenty four hours, for more than half the week. The absence of background noise at night makes any noise from the factory particularly noticeable.

A Statutory Abatement Notice was served on the firm occupying the factory requiring that the statutory nuisance caused by noise be abated. In law, to constitute a nuisance, noise must be unusual or excessive. It must be such as materially to interfere with the comfort of those living in the neighbourhood according to plain and sober, and simple notions.

It will be noted that the Council, therefore, has no power under the Act to require all noise to cease, but only that it shall be reduced within reasonable limits.

The firm employed Sound Consultants to advise them and as a consequence spent about £400 on works to reduce the noise emitted from the factory. At

the close of the year it appeared that the noise generally emitted had been so reduced as to be no longer a nuisance. A further complaint was received in May, 1963 which is under investigation but no conclusive results have so far been obtained.

#### 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) ... ..	80
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	180
(2) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be fit for human habitation or in which defects were found ... ..	35

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 ... ..	35
---	----

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

In addition, two houses recorded in 1961 as not being fit for human habitation were the subject of continued informal action. The owner was informed that both houses must be made fit for human habitation or alternatively an undertaking given that they would either be closed or demolished. At 27th September, 1962 both cottages had been demolished by the owner and their sites cleared.

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 town. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

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

(iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No.3) Order, 1953, provides that all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) 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 and one of the latter were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned who then complied with the regulations.

During the year eleven inspections were made at milk depots.

(v) Biological Examinations.

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. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during 1962.

(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. Eighty three samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital Laboratory for examination by the prescribed tests. The number of samples of the various designations obtained were as follows:-

Pasteurised	37	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	34
Sterilised	10	Tuberculin Tested	2

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.

In a hot summer the temperature limit of 70°F. is often exceeded and the Methylene Blue test must not be applied if the Regulation concerning that temperature limit is observed. This test indicates the keeping quality of the milk being tested. Hence, in the hottest weather when it is important to ascertain if milk is of satisfactory keeping quality, this test is not to be applied. The purpose of the limitation is to render a failure legally void.

Informal agreement has been made with Hill End Hospital Laboratory that it will carry out the test however high the atmospheric shade temperature is. This enables the keeping quality to be ascertained in the hottest weather, although the result is legally void.

Of the eighty three samples of milk obtained during 1962, eighty passed all the tests prescribed. This involved a total of one hundred and fifty four tests. The remaining three samples comprised one sample each of Sterilised milk, Pasteurised milk and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk. The two latter samples each failed to pass the Methylene Blue test, but in each case the atmospheric shade temperature exceeded 70°F., and the results of both tests were therefore void. They each passed the Phosphatase test.

#### Sterilised Milk.

One sample failed to pass the Turbidity test, as prescribed. The distributing firm concerned was informed and they reported this to the wholesaler who had supplied the milk. The latter - one of the largest firms in the milk trade - replied that their Central Research Laboratory had discovered that false failures to pass the prescribed test could arise even when the test was strictly carried out within the varying limits of the testing procedure laid down. That is to say if the smallest permitted weight of chemical reagent was added to the largest volume of the milk permitted under test a false failure resulted, whereas if the same volume of milk had added to it a weight of reagent midway between the greatest weight and the smallest weight permitted, the test would be passed.

This information was brought to the notice of Hill End Hospital Laboratory who initially examined the sample.

#### General.

The excellent results obtained show the great care taken by producers, pasteurisers and distributors in handling the milk which was sampled.

#### (b) ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS.

##### 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 seventy-seven samples were obtained from twenty-four retailers and covering seven different makes of ice cream being retailed within the district.

Tests on two of the samples were declared void because of incorrect pre-incubation temperatures at the laboratory.

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1 <u>Satisfactory</u>	2	3 <u>Unsatisfactory</u>	4	
Wrapped brickettes	16	-	-	-	16
Wrapped choc-bars	14	1	-	-	15
Partly wrapped	-	-	1	-	1
Part of previously opened carton	3	-	-	-	3
Soft Ice Cream	12	1	5	3	21
Pasteurised Mixture (used for making Soft Ice Cream)	14	3	2	-	19
	<u>79%</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The number of samples purchased from mobile ice cream vehicles has been increased to 61% of the total number of samples, as compared with 50% the previous year.

The eleven unsatisfactory graded samples were all obtained from mobile vehicles, but only four of these samples were obtained from vehicles operating in the Town. The remaining seven unsatisfactory samples were procured from one vehicle which operated in Hatfield. The Sampling Officers of the Hatfield Rural District Council had obtained consistently unsatisfactory samples from this particular vehicle, which was based in Welwyn Garden City. At their request arrangements were made to obtain samples from this vehicle whilst it was being driven to Hatfield and also when it was retailing ice cream in Hatfield. Samples were so obtained on eleven occasions. The unsatisfactory results obtained necessitated contacting the manufacturers of the Pasteurised mixture, and the owner of the vehicle. The vehicle was eventually withdrawn for a thorough overhaul of the soft ice cream machinery and subsequent sampling from the vehicle which replaced it proved satisfactory.

The four unsatisfactory samples obtained from vehicles operating within Welwyn Garden City were reported to the owners of the vehicle, and to the manufacturers of the ice cream. The Chief Public Health Inspector of the district in which the ice cream was manufactured was also informed. Follow-up samples proved to be satisfactory.

#### Fruit Lollies.

Three samples were taken from two manufacturers and submitted for bacteriological examination. Presumptive coli were found in one of them, but no faecal coli were found. Another sample was graded in Provisional Grade 1. The acidity of the third sample was such that no bacterial growth could occur and bacteriological examination would, therefore, have been useless.

#### Cream Lollies.

Fifteen samples of cream lollies, obtained from four different

manufacturers, were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the cream lollies submitted had been wrapped by the manufacturers.

No. containing in addition to  
Pres.Coli. Faecal Coli in

<u>Producer</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>No. free from Pres.Coli</u>	<u>No. with Pres.Coli only</u>	<u>Dilution</u>		
				<u>of 10 cc</u>	10 ml	1.0 ml
A	4	2	2			
B	2	2				
C	6	4	1		1	
D	3	1	1			1

In the two cases where faecal coli were found on examination the manufacturers were informed and asked to review the methods of manufacture and storage.

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

Regulation examination of food exposed for sale was carried out throughout the year. In a few cases it was found that the places in which some of the food was stored were unsuitable and the manager was requested to find somewhere more suitable.

The amount of unsound food surrendered during 1962 was 16,513 lbs., more than twice as much as the previous year. Unfit canned food was mainly responsible for this increase, and in particular two large batches of canned meat where it is thought that a fault occurred in the canning process.

(i) Uncooked Food lbs

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	171
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	196

(ii) Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown) 1,876

(iii) Food in Cans.

Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	5,848
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	4,571
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1,225
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	962

(iv) Other Miscellaneous Foods ... .. 1,664

(d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD:

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

- (a) Counties Public Health Laboratories, Thresh House, Verulam Street, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.
- (b) Public Analyst, 20, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton.
- (d) Bacteriological examination only is carried out at:-

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

(e) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

The provisions of this Act, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council. Forty three samples of food or drugs in common use were obtained in Welwyn Garden City during the year by Sampling Officers of the County Council. The commodities sampled consisted of thirty-nine different products, and ranged from sausages, fish cakes, savoury rissoles, instant coffee to starch reduced rolls, glucose with vitamin D. and vitamin syrup. Thirty nine of the samples were reported by the Public Analyst as being genuine. Four samples were found by the Public Analyst to be unsatisfactory for the reasons which follow.

Vitamin Syrup. This sample consisted of a flavoured syrup containing vitamins A, B, C and D. The Public Analyst reported that there was only 70% of the declared vitamin A. in the sample. Discussions with the manufacturers showed that different interpretations may be put on the official method prescribed for the determination of vitamin A. in products of this kind. Collaborative work between a number of Public Analysts has shown that the official method of vitamin A. determinations has its shortcomings and further research is being undertaken. In the circumstances no further action was taken in respect of this sample.

Apricot Brandy Bottles. These chocolate confections had a brandy content of only 1.4% which was regarded as poor for an article of this description. The manufacturers undertook to amend the labelling so that there would be no doubt that these confections are only flavoured with brandy and will not be confused with the liqueur type of chocolate.

Ice Lolly Syrup. The label of this syrup did not bear a statement of the ingredients as required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. The manufacturers have rectified this.

Swedish Milk Diet Tablets. In a statement of the vitamin content of these tablets Vitamin B.1. was incorrectly described as Vitamin B.2. The manufacturers have made the necessary amendments to the labels.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD:

During 1962 a total of eighteen complaints were made to the Public Health Department. Three of these cases were found to be unjustified and three of them were not confirmed by investigation. The remaining twelve (of which five arose outside the district) were followed up by direct con-

tact with the retailers or manufacturers. In each case the complainant was informed of the result of the enquiries and the action taken. Six of the complaints arose because of improper turnover of stocks within the shop concerned, or because assistants were not carrying out instructions to remove goods from display once their shelf-life had expired.

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

Visits to examine Meat and Other Foods	203
Visits to procure samples of Food (excluding Milk)	76
Visits to procure samples of Milk	35
Visits re sale of Ice Cream and Lollies	29
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Ice Cream	53
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Food (excluding Ice Cream)	55
Visits to Milk Depots	11
Visits to Laboratories with samples of Food	38

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES:

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

<u>Trades</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of Visits Made.</u>
Building Site Canteens	5	9
Industrial "	37	8
School	23	8
Cafes and Restaurants	7	46
Licensed Premises	14	20
Food Manufacturers	9	15
Butchers	18	60
Fishmongers	6	37
Grocers	23	155
Greengrocers	16	11
Confectioners	17	30
Miscellaneous Food Premises	11	30
Informal Notices	26	
Notices complied with	26	

Fewer infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found this year, and generally a big improvement in refuse storage facilities was evident, following the provision of racking for the bins in most of the larger food shops.

In a number of cases the yard provided for the shop is inadequate for whilst there is usually sufficient space for the refuse bins, no allowance has been made for the large quantity of cardboard cartons that a shop must often store whilst awaiting collection. Where possible the Manager is asked to arrange for the cartons to be folded flat and stacked. The shopkeepers generally were found to be most co-operative in dealing with matters brought to their attention. Follow-up visits showed that the necessary work had been carried out in every case. It may be thought by some of the shop proprietors that a great deal of attention is given to matters which

they regard as trivial such as the absence of a nail brush, or a dirty hand towel, but non-compliance with such small details can often lead to slackness in matters of vital importance. When staff are aware of the fact that "spot" inspections are made regularly at their shop, any tendency towards slackness is likely to be prevented.

### 3. MOBILE VEHICLES SELLING FOOD:

During the year 53 inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling ice cream and 55 inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling other foods. There were infringements of the Regulations in eleven of the vehicles inspected and informal notice was given to the person responsible to rectify these. In each case the vehicle was inspected again later and found to be satisfactory.

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

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES:

<u>Premises</u> (1)	<u>Inspections</u> (2)	<u>Number of Notices</u> (3)	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u> (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	301	8	0
FACTORIES without " "	9	1	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	26	4	0
Totals	<u>336</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND:

<u>Particulars</u> (1)	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u> (4)	<u>Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</u> (5)
	<u>Found</u> (2)	<u>Remedied</u> (3)		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences, S.7.</u>				
Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ...	13	13	0	0
Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0
Totals	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1961:

(a) Outworkers.

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

(b) Factories - General Information.

The Factories Act, 1962, came into force on the 1st April, 1962 and repealed the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past forty years. The construction of the first factory in the town was commenced in 1922 and after completion was occupied by Dawnays Limited. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

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

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Sections 37 or 43 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, 1961, 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, by them.

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 162 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 ... ..	132	2,121
Mice ... ..	27	622
Rats and Mice ... ..	<u>3</u>	<u>39</u>
Totals	<u>162</u>	<u>2,782</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	4	100	28
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	19	8
No. of premises infested by Rats and Mice	-	-	3
	<u>4</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>39</u>

Three hundred and twenty nine visits were made to premises during the year in which neither the presence of rats or mice was confirmed.

Details of visits paid to properties are as follows:-

	<u>Number of Visits</u>		
	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Rats and Mice</u>
Business and Commercial Premises	871	558	54
Local Authority property (excluding houses)	128	8	14
All houses	1,291	177	-

The total of these visits was 3,101.

Where premises are found to be infested, repeat treatments are carried out at intervals until all rats or mice have been destroyed.

(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 chargeable work is commenced. At the 31st December, 1962, twenty four firms had taken out twenty eight contracts in respect of twenty eight premises, the income from these contracts being at the rate of £172 a year. The income from "Private Works" during the year was £53.4s.11d.

(d) Council's Sewers.

No evidence of infestation by rats was found during the year.

5. INSECT PESTS:

During the year sixty two complaints were received of which one on inspection was not confirmed. One hundred and fourteen visits were made to destroy the pests found present on the remaining sixty one.

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:-

<u>Pest</u>	<u>Number of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Beetles	2	4
Ants	3	6
Flies	2	3
Bees	5	14
Spiders	1	1
Red Mites	2	4
Woodworm	2	5
Wasps	40	69
Caterpillars	4	8
	<u>61</u>	<u>114</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. Forty eight 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 1962.

\*\*\*

... 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. (Left January, 1962)

R. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 5.2.62)

Student Public Health Inspector

P. C. WARD

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 1962) estimated by the Registrar General						41,350
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1963	...	...	...	...	12,171	
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1963	...	...	...	...	£738,335	
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£3,015	

#### 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. 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 Hawker Siddeley Aircraft Company's Works.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	160	178	338
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	399	380	779
Rate per 1,000 population			18.8
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			3.7
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	2	9	11
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			13.9
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			790
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)			6
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			7.7
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			8.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			NIL
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total live births)			6.4

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	5.1
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	18.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion):	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

Deaths:

No major event affected the mortality rate which has shown little variation over the past five years. The following table gives the causes of death, heart disease, cerebral vascular accidents and cancer being the major causes. The number of deaths from road traffic and other accidents was higher than usual and while this was the second year with no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, the figure for bronchitis and other respiratory diseases remains high. The four deaths from leukaemia is the highest for many years, although this may be explained by the considerable increase in child population in recent years.

Deaths due to cancer were just below the average for the past five years although there were 15 deaths from lung cancer (12 male, 3 female).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>past 5</u> <u>years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	2
Cancer	32	25	57	61
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	28	51	79	60
Leukaemia	2	2	4	1
Heart Diseases	57	50	107	87
Other circulatory diseases	6	10	16	14
Pneumonia	2	4	6	9
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	9	13	22	16
Diabetes	1	2	3	1
Nephritis	3	1	4	1
Ulcer of stomach, etc.	2	1	3	4
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	2	3	2
Road Traffic and Other accidents	5	7	12	9
Suicide	3	1	4	2
Other defined causes	9	9	18	25
	160	178	338	

Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract	15
Alimentary tract and liver	24
Breast and uterus	10
Unclassified	8

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1958 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1962. The Birth Rate continued its steady fall since 1957 and is now well below the national rate. The standardised death rates compare favourably with the corresponding rates for the country, the infant mortality remaining exceptionally low.

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
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
1962	18.8	0.83	15.6	8.2	1.33	10.9	7.7
England and Wales 1962			18.0			11.9	20.7

## 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

The opening of the Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield, by Lord Moynihan, O.B.E., T.D., on the 13th June, 1962 was a major step forward in establishing the personal health services in the area on a sound basis. This fine modern building provides for the first time a worthy centre with a wide range of specialised services for the area and is conveniently accessible to all parts of the town and the surrounding areas.

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the sponsors of the proposed new community centre in Cuffley for the inclusion of a health suite in the proposals.

#### 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
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	} By Appointment
Orthoptic	
Speech Therapy	
Dental and Orthodontic	
Audiology	
Chiropody	

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1962 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.

## SCHOOL HEALTH:

Children in the prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school were inspected during the year with an additional group at 8 years of age. Two Assistant County Medical Officers undertake the school medical inspection and treatment work, Dr. J.M. Ponsford mainly for the schools in Hatfield town and Dr. B.W.M. Macartney for the surrounding area.

The Queensway Health Centre provides ideal modern premises for special examinations, minor treatments and the specialised departments, e.g. school dental centre with two well equipped surgeries, ophthalmic and orthoptic centre, speech therapy and audiology centre.

The Audiology Centre for the ascertainment and treatment of deafness in young children was started at the Queensway Centre in November, the team consisting of the consultant audiologist, senior peripatetic teacher of the deaf, audiometrician, a psychologist, an appointments clerk and secretary, the clinic being held each Wednesday. Children are referred to the clinic by the school medical officers with the help of the audiometrician and the health visitors making routine examinations on the school and pre-school children. Hertfordshire is one of the few counties with such a service and it is fortunate that the first special centre should have been started in Hatfield.

For more detailed information on the development of the audiology and other services reference should be made to the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer.

## NURSING SERVICES:

The establishment of Health Visitors, Nurses and Midwives has been well maintained apart from temporary shortages resulting from staff changes.

The work continues to expand to meet the increasing needs of the area. 300 women were attended by the midwives at domiciliary confinements while attendances at the infant welfare centres and home visiting by the Health Visitors have each shown an increase in Hatfield and the surrounding centres. A wide range of nursing aids and specialised equipment are now available on loan to assist in the nursing care and rehabilitation of the sick and handicapped at home. The auxiliary members of the Hatfield Branch of the Red Cross Society attend the issuing depot at the Queensway Health Centre on Monday and Friday afternoons in addition to the Medical Loan Service provided in the evenings by the St. John Ambulance Brigade at their centre in St. Albans Road.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION:

The returns from medical practitioners and clinics at the Divisional Health Office show that the high acceptance rate for immunisation and

vaccination has been well maintained. The combined diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus antigen is now in general use while the oral (sabin) poliomyelitis vaccine has largely superseded the Salk vaccine.

The primary course of protection for young infants starts with three injections of combined antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) at monthly intervals from 2 - 6 months of age, followed by two doses of oral poliomyelitis vaccine at 7 - 10 months. The period for primary vaccination against smallpox has recently been extended up to 2 years of age. Booster doses of triple antigen and polio vaccine are recommended at 5 - 18 months and at school entry to maintain full protection. Finally B.C.G. vaccination to improve resistance to tuberculosis is given to school children aged 13 years who give a negative response to the tuberculin test.

Considerable study and research has been devoted to the preparing of these immunising agents and the table of primary protection at times may appear unduly complicated with frequent minor modifications, but results as shown by a year of complete freedom from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and smallpox, with no reactions or other ill effects amply justify the support of parents, doctors, school teachers and nursing staff in maintaining primary immunisation of the children at a high level.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE:

The demands upon this service have remained about the same as in the previous year some 500 hours help in the home being provided weekly. There is often difficulty in fully meeting the needs in outlying areas, particularly during the holiday season, and the local organiser would be pleased to enrol any housewife who has the time to give to this rewarding work if only for a few hours each week.

Priority is given to the special needs of maternity cases and acute illness, but 75% of the people receiving help are old age pensioners having help for a few hours each week according to need but sufficient to enable them to maintain a clean and orderly home.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE:

One ambulance and one sitting case vehicle 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).

The demands upon the Ambulance Service continue to rise and the public are asked to restrict requests for ambulance transport by using public 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.

A start will be made early in 1963 on building the new central fire station and ambulance depot for the Hatfield area, in Wellfield Road.

## WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY:

The Hatfield District Old Peoples Welfare Council has continued its valuable work co-ordinating and promoting the activities of the seven local clubs which meet regularly in the district. Mr. Jenner has also continued his special hearing aid service for the elderly and the Old Peoples Mutual Benefit Club. A varied programme of visits, excursions and other activities is arranged for the members, the individual clubs being largely self supporting with the help of a small group of voluntary supporters.

There has been steady growth, both in the Meals on Wheels Service in Hatfield and Welham Green, and in the attendances at the five luncheon clubs. The regular home visiting of elderly housebound persons by the Womens Voluntary Service in the course of their Meals on Wheels duties is of course a most valuable link, the advantages having been extended far beyond the mere delivery of a cooked meal on two days of the week. The District Council has substantially increased the grant in support of the Meals on Wheels Service, and considerable praise is due to the ladies who give of their time to the organising of this service including the use of private cars for the transport of the meals.

Chiropody sessions are held regularly at the Cavendish Hall, Queensway Health Centre and the Memorial Hall in Hatfield, and at the Memorial Hall, Welham Green in addition to domiciliary visits by the chiropodist to the housebound. This service is financed by the County Health Department and Mrs. L. Tiffen continues her valuable work in organising this service in the Hatfield area.

The Housing Departments of the Council and Development Corporation continue to give sympathetic consideration to the special housing needs of the elderly, arranging where possible for rehousing in suitable convenient units near relatives, and it is encouraging to see the high proportion of new properties now under construction specially designed as suitable units for the elderly.

Further information regarding the special service for the elderly is available in the annual report of the Hatfield District Old Peoples Welfare Council, and the 10 Year Plan for the Development of the Health and Welfare Services, published by the County Council in October, 1962.

## 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).

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Diphtheria	Nil	Dysentery	6
Whooping Cough	Nil	Erysipelas	3
Measles	38	Pneumonia	4
Scarlet Fever	12	Food Poisoning	2
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Encephalitis	1

The year was remarkable for the complete freedom from major infectious disease, smallpox, poliomyelitis and diphtheria, and also for the small number of notifications of the minor infectious diseases.

The increasing use of combined immunising agents for young children has resulted in a marked fall in the incidence of whooping cough in recent years and this is the first year that I have received no notifications of this disease.

No outbreaks of food poisoning or gastro enteritis occurred, the notifications of dysentery and food poisoning being mild scattered cases investigated by the department.

The notification of encephalitis relates to a boy aged 4 years living at South Hatfield who developed signs of acute encephalitis with convulsions during an attack of German Measles. He was admitted to the St. Stephen's Ward at the St. Albans City Hospital on 21st April where he was gravely ill with repeated convulsions followed by loss of consciousness for a week. On recovery it became apparent that he could not see and although the ophthalmologist reported that his pupils reacted normally and the retinae appeared normal it was at first feared that the boy was permanently blind as a result of his encephalitis. Fortunately his loss of vision was only temporary for after several weeks at home his sight returned greatly to the joy of his parents and is now normal, the ophthalmologist reporting that he can find no abnormality in his visual acuity or fields of vision.

### 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 nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis already under treatment or observation, transferred mainly from the London area. The steady fall in the number of 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 eradicating pulmonary tuberculosis in the next 20 years.

The availability of the mobile X-ray units in Hatfield and periodic visits of the Mass X-ray units to the local factories and open sessions all play their part in detecting 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	2,392
(b) Number of families housed during the year	138
Direct allocations	54
Exchanges and Transfers	26
By nomination into Development Corporation properties	58
(c) Number of applicants on the housing list	878
Families in shared accommodation and caravans	481
Families in separate accommodation	397

Good progress was maintained with the new housing scheme at Essendon which will provide 22 three bedroomed houses, 5 two bedroomed houses and 5 one bedroomed bungalows when completed in August, 1963.

Detailed drawings and specifications for the following two new housing schemes were prepared:-

(a) Longmead, Hatfield.

14 one-bedroomed flatlets (for elderly persons)  
45 two-bedroomed flats  
14 two-bedroomed maisonettes

—  
73  
—

This scheme is principally to provide accommodation for the families from the 105 aluminium prefab bungalows on the Birchwood Estate in Hatfield which are to be demolished during the next 3 to 4 years. The balance of the 105 will be dealt with in other schemes or re-lets from existing properties.

(b) Wellfield Road, Hatfield.

This scheme will provide 18 one-bedroomed flatlets for elderly persons plus one flat for a resident Warden who will be in attendance. A feature of this scheme will be the provisions of a Common Room for the residents.

The Development Corporation continued the development of the Oxlease Estate and houses for private ownership in The Ryde. The tall block of flats Queensway House was completed and occupied during the year and limited commercial development in the Town Centre. A total of 176 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 supplied almost entirely by the Lee Valley Water Company Mains. A summary of the bacteriological results of samples taken by the Company throughout the district is received by the Health Department regularly, and in addition at least one sample is taken annually by the Public Health Inspectors and submitted to a Public Analyst for a combined chemical and bacteriological report. Results have always been entirely satisfactory for all domestic purposes.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has always stressed that the Mains supply coverage in this rural district is remarkably high. There are approximately 12,000 domestic properties and of these 11,886 are supplied direct from the main, but a further 19 of these have, in fact, a mains supply immediately available, although preference is given to private sources, the main supply being used in emergencies.

The proportion of domestic properties connected therefore is approximately 99%.

The Public Analyst's report on a sample of Mains Water taken in March, 1962 is summarised 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		insignificant trace

(b) Private Supplies.

The number of private supplies, i.e. wells, etc., in the Rural District is now reduced to 21, covering a total of 113 dwellings at the end of the year.

During the year the owner of a Country Estate embracing 12 dwellings supplied by a well was persuaded to install an automatic drip feed chlorination plant to treat the domestic well supplying a 40,000 gallon reservoir. Subsequent results of samples taken have been consistently satisfactory.

Two other very small communities supplied by wells, where samples have proved inconsistent, are treating the water regularly with a hypochlorite and when this is done at the regular intervals advised by this department, results are always satisfactory.

Following is a summary of samples taken from private wells, etc., with bacteriological results as reported by the Laboratories concerned:-

Water Sampling, 1962.

	<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	1	1	-
Coopers Green	2	6/1	5	5	-
Essendon (Hatfield Parish)	1	2	2	2	-
Mill Green	2	2	2	2	-
Newgate Street	1	14	6	6	-
North Myms	4	11/5/2/1	22	16	6
Northaw	1	17	-	-	-
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	4	4	-
Stanborough	4	32/1/1/1	4	4	-
Symondshyde	1	6	2	2	-
Woodside	2	2/1	2	2	-
Lemsford (Cress Beds)	-	-	1	1	-
Total	21	114	51	45	6

1. Hawksyeotham, Coopers Green, destroyed by fire in August, 1962, not included in dwellings served.
2. 1, School Cottages, Newgate Street, connected to mains supply in March, 1962 not included.
3. Woodside Farm, connected to mains supply April, 1962. Included as samples taken.
4. Following samples also taken:-
  - (a) Mains supply at White Lodge Farm, Bell Bar - Satisfactory.
  - (b) Queenswood School, Mains supply booster storage tank - satisfactory.
  - (c) Swimming Pool, 47, St. Albans Road - satisfactory.

Items 2 and 3 above were carried out as the result of approaches made by the Public Health Inspectors, as a main supply was readily available in each case.

(c) Standpipe Supplies.

The number of houses supplied by way of standpipes is five, made up as follows:-

Hatfield Parish - 3. Northaw Parish - 2.

The following four items concerning Sewerage and Refuse Collection, etc. were kindly contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor:-

Sewerage.

During the year, defective soil sewers in Plough Hill, Cuffley and Peplins Way, Brookmans Park, were re-laid.

Refuse Collection.

Another vehicle was replaced with a modern continuous loader, and a regular weekly collection was maintained.

Gully Emptying.

Gullies in private streets were emptied by direct labour.

Lemsford Sewerage.

Despite very difficult ground conditions, this Contract is well advanced.

DRAINAGE:

The number of visits and time spent by the Public Health Inspectors in dealing with drainage problems in the rural areas of the district is considerable. Residents in these areas are more tolerant than urban dwellers. Drainage systems tend to be taken for granted and often cease to function through neglect or old age. Often it takes considerable time to trace a system and usually not until there is serious trouble do tenants complain, especially when the cesspool or septic tank is sited at the foot of the garden or in a field with a favourable fall away from the dwelling.

Following are a few of the improvements carried out during the year through the department:-

New Drainage to Sewer - Abolition of Cesspool - 1, and 2, Essendon Close, Cottages.

New Septic Tanks - Abolition of Cesspool or Soakaways:  
Bell Cottage, Bell Bar. Laurel Cottage, Wild Hill,  
6 and 8, Cromer Hyde.

Conversion of Pail Closets to W.Cs. and connection to sewer - Laurel Cottage and Hillside Cottage, Church Lane, Northaw. (Two pails abolished).

Connection to Sewer - Peter's Cafe, Barnet By-Pass. These premises were disconnected from an unsatisfactory form of septic tank (the effluent from which was somehow discharging into a by-pass roadside surface water gully) and connected to the sewer at the rear of Redhall Lane. This was only made possible by installing an electric pump at the Transport Cafe to lift the drainage a foot or so up to the sewer some 80 yards distant.

Provision of Internal Water Supplies, Sink and New Drainage Extensions - 150-158 (even Nos.) Dixons Hill Road, Welham Green (without grant aid).

Provision of New Drainage and Cesspool, W.C., Internal Water Supply, Sink, Bath, Additional Windows and Kitchen, Hot Water System - 4, Rookery Cottage, Great North Road. This work was done without grant aid and converted a very sub-standard dwelling into a presentable cottage. The premises were without any form of drainage, internal water supply or amenities of any description and without doubt could have been represented as unfit, but it was in the middle of a terrace and a closing or demolition order did not appear to be the best solution. The alternatives were discussed with the owner who was persuaded to carry out the extensive works mentioned. The result has been a satisfactory one for all concerned.

#### HOUSING:

##### Slum Clearance Progress Report.

In the accepted meaning of the word, "slums" do not exist in this authority, nevertheless steady progress has been maintained in dealing with a few individually unfit houses. Nos. 10-20 (even Nos.) Dellsome Lane, Welham Green, were ultimately represented as a small Clearance Area with the intention of proceeding with a Compulsory Purchase Order. However, the Agents acting for the owner intimated that they were prepared to negotiate for the sale of the properties to the Council by agreement and this was accomplished in December, 1962.

The following report indicates progress during the year, and it must be mentioned once again that the figures refer only to those houses actually "demolished" or "closed", for although the Council may officially declare a demolition or closing order in say April, the property is not recorded until actually razed or the tenants rehoused respectively, probably six months later.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (a) Clearance Area - Purchased by Agreement   | - 6   |
| (b) Demolitions in Clearance Area   | - Nil |
| (c) Houses demolished as a result of informal or formal procedure under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 | - 3   |

(d) Unfit Houses Closed

6

Note: Item (a) = Nos. 10-20 (evens) Dellsome Lane	-	6	
Item (c) = "Hillside", West End Lane, Essendon	-	1	}
"The Chalet", Lemsford Track, Hatfield	-	1	
No.3, Railway Cottages, Marshmoor Lane	-	1	
			3
Item (d) = No.3, Railway Cottages, Marshmoor Lane			
(informally)	-	1	}
"The Chalet", Lemsford Track	-	1	
2 and 3, Chapmans Yard, Park Street, Hatfield	-	2	}
Warren Lodge, Great North Road	-	1	
The Spinney, Tylers Causeway, Newgate Street	-	1	
			6

In addition, 1 and 2, Old Fiddle Cottages, Roe Green Lane (one dwelling) were represented as unfit, but the occupiers have not yet been rehoused.

Rent Act, 1957.

For the first time since the Act came into operation, no applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair during the year. The total number of applications received since 1957 remains, therefore, at fifty-eight.

The repairs previously specified on outstanding Certificates were completed at ten houses on the Garden Village Estate, and cancellations were approved in each case.

In addition where, following applications by the tenants for Certificates of Disrepair, the owners undertook to complete specified repair, works were carried out at a further eleven houses to the satisfaction of the tenants and in these cases the prescribed "P" forms - "Certificates as to the remedying of defects" were issued.

Summary - 1962.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair received - Nil.  
No. of Certificates of Disrepair (issued previously) cancelled - 10.  
No. of Certificates as to remedying of Defects issued - 11.

Housing Acts, 1957-59 - Improvement Grants.

During the year there were thirty applications for Improvement Grants and of these 15 were Standard and 15 for Discretionary. All applications were approved. Four of the 15 Standard Grant applications were in respect of tenanted dwellings (26.6%), and six of the 15 Discretionary (40%). The apportionment, therefore, between tenanted and owner occupied dwellings is approximately 33% and 67% respectively.

The Council in September 1961 resolved to suspend further consideration of applications for Discretionary Grants until 31st March, 1962, following financial restrictions imposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Triennial visits are made by the Public Health Inspectors to all properties for which grants have been made since the inception of the scheme, in order to ascertain that the dwellings are being maintained satisfactorily. These inspections are carried out at the request of the Treasurer, and letters concerning minor repairs were sent to the owners in 4 or 5 instances.

Survey of District - Improvement of Houses.

During the latter part of the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government circularised each local authority in the Country, expressing the hope that more owners could be persuaded to bring about improvements to older houses. It was suggested that the problem could best be dealt with street by street and area by area.

At the September Committee, authority was given for the Public Health Inspectors to survey the district and to report on any properties or areas suitable for improvements, and a quick preliminary survey was carried out in those areas considered appropriate for the purpose, i.e. Old Hatfield, Little Heath, Welham Green, Northaw Village and Essendon. (Lemsford Village has also been surveyed, but the completion of the sewerage scheme is awaited).

Following is a summary of the survey:-

<u>No. of Dwellings Inspected</u>	...	...	...	...	<u>514</u>
No. of dwellings lacking all five amenities	...	...	...	...	143
No. of dwellings lacking food stores only	...	...	...	...	42
No. of dwellings lacking internal W.C. only	...	...	...	...	8
No. of dwellings lacking wash basin only	...	...	...	...	4
No. of dwellings lacking two or more standard amenities	...	...	...	...	139

Improvement Grants - Provision of Public Health Amenities.

The following amenities were provided in connection with completed Improvement Grants during 1962:-

W.Cs	15
Baths	17
Hot Water Systems	14
Wash-hand Basins	9
Food Stores	6

Caravan Sites - Provision of Public Health Amenities.

Considerable progress was made during the year by owners of caravan sites in providing amenities for the use of occupiers in connection with the requirements of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

As far as can be ascertained the following is a report on facilities now provided. The majority of the work being accomplished at Lemsford Track; Toms Field, Roe Green Lane; Dixons, St.Albans Road, and although not completed, Chili Parlour, St.Albans Road:-

W.Cs.	20	Hot Water Supplies	5
Urinals	10	Standpipes	5
Wash-hand basins	13	Showers	14
Laundries	6	Drainage	6
Refuse Bins	12		

The above summary of course refers to the position as at 31st December, 1962.

#### 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	116	
Houses, Primary Inspections	49	
Re-visits, re. above	182	
Moveable Dwellings	473	
Infectious Diseases	27	
Schools	4	
Cinemas and Public Halls and Clubs	13	
Workplaces and Offices	5	
Water Supplies	93	
Rivers, Streams and Ditches	47	
Drainage	359	
Cesspools	161	
Dirty and Verminous Premises	8	
Flies, Insects, etc.	11	
Stables and Piggeries	37	
Keeping of Animals	4	
Vacant Lands and Dumps	56	
Smoke Observation	127	
Boilerhouses	26	
Sundry Nuisances	<u>36</u>	1,834

(Note: 57 Informal Notices under the Public Health Acts were served during the year).

#### Housing Acts.

Houses, Primary Inspections	827	
Re-visits re. above	148	
Overcrowding	2	
Council House Applicants	1	
Improvement Grants	283	
Certificates of Disrepair	<u>124</u>	1,385

(Note: 18 Informal Notices under the Housing Act, 1957 were served during the year).

<u>Factories Act.</u>		<u>Total</u>
Factories with Power	31	
Factories without Power	7	
Outworkers' Premises	<u>6</u>	44

<u>Food and Drugs Act.</u>		
Slaughterhouses	82	
Butchers Shops	101	
Food Preparing Rooms	81	
Fishmongers and Poulterers	35	
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	80	
Fried Fish Shops	4	
Grocers and Other Food Shops	200	
Bakehouses and Bakers Shops	4	
Licensed Premises	96	
Restaurants and Kitchens	167	
Factory Canteens	29	
School Canteens	5	
Public Market and Food Stalls	233	
Other Food Premises	59	
Food Inspection	98	
Dairies and Milk Shops	9	
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	150	
Water Cress Beds	<u>3</u>	1,436

(Note: 38 Informal Notices were served under the Food and Drugs Act during the year).

<u>Shops Acts.</u>		
Pet Animals Act	Nil	
Inspections	21	
Mobile Shops	<u>25</u>	46

SECTION F - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

MEAT:

Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouse (Pigs only).

The one licensed slaughterhouse in this authority is occupied by Mr. B.G.King, White Lodge Farm, Bulls Lane, Bell Bar. Eighty-two visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. Pigs only are slaughtered and the total kill for the year was 825. 100% of the carcasses and offal were examined and following is a list of parts condemned and reasons for condemnation:-

Number of PIGS killed and inspected	825
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	7
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	0.84%
<u>All Diseases other than Tuberculosis</u>	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	180
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.8%

Reason for Condemnation:-

Heads - Tuberculosis	6
Hearts - Pericarditis	10
Mesentery - Pentastomium	1
Tuberculosis	1
Livers - Spotted	69
- Ascaris	9
- Adhesion	1
Lungs - Congestion	202
- Pneumonia	20
- Pleurisy	3
- Adhesion	2
- Inflamed	2
Carcasses - Trimmed and Skinned (Erysipelas)	1
- Trimmed (part abscessed)	1
Pluck - Pericarditis, Pleurisy Peritonitis	1

Note: It is fairly common for two abnormal conditions to affect the same animal at the same time and when working out the percentage of carcasses concerned with diseases other than Tuberculosis, allowance is made for this.

ICE CREAM:

During the year, 73 samples of Ice Cream, including choc ices, iced lolly and ice cream mix were taken and submitted to the Laboratory for grading. Of these 57 were obtained from mobile vans, 10 from shops, 5 from Cafes and 1 from a vending machine.

Samples are submitted to the methylene blue test and results at the laboratory are placed in one of four categories or provisional grades. Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory and 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

Following is a summary of the results obtained:-

<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Grades</u>		<u>Grades</u>		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Mobile Vans	30	7	8	12	57
Shops	10	-	-	-	10
Cafes	3	1	-	1	5
Vending Machine	1	-	-	-	1
	44	8	8	13	73
	60.2%	11%	11%	17.8%	100%
	71.2%		28.8%		

The proportion of unsatisfactory results, i.e. provisional grades 3 and 4 totalling 28.8% is much too high and compares with 8.7% for 1961. This figure is due entirely to failures of samples of "soft" ice cream manufactured by one producer outside the area. Discussions with this producer and visits to the distributing depot in a neighbouring authority took place, one or two minor suggestions were made, although the premises and vans were superficially clean and well run.

Other neighbouring authorities were obtaining satisfactory results even when samples were taken from the same batch, at the same time, by arrangement, although different laboratories were used.

The results later in the year were satisfactory, but the definite cause of the failures was never established conclusively.

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

<u>Food</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Corned Beef	21	93 $\frac{3}{4}$	Vegetables	202	175 $\frac{1}{2}$
Luncheon Meat	8	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	Soups	111	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ham	2	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Preserves	1	2
Other Tinned Meat	37	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	Fruit Juices	27	34
Fish	72	50 $\frac{3}{4}$	Ketchups	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	812	856	Cream	2	1

<u>Food</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Coffee	6	1½	Lard	46 pkts.	23
Rice	20	20	Salt	400 "	450
Milk	111	95	Tea	46 "	10½
Tomatoes	55	89¼	Sauces	9 botts.	5½
Oats	47	79½	Wet Fish	-	510
Gravy Thickening	10	8½	Beef	-	736
Custard Powder	14	13	Pork	-	235½
Baby Foods	7	2	Poultry	-	51
Fish Paste	1	¼	Mutton	-	66

Total of 3,815¾ lbs.

Complaints by general public concerning food purchased.

An unusual development occurred following a purchase by a ratepayer of a packet of Grape Nuts found to contain a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " screw, sheared off down the centre. The purchaser brought the package and offending metal to the Health Department and the matter was taken up with the vendor and then the wholesale distributor.

The latter replied immediately, expressing concern with the complaint, but stated that they received the packeted Grape Nuts from the producers in Canada and that the matter would be taken up strongly with them forthwith. A few days later a further report was received to the effect that the Canadian manufacturers were greatly surprised at the incident since an electro-magnet had long been fitted over the conveyor system for the very purpose of arresting pieces of metal inadvertently finding their way to the belt prior to packeting. However, in view of the findings a second magnet was installed immediately to make doubly certain that a similar incident could not occur again.

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

NOISE:

Of the most recent legislation, Noise Abatement or reduction has engaged the attention of the staff to a lesser degree than one would expect in Hatfield and surprisingly it has been the minor irritants which have been brought to our notice. The modern trend of life in built-up areas is bound to create more noise and it seems that technically suppression of noise is not keeping pace with the creation.

One complaint concerned a dairy in the rural district at which an electric motor was used in connection with the cold room for storage of bottles of milk during the warmer months. The complainant was thoroughly distressed by the whirring noise created during the summer evenings, although some 120 feet separated the house from the motor fan. One's first reaction was that the noise was only slight and did not warrant complaint, but in view of the effect it was having on the complainant, one had to be sympathetic, and the dairy readily took measures to reduce the noise, various alterations being tried at different times to obtain the desired effect. Curiously the complainant was not at all concerned by the clatter of loading and unloading milk bottles from lorry to cold store and vice versa.

Another complaint concerned the impact of metal tools against a large iron tank. Here again the noise was not excessive but it had an irritating effect on some nearby residents.

There is considerable difficulty in establishing standards of noise levels which are acceptable to human beings, and the more one thinks about it, one wonders if such levels can indeed be determined at all, for individual tolerance is a peculiar factor, both to the general public and workers in, say, ship building yards, aircraft, tube stations, and on pneumatic road drills, etc. An acceptable noise level during normal working hours often becomes irritating in the quiet of the evening and unbearable in the small hours of the morning, although there are exceptions to this. However, the public can be relied upon to protest fairly and with sympathy and co-operation on all sides, solutions can usually be found.

The predominant noise in most towns and cities is now road traffic and it increases daily. This Health Department is situated on the Great North Road and is 7 ft. 1 in. from the kerbside, 100 ft. from the railway shunting yard and approximately 250 ft. from the main Kings Cross line with no intervening buildings to speak of. It is an extremely noisy spot during working hours. The noise level is higher than some of the complaints dealt with and yet traffic noise seems to be tolerated more easily by the public than other less common but quieter irritations. A deep subject full of interesting comparisons.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961:

Following is a summary of visits made to premises under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register	...	...	...	121
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	60
Number of Notices served as a 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	...	...	...	2

### Factories

With mechanical power where Section 7 enforced	...	...	...	108
Without mechanical power	...	...	...	13
Notices served as result of inspections	...	...	...	6

## RODENT CONTROL:

The number of visits made by the Council's Rodent Officer during 1962 was 1,643, including surveys, infestations and treatments at dwelling-houses, trade premises and farms, etc. Two hundred and thirty-one complaints were received and dealt with for rat and mouse infestations.

The number of annual contracts undertaken for regular monthly visits and treatments at farms and trade premises was thirty-four. The total value of these being £411.6s.6d. In addition a few casual contracts were carried out as and when required at other trade premises.

The sewer systems in Old Hatfield and Essendon Village were baited and poisoned in the Spring and Autumn at manhole intervals. The systems elsewhere in the rural district are free of infestations and are treated at less frequent intervals.

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>		<u>Total</u>
			<u>Agri-cultural</u>	<u>Business etc.</u>	
Properties found to be infested by RATS and treated	10	245	36	67	358
No. of <u>treatments</u> including re-treatments	24	616	400	134	1174
Properties found to be infested by MICE and treated	3	20	3	28	54
No. of <u>treatments</u> including re-treatments	6	40	8	56	110

	<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri-cultural</u>	<u>Business etc.</u>	
No. of <u>visits</u> recorded by Rodent Officer (including surveys)	30	1015	408	190	1643

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

PESTS ACT - VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

Business Premises - Primary	39
Re-visits	19
Private Dwellings - Primary	5
Re-visits	2
	<hr/>
	65
	<hr/>

The Department deals with many forms of pests as and when complaints are received and normally includes ants, wasps, flies, woodworm, bugs, etc., but it is sometimes difficult to draw a line between the Council's responsibilities and other organisations.

During the year a genuine call for help was received from the owner of a house in the country to deal with snakes found sunning themselves on the lawn. Experience within the Department with this type of intruder proved extremely limited and immediate advice was sought from the British Museum (Natural History Section). Following this and much the wiser, efforts were made to track down the snakes, but they did not, and have not, reappeared since.

Premises treated:-

Ants	19	Cluster Flies	8
Silver Fish	1	Hornets Nests	3
Woodworm	17	Wasps Nests	51
Bugs	1	Cockroaches	2
Fleas	1		

Complaints concerning wasps nests cause the department a considerable amount of time, are usually concentrated into the three summer months and more often than not are sited in very inaccessible corners of lofts, attics, eaves, etc., but 1962 was comparatively quiet with 51 complaints compared with 207 in 1960 and 268 in 1959.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1962.

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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 and Public Health Inspector:

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

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D.N. SIBLEY, 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 1962 as estimated by the Registrar General)	7,040
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1963	2,291
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1963	£92,851
Net product of a penny rate	£368

#### 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	39	29	68
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	71	59	130
Rate per 1,000 population			18.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			3.0
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	2	2	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			29.8
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	73	61	134
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	2	-	2
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			44.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

#### Deaths:

The following table gives the causes of death in the district during

the year. There was a slight increase in the number of deaths, but the general pattern was the same as in previous years. Deaths from cancer and heart disease were above the average.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	11	8	19	11
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	3	5	8	8
Heart Diseases	12	6	18	20
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3	4
Leukaemia	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3	2
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	-
Gastritis	-	2	2	-
Diabetes	1	-	1	-
Nephritis	1	1	2	-
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	2	-	2	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	6	3	9	7
	<u>39</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>68</u>	

#### Sites of Cancer

Respiratory	8
Alimentary tract and liver	7
Breast and Uterus	2
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
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
1962	18.4	0.85	15.6	9.7	1.18	11.4	15.4
England and Wales 1962			18.0			11.9	20.7

The standardised Birth Rate has continued to fall and is now well below the national figure while the Death Rate is about the same. The Infant Mortality Rate is based on two infant deaths due to intracranial haemorrhage and prematurity.

## 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)

#### WOOLMER GREEN (Village Hall)

Infant Welfare	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday (1st and 3rd only)
----------------	--

Transport is arranged for mothers and young children at Ayot St. Lawrence to attend the Infant Welfare sessions at The Hill, Welwyn on the 1st and 3rd Fridays.

Preliminary discussions were held during the year regarding the inclusion of a health suite of rooms in the proposed community centre on Prospect Place.

#### Nursing Services:

Three 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 M. Kinsella, Home Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor,  
5, Glebe Road, Welwyn.

#### School Health Service:

The routine inspection of children in the prescribed age groups, i.e. school entry, 8 years, 12 years and final year at school continued smoothly with more frequent reinspection of children in need of closer supervision. The Health Visitor regularly visits the schools to advise on the treatment of minor ailments and footwear, etc. The full range of specialised services, i.e. Child Guidance, Speech Training, Ophthalmic and Orthoptic Sessions are available at the Gooseacre Health Centre, Welwyn Garden City 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 for 1962.

### Immunisation and Vaccination:

The acceptance rate for primary immunisation against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and tetanus and smallpox vaccinations has been well maintained at over 80% due to the efforts of Medical Practitioners, Health Visitors, Teachers and Parents. The oral (Sabin) poliomyelitis vaccine has now largely superseded the injections of salk vaccine as it is so easily given to young children.

Fourth doses of oral poliomyelitis vaccine were given during the summer to children attending primary schools, while the age for primary vaccination against smallpox has been extended up to 2 years of age in view of the intensive immunisation programme during the first year of life.

### Old People's Welfare.

The Welwyn Jubilee Old Folks Club with a membership of 103 has had another busy year with a wide range of interests and activities. The executive committee meets regularly under the chairmanship of Mr.S.W.Adams to consider the financial arrangements for running the Centre and the various services, while the members have elected an advisory committee among themselves to bring new suggestions forward..

Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Roe did most valuable work visiting the housebound and sick particularly during the severe weather in the winter, and the regular fortnightly chiropody sessions at the centre under the County Chiropody Scheme meet a very real need.

The Meals on Wheels Service of the W.V.S. continued its most valuable work taking meals to some 25 housebound elderly and handicapped persons twice weekly in Welwyn and Woolmer Green.

### 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, some 26 homes receiving help each week, 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.

Full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available at the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City. The majority of

hospital confinements are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital which becomes the maternity department of the new Queen Elizabeth II Hospital providing ideal conditions for the welfare and comfort of mothers during delivery and the lying in period.

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	164	Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	1	Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	1	Whooping Cough	Nil
Encephalitis	1	Pneumonia	Nil

Measles was widely prevalent during the first three months of the year. Apart from this the District was relatively free from infectious disease with no poliomyelitis, diphtheria, smallpox or outbreaks of food poisoning.

### Tuberculosis:

Two new notifications of tuberculosis were received during the year, and one person under the supervision of the Chest Clinic transferred into the District. The total number on the register at the end of the year was 47.

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.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Welwyn early in the year 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:

A piped water supply for domestic use is available to the whole of the Welwyn Rural District. The supply is provided and maintained by the Lee Valley Water Company.

During 1962, 99 bacteriological and 31 chemical samples were taken, and all but 2 bacteriological samples conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply. The two samples referred to, were taken on the same day and an immediate investigation traced the cause to a pumping fault which caused the Greggs Wood Tower to be drained empty. The tower was sterilised, and repeat samples were satisfactory.

During the year, Ayot House, the Manor House and the Ayot House Lodge, Ayot St. Lawrence, were connected to the mains supply.

During the year, the quantitative supply to the district was improved in two ways, viz: (1) The Rabley Heath Tower was served from a new main laid on the Knebworth supply thereby relieving Potters Heath Tower which formerly had the additional strain of supplying the Rabley Heath Tower. (2) The range of the Heath Road, Mardley Heath Tower was widened by laying an additional pipe across Lower Mardley Hill.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The new sewerage system for Digswell ward, with an outfall to a sewer in Hertford Road, Digswell, vested in the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council, was completed during the year. The system includes a sewerage pumping station on low lying ground at Burnham Wood, which lifts the flow from Burnham Green into the gravity flow system at Harmer Green.

William Press Limited, Civil Engineering Contractors of Tottenham, who were entrusted with the work of this scheme, carried out their work efficiently and speedily, and have proved most courteous in their dealings with the general public.

The response by householders to the Council's request that houses be connected as soon as possible to the new system, has been very good indeed, and at the time of the preparation of this report, 84% of the houses in Digswell ward are now connected. This has involved the staff of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector in a great deal of work, involving site visits, explanations to members of the public, inspection of the works of connection, and detailed surveys of each existing drainage system, in order to ensure that all surface water is excluded before connection to the new sewer.

There has been a heavy demand for cesspool emptying services during the year. Last year, the highest number of services ever given was achieved

by the Council's vehicle, being 1,166 services. This year, the same high figure has been maintained, and the number of services given was 1,165. Below is set out the emptying figures for the past seven years, showing the steady increased demand on the Council's one vehicle:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Services</u>
1956	819
1957	932
1958	1023
1959	1025
1960	1101
1961	1166
1962	1165

It is not anticipated that there will be an appreciable reduction in the demand until at least half of the remainder of the district is placed on main drainage.

#### 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 139 days, yielding a total rainfall of 23.17" for the year. The heaviest fall recorded on the 4th September was 0.86". The wettest month was September, with a fall of 3.43", and the driest month was June with a fall of 0.19".

The rainfall for 1961 was 23.8".

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The Council still maintains a satisfactory weekly collection of domestic refuse throughout the whole of the district.

Apart from the inevitable dislocation in a small authority, due to Bank Holidays and normal holidays, breakdowns and sickness, the number of complaints received from the public in connection with this service is negligible.

Reliable labour is still very difficult to obtain, and the Council is fortunate in being able to retain the services of a few regular men who have been on this work for a number of years.

Owing to the limited remaining capacity of the Council's refuse disposal tip at Welwyn, further consideration has been given to the question of either continuing with the existing refuse tip to an adjoining extension or, using a commercial tip outside the Rural District boundaries. A final decision is to be made in February, 1963, when the trials using a 40 cu.yd. compressor type vehicle are complete.

Hitherto the Rural Council have made a charge to householders for the collection of miscellaneous refuse of a type usually left behind when a family moves from one district to another, but the Surveyor and Public Health

Inspector is now authorised to collect such refuse by offering a special service free of charge. Furthermore, the Council has wisely decided that bedsteads, cycle frames and other larger pieces of waste material, which are finding their way into the hedgerows and open spaces throughout the land, will now be collected in order to assist the Hertfordshire County Council in their efforts to tidy up the County. On the first combing of the district for such materials, over 300 articles were collected in the space of two days.

During the year, the village of Welwyn won the "Best Kept Village" competition, which is organised annually by the Hertfordshire Society.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

During the year 1 Discretionary Grant of £400, and 10 Standard Grants, to a total maximum of £920, were approved by the Council. With the exception of one Standard Grant for owner occupiers, these were all in respect of improvements to tenanted properties.

#### 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, and Mr. J. Knapton, who was newly appointed as Rodent Operator in 1961, has now settled in well, and pursues his duties with skill and enthusiasm.

Details of the work done are as follows:-

#### Summary for the Period 1st January to 31st December, 1962.

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED						TOTAL
	SEWERS	TIPS ETC.	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	BUSINESS PREMISES	BLOCK INSP:	AGRIC. LAND, ETC.	
HITCHIN R.D.C.	95	695 $\frac{3}{4}$	306	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	320 $\frac{1}{4}$	1549 $\frac{1}{2}$
WELWYN R.D.C.	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{3}{4}$	83 $\frac{3}{4}$	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	32	250
	108 $\frac{3}{4}$	789 $\frac{1}{2}$	389 $\frac{3}{4}$	156 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	352 $\frac{1}{4}$	1799 $\frac{1}{2}$
Other figures -							
Total mileage covered - 11,652							
Petrol used - 268 $\frac{1}{2}$ galls.							
Approx. M.P.G. - 43.4							
				Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instructions, reports on visits, bait handling, etc.			330 $\frac{3}{4}$
				Total hours worked			2130 $\frac{1}{4}$

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

By its very nature, Welwyn Rural District is not one which gives rise to many problems for the Public Health Inspector. Housing is generally of good standard, and the Council has called for a report on the condition of those houses which were listed as Category 5 in the 1947 Rural District Housing Survey.

The following is a list of miscellaneous Public Health visits carried out during the year:-

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	- 40	Trade Effluent	- 20
Canteens	€ 12	Moveable Dwellings	- 35
Foodshops	- 30	Statutory Nuisances	- 30
Cafes	- 16	Slaughterhouses	- Nil
Cesspools	- 18	Bakeries	- 9
Building Byelaws	-284	Factories	- 40
		Improvement grants	- 66
		Rodent Control	- 418

There was one case of the relaxation of the Building Byelaws in respect of the extension of certain premises in Welwyn village.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION:

There are no slaughterhouses being operated in the district at present, and all fresh and frozen meat is imported into the district. The following are details of unfit food surrendered during the year:-

Blood splashing	- 44 lbs. beef
Decomposition	- 1 tin (3½ lbs) Imported Bovine Kidneys.
Decomposition	- 3 tins (30 lbs) Imported Lambs Livers.
Blown tin	- 9 lbs. Cooked Pork.
Decomposition	- 1 contained (28 lbs) Pork Melts.
Miscellaneous damaged	- 20 tins(assorted).

## HOUSING:

A total of 17 houses were completed during the year by private enterprise. There were 16 houses under construction at the end of the year by private enterprise, and 4 bungalows by the Welwyn Rural District Council.

## CARAVAN SITES:

There are existing planning consents and caravan licences for 33 caravans within the Rural District. 24 of these are on one site which is scheduled to run down to 16 during the period ending 31st December, 1963. There is one site for 4 caravans, another site for 3 caravans and the remainder are singles.

There are a few remaining examples throughout the district of caravans sited within the curtilage of dwellinghouses, and which are being used for the enjoyment of the occupants of the dwellinghouses. The Council continues

to be vigilant in the control of moveable dwellings, because of the danger of inviting a rush from outside the district at the first signs of leniency.

#### TRADE EFFLUENT:

The Public Health Act, 1961 had the effect of bringing a local Research Laboratory within the definition of premises producing trade effluent, and a Trade Effluent Agreement has been entered into with the Company operating the laboratory.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

The Hertfordshire County Council took successful action against a local tradesman in connection with a loaf of bread containing a cigarette.

#### FROZEN FOOD CABINETS:

On two occasions during the year, grocers have reported the defrosting of consignments of frozen food, due to breakdown in the electricity supplies. In each case, the contents of the cabinets were surrendered.

The proper management of quick frozen food cabinets is very important to the purchasing public, and it is intended to put as much publicity as possible before the local retailers so that they will not be tempted to re-freeze their products after a lengthy period of high temperature.

