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1968

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JAMES L. HUNTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.
R. E. FLETCHER, M.B., Ch.B.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health.
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CHARLES E. PEARSON, M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector.
JOHN J. PATTISON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.	Additional Public Health Inspector
ROBERT TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector
LESLIE CRELLING, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.	Technical Assistant to July 1968. Additional Public Health Inspector from August 1968.
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ROBERT ROBINSON	Cleansing Foreman
LEONARD BLAND	Rodent Operator.

TOWN HALL,
WORKINGTON.

July, 1969.

*To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Workington.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my last annual report (1968) as your Medical Officer of Health. It is written along the lines laid down by Circular No. 1/69 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The vital statistics for the year 1968 were generally good. Among infectious diseases only measles assumed relatively large proportions but there is some indication that measles vaccination has started to play its part in the elimination of the disease. The number of notifications of tuberculosis was greater in 1968 than in the last five years and there were two deaths ascribed to this cause. Here again the attention of parents should be drawn to the safe procedure of B.C.G. vaccination to prevent tuberculosis in the young. Vaccination is readily available and offered routinely by letter to the parent at the school age of 13 years.

Although the Registrar-General's mid year estimate of population results in a figure of 29,990 (an increase of 80 on the year 1967) the birth rate has fallen and the death rate has increased. Local information indicates an emigration of younger people from the area. It is hoped that the introduction of new industries will stem this trend.

The infantile death rate itself continued to stay under the national figure (Workington—17, England and Wales—18). The peri-natal mortality was the lowest recorded in the Borough since calculations were first made in 1956.

In the year 1950 when I took up office as your Medical Officer the infantile mortality rate was 37. Among the 20 deaths contributing to this figure were ten ascribed to causes that now operate only rarely. The great advances in medical and surgical treatment and the improving quality of ante-natal and peri-natal care have brought about both a diminution in death and, paradoxically, an increase in the survival of a greater number of the physically handicapped. There are

few deaths now in toddlers and children of school age. The infectious diseases appear to have either disappeared through mass vaccination or to have become mild in character and infrequent in incidence (e.g. scarlet fever, erysipelas) and, of course, more amenable to treatment by modern antibiotics. Better living standards, earlier diagnosis, B.C.G. vaccination, and improved treatment, have brought about a great fall in the incidence of tuberculosis. The danger to younger people who have not been protected probably lies mainly in the mild, but still infective, case in the older generation.

The state of nutrition of children, so low in this area before the second world war, has gradually improved to the point where there is more concern for the fat child than for the undernourished. Obesity, too, carried on into adult age exposes the individual to greater danger from diabetes and heart affections.

Frank slum conditions have disappeared although numbers of sub-standard properties still require representation.

The older concept of environment and the sharp line of demarcation between environmental health and personal health require revision. Communities are very little isolated nowadays. The accelerated speed of travel, improved roads carrying more and more vehicles, "grids" of supply in water, gas, electricity, new industries, revised systems of accommodation in schools, mass procedures in the prevention of disease, and other factors, have all combined to remove barriers in environment. As central redevelopment in the town proceeds and as houses become more spaced, town and country tend to merge or at least become less differentiated and access one to the other is facilitated.

The tripartite system of administration of the health services set up by the National Health Service Act of 1948 gave free medical care to all and was a great advance in the history of medicine but tended to set the three branches along three channels. Although minor links of intercommunication have been developed much thought is now being directed towards better integration of each of the parts. In this county a great advance has been made by the introduction of family health care through the joining-up of the nursing services to the family doctors. The wider aspect of community needs of the citizen-patient in hospital and out of hospital, and his transition from one to the other so as to cover continuing medical and welfare requirements, is also

undergoing change. The health hazards and needs of the community in the widest sense demand a co-ordination of effort and it would seem logical that a community physician emerge from the administrative public health doctor.

For the immediate future of the town the public health needs are to do with housing—house building, clearance of some substandard houses and improvement of others—application of further measures in smoke control, continued interest in food hygiene and further exploration of a long term solution for the disposal of household and other waste.

May I take this last opportunity in writing to thank the members of the Council who, through the years, have always treated with respect and consideration the advice I have proffered (even although at times it has not been acceptable), and especially the successive chairmen of the Public Health Committee. I thank also the Town Clerk and the other chief officers for much co-operation and help. I am most indebted to the staff of my own department in whom I have been uniformly fortunate in support and kindness. It has been a special pleasure to see two young men of the area become qualified as Public Health Inspectors and the Council is to be congratulated for accepting the idea of training within the establishment.

I wish also to record my thanks to all my colleagues in public health and in particular Dr. J. Leiper, the County Medical Officer, for his considerable help in information, advice and co-operation in matters relating to the town; to my colleagues in general practice who have been most helpful beyond statutory requirements; and to my colleagues in hospital and the Public Health Laboratory.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. HUNTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

1. General

(a) The run-down in one of the former stable industries of the area, i.e. coal-mining, probably accounts for an increase in the numbers of unemployed adult men. At the end of the year 1968 a total of 616 men (520 in 1967), 253 women (332 in 1967) and 50 boys and girls (76 in 1967). The national unemployment percentage figure at that time was 2.6 and for the area including Workington was 5.2.

(b) Town Statistics.

Area in Acres	5,644
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate of Residents—mid year 1968) ...	29,990
Rateable Value	£1,181,772
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£4,740
Total number of domestic premises ...	9,595

2. Vital Statistics

Births

Live Births.

Number: 471.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate Births ...	206	228	434
Illegitimate Births	16	21	37
	<hr/> 222	<hr/> 249	<hr/> 471

Rate per 1,000 population 15.7

Adjusted rate (factor 1.0) ... 15.7

Illegitimate live births (per
cent. of total live births) 7.9%

Still Births:

Number: 6 (all legitimate).

Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 12.6

Infant Deaths:

Number: 8 (including 2 illegitimate).

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births 17.0

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000
legitimate live births 14.3

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000
illegitimate live births 54.1

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per total live births) ...	14.9
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	10.8
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live births)	23.3

Deaths.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths (all ages)	193	178	371
Crude death rate per 1,000 population		12.4	
Adjusted death rate		14.2	
Deaths from certain causes:			
Tuberculosis		2	
Total cancer deaths		71	
Cancer of the lung		15	
Cancer of the uterus		2	
Cancer of the breast		5	
Leukaemia		Nil	
Influenza		2	
Pneumonia		9	
Bronchitis		29	
Motor vehicle accidents		5	
Other accidents		8	
Suicide		3	

3. Notes and Comparisons on Vital Statistics.

Births.

The number of births fell for the third year in succession which fact may be related to young married people leaving the town because of economic conditions, but other factors could be exerting an influence. The national trend is also downwards. The comparable birth rates for the last four years are as follows:—

	1968	1967	1966	1965
Workington M.B. (adjusted) ...	15.1	16.1	17.2	19.2
Urban districts of Cumberland	15.8	17.0	16.8	18.2
Rural districts of Cumberland	14.6	15.3	16.0	16.8
Administrative county of Cumberland	15.1	16.0	16.3	17.4
England and Wales	16.9*	17.2	17.7	18.0

*Estimated

Deaths.

The adjusted death rate for 1968 was 14.3, again an increase on the previous year (13.0). The comparable death rates for the last four years are as follows:—

	1968	1967	1966	1965
Workington M.B. adjusted ...	14.3	13.0	12.5	13.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	12.7	11.4	12.2	12.3
Rural Districts of Cumberland	12.1	11.3	12.3	11.8
Administrative County of Cumberland	12.4	11.3	12.3	12.0
England and Wales	11.9	11.2	11.7	11.5

Two deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis—the first deaths due to this cause for six years and both occurring in the older age groups. Deaths from cancer of the lung fell by three to a total of 15.

Tables 1 and 2 below give respectively the age at death of Workington residents and the causes of death as attributed by the Registrar-General. In Table 1 the second total number of deaths in 1950 is given to show the change over the years in which age groups maximum deaths fall.

TABLE 1
Age at Death of Workington Residents—1968

Age Groups	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	75 & over	Total
Males	3	—	1	—	1	1	6	20	46	61	54	193
Females	4	1	—	—	2	1	4	12	27	53	74	178
Total 1968	7	1	1	—	3	2	10	32	73	114	128	371
Total 1950	20		4	2	4	7	19	29	59	102	124	369

Table 2
Causes of Death—Total all Ages—1968

<i>Serial.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
B5	Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
B19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	11	2	13
B19 (2)	Do. Lung, bronchii	11	4	15
B19 (3)	Do. Breast	—	5	5
B19 (4)	Do. Uterus	—	2	2
B19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms ...	18	18	36
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	2	2
B21	Diabetis mellitus	—	4	4
B22	Avitaminosis, etc	1	—	1
B46 (1)	Other endocrine, etc. diseases	1	—	1
B23	Anaemias	1	—	1
B46 (3)	Mental disorders	—	1	1
B46 (4)	Other diseases of nervous systems, etc.	2	—	2
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	2	2
B27	Hypertensive disease	3	3	6
B28	Isthæmic heart disease	47	43	90
B29	Other forms of heart disease	6	6	12
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	24	37	61
B46 (5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	11	12	23
B31	Influenza	—	2	2
B32	Pneumonia	3	6	9
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema ...	22	7	29
B46 (6)	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
B34	Peptic ulcer	2	2	4
B35	Appendicitis	1	—	1
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	—	2
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	1	2	3
B46 (7)	Other diseases of digestive system	2	1	3
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
B39	Hypoplasia of prostate	1	—	1
B46 (8)	Other diseases— genito-urinary	1	1	2
B42	Congenital anaemias	—	2	2
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2

B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1	2
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	3	5
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	5	—	5
BE40	All other accidents	3	5	8
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	—	3
BE50	All other external causes	1	1	2
Total all causes		193	178	371

4. Infantile and Peri-natal Mortality.

There were eight infant deaths under the age of one year including one female infant found drowned on the shore and whose origin was not traced. Four infants died of prematurity in the first day of life, two from congenital defects at 3 weeks and one from acute broncheo-bronchitis at the age of two months. The resultant infantile mortality for the year was 17.0 compared to 14.5 for the year 1967. With a lower number of stillbirths (6 as compared to 20 in 1967)) the perinatal mortality fell from 28 in 1967 to 23 in the year under consideration.

Table 3 below gives the annual infantile and peri-natal mortalities from the year 1911—in quinquennial periods to 1965 and thereafter by year for the town and for the comparable figure for England and Wales. Table 4 shows the distribution of infantile deaths by age and cause of death.

TABLE 3
Annual Infantile and Peri-Natal Mortality

Period.	Infantile Mortality.		Peri-natal Mortality	
	Workington M.B.	England and Wales.	Workington M.B.	England and Wales.
1911-1915	135	110		
1916-1920	113	90		
1921-1925	102	76		
1926-1930	76	68		
1931-1935	70	62		
1936-1940	63	55		
1941-1945	52	50		
1946-1950	41	36		
1951-1955	29	27		
1956-1960	30	23	46.8	35.0
1961-1965	16	21	28.2	29.5
1966	23.2	19.0	35.9	26.3
1967	14.5	18.3	28.0	25.5
1968	17.0	18.0	23.3	24.6

TABLE 4
Infantile Deaths shown by Age and Cause of Death

Cause of Death.	Age in Weeks				Age in Months						Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Prematurity	4				4						4
Congenital Defect				2	2						2
Respiratory Infection							1				1
Drowning	1				1						1
Total	5			2	7		1				8

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) Staff

There were no changes in staff during the year.

(b) Laboratory Services.

Routine samples of milk and water are undertaken by the Carlisle Laboratory of the Public Health Service under the direction of Dr. D. G. Davies to whom the Department has been much indebted over the year not only for routine work but for much help in queries and elucidation of food infestation and contamination.

Thanks are also due to the consultant pathologist of West Cumberland Hospital, Dr. D. Smith, who kindly carries out routine Vi-agglutinin tests for water personnel of the West Cumberland Water Board.

(c) Local Health Authority Services.

There are two clinic centres in Workington Borough—the main clinic at Park Lane adjacent to the Town Hall and a satellite clinic at Salterbeck. The services available at these clinics are as follows:—

Child Welfare—Immunisation and Health Education:

Park Lane—Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2-0 p.m.;

Salterbeck—Fridays at 2-0 p.m.

School Clinic: No fixed session but appointments for special cases are held according to need.

Dental Clinic: At both clinics by appointment.

Orthopaedic and After Care: By appointment (now changing to hospital out-patient department).

Speech Therapy and Teaching of the Deaf: By appointment.

Child Guidance: By appointment on Wednesdays at Park Lane.

In addition Cervical Cytology clinics are held at Park Lane and Salterbeck by appointment. Orthoptic treatment is carried out by appointment in cases selected by the consultant ophthalmologist at the out-patient department in Workington Infirmary or in the clinic by appointment.

(d) National Assistance Acts.

No proceedings were necessary under these acts during the year.

(e) Port Health.

No case of infectious disease was notified during the year. Re-vaccination against smallpox of ships' crews was well maintained during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector presents his report immediately after this one and gives in more detail the work carried out in environmental aspects of the health of the town. Here more general considerations are presented.

1. Housing.

A continuing survey is in hand of all housing conditions in the town so as to maintain a system of progress in dealing with substandard properties, review of areas suitable for improvement, and marching with new house-building, the redevelopment of the town centre, the improvement in the road system and the promotion of sites for new industry. The appearance of the town has greatly improved in these last two aspects over the last five years.

2. Water Supply.

The supply of water to the town is the duty of the West Cumberland Water Board. No changes have been made since the report of last year but the construction of the new treatment work at Cornhow proceeded and all sections should be working in 1969.

Sampling continued during the year both by the Water Board and the Corporation. Each make any report available to the other. A total of 50 samples of drinking water were taken in the town: of these three were unsatisfactory but repeat samples were clear of organisms. A chemical sample gave the following result.

Analysis:

Appearance	clear and colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	8.0
Colour (Hazen units)	less than 5
	—parts per million—
Total solids	24
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	less than 0.5
Chlorides, as Cl	14
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	1.1
Total hardness	16
Temporary hardness	12
Permanent hardness	4
Alkalinity	12
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	0.3
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	—
Poisonous metals	Nil
Total residual chlorine	0.1
Free available chlorine	less than 0.1

3. Sewerage.

No major works were in hand during the year.

4. Refuse Collection.

Approximately half of the houses in the town have been supplied with paper-bag stands. The conversion from metal bins to paper bags has been slower than planned because of the implementation of economy cuts which has had to be applied to such items in order to keep within a local expenditure in keeping with the national economy. For economic reasons there has also been delay in vehicle replacement.

The last few years have seen much pressure evoked by various agencies on the disposal side of the cleansing operation. Vast quantities of industrial and other refuse have been taken care of alongside household and shop refuse. The introduction of new factories, inside and on the periphery

of the town now demands quick consideration of a large tip for the use of such factories, the town and neighbouring authorities.

During the year a total weight of 8548 tons of household refuse was collected and tipped. In addition to household refuse brought to the tip in approximately 4000 loads other work of the Corporation brought over 2000 loads and private industry over 3000. Paper salvaged totalled 354 tons resulting in a money return of £3483.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. General

During the year new regulations revised the list of diseases compulsorily notifiable and also made any obligation to notify a case of disease solely on a medical practitioner. The comprehensive list now covers, measles (excluding rubella), dysentery, scarlet fever, diphtheria, acute meningitis, acute poliomyelitis (paralytic and non-paralytic), smallpox, ophthalmia neonatorum, anthrax, yellow fever, acute encephalitis (infective and post infectious), leptospirosis, paratyphoid fever, typhoid fever, food poisoning, whooping-cough, tetanus, infective jaundice and tuberculosis (respiratory, meninges and C.N.S., and other). Notable absences from the list are the pneumonias and purpuril pyrixia.

The general incidence of infectious disease in the town was low but the prevalence of measles, in and out of its normal season, continued. During 1968 itself the introduction of measles vaccination would not appear to have influenced the incidence of the disease because the new procedure was not well taken up at first.

2. Vaccination and Immunisation

Protection against certain diseases up to the age of 15 years was afforded as follows:

	Primary	Booster
Smallpox	169	4
Diphtheria	415	816
Tetanus	418	814
Poliomyelitis	433	348
Measles	382	—

3. Tuberculosis

Ten cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and there were two deaths of persons over 55 years ascribed to this cause.

The greatest need in prevention is probably the protection of the young from the infection by contact with the older members of the community in whom there may be an infection causing no apparent ill-health for long periods.

To this end vaccination is carried out by chest physicians for very young contacts and B.C.G. vaccination is a regular part of the school service being offered to children aged 13 years and over.

Precise figures appertaining to Workington school-children proper are not available as a number of children attend from outside the town. The figures for all attending borough schools were:—

Number of children born in 1955	471
Number listed after consent	376 (80%)
Number given protection	284 (67%)

The apparent large fall-off from the number consenting and listed and the number actually vaccinated is mainly due to vaccination in earlier years or non-suitability so to be treated by reason of contact with the disease.

Table V and Table VI which follow give the incidence of notifiable diseases and the number of deaths and death-rate from tuberculosis in the year 1968.

TABLE 5
WORKINGTON M.B.
Notification of Infectious Diseases—1968

Diseases	Total No. of cases.	Age Groups.											
		—1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5—9	10—14	15—24	25+			
Scarlet Fever	2						1		1				
Measles	281	9	32	45	51	57	81	6					
Meningitis	1	1											
Dysentery	4								1	3			
Whooping Cough	1				1								
Typhoid	1									1			
Infective Jaundice	2							1		1			
	Total No. of cases.	—1	1	2—4	5—9	10—14	15—19	20—24	25—44	45—54	55—64	65—74	75+
Tuberculosis:													
Respiratory	10			1		1			4	1	3		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1				

TABLE 6
Tuberculosis—Workington—1968
Deaths and Death-Rate.

Years	No. of Deaths—Workington			Death Rate per 1,000 Pop.	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total	Workington	England and Wales
1911-1915	27.3	4.8	42.1	1.69	1.41
1916-1920	21.8	13.4	35.2	1.25	1.48
1921-1925	17.4	6.6	24.0	0.88	1.08
1926-1930	18.2	8.2	26.4	1.01	0.94
1931-1935	22.8	8.0	30.8	1.19	0.81
1936-1940	20.0	5.4	25.4	0.92	0.67
1941-1945	19.7	5.9	25.6	0.86	0.66
1946-1950	17.2	1.8	19.0	0.67	0.48
1951-1955	9.0	0.8	9.8	0.34	0.22
1956-1960	2.2	0.4	2.6	0.09	0.10
1961-1965	0.6	—	0.6	0.02	0.06
1966	—	—	—	0.00	0.05
1967	—	—	—	0.00	0.04
1968	2.0	—	2.0	0.07	0.05*

* part year estimate.

4. Cancer and Bronchitis

Deaths from cancer totalled 71 an increase of 14 on the previous year. The distribution by sex and site was as follows: —

	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	11	2	13
Lung, bronchus	11	4	15
Breast	—	5	5
Uterus	—	2	2
Other forms	18	18	36
	40	31	71

Of the deaths from cancer of the lung one only occurred before the age of 45 years while 14 occurred after the age of 55. Although the number of deaths in the current year is lower than in 1967 the number is still four times that of twenty years ago. Two main preventive measures are still outstanding — The voluntary giving-up of the habit of smoking cigarettes by the individual and the corporate attack on air pollution from coal smoke.

Annual Report of The Chief Public Health Inspector

TOWN HALL,
WORKINGTON.

August, 1969.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Workington.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the work carried out in the Department during my fourth year of office.

Once again it is pleasing to note that the Department had a full complement of staff for this period and that much of the work commenced last year came to fruition during the year. Again our students justified their places on the establishment; Mr. L. Crelling successfully completed his studies at Salford by obtaining the Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors Education Board, and Mr. L. Shepherd passed the second year of his course at the Salford Technical College and subsequently entered his final year. Mr. Crelling's original appointment, in 1964, was that of Technical Assistant and I was delighted when the Council accepted, in July, that the establishment in the Department should be varied to allow for an Additional Public Health Inspector in lieu of a Technical Assistant and that Mr. Crelling should be appointed to this post. There is no doubt in my mind that with the work facing the department this will prove to be a wise decision.

As will be seen in the body of the report the Department was finally able to complete the survey of food premises under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. This in itself was a positive stride forward but nevertheless it must never be assumed that the situation can rest there. Good standards of hygiene can only be maintained by regular re-inspection and constant use of all the education media available. With these points in mind a schedule has been drawn up for the regular inspection of premises to a selected time table according to their type of trade. For instance food preparing premises offer a greater potential risk than say a greengrocer and so it is anticipated that the target which should be aimed at for food preparing premises should be in the region of

four visits per year whilst that for a greengrocer should be twice per year. However in setting such a standard it must always remain flexible and subject to variations should the need arise. As part of the educational side this year we instigated the use of hygiene swabs in liason with Dr. D. G. Davies, Public Health Laboratory, Carlisle, and this proved to be very useful—next year it is hoped that this will be supplemented with the use of the Agaroid Sausage technique.

There is no doubt that Health Education work generally is time consuming and sometimes a little inconvenient but nevertheless I am convinced that in the long term there will be an ample reward for the labour involved, and that it is in the best interests of the community as a whole that work in this field should continue to expand. Similarly "public relations", or should we now say "public participation", is another extremely important factor which can contribute to the success of a particular project. I feel that the public meeting on the improvement area and grant procedure generally was sufficient proof that one can get the public interested despite the pessimistic views one sometimes hears to the contrary. As times goes by I hope that we shall be able to organise more of this type of function on matters which will lend themselves to such treatment as in this way we can show the community why a particular project is being done on their behalf and if, in the end, we only manage to stimulate controversial discussion, then some purpose will have been achieved.

Whilst some progress has been made in the field of housing I am far from satisfied that we are moving as fast as we should be doing in order to overcome the problem within the foreseeable future. As mentioned in the Housing Section of this report the detailed inspections in the Marsh and Quay and for that matter in the Improvement Area, tended to confirm my 1965 external survey, and I would therefore suggest it is not unreasonable to assume that the remainder of the survey must also be relatively accurate. The proposals to deal with 100 houses per year for slum clearance, and 250 per year for improvement area procedure were based upon the survey but for various reasons, including staffing difficulties and lack of new houses as far as slum clearance is concerned, it has not been possible to meet these targets. Housing is one of the most important factors governing the individual's environment and it is imperative that every effort is made to keep up with the programme and that sufficient new houses are available in the "pipeline" to cater for the

needs of slum clearance. The problem is highlighted to an even greater extent when it is realised that the rate of deterioration of houses in certain parts of the town is proceeding at an even faster pace than anticipated in 1965 and some of the "lives" given at that time could well be rather optimistic in the light of present knowledge.

This year we have tried to improve the report a little further by incorporating a separate more detailed section on the refuse collection and disposal service rather than include it as part of the preamble as has been the practice in the past. I have not tried to make this section of the report a comprehensive review of the service but rather to give an outline which will be of general interest. It is hoped that this will prove to be acceptable and that as time goes by it can be amended and improved as experience dictates.

Whilst this report does not cover Dr. Hunter's last year in office, this will be the last time that our names will be linked together in such a manner. In the circumstances I would like to put on record my sincere appreciation for the way he has guided and helped me. I have thoroughly enjoyed our association and would wish both he and his wife a long and happy retirement.

I would thank the Chairman and Members of The Health Committee for their support and encouragement over the year and my fellow officers for their help. Finally this report would not be complete without making reference to the never failing willingness of the members of the department to tackle any problems, large or small, and meet any "deadline" asked for.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. A. FOGG,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Housing Acts.

Clay Street Improvement Area No. 1 was declared by resolution of the Council on the 6th February, 1968, and by the end of the year inspection of the tenanted properties in the area was complete. Work on the Show House started in September and proceeded satisfactorily despite the inclement weather which slowed down work in the early stages and it was expected that members of the public would be able to view the house early in 1969.

As the year progressed it became obvious that more publicity was needed to ensure that members of the public affected by Improvement Area proposals were better acquainted with the problems of area improvement and how it would affect them, and indeed the problem of "twilight housing" in general. To achieve this a public meeting was held in October which turned out to be very successful. The meeting began with the showing of two films, "The Bronze Horses", a Ministry of Housing and Local Government production, and a film from "Rentokil" Limited, on their electro-osmotic damp proofing system, followed by a short lecture on Improvement Areas, and a question and answer session which served to highlight some of the problems and clear the air somewhat.

After having entered the arena of Area Improvement with considerable enthusiasm and then savoured some of its frustrations and difficulties it is easy to see why only a few Local Authorities chose to use this method of improving their older housing stock. The way is fraught with many pitfalls, the machinery of enforcement is cumbersome and inflexible and the results achieved, in some cases, are almost negligible. The volume of paperwork is in itself capable of deterring many from using this method and when one becomes immersed in its all-enveloping mass it reduces the progress of those dealing with this side of housing work to an almost imperceptible crawl. The slowing down process begins immediately with the service of Requisitions for Information; it is relatively easy to ascertain the person having control, but the difficulty begins when determining the multitude of owners, lessees, mortgagees, trustees, executors etc., who must, under the provisions of the Act, receive a copy of every Notice served.

It is perhaps worthy of note that some tenants' refused to consent to the work being done owing to the limiting effect of the phrase "reasonable expense" as applied to improvements which the local authority can enforce. Consent

was withheld in several cases where the Preliminary Notice required conversion of an unused attic room to a bathroom, the tenants in each case saying they would agree to a ground floor extension, "like the one my neighbour has" but for various reasons, including infirmity and old age, were unable to agree to having an attic converted into a bathroom even though access to the attic was easy and straightforward. A preponderance of elderly tenants in the area is another factor for which one cannot legislate and it is understandable if, when the proposals are outlined in the initial stages, the tenant refuses to give his consent because he can't be bothered, doesn't want the mess or, as in some cases, because "I've lived in this house for over 60 years without a bathroom so why should I have one now". These are human problems which no legislation, however flexible, can deal with effectively, and they can only be overcome by patience and understanding. The problem of elderly tenants is, in this area, accompanied by one of equal magnitude—that of aged landlords and owners who again cannot be bothered at their age or, after having tried to keep their property in a reasonable condition on the pittance left after rates, insurance and agents fees etc., have been deducted from the "controlled" rent, find themselves with very little resources to carry out improvement works. It is this peculiar situation which has resulted in several Purchase Notices being served on the Council and accounted for the rush of requests for the Council to purchase properties subject to Improvement Notices.

A curious situation arose in the case of those few properties where the layout of the house prevented the normal (in this area) bathroom extension being required at ground floor level, the only alternative method of "improving" the house, by converting the scullery extension into a bathroom and the rear living room into a living/kitchen, was considerably more expensive and considerably reduced the already small living area even further.

Most of the tenanted houses in the area were in such a condition as to necessitate the service of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 and it is interesting to note that the average estimated cost of making these houses fit was very near to the figure of £125 per house quoted in the report on the 1967 sample survey. It is difficult to avoid causing distress to elderly tenants in the area when these works are done and some provision will have to be made for these old people to receive the necessary assistance in moving furniture and cleaning up of the premises after the work has been completed, so that unnecessary hardship is not caused.

Having looked at the black side of the exercise I still believe that the venture was justified, and, in the long term will prove worthwhile; furthermore I would still have been prepared to recommend moving ahead with a second area under the 1964 legislation despite all the difficulties.

The most important point is that the Council must show its faith in the area by not only continuing to invest money in the property, where appropriate, but also by carrying out the necessary environmental improvements in the very near future so as to encourage owners, prospective owners and building societies to continue to invest their money in the area. Then and only then shall we be able to finally see the end product of the time and effort involved. If, as I hope, the Council will go ahead, under the Housing Act 1969, with our proposed second area, when the inspections are complete, it will be interesting to compare the results of the "new" approach with those accomplished under the 1964 Act.

December saw the long awaited report on the Marsh and Quay submitted to the Council. On the whole the results of the detailed inspections confirmed those of my original external survey carried out in 1965, and, whilst this was of no surprise to me, I have no doubt that as a body the Council had hoped for something better. However, the situation is now clarified and the way open for the necessary steps to be taken as and when appropriate.

Housing, particularly when associated with the term slum clearance, has always been a subject highly charged with emotional appeal because not one of us likes the thought of being responsible for disturbing the elderly, creating personal hardships or breaking up a close community, nevertheless I feel that if one is doing what one believes to be right and in the best interests of the people in the long term then the problem should be dealt with firmly and, as with the nettle, perhaps the sting will not be so great as initially anticipated.

Dwelling Houses inspected and action taken

- (1) Individual unfit houses capable of repair at reasonable cost
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 28
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after services of formal notices:—
 - (i) By owner Nil
 - (ii) By local authority in default of owner ... Nil

(2) Individual unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable cost	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, and 23 Housing Act 1957	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	3
(b) Proceedings under Section 18 Housing Act 1957	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	4
(ii) Number of closing orders determined, the dwelling house having been rendered fit	Nil
(3) Clearance areas.	
(a) Proceedings under Section 42 Housing Act 1957	
(i) Number of clearance areas represented	Nil
(ii) Number of clearance areas declared	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	Nil
(iv) Number of dwelling houses included by reason of their bad arrangement	Nil
(b) Number Clearance Orders	Nil
(c) Number of Compulsory Purchase Orders ...	4
(4) Persons displaced and re-housed	
(a) Families	
(i) Rehoused from individual unfit dwelling houses	8
(ii) Rehoused from clearance area	49
(b) Persons	
(i) Rehoused from individual unfit dwelling houses	23
(ii) Rehoused from clearance areas	143
(5) Improvement grants	
(a) Number of houses inspected for improvement grant purposes	
In improvement area	132
Individual Applications	50
(b) Total number of visits made in connection with the above	
In Improvement area	714
Individual Applications	117

(6) General

- (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects 216
 (b) Total number of visits paid to the above houses 649

Public Health Acts

- (a) Number of complaints received re insanitary conditions in dwelling houses 145
 (b) Number of dwelling houses inspected re complaints and routine inspections 208
 (c) Total number of visits of all kinds to dwelling houses 704

Action taken

- Number of informal notices served re insanitary conditions in dwelling houses 79
 Number of informal notices for insanitary conditions in dwelling houses complied with 139
 Number of statutory notices served for insanitary conditions in dwelling houses 3
 Number of statutory notices for insanitary conditions in dwelling houses complied with ... 13

TABLE 1

Summary of items included in the above notices:—

Defects	Served	Complied with
Roofs	26	49
Walls	37	50
Floors	4	10
Ceilings	9	12
Windows	11	25
Doors	4	4
Fireplaces and flues	3	4
Sinks	3	2
Water Supplies	9	37
Rainwater conductors	14	20
Paving	5	6
Water Closets	20	25
Drainage	6	10
Cleansing	17	13
Miscellaneous	18	21

It is pleasing to note that it was not found necessary to institute any proceedings for the non compliance of statutory notices nor was it necessary to carry out any work in default. I am sure that this is indicative of the continuing good working relationship between the members of the department and agents, landlords and builders.

Rent Act

No applications were made during the year for Certificate of Repair under the Rent Act, 1957, and only two visits have been made to premises under the Act.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Nine visits have been made to Caravan Sites and individual caravans during the year. Three visits were made to the larger of the two licensed sites in the Borough, mentioned in my report for 1967, and although the site is not yet fully up to the required standard some improvements have been made and action still continues. One visit was made to the other licensed site and on five occasions visits were made to caravans improperly sited on the Cloffocks, in each case the vans vacated the site within 24 hours.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no known common lodging houses within the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE AND FOOD CONTROL

I am pleased to say that the good start made last year on food hygiene was maintained throughout the year with the result that by the end of the year all food premises in the Borough had received an initial inspection.

The system of "inspection by batches" continued to be used and again proved to be the best method of ensuring that the required standard was obtained within a reasonable time. This work occupied a large proportion of one inspector's time and this is reflected in the total number of visits made to food premises during the year.

Lack of cleanliness and poor decorative conditions were the major faults found during the inspections—although bad food handling habits came a very close second. It would appear that there is, in my view, a mistaken impression amongst many food handlers that their duties are confined solely to the sale and/or preparation of food and that routine cleaning is a job that they should not be expected to carry out. Until this attitude changes and they become aware that

cleaning is just as important as selling, the department will continue to exert the necessary pressure to drive the point home. Over the last few years the public has become much more conscious of the need for hygiene where food is concerned and so, from the point of view of an owner of a food business, cleanliness could well have a direct bearing on the profit factor. Money spent on expensive refrigerators and display units is hardly justified if the equipment is installed in dirty and poorly decorated premises.

All licensed premises in the town received their first inspection for some years and this fact was reflected in the generally poor conditions found. Naturally there were some difficulties of enforcement initially but these would now appear to be overcome and work continues in bringing the premises up to standard.

Mainly minor works were necessary in many instances to ensure compliance with the Regulations. However, in addition, the Breweries have undertaken a substantial number of major improvements and as a result of their co-operation with the department in the early design stages it has been possible to achieve an even higher standard which does credit to the Breweries concerned. In view of the increasing tendency towards meals, rather than bar snacks, being prepared in these premises major alterations have, at our request, usually included either a small separate food preparation area or a kitchen, incorporating all the necessary facilities.

One aspect of food handling about which I have always had some misgivings and one which has recently again come to my attention has been that of the wholesale delivery of bacon to retailers. Regulation 7 of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations states that food shall not be placed so as to involve any risk of contamination; Schedule 1 of the same Regulations describes meat, which is defined as "flesh (including edible offal and fat) of animals and birds which is sold or intended for sale for human consumption" (and therefore presumably including bacon), which has any total wrapping of mutton cloth, hessian or jute, or of paper or film, as not being regarded as open food and therefore not subject to the majority of other provisions of the regulations. The usual practice is for an order to be made up and then the sides or hams wrapped and sewn up in hessian. After transportation to the retailer it is not unusual for this hessian wrapping to be in a filthy and stained condition, and the bundles looking generally as if they had been carried in a coal lorry. From time to time one comes across these consignments dumped on the floor of a store-room or shop awaiting unpacking, the staff sometimes step-

ping on the packages to foul them still further. One obviously criticises the retailer for his part in the mishandling of this food but surely the state of the bundle as it is delivered does not convey the impression of the need of care and cleanliness to those who have to handle it after delivery. Further the question of the adequacy of the protection afforded by hessian against liquid or solid contaminants is one of which I have grave doubts. In view of the rapid strides that modern technology has made in the field of wrapping and prepackaging surely a more adequate means could be devised for the transporting of bacon which would meet all the difficulties of ventilation etc.

Alternatively perhaps we should ask the question whether or not the present legislation should be amended. It is difficult to reconcile, on the one hand, legislation which requires that food shall not be exposed to the risk of contamination but on the other authorises the use of an absorbent, permeable and fibrous wrapping material and at the same time removing it from the classification of open food, so leaving everyone with the impression that wrappings of this nature are a complete protection, and not likely to be open to the risk of contamination and therefore can be handled with impunity.

The Department's efforts in the field of Health Education continues to increase and, in addition to the Royal Society of Health Course for food handlers at the Workington College of Further Education, we were invited by the Workington Brewery Company to participate in a series of courses for their licensees, and lecture on food hygiene. In all, over 200 licensees, drawn from as far afield as Grange and "The Borders", took part and I personally felt that this was not only a wonderful opportunity to meet them in a semi informal atmosphere and have the chance to preach the "gospel" of food hygiene but also to listen to their particular difficulties during discussions afterwards. I understand that these courses are to be repeated from time to time and I commend the Brewery for their initiative.

Members of the Department also gave lectures to outside bodies and I was particularly pleased that several headmistresses and headmasters gave us the opportunity of talking on hygiene to the children of their schools.

The year also saw the first presentation, by His Worship the Mayor, of our Food Hygiene Badges to the successful candidates completing the Course at the College and it is pleasing to see these badges being worn.

As hoped last year, some further progress was made on inspections under the Markets Stall and Delivery Vehicles Regulations of both vehicles and market stalls. However, it is not always easy to come across the many delivery vehicles which slip into housing estates at varying times during the day and so progress has been much slower than anticipated.

I feel that some form of compulsory registration of this type of activity would be extremely valuable in ensuring an adequate control, as well as saving a considerable amount of time.

The following tables give the Statistical details required by Circular 1/69 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

TABLE 2

Category of Trades

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	20	20	20	20
Butchers	26	26	26	26
Breweries and Mineral Water Manufacturers	5	5	5	5
Catering premises	74	74	74	74
Confectioners	26	26	26	26
Fishmongers and Poulterers	6	6	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	18	18	18	18
Greengrocers	21	21	21	21
Grocers & General	124	124	124	124
Ice Cream Manufacturers	4	4	4	4
Licensed Premises	86	86	86	86
Tripe etc. Shops	1	1	1	1
Totals	411	411	411	411

N.B. Regulation 16—refers to the provision of personal washing facilities.

Regulation 19—refers to the provision of facilities for washing food and equipment.

TABLE 3

Inspections

Type of premises	No. of inspections
Bakehouses	11
Butchers	13
Breweries & Mineral Water Mfrs. ...	6
Catering Premises	58
Confectioners	9
Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Fried Fish Shops	9
Greengrocers	19
Grocers and General	57
Ice Cream Manufacturers	6
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Hotels ...	66
Staff Canteens	8
Tripe Boilers	1
Total	268

In addition 19 inspections of stalls and food vehicles were made in the year and revisits, interviews and discussions in connection with food premises totalled 480.

Food Control

Nine complaints were dealt with regarding foodstuffs—each case was investigated and appropriate action taken.

Table 4 below gives details of the complaints followed by a summary of the findings and action taken:—

TABLE 4

Commodity	Nature of Complaint
1 Tin of Pork Luncheon Meat	Out of condition— decomposing
2 Jar of Mussels	Peculiar taste
3 Jar of Salad Cream	Peculiar taste
4 Loaf of Bread	Contained cockroach
5 Raw Mussels	Unfit for consumption
6 Sausages	Sour with offensive smell
7 Apple Pudding	Contained matchstick
8 Baby Food	Contained insects
9 Soda Water	Foreign particles

Summaries

1. A tin of Pork Luncheon Meat which was decomposing was found to be an imported commodity. A letter was sent to the wholesaler drawing attention to the complaint.

2. The mussels were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carlisle and their report indicated that the food contained no pathogenic organisms.

3. Enquiries were made of the manufacturers of the Salad Cream who stated that the product would remain in edible condition for three years. They admitted however that the length of storage for this particular jar was not desirable and a warning letter was sent to the warehouse concerned.

4. The bakehouse where the bread had been made was inspected and evidence of cockroach infestation was found. The complainant did not wish her name to be revealed and a strong warning letter was therefore sent to the owners of the bakehouse.

5. Samples of the mussels which were "gaping" were sent to the Public Health Laboratory. They were found to contain no pathogenic organisms but a letter was sent to the retailer warning him of his responsibilities.

6. These sausages were brought to the department by the retailer to whom they had been returned by a customer. Following extensive enquiries which revealed serious negligence in delivery procedures, proceedings were instituted and the manufacturers were fined £50.

7. A warning letter, regarding the "foreign body" was sent to the manufacturers of the pudding who expressed their regret at the occurrence.

8. A packet of baby food was found, on opening, to contain insects which on examination were identified as *Ptinus tectus* (Australian Spider Beetle). Evidence of infestation of the retailers premises was found and proceedings were instituted resulting in a £50 fine.

9. Several bottles of soda water were reported by a retailer to contain foreign matter. Bacteriological and microscopic examination revealed that it was a type of mould growth and a further investigation on the manufacturers premises pointed to a defective water filter supplying the bottling machine. The mains water supply to this part of the factory was found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory and to contain foreign matter. In the circumstances the Water Board were asked to take action to ensure a clean supply and a strong warning letter was sent to the manufacturer regarding the maintenance of the filters.

Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption. The goods were surrendered voluntarily by the vendors, certificates were issued and the goods then destroyed. Approximately 44 visits were made in connection with this service and the total weight of foodstuffs dealt with was almost 5½ tons.

TABLE 5
Tinned Goods

	lbs.		lbs.
Pork	224	Rhubarb	1
Beef	123	Gooseberries	5
Corned Beef	262	Blackcurrants	5
Ham	457	Prunes	5
Luncheon Meat	96	Fruit Juices	49
Tongue	132	Tomatoes	176
Veal	78	Baked Beans	103
Sausage	9	Asparagus	2
Salmon	52	Peas	542
Pilchards	14	Carrots	107
Brisling	10	Sweet Corn	2
Prawns	4	Broad Beans	4
Fruit Cocktail	68	Mixed Vegetables	14
Oranges	30	Celery Hearts	1
Plums	3	Macaroni	7
Pears	248	Spaghetti	21
Cherries	7	Rice	28
Pineapple	176	Cream	4
Apricots	37	Evaporated Milk	94
Peaches	163	Soup	131
Grapefruit	65	Milk Puddings	91
Loganberries	7	Baby Foods	1
Strawberries	10	Pie Fillings	8
Raspberries	3		

Other Foods

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef	105	Potatoes	7680
Lamb	24	Preserves	33
Pork	14	Rum or Brandy Butter	47
Chicken	14	Beetroot	19 Jars
Turkey	48	Tea	1
Skate	30	Potato Crisps	32 pkts.
Sugar	15	Various Frozen Foods	658
Butter	4	Cereals	37 pkts.
Lard	1	Meat Pies	33
Cheese	45	Oxo	24
Apples	418	Cordials etc	6 bottles
Melons	24	Biscuits	101 pkts.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, Sect. 16

Eight premises were inspected under this section of the Act and in each case the premises were found to be up to standard and registered.

There are now 103 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and 3 for its manufacture. One manufacturer uses the hot mix process, one cold mix and one makes a soft ice cream in a vending machine in his shop.

Sixty one premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no liquid egg pasteurising plants in the Borough and no samples of liquid egg have been submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

Poultry

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

Dairies and Milk Distributors

Pressure of work in other directions led to a fall, from 81 to 42, in the number of inspections, interviews and revisits made to the dairies and distributors in the Borough on behalf of the Cumberland County Council. There are now 29 registered dairies, 19 purveyors of milk, 6 producer retailers and 9 farm producers.

Work continued on sampling for the presence of brucellosis and the infection was traced in one herd situated in the Borough. Table 6 below gives the statistical details of the samples taken.

It is hoped that the preparatory scheme for a brucellosis eradication programme introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will eventually eradicate this disease but it is essentially a long term project; meanwhile, unless there is some control on the way in which infected stock can be freely disposed of in the markets to other unsuspecting farmers, it is obvious that there will be a considerable risk of constant re-infection of herds not within the scheme.

Such possibilities place a responsibility on all public health departments to maintain a regular system of sampling in order to keep the chances of human infection to an absolute minimum.

TABLE 6

	No. of Samples	No. void	No. fail methylene blue	No. fail phosphatase	No. fail turbidity	No. of churns sampled	No. which failed ring test	No. individual cow samples	No. failing ring	No. failing culture	No. of cows removed
Retailers	55	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Producer/	53	—	9	—	—	—	3	56	8	6	6
Retailer	55	—	26	—	—	242	3	24	4	—	—
Farms	163	—	42	1	—	242	6	80	12	6	6

Water Supply

The drinking water supplied throughout the Borough by the West Cumberland Water Board has been regularly sampled during the year a total of 60 samples having been sent for analysis and in all cases the results were "excellent". The six chemical samples analysed ~~with~~ proved to be satisfactory.

All premises in the Borough are supplied from public water mains direct to premises, no stand pipes being used.

In view of the fact that it is recommended that swimming pool water should be comparable to drinking water and the potential risk for spread of infection through this source, particularly during peak loading in the summer months, I felt that the department should initiate a regular system of sampling the water in our local baths. In all 17 visits were made to obtain some 33 samples to ascertain cleanliness, residual chlorine content, and acidity. The first few samples proved to be unsatisfactory and, after investigations were carried out, certain recommendations were made to the Borough Surveyor and the staff of the baths. Later samples proved to be satisfactory, however, as there was a considerable time lag between sampling and receiving the result, I decided to purchase a Lovibond Comparator and tests using this equipment were carried out weekly on site—in addition samples were sent to the laboratories periodically as a confirmatory check. It is proposed to continue with this method as an aid to the staff of the baths.

OFFICES, SHOPS, RAILWAY PREMISES AND FACTORIES

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

I am pleased to be able to report that all the registered premises in the Borough had, by the end of the year, received an initial inspection and in fact, many fully complied with the Act. However, a fair proportion of these premises are also covered by food hygiene legislation and as the mode of inspection was the same as described in that section, there are still some premises where notices are outstanding.

Looking back over the period of the whole survey I think it could be honestly said that in general terms the department found occupiers co-operative albeit a little reluctant. In the main resentment seemed to be more towards the so called "trifling" requirements of the Act rather than the basic aims and, in fact, it would appear that in one or two instances the occupiers of premises who felt aggrieved on such matters chose to seek publicity through the agency of the local press. However, I must say that the press endeavoured to report the facts on both sides in a fair manner and all in all helped to give excellent publicity to the requirements of the Act and to the work of the Department in this field.

Fortunately it has not been necessary to institute proceedings for non-compliance with the Act although in two cases legal proceedings were imminent before the occupiers carried out the required works.

One particular requirement of the Act proved to be extremely controversial and provoked much correspondence and discussion, namely the requirement of an intervening ventilated air space to separate the W.C. compartment from a workroom. This is, of course, in line with other pieces of public health legislation and I am pleased to say that, in the end, the occupiers of the business saw fit to comply with the requirement.

Other defects commonly found included dirty conditions and poor decorative state of the premises, absence of thermometers, abstracts of the Act and First Aid boxes, defective doors and floor coverings giving rise to possible sources of danger of accidents. A number of premises did not have satisfactory toilet and washing facilities for the staff.

There were only 6 accidents reported for the year as against 8 last year. Whilst such a low figure is encouraging

I wonder if this is, in fact, too good to be true, and whether all notifiable accidents are being reported to the local authority as required by the Act. Of the accidents which were notified, investigation revealed no negligence attributable to the employers concerned. As a matter of interest details are listed below:—

- (1) *Shop.*
Assistant slipped on stairs and fell down four steps sustaining a fractured elbow.
- (2) *Shop.*
Assistant slipped on bottom step of a flight of stairs and sprained her ankle.
- (3) *Shop.*
A service engineer delivering scales to a shop slipped whilst lifting equipment from his van and strained his back.
- (4) *Shop.*
An assistant sustained a lumber strain whilst carrying out normal duties in the shop.
- (5) *Shop.*
Whilst reaching for stock on a shelf an assistant slipped and fell against a counter bruising her back and leg.
- (6) *Shop.*
An assistant suddenly collapsed to the floor and complained that her knee had given way. The investigation failed to reveal any cause for this and the assistant admitted having previously had trouble with her knee.

TABLE 7

Premises registered and inspected.

Class of Premises	No of premises registered during year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No of premises receiving a general inspection
Offices	16	90	55
Retail shops	41	214	105
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	17	11
Catering Establishments	2	23	14
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	60	344	185

Total number of Inspections made for all purposes—684.

TABLE 8

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	635
Retail Shops	1013
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses	111
Catering Establishments	119
Canteens	7
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil
Total	1885
Total Males	659
Total Females	1226

Shops Acts.

Once again very little work was done during the year in this field owing to other and more pressing commitments but enquiries were received regarding permitted hours of opening, and these were answered and advice given where necessary.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Fourteen visits have been made to hairdressers and barbers during the year to check for cleanliness, etc. The Council's Byelaws are applied to the premises and the standard is generally high throughout the Borough.

Factories Act.

Whilst a number of inspections were made of factories within the Borough, other more urgent work again prevented the department from making as much headway in this field as I would have liked.

TABLE 9

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	38	12	3	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	136	72	15	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	214	84	18	Nil

TABLE 10

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	13	13	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	76	49	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	92	65	—	3	—

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134).

The department has not been notified of any outworkers residing within the Borough.

TABLE 11

List of Trades.

Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Brewing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cement Industries and Roadstone Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Corn Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electrical and Radio Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Electrical Undertakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fur Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Undertakings	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
General Dealers and Scrap Sorters	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Heavy Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Knacker Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Leather Workers and Shoe Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Light Engineering and Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Paint Mixing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paper Board Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paper Processing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Printing	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quarrying	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rum Butter Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scale Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slag Recovery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Steel Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tripe Dressing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste Paper Baling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watch and Clock Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Weaving	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wood Cutting and Working	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Works of Engineering Construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Works of Building Operations	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The regular daily readings from the two "official" observation stations, established in co-operation with the Warren Spring Laboratory, continued throughout the year and in addition readings have also been taken at the portable unit established in the Marsh and Quay area in Lawrence Street.

Details are given below of the highest and lowest readings in microgrammes per cubic metre for each of the three stations:—

No. 1 Station (Workington)

Highest Smoke—300 on a showery day in November with a force 2 southerly wind.

Lowest Smoke—6 on a snowy day in April with a force 5 N.W. wind.

Highest SO₂—154 on a very wet day in November with a force 6 S.W. wind.

Lowest SO₂—Nil on a showery day in October with a force 4 S.W. wind.

No. 2 Station (Salterbeck)

Highest Smoke—400 on a calm day in December.

Lowest smoke—9 on a wet day in October with a force 3 southerly wind.

Highest SO₂—215 on a clear day in April with a force 3 southerly wind.

Lowest SO₂—Nil on a cloudy day in September with a force 2 westerly wind.

No. 3 Station (Lawrence Street)

Highest Smoke—515 on a clear day in February with a force 1 easterly wind.

Lowest Smoke—6 on a cloudy day in August with a force 5 easterly wind.

Highest SO₂—280 on a wet day in January with a force 5 southerly wind.

Lowest SO₂—Nil on a very wet day in August with a force 3 N.W. wind.

The general pattern of the graphs has not altered much during the year compared with previous years. The highest readings at Workington were a little lower compared with last year but the highest readings at Lawrence Street were much higher.

MONTHLY VARIATION OF SMOKE AND SO_2

FIG 1 — WORKINGTON (No. 1)

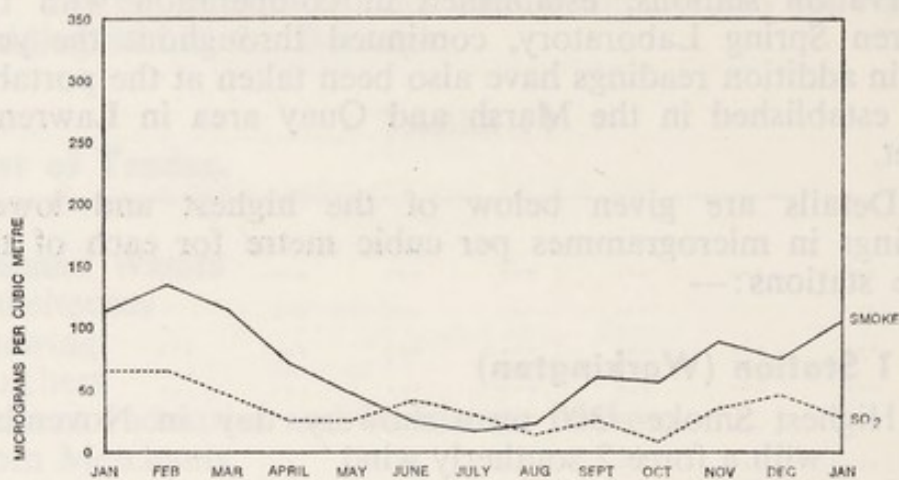


FIG 2 — SALTERBECK (No. 2)

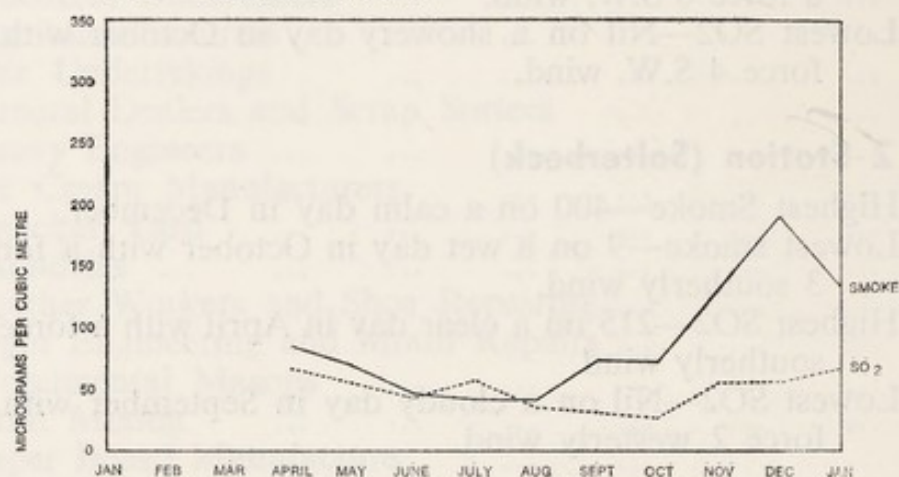


FIG 3 — LAWRENCE STREET (No. 3)

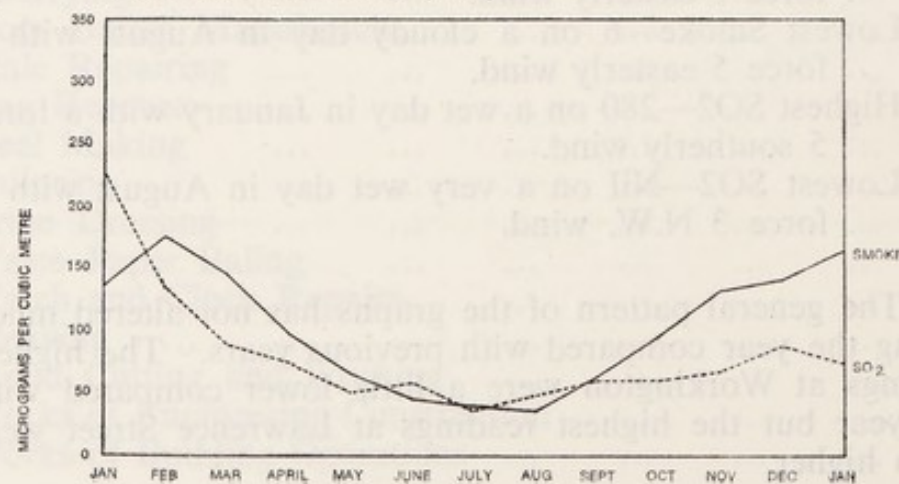


FIG 4 SMOKE

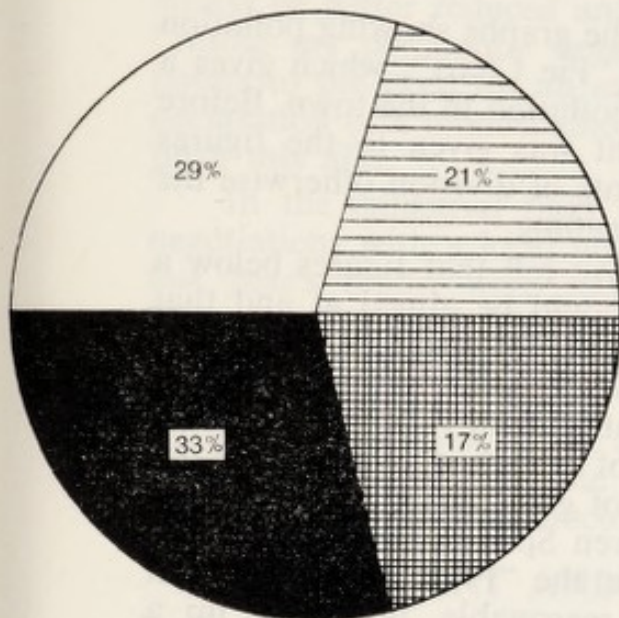
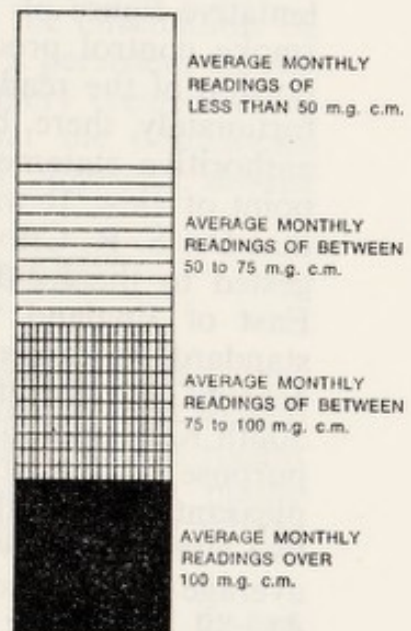
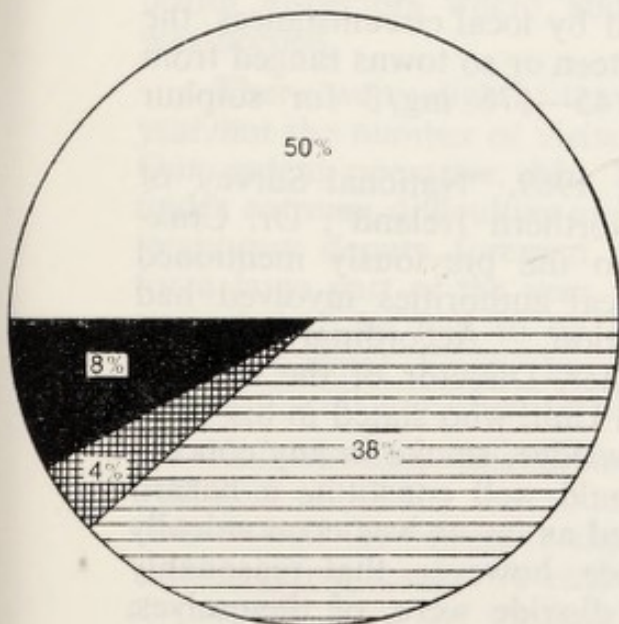


FIG 5 SULPHUR DIOXIDE



It is extremely unfortunate that the trouble experienced with vandalism at No. 2 Station at Salterbeck towards the end of 1967 continued throughout the early part of 1968 and the station did not become functional until April. This means of course that the average readings referred to in the tables above for this particular station are not a true indication of the state of pollution in the area.

This year we have replaced the graphs showing pollution related to wind direction, with a "Pie Chart", which gives a better visual appreciation of the pollution in the town. Before preparing the chart some thought was given to the figures which were to be used as the points of division otherwise the exercise would not have much meaning.

Over the last few years I have felt that figures below a tentative figure of 100 mg/m³ should be aimed at and that smoke control procedure should be adopted if a large proportion of the readings were about this level or greater. Unfortunately there has been great difficulty in obtaining an authoritative statement on limits of pollution from the health point of view. It was, therefore, of great interest to me to see that Dr. S. R. Craxford, of Warren Springs Laboratory, suggested to the local authorities in the "Pilot Study of South East of England" that it was reasonable, in setting up a standard for amenity as well as health to be taken into account. He therefore proposed that the towns in Mid and South Kent and Sussex should be used as the standard for the purpose of the study because they were acknowledged as pleasant and healthy places to live in. With the exception of two sites, which were aggravated by local circumstances, the average winter recordings for sixteen or so towns ranged from 41–89 mg/3 for smoke and 45–176 mg/3 for sulphur dioxide.

In a report on 2nd June, 1969, "National Survey of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Northern Ireland", Dr. Craxford made further references to the previously mentioned study and the fact that the local authorities involved had pressed him for a fuller definition. Accordingly he approached Professor P. J. Lawther, Director of the Medical Research Council, Air Pollution Unit, who stated in his view, and on the present state of knowledge, smoke in any concentration was undesirable and could well constitute a hazard to health; it should be eliminated as far as was economically possible. There was no evidence, however, that reasonably low concentrations of sulphur dioxide were, of themselves, harmful, and if concentrations of smoke were low he would be inclined to accept peak concentrations of up to 1000 mg/m³ of SO₂, but would consider anything in excess of this

to be potentially harmful, at least to some people. This would mean aiming at a limit of some 100 to 150 mg/m³ for the average winter concentration.

From the figures available, and in the light of the two statements, it is clear that our figures for sulphur dioxide fall within the suggested standard. However, those for smoke, whilst still not as great as those in many larger conurbations, would be better reduced and, at the risk of being accused of "riding my pet hobby horse" I consider that the evidence points to the need for an early start on the preparation and declaration of a modest smoke control programme to accomplish this aim.

In the industrial field it was pleasing to note that the negotiations with a local mineral water factory referred to in last year's report were successful and during the year oil firing was installed which has resulted in the elimination of the nuisance. Towards the end of the year a persistent smoke nuisance from the chimney of a local colliery created some difficulties, however, it is anticipated that the discussions which took place with the Coal Board's engineers should prevent any further nuisance in the future.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Rodent Control

During the year 148 complaints were received that premises were infested with rats and mice and in order to deal with them 426 visits and revisits were made by the rodent operator. In addition 15 visits were made by the public health inspectors where additional information and advice was needed.

There were slightly fewer complaints compared to last year but the number of visits necessary were about the same. Our rodent operative, Mr. Bland, carried out these duties under extreme difficulties as he also undertook the duties of temporary deputy foreman of the refuse collection service for a large part of the year. It stands well to his credit that, even though he had to do a considerable amount of work outside normal hours, he accomplished so much without having to call too often on the time of the inspectors.

Unfortunately this difficulty made it impossible for a treatment of all the sewers to be carried out but it was possible to bait the sewers in the Moss Bay and Wesfield Areas with negative results. A real effort must be made next year to properly treat the whole of the sewerage system.

Table 12 below gives the statistical information as it is returned to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,

TABLE 12

Rodents	Non Agricul- tural	Agricul- tural
1. Number of properties in district	11903	13
2. (a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	148	2
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	92	2
(ii) mice	56	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	—	—
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	—	—
(ii) mice	—	—
4. Number of sewer treatments carried out	1	—
5. Number of statutory notices		
(a) served	—	—
(b) complied with	—	—
6. Number of proceedings	—	—

Vermin and Pest Control

There were 251 complaints in respect of infestations by pests and pigeons. As before the average number of visits per insect infestation would be three and daily visits were necessary to service the traps for pigeons. In addition the Public Health inspectors carried out inspections in 42 premises where special advice and treatment was required.

As will be seen in Table 13 below 7 premises were treated for pigeons. The same treatment was adopted as for last year and some 66 pigeons were caught. Whilst these figures are down on last years I am sure that more would have been done had it not been for Mr. Bland's difficulties. However, perhaps we shall be able to get a more complete picture of this increasing nuisance as the staffing situation improves.

Table 13 gives the detailed breakdown.

TABLE 13

Total number of properties inspected following notification	251
Number of properties infested by	
Ants	185
Cockroaches	35
Silverfish	11
Fleas	2
Insects (various)	11
Pigeons	7
	—
	251
	—

Vacated council houses and those council houses where exchanges have been arranged are inspected by a member of the department to ensure that they are free from vermin. This procedure involved the inspection of 136 houses throughout the year.

GENERAL

The following gives the information on work done in the department dealing with matters not covered in the previous sections of the report.

Noise Abatement Act.

There have only been 4 complaints involving 6 visits in respect of noise nuisances which proved to be of a minor nature.

Advice was given in each case and informal approaches resulted in abatement of the nuisances. No notices needed to be served.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.

Number of complaints received in respect of insanitary conditions other than in dwelling houses	17
Number of informal notices served as a result of the investigations of the above complaints	14
Number of informal notices complied with	14
Number of statutory notices served as a result of the above complaints	10
Number of statutory notices complied with	5

Summary of Visits to Premises under Various Acts.

(Not covered in the previous sections).

Animal Boarding Establishment	...	...	...	2
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	190
Interviews	...	...	...	246
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	5
Markets	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	226
Accumulations	...	...	...	41
Pet Shops	...	...	...	4
Piggeries	...	...	...	4
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	6
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	83
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	34
Re-visits	...	...	...	123
Salvage	...	...	...	5
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	5
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	—
Waste Food Plants	...	...	...	—

The attention of the Borough Surveyor and/or Water Engineer was called to:—

Choked sewers, drains and gullies	...	...	...	16
Defective Public Convenience	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8
Repairs to Corporation Property	...	...	...	23
Waste water and poor supply pressures	...	...	...	3

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICE

In April 1968 the ²⁰~~100~~ cu yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic, ordered last year, was delivered and by the time it arrived we were in dire need as the engine of 235 DRM, the vehicle it was replacing, had "blown up" some months previously and, as a consequence, the town round had to suffer our very old spare vehicle.

Late on in the year we were able to place the order for another 35 cu yd. Pakamatic which was to be delivered in Spring 69. The delivery of this vehicle will mean that the main part of the working fleet will be modern up-to-date vehicles which we can be proud to own. 961 DAO, will be repaired and brought up to reasonable standard for it to be used as a spare for the time being. However, if this vehicle continues to give trouble, even when used in this capacity, the question of replacement will have to be considered but no final decision can be taken until the proposed review of the rounds, anticipated next year, is completed.

During the year continuous mechanical trouble with the Fiat crawler/shovel created problems in connection with the tip as well as proving to be an extremely costly item for repairs.

Throughout the year some 1400 stands and units were issued making a total of 4858 premises converted to the system. On the whole the change over has gone smoothly and the majority of people seem to like the system. There have been minor difficulties due to nuisance from animals tearing bags and stands being exposed to high winds when pendulum action, created by the bag swinging in the wind, causes it eventually to slip from through the clips. Where such difficulties occur it is our practice to issue a guard which can be attached to the unit and up to press about 10% have needed this type of attention. Unfortunately delivery of guards has tended to be on the slow side and it is not unusual for some time to elapse before attention can be given to justified complaints.

The special collection service continues to flourish and some 489 collections were made compared with 376 last year. In addition we have periodically visited, as and when staff and vehicles were available, open spaces, garage sites etc. in the Borough and cleared away any refuse liable to give rise to nuisance conditions in an effort to keep the Borough reasonably tidy.

The commencement of negotiations for refuse dumps under the Civic Amenities Act created considerable resistance

in the areas suggested, with the result that very little progress was made towards their establishment. However, no doubt, these matters will eventually be resolved and a reasonable trial given to assess their usefulness or otherwise. I still feel that the special collection service is by far the better answer to any problems in our particular area.

Work, originally started under Section 104, Cumberland County Council Act, for the removal of abandoned cars was continued under the Civic Amenities Act and some 51 visits were incurred in dealing with the removal of 40 vehicles. We have been fortunate in obtaining a reasonable working arrangement with an individual living in the Borough who is prepared, at our request, to cut up any vehicle on site and remove all parts of the vehicle whether they are of use to him or not. This system has worked very well and to the best of my knowledge has not given rise to any unnecessary difficulties, both sides being satisfied with the result.

A real step forward was made, towards the end of the year, on the thorny problem of our depot by the re-roofing, re-wiring and re-newing of the floor to the Peter Street Garage. It is hoped that next year will see further improvements, in that part which was occupied by the Water Board, with the provision of a new salvage baling shed and store together with more garage and paper sack storage space.

Whilst it will be seen in the statistics on the staff of this section that there were only some 26 permanent staff and temporary staff have varied it must be explained that the service usually needs some 29 regular staff to be run efficiently and comfortably. However, I am sure it will be appreciated that good men for the wage offered are not always easy to find and therefore not only is it not politic to put some of them on permanent establishment immediately but it is hoped that, with the continued review of the rounds and the department generally, it will be possible to contact the numerical needs for staff over a period and natural wastage and the release of temporaries allow this to be done with the least amount of labour difficulties.

The unfortunate accident in the April to Mr. E. Woodward, deputy foreman, marred what was a year of reasonable progress and placed the department in some difficulty. However Mr. L. Bland was appointed as temporary deputy foreman, and did a extremely good job in the circumstances.

Tipping continued at Oldside and it is expected that there will just be sufficient area to last through 1969. During the year loads of heavy material were directed down to the shore to the north of our experimental tipping area used in

1964/65 and a roadway has been built out towards the Steelworks bank to cut off an area of land previously flooded at times of high tide. This area is now suitable for tipping but it is critical that we have an early decision on the amount of land, beyond this point through to Siddick, which will be available for our continued use and enable us to make firm plans for the future needs. It is regrettable that this decision is still not forthcoming despite repeated requests over the last two years, as the siting of the tip can have a bearing on any plans for the reorganisation of the vehicle rounds.

VEHICLES IN SERVICE AT END OF 1968.

Refuse Collection

Type of Vehicle	Registration No. and Date Registered
Shelvoke & Drewery. 35 cu yd. Pakamatic.	GRM 210D (March) 1966
Shelvoke & Drewery. 35 cu yd. Pakamatic.	JRM 618D (October) 1966
Shelvoke & Drewery. 20 cu yd. Pakamatic.	PAO 633F (April) 1968
Karrier Dual Tip.	961 DAO (January) 1961
Karrier Side Loader.	BRM 576B (September) 1964
Karrier Side Loader.	XRM 47 (March) 1959
Morris Van.	696 KRM (June) 1963

Salvage

Fordson Tractor/Shovel.	CRM 650 (November) 1960
6 Salvage Trailers.	Purchased 1967

Refuse Disposal

3 Ton Bedford Tipper.	544 MAO (December) 1963
Fiat FL4. Crawler/Shovel.	DRM 828C (April) 1965

STAFF

Foreman.	R. Robinson.
Deputy Foreman.	E. Woodward—L. Bland, Appointed temporary foreman in September.

Refuse Collection

Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drivers/Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

Salvage Depot

Labourers	2
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Refuse Disposal

Driver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Labourer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

In addition to the permanent staff a maximum of 5 temporary men were taken on for varying periods of time to replace staff off duty during times of exceptional sickness and during holidays.

All These Figures Relate to Financial Year 1968/69

Number of loads refuse removed to tip	...	...	3541
Estimated weight of refuse removed	...	...	8548 tons
Number of additional loads accepted on tip.			
Corporation Vehicles	...	...	2573
Private Vehicles	...	...	3839
Weight of salvage bailed and sold	...	...	354 tons
Total receipts for salvage sold	...	...	£3483
Total bonus shared between men	...	...	£580
Average bonus per man for year	...	...	£20
Cost of refuse collection	...	...	£36,732
Cost of refuse disposal	...	...	£3813
		Total	£40,545
Profit on salvage collection	...	...	£235
Total cost of service	...	...	£40,310



Antennae Disposal

Number

Litters

Total

In addition to the permanent staff a maximum of 5 temporary staff were taken on for varying periods of time to replace staff off duty during times of exceptional activity and during holidays.

All These Figures Relate to Financial Year 1965/66

Number of birds which survived to lay	5541
Estimated weight of refuse removed	55-5 tons
Number of additional birds accepted on 1st	
Cooperative Vehicles	2573
Private Vehicles	2573
Weight of refuse loaded and sold	154 tons
Total weight of refuse sold	154 tons
Total amount charged for refuse sold	£100
Amount received for refuse sold	£79
Cost of refuse collection	£14,712
Cost of refuse disposal	£1812
Total	£16,524
Profit on refuse collection	£25
Total cost of service	£16,549



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