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COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

R E P O R T

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

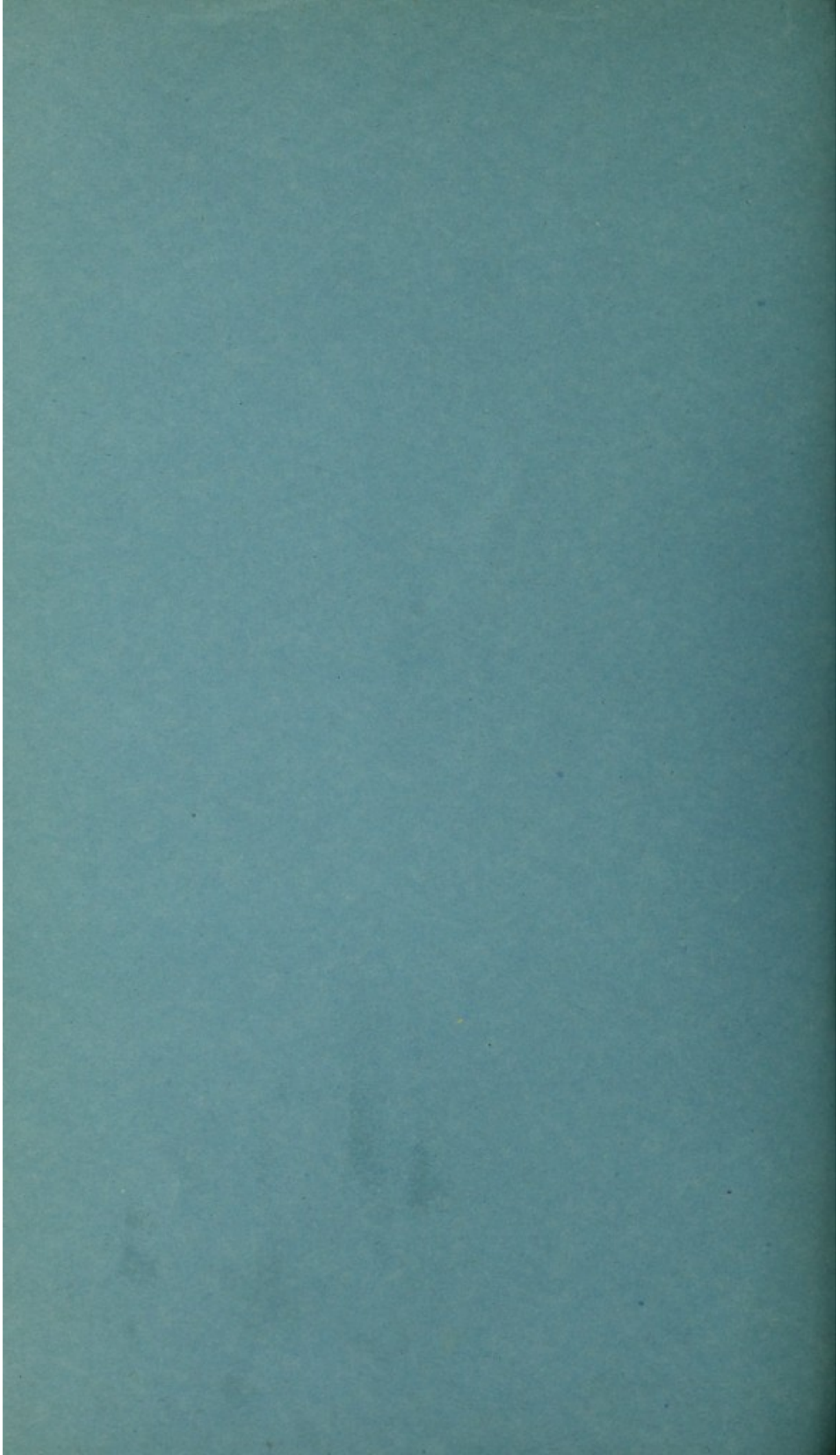
on the

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

County of Aberdeen

for the year

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(For the Landward Area and all the Burghs)

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
1. Population (Estimated Civilian)	143,775	143,181	143,056
2. Persons Married per 1,000 Population	6.5	6.8	6.1
3. Number of Live Births (Corrected)	2,613	2,562	2,528
4. Number of Still Births (Corrected)	43	45	65
5. Birth-rate per 1,000 Population	18.2	17.9	17.7
6. Still Birth-rate (per 1,000 total Births)	16	17	25
7. Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births	5.5	6.7	7.6
8. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	25	28	30
9. Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	1.82	0.91	0.91
10. Number of Deaths from all Forms of Tuberculosis	19	17	19
11. Number of Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	15	17	15
12. Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 Population	0.10	0.12	0.10
13. Number of Deaths from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	4	-	4
14. Death-rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 Population	0.03	0.00	0.03
15. Number of Deaths (corrected) All causes	1,701	1,519	1,641
16. Death-rate - All causes	11.8	10.6	11.5

SECTION IA. Local Health Authority Functions1. Care of Mothers and Young Children

There has been no alteration in the scheme for the care of mothers and young children which, as in former years, covers the whole county, including the Burghs.

(a) Infant Mortality

In 1954 there were 65 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 73 in 1953. Of these, 44 occurred within 4 weeks of birth and 21 from 4 weeks to 1 year.

The infant mortality rate as expressed per 1,000 live births was 25 compared with a rate of 31 for Scotland as a whole.

The causes of deaths of children under 4 weeks were as follows:-

Birth Injuries, Asphyxia and Atelectasis	17
Congenital Malformations	7
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	5
Other diseases of Early Infancy	14
Other Infections of the Newly Born	1
Total	<u>44</u>

The causes of deaths of children aged from 4 weeks to 1 year were as follows:-

Congenital Malformations	5
Pneumonia	8
Bronchitis	2
Diarrhoea	1
Intestinal Obstructions and Hernia	1
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	1
Violence	1
All Other Causes	2
Total	<u>21</u>

Deaths of Children between 1 and 5 years

The number of children dying between the ages of 1 and 5 years was 6. The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Respiratory Diseases	1
Malignant Neoplasm	1
Diarrhoea	1
Diseases of Digestive System	1
Violence other than Road Transport Accidents	2
Total	<u>6</u>

(b) Still Births

The number of still births registered and corrected for transfers during the year was 43, giving a rate of 16 per 1,000 total births compared with a rate of 17 for the year 1953. The still-birth rate for the whole of Scotland in 1954 was 25.

(c) Maternal Mortality

During 1954, 4 deaths in women from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth were recorded. 2 deaths took place in hospital/

hospital and 2 at home. The causes of death were as follows:-

Post Partum Haemorrhage	1
Sepsis	1
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	2
Total	<u>4</u>

(d) Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

1 case of Puerperal Fever and 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. 3 cases were treated in the Puerperal Wards of Aberdeen City Hospital.

(e) Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No case was notified during the year.

(f) Home Visitation

The Domiciliary Nursing staff paid home visits as follows:-

	<u>First Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
Infants	2,765	31,528
Children 1 - 5 years	8,579	32,179
Expectant Mothers	1,353	9,667

(g) Child Welfare Clinics

Eight Child Welfare Clinics are provided as follows:-

Ballater, Bucksburn, Culter, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Turriff.

With the exception of Ballater and Fraserburgh which are staffed by General Practitioners, the County Council's Medical Staff conduct all these clinics, assisted by Health Visitors or Health Visitor/District Nurses and voluntary workers. These ladies give the medical and nursing staff most valuable help and their services are very much appreciated.

Attendances at Clinics were as follows:-

Under 1 year of age

698 children made 5,389 attendances

One year of age and over

394 children made 2,635 attendances

(h) Ante Natal Clinics

The Local Health Authority does not provide Ante Natal Clinics.

(i) Day Nursery, Peterhead

The accommodation provided is still limited to 50 children and, as in previous years, was filled to capacity during the summer months. The average daily attendance for the year was 58%. The total number of attendances during the year was 7,282.

The proposal that the Day Nursery should become a combined Day Nursery and Nursery School is still under consideration by the Education Authority.

(j)/

(j) Welfare Foods

In July, 1954, the local authority became responsible for distribution of Welfare Foods, a duty which previously had been undertaken by the Ministry of Food. At the change-over, approximately 100 centres were in operation and these were retained. The scheme for postal distribution of Welfare Foods was, however, discontinued after due warning had been given to the beneficiaries concerned and instead there was introduced the system whereby District Nurses would carry with them small stocks of Welfare Foods for distribution to outlying beneficiaries who might have difficulty in obtaining supplies from one of the static centres. In general the change-over was effected smoothly and, as far as is known, no person entitled to be supplied with Welfare Foods has had any difficulty in obtaining them.

It is proposed gradually to reduce the number of distribution centres to approximately 80 and to bring all the District Nurses into the distribution scheme.

2. Midwifery

The general arrangements for the provision of a domiciliary Midwifery Service have remained substantially unchanged, although once again there has been a further reduction in the number of domiciliary confinements. Of the total of 2,656 live and still births, only 482 or 18.14% took place at home. 9,667 visits were paid to maternity cases.

3. Health Visiting

There has been no change in the arrangements for Health Visiting during the year 1954.

4. Home Nursing

At the end of 1954 the Nursing Staff was as follows:-

1. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent	2
2. Nurses performing combined duties	51
3. Health Visitors - Full time	6
4. Midwives - Full time	3
5. Nurses performing general duties only	2
6. Relief nurses	1
Total	<u>65</u>

Of these, 43 nurses are living in premises set apart as nurses' houses, 16 are living in their own homes and 6 are in lodgings.

In the course of the year 100,119 visits were paid to 6,513 general cases.

5. Domestic Help

There has been no great increase in the work undertaken by this service, largely due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable helpers. At the end of the year 37 part-time Domestic Helps were in employment and during the year 165 cases had been attended. Of these, 51 were in respect of confinements either at home or in hospital and 38 were in respect of chronic sick or aged and infirm persons.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation

(a) Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year, 1,497 persons were vaccinated for the first time and 265 were revaccinated. Of the primary vaccinations, 1,358/

1,358 were in respect of children born during the years 1953 and 1954. This is not a satisfactory vaccination rate.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

No confirmed case of diphtheria or death from the disease occurred during 1954. These results equal the similar County record set up for the first time in 1950.

It may be of interest here to recall that during the past 7 years only 5 confirmed cases of diphtheria were notified - one case each in the following years - 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952 and 1953 - while during the same period no death was recorded, the latter constituting an all-time diphtheria mortality record as far as this County is concerned.

Diphtheria immunisation was continued in the County schools and clinics in accordance with the revised scheme which was adopted by the County Council in 1941. The programme of routine work at schools was carried out by a whole-time Medical Officer. Unfortunately, the services of this Medical Officer were not available during the second half of the year through an accident she sustained during the summer holidays. It was not possible to continue visitations to schools in her absence and consequently the annual figures for work completed are proportionately reduced.

During the year under review, 50 schools in the Peterhead, Alford, Deeside and Huntly areas were visited. The following table gives a summary of the work carried out at these schools as well as that performed at the County clinics and privately by the County Medical Practitioners, together with the relative statistical data of the incidence of and mortality from diphtheria in (a) immunised and (b) non-immunised children. The figures in the column "number of completed immunisations" refer to children who have received their second injection between 1st January and 31st December, 1954, both dates inclusive.

Year of Birth	Number of Completed Immunisations	Number of Maintenance Inoculations	Immunised Persons		Non-immunised Persons	
			Confirmed Cases of Diphtheria	Diphtheria Deaths	Confirmed Cases of Diphtheria	Diphtheria Deaths
1954	197	-	-	-	-	-
1953	1190	-	-	-	-	-
1952	295	4	-	-	-	-
1951	86	5	-	-	-	-
1950	74	19	-	-	-	-
1949	78	165	-	-	-	-
1948	76	287	-	-	-	-
1947	66	201	-	-	-	-
1946	28	183	-	-	-	-
1945	23	127	-	-	-	-
1944	16	121	-	-	-	-
1943	9	112	-	-	-	-
1942	14	98	-	-	-	-
1941	4	47	-	-	-	-
1940	-	29	-	-	-	-
1939 or earlier	3	29	-	-	-	-
Totals	2159	1427	-	-	-	-

The table shows that 2,159 children completed a two-injection course of treatment during the year, a decrease of 1,629 children compared with the previous year. Of this number, 269 were immunised at the County schools, 235 at the County clinics and 1,655 privately by medical practitioners. The latter figure is the largest number yet treated by medical practitioners, the previous best being in 1953 when 1,523 children were immunised. The total number of persons immunised since the year 1935 is 67,645.

The response from parents for re-immunisation treatment at the schools visited continued to be very satisfactory. As already mentioned, the Council's Immunisation Scheme was unfortunately in abeyance during the second half of the year under review and as a result the number of children treated was greatly reduced compared with the record number re-immunised the previous year. Only 1,427 children of all ages received maintenance inoculations, of which 1,300 or 91% were carried out at the County Schools and clinics. This brings the total number of children re-immunised since 1935 to 44,730.

The record reductions in the incidence of and mortality from diphtheria in the County during the past seven years are in a large measure attributable to the preventive work which has been going on continuously since 1935 under the Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme. If the fruits of these achievements are to be maintained, there must be no relaxation of effort to immunise all children of pre-school age and to re-immunise them during the earlier part of their school life. From the increasing number of immunisation returns received from the County Medical Practitioners, it is pleasing here to put on record (a) their valuable contribution to the protective treatment of children against diphtheria, particularly those of pre-school age and (b) the Council's appreciation of their continued co-operation with the Health Department in this important branch of preventive medicine.

## 7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care

There has been no change in the general arrangements reported last year and in previous years. No chiropody service was provided by the local authority, nor by any voluntary organisation.

### (a) Tuberculosis

As yet the local authority has no scheme for providing B.C.G. vaccination on a large scale.

In conjunction with the Chest Physician, however, arrangements are made for the skin testing and inoculation of contacts and other persons considered to be at special risk. The general scheme for provision of extra nourishment in the form of milk, butter, meat and eggs is still in operation for cases of tuberculosis as are arrangements for the loan of special articles of nursing equipment.

### (b) Epileptics and Spastics

#### Epileptics

The incidence of epilepsy in the community as a whole is not known but in children of school age the total cases known to the Health Department is 71, comprising 42 boys and 29 girls. Of these, 47 attend ordinary schools, 2 attend special schools, 6 are at residential schools, 4 are receiving home tuition and the remaining 12, 9 of whom are in certified institutions for mental defectives, have been excluded from school altogether.

Taking/

Taking the school population at 25,000, the rate per 1,000 is 2.8 which, if applied to the total population, would mean a presumptive 412 epileptics in the County of Aberdeen.

### Spastics

In respect of spastics, it is estimated that in the County of Aberdeen not more than 15 are sufficiently handicapped to come to the notice of the local authority. Of these it is further estimated that 2 are very severely handicapped, 9 are severely handicapped and 4 are moderately severely handicapped.

The facilities available for the care and after-care of spastics and epileptics on leaving school are extremely limited and most of them are cared for on a domiciliary basis. It is possible on somewhat rare occasions to obtain the admission of either a severely handicapped spastic or a severely handicapped epileptic to an institution or colony specially designated for the purpose but, in the main, where institutional accommodation becomes necessary, usually on account of the death of the relative who hitherto cared for the case, admission to an Eventide Home is the only practical, although not altogether, desirable solution.

In view of the very small number of severely handicapped persons in both categories, it would not seem appropriate for the local authority to establish residential accommodation of their own but to do so in conjunction with a number of other similarly placed local authorities, or to enter into an agreement with a voluntary organisation on a "customer" basis.

### (c) Convalescent Home Provision

No Convalescent Home is maintained by the local authority but, by arrangement with a voluntary organisation, children between the ages of 2 and 12 years are accommodated at Linn Moor Home, Culter. This home, which has been in existence for many years, caters for all types of children in need of special care and attention or in need of rehabilitation. By arrangement with the Corporation of the City of Aberdeen, a teacher or teachers is provided for educational purposes and the arrangements for the honorary medical supervision of the Home rests with Aberdeen County Council. The weekly charge during the year for each child was £3:3/3d.

## 8. Control of Infectious Diseases

Apart from Whooping Cough, where 432 cases were notified as opposed to 41 cases for 1953, no disease showed an unusual incidence or assumed epidemic proportions.

No case of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague or Typhus Fever was reported during the year, but 1 case of Typhoid and 2 cases of Paratyphoid Fevers were notified.

In the case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, although much publicity was given in the local and national press, and a considerable amount of alarm was thereby caused in the community, only 23 cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were reported during the year. Whilst this figure was considerably in excess of the number for the year 1953, it was in keeping with the incidence for the years 1950, 1951 and 1953 and officially was not considered to constitute either an epidemic or a major menace to the health of the community. As a preventive measure, however, leaflets were distributed in schools and in clinics and a personal letter was sent to the parent of any household in which a case had occurred. As a result of the publicity given, it became necessary to close 3 schools and restrict the normal activities of the people to an extent which was not justified on epidemiological grounds.

The following table gives for comparative purposes the number of notifications of infectious diseases received year by year for the past 5 years.

Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Whooping Cough	537	869	348	41	432
Scarlet Fever	240	199	166	196	136
Diphtheria	-	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	53	51	50	43	36
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia - Acute Influenzal	33	24	15	10	7
- Acute Primary	163	135	198	110	103
- Not otherwise notifiable	190	178	115	183	152
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	3	2	-
Puerperal Fever	10	5	6	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	10	3	6	5
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid - A	-	-	-	-	-
- B	-	2	4	-	2
Dysentery	88	213	20	16	46
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	32	23	24	5	23
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	6	-	5	5
Encephalitis	1	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	70	55	74	72	52
- Non-respiratory	69	43	55	48	30
Leprosy	-	1	-	-	-
Malaria	2	4	4	4	7
Undulant Fever	6	5	4	4	2
Food Poisoning	1	2	-	-	1
Others (not notifiable)	-	-	-	-	2
Total (Excluding Tuberculosis)	1367	1730	962	628	963
Total (Including Tuberculosis)	1506	1828	1091	748	1065

#### 9. Mental Health Service

There has been no major change in the constitution of the Mental Health Service during the year and, as in previous years, the bulk of the work has again been undertaken by the County Council's Area Officers who are authorised for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy Acts. The difficulty in obtaining suitable guardians still exists and, if anything, is more acute than ever. During the year, however, 140 cases of mental defectives were boarded out with 127 guardians. During the same period 59 cases were removed to the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen by the County Council's staff of Authorised Officers.

In Mental Health work, probably more so than in any other aspect of the Health Services, there is an extremely good liaison between the local authority and the Regional Hospital Board in that Dr. Moore Taylor, one of the Regional Board's Consultant Psychiatrists, is available in an advisory capacity and works in extremely close co-operation with the local authority's Authorised Officers and medical staff.

#### 10. Work under Nurseries and Child-Minders' Regulation Act

Again it was not necessary during the year to take any action under this Act.

B. School Health Service

1. Staff Changes

Miss Maureen Dick was appointed a fulltime dental attendant and commenced her duties on 16th October, 1953. Mr. Charles Cockburn who has acted in the capacity of part-time County School Oculist since 1st December, 1946, relinquished this post in December, 1953, and this opportunity is taken of recording the Council's appreciation of and grateful thanks for the very valuable services he has rendered to the County of Aberdeen School Health Service in the past seven years. The North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board appointed Dr. Fiona Bennett in January, 1954 as his successor as School Oculist.

2. General Statistics

Population ... ..	142,900
Number of Schools:-	
(a) Nursery	1
Primary	134
(b) Secondary	80
(c) (I) Special Schools	-
(II) Special Classes at ordinary schools	-
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under Medical Inspection	215
Number of children on the registers	24,417

3. Sanitary Conditions of Schools

The general standard of cleanliness, internally and externally, of the County school buildings noted at the routine medical inspection visits was satisfactory and well maintained despite the difficulties experienced in a few areas in obtaining the services of school cleaners. During the period under review, approved schemes of work at schools designed to improve the (a) sanitary arrangements (b) heating (c) artificial lighting (d) furnishings (e) internal and external decoration and (f) surface of playgrounds by tarmacadamising, progressed satisfactorily. With regard to school building projects, the Scottish Education Department issued further guidance to the Education Authority in their circular No. 268 on the standards of accommodation to be provided in new schools with due regard to the need for economy and for securing the best possible value for money spent. Plans for the building of new primary schools at Bucksburn and Auchnagatt have been approved. The new special school for mentally handicapped children at Inverurie will be ready for occupation after the summer vacation, while other major building projects at Aboyne, Bridge of Don, Tarland and Oldmeldrum are also proceeding satisfactorily.

4. Organisation and Administration

A. System and Extent of Medical Inspection and Treatment

The scheme of medical inspection during the school year 1953-54 was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in D.H.S. Circular No. 55/1953. This consisted of the systematic medical examination of the four routine age-groups of children namely infant entrants, 9, 13 and 16 year-old pupils; the examination of the 7 year-old pupils for acuity of vision and hearing; the medical examination of children attending the Fraserburgh Nursery School and the ascertainment and assessment of the degree of defect present amongst pupils handicapped by physical and mental defects all continued as in previous years. Special cases, not falling within the above specified age-groups and referred/

referred to the visiting School Medical Officers were also examined. Pupils, who, at the previous inspection, were found to have defects requiring to be kept under observation or requiring to be treated were re-examined. The usual cordial invitation was extended to parents or guardians to be present at the medical inspection of their children. Another audiometric group test of 9 year-old pupils was carried out during the summer term, a statement on which appears under heading 10 of this report.

Apart from the alteration concerning the provision of spectacles to school children recorded in last year's annual report, there was no further change in the scheme for hospital and specialist services adopted by the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board in 1949. These services functioned satisfactorily during the year.

The Committee on Child Health of the Scottish Health Services Council in their recent report made several recommendations on the care of school children. Most of these measures were already in existence and the remainder have been given consideration with a view to their implementation in due course.

**B. System and Extent of Dental Inspection and Treatment**

It will be recalled in last year's report, authorisation was given to the appointment of one Dental Attendant - the first appointment of its kind in the County. A Dental Attendant was duly appointed and took up duty on 16th October, 1953. Additional powers were vested on Education Authorities under Section 5 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, placing upon them the duty to provide a comprehensive system of free dental treatment for children at school who are willing to accept it. Renewed efforts to increase the dental staff to comply with this provision have met with no success. Details of the work completed under the school dental scheme will be found in Section 7 of this report.

**C. School Nursing and Arrangements for "Following-up"**

All nursing duties in connection with the School Health Service are undertaken by the 55 nurses employed by the County Council. Their duties in respect of medical inspection, treatment and "following-up" of children at school and at their homes, as well as those in respect of diphtheria immunisation and assistance at Dental and Eye Clinics are detailed in memoranda circulated to each of them. The two Health Visitors in the burgh of Fraserburgh are in attendance daily on school days at the Minor Ailments Clinic. During the year the nurses spent a total of 5,098 hours at schools and at children's homes. The number of school children visited at home was 680, the total number of visits paid to these being 1946.

**D. Co-ordination with the Public Health Services and other Local Authority Departments**

There is nothing further to add under this heading to that contained in the 1951 Annual Report.

**E. Co-operation with Other Bodies or Outside Agencies**

Details under this heading can be found in the 1951 Annual Report.

**F. Co-operation with Teachers and Parents**

As in former years, excellent relations continued to exist between the teaching staff and the School Medical, Dental and Nursing Staffs. Grateful acknowledgement is made of their willing co-operation and assistance at the routine medical and dental inspections, audiometric group testing, visits made under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme and in other matters pertaining to/

to the health and welfare of pupils.

The attendance of parents at the systematic inspections of their children at school is still an unsatisfactory feature of the County School Health Service. The number of parents who attended this year, namely 848, equal to 12.0%, of the children examined was a decrease of 0.9% as compared with last year. The presence of parents at a routine examination is of value particularly amongst younger children, where further information regarding the medical history of the child is required. Moreover, such an interview affords the School Medical Officer an opportunity to proffer advice as to the treatment of any defect found and to discuss simple rules of health from which the child would likely benefit.

5. The Findings of Medical Inspection

The total number of children in the four age-groups examined systematically at the routine medical inspection was 7,025 - a decrease of 301 as compared with the previous year. Of this total 3,502 were boys and 3,523 girls; to this number have to be added 18 boys and 5 girls routinely examined at the Fraserburgh Nursery School and 1,280 boys and 1,239 girls, born in the year 1946, examined for acuity of vision and hearing only, making a grand total of 9,567 pupils - an increase of 225 from last year.

The number of children who were presented to the School Medical Officers as special cases by Head Teachers during the routine visits was 329 while the number of re-examinations was 6,134. Compared with last year, these totals show an increase of 16 in the number of special cases and an increase of 2,899 in the re-inspections. Of the children systematically examined, 1,075 were notified to parents as having defects requiring treatment. Details of the number of children examined and the number of children recommended for treatment in the various age-groups will be found in Table 1 of this report.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of boys and girls measured in the routine age-groups of pupils examined:—

Age Group	Number Measured	Average Age		Average Height (Ins.)	Average Weight (Lbs.)	
		Years	Months			
<u>Boys</u>	Nursery	14	3	1	38.1	36.5
	Group I	1372	5	5	43.2	44.7
	Group II	1093	9	5	51.7	65.4
	Group III	980	13	5	59.5	97.3
	Group IV	46	16	9	67.4	135.0
<u>Girls</u>	Nursery	5	3	1	36.6	33.3
	Group I	1266	5	5	43.0	43.5
	Group II	1083	9	5	51.5	64.5
	Group III	1027	13	5	59.3	100.5
	Group IV	73	16	9	63.1	124.1

The average heights of the boys and girls measured in the various age-groups show only a little variation either way from the results recorded last year, the exception being amongst boys of age-group III where an increase of 0.9 ins. in height was found in association with an increase of 1.7 lbs. in weight. With regard to the other average weight findings, boys in age-groups II and IV showed losses of 1.3 lbs. and 1.9 lbs. respectively, while girls in age-group II gained 1.9 lbs. compared with the relative weights recorded the previous year. As the average heights and weights recorded in the table are above the Anthropometric Committee's standard for pupils of both sexes in the various/

various age-groups, the findings for the year can again be viewed with satisfaction.

The following is a tabulated statement showing the number and percentage of children recorded at the routine medical inspection of schools as suffering from specific defects, diseases or disabilities. The percentages for the previous year are also given for the purpose of comparison. The detailed results and sex distribution of the defects found in each of the four age-groups are shown in Table II at the end of this report.

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective.	Percentage Defective 1952-53
Clothing unsatisfactory	7025	116	1.6	1.5
Footgear unsatisfactory	"	14	0.1	0.2
Uncleanliness: (a) Head	"	90	1.2	0.9
(b) Body	"	98	1.3	1.5
(c) Head and Body	"	-	-	-
Skin: (a) Head - Ringworm	"	1	0.01	0.02
Impetigo	"	2	0.02	0.1
Other diseases	"	110	1.5	0.9
(b) Body - Ringworm	"	1	0.01	0.06
Impetigo	"	6	0.08	0.04
Scabies	"	4	0.05	0.1
Other diseases	"	248	3.5	3.5
Nutritional State - Slightly defective	"	274	3.9	3.9
Bad	"	15	0.2	0.2
Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	"	240	3.4	4.4
Naso-pharynx:				
(a) Nose - (1) Obstruction requiring observation	"	191	2.7	3.3
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	"	25	0.3	0.3
(3) Other conditions	"	38	0.5	0.5
(b) Tonsils - (1) Requiring observation	"	445	6.3	6.1
(2) Requiring treatment	"	110	1.5	1.9
(c) Glands - (1) Requiring observation	"	335	4.7	5.3
(2) Requiring treatment	"	64	0.9	0.6
Eyes: (a) External diseases -				
Blepharitis	"	68	0.9	1.3
Strabismus	"	137	1.9	1.4
Other diseases	"	95	1.3	1.4
(b) Visual Acuity with/without glasses -				
(1) Fair	9544	863	9.04	7.6
(2) Bad	"	119	1.2	0.8
(c) Recommended for refraction	"	698	7.3	5.8

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1952-53.
9. Ears: (a) Diseases -				
Otorrhoea	7025	44	0.6	0.3
Other	"	69	0.9	0.7
(b) Defective Hearing -				
Grade I	9544	67	0.7	0.7
Grade IIa	"	45	0.4	0.3
Grade IIb.	"	-	-	0.02
Grade III	"	-	-	-
10. Speech - Defective Articulation	7025	61	0.8	0.8
Stammering	"	15	0.2	0.2
11. Nervous and Mental Condition -				
(a) Backward	"	48	0.6	0.6
(b) Dull	"	50	0.7	0.5
(c) Mentally deficient (educable)	"	13	0.1	0.2
(d) Mentally deficient (ineducable)	"	4	0.05	0.04
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	"	39	0.5	0.5
(f) Difficult behaviour	"	10	0.1	0.1
12. Circulatory System:				
(a) Organic Heart Disease -				
(1) Congenital	"	37	0.5	0.5
(2) Acquired	"	11	0.1	0.2
(b) Functional conditions	"	104	1.4	1.9
13. Lungs - Chronic bronchitis	"	63	0.8	0.9
Suspected tuberculosis	"	20	0.2	0.1
Other diseases	"	113	1.6	1.3
14. Deformities -				
(a) Congenital	"	77	1.09	0.9
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	"	10	0.1	0.1
(c) Acquired (Probable Rickets)	"	15	0.2	0.3
(d) Acquired (Other causes)	"	114	1.6	1.09
15. Infectious Diseases	"	12	0.1	0.1
16. Other diseases or defects	"	253	3.6	3.6

After perusal of the above table, it will be seen that, on the whole, the percentages of the various defects enumerated vary less than 1% either way compared with the findings recorded last year. Exceptions to this general statement are found in items 8b and 8c, where there are increases of 2.4% and 1.5% respectively in the number of pupils (1) with fair vision and (2) recommended for refraction. A welcome decrease of 1% (item 6) will also be noted amongst children suffering from dental defects.

Among the other diseases or defects under item 16 above, the following is a statement of the nature and frequency of the main conditions found:-

Enuresis/

Enuresis - 43; Anaemia - 27; Obesity - 20; Undescended Testicle - 18; Sprains and injuries - 15; Hernia - 10; Epilepsy - 5; Asthma - 4; Enlarged Throat - 4; Cyst - 4; Rheumatism - 3; Hypopituitarism - 3; Hydrocele - 3; Petit mal - 2; Pes Planus - 1; Cretinism - 1; Chorea - 1.

Two routine medical inspections and several re-inspection visits were made to Fraserburgh Nursery School during the year. The number of defects found among the 23 children - 18 boys and 5 girls - routinely examined, was as follows:-

Eczema - 1; Strabismus - 1; Hernia - 1; Undescended Testicle - 1; Otorrhoea - 1; Nasal obstruction requiring observation - 1.

The examination of the seven-year-old age-group was confined to testing the acuity of vision and hearing. Of the 1,280 boys and 1,239 girls examined in this group, 150 boys and 160 girls were found to have visual defects and these were classified as follows:-

	<u>Fair Vision</u>	<u>Bad Vision</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boys	131	19	150
Girls	<u>138</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>160</u>
Totals	<u>269</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>310</u>

The number of boys and girls recommended for refraction was 107 and 120 respectively.

The acuity of hearing in the 7 year-old age-group was tested by the Conversational Voice Test and in doubtful cases by the Gramophone Audiometer and any hearing loss found was classified into three grades defined in N.M. & C. Circular No. 60/1938. Of the 1,280 boys tested, nineteen had a Grade I and nine a Grade IIIa deafness. The findings for the 1,239 girls tested were nine Grade I and twelve with a Grade IIIa hearing loss.

Table III shows that 64.5% of the pupils routinely examined were found to be free from defects. This result compares favourably with 61.42% recorded in the report by the Department of Health for the year 1953, for Scotland as a whole. By and large, the findings of medical inspections indicate that the health of Aberdeenshire school children has been well maintained during the year under review.

Examinations conducted by the Medical Staff other than routine school examinations

In addition to the routine school work, a large number of special visits and examinations was made by the Medical Staff. These examinations were of a varied character and their nature and extent are indicated in the following table:-

(1) Absentee children or irregular attenders	4
(2) Necessitous children	-
(3) Examinations of Handicapped pupils -	
(a) Physically handicapped	143
(b) Mentally handicapped	110
(c) Maladjusted	6
(d) Deaf and Partially Deaf	31
(e) Epileptic	5
(f) Speech Defects	22
(4) Certification of ineducable children to the General Board of Control	8
(5)/	

(5) Examinations under Children and Young Persons Acts -	
(a) Juvenile Delinquents	7
(b) Guardianship Cases	198
(6) Disabled Persons (Employment) Act	2
(7) Examination of Students in preliminary training for the teaching profession	1
(8) Examination of "After School" Bursar	-
(9) Examination of County Council Staff - (teachers, janitors, school cleaners, clerical staff, etc.)	113
(10) Examination of children for admission to Linn Moor Home	54
(11) Examination of children at Rudolph Steiner Schools for other local authorities	14
(12) Diphtheria Immunisation -	
(a) Number of initial inoculations administered to -	
(1) School children	2658
(2) Pre-school children	716
(b) Number of re-inoculations administered to school children	5282

6. Medical Treatment

A. Minor Ailments

The Minor Ailments Clinic at Fraserburgh continued to serve a useful purpose in the treatment of minor ailments amongst school children in that burgh. During the year under review, 70 new cases were treated involving a total of 261 attendances. The particulars of the conditions treated at the clinic are shown in the under-noted table.

The establishment of a similar clinic in Peterhead is now in sight. Plans have been submitted to build a Local Authority Clinic on a central site in that burgh. The practice of referring to the family doctor for treatment, pupils suffering from minor ailments, except those in the burgh of Fraserburgh and those who could be suitably treated by the Council's Nursing Staff at schools or at their homes, was continued as in the past.

Details of the conditions treated through the Local Authority or through private agencies are as follows:-

Defects	Fraserburgh Minor Ailments Clinic	Nurses Follow-up		Totals	
	Local Authority	Local Authority	Private	Local Authority	Private
1. Cuts, bruises, sprains and minor injuries	19	10	2	29	2
2./					

Defects	Fraserburgh Minor Ailments Clinic	Nurses Follow-up		Totals	
	Local Authority	Local Authority	Private	Local Authority	Private
2. Diseases of the ear	5	6	21	11	21
3. Diseases of the eye (excluding defective vision)	2	7	9	9	9
4. Diseases of the skin					
(a) Ringworm (Scalp)					
X-ray treatment	-	-	-	-	-
Other treatment	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Ringworm (Body)	3	-	1	3	1
(c) Scabies	-	-	4	-	4
(d) Impetigo	22	3	1	25	1
5. Other Diseases	36	81	57	117	57

B. Defective Vision and Squint

The Council's scheme for the treatment of visual defects continued to function satisfactorily during the year. By arrangement with the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, the services of an Ophthalmologist are available one day per week to examine and treat pupils referred to him by the School Medical Officers. When visiting the various School Eye Clinics, the School Oculist is now accompanied by the Board's Hospital Optician who undertakes the measuring and fitting of pupils with the proper size of frame in cases where new spectacles have been prescribed, thus relieving the School Oculist of part of the duties which previously fell to his lot and allowing him more time for (a) refraction work and (b) the examination of a greater number of pupils per session.

As mentioned earlier in this report, a change in the School Oculist Staff took place. Dr. Charles Cockburn relinquished his duties on 31st December, 1953, and was succeeded by Dr. Fiona Bennett as County School Oculist. The following is a statistical summary compiled from reports submitted by Doctors Cockburn and Bennett during their respective periods of office of the eye cases examined by them for the year under review:-

No. of children examined	1311
No. of children with refractive errors	1141
No. of spectacles ordered	520

Analysis of Refractive Errors

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Hypermetropia	235	20.6
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	469	41.1
Myopia	126	11.0
Myopic Astigmatism	135	11.8
Mixed Astigmatism	147	13.0
Emmetropia	29	2.5

Pathological Conditions met with were:-

Albino with congenital nystagmus	1
Amblyopia Right	1
Blepharitis/	

Blepharitis	5
Choroido-Retinitis, Left	1
Congenital Cataract	3
Conjunctivitis	1
Conjunctivitis follicular	1
Corneal nebulae	5
Congenital Post Polar Opacities	1
Nystagmus	5
Nystagmus vertical	2
Ophthalmoplegia external	1
Ptosis	2
Strabismus - divergent	14
Strabismus - convergent	67
Styes	1
Word Blind	1

Highly Myopic Children

A list of children with high degrees of myopia is maintained by the School Oculist. It is essential that such children should be kept under supervision and examined annually.

C. Nose and Throat Operative Treatment

School children requiring operative treatment for nose and throat defects were referred to the family doctor. There is a long waiting list for tonsil and adenoid operations, and, despite an increase in surgical staff, there is still much delay before cases recommended for operation are treated. The number of nose and throat operative treatments carried out privately was 6.

D. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

The monthly Orthopaedic Clinics held at Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Huntly and conducted by the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, continued to function as in the past. Hospital and specialist treatment, as well as orthopaedic appliances, special boots and artificial limbs, where required, were all provided for by the Board. The number of school children who attended and were examined at these Clinics during the year was as follows:-

	<u>No. of children</u>
Fraserburgh Orthopaedic Clinic	87
Peterhead Orthopaedic Clinic	50
Huntly Orthopaedic Clinic	24

Advice and instruction in remedial exercises for correcting postural defects found in school children were undertaken by trained physical instructors on the County Education Staff who also gave special instruction in physical exercises to selected cases suffering from severe attacks of asthma.

7. Dental Inspection and Treatment

Staff.

The dental staff during the past year has consisted of four full-time dental officers with one dental attendant appointed in November, 1953, to assist the dental officer in the Aberdeen area. One additional dental officer has been appointed since the end of the school year and will commence duty shortly in the Inverurie area. The present staff are each covering a larger area than is advisable and are therefore not able to inspect and treat each school once per year - this being regarded as the minimum service necessary. The appointment of three additional dental officers would be necessary to visit each school once per year and this staff would be necessary for school work alone. The schools in the Huntly and Aberdeen areas have now received one routine treatment visit since the appointment of dental officers to these/

these areas and it is evident that a great deal of work has to be overtaken before the dental condition of children in these areas shows improvement. The appointment of a dental attendant to the Aberdeen area has been an unqualified success. Apart from the chairside assistance, the dental attendant has relieved the dental officer of a great deal of clerical work thus allowing him to spend more time on operative work. This team over a comparative period has shown an increase in the amount of work done by the same dental officer, working alone, but until a year has elapsed it will not be possible to assess the full value of the appointment. Further appointments of this type are necessary where a fixed clinic is in operation and there is no doubt that they will be of great value to the dental service in the county.

A further appeal to private practitioners for assistance in the school dental service was made during the year but so far only one has accepted a part-time appointment. It would appear that for a variety of reasons the school dental service, as a whole, has little chance of ever being fully staffed and that the solution of Child Dental Health lies more in the field of prevention than cure. The question of employing dental hygienists should therefore be considered. While doing simple operations in the mouth such as scaling and cleaning and thus assisting the dental officers, dental hygienists are trained to give talks on dental health, both to adults and children of all ages. They have been employed in the Royal Air Force for a number of years and are now being employed in a number of school services and there is no doubt that they will become a permanent part of the staff of all efficient school services in the very near future.

#### Accommodation

Three permanent clinics are in use in the county but the great proportion of work is done in school premises.

There is now a definite need for a more fully equipped clinic at Bucksburn where there is a large school population plus the pupils from Bankhead, Stoneywood and Dyce, who are also being treated at St. John's Clinic.

With the appointment of a dental officer to the Inverurie area, the proposed clinic there should be completed as soon as possible.

The problem of accommodation for dental treatment in schools has been stressed in reports for a considerable number of years and although certain long term provisions have been made, the position at present is not good. In very many schools the accommodation provided is definitely not suitable and there is no doubt that this is a factor in the preference of many pupils, especially the older ones, to have treatment in the surgery of a private dentist. The provision of suitable working conditions is necessary both in the interests of the patients and the dental officer. Good dentistry cannot be expected where working conditions are unsuitable - in many cases there is no running water at hand. It is essential to have a constant supply of hot water for dental treatment in schools and it is therefore recommended that in as many schools as possible a hot water geyser be installed where it will be most convenient.

The better the dental service provided, the better the effect will be on child dental health.

#### Treatment of Mothers and Young Children

It has not been possible to do any routine work in this connection owing to the staffing position, although an increasing number of pre-school children are being treated casually at school by the dental officers.

#### Orthodontics

Only/

Only a limited amount of time is available for the treatment of irregularities and a few cases have been considered and will be treated during the coming year. Regular routine treatment must come before orthodontics in the school service orthodontics being at the moment in the nature of luxury.

### Fluorine

It is a fact that young children who from birth have lived continuously where the natural water supply contains around one part per million of fluorine show less caries than those who have lived in areas where the water supply contains no fluorine. Although there is no proof yet that this betterment in the incidence of caries lasts throughout life, the fact that caries is delayed is of importance. The introduction of fluorine to domestic water supplies, where necessary, is not a cure for caries and adequate dental treatment will continue to be essential.

Certain supplies of domestic water in the county are to be examined for their fluorine content.

### Propaganda

The report of the Committee on Child Dental Health bears out the opinion expressed in a previous report that propaganda in this country is necessary on a national scale using both radio and television. An efficient and fully staffed school dental service is one of the best forms of propaganda and this should be the aim in the county.

The education of children in Dental Health is at present being studied.

From Table V it will be noted that there has been a slight increase in the number of schools receiving dental service. Of 216 schools in the county 109 were inspected and 104 treated. A number of the larger schools in the Aberdeen and Huntly areas were completed for the first time since these areas were re-included in the service. Almost half the school population in the county was inspected during the school year and this should be a pointer to the staffing requirements.

The acceptance rate remains satisfactory although it has been lower since the National Health Service Act came into force in 1948. In the year ending 31st July, 1948, it was 79% and during the past two years it has been around 65%. The number of children who refused treatment from any source is again about 4%. A considerable proportion of those children whose parents opt for private treatment only receive treatment of an emergency nature and this section of the school population is largely responsible for the "dentally unfit". Many of them in fact have to be treated by the dental officer at a subsequent visit, as casual cases, not having had any treatment at all by a private dentist and this, in a measure, is one reason for the apparent fall in the acceptance rate. This plus the fact that a slightly larger proportion of entrants being seen by the dental officer for the first time are now requiring extraction of temporary teeth, is another argument for a wider propaganda which can reach parents as well as children.

There has been a definite increase in the ratio of fillings to extractions in permanent teeth over the year, the figure has risen to 196:100 compared to last year's ratio of 140:100.

Linn Moor Children's Home is now visited periodically as part of the routine work - in the previous few years only emergency visits were made. During the year 18 children were inspected and 8 treated. A slight increase in the incidence of caries in school children has been commented on during the past year or two by school dental officers over the whole country. The cause is generally attributed to the increased consumption of white flour and to the greatly increased consumption of sweets - especially between meals. The milling of white flour is unfortunately/

unfortunately here to stay but parents could exercise more control over the consumption of sweets and could with benefit insist on more regular use of the tooth brush after meals.

8. Special Schools and Classes

The erection of St. Andrew's Special School, Inverurie, the Council's first special day school for the special educational treatment of mentally handicapped children, was completed and will be ready for occupation at the commencement of the winter term. Apart from the extremely limited accommodation at Baldovan Institution, Dundee, no further provision has been made for the residential treatment of pupils similarly handicapped. The number of mentally handicapped children for whom special educational provision is at present made is as follows:-

Baldovan Institution, Dundee	8 children
Rudolph Steiner Schools, Milltimber	1 child
Rubislaw Special School, Aberdeen	13 children
Woodlands Home, Cults	1 child
Bicton Croft School, Surrey	1 child.

A few special classes for retarded or backward pupils have been formed in some of the larger schools where the numbers warrant such a provision and the teaching facilities are available.

Apart from 15 children who are receiving domiciliary education, the special provision made for the education of physically handicapped pupils is shown in the following statement:-

<u>Nature of Defect</u>	<u>Institution or Special School</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
Blind	- The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh	3
Partially sighted	- Raeden Special School, Aberdeen	1
-do-	- Sight Saving School, Dundee	1
Deaf	- Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Edinburgh	5
-do-	- Polmar Road Special School, Aberdeen	19
Epilepsy	- The Colony for Epileptics, Bridge of Weir	3
Other Physical Defects	- Raeden House Special School, Aberdeen.	2
-do-	- East Park Home, Largs	1

Defective Speech

As mentioned in last year's report, a full-time Speech Therapist, the first in Aberdeenshire, was appointed to undertake the treatment of speech disorders among county school children. For this purpose, six speech clinic centres were established in the Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Inverurie, Turriff, Huntly and Aberdeen areas. For special cases in other county areas, arrangements were made for these to be seen at the Speech Therapist's office in Aberdeen or at their homes during school vacations. Particulars, as at 31st March, 1954, regarding the number of cases at the six centres at present visited, together with an analysis of the speech defects found are shown in the following tables contained in an interim report submitted by Mrs. June Murray, the Speech Therapist/

Therapist:-

Numbers of Cases at Each Centre

Centre	Total Referred	Total Interviewed	Total Waiting	Total In Treatment	Total Discharged
Fraserburgh	87	86	66	15	5
Huntly	44	44	27	12	5
Inverurie	91	91	65	19	7
Peterhead	134	119	92	17	10
Turriff	67	65	46	14	5
Aberdeen Area	99	98	51	31	16
Totals	522	503	347	108	48

Analysis of Defects

Defect	In Treatment	Waiting	Discharged	Total
Dyslalia (Defective Pronunciation)	56	270	42	368
Cleft Palate or Hare Lip	3	-	-	3
Stutter	45	74	5	124
Alalia (Inability to speak)	1	-	-	1
Dysphonia (Voice Disorders)	-	3	1	4
Hearing Loss	3	-	-	3
Totals	108	347	48	503

It will be seen from perusal of these tables that of the 503 children interviewed out of 522 referred with speech defects, 108 of them are under treatment, 347 are on the waiting list for treatment and 48 have been discharged. As would be expected, the two commonest types of speech defects found were (1) dyslalia (defective pronunciation) and (2) stutter, 368 and 124 cases respectively out of the 503 children interviewed being sufferers of such defects.

The number of cases meantime undergoing treatment, namely 108, is greatly in excess of the maximum weekly case load of 80 recommended in the report of the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland. In an attempt to cope with the extra numbers, shorter treatment sessions and group treatment methods were used. Both methods, however, led to a slower turn over of cases. In the Huntly and Turriff areas treatment takes place fortnightly while in the Aberdeen area at intervals of three weeks. The latter arrangements are not satisfactory, particularly for the younger children who really require treatment at weekly intervals in order to establish between the child and therapist that friendly relationship and co-operation which are essential if the best therapeutic results are to be obtained. Cases awaiting treatment number 347 pupils. To that number has to be added pupils who have not yet been interviewed and other newly enrolled pupils with speech defects. To treat such numbers are beyond the capacity of one speech therapist. It is obvious, therefore, that if the treatment of speech disorders in the County are to be adequate, the present speech therapist staff will have to be augmented.

9. Arrangements for Physical Education and Personal Hygiene

The general arrangements made under this heading were detailed in the 1947 Annual Report. There are now 31 fully trained specialist teachers of physical education and 11 uncertificated teachers on the County staff. Between them a total of 98 schools received regular physical instruction in accordance with the Scottish Education Department's Syllabus for Physical Education. There is also a definite place in the weekly time-table for talks on Health Education. Each school has a copy of the Health Education Syllabus and this is used as a basis for regular instruction. The facilities at schools for physical education continue to improve and these will be greatly enhanced when the school building programme during the next few years is completed. This programme includes the provision of a gymnasium at Aboyne, Ballater, Fyvie and Tarland Schools and two gymnasias at Inverurie Academy. There is now a well equipped gymnasium with well planned dressing rooms and modern spray baths at Bridge of Don school - the latter being the first of its kind to be installed in an Aberdeenshire school.

Special remedial exercises for cases of bad asthma, and for postural defects, are carried out by specialist teachers at the instructions of the Senior Medical Officer.

Facilities for instruction in swimming are now provided for 18 schools at Swimming Ponds situated at Aberdeen, Peterhead and Macduff. Proficiency Certificates for swimming have been awarded by the Education Committee to pupils from Peterhead Academy, Peterhead North, Peterhead Central, Strichen and Kemnay Schools. It may be of interest here to record that 7 Peterhead Academy pupils gained places in the North East Area team at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships and that their efforts helped to place this area third on the National Championships, one point behind the Glasgow area.

In the sphere of athletics, the Senior Secondary Schools have each an athletic meeting to determine the School Boy and Girl Sports Champion. The Junior Secondary Schools have their individual meetings and send their best athletes to the District Inter School Meetings held each year at Fraserburgh, Turriff, New Deer, Bankhead, Kintore and Aboyne. The winners at the district meetings are invited to take part in the Final County Championship meeting.

There are also County Championships for the Senior and Junior Secondary Schools in five-a-side football and at netball

10. Other Activities in Relation to Health of School Children

(a) Audiometric Survey

An audiometric survey was again carried out during the summer term of 1954 in 38 of the larger County schools. The age-group selected for survey was pupils born in the year 1945. Excellent hearing conditions again prevailed at the schools selected and this factor had undoubtedly a bearing on the improved results obtained during the past five years, as the following tabulated statement will show:-

Year	No. of 9-year-old pupils tested	%	Hearing Grade				
			Re-tested	Normal	Grade I	Grade IIa	Grade IIb
1949	883	23.4	63.1	34.9	2.0	-	-
1950	1163	28.5	91.5	7.2	1.3	-	-
1951	1174	26.7	90.5	7.8	1.7	-	-
1952/							

Year	No. of 9-year-old pupils tested	% Re-tested	Hearing Grade				
			Normal	Grade I	Grade IIa	Grade IIb	Grade III
1952	1202	22.4	92.5	6.8	0.7	-	-
1953	1175	9.9	97.4	2.0	0.6	-	-
1954	1088	14.9	95.9	3.0	1.1	-	-

At the 38 schools visited, 1088 pupils - 567 boys and 521 girls - born in the year 1945 had their hearing tested by the Gramophone Audiometer (G.A.). Of this number 162 or 14.9% were retested as their initial test result was considered unsatisfactory. This represents an increase of 5.0% of children retested compared with last year. The following table shows the incidence of pupils with normal and defective hearing found as a result of the audiometric group tests carried out at the schools visited in 1954.

Hearing Grade	Boys		Girls		Both Sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Normal	536	94.5	507	97.3	1043	95.9
Grade I	23	4.1	10	2.0	33	3.0
Grade IIa	8	1.4	4	0.7	12	1.1
Grade IIb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade III	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	567	100.0	521	100.0	1088	100.0

It will be seen from the above table that, of the pupils tested, 33 or 3.0% of them were classified as having a Grade I defect in hearing, while 12 or 1.1% had a Grade IIa hearing loss. There were no pupils found with Grade IIb and Grade III hearing losses in the age-group tested.

Of the 567 boys tested, 21 were found to have hearing defects, 4.1% and 1.4% of these being classified as Grade I and Grade IIa respectively. The corresponding figures for the girls were 521 tested, 14 defective with 2.0% and 0.7% having Grade I and Grade IIa hearing losses respectively. Twelve pupils in whom a marked hearing defect was found were referred to the Regional Deafness Clinic for further investigation and treatment.

Sixty-eight other pupils - not of the survey age-group - were tested as special cases because some doubt had been expressed concerning their hearing acuity. Twelve of them were subsequently referred to their family doctor for treatment.

It may be of interest to note that 11 pupils suffering from severe degrees of deafness have been fitted with hearing aids.

(b) Sex Education in Schools

The only course on sex education took place in December, 1953, at the Gordon Schools, Huntly. Miss A. D. Duncan, Secretary to the Scottish Council of the Alliance of Honour again conducted the course of lectures to 228 girls in the Secondary department of the school.

(c)/

(c) Courses in First Aid and Home Nursing

Intensive courses of instruction in First Aid and Home Nursing for senior pupils attending the senior Secondary Schools were held as usual during the summer session. Local medical practitioners and trained nurses conducted the courses in First Aid and Home Nursing at five centres. One hundred and ninety-eight boys and girls attended the systematic and practical course in First Aid, while 102 girls took the Home Nursing Course. These figures represent a decrease of 56 and an increase of 10 respectively in the number of pupils who attended the above courses last year.

(d) School Meals Service

The School Meals Service in Aberdeenshire is now a well-established function of the Education Committee and, at the same time, a valuable integral part of the ordinary school routine. The success of the scheme depends in no small measure on the help given by Head Teachers and their assistants who give up part of their luncheon interval for supervisory duties before and during meals.

The following is a statement showing the present number of kitchens and dining halls in use:-

(a) Kitchens -

No. of kitchens supplying meals to more than one school	48
No. of individual kitchens	22
No. of domestic science rooms used as kitchens	1

(b) Dining Halls -

No. of Ministry of Works Dining Halls in use	25
No. in course of erection	3
No. of conversions	84
No. of classrooms in use	82

The number of schools at which two-course meals were served was 198, which is an increase of 7 schools over last year. In addition to these, light meals and soup meals were served at 6 schools, making a total of 204 schools where meals of one kind or another were served.

In the rural areas the demand for school meals continues to be high, over 90% of the school roll being quite a common percentage. The average number of two-course meals served daily was about 10,500, representing 4.3% of the school population - a slight increase from the previous year. The standard charge per meal, which became operative from 1st June, 1953, was 9d. per head and in cases of large families partaking meals, 8d. for the second child and 7d. for the third and subsequent members. Approximately 457 two-course meals were supplied free of charge to necessitous children on medical grounds. Besides this, 122 pupils had light meals - cocoa and sandwiches - and 183 pupils had soup meals daily during the winter months. The number of employees in the School Meals Service was 377.

(e) Milk-in-School Scheme

A minimum of a third of a pint of heat-treated milk or tuberculin tested milk from a source approved of by the Medical Officer of Health was supplied free of charge to those pupils attending grant-aided primary and secondary schools who desired it. Where suitable supplies of liquid milk were not available, the Education (Meals Service)(Scotland) Regulations, 1946, provide for the supply of dried full cream milk.

The/

The number of schools supplied with (a) liquid milk, (b) dried milk and (c) the number receiving no milk at all, in each of the nine school areas, is shown in the following table:-

School Area	Number of Schools in area supplied with		Number of Schools in Areas where no milk is supplied
	Liquid Milk	Dried Milk	
Aberdeen	29	-	-
Alford	18	1	3
Deeside	17	-	-
Ellon	26	-	-
Fraserburgh	25	-	1
Garioch	18	-	3
Huntly	17	-	5
Peterhead	30	-	1
Turriff	22	-	-
Totals	202	1	13

It will be noted from the above table that 203 schools were supplied with liquid or dried milk. There are still 13 schools where no liquid or dried milk is supplied. The number of pupils taking liquid milk was 18,910 while the number taking dried full cream milk was 20.

(f) National Survey of the Health and Development of Children

A communication was received in January, 1954 from the Joint Committee conducting the above survey stating that they had now decided to reduce the number of visits to the homes of the survey children by school nurses from once a term to once a year, October being the month selected for this visit. The necessary documents for completion would be forwarded in September.

Residential School Camp

A party of 70 Aberdeenshire pupils - 35 boys and 35 girls - from 16 County schools accompanied by three teachers were in residence at Middleton School Camp, Gorebridge from 28th April to 26th May. Prior to their departure, all the pupils were medically examined and were certified to be physically fit and free from infectious or contagious disease. Varying sums of money were contributed by the parents of the pupils concerned towards the travelling and maintenance expenses incurred by the children during their month's stay at camp. A time table showing the routine daily activities to be observed by the pupils from the 7.30 a.m. "reveille" to the 9.30 p.m. "lights out" was drawn up. The curriculum included one hour's daily instruction in English and Arithmetic in the forenoons, excellent and varied facilities for physical education in the afternoons and a lesson period from 6.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m., when a choice of activity was offered to the children, e.g. lessons in art, handwork, drama, country dancing or a film strip lesson. In addition there were a few day or afternoon excursions to Edinburgh, Stirling, Melrose and Galashiels to visit places of historical or educational interest. The pupils were also entertained to concerts in the Assembly Hall on several evenings and in a "Top of the Form" contest the Aberdeenshire "A" team ran out eventual winners. The general happy atmosphere which pervaded the camp, the beauty of the surroundings, the fine weather experienced for a large part of the period and the excellent medical and nursing arrangements made for the health of the residents and hygiene of the camp, were all contributory factors to the smooth running of this venture. Socially a great deal was gained through the association of children from the different counties. They all mixed well and many new friendships were formed. From every aspect, all were agreed that their sojourn to the Middleton Residential School Camp was a great success. It was an experience well worth undertaking and one of which they would have many happy memories.

TABLE I

Total Number of Children examined at:-

(A)	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Other Systematic Examinations.</u>
Primary Schools	(Entrants	2653	-
	(Second Age-group	2168	-
	(Third Age-group	49	-
Secondary Schools	(Third Age-group	1990	-
	(Fourth Age-group	165	-
	Total	7025	
	Nursery School	23	-
	Age 7 Group (Visual acuity and hearing only)	2519	-
	Grand Totals	<u>9567</u>	-
(B)	<u>Other Examinations</u>		
	Special cases	329	
	Re-inspections by Medical Officers	<u>6134</u>	
	Total	<u>6463</u>	

Number of children inspected at systematic examinations who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental caries):-

Entrants	344
Second Age-group	352
Third Age-group	344
Secondary Age-group	<u>35</u>
Total	<u>1075</u>

TABLE II

SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATIONS

Number and Percentage of Children in each Group suffering from particular defects.

Nature of Defect	Entrants		Second Age-Group				Third Age-Group				Fourth Age-Group				All Ages						
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1. Clothing unsatisfactory	29	2.1	22	1.7	25	2.3	19	1.7	16	1.6	15	1.4	-	-	60	1.7	56	1.5	-	-	
2. Footgear unsatisfactory	4	0.2	1	0.07	3	0.2	4	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	9	0.2	5	0.1	-	-	
3. Uncleanliness -																					
(a) Head	12	0.8	25	1.9	11	1.01	26	2.3	5	0.5	10	0.9	-	-	28	0.7	62	1.7	-	-	
(b) Body	22	1.6	12	0.9	18	1.6	16	1.4	16	1.6	14	1.3	-	-	56	1.5	42	1.1	-	-	
(c) Head and body	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Skin -																					
(a) Head: Ringworm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impetigo	-	-	1	0.07	1	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.02	1	0.02	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases	19	1.3	21	1.6	16	1.4	10	0.9	12	1.2	24	2.3	-	-	2	3.3	49	1.3	61	1.7	-
(b) Body: Ringworm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impetigo	4	0.2	2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0.1	2	0.05	-
Scabies	2	0.1	1	0.07	1	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.08	1	0.02	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases	48	3.5	44	3.4	36	3.3	36	3.3	29	2.9	40	3.8	4	6.6	117	3.3	131	3.7	-	-	-
5. Nutritional State -																					
Slightly defective	59	4.3	66	5.1	37	3.4	38	3.4	44	4.4	28	2.6	1	1.6	141	4.02	133	3.7	-	-	-
Bad	1	0.07	3	0.2	4	0.3	1	0.09	2	0.2	4	0.3	-	-	7	0.2	8	0.2	-	-	-

TABLE 11 (Continued)

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-Group				Third Age-Group				Fourth Age-Group				All Ages				
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	1364		1289		1081		1087		997		1042		60		105		3502		3523		
6. Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	57	4.1	52	4.03	24	2.2	42	3.8	32	3.2	24	2.3	3	5.0	6	5.7	116	3.3	124	3.5	
7. Naso-pharynx -																					
(a) Nose:																					
(1) Obstruction requiring observation	75	5.4	49	3.8	19	1.7	18	1.6	19	1.9	11	1.05	-	-	-	-	113	3.2	78	2.2	
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	12	0.8	4	0.3	4	0.3	-	-	2	0.2	2	0.1	-	-	-	-	18	0.5	7	0.1	
(3) Other conditions	14	1.02	10	0.7	3	0.2	8	0.7	-	-	3	0.2	-	-	-	-	17	0.4	21	0.6	
(b) Throat:																					
(1) Tonsils requiring observation	169	12.3	167	12.9	38	3.5	27	2.4	26	2.6	17	1.6	-	-	1	0.9	233	6.6	212	6.01	
(2) Tonsils requiring treatment	45	3.2	36	2.7	9	0.8	13	1.1	2	0.2	4	0.3	-	-	1	0.9	56	1.5	54	1.5	
(c) Glands:																					
(1) Requiring observation	130	9.5	107	8.3	32	2.9	26	2.3	21	2.1	18	1.7	1	1.6	-	-	184	5.2	151	4.2	
(2) Requiring treatment	34	2.4	15	1.1	7	0.6	4	0.3	2	0.2	1	0.09	-	-	1	0.9	43	1.2	21	0.6	

TABLE II (Continued)

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-Group				Third Age-Group				Fourth Age-Group				All Ages			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
8. Eyes - (a) External Diseases:	1364		1289		1081		1087		997		1042		60		105		3502		3523	
Blepharitis	20	1.4	7	0.5	14	1.2	10	0.9	6	0.6	10	0.9	1	1.6	-	-	41	1.1	27	0.7
Strabismus	42	3.07	51	3.9	14	1.2	16	1.4	6	0.6	5	0.4	-	-	3	2.8	62	1.7	75	2.1
Other diseases	34	2.4	19	1.4	12	1.1	9	0.8	4	0.4	15	1.4	1	1.6	1	0.9	51	1.4	44	1.2
(b) Visual Acuity:																				
(1) Fair	1	0.07	3	0.2	122	11.2	166	15.2	107	10.7	177	16.9	9	15.0	19	18.09	239	6.8	365	10.3
(2) Bad	-	-	1	0.07	15	1.3	16	1.4	12	1.2	23	2.2	5	8.3	6	5.7	32	0.9	46	1.3
Recommended for refraction	34	2.4	30	2.3	73	6.7	114	10.4	81	8.1	132	12.6	11	18.3	16	15.2	199	5.6	292	8.2
9. Ears - (a) Diseases:	13	0.9	8	0.6	5	0.4	7	0.6	5	0.5	6	0.5	-	-	-	-	23	0.6	21	0.6
Otorrhoea					6	0.5	9	0.8	7	0.7	14	1.3	2	3.3	2	1.9	29	0.8	40	1.1
Others	14	1.02	15	1.1																
(b) Defective Hearing:																				
Grade I	3	0.2	4	0.3	10	0.9	9	0.8	8	0.8	5	0.4	-	-	1	0.9	21	0.6	19	0.5
Grade IIa	2	0.1	2	0.1	5	0.4	5	0.4	4	0.4	5	0.4	-	-	1	0.9	11	0.3	13	0.3
Grade IIb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade III	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Speech - Defective Articulation	27	1.9	10	0.7	10	0.9	2	0.1	8	0.8	4	0.3	-	-	-	-	45	1.2	16	0.4
Stammering	6	0.4	2	0.1	4	0.3	-	-	2	0.2	1	0.09	-	-	-	-	12	0.3	3	0.08



TABLE II (Continued)

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-Group				Third Age-Group				Fourth Age-Group				All Ages				
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	1364		1289		1081		1087		997		1042		60		105		3502		3523		
14. Deformities - (c) Acquired (Probable Rickets) (d) Acquired (Other)	2	0.1	1	0.07	4	0.3	3	0.2	2	0.2	3	0.2	-	-	-	8	0.2	7	0.1		
15. Infectious Diseases	18	1.3	12	0.9	16	1.4	19	1.7	15	1.5	26	2.4	3	5.0	5	52	1.4	62	1.7		
16. Other Diseases or Defects	2	0.1	5	0.3	5	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0.2	5	0.1		
	67	4.9	48	3.7	37	3.6	40	3.6	32	3.2	25	2.4	-	-	4	136	3.8	117	3.3		

Systematic Medical Examinations

Classification	Entrants 2653		Second Age-Group 2168		Third Age-Group 2039		Fourth Age-Group 165		All Ages 7025	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1. Children free from defects	1545	58.2	1455	67.1	1427	70.0	103	62.4	4530	64.5
2. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from:										
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses; or	3	0.1	169	7.8	158	7.8	20	12.1	350	5.0
(b) Oral Sepsis etc.	79	3.0	38	1.8	27	1.3	5	3.0	149	2.1
(c) Both (a) and (b)	-	-	5	0.2	2	0.1	-	-	7	0.1
Total	82	3.1	212	9.8	187	9.2	25	15.1	506	7.2
3. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks.	780	29.4	351	16.2	288	14.1	28	17.0	1447	20.6
4. Children with defect less remediable than defects in 2 or 3:										
(a) Where complete cure is considered possible	201	7.6	100	4.6	73	3.6	8	4.9	382	5.4
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible	45	1.7	50	2.3	64	3.1	1	0.6	160	2.3
Total	246	9.3	150	6.9	137	6.7	9	5.5	542	7.7
Total number of children examined	2653	100.0	2168	100.0	2039	100.0	165	100.0	7025	100.0

TABLE IV

## Return of all exceptional children of School Age in the Area

Disability	At ordinary Schools	At special Schools or Classes	At no School or Institution	Total
1. Blind	-	3	1	4
2. Partially sighted -				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	-	2	-	2
(b) Other conditions of the eye, e.g. cataract, ulceration, etc. which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in an ordinary school	-	-	1	1
3. Deaf -				
Grade I	370	-	-	370
Grade IIa	68	-	-	68
Grade IIb	-	8	-	8
Grade III	-	15	-	15
4. Defective Speech -				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	473	6	-	533
(b) Stammering requiring special educational measures	74	45	-	119
5. Mentally defective (Children between 5 and 16 years).				
(a) Educable -(I.Q. approx. 50 - 70)	81	24	15	120
(b) Ineducable - (I.Q. generally less than 50)	-	19	16	35
6. Epilepsy -				
(a) Mild and occasional	8	-	-	8
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	-	3	2	5
7. Physically defective - (Children between 5 and 16 yrs.)				
(a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding glands)	10	-	4	14
(b) General orthopaedic conditions	148	2	12	162
(c) Organic Heart disease	90	1	-	91
(d) Other causes of ill-health	8	-	-	8
8. Multiple defects -				
(a) Mentally defective and physically defective	1	-	2	3

TABLE V  
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The number of children who were:-

(1) Inspected by the Dental Officers -

<u>Age</u>	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	1,090	13	1,103
6	1,262	17	1,279
7	1,317	27	1,344
8	1,033	24	1,057
9	989	11	1,000
10	1,011	12	1,023
11	966	14	980
12	995	26	1,021
13	983	10	993
14	933	10	943
15	279	13	292
16 and over	85	7	92
	<u>10,943</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>11,127</u>

	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>
(2) Found to require treatment	6,070	-
(2a) Accepting treatment	3,705	-
(3) Actually treated by School Dental Officers	3,697	184
(4) Number of attendances made by children for treatment	4,464	206
(5) Fillings:-		
(a) Permanent	1,805	21
(b) Temporary	89	7
(6) Extractions:		
(a) Permanent	928	31
(b) Temporary	4,427	133
(7) Number of administrations of a General Anaesthetic for extractions	-	-
(8) Other operations:		
(a) Permanent	503	-
(b) Temporary	113	-
(9) Half-days devoted to inspection	221	-
Half-days devoted to treatment	797	-
(10) Number of children treated under private arrangements	2,119	-

C. Port Health Administration

The only Ports of any size in Aberdeenshire are at Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The bulk of vessels calling at these Ports are either fishing vessels based on the Ports themselves or vessels engaged in coastal trade. Neither Port is an approved Port in terms of the Port Health Regulations.

D. Food Supply

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

Nutrition

There has been nothing of interest to report under this heading.

E. Miscellaneous

(1) National Assistance Act, 1948

Residential accommodation under the above Act is provided by the Local Welfare Authority and does not fall within the province of the Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health, however, has a duty to supervise in general the suitability or otherwise of the accommodation and to advise on matters concerning the community health of the Welfare Home. General medical services are provided by General Practitioners of the patient's own choice, although of necessity this usually means that they are provided by the nearest General Medical Practitioner.

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, dealing with the compulsory removal of a person in need of care and attention.

(2) Work done under the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act, 1938

Only one Nursing Home was registered under the above Act during the year.

(3) Health Education

As mentioned in the Report on the School Health Service for the year, lectures on Sex Education and Courses in First Aid and Home Nursing were provided in certain selected schools. No other work was undertaken under this heading.

F. General Sanitation

This section has been fully covered in the report of the County Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION IICounty Sanitary Inspector's ReportMilk

During 1954, there were 436 registered dairies in the County, and of that number 399 held Designated Milk Licences, as follows:-

Certified	-	35
Tuberculin Tested	-	362
Pasteurised	-	2

14,006,156 gallons of milk were produced in the County, consisting of:-

Certified Tuberculin Tested	)	12,510,060
Standard		694,419
Ordinary		801,677

3,878 samples of milk were taken; of that number, 3,341 were satisfactory (86.38%) and 537 were unsatisfactory (13.62%). The following table shows the number of samples taken under each Designation and subjected for bacteriological analyses:-

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised	27	1	28
Certified	233	36	269
Tuberculin Tested	2,646	379	3,025
Standard	208	43	251
Ordinary	203	77	280
T.T. Pasteurised	24	1	25

70 samples were taken for biological examination; of that number, 68 were negative (97.14%) and 2 positive (2.86%).

Five Special Designated Licences were suspended during the year but all were restored on satisfactory samples being procured. One Special Designated Licence was revoked owing to an extremely unsatisfactory record.

During the year, the following improvements to dairy premises took place:-

Total Reconstructions	-	5
Partial Reconstructions	-	7
New Byres	-	1
Byre Extensions	-	2
Reconstruction of Byres	-	9
New Dairy Premises	-	15
New Dungsteads	-	9
New Water Supplies	-	3
Water Closets	-	8
Wash-hand Basins	-	26
Other Improvements	-	24

The District Sanitary Inspectors carried out 1,175 inspections of dairy farms and the Milk Officers carried out 2,348 inspections.

There was one prosecution under the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934, for non-sealing of cans and a fine imposed of £2.

Food

The total amount of food condemned was 3 tons, 18 cwts., 14 ozs.

Factories/

Factories Act

No. of premises on Register	860
No. of Inspections carried out	641
No. of Written Notices	11

Particulars of the defects found were as follows:-

Want of Cleanliness	24
Inadequate Ventilation	1
Ineffective drainage of floors	8
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	21
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	25
Sanitary Conveniences not separate for sexes	2

Housing

The number of houses built was 205 - 193 Traditional, 12 Agricultural Workers' Houses.

70 houses were erected by private enterprise.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Section 3

No. of new houses erected - 32

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Sections 7 and 9

No. of houses represented under Section 9	-	26
No. of houses represented under Section 7	-	9

Building Byelaws

No. of Improvements carried out - 1,344

Complaints

935 complaints were investigated.

Nuisances

923 nuisances were found to exist. The nuisances consisted principally of:-

- Defective houses
- Sanitary defects in houses
- Defective water supplies
- Defective drainage
- Choked drains
- Rat infestation
- Polluted burns and ditches
- Deposit of refuse
- Defective w.cs. and privies.

Offensive Trades

The Herring By-Product Factory, which is so badly sited within the County on the outskirts of the Burgh of Fraserburgh, continued to process at a rate unequalled in the country, if not in the world. An impression was gained that smaller amounts were entering the factory, this being based on a considerable fall in the catch of the local fleet as compared with last year's intake, and the reduction in complaints and instances of offence caused by vapour emission. This was erroneous, however, as it was eventually discovered that last year's figure, itself a record, was very likely to be exceeded in the year under review, due to an increase in the amounts imported from the West Coast fishing ports, extending from Ayr in the south to Ullapool in the north. In the first ten months of the year 220,000 crans - roughly 22,000,000 herrings - had/

had been processed as compared to last year's sum total of 250,000 crans. The fierce weather of the last weeks of the year, however, resulted in an unforeseen drop in the intake from the West Coast. Nevertheless, the record figure of last year was exceeded and 270,000 crans were processed by the end of the year.

The occasions on which it was possible to check the efficiency of the cyclone de-vapouriser were too few to make a sound judgment. However, the chances offered did indicate that this system appears to mitigate the odour, replacing the stench with a "cooked" smell. The firm are hoping that they will be able in time to scrap the old system and replace with a new cooker, said to be even better than the cyclone.

#### Sanitary Accommodation

No. of new w.cs. installed	731
No. of new Bathrooms provided	719
No. of new sinks provided	689

#### Meat Inspection

##### Dyce Bacon Factory

No. of animals killed	167,795
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	570
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	5,565
No. of carcasses passed	161,660

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 164 tons, 5 cwts.,  
3 qrs., 24½ lbs.

##### Fraserburgh Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	12,207
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	164
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	228
No. of carcasses passed	11,815

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 32 tons, 16 cwts.,  
2 qrs., 16 lbs.

##### Inverurie Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	32,634
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	406
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	161
No. of carcasses passed	32,067

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 91 tons, 1 cwt.,  
3 qrs., 17 lbs.

The above-mentioned includes 391 cattle, 527 sheep, 300 pigs and 513 calves which were slaughtered as casualties.

##### Turriff Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	4,672
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Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 22 tons, 14 cwts.,  
3 qrs., 11 lbs.

#### Water

247 new water supplies were installed during 1954. Samples were taken with the following results:-

Chemical/

Chemical

Satisfactory	-	205
Unsatisfactory	-	16

Bacteriological

Satisfactory	-	245
Unsatisfactory	-	93

Drainage

28,362 yards of new drains were laid during the year. 682 drains were smoke-tested.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

The number of samples taken was as follows:-

Formal

Satisfactory	194	
Non-Genuine	13	
Convictions	4	(Fine of £10, Fine of £10, Fine of £10, Fine of £3.)
Warnings	4	

Informal

Genuine	375
Non-Genuine	17

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948

Number of improvements carried out to premises	3
Number of samples taken	52
Number of premises proposed to register	25

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

The number of samples taken was as follows:-

Satisfactory	48
Unsatisfactory	6

Cleansing

The County Cleansing Service provides a twice-weekly removal of refuse from 74 villages within the County. Any premises within 3 miles distance from the normal lorry routes receive a cleansing service on request. A weekly collection of refuse is carried out from all local authority houses and from all rural schools within the County. Contracts were renewed for the removal of refuse from the Burgh of Kintore and from the R.A.S.C. Barracks at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, and a new contract was entered into for the twice-weekly collection of refuse from the Burgh of Oldmeldrum.

Street Sweeping and gully cleaning were undertaken in all villages and hamlets within the County Special Scavenging District.

The collection of waste paper continued during the year. The weights of waste materials sold were as follows:-

Waste Paper	-	127 tons
Tins	-	121 tons.

The plant in operation consisted of 19 refuse collection vehicles and 2 vans.

All refuse dumps were kept under supervision by employees of the County/

County Cleansing Service and rat extermination work was carried out as and where necessary.

The number of workmen required to carry out the services was 53 full-time and 6 part-time employees.

### Synopsis of Reports by Burgh Sanitary Inspectors

#### Water Supplies

Huntly The 20 acre catchment area and springs situated on the farm of Wellheads provided ample water to meet the demands of the Burgh during the year. To improve the delivery of water to the consumer, and to provide for the ever-increasing consumption, 840 yards of 12" and 9" water mains were laid between the catchment area and the reservoir. Whilst no serious complaint regarding the quality of the water was received during the year, it has not been forgotten that the present water supply only receives a quantity of Chloros at the reservoir and is filtered only through a rotary filter which has been working continuously for the past 20 years. It will be necessary to consider in the very near future the provision of a modern water treatment plant.

Fraserburgh The Fedderate reservoir has remained practically full throughout the year, ensuring a satisfactory water supply as far as quantity was concerned. Samples taken at regular intervals all showed excellent results bacteriologically and chemically. To serve new housing areas, 272 yards of 6" main and 499 yards of 4" main were laid in extension of the existing distribution system.

Peterhead The water supply has remained satisfactory throughout the year. As reported in previous years, there has been difficulty in filtering the necessary amount of water to meet the daily demand and, to overcome this, the Town Council has agreed to instal a micro-strainer to relieve the pressure on the filter beds.

Ballater During the year, work on the new reservoir and filters has progressed satisfactorily and the water supply was adequate for all requirements.

Ellon During the year, the water supply was ample in quantity and of good quality. 300 yards of 4" water main were laid in Union Street to improve the pressure and the volume of water delivered to householders in that area.

Rosehearty The supply was fully maintained throughout the year and at no time was there any sign of shortage.

#### Drainage

Huntly The proposed new Sewage Disposal Works at Huntly was begun during the year and it is hoped that it will be completed during 1955. In the meantime the outfall discharges in crude form in the River Bogie and a constant watch was necessary to ensure that no fouling of the River banks took place. New works in connection with drainage consisted in the laying of 150 yards of 9" fireclay pipes in the Seaton Drive housing development.

Fraserburgh In general the sewage system operated satisfactorily throughout the year except for the main trunk sewer along the Esplanade which collapsed. The matter is being investigated and surveyed with a view to dealing with the problem comprehensively. To provide for new housing developments, 127 yards of 12" dia., 386 yards of 9" dia., and 151 yards of 6" dia. sewers were laid.

Peterhead/

Peterhead The new 30" dia. sewer from the junction of West Road and Station Road has been completed apart from 60 yards yet to be laid at the sea end.

It is expected that this length will be laid during the spring of next year but it should be possible to put the new sewer into operation before the outfall is completed.

Ballater No problems in respect of drainage arose during the year.

Ellon There are 8 sewers in the Burgh, 5 of which discharge direct into the River Ythan and the other 3 discharge into the same river after septic tank treatment. No trouble was experienced in respect of sewage disposal throughout the year.

Rosehearty Excessive rainfall during 1954 caused flooding of the Murison Drive housing scheme but water was prevented from entering any of the houses. The County Engineer has submitted a scheme to deal with flood danger in future years and his recommendations are under consideration.

Cleansing

Huntly The service was well maintained during 1954 and the cleansing wagon travelled over 7,000 miles in the course of its duties. Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in an old quarry situated at Corvichen. Two street orderlies were constantly employed on the sweeping of streets and, with additional labour as required, succeeded in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness.

Fraserburgh For cleansing purposes the town is divided into 8 districts, each in the care of a sweeper equipped with a barrow. Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Lochpots, situated beyond the outskirts of the town.

Peterhead Three refuse collections are made per week and every endeavour is made to have all bins removed from the streets by noon. 2 S.D. Freighters, 1 motor lorry and 1 horse-drawn wagon are used for the purpose.

Ballater Street sweeping and removal of household refuse was carried out during the year by the Burgh workmen. During the winter months refuse was collected every second day and during the summer a daily collection was made.

Ellon The Cleansing Service is carried out using a Karrier Bantam vehicle and refuse is collected thrice weekly. Refuse is disposed of in a disused quarry hole near Cassiegills farm on the outskirts of the Burgh.

Rosehearty Three refuse collections were made weekly and garden refuse is collected once weekly. Disposal is by controlled tipping. The service is not operated directly by the Town Council but through the agency of a private contractor.

Slaughterhouses

The number of animals killed in the four Public Slaughterhouses were as follows:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>
Fraserburgh	3,270	7,707	1,200	30
Inverurie	11,013	19,925	1,133	563
Peterhead	3,793	5,964	1,006	35
Turriff	1,160	2,643	280	109

Housing

The following houses were completed during the year 1954:-

Private Enterprise	42
Local Authority	178

The following passage is taken from the book 'The History of the United States' by John Adams.

It is a well-known fact that the American people have always been a people of the future.

The American people have always been a people of the future, and it is this which has made them a people of the future.

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