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Yeovil Rural District Council

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31st DECEMBER, 1968**



TO THE  
CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1968.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of live births during the year was 479, as compared with 512 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 15.9, as compared with 17.3 for the previous year. The Rate for England and Wales was 16.9.

Deaths

General Population

The total number of deaths was 268, 117 of this total occurring in people aged 75 years and over (43%). The Crude Rate per 1,000 population was 9.4, the corrected rate being 7.5. The rate for England and Wales was 11.9.

As in previous years the major causes of death were, Heart Disease 96, Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (strokes) 31, and Cancer 49. With regard to Heart Disease, 82 deaths were ascribed to Ischaemic Heart Disease (Coronary Disease). Coronary Disease in general is thought of as a disease which attacks adults, mainly men, in the 35 - 55 age group, but in regard to men, 76.9% of the deaths occurred over the age of 65 years. Similarly, for women, of the 30 deaths, 83.3% occurred over the age of 65.

Lung Cancer

The average number of deaths due to Lung Cancer for the past ten years was 6.1 for men and for women 1.6. The average population for the past ten years was 27,370. The Cancer Rate/million, based on the above figures is 222 for men, and 58 for women. The figures for England and Wales were 1,011 and 197 respectively.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

Of the total number of deaths, for men, 78.5% were 65 years and over, and for women, of the total number of deaths, 70% were 65 years and over.

Of the deaths due to all causes, 92 of the men were 65 years and over, and of the women, 92 were 65 years and over. The conclusion to be drawn is that Yeovil Rural District provides a healthy environment, and that old age is a reasonable expectation. This satisfactory state of the health of the community however, poses a problem of accommodation, etc. for the elderly section of the community, and this problem is becoming more urgent. The provision of bungalows,



suitable flats, with or without Warden supervision by the Council - the provision of suitable Homes by the County Council, and adequate geriatric accommodation by the Hospital Authority, are all essential.

### IMMUNISATION

Consequent upon the use of the Computer at County Hall, all infants and children are now referred to their family doctors for immunisation. The Somerset scheme differs from that of the West Sussex scheme and the West Riding scheme, which permits parents to choose whether they wish the immunisations to be carried out by the family doctor or by a County Medical Officer working at a Clinic, or in the case of school children, at the school the child attends. It is hoped that figures showing the number of children immunised, etc., by the various doctors in the area will be available, from which an approximate state of immunisation can be assessed.

I again have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. Fox

Medical Officer of Health.

## YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1968.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	53,382
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£816,650
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate (31.3.69)	...	...	...	...	...	£3,120
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	9,136
Population	...	...	...	...	...	28,580

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Yeovil Rural District, comprising an area of 53,382 acres, is situated in the South-East area of the County of Somerset and is composed of 31 rural parishes. The area in general is not very much above sea level; the greatest point of elevation being Ham Hill, 426 feet above sea level.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory, the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham having been completed in December, 1955. The capacity of the reservoir is 575 million gallons, with an estimated net yield of 2.4 million gallons per day.

### METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

### RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1968, as recorded at Sutton Bingham Reservoir was 35.15 (37.83 in 1967).

### OCCUPATION

The main industry of the district is agriculture, which is chiefly of a dairying and grazing nature. In addition, the manufacture of gloves is an important industry, glove factories being located at Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon and Tintinhull, in addition to the glove making which is carried out in the homes. A considerable proportion of people resident in the Yeovil Rural District are employed in the Yeovil Borough.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services are mainly situated in the Yeovil Borough. The South Petherton Hospital, which deals with infectious diseases, is situated in the Rural District. The Hospital Services are administered by the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Yeovil Borough are

- (1) Yeovil & District Hospital - an acute general hospital
- (2) Yeovil Hospital Maternity Unit - 44 beds
- (3) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital



I am indebted to the Medical Records Officer at Yeovil Hospital for the following details.

		Yeovil General Hospital.	Yeovil Maternity Unit
No. of In-patient discharges	....	3,366	1,097
No. of new Consultant Out-patients	....	6,605	596
New and Old Consultant Out-patients		28,698	3,128
Available Beds	....	32	44
Orthoptic Department attendances	....	1,958	-
Radiological Departments units of work		38,265	-
Casualty Department attendances	...	11,332	-
Births in Hospital	...	-	973
Attendances at Midwives Clinics	...	-	1,642

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment, are treated at South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, only the Cubicle Block is required (10 beds), and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on Yeovil Hospital, and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

### TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Cheddon Road Hospital, Taunton.

### CHRONIC SICK

The following report was issued by the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee, with regard to Summerlands Hospital.

"The building of the Hospital in 1837 directly followed the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which was designed to remove the abuses of the old Poor Law. A Royal Commission in 1832 reported mounting poor rates, extensive outdoor relief (i.e. payments in money and kind to able bodied paupers without insisting on admission to the workhouse), with consequent lowering of wages, rates and demoralising of the pauper. The cure was to be the merging of parishes (hitherto responsible for poor relief) into Poor Law Unions under stricter control, thus ending of outdoor relief, and the imposing of harsh living conditions inside the workhouse to discourage the able bodied poor from staying there. 35 parishes were grouped into this Yeovil Poor Law Union, managed by 47 elected Guardians who appointed a master and mistress of the workhouse infirmary, a chaplain, a surgeon and a school master school mistress. This Board of Guardians at once decided to build a new workhouse; a field in Preston Road, was purchased for £700, and a tender accepted for an hexagonal building to be erected by Mr. Harris for £4,534. Built to house 300 inmates it was opened in 1837, the old workhouse at Townsend, Sherborne Road (in very bad repair) becoming an infants' school in 1840 and later a glove factory.

"The Minute Book and Visiting Committee's Book preserved in the Somerset Record Office show that the Guardians tried to carry out the terms of the 1834 Act under the guidance of the Poor Law Commissioners (Cobbett's "Three Tyrants"),



even though they continued to give outdoor relief to glovers on short-time and persons suffering from sickness or accident. A glover with four children received four loaves and 1/6d a week; a dyer got four loaves and a pint of ale during an illness. Two women received aid while their husbands were in prison, one for stealing pea-sticks, and the other for misbehaving at election time. Able bodied paupers were given jobs like stone-breaking, bone-crushing, pumping water, paring potatoes, "hacking the ground", while the women made clothes or cleaned knives and forks. Girls were taught glove-making. A hand mill for grinding barley for pigs was purchased.

"In 1847 the Poor Law Commissioners gave way to the Poor Law Board, which in 1871 became the local Government Board. For nearly a century the shadow of the workhouse darkened the lives not only of the unemployed who sought relief there, but also of the aged poor and the chronically sick who were forced to bear the stigma of "the union" in the days before the Old Age Pension and National Insurance. Dickens' "Oliver Twist" helped to create a public opinion in favour of reform; the Unemployment Insurance Acts 1911-1922, the National Health Insurance Act 1911 and the first retirement pensions 1908 slowly changed the old attitudes towards poverty, which was no longer seen as a personal disgrace. In 1929, the Board of Guardians was abolished, the Union came under the control of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council. The "workhouse" became an "infirmery" concerned largely with the care of the aged sick, though tramps continued to get relief there until 1948.

"Conditions improved, particularly after the Second World War; medical and nursing services greatly expanded - better diet, improved furnishings and decor, radio, library all helped to make Summerlands Hospital a much happier place, and now in 1969 the Old Summerlands Hospital has been replaced by the new Summerlands - Christmas 1968 saw all the patients settled in the brand new three ward hospital - no longer would staff have to cope with winding stone staircases, long passages, no longer would patients be confined to wards which despite all efforts to improve them, still had the taint of the workhouse. The new Summerlands is based upon a standard plan using unit construction evolved by the South Western Hospital Board - it provides the most modern facilities for patients in the upper age group and also the maximum help for the staff. Each ward has its own day room with fitted carpets and colourful and, of course, comfortable furniture where all patients can meet, watch T.V. and in short, enjoy the life of a modern hotel. The wards are spacious and every bed has its own radio head phone - nurse call system, light etc. - in addition there are some single rooms for patients needing privacy or special nursing attention and even some double rooms so that if possible, married couples need not be separated. The kitchens have many labour saving devices and enable a very full and varied selection of meals as well as observing strict control over specialized diets as required by some patients. In keeping with modern practice disposables are used when possible - this includes draw sheets, bed pans, under pads etc. - so removing one of the less pleasant duties of the nursing staff.

"In November, 1969, all the old rear buildings are scheduled for demolition, only the front unit will be left, this will provide for administration and for the needs of the nursing and domestic staff; including new changing rooms with showers, dining and rest rooms, this work will provide a welcome addition to the new hospital and all the alterations to this block will be carried out by our own Works and Maintenance staff.



"When the site of the old buildings is cleared a further ward block and day room are to be erected in addition to the physiotherapy/occupational therapy unit, to be built in this area. This unit is being erected from donations received from well wishers of the hospital and noteworthy in this respect is the sum of £2,000 promised by the Yeovil Hospitals League of Friends. There are other projects now in hand within the hospital perimeter:- the recently completed Matron's bungalow, the landscaping of the grounds by our own gardeners. The landscaping when completed, will extend from the hospital down to the administrative block and will provide a pleasant aspect for patients and visitors.

"The cost of the work already carried out is approximately £175,000, exclusive of equipment costing £25,000.

"So much for the old and for the new Summerlands. One very big problem however, remains. Already a long waiting list exists, a list which present indications emphasize will continue to grow. The number of beds is inadequate and this is producing real problems for the medical and administrative staff. Yeovil is indeed grateful to the South Western Regional Hospital Board for all that it has done to create the new Summerlands - the next step must be to provide further extensions and so more beds.

#### Comparative Statistics

				1958	1968
Total admissions	...	...	...	112	213
New Patients admitted	...	...	...	68	161
Average age on admission	...	...	...	76 yrs.	81 yrs.

In 1958 many patients were confined to their bed, whilst in 1968 3% were in bed most of the time.

"The above information is provided not only to show that Yeovil has one of the finest hospitals for the older people in the County, but also to demonstrate that a new era in the care of the aged has opened."

#### LABORATORY SERVICE

A Laboratory is located at Yeovil Hospital, which deals with a large proportion of the pathological work connected with the hospital and the surrounding area. An emergency service is maintained, which deals primarily with the Yeovil Hospital blood bank. The larger Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital undertakes work beyond the scope of Yeovil Hospital. Also a Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, feed, water supplies and sewage effluent are also carried out.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The new ambulance station, which was opened in 1963 has ample garage accommodation for the ambulances, with underfloor heating, a heated blanket store adjacent to the vehicles, a well equipped workshop for maintenance

and repairs of a minor nature, a sluice for bottles and bed pans and also a dressing destructor. The large airy control overlooks the station yard, and from here a constant supply of messages to and from the ambulances on the road, is kept up, by the use of short wave radio.

## HOUSING

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

Houses, etc. completed during the ended 31.12.68	...	63
Houses etc. erected post-war	...	1,211
Houses etc. sold post-war	...	Nil.
Houses, etc. erected by the Local Authority and still owned by them	...	2,131
No. of applicants on the waiting list as at 31.12.68	...	476

## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General shows the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a larger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General, and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales or with rates of other districts.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	479
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	4.1
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	481
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	6
Percentage of illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	5
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Maternal Mortality (including abortions)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.



## BIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1968</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>1967</u> <u>Total</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>					
Legitimate	...	252	203	455	479
Illegitimate	...	11	13	24	13
		<u>263</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>479</u>	<u>512</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population				16.7	17.7
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population				15.9	16.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales				16.9	17.2

## (b) Stillbirths

Legitimate	...	1	1	2	6
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-	-
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births				4	12
Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales				14	14.8

## DEATHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1968</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>1967</u> <u>Total</u>
Total Deaths	...	141	127	268	267
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 pop.				9.4	9.2
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 pop.				7.5	9.9
Death Rate for England & Wales				11.9	11.2

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year 1968.

## BIRTH RATES

The table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
16.4	18.6	17.09	17.9	17.8	17.3	17.6	18.1	16.4	16.8	16.8

The adjusted birth rate = 15.0



# DEATHS

There was an increase in the number of deaths, 268 in 1968, as compared with 267 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 7.5, compared with 9.9 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.9.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 141 deaths, 42 occurred in those between 65 and 75, and 50 amongst those 75 and over. Of the females, out of the total of 127, 25 occurred in those between 65 and 75, and 67 amongst those 75 years and over.

## AGES AT DEATH

Ages at death in years	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	3	-	3
1 - 5	-	1	1
5 - 15	-	1	1
15 - 25	5	2	7
25 - 35	1	-	1
35 - 45	3	3	6
45 - 55	11	7	18
55 - 65	26	21	47
65 - 75	42	25	67
75 and over	50	67	117
Total all causes	141	127	268

		1968	1967
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	49	67
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	...	99	78
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	1	1

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows:-

1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
9.5	10.1	9.5	9.1	8.1	9.6	9.7	8.7	10.0	9.2	9.4

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

Causes of Death	Male	Female
Other Tuberculosis, inc. late effects	1	-
Syphilis and its Sequelae	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	-
" " Lung, Bronchus	7	1
" " Breast	-	5
" " Uterus	-	4
Leukaemia	1	1
Other malignant Neoplasms, etc.	9	16
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	2	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	52	30
Other forms of Heart Disease	3	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	14	17
Other diseases of circulatory system	9	7
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	7	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	6	3
Other disease of respiratory system	1	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Appendicitis	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	1
Other diseases of Digestive System	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	3
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1
Birth Injuries, difficult labour, etc.	1	-
Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions	-	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-
Total, All Causes	141	127

#### CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 49. The table as set out below shows the incidence of Cancer for previous years.

1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
46	62	52	45	42	40	43	46	57	67	49

# CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Yeovil R.D.	1.8	2.4	2.02	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.3	1.7
County of Somerset	2.08	2.12	2.15	2.22	2.17	2.17	2.31	2.2	2.23	2.28	2.33
England & Wales	2.12	2.13	2.15	2.16	2.17	2.1	2.21	2.2	3.3	2.27	2.31

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 3, as compared with 4 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 live births was 8.3, as compared with England and Wales, 18.3. The following table shows the number of deaths, and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
No. of deaths	9	12	10	5	5	11	7	4	6	4	3
Rate per 1,000 live births in Rural Dist.	22.6	25.6	22.7	10.7	10.5	23.6	13.8	7.7	12.0	7.8	8.3
Rate per 1,000 live births in Eng. & Wales	22.5	22.6	21.9	21.4	20.7	22.3	20.0	19.0	18.9	18.3	18

## CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year
Birth Injury ...	1	-
Congenital Malformations ...	-	1
Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

	Cases Notified	
	1968	1967
Measles	29	470
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1
Scarlet Fever	14	3
Whooping Cough	2	15
Pneumonia	-	2
Dysentery	1	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-
Food Poisoning	2	-
Total	52	491

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 3, Non-pulmonary 1. There was 1 death recorded as due to Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1958	195
No. of cases notified Pulmonary	3	-	-	2	4	5	6	4	7	7	12
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	2	4
No. of deaths Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 pop.	-	0.3	-	-	-	.03	.03	-	.03	.08	-

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The establishment and maintenance of the Infant Welfare Clinics are the direct responsibility of the Somerset County Council, and during the recent years the number of such clinics in the Yeovil Rural District has risen to 7. At each clinic, other than the Houndstone Camp Clinic, a doctor engaged by the Somerset County Council attends regularly, also a District Nurse. Facilities are available for the purpose of purchasing Infant Welfare Foods, including National Bred Milk, Orange Juice, etc., and certain proprietary dried milk preparations, which are sold at the clinics at special prices. Apart from other considerations, the clinics have an important educational value. Associated with each clinic is a voluntary Committee, the value of whose services it would be difficult to over emphasize.

The following table sets out the attendances etc. at the various clinics.

	MARTOCK	STOKE-SUB-HAMDON	SOUTH PETHER-TON	WEST COKER	HOUDSTONE CAMP	WRAX-HILL Rd.	ILCH-ESTER	TOTAL
No. of children who attended for the first time under 1 yr. of age	51	32	40	16	12	30	66	247
No. of children who attended during the year	193	87	165	86	41	66	164	802
Total attendances of children during the year	991	608	675	364	130	280	876	3,924
Average attendance of children per session	42	25	29	30	10	23	33	192
Total No. of consultations with Medical Officer	263	70	213	171	-	88	72	877
No. of medical sessions with Medical Officer	22	11	23	12	-	10	23	101
Total No. of sessions	24	23	23	12	12	12	23	109

### BIRTHS

Live Births ...	Legitimate	455	Illegitimate	24	Total	479
Stillbirths ...	"	2	"	-	"	2
Infant Deaths	"	3	"	-	"	3

### HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following table shows the scope of its activities.

Type of Case	1968	1967
Maternity ...	13	29
Old Age and Infirmary ...	100	111
Chronic Illness ...	11	4
Mental Health ...	-	-
Child Care ...	-	2
Post-operation ...	7	5
Tuberculosis ...	1	1
Accidents ...	2	3
General Illness ...	5	2
	<u>139</u>	<u>157</u>

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

In one case action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.



Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Council's Works and Public Health Committee

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department for 1968 under the following headings:

1. Staff;
2. Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956;
3. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963;
4. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960;
5. Cesspool Emptying Service;
6. Civic Amenities Act, 1967;
7. Clean Air Act, 1956;
8. Closet Accommodation (Public Health Act, 1936);
9. Diseases of Animals Act, 1950  
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957;
10. Factories Act, 1961; (See also Item 26 Appendix);
11. Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and Food and Drugs Act, 1955;
12. Housing Act, 1967;
13. New House Building;
14. Improvement Grants;
15. Inspections;
16. Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses;
17. Noise Abatement;
18. Notices Served;
19. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963;
20. Petroleum Acts;
21. Poultry Processing and Packing Establishments;
22. Sewage Disposal;
23. Refuse Collection and Disposal;
24. Rodent Control;
25. Water Supplies;
26. Appendix - Factories Act, 1961.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the considerable assistance which has been received from the Council's Staff of Public Health Inspectors and Miss Marks in the compilation of this report and to the members of the Council for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

*B. Morris*

Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. Staff:

There were no changes during the year.  
As well as carrying out general duties the four public health inspectors each specialised in one particular aspect of the work of the department:

Mr. Morris	-	refuse collection and disposal;
Mr. Dallimore	-	improvement grants;
Mr. Barton	-	offices, shops and food hygiene;

Mr. Kelley and Mr. DeGroot were both employed full-time on meat inspection.

2. Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

It was not possible to carry out routine inspections and there were no requests for enforcement action.

From enquiries it has been found that this situation is typical of the county generally. It would seem that the farm worker is either being adequately catered for, or as would seem unlikely, he is not putting his complaints forward.

3. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

- (i) Licences issued - 3.
- (ii) Total number of animals permitted to be housed -  
24 dogs 46 cats.

Routine inspections were carried out at the time of licensing and conditions were found to be satisfactory at each establishment.

4. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
(i) Number of single caravans licensed .. .. .	32	-
(ii) Number of site licences issued in respect of more than one caravan .	15	1
(iii) Number of caravans occupied during the year .. .. .	200	-

/Continued ..

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
(iv) Estimated maximum number of occupants resident during the year .. .. .	425	-
(v) Number of sites closed .. .		NIL
(vi) Camping Sites - Number of unlicensed sites in use .. .		ONE

It was necessary to serve three informal notices concerning unsatisfactory site conditions and the defects reported were subsequently remedied.

5. Cesspool Emptying Service:

This service is operated by the Engineer and Surveyors Department on contract with a local firm.

Four emptyings are given up to an overall maximum in any one financial year of 12,000 gallons.

6. Civic Amenities Act, 1967

(i) The Council provided a specially constructed reception area at the entrance to Odcombe Tip during the latter part of the year where domestic refuse could be deposited outside normal working hours. The area was well used and despite a degree of vandalism it was possible to keep it in reasonable order.

(ii) It was necessary to investigate three cases of unauthorised dumping of rubbish but it was not possible to prosecute in these cases. However, now that the above facilities are provided I think it is time that a firmer line is taken in such cases. The maximum fine for this offence is £100 and the publicity which could ensue from successful prosecutions could be beneficial.

(iii) It was necessary to remove two abandoned cars from the roadside.

Disposal of abandoned cars is likely to become a problem for the Council and the public in this area as, in the near future, the only local car breaking firm will cease to operate early in 1969.



7. Clean Air Act, 1956

- (i) Four contraventions arising from the emission of dark and black smoke from one industrial chimney were dealt with informally.
- (ii) One application for prior approval for the erection of a furnace was received and the applicant was informed of the alterations required and approval was subsequently given after amendments had been made.
- (iii) Several complaints of smoke and fume nuisance arising from the burning of garden refuse were received. In one case it was found necessary to request permission to take statutory action. The persons responsible however accepted advice on other methods of disposing of their rubbish and up to the end of the year there were no further grounds for complaint.
- (iv) I would again like to point out, for the benefit of ratepayers, that reasonable quantities of garden waste can be put out for collection by the Council's refuse collectors or it can be taken to the site provided by the Council at Odcombe Tip.

8. Closet Accommodation (Public Health Act, 1936)

It is estimated that there are still about 600 properties in the area which are relying either on chemical or pail type closets. As the result of housing improvements and the opening of the Ash and Tintinhull Sewerage Scheme a reduction of 32 was made in the overall total for the District in 1968.

9. Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

The report of the Northumberland Committee on the 1967/68 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak served to confirm the need to maintain close surveillance of 'swill' boilers as a step in preventing the spread of animal disease. However, I think it deserves comment that the 'loop-hole' which allows the operation of small-scale 'boilers' is one which could give rise to a serious epidemic in the future. This is not to say of course that the licensing of all swill boilers would probably give rise to administrative difficulties.

There are now six licences in operation with an estimated weekly through-put of 15 tons - principally of vegetable origin.

10. Factories Act, 1961

- (a) There are 84 factories in the District but this Council are only concerned with the construction and condition of the sanitary accommodation in all but one of them. Twelve visits were made during the year and three informal notices served.
- (b) Notification was received that there were 522 outworkers, all of whom were engaged in gloving.
- (c) See appendix for statistics.

11. Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) Inspection of premises and vehicles

The general standard of premises and vehicles operating in the District was found to be satisfactory.

The majority of the larger village stores are now operating self-service. The change-over from traditional village shop trading to self-service is a case of economical survival, there being reduced overheads in staffing and greater efficiency in stocking and stock rotation. The sideline effect of this change has been an improvement in food hygiene in this class of premises.

(b) Food complaints

Only three complaints were received during the year, compared with ten in 1967 and eight in 1966.

Thorough and impartial investigations were made into each complaint, but it was not considered necessary to take legal action in any instance. The complaints related to a milk bottle containing glass fragments, a mouldy veal, egg and ham pie and a mouldy loaf of bread. Complaints of this nature can however be invaluable in pin pointing a fault in manufacture, distribution, storage or handling of the food product.

(c) Classification of food premises

Catering	22
General Food	67
Baker/confectioners	14
Butcher/fishmongers	17
Licensed premises	51

Total 171

All the above premises are fitted to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.



Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Cont)

(d) Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream	116
Preserved Food	19
Slaughterhouses	2

(e) Ice Cream

Routine samples were taken from a local manufacturer during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

One sample failed to give satisfactory grading and the mixture from which it was taken was re-pasteurised.

(f) Charity Organisations

During the period of peak holiday traffic, several charity organisations have set up tents or marquees at advantageous positions on A303 and A30 roads. Whilst the motives of these organisations cannot be decried, the methods of operation and duration of their activities could in some instances give rise to criticism in so far as the facilities for storing and preparing food cannot compete with the standards of established cafes and restaurants.

12. Housing Act, 1967

(A) General: Progress was again on a limited scale.

Summary of action taken:

(1)	No. of inspections made:	118
(2)	No. of houses demolished or closed under Sections 16 and 17 (individually unfit):	11
(3)	No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished:	NIL
(4)	No. of houses declared unfit but capable of repair (Section 9):	NIL
(5)	No. of houses made fit during the year:	
	(a) After informal action	36
	(b) After formal action	11

/Continued .....



(B) Overcrowding:

There was no 'legal' overcrowding to report but there were 46 houses which could be considered overcrowded if bedroom accommodation only was taken into account.

- |     |      |  |     |
|-----|------|--|-----|
| (a) | i)   | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (estimated)   | NIL |
|     | ii)  | Number of families dwelling therein (estimated)  | NIL |
|     | iii) | Number of people dwelling therein (estimated)  | NIL |
| (b) |      | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | NIL |
| (c) | i)   | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | NIL |
|     | ii)  | Number of persons concerned in such cases  | NIL |
| (d) |      | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | NIL |

13. New House Building

- |      |         |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|
| (i)  | Council | - | 63 dwellings.                                     |
| (ii) | Private | - | 213 dwellings (including gains from conversions). |

14. Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grant applications have been maintained at a high level but it will be seen in the schedule below that Standard Grant applications and payments are down by nearly half. This I think is indicative of the trend for more general improvements to be carried out rather than the installation of the basic amenities only. It is hoped nevertheless that the balance will be re-established when the provisions of the White Paper 'Old Houses into New Homes' becomes law in 1969 and the new grants are more widely publicised.

/Continued ....

## Improvement Grants (Cont)

### Discretionary Grants

#### (i) Applications

No. of applications received:

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
(a) conversions .....	4	7
(b) general improvements .....	25	24
Total .....	29	31

No. of applications approved:

(a) owner-occupied houses .....	19	16
(b) tenanted houses .....	9	15
Total .....	28	31

Total cost of improvement work .....	£40,005	£41,364
Total amount of grant approved .....	£10,936	£12,139
An average grant per house was approximately ...	£377	£391
National average per house .....	£309	-

#### (ii) Payments

No. of grants paid .....	31	15
Amount paid in grants .....	£13,290	£5,345
Average grant paid per house .....	£429	£356

### Standard Grants

#### (i) Applications

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
No. of applications received .....	12	22
No. of applications approved:		
(a) owner-occupied houses .....	6	20
(b) tenanted houses .....	6	2

No. of applications where the Council agreed to give grants in excess of the normal £155:

(a) bathroom additions .....	-	2
(b) septic tanks .....	3	3

/Continued ..

Improvement Grants - Standard Grants (Cont)Payments - Grants paid on completion of improvements

	1968	1967
No. of dwellings concerned .....	14	25
Total amount of grant paid .....	£2,134	£4,510
Average per house .....	£152	£180
Amenities provided with standard grant assistance:-		
Bathroom additions .....	-	9
Fixed bath or shower .....	9	25
Wash-hand basin .....	10	25
Hot water supply to:		
(a) three fittings .....	7	25
(b) one or two fittings ....	5	2
W.C. within the dwelling .....	11	12
Septic tank installations .....	3	6
Food store .....	9	24

15. Inspections: Summary relating to all sections of departments work:

Animal Boarding Establishments .....	5
Caravan Sites .....	52
Civic Amenities Act and Litter Act .....	42
Clean Air Act .....	22
Diseases of Animals Acts .....	7
Disinfestations and disinfections .....	48
Drainage .....	310
Factories .....	17
Food Hygiene:	
(a) Bakers and bakeries .....	8
(b) Shops .....	86
(c) Cafes and Restaurants .....	59
(d) Fish and chip/Wet fish shop.....	7
(e) Licensed premises and Off Licences .....	41
(f) Sweet confectionery .....	2
(g) Delivery Vehicles .....	66
Housing .....	138
Ice Cream Sampling and registration.....	23
Improvement Grants .....	638

/Continued ..



# Inspections - schedule (Cont)

Infectious Disease .....	-
Inspection of Food .....	41
Interviews .....	70
Meat Inspection .....	281
Milk and Dairies Regulations .....	-
Miscellaneous .....	31
Noise Abatement Act .....	32
Nuisances .....	179
Offices and Shops Act .....	68
Petroleum Acts .....	65
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	199
Rodent Control .....	79
Slaughterhouses Act .....	15
Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 and Inspection of Poultry .....	1
Water Supplies .....	55

## 16. Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses

- (a) As from April 1968 there are now only two private Slaughterhouses licensed in the area, with the large majority of slaughtering centred at J.H. Cobden Ltd., Martock.
- (b) The total number of animals slaughtered for human consumption is given below: -

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Cattle (excluding cows)	4,359	3,153	2,062
Cows	27,547	27,776	18,704
Calves	1,181	1,852	1,790
Sheep and Lambs	19,720	17,412	26,951
Pigs	<u>1,384</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>3,175</u>
Total	<u>54,191</u>	<u>50,504</u>	<u>52,682</u>

Translated into inspection units the above totals become:

<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	
366,195	350,603	276,457	units.

The increase being 4.4% for the year.

/Continued ..

## Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses (Cont)

- (c) Foot and Mouth restrictions slightly curtailed throughput for several months due to the ban imposed on export and to restricted movements of cattle. All concerned with the Meat Trade and with livestock were constantly aware of the danger of spread and the necessity of taking adequate precautions.
- (d) Incidence of liver fluke has been high, causing considerable concern to farmers in the area. There has also been evidence that treatment of Warble fly has not been adequately carried out in many instances. Echinococcosis again remains relative to cattle drawn from markets north of the Severn.
- (e) The introduction of imported meat from the continent in sealed containers has entailed inspection under the Imported Food Regulations, by this Department working in liason with Port Health Authorities.
- (f) Concentration of throughput has placed a heavy strain on the shift system at present operating, affecting the early duty in particular, and it will be necessary to re-arrange the system in order to give more manpower at these times.
- (g) Slaughtering took place on 42 Saturdays, 26 Sundays and on 8 occasions slaughtering proceeded throughout the night. On 10 Saturdays casualties only were slaughtered.
- (h) The Boning and Preparation Room at J. H. Cobden Ltd., has proved inadequate and it is hoped that next year will see some improvement in space and design in order to overcome the "teething troubles" now being encountered. The Slaughterhall and refrigerated space is, at times, inadequate in area to accomodate the numbers of animals slaughtered and plans on future development should now be considered.
- (i) Details of the specific diseases and conditions found in the animals were as follows: -

	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Adult Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>
Abnormal odour associated with disease		3	6	
Acetonaemia		2	3	
Actinobacillosis				
Anaemia (Advanced)			2	

(1) Specific diseases (Cont)

	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Adult Cattle</u>	<u>Calm</u>
Arthritis - Gangrenous				
Bruising - Severe	2	2	24	-
C. Bovis - Generalised				
Cystercosis				
Dead on Arrival	2			
Decomposition (after storage)		1		2
Emaciation, pathological	1	11	9	-
Fevered	3	4	17	5
Gangrene		2	14	
Immaturity				12
Insufficient bleeding	1			
Jaundice			2	
Lymphadenoma			1	
Lymphosarcoma			2	
Mastitis (Acute septic)			4	
Metritis (Acute septic)		1	4	
Moribund	13	5	12	3
Muscular degeneration			6	
Nephritis - gangrenous				
Oedema - (generalised)	4	39	137	15
Parasitisation - generalised				
Pericarditis (Acute septic)				
Peritonitis (Acute septic)	1			
Pleurisy (Acute diffuse septic)				
Polyarthritis	2	2		
Pneumonia - septic				
- gangrenous			2	
Pyæmia - umbilical				11
- other	13	1	26	2
Pyelonephritis			10	
Septicaemia	9	7	39	4
Swine Erysipelas (Acute)	2			
Suffocation		3		
Toxaemia			13	
Tuberculosis				
Tumours			34	
Uraemia			3	1
Xanthosis			1	



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	4,359	27,547	1,181	19,720	1,384	NIL
Number inspected	4,359	27,547	1,181	19,720	1,384	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	9	341	83	88	54	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,230	21,433	11	2,404	528	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.4%	79%	8%	13%	42%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	4	NIL	NIL	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	NIL	Less than 1%	NIL	NIL	1.3%	-
<u>Cysticercosis (viable only recorded)</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	9	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	9	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL			
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	83	-	-	221	-
(b) Cysticercosis	350	250	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	21,750	407,888	5,560	7,823	7,783	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	22,100	408,221	5,560	7,823	8,004	-

17. Noise Abatement

One nuisance (barking dogs) persisted but as the result of a Nuisance Order being made it was abated for a short period.

18. Notices Served

	Statute	Informal	Formal
(a)	Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960:		
	(i) Site defects	3	
	(ii) Unauthorised siting	-	
(b)	Civic Amenities Act, 1967:		
	(i) Abandoned rubbish	3	
	(ii) Abandoned vehicles	2	
(c)	Clean Air Act, 1956:		
	(i) Smoke nuisance	4	
	(ii) Chimney heights	-	
(d)	Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957	1	
(e)	Factories Act, 1961:		
	(i) Sanitary conveniences	3	
(f)	Food and Drugs Act, 1955:		
	(i) Unsound food/foreign bodies	3	
(g)	Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:	31	
(h)	Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966:		
(i)	Housing Act, 1957:		
	(i) Houses repairable at reasonable cost	9	
(j)	Litter Act, 1958:	1	
(k)	Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959:		
	(i) Milk suspected of causing disease (Undulant Fever)		

# Notices served (Cont)

Statute	Informal	Formal
(l) Noise Abatement Act, 1960:	1	
(m) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:	4	
(n) Public Health Act, 1936:		
(i) Section 39 - Unsatisfactory drainage, etc.	5	
(ii) Section 50 - Overflowing cesspools	8	
(iii) Section 58 - Dilapidated buildings	-	
(iv) Section 60 - Means of escape in case of fire	-	
(v) Section 93 - Nuisances -		
(i) disrepair of houses	9	
(ii) other nuisances	12	
(o) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:	3	
(p) Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 and Public Health Act, 1961, Section 73:	7	
(q) Slaughterhouses Act, 1958:	1	
(r) Water Act, 1945:	1	

## 19. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

- (a) There has been a decrease in the number of persons employed in premises subject to the Act. This has been noticeable in catering premises and the smaller food shops and has been attributed by some employers to the selective Employment Tax. In the latter premises it may well be that the economic pressure from supermarkets has also had a bearing on this matter.

There have been no problems in enforcing the provisions of the Act.

/Continued ...



Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Cont)

(b) Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises (1)	No. of premises newly registered during the year. (2)	Total No. of registered premises at end of year. (3)	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year. (4)
Offices	Nil	17	3
Retail shops	2	50	50
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	12	12
Fuel storage depots	Nil	2	1
Totals	3	86	68

(c) Analysis of work place of persons employed in registered premises at end of year.

Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	64
Retail shops	137
Wholesale departments, warehouses	10
Catering establishments open to the public	63
Canteens	5
Fuel storage depots	9
Total	288
Total Males	99
Total Females	189

/Continued ....

(d) Analysis of contraventions.

Section	No. of contraventions found		Section	No. of contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	1	13	Sitting facilities	
5	Overcrowding		14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	
6	Temperature	2	15	Eating facilities	
7	Ventilation		16	Floors, passage and stairs	
8	Lighting		17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	
9	Sanitary conveniences		18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	
10	Washing facilities	3	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	
11	Supply of drinking water		23	Prohibition of heavy work	
12	Clothing accommodation	1	24	First aid	15
				Other matters	15
				TOTAL	37

20. Petroleum Acts

- (a) A new Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions which applies to the storage of Cans, Drums and Other Receptacles and Filling Stations was published in August, 1968. This code supercedes the Code which had been in operation since 1957.
- (b) The Model has substantially altered the previous recommendations for the storage of petroleum and petroleum mixtures and it gives guidance on such recent innovations as self-service stations, latched automatic cut-off nozzles as well as on the methods of installing storage tanks and electrical apparatus.
- (c) Early in the year there was also issued an Order varying the fees payable for petroleum licences. The fees were originally fixed in 1928 and an increase had been long overdue. All the rates have been increased, throughout the scale, four-fold. The new charges are now £1. 0s. 0d. for 100 gallons progressing up to £20. 0s. 0d. for 50,000 gallons.

/Continued ...



## Petroleum Acts (Cont)

- (d) These two major alterations necessitated the issue of new licences for all installations and the drafting of new conditions of licence. Considerable help and co-operation was received from the Chief Fire Officers Dept., Somerset County Council, in this respect.
- (e) A Wessex and South Wales Branch of the Association for Petroleum Acts Administration was formed during the year and this Council are recorded as being one of the founder members. The formation of this Branch is particularly helpful to the Department as we are now able to discuss problems and obtain advice from colleagues in areas as widely separated as Cornwall and South Wales.
- (f) (i) Licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit at 85 premises during the year. This figure comprises:
- 36 garages and filling stations;
  - 31 farm installations;
  - 21 industrial users.

## 21. Poultry Processing and Packing Establishments:

- (a) There are two establishments in the area with a total weekly kill of about 160 birds (hens and broilers)
- (b) Improvements were carried out at one of the premises during the year in that slaughtering and de-feathering have now been separated from the evisceration section. This has involved the construction of a new building.

## 22. Sewage Disposal

(Information supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor)

- (a) List of parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems: -

Ash	Mudford
Chilthorne Domer	South Petherton
East Coker	Stoke-sub-Hamdon
Haselbury Plucknett	Tintinhull
Ilchester	West Coker
Martock	Yeovil Without.
Montacute	

/Continued ....



## Sewage Disposal (Cont)

- (b) The Ash and Tintinhull Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works was completed at a cost of £134,000.
- (c) The following schemes were in progress during the year:

Marston Magna, Rimpton, West Camel - sewers and disposal works  
£189,000.

Barwick and Stoford - sewers £60,000.

## 23. Refuse Collection and Disposal

### (a) Refuse Collection

During the year the fleet of vehicles was brought up to the desired standard by the purchase and delivery of two further Karrier Ramillies 50 cu. yd. rear loaders. The fleet now comprises four of these vehicles one of which is kept in reserve. Since the opening of the Depot where there are good cleaning facilities it has been possible to arrange for the thorough washing down of each vehicle at the end of each working day.

### (b) Incentive Bonus Scheme

Since its inception in January 1965 approximately 800 new properties have been added to the weekly targets. On the other hand because of the provision of vehicles capable of holding much bigger pay loads and thus greatly increasing the amount of effective time it has been found possible to cope with a continually increasing volume of refuse without making extra demands on the employees engaged in this work. The employees however made several requests during the year for a favourable review of the existing incentive system. They have now agreed to accept that their request should be deferred until the service has undergone Work Study.

I regret to report that the employees make very little use of the excellent bathing and drying facilities which have been provided for them at the Depot.

### (c) Refuse Disposal

It was necessary to report that the existing tip which has been in use since 1948 was approaching the end of its useful life. Negotiations for the acquisition of adjoining land for use as a future site have now been commenced.

During the year ten special collections of household refuse were made.

/Continued ....

## Refuse Collection and Disposal (Cont)

(d) Salvage

Two employees were absent from work for long periods during the year and because of shortage of manpower very little time was available for the salvage of waste paper.

24. Rodent Control

- (i) This service is given free of charge to householders for the eradication of rats, mice and insect pests but a charge is made for farms and other business premises. One part-time rodent operator is employed.
- (ii) A substantial increase in rat infestations (about 100%) was noted during October, November and December. This increase was country wide and is attributed to favourable weather and breeding conditions during the late summer. We have not found any evidence of warfarin resistance in rats in this area as yet. The nearest reported cases have been in Gloucestershire.
- (iii) Summary of treatments:

PROPERTIES (other than sewers)

TYPE OF PROPERTY	
NON AGRIC.	AGRIC.
9352	390
575	8
344	4
40	--
88	--
78	--
--	--

## 25. Water Supplies

- (i) Mains Services:

Further difficulties were experienced due to excessive iron-oxide deposits in some old mains.

/Continued . . . .



## Water Supplies (Cont)

### (i) Mains Services (Cont)

It is understood that the Water Board are preparing a scheme for de-scaling the mains throughout the area but in the meanwhile regular flushing was carried out in affected parishes.

### (ii) Private Supplies:

Normal fluctuations only were experienced.

### (iii) Supply details:

- (a) Number of dwellings - (1) on mains supply - 8408  
(2) Not on mains supply - 128
- (b) Number of parishes with piped water supply from: -
  - (i) Public mains - 29
  - (ii) Private sources 1 (part only)
- (c) Number of parishes without a piped supply and which cannot be supplied at a reasonable cost  
NIL
- (d) Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for: -
  - (i) Well water - NIL
  - (ii) Private source - 1
  - (iii) Other - NIL
- (e) Number of wells closed - NIL
- (f) Number of houses relying on :-
  - (i) Well supplies - 72
  - (ii) Spring supplies - 56

### (iv) Sampling

#### (a) Mains supplies:

Thirty-two samples were taken for bacteriological examination, two of which were unsatisfactory, (these were check samples of newly laid mains).

#### (b) Private supplies

Sixteen bacteriological samples were taken, five were unsatisfactory.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF YEovil IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of  
the Factories Act, 1961

- 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	12	3	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	84	12	3	NIL

- 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found in connection with Sections 1,  
2, 3 and 4 of the Act - NIL

/Continued ....

Appendix (Cont)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					NIL
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2		1	NIL
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	3	2		1	NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT      Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Glove Making	522	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

No other type of outwork was undertaken.







