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

AD 23-27  
 ✓

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
 of the  
 Medical Officer of Health  
 and Public Health Inspectors  
 of the Districts  
 for the year  
 1965





THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL  
Ladies and Gentlemen

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

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1965. Information on the County Health and Welfare Services in the Welwyn Division is given in a separate section as a supplement to the earlier sections covering the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors to whom I am indebted.

A high standard of health was maintained in each District throughout the year, the vital statistics given on the opening pages of each report comparing favourably with previous years and the other Districts. The infant mortality rate for Hatfield for the year 1965 is 12.5, a slight fall on the figures of the previous two years. The infant mortality rates in each District show a slight fall compared with previous years probably due to the relatively mild winter, and the infant mortality rates can be regarded as

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**Medical Officer of Health  
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of the Districts**

for the year


## 1965

infections, and the Districts and no typhoid or paratyphoid infections. Those taking their holidays abroad are advised to take prophylaxis for enteric infection. The incidence of other infections was also low, apart from wassles for which a vaccine is now coming on the market. Notifications of Scarlet Fever and other streptococcal infections continue to decline while diphtheria has practically disappeared due to the widespread use of vaccine. The primary immunisation of infants. The great improvement in the health of children resulting from the prevention of infectious illness by immunisation and vaccination cannot be overestimated and the maintenance of the present high levels of protection still needs the close attention of all concerned. Research is at present being directed to the production of effective multiple immunising agents which will it is hoped enable the present intricate programme of primary protection to be simplified.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported throughout the Districts during the year and notifications of dysentery and other enteric infections were below the average. Standards of cleanliness in the food trade have improved greatly in the past 30 years due to the co-operation of managers and their staffs in ensuring that the requirements of the food hygiene regulations are fully complied with,



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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1965. Information on the County Health and Welfare Services in the Welwyn Division is given in a separate section as a supplement to the earlier sections covering the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors to whom I am indebted.

A high standard of health was maintained in each District throughout the year, the vital statistics given in the opening pages of each report comparing favourably with previous years and the other Districts in Hertfordshire. The perinatal mortality rate for Hatfield fell to the usual level following the high figures of the previous two years. The standardised death rates in each District show a slight fall compared with previous years probably due to the relatively mild winter, while the infant mortality rates can be regarded as satisfactory.

The decline in infectious diseases continued with no major infections, poliomyelitis or diphtheria reported in the Districts and no typhoid or paratyphoid infections, a sign that those taking their holidays abroad are more aware of the need for care in avoiding enteric infection. The incidence of minor infections was also low, apart from measles for which an effective vaccine is now coming on the market. Notifications of Scarlet Fever and other streptococcal infections continue to decline while whooping cough has practically disappeared due to the widespread use of triple vaccine in the primary immunisation of infants. The great improvement in the health of children resulting from the prevention of infectious illness by immunisation and vaccination cannot be overstressed and the maintenance of the present high levels of protection still needs the close attention of all concerned. Research is at present being directed to the production of effective multiple immunizing agents which will it is hoped enable the present intricate programme of primary protection to be simplified.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported throughout the Districts during the year and notifications of dysentery and other enteric infections were below the average. Standards of cleanliness in the food trade have improved greatly in the past 10 years due to the co-operation of managements and their staffs in ensuring that the requirements of the food hygiene regulations are fully complied with,



but there are still premises where working conditions could be improved, and where the staff seem unaware of the importance of maintaining high standards of personal cleanliness in their work. In the Autumn a series of lecture demonstrations on clean food handling were given at the Hawker Siddeley canteens at Hatfield followed by lectures in conjunction with courses arranged by the College of Further Education in Welwyn Garden City. An illustrated handbook giving detailed advice on clean food production methods was also published in the Autumn mainly for the instruction of the staffs in catering and food premises. The local Consumer Group and the general public continued to be active critics of unhygienic practices in restaurants and food shops in the area, and a varied assortment of complaints and unsound food is regularly brought for examination and investigation by the Public Health Inspectors. The concern and co-operation of the public is of course warmly welcomed for it is only by raising the general awareness of the importance of cleanliness in the catering and retail food trade that satisfactory conditions can be achieved.

The resignation of four doctors from general practice in Welwyn Garden City, three of whom are emigrating to Commonwealth countries brings home the present shortage throughout the Country of young doctors in general practice in the National Health Service. Although there has been some unavoidable delay in finding doctors of suitable experience and ability to fill the vacant posts, the inconvenience to patients has been kept to the minimum by the co-operation and hard work of all practitioners in the town and the goodwill of patients. In addition to their general practice work most doctors undertake sessions at local factories and commercial premises, and part-time hospital commitments so they are fully engaged on professional duties throughout the week and are at times hard pressed to meet all demands.

Noteworthy advances in the care of the mentally handicapped are now taking place in Mid Hertfordshire. The opening of the Psychiatric Wing of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital provides a modern centre for the investigation and treatment of all forms of mental disorder well equipped with the full range of out-patient and rehabilitation services. From the outset there has been close consultation between Dr. Granville Grossman the Consultant Psychiatrist in charge, the mental health after care workers of the County Council, and the medical practitioners with a view to establishing a coordinated and comprehensive service for the area. The new Junior Training Centre in Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City opened in September, provides a modern well equipped centre for 80 mentally handicapped children with nursery and special care sections. Those visiting the centre at the recent open day were impressed by the specialised educational methods and training facilities available, the industry and enthusiasms of the children attending, and the devotion of the staff to the children in their charge, many of whom have varied and



multiple handicaps. The opening of the new centre has also provided further stimulus to the work of the Society of the parent of mentally handicapped children which does so much to assist these children. Dr. Fisher, Consultant Psychiatrist at Cell Barnes Hospital now holds regular consultation sessions at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, and it is of great value to have his opinion on special problems arising in the education and care of retarded children and adults. The opportunity was taken to modify the premises vacated by the Junior Training Centre for a small centre for 30 adults pending the provision of the new centre in two years time. This avoids the need for these trainees to travel to centres in neighbouring towns. These improvements in the services available for the mentally handicapped are but one facet of the changes now taking place in the domiciliary after care and social work for the handicapped. The creation of a Social Work Unit to embrace all Local Authority Social Workers in the Health and Welfare Services in Mid Herts next year, will I am sure help to promote and coordinate the varied services now provided.

Only two deaths have been registered as due to pulmonary tuberculosis throughout the three Districts during the past three years, the result of efforts over many years to ensure the early diagnosis of the disease, contact tracing, B.C.G. vaccination and the more effective treatment of the disease with new drugs. Notifications of new cases must of course be considered in relation to the periodic visits of the Mass Radiography Unit, and remembering that a considerable proportion of these notifications are early non-infective cases responding well to prompt treatment with anti-tuberculous drugs. A few of these patients are however found to have more extensive disease which might be infective to other members of the family and close associates. The present measures for X-ray screening and the attention given by general practitioners and chest physicians to the early detection of chest disease must therefore continue for we still have some way to go before we can regard the battle against pulmonary tuberculosis as being finally won. When we turn to deaths from lung cancer however a far more serious picture presents, for 42 people died from lung cancer in the three Districts during 1965. I have repeatedly called attention to this subject in my report and would again point out that it is possible to prevent about 9/10ths of the cancer of the lung which will otherwise occur in our younger generation at a later age if we can only persuade them not to smoke cigarettes. Such action would also prevent many deaths and marked disability from bronchitis and secondary lung conditions. In considering the deaths from lung cancer and bronchitis, we must also remember the months of disability and distress prior to death. Efforts to persuade the young not to take up cigarette smoking are meeting with scant success, although it is encouraging that the Government has at last taken steps to restrict the advertising of cigarettes by television. Many talks were given to pupils attending secondary schools during the year drawing their attention to the cost and dangers of cigarette smoking, but more needs to be done perhaps for children at an earlier age, and some means of bringing home to parents the need for their active



support in dissuading young children from smoking.

Several staff changes occurred during the year. Dr. E.C. Howarth, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, left early in the year on taking up an appointment with the East Sussex County Council. I am grateful to him for the active part he played for several years in all aspects of health work in Mid Herts particularly in drawing up the proposals for selective school medical examination and the experimental anti-smoking clinics. He has since returned to Welwyn Garden City in General Practice where I am sure the years he has devoted to public health work will prove to be a great asset. His place has been taken by Dr. E.P. Rigby who joined us in September. Mr. J. Cabourne, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector at Hatfield resigned in September on transferring to Watford R.D.C., and I must also record my thanks to him for his industry and enthusiasm during the five years he was with us. Mr. R. Edlin has been promoted to this post. Mr. P.C. Ward, Student Public Health Inspector was successful in his final qualifying examination and left to take up an appointment as Public Health Inspector with the Metropolitan Borough of Barnet, while Mr. S. Parkins, a pupil at Boreham Wood Grammar School has commenced the three year course of training in the department.

In the Spring of 1966 the functions and responsibilities of the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Development Corporations were transferred to the Commission for the New Towns. I must take this opportunity of expressing to the retiring Chairman, members and officers of the Corporations my appreciation of their advice co-operation and ready assistance in developing the health and social services of the town over the past seventeen years, and in particular the sympathetic consideration that has always been extended to the handicapped when considering their housing requirements.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerk 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

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical.  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1965

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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.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector :

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

Rodent Operative:

E.J. THOMAS

Clerks:

Mrs. D.L. WALLACE

A. A. W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,231
Population (mid year 1965 estimated by the Registrar General						40,230
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1966	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,908
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1966					.....	£3,168,172
Product of a penny rate, 1965/66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£12,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	124	104	228
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	374	336	710
Rate per 1,000			17.6
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			4.3
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	5	4	9
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			12.5
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			719
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	8	4	12
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			16.9
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			17.6
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate "			--
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			12.7
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			9.8
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			22.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil



## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid 1965 was 40,230 compared with 39,560 in mid 1964. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths 482, was 40 less than in the previous year mainly due to fewer births.

## Deaths

Cancer, Heart Disease and Cerebral Vascular Accidents, the three main causes of death in the elderly accounted for two thirds of the total deaths during the year. Deaths from cancer showed a marked increase in lung cancer in men and cancer of the alimentary tract and liver. Lung cancer again heads the list being responsible for a third of the total cancer deaths and largely attributable to excessive cigarette smoking. Of the three deaths from cancer of the uterus one was due to cancer of the cervix a form which is largely preventible by regular routine cervical cytology examinations. There were fewer deaths due to Heart Diseases and Road Traffic Accidents than in the previous year.

24 out of a total of 64 deaths attributed to heart diseases were the result of coronary thrombosis.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	38	26	64	45
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	10	19	29	23
Heart Diseases	39	25	64	59
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	8	9	7
Luekaemia	2	1	3	1
Pneumonia	7	7	14	9
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	6	4	10	10
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	2	-	2	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	5	3	8	9
Diabetes	-	1	1	3
Suicide	-	-	-	3
Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	13	9	22	21
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
	124	104	228	

Deaths from Cancer:                      Total 64.

Respiratory tract	22	Alimentary tract and liver	21
Breast	7	Uterus	1
	Unclassified	13	



### Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1961 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1965.

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
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
1963	20.7	0.87	18.0	5.9	1.86	10.97	15.1
1964	19.1	0.87	16.6	5.9	1.86	10.97	10.5
1965	17.6	0.87	15.3	5.7	1.82	10.37	16.9
England and Wales 1965			18.0			11.5	19.0

#### Births

710 live births were registered in the town during the year a fall of 46 from the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 15.3 per 1,000 total population reflects this fall.

#### Death Rate

The adjusted death rate of 10.37 per 1,000 total population is a little lower than the average of the previous five years.

#### Infant Mortality

Twelve infants died during the year. Two of these deaths occurred at home - the remainder in hospital.

Examination of the causes shows that eight deaths during the first few hours of life were due to prematurity and respiratory failure, the later deaths being due to pneumonia (2) and congenital defects (2).



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Scarlet Fever	19	Diphtheria	Nil
Whooping Cough	7	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Measles	690	Dysentery	2
Pneumonia	10	Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

Once again I can therefore report a year of freedom from diphtheria, poliomyelitis and major infectious disease and no outbreaks of food poisoning in the town. A few cases of mild enteritis were investigated by the department throughout the year but only two notifications of sonne dysentery were received and no enteric fever was reported among the many families taking their holidays abroad.

Measles was again troublesome among pre-school and primary school children but now that the Ministry of Health has authorised preventive vaccination against this ailment by general practitioners it is probable that more general use of the vaccine will soon be advocated. Scarlet fever and whooping cough notifications relate to a few mainly mild infections, the clinical manifestations rapidly subsiding with treatment.

Accommodation is available at St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital for any person with an infectious disease needing hospital care.

### Tuberculosis

Seven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the town during 1965, giving an attack rate of 0.20 per 1,000 population. Four notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred into the town mainly from the London area during the year, being quiescent cases under observation following medical treatment. Once again there were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

The annual review of the tuberculosis registers in conjunction with the Chest Clinic shows a total of 237 cases under observation or treatment at the end of the year.

At the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the town in March a total of 10,068 persons (5,422 male and 4,646 female) were X-rayed of which 4,005 attended the public sessions, and the remainder by arrangement with local firms. Although early in the year attendances were well up to expectations approximately one in three of these invited to attend for chest X-ray doing so. A total of 45 persons were referred for further investigation, while the findings among the industrial groups disclosed none with an unduly high proportion referred for investigation.



## Housing

The redevelopment of the Heather Road/Springfields area made available by the clearance of the temporary bungalow dwellings was commenced by the Council early in the year, the scheme eventually providing 44 houses and 24 elderly persons bungalows together with 59 garages.

The Development Corporation continued their policy of allocating 50 vacancies per year to assist in meeting the housing needs of sons and daughters of tenants requiring separate accommodation in the town after marriage.

As at 31.12.65

Number of houses owned by the Council	2,956
Number of garages owned by the Council	764
Number of families housed during the year	115

### Position of Application Register :-

Priority grades	357
Non-Priority grades	46
Engaged Couples	180
Number of applicants for garages	132

During the year a total of 180 dwellings were completed by the Development Corporation and these included the last of the dwellings in the scheme at the north of the town.

Work progressed on the Panshanger I Scheme of houses for sale, and it is estimated that about 12 houses will be handed over each month. Houses on Panshanger I and II Schemes will be sold to tenants of the Corporation or U.D.C., and thus vacancies for reletting will arise to reduce the waiting lists.



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 reporting the quality of water supplied to this district. During 1965 twelve such reports were received from him. The table summaries these:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
1965			
January	52	51	1
February	58	57	1
March	57	53	4
April	43	42	1
May	43	43	-
June	47	45	2
July	48	46	2
August	41	38	3
September	38	36	2
October	32	30	2
November	35	33	2
December	31	29	2
	<u>525</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>22</u>

All the 525 samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for a public supply.

A typical independent sample of water obtained from the public supply by the Public Health Department and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical examination gave the following results:-

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Date: 29th December 1965

Appearance .. .. .	Bright with a few particles
Colour .. .. .	Nil
pH .. .. .	7.2
Electric Conductivity .. .. .	490
Chlorine present as Chloride .. .. .	16
Hardness: Total .. .. .	285
Nitrate Nitrogen .. .. .	4.8
Ammoniacal Nitrogen .. .. .	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen .. .. .	0.00
Turbidity .. .. .	Less than 3
Odour .. .. .	Faint chlorinous
Free Carbon Dioxide .. .. .	32
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C .. .. .	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate .. .. .	260
Carbonate .. .. .	260
Non-carbonate .. .. .	25
Nitrite Nitrogen .. .. .	absent
Oxygen Absorbed .. .. .	0.10
Residual Chlorine .. .. .	0.02
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead .. .. .	absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on a separate system. Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers and by means of gravity or through one of five pumping stations, and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.

The site of the original works, owned by the Council, has been converted into public parkland.

### Rivers and Streams

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



### 3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage, situated on the North Western boundary of the district, all the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are no sewers in the vicinity of this cottage.

### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) House refuse is collected weekly in motor vehicles by the Council's staff. The refuse is taken to the tip at Cole Green owned by Messrs Inns & Co. Ltd.

(b) Street cleansing is carried out by mechanical sweepers supplemented by manual sweeping as necessary

(c) Gully Cleansing:-

All gullies for which the Council are responsible are emptied and flushed three times a year by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd. who have a Contract with the Council for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins:-

The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Notifications of defective bins are passed to the Health Department by the refuse collectors, and the owner of the premises is required to provide the necessary replacement bin.

### 5. SHOPS

There are one hundred and seventy-two shops in the district in which the Health Department is responsible for enforcing part of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and/or the Shops Act 1950. The Shops Act duties were transferred from the County Council on 1st October, 1963. Five hundred and twelve inspections of Shops have been made during the year and the following is a summary of action taken:-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness	17	17
Sanitary Defects	1	1
Infringements of Shops Act	19	19
Other Nuisances or Defects	4	4

Forty-one informal notices were given and these were all complied with without the necessity of taking formal action.

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

This Act came into force on 1st August, 1964. The total number of registered premises at the end of 1965 was 252:-

Offices	...	...	...	84
Retail Shops	...	...	...	136
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...			12
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	...			18
Fuel Storage depots	...	...	...	2

These premises employed a total of 4,225 people and more than half of these were office staff.

Five hundred and ninety visits were made during the year under this Act and one hundred and ninety-five infringements of the Act were found:-

	<u>No. Found</u>
Inadequate first aid equipment	32
Inadequate washing facilities	34
Danger or obstruction	26
Heating, lighting or ventilation	31
Overcrowding	17
Lack of maintenance	40
Others	15

The Section relating to overcrowding does not come into force until 1st August, 1967, but the occupiers of premises where overcrowding is found are, nevertheless, taking steps to improve conditions, and compliance should be general by the operative date.

Eleven notifications of accidents were received during the year:-

Injury due to cutting or slicing machinery	2
Falls from one level to another	5
Falls on the same level	2
Striking against an object	1
Others	1

None of the accidents was fatal, and in no case was the accident found to be due to negligence on the part of the employer. It is interesting to note that every accident recorded occurred in a retail shop.



## 7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power) ...	84
"    "    "    (without mechanical power)	2
"    "    Milk depots ... ..	10
"    "    Licensed Premises ... ..	24
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats & mice)	3,359
Inspections of Shops ... ..	526
"    re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs ...	204
"    of Schools ... ..	13
Visits to Public Health Laboratories ... ..	47
Inspections of Dwelling houses under Housing Act 1957	12
Special Inspections or Visits made re:	
Drainage ... ..	180
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning) ...	100
Smoke observations ... ..	70
Council Property (excluding houses) ... ..	7
Noise ... ..	25
Water Supply ... ..	8
Dustbins ... ..	10
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	30
Air pollution observations ... ..	150
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	95
Destruction of bed bugs ... ..	14

### (b) Number of Informal Notices ... .. 69

(These notices were all complied with)

## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

(a) Smoke observations made ... ..	70
Smoke nuisances or contraventions ... ..	10
Air Pollution observations... ..	150
Air Pollution nuisances ... ..	5

The premises in the Town known to cause nuisance at times are the subject of regular observations. A great deal of work was done during the year to minimise nuisance in three particular localities, and observations will be continued until it is certain that these areas are as free from pollution as the rest of the district.

(b) 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. Solid fuel or oil boilers are used for heating or trade processes only.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Four houses were found to be infested during the year.

The necessary treatment was carried out in each case and the premises were checked and, if necessary, retreated until found to be completely free of bugs.

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	129
(b) Number of visits made for this purpose	...	297
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be fit or in which defects were found	...	30

In each case the necessary work was carried out following informal notice to the owner of the premises.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### 1. CONTROL OF FOOD

#### (a) MILK

##### (i) General

There are four 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 the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed.

(iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No.3) Order 1953 provided that all milk sold in the town must be "Pasteurised", "Tuberculin Tested", "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" or "Sterilised". This Order was amended by The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963.

These Regulations were laid before Parliament on 25th September 1963, and came into operation in three stages, becoming fully operative on 1st October, 1964. On the latter date the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, were revoked.

All milk produced in England and Wales now comes and will continue to come from attested herds; that is, from cows which are subjected to Tuberculin testing by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"Untreated" will be the new designation from raw milk and replaces the designation "Tuberculin Tested" which is considered to be no longer suitable.

From 1st October, 1964, there were three special designations for milk, viz. "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Untreated".

Until 31st December 1964 the use of the designation "Tuberculin Tested" as an alternative designation for "untreated" was also permitted, to allow a reasonable period for the changeover to be made.

##### (iv) 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 was received during 1965.

##### (v) 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 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 was as follows:-

Pasteurised	:	63
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	:	2
Sterilised	:	14
Untreated Farm (Bottled)	:	1

Of the eighty samples of milk obtained during 1965, all passed every test prescribed. In the thirty years for which records of milk sampling results are available this is only the second time that every sample obtained during a single year passed all the tests prescribed.

#### GENERAL

The high standards 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. In addition to the samples from retail shops samples were taken from seventeen different mobile vehicles.

Type of Ice Cream	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		
Wrapped Brickettes	18	-	-	-	18
Wrapped Choc-bars	19	-	-	-	19
Soft Ice Cream	13	2	3	-	18
Ice Cream Mixture	11	1	1	-	13
	89 $\frac{3}{4}$ %	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %	6%	-	100%

Five of the samples submitted to the laboratory were not examined as a mechanical defect at the laboratory made the tests void.

The four unsatisfactory samples were taken from mobile vehicles and subsequent checks were necessary to ensure that the standards were improved.

##### Iced Cream Lollies

Fifteen samples of iced cream lollies, taken from three different manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the samples submitted had been wrapped by the manufacturers. The laboratory



reports on these samples were satisfactory, and no presumptive coli or faecal coli were reported as being present.

### Iced Fruit Lollies

Four samples of Iced fruit lollies were taken during the year. In each case the laboratory reported that the acidity of the sample was such that no bacterial growth could occur, and bacteriological examination would, therefore, have been useless. This is the normal finding by the laboratory when iced fruit lollies are submitted for bacteriological examination, but it is felt that occasional checks must still be carried out because of the great numbers of iced fruit lollies sold in the town.

In addition, where the pH value is 4.5 or less (as it is normally found to be) iced fruit lollies are exempted from the heat treatment provisions prescribed in Regulation 5 of The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959.

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

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1965 was 3,946 lbs., made up as follows:-

(i) <u>Uncooked Food</u>				<u>lbs.</u>
Meat	..	..	..	394
Fish	..	..	..	82
Poultry	..	..	..	20

### (ii) Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown)

Vegetables	..	..	..	300
Fish	..	..	..	47
Meat	..	..	..	59
Fruit	..	..	..	6
Ice Cream	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous.	..	..	..	9

### (iii) Food in containers

Meat	..	..	..	1,453
Vegetables	..	..	..	380
Milk	..	..	..	448
Fruit	..	..	..	469
Fish	..	..	..	58
Miscellaneous.	..	..	..	205

### (d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out on behalf of the Council as occasion requires, at:-

- (1) Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
Thresh House, Verulam Street,  
Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.
- (2) Public Analyst,  
20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.
- (3) Public Health Laboratory,  
Luton and Dunstable Hospital,  
Lewsey Road, Luton.
- (4) 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. Sixty-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 table shows the result of the formal and informal samples obtained.



<u>Article</u>	<u>Analyst's Report</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Analyst's Report</u>
Steak & Kidney Pudding	Genuine	Coffee & Chicory Essence	Genuine
Gravy Salt	"	Coffee	"
Tablets of Aspirin	"	Butterist	"
Strawberry Jam	"	Pure Grape Brandy	"
Ground Ginger	"	Minced Beef	"
Cream Soda	"	Tartar Sauce Mix	"
Pineapple Conserve	"	Tomato Mustard	"
Margarine	"	Turmeric	"
Frankfurters	"	Beef Croquets	"
Imported Butter	"	Chicken "	"
Low Fat Yoghourt (Strawberry)	"	Mock Salmon "	"
Fish Paste (Salmon & Shrimp)	"	Corned Beef	"
Drinking Chocolate	"	Ground Nutmegs	"
Horseradish Sauce	"	Pure Onion Powder	"
Pork Luncheon Meat - Complaint. Cut surfaces of meat discoloured	Chemical analysis showed discolouration due to presence of traces of iron.	Cayenne	"
		Lobster Spread	"
		Sandwich Spread	"
		Mustard with fine herbs	"
		Puff Cracknells	Claim made that food was an aid to slimming.
Greengages	Genuine	Plums	Contained 0.4 PPM D.D.T. which I do not regard as objectionable
Apricots	"		
Chicken Croquets	"		
Fish Cakes	"	Minced Beef	Genuine
Meat Paste	"	Pure Almond Marzipan	"
Minced Steak	"	Ground Almonds	"
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules	"	Dessicated Coconut	"
Tyrocase	"	Apples	"
Instant Low Fat Milk - Statement does not conform to Dried Milk Regs. 1965		Pork Sausages	"
		Marzipan Almond Icing	"
Crispy Wheat	Genuine	Christmas Pudding	"
Condensed Milk	"	Desiccated Coconut	"
Creamed Rice	"	French Angelica	"
Tomato Juice	"	Liquer Chocolates	"
Minced Beef	"	Vintage Marmalade	"

Total Samples Taken:

Foodstuffs	60
Drugs	1
	<hr/> 61 <hr/>



Three samples were criticised and the action taken is shown below.

Pork Luncheon Meat -

Investigated in Denmark by the Danish Ministry of Agriculture. Trouble traced to closing-machine which was failing to function properly. Some cans had to be re-opened and it was thought that a small fragment of metal became detached in this process.

Instant Low Fat Milk -

The wording on the packets was corrected on reprinting so as to show the requisite information to the purchaser.

Puff Cracknells -

The warning about slimming was attached by means of stick-on labels subsequently.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

During 1965 a total of 28 complaints were made to the Public Health Department. Investigation showed three of these complaints to be unjustified or unconfirmed, and the remainder may be summarised as follows.

Complaints due to:-

(i) Faulty turnover of stock (4 complaints)

In these cases the retailers were warned of the consequence of allowing stock to remain exposed for sale after the "shelf life" had expired.

(ii) Canned Food (5 complaints)

These faults were not evident until after the cans had been opened. The manufacturers were informed immediately so that their techniques could receive the necessary attention, as in each case the complaint arose due to a defect in the canning process.

(iii) Milk Bottles containing extraneous matter (4 complaints)

Three of these complaints arose due to gross misuse of bottles by customers, and the inability of the bottle washing plant to cope with the extraneous matter. As an example, one bottle had been used for firing rockets on Guy Fawkes night, and the dark streaks left in the bottle escaped detection after the plant had failed to remove them. In the other case a small insect had gained access at some stage of production, and such an incident is isolated and difficult to prevent.

(iv) Other foods (11 complaints)

The manufacturers were usually involved with these complaints and a representative of the firm was called in to deal with the matter. Two cases are worth reporting in more detail:



A piece of cooked chicken was purchased in a neighbouring town and taken to the complainant's house. It was found to "glow" in the dark. This unusual occurrence was due to the presence of a relatively harmless bacteria *pseudomonas phosphorescens* which is widely distributed in nature, especially sea water, and may affect the chilling room in which fish has been stored. Meat affected with phosphorescence is usually safe to eat after trimming as long as no putrefactive changes are present.

Another case which caused some concern until the source was found was the presence of a piece of glass in a loaf of bread. This piece of glass was eventually found to be the one missing when a broken bottle was pieced together in the retailer's shop. It was then evident that the bread had been placed with some force on to the bottle when delivered to the shop by the bakery's driver.

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

Visits to examine meat and other foods ... ..	151
Visits to procure samples of food (excluding Milk)	38
Visits to procure samples of Milk ... ..	20
Visits re sale of Ice Cream .. ...	35
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Ice Cream ...	44
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Food (excluding Ice Cream)	19
Visits to Milk depots ... ..	4
Visits to Laboratories with samples of food ...	20

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	3	11
Industrial "	20	24
School "	27	9
Cafes and Restaurants	12	96
Licensed Premises	16	20
Food Manufacturers	6	35
Butchers	20	112
Fishmongers	5	71
Grocers	20	187
Greengrocers	18	56
Confectioners	20	99
Miscellaneous Food Premises	17	1
Informal Notices ... ..		57
Notices complied with ...		57

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	84	18	-
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	2	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>-</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u> (1)	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u> (4)	<u>No. 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	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	18	18	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to twelve local outworkers. The local outwork is carried out in satisfactory conditions and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition there are fifteen local outworkers employed by a firm operating in Cheshunt.

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act, 1961, came into force on 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-three years. The construction of the first factory in the town was commenced in 1922 and after completion was, and still is, occupied by Dawmays Limited.



Health conditions are generally satisfactory and 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 Section 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. The new Poisons Regulation made under the Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act came into operation on Saturday, 26th October, 1963, under Statutory Instrument No. 1278 of 1963, since when it is illegal to use the common rat-and-mouse poisons, red squill and phosphorus for destroying mammals of any description or to use strychnine for destroying any mammals except moles.

##### (b) Rodent Destruction

Rats and/or mice were found to be present on 187 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	....	159	2,159
Mice	....	23	166
Rats & Mice	....	5	285
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>2,610</u>

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

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business &amp; Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	1	124	34
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	11	12
No. of premises infested by Rats and Mice	-	1	4
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>50</u>



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

	<u>Number of Visits</u>		
	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Rats &amp; Mice</u>
Business & Commercial Premises	1,184	470	14
Local Authority Property (excluding houses,	12	-	-
All houses	1,552	93	10

The total of these visits was 3,335.

Rats occasionally gain entry during the course of construction of a new house, or due to the failure on the part of the builder to make good the brickwork properly. Three such cases were dealt with successfully during the year and the work necessary to repair the defect was carried out.

In addition to the above rodent destruction work 24 Surveys were made during the year.

(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 31st December, 1965, twenty-three firms had taken out twenty-six contracts in respect of twenty-eight premises, the income from these contracts then being at the rate of £203 a year. The income from "Private Works" during the year was £66.16.7d.

(d) Sewers

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

5. INSECT PESTS

During the year two hundred and seventy-nine complaints were received, plus two which were not confirmed on inspection. Five hundred and eighteen visits were made to destroy the pests found present on the two hundred and seventy-nine premises.

The table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.



<u>Pest</u>	<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Wasps	228	418
Bees	14	20
Fleas	6	14
Flies	6	6
Bed Bugs	4	10
Mites	5	7
Beetles	2	4
Silver Fish	5	15
Earwigs	2	11
Maggots	2	4
Ants	3	7
Cockroaches	1	1
Carpet Beetle	1	1
	<u>279</u>	<u>518</u>

In addition to the foregoing, insect powder was supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either not possible or unnecessary. Eighty-two occupiers were supplied with the free issue. The Council has instructed that a charge of five shillings 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 1965

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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.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. CABOURNE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (left 30.9.65)

District Public Health Inspector:

R. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector:

P. C. WARD (left 31.8.65)

S. PARKINS (commenced 1.10.65)

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS

A.A.W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population (mid year 1965) estimated by the Registrar General						43,420
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1966				...	...	12,920
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1966				...		£2,691,838
Product of a penny rate 1965/66	...	...	...	...	...	£10,461

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	164	165	329
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	387	368	755
Rate per 1,000 population			17.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			4.6
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	1	3	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			5.3
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			759
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	5	2	7
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			9.3
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			8.3
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			28.6
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			7.9
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			7.9
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			13.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-



## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1965 was 43,420 compared with 42,720 at mid 1964. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths was 426 compared with 375 the previous year.

## Deaths

No major factor affected the death rate for the District over the year. The following table gives the main causes of death:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	29	28	57	59
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	30	46	76	65
Leukaemia	-	1	1	1
Heart Diseases	57	44	101	93
Other circulatory diseases	10	4	14	14
Pneumonia	5	10	15	13
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	10	4	14	16
Diabetes	1	3	4	1
Nephritis	1	1	2	2
Ulcer of stomach etc.	1	2	3	3
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	-	2	2	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	6	5	11	10
Suicide	2	-	2	2
Other defined causes	12	15	27	27
	<hr/> 164	<hr/> 165	<hr/> 329	

Deaths from cerebral vascular accidents and cancer were a little above the average of previous years but the totals for other categories showed little variation. There were no deaths from tuberculosis or maternal deaths. Deaths from road traffic and other accidents showed no fall. Of the 101 deaths from heart disease 59 were due to coronary thrombosis and angina.

### Deaths from Cancer:

Total 57

Respiratory tract	19	Alimentary tract and liver	17
Breast	4	Uterus	3
		Unclassified	14

The increase in lung cancer is noteworthy for this is now recognised as being largely due to excessive cigarette smoking and therefore preventable.

### Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1961 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1965.

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
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
1963	19.5	0.91	17.7	8.7	1.23	10.2	29.2
1964	16.2	0.91	14.7	7.4	1.32	9.8	23.0
1965	17.4	0.91	15.8	7.6	1.25	9.5	9.3
England and Wales 1965			18.0			11.5	19.0

#### Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferrable births a net total of 755 live births was registered in the District during the year, an increase of 63 on the previous year. The adjusted birth rate shows an increase to 15.8 per 1,000 of the population compared with 14.7 for the previous year.

#### Death Rate

The adjusted death rate of 9.5 per 1,000 of the population approximates closely to the average of previous years and compares favourably with the national rate.



## Infant Mortality

A total of seven infant deaths were registered during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 9.3. The causes of death were as follows :-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	
6 hours	F	Respiratory failure
8 hours	M	Prematurity
1 day	M	Prematurity
2 days	M	Respiratory failure
4 days	M	Prematurity
5 days	F	Respiratory failure
7 months	M	Asphyxia

The majority of these deaths were thus due to prematurity or respiratory failure in the early neo-natal period (first week of life).

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Diphtheria	Nil	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Pneumonia	2
Measles	312	Food Poisoning	Nil
Scarlet Fever	4	Puerperal Pyrexia	2

Apart from measles which was widespread among young children during the first two quarters, practically no infectious diseases were notified throughout the District during the year. The maintenance of a high level of primary immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox is responsible for these most satisfactory figures and it is noteworthy that there were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning or Dysentery. There were no typhoid or paratyphoid infections detected among travellers returning from holidays abroad or among immigrants coming into the District. Streptococcal infections (Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas) remain few and usually relatively mild infections.

A small outbreak of sudden collapse among young girls in two forms at a secondary school at Brookmans Park in the Autumn was investigated at the request of the Headmaster, but no definite clinical cause could be elucidated. The affected girls rapidly recovered normal health in 12 - 36 hours, and after four days no further pupils were affected.

### Tuberculosis

Eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary case were notified by the Chest Physicians giving an attack rate of .21 per 1,000 for the year. In addition 2 persons under the supervision of the Chest Physicians, transferred into the District from the London area. There were no deaths from this disease during the year.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board held public sessions throughout the District early in the year in conjunction with visits to local industrial units. A total of 12,393 persons (9,209 men and 3,184 women) were examined of which 54 (0.42%) were referred for further investigation. In addition to the 3 yearly visit of the major unit, the light Mobile X-ray Unit attends the Queensway Health Centre each Tuesday afternoon to examine persons referred by medical practitioners.

A total of 364 children received B.C.G. vaccination under arrangements made by the School Health Service during the year.



## HOUSING

I am grateful to Mr. E.W. Pickering, Housing Manager for the following details of the Council's housing progress.

Two ventures new to the Council marked the year 1965. The Warden supervised scheme of elderly persons flats erected in Burfield Close, Wellfield Road, and the pleasantly laid out Park for caravan dwellers at Ellenbrook were both brought to completion. Those two projects, and the completion of the remainder of the flats and maisonettes at Northfield, Longmead, and those in Birchwood Avenue fulfilled the Council's housing programme to date.

The final 24 flats at Northfield, making 73 flats and maisonettes in all, were ready and occupied by the end of March. By using those flats and other dwellings which fell vacant, another 27 families were taken out of aluminium bungalows and provided with permanent traditional built homes, bringing the total number of families rehoused from the prefabricated Post War bungalows to 78, which completed Phase 1 of that operation. Another 27 families from similar dwellings are due to be rehoused elsewhere at some time in the future.

The Spring of 1965 saw ready the 18 one bedroomed flats off Wellfield Road, for pensioners needing limited supervision. The Warden appointed took up occupation of her two bedroomed flat three weeks earlier than the tenants for the flats so as to become thoroughly accustomed to the new surroundings in readiness to receive the other residents. Good use was made of the opportunity to take tenants out of Council houses and bungalows who would be more suitably accommodated in this development at Burfield Close thus releasing under-occupied property for applicants waiting on the housing list. Eleven tenants were transferred that way. The ages of the occupiers ranged from 62 to 88 years, 3 were blind persons and the rest had various ailments, handicaps or recurring illnesses, one of the aims in selection being to keep a suitable balance of age groups and disabilities. The people settled into their new environment very well and seem to be happy and making excellent use of the communal facilities - the lounge and T.V. room. A visit by Members of the Housing Committee one evening, when refreshments were provided, helped to foster a good social atmosphere. Much of the credit for the smooth running of Burfield Close is due to Mrs.M. Carter, the Warden, who has the right temperament and is very capable of keeping an eye on the old folk, looking after their needs as necessary, without intrusion upon their right to privacy in their own flats.

The completion of the Municipal Caravan Site at Ellenbrook Park enabled the first caravans to go on from St. Albans Road backland, freeing for housing development some land acquired by the Council. There is room on the caravan park for 87 caravans and most of the standings were filled by the end of the year. The amenity block, with showers, baths and laundry facilities, all at most reasonable charges, and the general appearance of the site and the facilities



afforded, have made the Park most popular not only with persons who regard themselves as permanent caravanners but also with some who have taken to caravan life whilst awaiting the provision of other housing accommodation.

At the end of the year the Birchwood Avenue block of flats with maisonettes above was let, again transfers taking place to make better use of existing stock of houses.

The waiting list of applicants for housing accommodation slightly increased over the 1964 figure, 885 as against 871. Of the 885 total applicants at the end of the year 709 were "general need" and 176 from "persons of pensionable age". The total number of properties now under the Council's management is 2,421 and 587 garages.

The Hatfield Development Corporation completed a total of 182 dwellings for renting during the year with a further 288 new dwellings either under construction or due to be built in the immediate future. Progress was also made in the extension of commercial premises in the Town Centre.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER:

Public Supply

The whole of the area comprising the Town and Rural District is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company, with the exception of a mere one or two properties on the common boundary with Enfield U.D.

Results of samples taken by the Company are furnished to the Health Dept. regularly, and without exception are satisfactory, however, the public health inspectors take at least one sample from the district each year for analysis by a public analyst.

This time by special request it was taken at the Royal Victoria and Patriotic School, Essendon, with the following result:-

Colour, Taste and Odour ..... NIL

Reaction pH ..... 7.1

Parts per million

Oxygen absorbed ..... 0.1

Hardness (as Calcium Carbonate)

Temporary .....	240
Permanent .....	70
Chlorine .....	29

Total Solids (dried at 100° C.)

Arsenic .....	Not detectable
Lead .....	" "
Copper .....	" "
Zinc .....	" "

(Note - figures of possible metallic content were specially asked for.)

The Analyst reported that the water was satisfactory, perfectly normal and free from deleterious metallic contamination.

Private Supplies

There are of course a few dwellings in the rural area still a considerable distance from service mains. These have been considered and it would entail high cost to connect, but the existing wells and boreholes are sampled regularly and it can be said that none has given undue concern on purity standards. An occasional failure on bacteriological test can usually be accounted for by bird fouling, unsatisfactory covers to tanks or reservoirs, etc.



Experience over the years has proved that a very small dose of hyperchlorite administered by the occupier manually or, as in one case, mechanically at prescribed intervals, will correct most problems.

Progress has however been made in abolishing wells as a sole domestic supply by connection to the service mains. In 1958 there were 25 wells/bores serving 128 dwellings, and in the year under review the figures were 15 and 47 respectively, but of the latter 47 dwellings only 43 are entirely dependant on wells etc. The reason being that the other 4 have main supply available but still prefer to use "natural" water for baths, hot supply and washing, etc., and indeed drinking, in some cases.

Following is a summary of bacteriological samples taken:-

	<u>No. of Wells, etc.</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings Served</u>	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Astwick	1	2	3	3	-
Coopers Green	2	6/1	17	10	7
Mill Green	2	1/1	4	4	-
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	10	7	3
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	13	7	6
Stanborough	2	1/1	4	4	-
Symondshyde	1	6	3	3	-
Woodside	1	2	22	15	7

The number of unsatisfactory samples would appear to be disproportionate perhaps but this is not so and is explained by the fact that upon receipt of such a report check samples are taken along the line of supply, i.e., tanks, cistern, reservoirs, springs, etc., and it sometimes happens that 4 samples may be taken at the same time to ascertain the point of "contamination".

### Standpipe Supplies

As far as is known there are now only three standpipes serving dwellings in the district. Two are in the Hatfield Parish and one in Northaw. The number of dwellings supplied therefrom is five and all are connected to main water supply.

Two hand pumps serving individual cottages with well water are still used in a remote area adjacent to South Mimms.

### HOUSING:

#### Slum Clearance

During the year a few individual dwellings, formally represented as unfit by the Council, under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act 1957, have been demolished. All of these were situated in the Old Town and demolished in conjunction with New Development in Park Street and Chapmans Yard.



In addition Nos. 1, 2, & 3, Virginia Cottages, Heath Road, Little Heath were also represented as unfit and the owners did not contest future demolition.

Following is a summary of events in this field:-

(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 5

(b) Unfit houses closed 3

Explanation of above:-

(a) (Chapel Cottage, rear of No. 20 Park Street, Hatfield. 1  
(1, 2, 3 & 4, Chapmans Yard, off Park Street, Hatfield. 4

(b) Nos. 1, 2, 3, Virginia Cottages, Heath Road, Little Heath. 3

Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

One further application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the last week of the year.

The total number considered since the Act came into operation is now 62.

Improvement Grants

Due no doubt to financial restraint, fewer applications were approved during the year, the figures were five in respect of Standard and nine Discretionary Grants. Of the five Standard three were tenanted and of nine Discretionary four were tenanted, thus 50% of those approved were tenanted.

As a result of this the following amenities have or will be provided:-

W.C's (internally)	1	Hot Water Systems	4
Baths	1	Food Stores	1
Wash Basins	3		

Caravans

The "Romany" Site at Barbaraville, Mill Green, housing five caravans, continues to function satisfactorily. It is pleasing to see that the occupants are still taking a pride in improving their individual sites. There have been no setbacks in any way, no cause for complaint, no breakages of sinks or sanitary fittings, and the occupants are most grateful for being able to settle, as opposed to the old itinerant way of life.

The County Council Site at Holwell continues to serve a very useful purpose, the number of caravans remains steady at approximately 18, except during the fruit picking and potato lifting seasons. The site is well disciplined by the Warden.

It would seem that the above two sites have been the means of eliminating



the major problems of 2 or 3 years ago when colonies were scattered along road verges throughout the whole of the rural district.

Refuse bins are emptied by the Council at both sites weekly and elsan closets at Holwell also weekly. Barbaraville has septic tank drainage, water closets, flushing cisterns and deep sinks and has been entirely trouble free to date, with the exception of a burst pipe during a very cold spell of weather.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND PREMISES

### MEAT:

#### Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouse

During the year 100% of pig carcasses, and offal, was examined at the Bell Bar Slaughterhouse. This necessitated 51 visits, the majority being made on Sunday afternoons. The total kill was 734 pigs.

Following is a list of condemnations of organs and parts of carcasses:-

Number of Pigs killed and inspected	734
-------------------------------------	-----

#### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	6
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	0.8%

#### All Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned (approx)	150

#### Reason for Condemnation - including parts of offal

Heads	-- Tuberculosis	6
	-- Abscess	1
Livers - whole or part	-- Spotted	26
	-- Cirrhosis	4
Hearts	-- Pericarditis & Adhesions	14
Lungs	-- Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Congestion	141
Carcass trimmings	-- Abscess	1
Leg	-- Abscess	1
Mesentery	-- Pentastomum	2

### ICE CREAM SAMPLING:

The following samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory for Methylene Blue test:-



<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Provisional Grade		Provisional Grade		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Vehicles	7	1	1	1	10
Shops	8	1	2	-	11
Hotels and Cafes	8	5	5	-	18
	23	7	8	1	39

#### STOOL SPECIMENS:

Faecal specimens are collected and taken to the laboratory by the public health inspectors as and when requested by the Medical Officer of Health and General Practitioners, to assist diagnosis of the enteric group of upsets.

#### MISCELLANEOUS FOODS SAMPLED:

From time to time, as a result of special investigations or at the request of consumers who suspect that certain foods have caused abdominal upsets, samples are taken and sent to the laboratory for analysis. Included in this category were fifteen specimens of cooked sliced meat, 1 tin crab-meat, 1 tin canteen soup and 3 cream cakes. All samples however were free from suspect organisms.

#### FOOD CONDEMNED AT SHOPS, STORES, WAREHOUSES, ETC., AND MEAT OTHER THAN AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE

	<u>lbs.</u>		<u>lbs.</u>
Canned Meat	252	Meat at Retail Shops	1,180
Fish	3,487	Cooked Meat & Meat Products	257
Fruit & Vegetables	3,847	Other Foods	1,708

The comparatively high figure of fish condemned is explained by the fact that one of the largest distributors has a depot in Hatfield catering for a region comprising 4 or 5 Counties.

Cold store and refrigerator failures contribute largely to the meat condemned at Butchers Shops and Retail Stores.

#### SURVEY OF MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES

In May 1965 the public health inspectors compiled a list of vehicles retailing foodstuffs within the district and at the same time visited and noted the condition of the vans and amenities in use. The type of foods and vehicles vary greatly and similar demands cannot be made for, say, a green-grocers van and a mobile butcher. Letters were, however, sent to owners of vehicles in a number of cases, usually concerning protective clothing, hot water, soap, nail brush, etc.

The types of food retailed from vehicles is summarised as follows:-

Vegetables & Fruit	8	Veg. Fruit & Groceries	4
Wet Fish	1	Potatoes only	1
Groceries	1	Milk, Bread & Groceries	20
Butcher & Groceries	3	Ice Cream	5

All of the ice cream vehicles have facilities for hand washing, with hot and cold water, and means of washing/sterilising utensils and equipment.

Hand Washing facilities are also provided in a wet fish and 6 grocery vans (including 3 butcher/grocers).

At the time, no vehicles could be found retailing fish and chips in the district.

**NUISANCES ABATED: CONTRAVENTIONS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED:**

<u>Houses</u>		<u>Total</u>
Roofs Renewed or Repaired	18	
Walls Pointed or Rendered	21	
Walls/Ceilings Repaired	16	
Floors Repaired/Renewed	9	
Windows or Doors Repaired/Renewed	55	
Fireplaces Renewed/Repaired	4	
Additional Lighting Provided	15	
" Ventilation Provided	5	
Foodstores Provided	<u>16</u>	159

Sanitary Fittings etc.

Sinks Provided or Replaced	20	
Baths and Basins Provided	24	
Hot Water Supply Provided	23	
New W.C. Compartments	19	
Renewal/Repairs to W.C's	9	
Pail Closets Abolished	1	
Drains Repaired/Renewed	23	
" Connected to Sewer	7	
Drains Cleared of Obstruction	19	
" Tested (by colour)	8	
Cesspools Repaired/Constructed	5	
" Abolished	3	
Offensive Accumulations Removed	5	
Animal Nuisances	3	
Overcrowding Abolished	1	
Refuse Bins Provided	<u>2</u>	172



## 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	176	
Housing Visits	186	
Infectious Disease	49	
Visits to Path. Lab.	45	
Water Supplies	120	
Drainage/Sewerage	299	
Cesspools/Septic Tanks	189	
Insect Infestation	46	
Rodent Control	60	
Agricultural Premises	41	
Noise Abatement	3	
Animal Boarding Establishments	18	
Sundry Nuisances	<u>68</u>	1,300

### Housing Acts

Housing Inspections	313	
Houses Let in Lodgings	22	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	27	
Overcrowding	5	
Improvement Grants	232	
Rent Act	20	
Licensed Caravan Sites	166	
Gypsy Caravans	<u>44</u>	829

### Food and Drugs Act

Slaughterhouses	51	
Food Inspection	107	
Food Complaints	36	
Food Shops	426	
Food Warehouses	51	
Cafes and Restaurants	120	
Licensed Premises	87	
Transport Cafes	42	
Factory and School Canteens	47	
Market Food Stalls	273	
Pet Animals	35	
Mobile Shops	89	
Watercress Beds	<u>7</u>	1,371

### Clean Air Act

Volumetric Recordings	704	
Smoke Observations	68	
Boiler Plant Inspection	<u>16</u>	788

<u>Factories Act</u>		<u>Total</u>
Power Factories	61	
Non-Power Factories	<u>6</u>	67
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Cinemas and Public Halls	4	
Rubbish Dumping	28	
Hairdressing Establishments	4	
Clubs and Village Halls	3	
Swabbing Equipment	19	
Health Education	15	
Layby Sanitation	7	
Radioactive Waste Disposal	7	
Interviews	<u>54</u>	141

#### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963:

The number of Animal Boarding Kennels licensed under the above Act remains, for the second year, at five as follows:-

Gosmore Kennels,	Lemsford.
Glendee "	By-Pass, North Myrms.
Oak Tree "	Ellenbrook Lane, Hatfield.
Craigmyle "	Tylers Causeway, Newgate Street.
Studland "	Hawkshead Lane, Little Heath.

These were visited during peak holiday seasons i.e., Bank Holiday and during July - August, no major criticisms were necessary and neither were any complaints received during the year.

The number of animals boarded in the five Kennels is approximately 230 dogs and 30 cats. One cannot give precise numbers since one kennel may suitably house, say, one Great Dane or 5 Pekinese.

The Kennels controlled by the Greyhound Racing Association, at Northaw, although housing some hundreds of greyhounds, are excluded from the necessity of licensing by the local authority, "boarding" being secondary to the main purpose of housing the dogs, i.e., racing, as covered by the Act.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Following are factual summaries of smoke and SO<sub>2</sub> recordings taken daily at two Hatfield sites. Both measurements show a considerable decrease compared with 1964. Enquiries made of suppliers of smokeless appliances - gas, electricity, etc., confirm that substantial numbers have been installed.

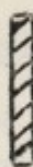

Note:- The recordings of course bear a strong relationship to weather, and winter seasons in themselves can and do vary greatly.

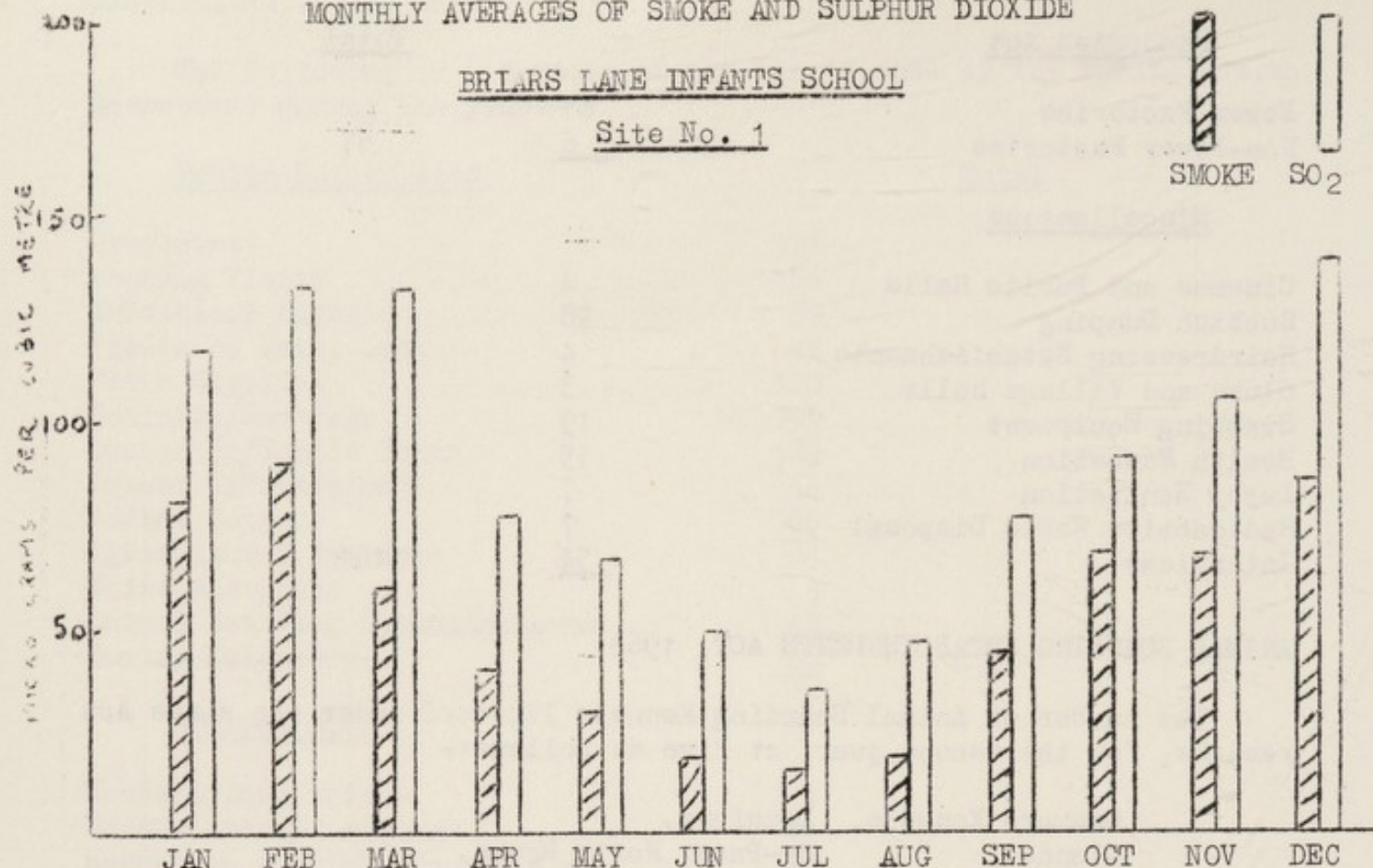


MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

BRIARS LANE INFANTS SCHOOL

Site No. 1

 SMOKE  SO<sub>2</sub>



1965	SMOKE			SO <sub>2</sub>			SMOKE /SO <sub>2</sub> RATIO
	Average Daily	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Average Daily	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
JAN	81	330	18	117	298	48	.69
FEB	90	297	36	133	266	54	.68
MAR	60	240	10	134	315	46	.45
APRIL	39	101	19	78	224	38	.50
MAY	28	73	9	67	139	37	.42
JUNE	17	30	7	49	123	24	.35
JULY	13	22	6	35	56	18	.37
AUG	18	40	7	46	86	18	.39
SEPT	43	120	18	77	123	50	.56
OCT	68	140	13	92	193	28	.74
NOV	67	178	18	106	265	54	.63
DEC	84	266	18	139	368	59	.60

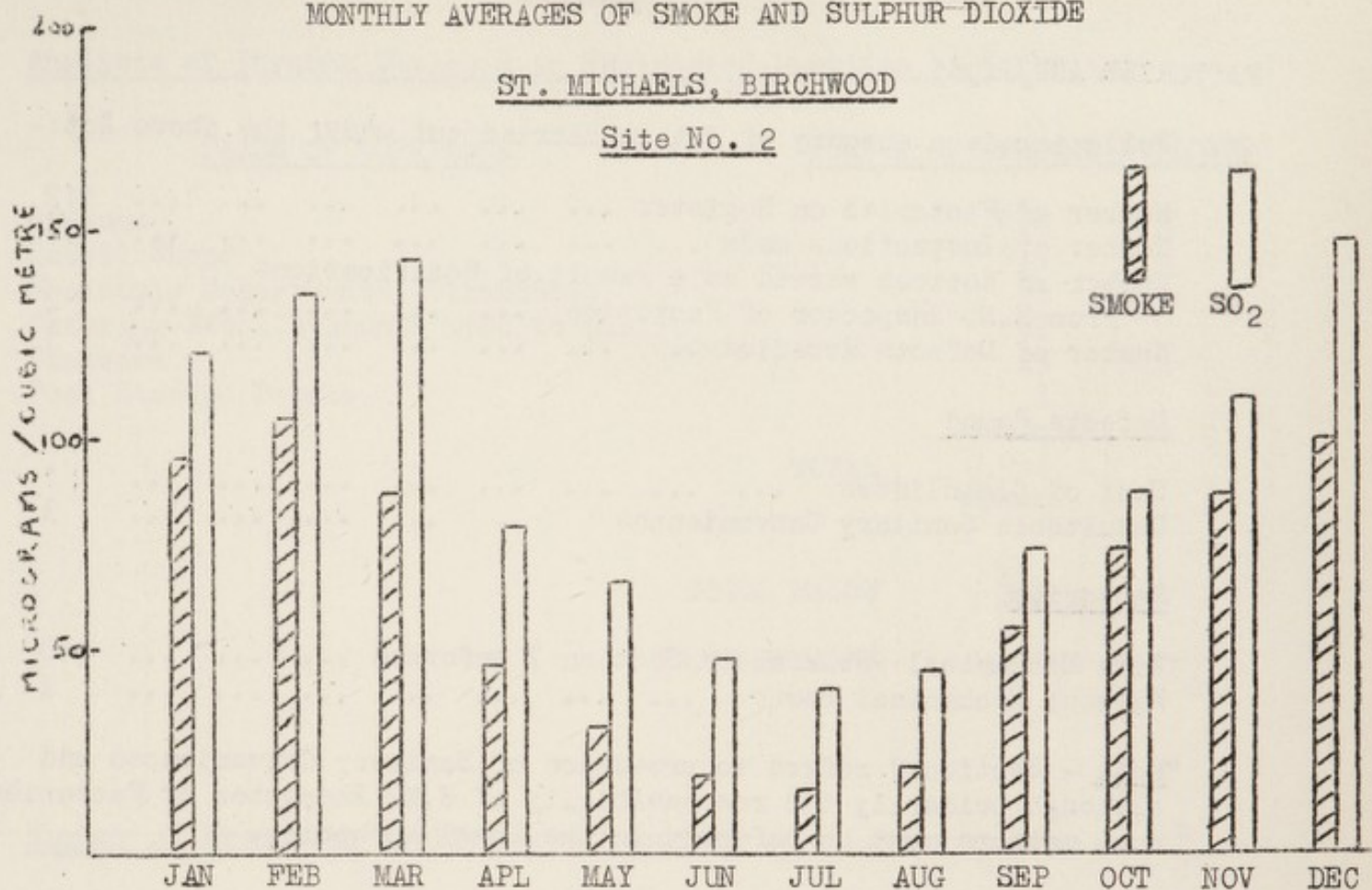
Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre



MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

ST. MICHAELS, BIRCHWOOD

Site No. 2



1965	SMOKE			SO <sub>2</sub>			SMOKE /SO <sub>2</sub> RATIO
	Average Daily	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Average Daily	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
JAN	94	290	23	121	280	60	.78
FEB	105	394	38	135	383	58	.78
MAR	86	299	27	143	317	60	.60
APRIL	46	141	19	79	193	40	.58
MAY	30	79	14	66	135	38	.45
JUNE	18	33	6	47	111	26	.38
JULY	15	24	8	39	55	18	.38
AUG	21	46	9	44	96	24	.48
SEPT	53	130	18	74	110	43	.71
OCT	73	134	15	86	193	33	.85
NOV	86	211	19	110	226	55	.78
DEC	101	286	26	147	310	68	.68

Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre



### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Following is a summary of duties carried out under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register ... ..	112
Number of Inspections made ... ..	57
Number of Notices served as a result of Notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories ... ..	2
Number of Defects Remedied ... ..	3

#### Defects Found

Want of Cleanliness ... ..	1
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	3

#### Factories

*With Mechanical Power where Section 7 enforced ... ..	110
Without Mechanical Power ... ..	2

\*Note - Section 7 refers to provision of Sanitary Conveniences and although primarily the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories, such matters must be referred to the Local Authority.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

The first full year of local authority duties under the above Act has entailed a considerable amount of inspections, re-visits and service of notices, following is a summary of work carried out:-

#### Registrations and General Inspections

<u>CLASS OF PREMISES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES RECEIVING A GENERAL INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR</u>
Offices	5	92	39
Retail Shops	7	194	111
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	9	4
Catering Establishments open to public, Canteens	2	39	21
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>176</b>

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises .... 387

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>CLASS OF WORKPLACE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED</u>
Offices	678
Retail Shops	915
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	82
Catering Establishments open to public	327
Canteens	29
Fuel Storage Depots	3
	<hr/>
	TOTAL 2,034
	<hr/>
	TOTAL MALES 912
	TOTAL FEMALES 1,122

Number of Exemption Applications Received ..... 5

Number of Exemption Applications Granted ..... 5

of these 3 were for Sanitary Conveniences

4 " " Running Water

Reported Accidents Investigated

Offices 2                      Retail Shops 2                      TOTAL 4

Summary of Contraventions

78.4% of premises inspected had one or more contraventions.

Contraventions found expressed as % of total contraventions.



CONTRAVENTION	TOTAL	%
Failure to Display Act	96	26.3
Absence of Thermometer	71	19.5
Insufficient First Aid Requisites	59	16.2
Redecorations Required	36	9.8
Lack of Hot Water Supply to Wash-hand Basin	25	6.8
Sanitary Accommodation not Indicated for Sexes	9	2.5
Insufficient Temperature in Office or Shop	9	2.5
Insufficient Ventilation	9	2.5
Machinery not Suitably Guarded	9	2.5
Lack of Ventilation to Sanitary Accommodation	7	1.9
Complete lack of Washing Facilities	7	1.9
Lack of Accommodation for Hanging Clothes	6	1.6
Complete lack of Sanitary Accommodation	5	1.4
Overcrowding	3	0.8
Absence of Drinking Water	3	0.8
Defects of Stairs and Floors	3	0.8
Insufficient Seating	2	0.5
Inadequate Lighting	2	0.5
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation for persons employed	1	0.3
Insufficient Washing Facilities for persons employed	1	0.3
Lack of Facilities for Eating Meals	1	0.3
Unsatisfactory means for Disposal of Sanitary Dressings	1	0.3
	365	100.0

#### RODENT CONTROL

During the year 343 notifications of rodent infestation were received from residents of dwelling houses. At the time of visit adjacent properties are examined and treated if evidence warrants this. There is no charge for treatments at private houses but all business premises are chargeable on a time basis.

Thirty-eight farms and similar premises were treated monthly on an annual agreement basis by the Council, the total value of which exceeded £440. In addition treatments at business premises, on a casual basis, as and when requested realised about £50.

Following is a brief summary of work carried out by Mr. Lawrence, the Department's Rodent Operative. A very busy year, involving other pests as well.



	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Properties found to be RAT infested	5	322	36	39	402
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	-	16	36	5	57

The above figures refer to infested properties only, but many premises were of course treated a number of times, e.g., farms which receive a monthly visit and treatment. The total number of visits made to agricultural premises alone amounted to approximately 430, and the grand total including visits following notification and survey of adjacent areas is certainly 2,000 per annum.

#### INSECT PESTS

The following pest complaints were also dealt with during the year:-

Woodworm	31	Fleas	2
Ants	37	Wasps Nests	206
Cluster Flies	5	Red Mites	1
Cockroaches	2	Earwigs	1
Silver Fish	5	Carpet Beetels	1

I must pay tribute to the loyal services of Mr. Lawrence, the Council's rodent operative, his efforts are greatly appreciated by the public, as the Health Department well knows. It will be noted that the summer months called for much additional work with minor pests, and particularly wasps nests, when 206 calls for assistance were received by the department, compared with 71 in 1964 and 197 in 1963.

Thanks are also due to the Council's Engineer & Surveyor for seconding one of his staff to undertake urgent work during Mr. Lawrence's annual leave.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

During the year the public health inspectors were called upon to give talks on food hygiene and other matters to various groups. These included a group of 30 proprietors of licenced premises, at the request of a Hertford Brewery, the canteen staffs of a factory, student public health inspectors from Tottenham Technical College and small groups of school children studying human biology for G.C.E. examinations, with visits to local sewage plants.



WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical

Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1965

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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

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid year 1965 estimated by the Registrar General)							7,350
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1966	...	...					2,366
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1966	...	...					£332,699
Net product of a penny rate 1965/66	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,314

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	35	25	60
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	65	67	132
Rate per 1,000 population			17.9
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			5.3
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			15.6
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	66	68	134
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	1	1	2
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			15.1
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			16.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			-
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			15.1
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			15.1
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			29.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion):			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1965 was 7,350, compared with 7,240 at mid 1964. The natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 72 compared with 77 the previous year.

## Deaths

There were a total of 60 deaths in the District compared with 61 during the previous year. The following table gives the main causes :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	2	2	4	9
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	6	1	7	7
Heart Diseases	11	7	18	20
Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3	4
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	2	4	3
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	5	1	6	3
Ulcer of Stomach	-	1	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1	-
Nephritis	1	4	5	1
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	4	5	9	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	35	25	60	

## Deaths from Cancer

Total 4

Respiratory	1	Breast	-
Alimentary tract and liver	2	Uterus	1
Unclassified	-		



### Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1961 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1965.

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
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
1963	19.5	0.93	18.1	7.1	1.21	8.6	7.2
1964	19.0	0.93	17.7	8.4	1.21	10.2	7.2
1965	17.9	0.93	17.5	8.2	1.10	9.0	15.1
England and Wales 1965			18.0			11.5	19.0

### Births

There were 132 live births during the year compared with 138 during the previous year resulting in an adjusted rate of 17.5 for the District, about the same figure as for the previous three years.

### Death Rate

The adjusted death rate of 9.0 is a little below the average of recent years which may be partly due to the relatively mild winter weather.

### Infant Mortality

Two infants died from prematurity following birth in hospital. Variations in the Infant Mortality Rate are of little significance when resulting from such a few deaths.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Measles	155	Pneumonia	3
Erysipelas	1		

Apart from the widespread incidence of measles early in the year there is little of significance here due to the satisfactory acceptance rates of preventive inoculation and vaccination for infants throughout the District. An effective measles vaccine was made available to medical practitioners during the year which confers a high level of immunity although reactions may be rather more marked than with the other immunising measures. I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease diphtheria, poliomyelitis and enteric infections. Fewer gastro-intestinal upsets than usual were brought to the notice of the department during the year.

The St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital and Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, provide facilities for the reception of the occasional infectious person needing hospital care.

### Tuberculosis

The Chest Physician notified one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis during the year, the total remaining on the register under supervision at the end of the year being 40, two less than last year.

The Chest Clinics at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of patients in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while patients from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and I am again grateful to Miss McMullen for advice on the domiciliary care of patients needing the support of the social services.

There was a good acceptance rate for the annual B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children in the Spring when 68 pupils received the protecting inoculation. In recent years the British freeze dried vaccine has been used which produces a milder reaction than the imported vaccine and is more readily accepted in the schools.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY:

The Lee Valley Water Company has continued during the year to give a satisfactory supply of water throughout the Rural District. The policy of sampling the whole distribution system regularly throughout the year has been continued and of the 242 bacteriological and 25 chemical samples taken within the Rural District, all conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

There have been no significant changes in the distribution system but the policy of introducing waste water detection stations is being implemented.

### SEWERAGE.

The scheme for providing main drainage works for the whole of the Rural District, except Ayot St. Lawrence and part of Ayot St. Peter is now well under way.

In November, 1965, the old Woolmer Green Sewage Works were discontinued, and the flow of sewage passed by gravity in the B.197 sewer to the Mill Lane Pumping Station in Welwyn, thereby removing a major black spot.

The availability at this time of the new 15" sewer along the B.197 road was timely because it coincided with the completion of the Mardley Heath Junior Mixed Infants School, thereby obviating the anticipated need for septic tank drainage for these premises, with all its attendant difficulties.

By comparison with the Digswell scheme, the Welwyn scheme involved us more in the laying of sewers in private roads and private land, with a consequent increase in the number of complaints as to disturbance.

The cesspool service operated by the Council continues and a satisfactory service has been maintained.

For the first time there is evidence that the pressure on this service is reduced due to the provision of the Digswell Main Drainage. The cesspool emptying service was withdrawn from Digswell in September 1965.

I set out below details of the number of services given over the last ten years, including outside assistance provided by The Contract Gully Cleansing Co. Ltd., of Welwyn Garden City.

<u>Year</u>		<u>Services given.</u>
1956	....	819
1957	....	932



<u>Year</u>		<u>Services given</u>
1958	....	1023
1959	....	1025
1960	....	1101
1961	....	1166
1962	....	1165
1963	....	1089
1964	....	1100
1965	....	891

#### RAINFALL:

Readings of rainfall are taken at the Rural District Council's Weather Station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 193 days, yielding a total of 28.11 inches for the year. The heaviest fall was recorded on 13th January and was 0.92 inches.

The wettest month was September with a fall of 4.35 inches, and the driest month was February with a fall of 0.69 inches.

Rainfall for 1964 was 19.51 inches.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

During the year the subject of this report, the service given was maintained at a reasonably satisfactory level until the beginning of November, when the weight of refuse to be collected increased.

During the latter period referred to the service given was poor by previous standards and gave cause for great concern.

It is anticipated that the 'bonus' scheme will be introduced in January or February, 1966. I am confident the incentive will then be good enough to ensure a weekly collection of refuse and attract a sufficiency of labour.

The Rural Council's planning application for consent to extend the existing refuse tip is still held up pending a decision by the Minister of Transport with regard to the proposed re-alignment of Trunk Road A.1.

In the meantime, although I have continued with the re-organisation of the ground available for tipping, time is running out and serious consideration will soon have to be given to the provision of another disposal site.

#### IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS:

During the year Discretionary Grants in respect of 2 properties in the sum of £800 and Standard Grants in respect of 11 properties in the sum of £1,725 were approved by the Council.

Five were for owner/occupier and eight for tenanted properties.



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

The joint scheme of control with Hitchin Rural District Council continues satisfactorily, and I set out below details of the work done during the year.

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER 1965

District	Number of hours worked				
	L.A. Refuse Tips etc.	Private dwellings.	Business Premises.	Agric. land etc.	TOTAL
Hitchin R.D.C.	811 $\frac{1}{4}$	293 $\frac{1}{4}$	33 $\frac{3}{4}$	51 $\frac{3}{4}$	1190
Welwyn R.D.C.	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	193 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	296 $\frac{1}{2}$
Other figures:					
Total mileage covered - 8982		Time spent on vehicle maintenance, reports on visits, bait handling, etc.			164
Petrol used - 244 galls.		TOTAL HOURS WORKED			1650 $\frac{1}{2}$
Approx m.p.g. - 36.77					

CARAVAN SITES:

Again there is no change in the caravan situation since last year.

THE ANIMALS (BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 1963:

No new premises registered during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

The work of measurement of registered premises is not yet complete so I am unable to make a comprehensive report in this matter.

However, I would stress to the Council that even so, the Council has made more progress than many other authorities under this legislation,

The 1964 report of the Minister of Labour, received in November 1965, points out that of the 1700 Local Authorities administering this Act, only one third have inspected more than 25% of the premises

involved, one third have inspected less than 25%, and the remaining third had either sent in no reports or had stated that they were unable to carry out any inspections.

In nearly all cases, the reasons given for non-reporting and delay in starting inspections were difficulties in obtaining suitable staff.

#### SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964:

Two dealers are registered until 3rd March 1968 in the Welwyn Rural District.

#### HOUSING:

A total of 100 houses were completed during the year by private enterprise and 12 by the Rural Council.

Under construction at the end of the year:

Private	50
Local Authority	Nil.

#### TRADE EFFLUENT:

Only one factory in the district is producing trade effluent and monthly samples taken from these premises have all proved satisfactory.

#### INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

During the year there has been no change in my staff establishment. There are therefore still four people regularly in contact with the public in the district and the system of giving verbal advice on site is still continued though not necessarily recorded.

I set out below a list of miscellaneous public health visits carried out by the staff during the year:

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	40
Canteens	12
Foodstuffs	40
Cafes	18
Cesspools	27
Building Byelaws	1163
Trade Effluent	30
Moveable dwellings	75
Statutory nuisances	16
Slaughterhouses	Nil
Bakeries	12
Factories	48
Improvement Grants	90
Rodent Control	587
Offices and Shops	52



MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION:

There is no slaughter house being operated in the Rural District at present, and all fresh and frozen meat is carried into the district.

Fourteen pounds of miscellaneous canned foods were surrendered to me during the year, due to defective containers.

Appendix to District Reports:

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN GARDEN CITY U.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	23	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	132	84	18	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	20	-	-	-
Total	175	86	18	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or Defective	18	118	-	-	-
Total	18	18	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS:

Making wearing apparel  
Brush Making

63

23

7

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30  
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Appendix to District Reports: (Continued)

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - HATFIELD R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	110	56	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	112	57	4	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.m. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	2	-
Total	4	3	-	2	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel  
Making stuffed toys

64

Total

29

2

31



FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN R.D.C

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	36	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	25	-	-
Total	28	61	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By. H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

N I L



## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### WELWYN DIVISION - HEALTH SERVICES

This section provides information and comments on some items of particular interest or of local significance in the personal health services of the County Council during the year, as a supplement to the foregoing reports on the public health services of the District Councils. Mention is also made of some of the associated voluntary services provided in the area. More detailed information upon the whole range of County Health and Welfare Services can be obtained from the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer.

#### ADMINISTRATION

On 1st April, 1965, the administration of the personal health and welfare services of the Middlesex County Council for the area of the Potters Bar Urban District was transferred to Hertfordshire as an extension of the Mid Herts Division; a similar transfer also being effected for education. This change in administration raised no practical problems for there had been the closest co-operation and discussion with the officers of the Middlesex County Council prior to the transfer, and the majority of professional and technical staff at Potters Bar continued in their posts. A detailed survey of the clinical and staffing arrangements and the special facilities available was undertaken immediately following the take-over in order to ensure that the previous services were fully maintained, the staff welcoming the opportunity for joint discussion on proposals for future adjustments to conform with the general pattern of administration in Hertfordshire. My thanks are especially due to Dr. J. R. Campbell and her staff for their ready co-operation in the transfer of records and patient replies to our many inquiries, and also to the health visitors and domiciliary nursing staff who accepted the need for working to a slightly changed pattern with good grace and full accord. Proposals for redecorating and improving the Cranborne Clinic have been agreed with the Architect to be carried out in 1966, while in The Elms Clinic the County has gained a fine, modern, well-equipped centre in excellent decorative state, the equal of most new centres in Hertfordshire.

Preliminary discussions have taken place with a view to the setting up of a Social Work Unit for the area which will promote the integration at Divisional level of the Health and Welfare services of the County Council and provide improved co-ordination and direction of the work of the various social workers.

#### STAFF

There were several changes in the medical and nursing staff of the Division during the year. Dr. E. C. Howarth left us on taking up an appointment with the East Sussex County Council in September, and I am



particularly grateful for the help he was always ready to give, particularly in health education, research projects, e.g. the anti-smoking clinic and reorganisation of infant welfare centres. Dr. E. P. Rigby has been appointed in Dr. Howarth's place and has already taken charge of many of the special services inaugurated by his predecessor.

Dr. Jennings, Dr. Ernaelsteen and Dr. Lloyd continued to assist regularly as part-time clinic Medical Officers.

#### MATERNITY SERVICES

The following table shows the increase in the number of hospital confinements since the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in July, 1963.

#### Live Births for 1960 - 1965

##### Welwyn Division

Year	Domiciliary	Hospital and Nursing Home	Total
1960	608	991	1,599
1961	651	1,008	1,659
1962	664	999	1,663
1963	575	1,143	1,718
1964	416	1,173	1,589
1965	433	1,177	1,610

This sixty bed obstetric unit provides ideal, up-to-date facilities for hospital confinement with well-equipped ante-natal department, labour wards, nursery, milk kitchen, premature baby unit and lying-in rooms. The hospital is also a Part 2 training school for midwives. The Department has already established itself as the principal obstetric centre for the area and at present books a quota of mothers from St. Albans and Stevenage in addition to serving the needs of Mid Herts.

The regular obstetric clinical meetings at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital instituted by Mr. Watson, Consultant Obstetrician, are well attended by hospital and domiciliary midwives, general practitioners and the hospital obstetric team. At these meetings there is a cordial atmosphere of joint effort with observations and opinions freely expressed on all aspects of maternity work in Mid Herts, and excellent addresses on some recent advances in practical obstetrics. Domiciliary midwives in Mid Herts are, of course, not under heavy pressure in their work since the opening of the obstetric unit at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

There has been good liaison with the maternity unit at the hospital for mothers booked for early (48 hours) discharge to ensure the prior approval of the Health Department who arrange for maternity nursing in



the home, and domestic help when required.

#### CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Attendances at the infant welfare centres have been well maintained with the levels of primary immunization and vaccination being kept at satisfactory levels. The A.C.M.O.'s regularly report on reactions occurring in children following immunization, but of a total of twenty-four reactions reported all were minor local or general effects, with no neurological sequelae. Regular discussion groups are still held at the three centres in Welwyn Garden City and every opportunity is sought to introduce new educational subjects and material. A very successful young mothers club has also been established by Miss Baylan at Cuffley during the year. Thanks are due to the Health Association for the purchase of a film projector and screen to assist the health visitors in their talks and to the Library Service which has provided book displays for mothers at the Lawrence Hall and Gooseacre Centres.

#### HEALTH VISITORS

The integration of the work of the Health Visitors with medical practitioners has been gradually extended in Hatfield, but in Welwyn Garden City it has been necessary to proceed with caution due to several changes of staff and a general shortage of experienced Health Visitors. Steps have been taken to relieve the Health Visitors of minor routine duties as far as possible and they are based at offices in the centres and clinics in their areas of work to reduce travelling time. State Registered Nurses are also employed on a part-time basis to assist them in their school health work.

The number of discussion groups meeting regularly at the child welfare centres has increased, a wide variety of health topics being actively debated, and once established at a centre these groups flourish and become a popular and effective medium for health education of young mothers. The value of the routine screening tests for young children, especially those in the "at risk" group has been shown by the earlier referral of children with hearing defects to the Audiology Clinic, and there is no doubt that extension of this periodic assessment of physical development, special senses and intelligence in early childhood will assume increasing priority at the centres.

#### HOME NURSING SERVICE

The steady growth in the Home Nursing Service continues, a total of 37,316 visits being reached during the year, an increase of 6% over the previous year. The close link between the work of the general practitioners, District Nurses and Hospitals has been well maintained with no difficulty in recruiting suitable nurses for both urban and rural communities.



The increasing use of disposable equipment and practical nursing aids, e.g. syringes, gloves, enemata and bed pads is proving of great help by reducing the time spent on sterilizing procedures and avoidance of soiled clothes and linen. Every effort is being made to introduce the latest forms of equipment, e.g. chairs, hoists and walking aids to assist the nurses and relatives in caring for the sick and handicapped at home.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The Junior Training Centre in Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City, opened in its new premises in September and provides greatly improved facilities for the training and education of mentally defective children for the whole of Mid Herts. This fine centre with eighty places includes a small nursery and special care unit well equipped for the individual care of the more severely handicapped children, while for the older children the domestic science section and handicrafts work rooms provide excellent opportunity for extending the practical education and training in home management and manual skills. At the end of the year some fifty-five places had been filled, the recommendations for entry being made by Dr. Rigby in consultation with Mrs. Jukes, supervisor, the appropriate mental health social worker and the parents of the child. The parents of the children attending are most appreciative of the facilities provided at the Centre and, although some children have to travel long distances by coach or special transport to reach the Centre, arrangements made by the Central Department have worked very smoothly. At my frequent visits to the Centre I am impressed by the new educational methods and varied projects introduced at the various age ranges, the devotion of the staff to the groups of children under their supervision and the team spirit which emerges for each group, in spite of widely varying handicaps and aptitudes. With more Centres opening throughout the County it is encouraging to see the improved opportunities for training of staff for these Centres with frequent discussions on new methods and approaches to these handicapped children and visits to other Centres.

Following discussion with Dr. G. W. Fisher, Medical Superintendent of Cell Barnes Hospital, in the Autumn, I am pleased to learn that he will shortly be holding regular out-patient consultative sessions at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at which any problems arising in the domiciliary care of mentally retarded children or adults can be referred for advice.

In December the hall vacated by the Junior Training Centre in Lemsford Lane was opened as a small centre with some thirty places for adult defectives. Although the training and educational facilities here are limited by the restricted accommodation, a promising start has been made and the Centre certainly helps to meet the urgent needs in Mid Herts until the permanent adult centre is built on the other side of the town in two to three years time.



The mental health social workers are based at Hatfield and Potters Bar pending the opening of the Parkway Health Centre in the summer of 1966. This fragmentation of the social services with some workers based at the Divisional Health Office and others at peripheral centres is the inevitable result of piecemeal development, but will, it is hoped, shortly be replaced by a more co-ordinated social work unit as a major part of the Divisional Administration Scheme.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service now maintains a team of some seventy-five Helps serving the needs of about 325 persons in Mid Hertfordshire. The demand for help in the home, particularly for the elderly is now regularly in excess of the service available, and this position will undoubtedly persist as the pool of women available for recruitment into the service is limited and periodic recruitment drives merely maintain the present position. Eleven Senior Helps attended the Divisional Training Course at Hatfield in the Autumn and joined in discussions on the social services, special needs of the elderly and families with poor home standards and the domiciliary care of mentally handicapped persons, while one or two selected Helps also attended more advanced courses arranged by the Central Department.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

The Local Health Authority is responsible for the sale and distribution of welfare foods to children under five years of age and expectant mothers, from 17 centres throughout the Division, 12 of these being at Health Centres.

Supplies are ordered through the Divisional Health Office, the following foods being distributed during the year:-

National Dried Milk	.....	8,756 tins
Orange Juice	.....	51,726 bottles
Cod Liver Oil	.....	1,671 bottles
Vitamin A & D tablets	.....	2,443 packets.

#### MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council with its main centre in Welwyn Garden City, also undertakes counselling at the Health Centre, Bull Plain, Hertford, and at the Citizens Advice Bureau premises in Hoddesdon. A total of 96 clients sought advice from the nine Counsellors during 1965 many of these receiving help over a long period of time. In spite of the present counselling strength, waiting lists seem to be inevitable at certain times, but an increase in the number of Counsellors



would greatly increase the help that can be given to desperately worried clients. Offers of help from persons interested in becoming Counsellors are always welcome. They are carefully selected and trained by the National Marriage Guidance Council for this exacting service and are greatly helped in their work by professional advisers - medical, legal, spiritual and psychiatric.

The work of Marriage Guidance in the educational field is of equal importance though less well known than it should be. This work is done by Education Counsellors specially trained for working with young people in small groups and in schools and the College of Further Education. During the year Counsellors led series of discussions in four schools with young people aged 14 - 19 years and a longer series to a group of young men at the College of Further Education. Discussions have been arranged at youth clubs and speakers on the work of Marriage Guidance to various groups including Young Wives, Parent-Teacher Groups and political youth groups.

#### FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

There has been a steady increase in the attendance of women at the Family Planning sessions in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield during the year, a further weekly session being instituted in both towns. At Gooseacre Centre Mrs. Bowmer reports that the largest group attending the clinic for the first time are women under the age of 25 showing that young couples wish to take advantage of the services of the clinic early in their married life and so plan their families from the start. Both at Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City cervical smears for a limited number of patients were taken for examination at Haymeads Hospital, Bishops Stortford. The facilities offered at the clinics have also been extended by the introduction of the plastic intra uterine device, a new method which has been proved satisfactory after careful and widespread trials.

The Hatfield clinic has become affiliated with the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, while the Welwyn Garden City Clinic has for the present preferred to remain independent.



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