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Borough of Bury St. Edmunds

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

1958.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS

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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1958.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Bury St. Edmunds shows an increase of 540. In spite of a fall in the birth rate the figure remained above that for England and Wales. There was a rise in the death rate to 11.9 per thousand of the population, which is slightly above the national figure but below that for the Boroughs and Urban Districts of West Suffolk.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was approximately one tenth of the figure for the previous year. This was due almost entirely to sharp reductions in the incidence of measles and of whooping cough.

Under arrangements made by the County Medical Officer very large numbers of children in Bury St. Edmunds were vaccinated against poliomyelitis. Later in the year the eligible age group was extended to include persons up to 26 years of age.

A record attendance figure was obtained at the third public X-ray survey which was conducted by the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board. The number of cases of tuberculosis discovered per thousand persons examined was even lower than at the previous visits of the unit.

The statistical record which is included in this report shows an appreciable increase in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. This was made possible by the appointment of a second Additional Public Health Inspector who took up his duties on the 20th June, 1958.

Close co-operation between the Public Health and Housing Committees has resulted in very good progress being made with the Council's slum clearance programme. So far as the duties of the Public Health Committee are concerned the target set for the first 5 year period has been attained.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. E. H. Box, your Senior Public Health Inspector, for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. H. Box, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. Ellis, M.A.P.H.I.

SECOND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. Harrison, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced) June, 1958

CLERK

Miss A. Wright

DEATHS:—The crude and adjusted death rates increased sharply from the exceptionally low figures of the previous year. The adjusted death rate for 1958 was 11.9 per thousand of the population, which is slightly above the national figure but below that for the combined Boroughs and Urban Districts of West Suffolk.

More deaths occurred from heart disease and from vascular lesions of the nervous system. Cancer of the lung or bronchus accounted for 7 deaths (5). Six people died from accidental causes and 1 from suicide. Once again no death was due to maternal causes.

DEATHS:—	Total	Male	Female
	280 (213)	126 (114)	154 (99)
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population —			13.0 (10.1)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population corrected for comparability			11.9 (9.4)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales —			11.7 (11.5)

INFANT MORTALITY:—The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age increased from 10 in the previous year to 20 in the year under review. It has been emphasised in previous annual reports that the infant mortality rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	20 (9)	10 (6)	10 (3)
Illegitimate	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			55.6 (27.7)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales			22.5 (23.1)

Fourteen of the infant deaths occurred in the first month of life and 6 of these were due to prematurity.

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1958

IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

				Registrar General's Figures.	
				M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	....	....	....	126 (114)	154 (99)
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	2 (—)	1 (—)
4	Diphtheria	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
5	Whooping Cough	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
8	Measles	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	— (—)	1 (—)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	2 (2)	5 (2)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....	....	6 (5)	1 (—)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	....	....	— (—)	7 (1)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....	....	— (—)	2 (1)
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	9 (16)	8 (9)
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	— (1)	1 (—)
16	Diabetes	....	....	1 (1)	3 (—)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	22 (15)	30 (27)
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....	26 (23)	17 (14)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	3 (1)	6 (1)
20	Other heart disease	....	....	19 (13)	27 (16)
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....	3 (3)	8 (7)
22	Influenza	....	....	— (4)	— (1)
23	Pneumonia	....	....	4 (6)	5 (6)
24	Bronchitis	....	....	9 (1)	1 (2)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	2 (3)	1 (—)
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	— (2)	— (—)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	— (1)	2 (—)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	2 (—)	— (—)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	1 (—)	— (—)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
31	Congenital malformations	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	14 (13)	22 (8)
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	— (2)	1 (—)
34	All other accidents	....	....	— (2)	5 (4)
35	Suicide	....	....	1 (—)	— (—)
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	— (—)	— (—)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On account of sharp reductions in the incidence of measles and of whooping cough the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was very much lower than in the previous year.

MEASLES:—The reduction from 333 cases in 1957 to 8 cases in the year under review is in keeping with the well known tendency of this disease to occur in epidemic form at two-yearly intervals.

WHOOPIING COUGH:—Only 4 cases were notified, 86 having been reported in 1957. Whilst it is not claimed that this dramatic reduction was caused by the wider use of combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactics, there is evidence to show that immunisation does confer a considerable degree of protection against this disease. It should be emphasised, however, that whooping cough is most dangerous to very young children and therefore it has been recommended that immunisation should be started at about the age of three months.

SCARLET FEVER:—Eleven cases were notified. Most of the patients were children of school age, and generally the disease was very mild in character.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS:—Only 4 cases were reported. The incidence of this disease has declined each year since 1954 when 74 cases occurred.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA:—Nine cases were notified from the maternity wing of the local hospital, but not all the patients were residents of Bury St. Edmunds.

POLIOMYELITIS:—Under arrangements made by the County Medical Officer very large numbers of children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis at the Clinics and Secondary Schools in the town and some were treated by their family doctors. At the end of the year

vaccine was available for all persons aged between 6 months and 26 years, and for expectant mothers of all ages. Anyone, who is still undecided whether to take advantage of this protection, can be assured that the injections are practically painless and take only a few seconds to perform.

No case of poliomyelitis was reported during the year amongst the residents of Bury St. Edmunds.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION:—One case of meningococcal meningitis was notified. The patient, who was an infant, made a good recovery.

DIPHTHERIA:—Once again no case of diphtheria was reported in Bury St. Edmunds, but it is necessary to emphasise that failure to maintain a high level of immunity amongst the child population must be expected to be followed by a sharp outbreak of this deadly disease. For this reason it is of the utmost importance that parents do not forget diphtheria immunisation in their eagerness to secure protection for their children against poliomyelitis, whooping cough and other diseases.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	1-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65+	Age Not re-corded	All Ages
Measles ..	—	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	4
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	9

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	6	11
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	4
Infective Hepatitis	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	—	9

MASS X-RAY SURVEY:—Early in the year the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board conducted a third public X-ray survey at Bury St. Edmunds.

The attendance figure of 7,102 was considerably higher than that at either of the previous surveys held in 1955 and 1951. Much help with publicity was given by the Press and by many voluntary societies, and it is believed that the improvement in the response of the public was due in large measure to the generosity of a commercial firm in allowing the unit free use of such excellent premises in the centre of the town. Special efforts were made to encourage the attendance of persons engaged in the food trades.

Various non-tubercular conditions were detected, but the number of cases of tuberculosis was very low. The rate per thousand persons examined for newly discovered significant tubercular lesions was even lower than at the previous visits of the unit.

The increase from 3 to 7 in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was due in part to cases detected at the mass X-ray survey.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex distribution of new cases, 1958.

Age	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65+	Total
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Female	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

No new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported.

The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer:—

WATER.

GENERALLY.

As in the past an adequate and wholesome water supply has been maintained throughout the year and for analysis purposes samples of raw water and treated water have been taken at regular intervals. The results obtained have shown a consistently high standard of purity.

MAINTENANCE.

The reservoirs, water tower and pumping station have been carefully maintained. The water tower has been emptied, cleaned and re-filled and this operation has also been carried out to the one million gallon service reservoir.

In August, 1958 when the old half million gallon service reservoir was emptied for cleaning, leaks were found to exist.; it is to be repaired by a specialist firm early in 1959 before being put back into use.

In accordance with the Council's policy of keeping all services and mains in a good state of repair, old and defective services have been replaced in Northgate Street and Tollgate Lane. In addition, new mains have been laid in Hardwick Lane, Tollgate Lane and the Industrial Estate.

VISITS TO WATERWORKS

Educational visits to the waterworks by parties of school children and nurses have been continued throughout the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

During the year disposal of refuse has been by means of burning at the refuse destructor and tipping at the site off Mount Road and at the Haberden. The Mount Road tip has now been filled to capacity and it will be necessary for alternative sites for disposal, or for the provision of a new destructor, to be considered in the near future.

SEWERAGE

Tenders for the construction of a new sewage disposal works in Fornham Park and a pumping station in Pigeon Lane will be called for in January, 1959 and it is expected that the actual work of construction will be commenced about the middle of that year.

The preparation of the detailed design work for a new main outfall sewer has been continued.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

The surface water sewer in Hardwick Lane has been extended for a further 110 yards. The surface water sewer in Newmarket Road has been connected into the new main surface water sewer on the Industrial Estate thus allowing the use of an inadequate soak-away to be discontinued.

SWIMMING POOL

The work of deepening the pool at the southern end in order to improve facilities for diving was commenced at the end of 1958 and it is expected that the work will be completed in time for re-opening in May, 1959.

New diving boards will be provided and the cubicles on the west side will be set back so as to give a wider surround to the pool.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955 :—Although it is the duty of the Council to “enforce and execute the provisions of these Regulations” in this district, it is the aim of your officers to secure compliance with the regulations in an atmosphere of friendly co-operation.

During 1958 it was possible for your Public Health Inspectors to visit food shops more frequently than in the past, and it is gratifying to report that in the great majority of cases food traders have taken an active interest in the subject of hygiene, and have succeeded in bringing their premises up to the specified standard without undue delay, but there was one outstanding exception. In this instance, owing to the lack of cleanliness of equipment and premises, and failure to provide equipment and food rooms so constructed and of such materials as to enable them to be thoroughly cleaned, legal proceedings were instituted after repeated requests and warning letters had been ignored. The occupier of the food premises was charged with four separate offences against Regulations 6 and 23 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. He was convicted and fined £5 on each of the four summonses. Some 10 weeks later he was brought before the Court again on account of continued serious contraventions of the same Regulations. On this occasion he pleaded guilty and was convicted on four summonses under Regulations 6 and 23 and sentenced to one month's imprisonment on each, the sentences to run concurrently. The premises concerned have since closed.

In order to stimulate further interest in food hygiene, arrangements were made for a series of illustrated lectures to be given to small groups of about 20 food handlers. The managers of the establishments concerned were most helpful in allowing their staff to attend during normal working hours, and to meet the demand it was necessary to increase the number of talks from 4 to 9.

The film strip projector, which was used for these and other lectures, was loaned by kind permission of the County Medical Officer.

MILK :—Five dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54, and 41 inspections were made of these premises during the year.

Many samples of milk from Bury St. Edmunds were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the West Suffolk County Council, and in order to avoid duplication of work, copies of the laboratory reports relating to these samples have been made available to this department.

All the 58 samples of pasteurised and T.T. pasteurised milk subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction test reached the required standard. Of the 79 samples examined by the Phosphatase test 3 samples failed to pass. These failures which occurred at the same dairy were believed to be due to the use of an incorrectly installed recording thermometer. After the trouble had been rectified further tests proved satisfactory.

Seventeen samples of raw milk were submitted by members of this department for examination by biological methods. No evidence of Tuberculosis was detected but one sample was found to be infected with *Brucella abortus* which is the causative organism of undulant fever in man and of contagious abortion in cattle. The information was passed to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and to the Public Health Authority in the district where the milk was produced.

ICE CREAM :—Sixty one premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. In addition to the performance of 61

inspections at these premises 62 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction test. The results of routine testing of ice cream have shown marked improvement in recent years, but 1958 was the first year in which all the samples taken in Bury St. Edmunds were classified in Provisional Grade I.

Provisional Grade I	.....	.....	62 samples
Provisional Grade II	.....	.....	Nil.
Provisional Grade III	.....	.....	Nil.
Provisional Grade IV	.....	.....	Nil.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES :—1958 was an important year for slaughterhouse legislation. The Slaughterhouses Act 1958 was passed, the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 were made. Some of the Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1959, others will not come into operation in respect of existing slaughterhouses until dates appointed by the Minister, but it is too early to judge what effect this legislation may have upon the unsatisfactory slaughtering arrangements in Bury St. Edmunds. It is the duty of the Council to review and report upon the existing and probable future requirements and upon the facilities which are, or are likely to become, available.

MEAT INSPECTION :—There was a further substantial increase in the total number of animals killed for human consumption, the figure of 16,227 being more than double the number killed in 1950.

There was an increase in both the number and the percentage of carcasses affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* (the larval form of the beef tape-worm). *Cysticerci* are not easy to detect, being small in size and sometimes few in number in any one animal. Each affected carcass

is submitted to treatment by refrigeration but this results in an appreciable reduction in its re-sale value and is the cause of some concern to meat traders.

					Total number of animals killed for human consumption.
1949	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,592
1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,357
1951	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,495
1952	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,641
1953	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,552
1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,301
1955	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,298
1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,396
1957	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,997
1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,227

POULTRY :—Because of the marketing of eviscerated poultry “ready for the oven”, a system of regular inspection of dead birds was started at 3 poultry processing and packing establishments. This caused extra work for your meat inspectors but the fact that condemnations numbered 2,205 birds with a total weight of over three and a quarter tons is clear evidence that their time was not wasted. It is hoped to extend the system of regular poultry inspection to include the premises of other wholesale traders in the town.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	3125	180	140	6250	6532	—
Number inspected	3125	180	140	6250	6532	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	3	10	44	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	653	48	6	256	615	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerici	20.9	30.0	6.4	4.2	10.1	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcasses condemned	9	1	1	—	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	111	6	1	—	175	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.8	3.8	1.4	—	2.7	—
CYSTICERCI						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	63	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	63	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

C. Bovis 1.9% of total cattle inspected.

ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

Cattle

	Whole Carcases	Heads & Tongues	Lungs	Livers & Pt. Livers	Skirts	Hearts	Whole Carcases
Tuberculosis	10	60	82	40	1	1	
Pneumonia Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis Melanosis and Emphysema	2	1	35			3	3
Pyæmia, Pyrexia Gangrene, Septicæmia							1
Liver Fluke and other Parasitic conditions			16	437			
Cirrhosis							
Nephritis, Necrosis Degeneration and Contamination, C. Angioma				51		2	
Emaciation and Oedema	2				1		5
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		7	3				
Tumours, Abscesses Cystic conditions and Adhesions		6	12	221	7	1	
Septic metritis	1						
C. Bovis		59				6	
Icterus and Uraemia							
Joint Ill.							
Swine Erysipelas							
Moribund, Bruising, etc.	2						1
TOTALS	17	133	148	749	9	13	10

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned :—

	BEEF
Bruising, Atrophy, or Decomposition	308 lb.
Abscesses	30 lb.
Arthritis	32 lb.

The total weight of all meat condemned in the

MEAT AND OFFAL.

Sheep					Pigs				Calves		
Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Whole Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Whole Carcasses	Lungs	Spleen
			5	173	3	1			1	1	
122		3	5		432		58		1	5	
			14								
47	64				4						
						98					
	7					14		9			1
			13								
				1							
2	17		1	4	2	5		7			
			1								
			4								
									2		
			6								
171	88	3	49	178	441	118	58	16	4	6	1

MUTTON

—
6 lb.

PORK

95 lb.
20 lb.
75 lb.

VEAL

133 lb.
—
—

slaughterhouses was 16 tons. 6 cwts. 1 qr. 25 lb.

FOOD PREMISES :—The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of inspections of these premises, which were made during the year, are recorded in the accompanying table.

Type of Business	Number Registered under Sect. 16 F. & D. Act.	*Total Number of premises.	Number of Inspections made.
Butchers and Pork Butchers	17	20	53 (58)
Bakers	—	12	61 (35)
Confectioners	—	35	50 (72)
Fish — Wet	—	5	31 (3)
Fish — Fried	13	13	42 (33)
Greengrocers	—	13	28 (3)
General Provisions	—	64	127 (145)
Hotels	—	11	45 (8)
Licensed Premises (excluding hotels)	—	59	102 (27)
Restaurants, Cafés and Canteens	—	50	93 (48)
Other Food Premises	—	30	48 (3)

* These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

UN SOUND FOOD :—Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Cheese		2	1	6
Bacon			1	21
Fish				14
Sausages			2	9
Poultry	3	6	2	14
Fruit		16	1	3
Ham		3	1	3
Miscellaneous			2	23
Tinned Meat 423 tins		9	0	13
Tinned Vegetables, Milk, Fish, Fruit, etc. 1,991 tins		4	3	11
Total	5	4	1	5
Meat and Offals (at Slaughterhouses)	16	6	1	25
TOTAL	21	10	3	2

Number of certificates of condemnation issued :—1,697 (1,055).

The methods used for the disposal of unsound food were unchanged.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	36	4	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	159	208	26	
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	20	1	
Total	213	264	31	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1		1		
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2		2		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	2		2	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	29	21		5	
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2		2	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	1	3		
TOTAL	43	27	6	9	

OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	6					
The making of boxes wholly or partially of paper	11					
TOTAL	17					

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 :—There was a marked increase in the number of inspections made at factory premises. The need for regular inspection is emphasised in the accompanying table which shows the number and types of defects found.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—The proprietor of a Common Lodging House notified his intention to close the establishment, and at the end of the year only one other Registered Common Lodging House remained in use.

SHOPS ACT, 1950 :—The large increase in the number of inspections of shops was the result of special efforts which were made to visit all shops during the year. In a number of cases sanitary conveniences and washing facilities were found to be defective or insufficient. Many of these defects have been remedied and others are receiving attention.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950 :—Throughout the year officers of this department continued to perform the duties concerned with the execution and enforcement of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

SWINE FEVER :—There was one outbreak of swine fever in the town which was confined to the infected premises.

On 3 occasions Form B. notices were served to restrict the movement of pigs which had been in contact with swine fever.

During the year 4,886 (5,176) licences were issued for the movement of pigs.

Under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, 10 premises are now licensed.

PETROLEUM ACT

During the year all petroleum tanks were air pressure tested, 17.1% of these were found to be defective in one way or another and 4 tanks were renewed. These figures compare with 36.4% defective and 3 tanks renewed when they were last tested in 1953.

HOUSING

The Ministry of Health no longer require details on housing matters to be included in the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, but because so much of your officers' time is devoted to housing inspection some brief notes on this subject are recorded below :—

Building Progress. New housing accommodation provided during 1958 was as follows :—

LOCAL AUTHORITY.	Under construction on
Completed in 1958.	31st December, 1958.
52	50
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.	Under construction on
Completed in 1958.	31st December, 1958.
54	22

SLUM CLEARANCE :—The sustained efforts of the Public Health and Housing Committees have resulted in excellent progress being made with the important work of slum clearance. By the end of the year all the sub-standard houses scheduled to be dealt with in the first five year period had been represented to the Public Health Committee. Since 1955, when the Council embarked upon the present programme, 120 unfit houses have been demolished and a further 153 have had Closing or Demolition Orders placed upon them, or have been included in Clearance Areas.

In the year under review 49 families were displaced from sub-standard homes and 46 of these were re-housed by the Local Authority. Forty houses were demolished and a further Clearance Area of 26 houses was awaiting confirmation at the end of the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS :—The closure and demolition of sub-standard properties form an important part of the work of this department, but the encouragement of repairs and improvements to other houses which can be made fit for human habitation is even more important. In this connection it is gratifying to report that 285 unfit or defective houses were repaired or improved during 1958 as a result of the formal or informal action of your officers. The following list shows details of the work completed. :—

Roofs repaired	70
Guttering and rainwater down pipes repaired or renewed	46
External walls repaired or repointed	57
Doors repaired or renewed	35
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired	70
Floors repaired or renewed	52
Windows repaired or enlarged, etc.	102
Dampness remedied	92
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	88
Stairs and staircases repaired	36
Food stores provided	13
Water supplies taken into houses	9
Sinks provided or renewed	13
Water closets repaired	29
Additional water closets provided	9
Drainage – repairs and improvements	120
External decoration	3
Yard pavements repaired	8
Dangerous structures made safe	4
Miscellaneous	17
TOTAL	873

INSPECTIONS

1. Houses — defects and nuisances	577	(564)
2. Houses — Survey and Housing Acts	608	(522)
3. Housing Act — (Improvement Grants)	129	(102)
4. Houses — re-visits	1071	(598)
5. Rent Act	117	(94)
6. Verminous or Insanitary Houses	62	(30)
7. Drainage work	310	(180)
8. Public Health Act — Section 75	178	(215)
9. Common Lodging Houses	23	(4)
10. Clean Air Act	105	(21)
11. Infectious Diseases Enquiries	12	(38)
12. Shops Act	511	(54)
13. Interviews with owners, etc.	251	(168)
14. Markets and Stalls	104	(94)
15. Slaughterhouses	1073	(820)
16. Poultry inspection	503	(1)
17. Stables and Piggeries	10	(37)
18. Diseases of Animals Act	86	(64)
19. Agriculture (Health, Welfare and Safety) Act	3	(—)
20. Pets Act	3	(5)
21. Schools	24	(2)
22. Petrol Installations	312	(60)
23. Explosives Stores	29	(56)
24. Caravans	126	(182)
25. Outworkers	6	(4)
26. Ponds, Pools and Ditches	14	(24)
27. Rag, Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951	2	(1)
28. Destructor and Tips	40	(10)
29. Unsound Food	182	(120)
30. Hairdressers and Barbers	34	(—)
31. Miscellaneous	137	(1)
TOTAL	6642	(4071)

