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**Borough of Yeovil**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1961**



BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

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Mayor:

ALDERMAN JOSEPH PATRICK KELLY.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN CHARLES EDWARD HAWES.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor S. Pinder	:	Chairman
Alderman J. P. Kelly	:	Vice-Chairman
Councillor Mrs. H. Brown	:	
Councillor G. Gaylard	:	
Councillor R. T. Palmer	:	
Councillor J. A. Jones	:	


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

P. POWER FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer:  
M.I. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon	:	:	:	QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)
Senior Public Health Inspector:				C.G.H. RICE, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Food.
Public Health Inspectors	:			G.E. ROADHOUSE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R. San.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.  L. TAIT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Cert. P.H. I.E.B., R.S.H. Diploma Meat and Other Foods.



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TO THE  
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
YEovil BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1961.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of live births was 375, as compared with 353 for the previous year. The live birth rate was 15.3 as compared with 14.7 for the previous year and England and Wales 17.4.

Infantile Mortality

The number of infants who died under the age of 12 months was 10, as compared with 9 for the previous year. The Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e. number of deaths per 1,000 live births was 26.6 as compared with 25.4 for the previous year and England and Wales 21.4.

The Peri-natal Mortality Rate was 26.2 as compared with 22.4 for the previous year and 32.7 for England and Wales.

Death Rate

The Standardised Death Rate was 11.3 as compared with 13.03 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

As in previous years the major causes of death were Heart Disease, (all ages), 95, 113 for the year 1960, and Cancer, 62, 58 for the previous year. It will be noted from the table showing the age distribution at death (page 6), that excluding infants dying in the first twelve months of life, of the remaining 280 deaths, 265 occurred in people aged 65 years or over, 203 occurring in people who were aged 70 years or over.

Infectious Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 534. This total was mainly due to Measles, 489, and Whooping Cough, 31.

Immunisation

As in previous years, figures relating to immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox continue to be satisfactory. With regard to immunisation against Poliomyelitis, the figures for children are satisfactory, but there is ample room for improvement amongst the older age groups who are eligible for immunisation.

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. POWER FOX.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

## YEOVIL B O R O U G H

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1961

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,256
Rateable value (31st March, 1962)	...	...	...	...	£448,727
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31.3.62	...	...	...	...	£1,808
Number of inhabited houses (31.3.62)	...	...	...	...	8,025
Population	...	...	...	...	24,450

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,256 acres and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area.

The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation. The sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are: on the North, Mudford Road, 372 feet; on the West, Bunford Lane, 233 feet; and on the South, West Coker Road, 309 feet. The lowest point is on the East, beyond the Sewage Works, 96.7 feet.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is derived from the various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows:- Spring Pond (two springs), Evershot Tunnel, upper and lower Haydon Wood, Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. All the water is chlorinated, and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality. Unfortunately, the quantity available does not meet the present demand, which is approximately 1,400,000 gallons per day. An arrangement has been agreed to with the Yeovil Rural District Council to obtain an additional supply from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, which ensures adequate supplies for the foreseeable future.

### METEOROLOGY

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

### RAINFALL

Pen Mill. Total rainfall = 28.65 inches.

### POPULATION

The population for 1961 is 24,450.

### OCCUPATION

One of the main industries of Yeovil is in the manufacture of leather gloves, and includes all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

In addition to the gloving industry, there is a thriving aircraft industry and other light engineering industries. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy products.



## YEOVIL HOSPITAL

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

- (1) The Yeovil and District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Five Crossways) - 14 beds.
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital - a General Practitioners Unit - 17 beds.

The Yeovil Hospital consists of 85 beds, of which 6 beds are private. The number of patients discharged throughout the year was 2,721 (2,587 in 1960), the average length of stay being 10 to 21 days. In addition, 5,659 new patients attended the Specialist and out-patient clinics, making a total number of attendances of 21,158.

In addition, there were 2,016 attendances at the Orthoptic Department, and 22,235 units of work were carried out in the Radiological Department. Members of the Council are already aware of the difficulties due to the lack of beds and inadequate facilities of the present hospital, but steady, if slow, progress is being made to the building of a new hospital of approximately 300 beds.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

## TUBERCULOSIS

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

## CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (100 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the Hospital.

## LABORATORY SERVICE

A laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory at Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents are also carried out.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at the Summerlands Hospital. The ambulances and larger types of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24 hour service is maintained.



# HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the resume showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses etc., completed during the year ended 31.12.61	=	22
Houses etc., erected pre-war ... ..	=	1,596
Houses etc., sold pre-war ... ..	=	113
Houses owned at 31st December, 1939 ... ..	=	1,483
Houses etc., erected post-war ... ..	=	1,374
Houses etc., sold post-war ... ..	=	106
		<u>1,268</u>

Houses etc., erected by the Local Authority and still owned by them ... ..	=	2,749
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Number of applicants on the waiting list at 31.12.61 = 563

# VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show 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 bigger 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	...	...	...	...	...	375
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.3
Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.6
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births	...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	381
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	10
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	26.6
" " " " " legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	27.7
" " " " " illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	-
Neo-natal Mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	16%
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	10.6
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	26.2
Percentage of illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.26
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

## DEATHS

			<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Deaths	148	142	290	320
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			11.8	13.3
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population			11.3	13.03
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	59	50
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	...	...	95	113
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	...	1	1

## BIRTHS

The total number of births was 375, 183 male and 192 female. Of these, 16 were illegitimate, 4 male and 12 female. The table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

## BIRTH RATES

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
15.08	14.9	13.5	15.0	14.2	15.9	15.6	15.3	14.7	15.3

## DEATHS

There was a decrease in the total number of deaths, 290 in 1961, as compared with 320 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 11.3, as compared with 13.05 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 148 deaths, 134 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 79 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 142 deaths, 131 were 65 years and over, and 90 were 75 years and over.

1961

Ages at death in years				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	6	4	10
1	...	...	...	-	-	-
5	...	...	...	-	2	2
15	...	...	...	-	-	-
25	...	...	...	1	1	2
45	...	...	...	7	4	11
65	...	...	...	38	24	62
Total under 70 ...				52	35	87
70	...	...	...	17	17	34
75	...	...	...	23	15	38
80	...	...	...	26	24	50
85	...	...	...	21	23	44
90	...	...	...	8	20	28
95	...	...	...	1	8	9
Over 100				-	-	-
Total over 70 ...				96	107	203
Totals ...				148	142	290



The following table shows the causes of death during 1961.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis respiratory ...	1	-
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	5	4
" " lung, 'bronchus	8	2
" " breast ...	-	9
" " uterus ...	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	1
Diabetes ... ..	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	28
Coronary disease, angina ...	27	10
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
Other heart disease ...	23	30
Other circulatory disease ...	6	10
Influenza ... ..	1	3
Pneumonia ... ..	2	6
Bronchitis ... ..	9	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	-
Congenital malformations ...	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	2
All other accidents ...	-	3
Suicide ... ..	3	1
	148	142

#### DEATH RATE

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
10.57	10.85	9.57	11.34	12.02	11.8	11.2	10.1	13.03	11.3

#### CANCER

The number of death due to cancer (all forms) was 59. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
48	51	41	49	40	59	51	48	50	59



CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION:

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Yeovil Boro'	2.06	2.02	2.14	1.7	2.04	1.6	2.04	2.1	1.9	2.13	2.4
County of Somerset	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06	2.046	1.89	2.054	2.018	2.12	2.157	2.22
England & Wales	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12	2.13	2.15	2.16

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 10, as compared with 9 for the previous year. The rate per thousand of live births was 26.6, as compared with England and Wales - 22.4.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. of Deaths	9	11	8	7	5	8	5	9	12	9	10
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil	25	30	22.5	21.7	13.8	23.3	13.05	27.6	32.6	25.4	26.6
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.1	22.5	22.6	21.9	22.4

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 weeks
"	...	...	...	...	...	...	27 "
"	...	...	...	...	...	...	27 "
"	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 "
Cerebral Haemorrhage, acute Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 months
Congenital Heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 month
Congenital Heart Disease, Transposition of Great Vessels	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 months
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 months
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 weeks
Hydrocephalus, Meningo-encephalocoele, Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 days

### AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours	Under one week	1 month or under	Under one year
1	4	7	10

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

CAUSES					Cases notified	
					1961	1960
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	489	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	31	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	3	6
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	2	-
Total					534	42

### IMMUNIZATION

#### Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children who completed a full course of primary immunization during the year 1961.

	Children born in the years:-							Total
	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51	
Diphtheria	159	219	28	17	14	43	7	487
Whooping Cough	146	215	27	16	13	12	5	434

In addition, 174 children in the same age groups received reinforcement or "booster" doses against Diphtheria.

#### Smallpox

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
No. or Primary Vaccinations	362	33	21	6	-	362

In addition, 5 persons were re-vaccinated.

PoliomyelitisPrimary Course (2 injections)

<u>Born 1945-61</u>	<u>Born 1953-42</u>	<u>Persons under 40</u>	<u>Persons Over 40</u>	<u>Total</u>
464	132	432	31	1,059

Re-inforcement Doses

<u>3rd injection</u>	<u>4th injection (children aged 5 - 12 yrs)</u>
1,218	2,116

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year was 8, non-pulmonary 4. There was one death recorded due to pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	8	9	12	12	17	24	28	26	18
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	4	1	4	2	4	4	4	4	7
No. of deaths Pulmonary 1 ...	1	1	-	2	-	2	2	5	4
No. of deaths Non- pulmonary ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Death Rate of respir- atory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.08	-	0.08	0.08	0.20	0.17

The Death Rate of all forms of Tuberculosis for England and Wales was 0.065as compared with Yeovil 0.04.



Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ...	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
35 ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 ...	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 and up-wards	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	3	2	2	1	-	-	-

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Ante-natal cases ... 74  
Number of Post-natal cases ... 35  
Number of children under 5 years 182

#### HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

##### Infants:-

Primary visits ..... 417  
Subsequent visits ..... 2,926  
Visits to children 1 - 5 years .... 2,576

#### BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 6,715 individual pregnant women have been examined, 851 examinations being carried out in 1961.

The areas from which the patients are drawn, are, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the private practitioner or midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the patient's blood group, and whether she is Rh. Positive or Rh. Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test, is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the Midwife or Matron of the maternity unit, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.



A record of all blood tests is kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rh. Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out 6 to 8 weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton, so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures and is a source of considerable gratification.

#### INFANT WELFARE

##### Preston Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	...	531
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	...	265
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	...	2,931

##### Larkhill Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	...	74
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	...	33
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	...	211

##### Southville Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	...	217
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	...	89
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	...	1,080

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

I am indebted to the Home Help Organiser for the following report.

While 1961 has been a very busy year, it was not expected to find that the Service had increased a great deal, if at all. The figures for the year for the whole County however, show that for the first time we are helping over 2,000 cases a week - an increase of 123 over last year, and that all types of cases helped increased over 1960. 795 more cases ceased than in 1960, and we helped 316 more. The organising staff made 16,912 visits, 2,798 more than in 1960.

The Service has come a long way since it started experimentally in July, 1948. The W.V.S. accepted the task of inaugurating the service in this County, and it was in Yeovil that the first Home Help was enrolled. As the work of organisation increased, the W.V.S. gradually relinquished their charge to official organisers, and so the work has increased to the service as we know it today.

In common with other Areas, our main commitment is now the care of the Aged and Infirm. Out of 311 cases helped in Yeovil last year, 196 cases were over 65 years of age. For example, an old lady of 81 years of age, confined to her bed as a chronic sick case, manages with help going in for two hours daily in the afternoon, to prepare a meal for herself and her son. In the evening when he comes home from work he then does everything possible for his mother's comfort, and again before he goes to work in the early morning.

Another old lady of over 90 years of age who is totally blind, manages with a Home Help three hours daily during the week, two hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and with the kindness of a good neighbour, has been able to remain in her own home.

We have many cases such as these that would need hospital care if it were not for the Service.

Doctors, Nurses and Almoners now regard the Service as a source from which reliable help will be forthcoming. The public do not hesitate to avail themselves, of its help in times of emergency, and a strict eye is kept on the ever present few who would seek to abuse the Service, and families are encouraged to look after their aged parents wherever possible.

#### Home

The 45 women working as Helps in Yeovil, know only too well that they must be adaptable, kind, know what is best for the patient, and use good common sense when discharging their normal household duties.

Since the new Mental Health Act started, fewer cases are being admitted to hospital, and the Home Help has been found invaluable where not only housework is essential but someone who is able to ward off the moods of depression and self-pity.

52 Maternity cases received Home Help in Yeovil during 1961, an increase of 20 cases in the previous year, the majority of cases having help for two weeks.

The work of the Home Help Service continues to be an essential auxiliary to the health and welfare services, and we go forward with hope and enthusiasm to meet the every increasing demand.

#### No. of cases who received help in 1961

<u>Type of Case</u>					<u>Yeovil Borough</u>
Mental Health	...	...	...	...	2
Maternity	...	...	...	...	52
Old Age and Infirmary	...	...	...	...	196
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	...	18
Emergency Illness	...	...	...	...	16
Families of motherless children	...	...	...	...	2
Post-operation	...	...	...	...	21
Total					311

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

#### REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service provides for remedial and preventive treatment, and consists of:-

- (a) Routine and Special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailment treatment.
- (c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
- (d) Dental inspection and treatment.
- (e) A much expanded scheme, in co-operation with the Hospital Services, for the treatment of defects of vision, and of ear, nose and throat.
- (f) Routine colour vision testing of children.
- (g) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity.
- (h) Speech Therapy.
- (i) Ultra Violet Light clinics for debilitated children.
- (j) Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of re-inforcement inoculations of children already immunised, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are also immunised.
- (k) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended

mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The number of children initially enrolled was 31, the number on the roll in December, 1961, was 37. The total number of attendances in the year was 482, and since the inception of the scheme 179 children have been or are being treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children attending regularly, as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of Asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.



R E P O R T  
OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1961

To: The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I present, herewith, my Report for the year 1961.

HOUSING ACT 1957.

Since 1955 a total of 417 houses has been dealt with as unfit under the Act.

Some still remain to be dealt with, but more attention is being directed towards many of the older houses which can be reconditioned and made good for a number of years. Many previously tenanted houses are being purchased for owner occupation, and the Improvement Grant aid has provided an incentive. On the other hand, landlords of tenanted properties are showing no enthusiasm for this type of financial assistance in helping to save their properties from going further into disrepair.

DETAILS OF HOUSING ACTION:

<u>A. CLEARANCE AREAS:</u>	
Number of areas declared .....	3
(a) Houses in pink land .....	14
(b) Houses in grey land .....	3
Number in (a) demolished .....	30
Number in (b) demolished .....	15
<u>B. INDIVIDUAL UNFITS:</u>	
Number dealt with (c) under Section 16 of the Act .....	28
(d) under Section 18 of the Act .....	2
<u>C. UNFIT HOUSES RENDERED FIT:</u>	
Formally under the Housing Act .....	8

COMPLAINTS:

Included below is a list of the various complaints received by the Department during the year:-

General housing defects .....	47
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.....	35
Smoke, dust and effluvia .....	8
Rats and mice .....	115
re: Unfit food and food premises .....	16
Keeping of animals and poultry .....	6
Factories and other premises .....	2
Insect pest .....	31
Overcrowding .....	1
Nuisances from water courses .....	2
Noise .....	1
Movable dwellings .....	2
Offensive trades .....	4
Suspected food poisoning .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	12

HOUSING INSPECTIONS:

Houses and other premises inspected:

(a) under the Public Health Act .....	49
(b) under the Housing Act .....	133

Reinspections:

(a) under the Public Health Act .....	52
(b) under the Housing Act .....	314



Complaints .....	129
Drainage .....	40
Verminous premises .....	11
Movable dwellings .....	21
Offensive trades .....	13
Inspections re: S.D.A.A. Loans .....	23
Improvement Grants .....	27
Standard Grants .....	12
Searches ( cursory inspections) .....	140
Noise .....	1
Complaints re Rodents (a) by Public Health Dept....	34
(b) by Rodent Operator .....	835
Interviewing owners, builders, etc .....	844

Smoke nuisances .....	5
Smoke observations .....	9
Boiler inspections .....	3

Slaughterhouses .....	1342
Butchers' Shops .....	32
Cafes, restaurants, etc .....	47
Bakehouses .....	8
Dairies .....	4
Icecream premises .....	71
re Applications for registrations .....	16
Fish Shops .....	18
Provision dealers .....	170
Cooked Meat Shops .....	14
Public Houses .....	27
Stalls .....	164
Fish & chip shops .....	2
Other premises .....	59

During the year a survey of approximately 47 licensed premises was completed. Generally speaking the overall position is satisfactory, but attention to two matters is considered necessary. In the first place, with hot and cold water available in all premises, more use of detergents for glass washing is desirable, especially because of lipstick adhesions to the glasses. Secondly, with regard to smoking behind the bar, it does not appear to be generally known that drinks are included in the definition of food in the Regulations.

Water - Chemical .....	7
Water - Bacteriological .....	77
Icecream .....	15
Miscellaneous .....	16

Inspections .....	16
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No applications were received during the year and no action was therefore taken.

The following disinfections were carried out:-

Houses disinfected .....	12	
Rooms sprayed or fumigated for tuberculosis..	15	
" " " " " cancer .....	18	
" " " " " vermin .....	9	(disinfestation).
Library Books .....	54	
Gloving fumigated .....	4	

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	19	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
=====					
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs). for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	22	154	-	-	378
(b) Cysticercosis	406	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	795	-	-	162	676
Total (in lbs.) condemned	1223	154	-	162	1054
=====					

OFFAL CONDEMNED:

	<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Heads & Tongues .....	11	11	-	2
Plucks .....	2	16	17	22
Lungs and Hearts .....	6	32	5	6
Lungs .....	13	117	49	74
Skirts .....	4	-	-	-
Kidneys .....	2	-	-	36
Livers .....	91	-	66	51
Part Livers .....	100	-	2	-
Milts .....	1	-	-	-
Guts .....	11	-	-	16

Note: The large number of whole or part livers condemned is due chiefly to parasitic infestation.

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED.

Jam .....	14 tins
Meat .....	327 "
Milk .....	216 "
Fruit and Vegetables .....	903 "
Fish .....	251 "
Hams .....	58 "
Soup .....	50 "

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Meat Paste .....	90 lbs.
Wet Fish .....	11 stone.
Chickens .....	7.
Cocoanut Macaroons .....	1 cwt.

FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959.

(a) Number of registered distributors .....	47
(b) Number of registered dairy premises (other than dairy farms) ..	4



Infectious Diseases Cont'd.

Clothes fumigated .....	18
Miscellaneous disinfections .....	14

SHOPS ACT 1950.

Inspections .....	113
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FOOD INSPECTION

The Queen Street Slaughterhouse continues to serve for the Borough and places farther afield. Practically 100% meat inspection is maintained at all times at both slaughterhouses in the Borough - a standard of inspection desired by the Ministry throughout the country.

Number of animals killed during the past five years:-

YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES	TOTAL
1957	2047	3951	9038	1774	16,810
1958	2205	3599	1,1050	1387	18,241
1959	1696	3850	7005	114	12,655
1960	1678	3223	4585	156	9,642
1961	1697	6503	2479	188	10,667

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole, or in part during the year:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1650	47	188	6503	2479
Number inspected	1650	47	188	6503	2479
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	4	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	171	4	-	128	213
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.3%	8.51%	.53%	2.02%	8.7%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	8	-	-	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.06%	17.02%	-	-	.88%



# FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955.

## Applications for registration of persons and premises:-

for the sale and storage of icecream .....	5
for the preparation of preserved food .....	2

## ICECREAM:

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year:-

for sale and storage only .....	91
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## PRESERVED FOOD:

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year ...	25
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## SAMPLES TAKEN.

### DESIGNATED MILKS (for keeping quality only):

	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Void.</u>
By Somerset C.C.	254	232	13	9

## ICECREAM:

	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Placed in provisional grades</u>			
		<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>
15	10	3	2	-	-
A reasonably good grade was maintained throughout the year.					

## SWIMMING BATHS WATER:

A new Public Swimming Bath is under construction.

## WATER:

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>
Main supplies (to cover all sources)	43	38	1	1
Source supplies (supplying mains)	9	6	5	5

**Note:** Tests are now made for residual chlorine in each sample taken. All water supplies are chlorinated before passing into the main.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

### 1. Sewerage System:

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was again systematically tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out. The infestations have proved to be of a minor character.

Areas test baited .....	12
Points baited .....	352
Negative results (presumed clear) .....	301
Total number of visits made .....	654

### 2. Private Premises (including business premises):

Number of premises visited .....	986
Number treated for some degree of infestation .....	452
Number with no infestation .....	534
Number of points baited .....	5268
Number of premises cleared .....	447

### 3. Corporation Premises:

Inspections and treatments are carried out at the Corporation Sewage Works and refuse tip regularly. The work is done as a routine measure in order to keep any infestation under control.

During the year approximately 100 visits were made and more than 800 points baited.

Approximately 115 visits were made in connection with three contracts at business and factory premises.

ACTION UNDER SECTION 24 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Number of lengths of sewer cleared ..... 6  
Number of houses involved ..... 33

I again record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support throughout the year, also the Members of the Staff of my Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.G.H.RICE





