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Contributors

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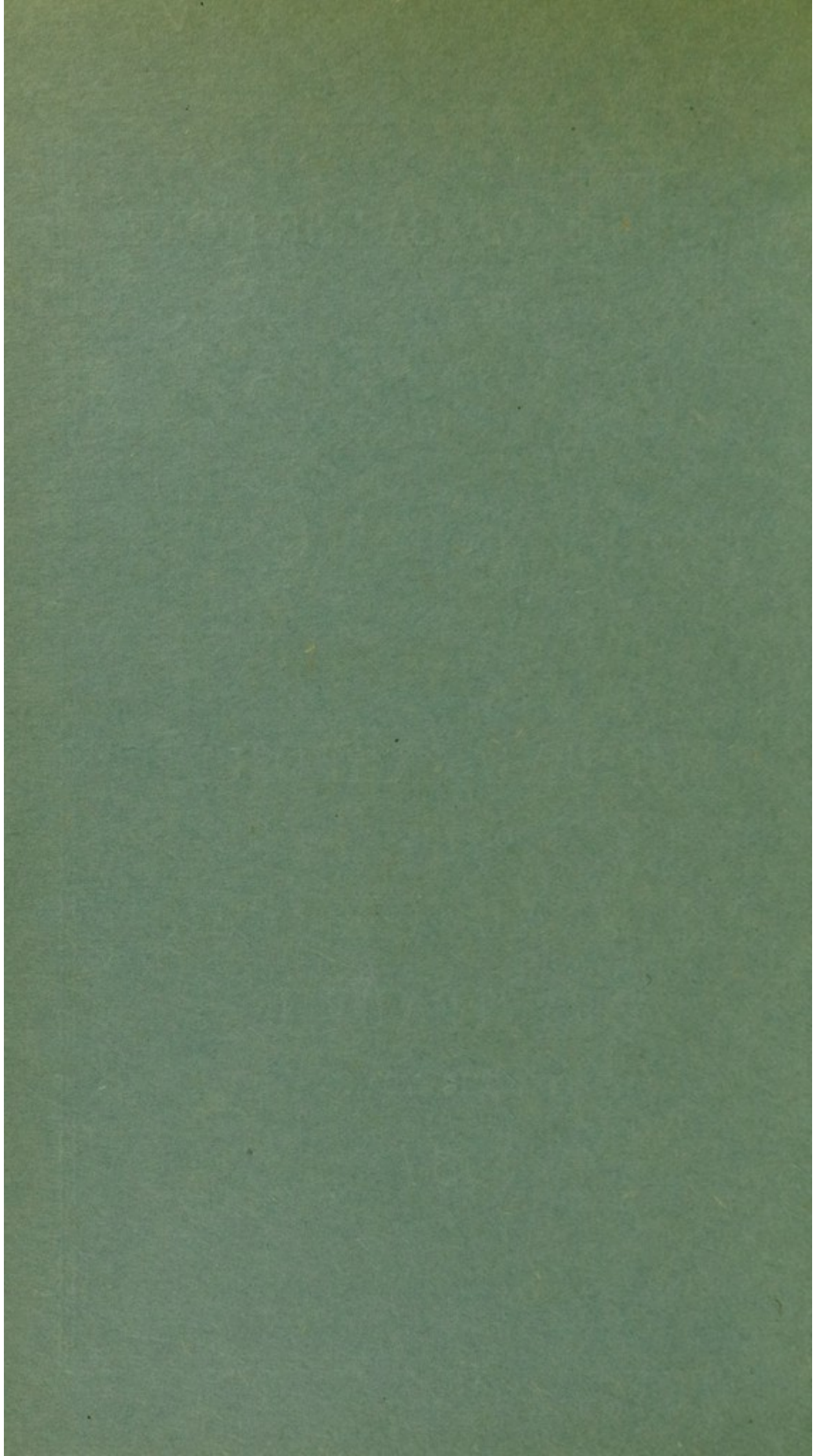


LONDON SCHOOL OF
25 JUN 1958

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1957



B. C.



BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE



ANNUAL REPORT **OF THE** **MEDICAL OFFICER** **OF HEALTH** **FOR THE YEAR**

1957

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

HEALTH AND BATHS COMMITTEE, 1957

Chairman :

ALDERMAN MISS N. K. LAWFORD.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. ROBERTS.

Members :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR H. A. WATTS, J.P.).

COUNCILLOR L. J. STROUD.

COUNCILLOR R. H. HOWARD, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. G. WELLING.

COUNCILLOR W. EVANS.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. SPRINGALL.

The Health and Baths Committee is also a Committee, the members of which, plus the two County Councillors for the Borough (Councillor C. Paice and Mr. H. J. Johnson) and the five additional members named below, constitute the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council :

MISS S. KINGDON.

MRS. E. RICHARDSON.

MRS. A. M. WANT.

DR. H. KEITH WILLIAMS, M.C., M.B., B.S.

MRS. E. A. LEE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health P. L. KARNEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health

*Inspector, Petroleum and
Shops Acts Inspector*

} C. H. DAVID, M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health
Inspector*

} T. J. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.
(appointed 1st March, 1957).

*Pupil Public Health
Inspector*

} B. F. MERRICK (appointed 7th
October, 1957).

Clerical Staff

- P. E. K. HUNT.

Miss J. M. BATTEN.

Rodent Operative

- R. RUMBLE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MARKET CHAMBERS,
CHURCH STREET,
BASINGSTOKE.

September, 1958.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Basingstoke.**

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1957.

General Health : The outstanding event of 1957 was the Influenza epidemic of late September to late November. It was part of the world-wide outbreak of an Asiatic strain of the "A" Virus. It was fortunate that the outbreak occurred in the last quarter of the year—normally the healthiest period—as a result it occurred mainly among the group of the community subject to crowding, and possibly the non-immune, *i.e.*, the school children and factory workers. The expected return during the more favourable winter did not occur. Sonne Dysentery occurred in early spring, spreading chiefly among the infant school population and stopping with the long summer holiday break. The biennial epidemic of Measles occurred this year, but the number of cases was low.

Vital Statistics : These indicate a further increase in population by nearly a thousand and a marked rise in the number of births. An unusual feature in the death rate was the marked increase in deaths in the fourth quarter probably the result of the Influenza epidemic, although the majority of the deaths were not attributed to the respiratory group. Measles and Sonne Dysentery formed the bulk of the notified illnesses.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances : Work associated with the new Housing Act and Slum Clearance has progressed satisfactorily, and a detailed report is included. The number of properties improved with the help of Improvement Grants has also increased. Some concern was shown on the growing development of caravan sites in a special report to the Health Committee. There are now about 255 caravan homes forming a fair proportion of the housing accommodation in the Town. Their particular difficulties are further discussed in the report. A review of all food and catering concerns was undertaken in connection with the new Food and Drugs Act. It is hoped to complete this survey in 1958, and a report made next year.

Increasing interest is being shown in helping the problem family. This, however, is a difficult task, proper housing undoubtedly forms a first and essential task. Unfortunately they make such unsatisfactory tenants for some time. Some co-ordination of Housing, Health and Welfare Authorities is necessary.

My thanks are due to the General Practitioners for their help and co-operation, to the many Officials who assisted during the year, and with this Report, and to the Public Health Staff for their support.

P. L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres - - - - -	5,180
Population—Registrar General's Estimate, mid-1957 -	20,830
Number of inhabited houses, etc. (according to Rate Books as at 1st April, 1958) - - -	6,638
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1958) - -	£314,555
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated 1958/1959) -	£1,270

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	1956	1955
Live Births—Legitimate -	197	177	374	319	314
Illegitimate -	10	16	26	17	15
Birth rate per thousand total population (corrected) - - -	-	-	-	18·4	16·17
Average for England and Wales -	-	-	16·1	15·7	15·0

DEATHS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	1956	1955
From all causes - -	91	83	174	173	117
Death rate per thousand population (corrected) - - -	-	-	-	9·1	9·46
Average for England and Wales -	-	-	11·5	11·7	11·7

An unusual feature this year was the marked increase in the number of deaths in the fourth quarter ; this was probably the aftermath of the Influenza epidemic, although the majority of the deaths were not attributed to the respiratory group.

Age Distribution		Main Causes of Death			
Group	Total M. F.				
Under 1 year	1 3				
1—19	8 2				
20—44	3 3				
45—64	27 17				
				M.	F.
		{ Malignancy -	- - -	7	4
		{ Coronary thrombosis	- - -	3	1
		{ Vascular lesions of nervous system	- - -	3	5
		{ Other heart disease	- - -	4	1
65—74	22 26				
75—89	29 32				
90+	1 2				
		{ Malignancy -	- - -	7	9
		{ Coronary thrombosis	- - -	13	7
		{ Vascular lesions of nervous system	- - -	5	16
		{ Other heart disease	- - -	9	15

Maternal Mortality

	1957	1956	1955
From all causes	-	-	Nil

Infant Mortality

	Male	Female	Total	1956	1955
Legitimate	-	-	1 2 3	8	10
Illegitimate	-	-	— 1 1	1	—

Cause of Death

Atelectasis }
Birth Trauma } - 2

Congenital Malformation 2

All the deaths occurred within the first week.

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total	1956	1955
Legitimate	-	-	1 3 4	4	8
Illegitimate	-	-	— — —	—	1

DEATHS

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total	1956
1	Tuberculosis—respiratory - -	-	2	2	2
3	Syphilitic disease - -	1	-	1	-
10	Malignant neoplasm—stomach - -	-	3	3	4
11	„ „ lung, bronchus - -	5	1	6	6
12	„ „ breast - -	-	4	4	1
13	„ „ uterus - -	-	1	1	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	5	13	18
15	Leukaemia - - - -	2	-	2	3
16	Diabetes - - - -	-	2	2	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system - -	9	21	30	18
18	Coronary disease - - - -	16	8	24	34
19	Hypertension with heart disease - -	3	3	6	3
20	Other heart disease - - - -	10	13	23	26
21	Other circulatory disease - - - -	5	3	8	7
22	Influenza - - - -	4	2	6	1
23	Pneumonias - - - -	2	2	4	9
24	Bronchitis - - - -	4	2	6	13
25	Other respiratory disease - - - -	2	-	2	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum - -	-	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea - -	-	1	1	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis - - - -	4	-	4	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate - - - -	3	-	3	1
31	Congenital malformation - - - -	1	1	2	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases -	7	5	12	20
33	Motor accidents - - - -	2	-	2	3
34	All other accidents - - - -	1	3	4	-
35	Suicide - - - -	2	1	3	1

Deaths significantly high in the fourth quarter for males, 38 to total of 91, largely in heart and respiratory illness.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(1) General Health

(a) Record of new claims to sickness benefit received at Basingstoke National Insurance Office :

	1957	1956	1955
January - - - -	475*	548*	741
February - - - -	518	827	633
March - - - -	461	658	458*
April - - - -	371*	372	391
May - - - -	397	446*	310
June - - - -	372	369	319
July - - - -	342*	335*	293
August - - - -	304	281	254*
September - - - -	429	357	320
October - - - -	1421*	442*	432
November - - - -	730	527	432*
December - - - -	582*	415	382

* Five-week periods reduced to four weeks for comparison.

(b) Attendance at Schools in the Borough :

Term		1957	1956	1955
Spring	- -	91·8%	88·2%	87·1%
Summer	- -	90·5%	91·3%	90·8%
Autumn	- -	87·3%	91·5%	93·6%

The outstanding feature of this year was the Influenza epidemic. It was part of the world-wide outbreak of an Asiatic strain of the "A" Virus. The outbreak occurred during late September to late November, and as this is generally the healthiest period of the year, it spread mainly in the section of the community that are subject to crowding—the school population and the factory worker. Although the epidemic wave seemed to pass quickly records of new claims to sickness and school attendance indicated that the attack grumbled on for many months, but fortunately did not extend into the winter months.

Earlier in the year an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred affecting mostly the younger school child and through them the other siblings, and quite often the parents.

The biennial attack of Measles occurred this year.

(c) Asiatic Influenza

Sporadic cases were beginning to be reported in late August, and by late September—October, with the return of the children to school, the epidemic reached its peak. In general the disease varied from a mild feverish illness with upper respiratory symptoms for a day or two, to an illness up to a week, with high fever and troublesome cough, signs of involvement of the trachea and bronchi. The onset was usually sudden and sometimes dramatically so. There were no complications with the otherwise healthy person, but some complained of a cough long after.

Relapses were reported in those that returned to work too early.

In August, just preceding the Influenza epidemic, but apparently quite distinct, was an outbreak of symptomless pyrexia in children mostly of the junior school age. Attacks lasted a week with a high temperature and some had severe bleeding from the nose. The weather was exceptional and many gave a history of frequenting swimming baths. The Swimming Baths were certainly crowded at that time. Attempts at isolating the cause through the laboratory failed.

(d) **Malignant Neoplasms—Deaths associated with :**

<i>Classification</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Average Age at Death</i>	<i>Age Range</i>
Lung and Bronchus - - -	7	65	52—78
Oesophagus - - -	1	70	66—74
Stomach - - -	3		
Colon - - -	5		
Perineum - - -	1	63	52—81
Cervix - - -	1	60	49—72
Vulva - - -	1		
Breast - - -	4		
Bladder - - -	1		
Prostate - - -	2		
Pancreas - - -	1		
Bile Duct - - -	1		
Sarcoma of Eye - - -	1		
Leukaemias - - -	3		

(2) **Infectious Diseases**

Notifications during the year :

Measles - - -	172
Whooping Cough - - -	3
Scarlet Fever - - -	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia - - -	2
Puerperal Pyrexia - - -	1
Dysentery - - -	55
Erysipelas - - -	3
Food Poisoning - - -	1
Poliomyelitis - - -	2
Tuberculosis Respiratory - - -	14
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory - - -	2

In addition, one case of Poliomyelitis occurred, but was only diagnosed at Hospital and not notified in this district.

(a) **Measles :** The biennial attack of Measles occurred this year, starting during the early winter months of 1956, and tailing off in August—September, 1957. As usual, 50 per cent. of the cases were from the age group 5—9 years.

(b) **Poliomyelitis :** Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, one was a pregnant mother with resulting severe paralysis of both lower limbs. The other was a boy of 4 years in a large family. In the latter case there was no history of the child or any member of the family having been out of Basingstoke. This was the first time this had occurred within recent years.

A third case of Poliomyelitis was diagnosed in Hospital after the child was admitted for meningitis. Faeces specimens from other members of the family were positive for the Polio Virus. There was

transitory paralysis. About the same time as this case occurred, a boy aged 4 years, admitted from Basingstoke to the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, died from Encephalitis. Two other cases (not fatal) occurred in Overton. These two cases gave a history of close contact, and a frequent visitor to one of the families worked in the same workshop as the father of the boy who died. Faeces specimens of all contacts proved negative to a virus culture.

(c) **Sonne Dysentery** : An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred, starting in February and reaching a peak in April and May. The cases occurred and spread among the young school-going group, and from them to the other siblings and even their parents. The illness is mild, but is of considerable nuisance, especially in primary schools when it spreads rapidly and is difficult to control. Spread is considered largely by contact with lavatory seats, door knobs, towels, pencils, books, etc. There appeared to be very little spread from adult to adult.

(d) **Tuberculosis** : The following table indicates the incidence of new cases during the year :

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 5 -	-	-	-	-
5-14 -	-	-	-	-
15-24 -	4	2	1	-
25-44 -	1	2	-	-
45-64 -	3	2	-	1
65+ -	-	-	-	-

There were two deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis, a male aged 77, and a female aged 47 ; both were on the register previously.

(e) **Food Poisoning and other Intestinal Infections** : There was only one notified case of food poisoning, a case of *Salmonella typhi-murium*, which occurred in the third quarter of the year.

As already reported, 55 cases of Sonne Dysentery also occurred.

(f) **Immunisation—Diphtheria and Whooping Cough** : During the year, 326 primary immunisations and 247 secondary courses were completed. Included among the primary courses were 14 combined with Whooping Cough and 303 with Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Number of children at 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation in relation to the child population :

<i>Date of Injection</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4 years</i>	<i>5-9 years</i>	<i>10-14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Completed within 1953-57 -	82	1019	1196	334	2,631
Completed prior to 1953 -	—	—	370	1187	1,557
Approx. Child Population -	400	1577	1705	1562	5,244

This indicates that approximately 65 per cent. of the children in the Borough receive a primary and a secondary course of protection against Diphtheria. The number of children under one receiving their injections before their first birthday steadily rises, and every effort is being made in this direction in order to avoid the bad effects, sometimes fatal, of Whooping Cough in early infancy.

(g) **Vaccination—Poliomyelitis** : During the year, 300 children completed two injections of Polio Vaccine :

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1956</i>
1947	38	7
1948	37	3
1949	49	2
1950	51	4
1951	39	10
1952	32	12
1953	37	10
1954	17	3

These represent an extremely small percentage of the age groups, but the supply of vaccine is limited. Registrations have been satisfactory.

(h) **Vaccination—Smallpox** : Percentage of children under one year vaccinated during the year :

	<i>1957</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1955</i>
Basingstoke Borough	69.5%	60.4%	58.7%

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

At the start of the year unemployment was about 50 per cent. higher than the previous year though this still only represented about .9 per cent. of the insured population. There was a rapid improvement, however, and despite a setback in the Spring, when two clothing factories closed, the normal high level of employment opportunities was maintained.

By the autumn, however, the stricter credit controls, coupled with cuts in defence contracts and increased competition led to difficulties in the engineering and clothing industry with a small number of redundancies. At no time did unemployment exceed 0.1 per cent. of the insured population, which is considerably less than average over the country. This was an encouragement to people considering moving to Basingstoke, and those purchasing their houses. As a result, there was a further estimated increase in the population by about a thousand, and considerably increased private housing development in the Town. The rise in interest rates was unfortunate and was a hardship to many a young family.

General Health Services

The County Council are the Health Authority but they have set up a local District Health Sub-Committee for advising and making recommendations to them.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to close the Day Nursery at Bolton Crescent.

Increasing interest is being shown in assisting problem families. A few have had teaching home-helps to assist them. Some method of co-ordinating the Health, Welfare and Housing Authorities seems inevitable for dealing satisfactorily with these cases. Housing undoubtedly is the first and biggest step in helping them. Unfortunately they make such unsatisfactory tenants for some time, and housing authorities, though always helpful, naturally show reluctance to assume welfare responsibilities.

Maternity and Child Welfare—Health Visiting

Clinics are held on Tuesday and Friday each week at Bramblys Grange Health Centre.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>	<i>Number who were under 1 year at first attendance</i>	<i>Total Number attended</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
1957	153	373	1,087	1,613
1956	153	290	827	1,270
1955	153	276	818	1,249

In addition, there are four Health Visitors who are informed of all notifications of births. They visit the mother and child and offer help and advice.

District Nursing

ANNUAL STATISTICS OF NURSES' WORK, 1957

	<i>Total Cases</i>		
Midwifery	-	-	- 80 (64)
General Cases	-	-	- 537 (578)
Tuberculosis	-	-	- 5 (7)
Total visits	-	-	- 9012 (9,000)

Total midwifery cases show a 25 per cent. increase, in addition 12 cases discharged from Hospital before the 14th day were visited and six miscarriage cases attended.

General Nursing cases show a decrease, possibly due to the transfer of Basing back to the Rural District Nurses on October 1st.

Home Help

ANNUAL STATISTICS

(a) Number of Applications received :

	1957	1956	1955
Total	- 107	116	115
Assisted	- 83	91	81

(b) Summary of Cases assisted :

Type of Case	1957	1956	1955
Maternity -	18	12	14
General Sickness -	38	37	29
Post Hospital -	6	8	10
Child Care -	-	5	-
Chronic Sickness -	9	11	4
Aged Sickness -	26	28	22
Aged and Infirm -	63	52	44
Tuberculosis -	2	2	4

The number of old people continues to increase. The Home Help Service is undoubtedly playing a very vital part in the care of the aged.

Day Nursery

The Bolton Crescent Day Nursery continued to function throughout the year, but in accordance with the County Council's general policy it was decided to close the Nursery in February, 1958, owing to the very small number of priority cases attending.

Welfare Foods

The welfare foods—National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil—are largely distributed by the W.V.S. at their Centre, 46 Church Street.

Old People—Welfare

Once again I am grateful to the County Welfare Officer for the Annual Statistics in the Borough :

(a) *Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare (Part III) Accommodation.*

<i>No. of Persons Visited</i>	<i>Visits Total Cases Visited</i>	<i>Applications Total Persons</i>	<i>Admissions Total Persons</i>
43 (49)	32 (27)	14 (11)	4 (3)

(b) *Senile Aged Persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Section 20, Lunacy Act, 1890.*

7 (5)

(c) *Visits to Aged Sick Persons and referred to Bed Service for Chronic Sick Bed.*

2 (3)

The following case may illustrate the type of work undertaken: Aged couple living in a bungalow—the man aged 80, senile, incontinent and physically ill—admitted to Hospital where he subsequently died. Wife aged 78, diabetic, in poor physical health and wearing hearing aid. District Nurse asked to call daily and Home Help provided. Hearing aid was repaired and later exchanged for a better one held spare by the Area Welfare Officer. Although arrangements made assisted the lady, she became in need of care and attention and was admitted to Audleys Wood Old People's Home.

Work associated with old people has undoubtedly increased in the Public Health Department. As already stated, the Home Help Service continues to play a big part in serving the old people in their homes. The Darby and Joan Club of the W.V.S. is still well attended and enjoyed, and the Chiropody Clinic has extended its work.

Problem Families

Increasing interest is being shown in helping the problem family. During the year about six cases were investigated by co-ordinated meetings with interested voluntary workers and officials. Special teaching Home Helps were attached to two cases, one case was sent to the Mayflower Training Centre, and one was attached to the Day Nursery, together with her child, and some training in parent-craft given.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The public water sources at West Ham and Cliddesden were sufficient to meet the essential domestic and industrial requirements of the Borough and to provide the small bulk supply to the Mid-Wessex Water Company for part of the parish of Cliddesden. It was, however, only possible to maintain these essential supplies by placing an embargo on the use of hose pipes for garden and car washing purposes during the summer months. During the year mains have been extended to serve additional development on two privately owned housing estates, and new mains have been laid in Worting Road, Pack Lane, Roman Road and Kingsclere Road in order to improve the pressure of the supply in the Kempshott and Winklebury areas. In all, some 6,605 yards of new mains were laid.

During the year, a total of 360,896,000 gallons of water were supplied within the Borough, which is an average of approximately 47·4 gallons per head per day for all purposes. In addition, 668,000 gallons were supplied, in bulk, to the Mid-Wessex Water Company.

Rainfall for the year was as follows :

January	-	-	2·20 ins.	July	-	-	3·62 ins.
February	-	-	3·22 ins.	August	-	-	1·92 ins.
March	-	-	1·74 ins.	September	-	-	2·92 ins.
April	-	-	·20 ins.	October	-	-	2·44 ins.
May	-	-	1·53 ins.	November	-	-	3·00 ins.
June	-	-	·88 ins.	December	-	-	2·41 ins.
Total - 26·08 ins.							

Comparative figures for the four previous years are as follows :

1956	-	-	-	24·33 ins.
1955	-	-	-	24·43 ins.
1954	-	-	-	31·78 ins.
1953	-	-	-	22·68 ins.

In order to keep a check on the consistency and reliability of the water supplies, systematic sampling of the raw water before chlorination was carried out and none of the samples showed any indication of bacteriological contamination. It will be appreciated that this sampling is carried out independently of the Public Health testing of the water, which is carried out after the water has been chlorinated and fed into the public mains.

The results of the bacteriological tests and of chemical analyses indicated that the sources produce a water which is pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply services.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the Council have extended sewers in the Winchester Road and South Ham areas. In general the existing sewers have proved adequate for the areas served, but it was necessary to carry out a certain amount of dredging of the older sewers to restore their capacity.

The whole of the sewage entering the sewers has been pumped to the Corporation Sewage Farm and treated by broad irrigation. The volume of sewage dealt with during the year was 243,766,000 gallons.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse was maintained, and the separation of saleable salvage was carried out as far as labour and other considerations permitted.

The majority of the refuse was burnt at the destructor works to provide the major part of the steam required for pumping the town sewage to the Farm. The remainder of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Eastrop Lane site.

The cleansing of public highways and footpaths was carried out by hand sweeping and by means of mechanical sweepers.

The emptying of cesspools as a rechargeable service was continued.

HOUSING

(a) New houses completed during 1957 :

Council Built	{	Traditional Type Houses	-	33	
		Traditional Type Flats	-	55	
		Traditional Type Bungalows	-	3	
				—	
				91	
				—	
Privately Built	-	-	-	-	335
Housing Associations	-	-	-	-	22

The number shows a marked increase on previous years.

At the 31st December, 1957, the following dwellings were under construction :

Borough Council	-	-	209
Private Building	-	-	97

The programme of Council Housing for the year 1958 includes two large contracts of various types from one-bedroom bungalows

to blocks of flats in three storeys. Further contracts include a new kind of three-bedroom, five-person terraced house, designed to be let at a very low rental.

Work has already commenced on a new site in Hackwood Road, where 51 dwellings are to be erected and let to higher income group tenants.

(b) Unfit Houses

(i) *Slum Clearance—Survey*

In accordance with the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Section 1, the Minister of Housing and Local Government finally approved the proposals for Slum Clearance in the Borough on 11th February, 1957. These proposals required the Borough Council to deal with 125 houses in the first five-year programme.

On 1st September of this year, the Housing Act, 1957, came into force which consolidated the provisions of previous Housing legislation, with the exception of financial provisions. It is perhaps interesting to note that until recent years, Housing Acts provided no alternative to Demolition (other than by Undertakings). Now it is possible for premises to be made fit after the serving of both Closing and Demolition Orders. It is therefore apparent that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government intend that older type houses should be made fit as far as possible. Generally, action on these lines will be found to operate favourably with such property in the Borough.

(ii) *Clearance Area*

In addition to action taken on individual unfit houses, an area of three houses were represented and defined as Borough of Basingstoke Clearance Area No. 1, 1957. This Clearance Area was further declared a Clearance Order and confirmed as such by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, on 20th November, 1957.

(iii) *Individual Unfit Houses*

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by owners in accordance with Section 16, Housing Act, 1957 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |

(c) Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in accordance with Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-	-	1
(d) Parts of buildings closed in pursuance of Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-	-	1
(iv) <i>Houses Repaired</i>					
(a) Unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	-	-	-	-	74
(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices under the Public Health Acts	-	-	-	-	3
(c) Houses made fit after service of formal notices under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957:					
By owners (including cancellation of 3 Undertakings)	-	-	-	-	6
By Local Authority in default	-	-	-	-	Nil

(v) *Legal Proceedings*

The landlord of a dwelling house was prosecuted for contravening the terms of an Undertaking in accordance with Section 11 (3), Housing Act, 1936, and was fined £4.

(c) **Improvement Grants**

During the year Improvement Grants for a further 35 properties were approved by the Council. (This compares with 21 in 1956.)

(d) **Rent Act, 1957**

This Act, which came into force on 6th July, 1957, has the general objective of enabling rented houses and flats being put and kept in good repair by reason of an increased rentals incentive between landlords and tenants as to rent increases and repairs required in the first instance, failing which application can be made to the Local Authority by the tenant for a Certificate of Disrepair.

The following is a summary of action taken to the 31st December, 1957 :

Number of applications for certificates	-	-	-	17
Number of decisions to issue certificates	-	-	-	15
Number of Undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	-	-	-	8
Number of Certificates issued	-	-	-	5

(e) **Tents, Vans and Sheds**

The number of caravans licensed during the year was 17, and in addition, 238 caravans are permitted on 7 sites in the Borough.

		1957	1956	1955
Total Caravans	-	255	234	184

There is a need to review regularly the increasing caravan development in the Town. There are about 255 caravan homes forming a fair proportion of the housing accommodation in the Town. Caravans are a necessity for some, helpful to the young married couple, but generally unsuitable for families with children. To allow any large number to set up in any area without any hope of being properly housed within reasonable time is bad policy.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk

The following table shows the numbers, types and results of samples taken during the year :

<i>Types of Milks</i>		<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised (T.T.)</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Samples	-	23	1	4	28
Phosphatase Test	} Satis. - Unsatis. -	22 1	1 -	- -	23 1
Methylene Blue Test	} Satis. - Unsatis. -	23 —	1 -	- -	24 —
Test for Myco. T.B.	} Satis. - Unsatis. -	— —	- -	4 -	4 -
Test for Brucella Abortus	} Satis. - Unsatis. -	— —	- -	4 -	4 -

2. Ice Cream

During the year 7 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for analysis, with the following results :

Grade 1 - - - 5 ; Grade 2 - - - 1
Grade 3 - - - 1 ; Grade 4 - - - 1

In addition, 1 sample of Ice Lolly was submitted for analysis and reported as being Grade 1.

3. Meat and other Foods

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number killed (if known) - -	548	13	459	1,136	1,929	—	4,085
Number inspected -	548	13	459	1,136	1,929	—	4,085
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcases condemned -	1	1	6	17	5	—	30
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	96	1	4	10	52	—	163
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.34	15.38	2.18	2.38	2.96	—	4.72
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcases condemned -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	4	—	—	—	51	—	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis -	.73	—	—	—	2.64	—	1.35
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration -	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1,112 visits have been made to the Slaughterhouse and other Food Premises during the year, and 4,085 carcasses have been inspected. In all, 2 tons 3 cwt. 1 stone 6 lbs. of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption. This weight does not include canned and packeted foods.

Food premises were inspected periodically and improvements effected are recorded in Table II.

377 visits were made to the Council-controlled Slaughterhouse during the year. It is pleasing to report that despite the abnormal hours of slaughtering, 100 per cent. inspection of all animals slaughtered was maintained.

(B) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

4. Notices

179 Notices (written and verbal, and including 3 Statutory Notices) were served during the year.

5. Complaints

534 Complaints have been received and dealt with.

6. Rodent Control

186 complaints were received during the year and in this connection 2,620 visits were made. This figure includes visits to dwelling-houses, refuse tip, slaughterhouse and sewage farm, schools, agricultural, industrial and business premises.

In accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, private dwellings were given free treatments for which a 50 per cent. grant is received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. All treatments carried out at business premises are chargeable at full cost.

It was observed that the infestations in the hedgerows around the Borough perimeter the previous year had considerably diminished, no doubt due to the scarcity of nut crops.

Sewer treatments were carried out with satisfactory results.

In all, a total of 3,269 poisoned baits were laid, with 157 complete takes and 1,421 partial takes ; therefore it can be assumed that a considerable number of rats and mice were destroyed.

The Council are members of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee and send representatives of the Health and Baths Committee and Officers of the Public Health Department to the Quarterly Meetings.

7. Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I

(i) Inspections, etc.

Number on Register	-	149	(inc. Building Sites)
Inspections	-	17	
Notices	-	4	

(ii) Defects Found :

Want of Cleanliness	-	7	
Sanitary Conveniences—			
(a) Insufficient	-	1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—		
(c) Not separate for sexes	—		
Other defects	-	5	

Part VIII

Outwork :

Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	11
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8. Drainage

Smoke tests	-	-	-	6
Water tests	-	-	-	3
Coloured water tests	-	-	-	4
Systems exposed	-	-	-	3

9. Infected Rooms and Articles

Rooms disinfected	-	-	-	19
Books disinfected	-	-	-	10
Bedding disinfected	-	-	-	13 lots
Clothing disinfected	-	-	-	5 lots
Bedding destroyed	-	-	-	1 lot

10. Infestation

(a) Rooms disinfested	-	-	-	36
Bedding disinfested	-	-	-	11 lots
Bedding destroyed	-	-	-	1 lot
Persons disinfested	-	-	-	1

(b) As mentioned in the 1956 Annual Report, the invasion of premises mainly in the Oakridge and South Ham Estates by Earwigs continues to persist. A total of 139 complaints was received. The Health and Baths Committee decided that the Health Department should supply a quantity of insecticide free in the first instance and

further supplies at 2s. per issue. The public appreciated this service and readily co-operated with favourable results. With continued building development, it is not anticipated that this infestation will have yet been abated permanently.

It is perhaps appropriate at this stage to refer in the Report to the numerous enquiries that are made to the Department for advice regarding the identification and eradication of insects, as distinct from vermin. It is my opinion that with a general improvement in the population's standard of hygiene, coupled with improved techniques and modern insecticides, it is apparent that in the near future it will be necessary for Public Health Departments to deal with this ever-increasing problem.

11. Table I

Classified Statement of Premises Inspected :

Inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts	303
Rent Act - - - - -	37
Works in progress - - - - -	53
Re-inspections - - - - -	313
Visits to slaughterhouse - - - - -	377
Food premises - - - - -	692
In connection with Infectious Diseases - - - - -	37
Shops Acts - - - - -	63
Pet shops - - - - -	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act - - - - -	469
Petroleum Act - - - - -	66
Factories Act - - - - -	17
Places of Amusement - - - - -	1
Dairies and milk shops - - - - -	26
Knackers yard - - - - -	7
Schools (Private and Elementary) - - - - -	6
Common lodging house - - - - -	4
Tents, vans and sheds - - - - -	180
Ice cream premises - - - - -	17
Smoke observations - - - - -	1
Miscellaneous visits - - - - -	624
Interviews - - - - -	394
Total -	3,694

12. Table II

Defective Conditions Recorded :

Water Supply :

Defective fittings, etc.	-	-	-	-	1
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Water Closets :

Defective buildings	-	-	-	-	10
Defective pans	-	-	-	-	5
Defective flush pipes	-	-	-	-	3
Defective flushing cisterns	-	-	-	-	9
Defective walls, floors, roofs, etc.	-	-	-	-	3
Dirty pan	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous defects	-	-	-	-	5

Drains :

Drainage systems needing reconstruction	-	-	-	-	2
Choked drains	-	-	-	-	26
Defective drains	-	-	-	-	7
Defective gullies	-	-	-	-	1
Not provided with means of access	-	-	-	-	1
Cesspools cleansed or provided	-	-	-	-	5

Sinks, Baths, etc. :

Defective, insanitary, or absence of, sinks, baths and lavatory basins	-	-	-	-	22
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Dustbins :

Defective	-	-	-	-	15
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Yards :

Absence of, or defective, paving	-	-	-	-	1
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Dampness :

Defective roofs	-	-	-	-	10
Defective gutters and rain-water pipes	-	-	-	-	9

Food Hygiene Regulations :

Absence of hot water supply (water heaters, etc., provided)	-	-	-	-	12
Food rooms repaired and ventilated	-	-	-	-	3
Miscellaneous infringements	-	-	-	-	60

General :

Defective, etc., walls and ceilings	-	-	-	-	57
Dirty rooms (walls and ceilings)	-	-	-	-	19
Verminous rooms	-	-	-	-	36

Defective windows and doors	-	-	-	8
Defective floors	-	-	-	9
Defective stoves and fireplaces	-	-	-	7
Defective and smoky chimneys	-	-	-	2
Defective or insanitary urinals	-	-	-	2
Accumulations	-	-	-	8
Animals improperly kept	-	-	-	2
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	11

C. H. DAVID,
Senior Public Health Inspector.