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Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

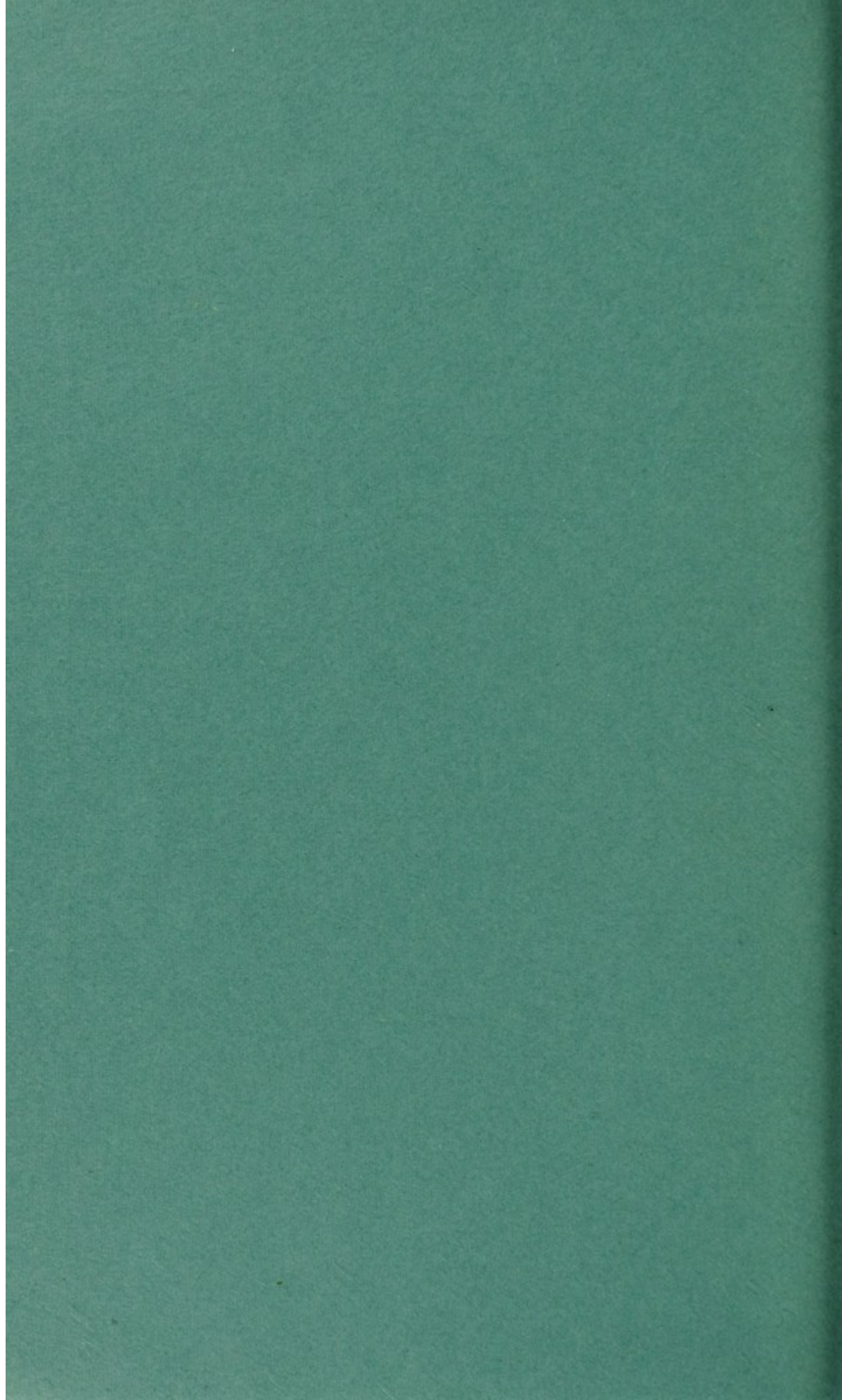
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SENIOR

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year 1956



Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SENIOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the Year 1956

Health and Welfare Department

THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SENIOR

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year 1956

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1956, based on Ministry of Health Circular 19/56.

The District has remained free from serious epidemics throughout the year and the customary standard of good health which this district enjoys has again been maintained.

There was no serious influenza epidemic, while only one case of poliomyelitis was recorded.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and all members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and my colleagues for their help and kindness to me during the year, also Mr. Noble for his co-operation and Mrs. Hannaford (since deceased) and Mr. Mills for clerical and other assistance so ably and willingly given.

Yours faithfully,

R. BRUCE KILLOH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

R. BRUCE KILLOH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham  
Urban District.

### **Senior Public Health Inspector :**

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### **Additional Public Health Inspector :**

T. P. BERESFORD, M.S.I.A.

### **Offices :**

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1, King  
Street, Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Senior Public Health Inspector is in  
Abbey House, Bradford on Avon. Tel. Bradford on  
Avon 2174.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	26,868
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	13,620
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,310
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£104,000
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£430

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General :—

### Births

#### Live Births

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	81	76	157
Illegitimate ... ..	6	—	6
Total number of live births	87	76	163

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population)	14.76
Comparative figure for England & Wales	15.7

#### Still Births

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	3	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total number of still births	1	3	4

Still Birth Rate for the District per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	23.95
Comparative figure for England & Wales	23.

## Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	79	64	143
Local Death Rate (i.e., per 1,000 population) ...			9.4
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...			11.7

## Infant Mortality

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	1	2

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	1	2

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ... ..	24.54
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...	23.8

## Causes of Deaths

The causes of deaths, classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	—	—	—
(other) ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	1	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	2	1	3
(lung bronchus) ...	3	—	3
(breast) ...	—	3	3
(uterus) ...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	10	2	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	13	23
Coronary disease, Angina ...	10	4	14
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	1	4
Other heart disease ...	12	23	35
Other circulatory disease ...	1	3	4
Influenza ...	1	—	1
Pneumonia ...	3	2	5
Bronchitis ...	4	—	4
Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	6	13
Motor vehicle accidents ...	6	—	6
All other accidents ...	2	2	4
Suicide ...	1	—	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
<b>TOTALE ...</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>143</b>

### Age and Sex Incidence of Heart and Arterial Disease

Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90		Over 90	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	11	10	16	11	7	18	—	3

This table has been prepared from data obtained from local sources :—

### Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Cancer

Location of Cancer	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Alimentary														
(other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Genital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	5	—	1	1

## OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA

### Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the District.

This laboratory with its skilled staff provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is much appreciated.

### Hospital Facilities

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital in Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in Devizes and Trowbridge, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge, while cases of Poliomyelitis are generally treated in Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

### County Health Facilities

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Arrangements for vaccination and immunization.

Ambulances and ambulance cars.

Domestic Helps.

Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness ; care and after-care ; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Disease	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever ... ..	22	12	19	3	4	6
Whooping Cough ... ..	42	32	27	26	40	24
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1	3	2	—	1
Non-paralytic	4	—	3	—	1	—
Measles ... ..	211	9	267	1	183	21
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	6	8	23	4	5	3
Dysentery ... ..	8	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	2	2	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Salmonellosis ... ..	—	—	—	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	10	9	11	4	6	2

## NUMBER OF CASES AND ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

Disease	Number of Cases	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	6	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	24	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1
Non-paralytic	—	—
Measles ... ..	21	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2
Dysentery ... ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—
Salmonellosis ... ..	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	2	1

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

#### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	—	1	1	4	—	—	3	—	—	—
3-4 years	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	6	—	—
5-9 years	2	—	5	3	—	—	—	6	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
15-24 years	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	1	12	12	—	1	8	13	—	—

Age Groups	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia		Tuberculosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—

# DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis		Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection	Salmon- ellosis	Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Atworth	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Broughton Gifford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holt	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	4	15	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Monkton Farleigh	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wraxall	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staverton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	6	24	1	—	21	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1

## Poliomyelitis

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred, affecting a young married female.

## Tuberculosis

NEW CASES				No. of cases
Year				
1951	...	...	...	10
1952	...	...	...	9
1953	...	...	...	11
1954	...	...	...	4
1955	...	...	...	6
1956	...	...	...	2

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 „	1	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 „	1	—	—	—	—	—
56-65 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	—	—	—	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1956. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded.

## Re-housing of Tuberculosis Patients

Cases are referred from time to time by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

*Certificate No. 1.* Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

*Certificate No. 2.* Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

*Certificate No. 3.* Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

None of the above certificates was received during the year.

## Mass Radiography

At the Royal Air Force Station, Melksham Without, a total of 2,344 persons were examined, 5 of which were found to be suffering from inactive tuberculosis. Six other non-tuberculous conditions were revealed.

At the New Mendip Engineering Co. Ltd., at Atworth, 283 persons were examined. No cases of tuberculosis were revealed, but one person was found to be suffering from a non-tuberculous condition.

At the factory of Messrs. J. & T. Beaven Ltd., Holt, Leather Specialists, a total of 147 persons were examined without any abnormalities being revealed.

At Broughton Gifford, 102 persons were examined without any abnormalities being revealed.

## Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes and schools.

## Immunisation Statistics, 1956

Age Group		Under 1	1	2-4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Primary imms. completed during 1956	Dip.	79	37	15	11	—	142
	Wh/c	65	19	7	2	—	93
Reinf. inj.s. administered during 1956	Dip.	—	—	7	116	12	135
	Wh/c	—	—	1	3	—	4
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1956	Pre 1/1/52	—	—	—	197	389	586
	Post 1/1/52	26	83	342	561	351	1363

Compared with 1955, the number of primary immunisations against diphtheria rose from 128 to 142. The number of reinforcing injections administered fell from 209 to 135. The total immunised child population at the end of the year was 1363 compared with 1948. 93 primary and 4 reinforcing whooping cough immunisations were undertaken.

## Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1956 :—

Age Group	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	TOTAL
Vaccinations	53	9	—	4	20	86
Re-vaccinations	—	—	1	2	21	24

Slightly less primary vaccinations were undertaken during 1956, a total of 86, compared with 89 in the previous year.

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

It would continue to appear that too few babies are being vaccinated at the present time, and in sharp contrast to diphtheria immunisation, which is relatively popular, vaccination in infancy is in my experience inclined to be viewed with relative indifference at the present time. Everything possible, therefore, requires to be done toward stimulating public opinion in favour of vaccination and impressing on them the constant danger of smallpox outbreaks in a poorly protected community.

## Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

## National Assistance Act, 1948

### SECTION 47 : REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

Happily, it was not found necessary to obtain compulsory removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

This latter step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed, and it is felt that there is need for more co-ordination of these services which are available to assist the aged and infirm.

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

---

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report to this Council.

The year 1956 has been one of steady progress with an expansion in the Refuse Collection Service to include the R.A.F. Station at Melksham Without, a detailed survey under the Food Hygiene Regulations and an augmented routine for milk sampling.

May I mention my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for their guidance, to Dr. Killoh for his co-operation and to Mr. Beresford and Miss Gatt for their assistance and attention to detail. The Rodent Operator and the eight members of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have worked admirably and have rendered good service to the public.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. NOBLE,

*Senior Public Health Inspector.*

---

#### STAFF

Additional Public Health Inspector	MR. T. P. BERESFORD
Clerk/Typist	MISS B. GATT
Rodent Operator	MR. A. H. HART (from 4th June, 1956)
Refuse Collection	MR. J. H. GOODENOUGH (Foreman/Driver) MR. H. GENDERS (Driver) MR. R. C. TROTT MR. P. SUTHERLAND MR. P. TUNSTALL (from 26th March, 1956) MR. R. G. HOWE (from 12th June, 1956)
Tip Operators	MR. P. SAWYER MR. J. T. GILES.

## MEAT AND FOODS

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Bakehouses	...	...	2	7	2	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2	422	—	—
Butcher's Shops	...	...	4	8	3	2
Catering Establishments	...	...	30	75	17	4
Food Shops	...	...	41	48	13	—
Licensed Premises	...	...	28	60	—	—
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	6	—	—	—
Licensed Game Premises	...	...	1	1	—	—

*Note*—It will be noticed throughout this report that, on occasion, more notices are shown as “complied with” than “served.” This is explained by work, requested in 1955, being completed in 1956.

The two private slaughterhouses have continued in operation during the year (animals slaughtered and condemnation figures are shown in Appendix “A”).

To maintain 100% inspection, considerable overtime is worked, including every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Ante-mortem inspection is not possible. No horses have been slaughtered during the year.

A scheme of enlargement and improvement at one slaughterhouse was completed in May, 1956.

A detailed survey of all premises affected by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, has been made and, with the Council's agreement, I am now making the informal approaches necessary to obtain compliance with these regulations.

## ICE CREAM

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Retailers	...	...	23	299	—	—
Manufacturers	...	...	—	—	—	—

Our sampling record again shows a deterioration in hygienic quality. This is solely due to one firm of manufacturers who were invited to attend a joint meeting of local authority represen-

tatives in this area. The meeting was held in September, the firm promise to give strict attention to the complaints and an improvement has resulted.

Total Number of Samples	...	...	...	203
PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES				
Grade I	Grade I or II	Grade III	Grade IV	
74.9%	90.7%	5.4%	3.9%	

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Dairies	...	...	...	...
Distributors	...	...	...	...
Producer/Retailers	...	...	...	...

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

"Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...	...	11
"Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...	...	9
Supplementary "Tuberculin Tested" Licences	...	...	13
Supplementary "Pasteurised" Licences	...	...	11

Set out below are the sample results of "designated" milk.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	...	148
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	...	136
Number of "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	91
Number of Satisfactory "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	91
Number of "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	...	106
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	...	100
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	...	46
Number at Satisfactory Biological Samples	...	42

I am pleased to say that our sampling routine has enlarged and we now cover fully all Distributors and Producer/Retailers. No raw milk other than "Tuberculin Tested" is sold in the district. Sample failures are investigated and further check samples have always been satisfactory.

## WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	12
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1956		53
Number of Samples taken for chemical analysis during 1956	... ..	—

Appendix "B" of this Report sets out the sample results for the year.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each Parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses, or by means of stand-pipes. None of the water supplies appear to be liable to plumbo-solvent action.

## FACTORIES

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Factories with power	... 27	41	1	2
Factories without power	... 2	2	—	—
Outworkers	... 41	4	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with and full details, as required by the Ministry, are contained in Appendix "C."

## SHOPS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Shops	... 46	48	—	1

During the course of the year, all the shops were visited and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Site Licences	... 13	52	3	2
Individual Licences	... —			
Licences Refused	... —			

It is again pleasing to report that no complaints have been received during the year regarding gipsies at Norrington Common.

All the sites, licensed by the Council, have been inspected to ensure that the licence conditions are fulfilled.

## RODENT CONTROL

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are given in Appendix "D."

The arrangement of a part-time Rodent Operator has proved satisfactory.

The public sewerage systems have been test baited and it was found necessary to treat a section of one such system.

To save expense, the Council have agreed to a limited supply of Warfarin being left with suitable householders where minor infestations are reported. Printed warnings and instructions are affixed to each packet of this rodenticide.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council entered into a contract to carry out the refuse collection at the R.A.F. Station, Melksham Without. Such work commenced on the 3rd April, 1956, and great credit is due to our men that the work has proceeded very smoothly. We have also commenced a limited collection of trade refuse.

The Council now have two 10 cubic yard vehicles — one Bedford (delivered in March, 1956) and one Ford (delivered in November, 1956). The Dennis 7 cubic yard vehicle met with an accident in September whilst on loan to another Department. This vehicle was sold as scrap and the Council hired a lorry pending the delivery of the Ford.

Both vehicles are diesel driven and this fuel is provided in bulk at our new Depot at Frome Road, Bradford on Avon.

## SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold :—

		Weight	Approx. Value
Waste Paper	... ..	24 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs.	£187 5 8
Scrap Metal	... ..	19 cwts.	£3 16 0
		TOTAL ...	£191 1 8

There has been a complete collapse in the market for salvaged paper and the merchants have not collected any from us since June, 1956. It seems wrong that this valuable raw material should be burnt at our Tips.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 376 cesspools and septic tanks during 1956.

The contractors, employed by the Council, visit the district every 3 months.

The growth of the service can be judged by the following figures :—

1948	...	...	75 clearances
1949	...	...	98 clearances
1950	...	...	120 clearances
1951	...	...	175 clearances
1952	...	...	234 clearances
1953	...	...	290 clearances
1954	...	...	333 clearances
1955	...	...	367 clearances
1956	...	...	376 clearances

## HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	39
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	39
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	1
Number of Closing Orders issued	...	...	2
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	1
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—

In accordance with the Council's policy, 34 cottages have been formally presented to the Housing Committee as suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Every endeavour is made to persuade owners to undertake reconditioning schemes and to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

16 Improvement Grants have been made during 1956.

No applications have been made to the Council for certificates of disrepair under Part II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

Number of inspections	...	...	...	238
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	12
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	2
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	12
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	—

A summary of work carried out by informal action is given in Appendix "E" of this report.

Following the service of the two statutory notices in connection with a nuisance from the drainage of a piggery the Council's case was heard by the Bradford on Avon Magistrates Court. On two separate occasions the hearing lasted a complete day. On each occasion the Council's case was accepted, a fine was imposed and costs obtained.

## **RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE**

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses. Sewer ditches continue to be a problem. Only three of the 13 Parishes (Winsley, Hilperton and Holt) have sewerage systems, but additional schemes are envisaged by the Surveyor to the Council.

We have co-operated with the Bristol Avon River Board in the removal and disposal of various animal carcasses found in the river at Limpley Stoke Weir.

## **SWIMMING BATHS**

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for a private pool at a school.

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

No formal action was found to be necessary during the year with regard to smoke abatement.

With the arrival of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the Council have authorised a letter being sent to the proprietors of various industrial premises. Attention has been drawn to the provisions of the Act and consultations invited with the Council's Officers and the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service.

## **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

Number of Premises Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	6

Four samples of rag flock, one of kapok mixture and one of woollen mixture felt were obtained. To save time and expense, these samples were taken informally.

One sample of rag flock failed in the statutory test and immediate investigations were made. The Public Health Inspector for the district where the rag flock was processed, also made enquiries and took samples. Later check samples proved satisfactory.

## **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	2

Before renewal of licences, the premises are visited by me and the Local Inspector of R.S.P.C.A., to whom my thanks are due for co-operation and advice.

## **HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952**

No action has been taken during the year.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE**

I would like to make special mention of the very good service given to this Council by Dr. Mann and the Public Health Laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath. All our milk, ice cream and water samples are given prompt attention and it is of very great assistance to have Dr. Mann's advice so readily available.

## **GENERAL**

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	774
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	208
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	412
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	396
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	49

# APPENDIX "A"

## CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	585	1,343	23	40	16	—
Number inspected ...	585	1,343	23	40	16	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci—</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	—	13	6	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	141	543	2	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci ...	24·1	41·4	34·8	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	1	74	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	60	322	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10·4	29·5	4·3	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

# **APPENDIX "B" BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1956**

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks.
Avoncliff Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chalfield Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	S(1)	—	Chlorinated supply.
Conkwell Supply	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Holt Water Company	S(1)	S(2)	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply
Monkton Farleigh Ministry of Works Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Purchased by Council on 26th March, 1956
Chippenham Water Scheme	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(2)	—	—	S(1)	Chlorinated supply.

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

# **APPENDIX "B" (continued) BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1956**

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
Norrington Common Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	—
Turleigh Troughs Supply	U(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949
Trowbridge Water Board	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Sandridge Lane Dip Hole Supply	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in July, 1956
Bradford Leigh Hill Dip Hole Supply	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in March, 1956

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

# APPENDIX "C"

## FACTORIES

Inspections					
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power) ...	2	2	—	—	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power) ...	27	41	1	—	
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—	
Defects					
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—

# APPENDIX "D"

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	Agri- cultural (5)
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	5	3300	316	3621	220
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification ... ..	—	42	10	52	1
(b) Survey under the Act ... ..	5	258	23	286	8
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	23	36	59	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections ... ..	Not readily available				
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats Major ... ..	4	—	1	5	—
Minor ... ..	1	47	8	56	4
(b) Mice Major ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ... ..	—	10	2	12	—

# APPENDIX "D" (continued)

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	Agri- cultural (5)
V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority ... ..	5	53	5	63	1
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ... ..	Not readily available				
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... ..	—	3	—	—	—

## APPENDIX "E"

### SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND WORK OBTAINED BY INFORMAL ACTION

Bakehouses—repairs and redecoration	...	1	Moveable Dwellings—removed	...	1
Butchers Shops—improvements and redecoration	...	2	Houses—repairs	...	3
Catering Establishments — cleansed and improved	...	4	Drainage—systems cleared and improved	...	6
Factories—sanitary accommodation improved	...	2	Public Health Act—rubbish removed	...	1
Shops—water heater repaired	...	1	Food Shop—cooked meats protected	...	1
Moveable Dwellings—sanitary accommodation and water supply provided	...	1	Rodent Control—precautions taken for rat-proofing	...	2



