BOROUGH OF CALNE.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER

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OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :	C.L. Broomhead, M.D.,B.Ch. D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury).
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :	T.V. Oliver, M.I. Mun.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor).
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :	C.C. Dowding, Cert. S.I.E.B., Meat & Other Foods Cert. R.S.I. (who in addition is Assistant to the Borough Surveyor).
CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :	S.G.V. Williamson, Cert.R.I.P.H.H.

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The two Committees of the Town Council dealing directly with Public Health matters are :-

(i) Health, Housing and Town Planning Committee.

and

(ii) Water and Sewerage Committee.

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TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1956.

General and Vital Statistics, i.e. Population, Birth and Death Rates etc. are shown on page 6 with appropriate comments.

Although the Council is concerned principally with environmental health as distinct from the personal health services of the County Council, a report on public health necessitates comment on all aspects of the National Health Service.

General Public Health.

Although the Public Health Service is fundamentally concerned with the control of epidemic disease, it is also concerned with environmental conditions and seeks to secure pure and wholesome food supplies, and to provide facilities for the preservation and maintenance of the health of the mother and child, and of the school child. It is also responsible for the welfare of the mentally and physically handicapped, and the aged. It is difficult to realise that in 1870 the general death rate showed little difference to that of 1800, that in 1870 the death rate from enteric fever was 389 per million and from diarrhoea and enteritis 1262 per million; that infant mortality was 160 per 1000 births and that between 1869 and 1883 no fewer than 23,700 deaths from Typhus fever occurred. An epidemic of Cholera in the summer of 1866 caused 14,378 deaths.

The personal health services, with the environmental health services, have helped to make life longer, safer and less subject to much suffering of mind and body.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The Wilts. County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service, arranges the immunisation schemes for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis and more recently B.C.G. Vaccination. Vaccination against Smallpox is usually carried out by the Local General Practitioners unless mass vaccination has to be arranged, when the County Staff assist.

Compulsory powers for infant vaccination ceased with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1948 and were replaced by voluntary arrangements. The number of infants under the age of one year vaccinated is now below the safety margin and the public should be made aware that the danger of infection is still very real and should not be ignored. Statistics relating to vaccination will be found on page 9 of this report.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is still of prime importance; this procedure has contributed largely to the absence of any notified cases of Diphtheria during the year.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is usually incorporated with immunisation against Diphtheria and is a useful means of either avoiding an attack or of limiting its extent.

Vaccination and Immunisation (Continued)

Poliomyelitis innoculations have been given to children in Calne during 1956 without any complications. It is too early yet to assess the value of this immunisation, but there is every reason to believe that it will prove effective.

B.C.G. immunisation. During the preparation of this report, B.C.G. immunisation against Tuberculosis has been made available to thirteen year old school children in certain schools in North West Wiltshire. This is an important and valuable measure in the control of Tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality.

The striking improvement which has taken place in the infant mortality rate as a whole in recent years, has been due entirely to the saving of infant life after the first week, the premature mortality rate, i.e. still births and deaths under one week, have however shown little improvement since 1949. The causes of perinatal mortality have now been investigated, and it has been shown that early recognition of these conditions can effect a further saving in infant life.

Scarlet Fever.

Most cases notified are of a mild type, and are usually sporadic, appearing whenever the population generally is suffering from a mild outbreak of sore throats or colds. Nevertheless, certain types of Haemolytic Streptococcal infection may have a selective action on the kidneys and may cause serious illness in adults.

Measles.

It is impracticable to control this disease due to its high infectiousness before the patient shows any sign of its presence. He may spread infection for several days before the characteristic rash is seen. It is fortunate that the fatality ratio, like that of Scarlet Fever, has been steadily falling.

Whooping Cough.

The infant is very vulnerable to Whooping Cough. It is hoped that the combination of Whooping Cough with Diphtheria immunistion will contribute towards limiting this disease or reducing the severity of the attack. The group in greatest need of protection is that under six months of age.

Dysentery.

This disease, most common amongst young children, is rapidly increasing throughout the Country. There is an apparent as well as a real increase, as facilities for the examination of specimens have been improved, and therefore more cases are diagnosed on bacteriological grounds; the only way to establish a positive diagnosis. It is fortunate that the usual causitive organism is responsible for only a mild form of the disease. The fact of its spread clearly indicates a general failure on the part of the population to wash hands after use of the toilet. This simple act is one of the most effective of all preventive measures.

Food Poisoning.

Pre-cooked meat dishes take a prominent place among the vehicles of infection. Sometimes noxious bacteria are not killed in the process of cooking and the time which elapses between the cooking of the meat and the consumption of the dish allows them to attain such numbers or to produce such a quantity of toxin as to be harmful. A common source of contamination is a septic condition of the skin or a symptomless infection of the nose.

Scrupulous cleanliness of hands and utensils, cooking at temperatures lethal to bacteria, the use of sound meat and the restriction of made up dishes all contribute to the prevention of food poisoning.

Tuberculosis.

The present methods of treatment and prevention may eventually bring this disease under control. Tuberculosis is still the most important infectious disease, especially in the most productive years of life. Case finding is the key to prevention and efforts are necessary to trace the source of the disease in recognised cases and in those whose infection is revealed by the tuberculin test.

Cancer.

In his report for the year 1955, the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health states that "Civilized man appears to be increasingly surrounding himself with an unnatural chemical environment whose carcinogenic potentialities are being gradually explored. To what extent human cancer is caused by environmental carcinogens is not yet known but, as more and more of the chemical substances which man inhales, absorbs or ingests are being proved carcinogenic to animals, it seems reasonable to infer that certain cancers of the human body may be initiated or promoted by such substances".

Removal of a cancer in an early stage of development can be successful and the survival rate for treated cancers continues to increase, nevertheless the proportion of cancers found suitable for radical treatment is disappointingly small. There is no general solution as yet along curative lines.

Statistical studies in many countries have suggested that the incidence of cancer of certain sites is related to contain extraneous factors of great diversity. The most important at present is the association between Lung Cancer and Cigarette smoking. This problem cannot be ignored or its importance depreciated. The lives of those who will follow us must be considered and an effort made to halt the increasing annual death rate from this disease. In males 50-54 the Lung Cancer death rate is one half of the total cancer death rate and about one eighth of the total death rate from all causes in males. Many countries have carried out investigations and all are agreed that the relative risk of developing lung cancer rises in proportion to the amount of tobacco, especially cigarettes consumed. It has been stated that for a person smoking 40 cigarettes a day, the chance of lung cancer was 70 times greater than for a non-smoker, also that there was a higher mortality in smokers than in non-smokers; a higher mortality in cigarette smokers than in pipe smokers and a higher mortality in those who continue to smoke than in those who give it up. The risks involved should be made clear to all young persons in order that they do not commence a habit potentially dangerous, and so difficult to give up once formed.

Mental Health.

It is generally accepted that the Child Welfare Services must pay increasing attention to the mental and emotional development of the child in an attempt to prevent or minimise the onset of mental illness. Treatment can be more effective or avoided altogether if the signs of physical or mental abnormality are noted and acted upon at an early age.

Blood Transfusion.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that two public sessions, at which 211 donors attended, were held in the Borough during 1956. Although these results are excellent, the need for blood continues to increase. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.

Welfare of the Aged

The needs of old people living in their own homes continue to attract attention. Although no specific case was brought to notice during the year, arrangements can, in certain cases, be made for admission to hospital, or to improvements in their welfare etc. in conjunction with the County Welfare Officer and/ or the Home Help Service. As far as possible every opportunity is taken to permit old people to remain in their own homes and efforts are made to enable them to carry on as long as possible in the surroundings to which they are accustomed. Many old people are quite unaware of the services now available to them.

New Health Legislation during 1956.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955 came in-to operation on the 1st January, 1956. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 also came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Under the latter, certain provisions involving alterations to premises or equipment or substantial changes in existing practices were deferred until the 1st July, 1956. Byelaws relating to the Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses were made by the Council on the 9th. July, 1956.

I am grateful to Mr. Oliver, the Staff of the Council, and to Mr. Williamson, my Clerk, for their assistance in the preparation of this report and their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 1276

Population 6260

No. of inhabited houses at end of 1956 according to the Rate Book 1958

Rateable Value (at 1.4.56) . . . . . £66, 319.

Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1955/56) £158. 12. 5½

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	43	46	89
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total Live Births	45	46	91.

Birth Rate for the Borough . . . . . 14.5 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . .15.7 per 1000 of the population.

Comments on the above table.

The Birth Rate for the year is lower than the figure estimated for 1955 which was 17.1 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	1	-	1

Rate per 1000 total live and still births 10.8
Comparative Rate for England & Wales 23.0

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	2	2

Comments on the above table.

One of the two infants shown above died during the first four weeks of life

DEATHS

Deaths recorded in the Borough during 1956 were as follows:-

Males	Females	Total
24	24	48

Death Rate for the Borough . . . . . 7.6 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . . . . 11.7 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate is lower this year compared with the rate for 1955 which was 9.3 per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosus, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
" " , lung, bronchus	-	-	-
" " , Breast	-	-	-
" " , Uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms.	3	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous sys.	2	2	4
Coronary disease angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	4	8	12
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory sys.	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis, Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined dis.	-	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES.	24	24	48

It will be noted from the above table that Heart Disease, Coronary Disease and Cancer collectively account for more than half the total deaths in the Borough during the year. It is gratifying to note however that no deaths were recorded from communicable diseases, particularly Tuberculosis.

NATURAL INCREASE. Increase of live births over deaths . . .43
Rate of natural increase per 1000 of the population . . . . . .6.869.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1956 with comparative statistics for the years since 1950.

DISEASE	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	1	1	11	11	1	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	5	5
Whooping Cough	24	24	39	39	52	52	52	52	39	39	4	4	38	38
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	46	46	2	2	199	199	3	3	13	13	2	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	7	7
Erysipelas	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTALS:	28	28	98	98	61	61	260	260	45	45	20	20	67	67

"a" = Numbers originally notified.
"b" = Final numbers after correction.

Comments on the above table.

A minor outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred during the last quarter of the year.

The seven cases of Food Poisoning notified were all confirmed. Bacteriological examination of faeces specimens confirmed the presence of the Salmonella Typhi-Murium organism in each case. The cases were sporadic and no common factor, i.e. food, was established. Exclusion of Food Handlers from their employment and school children from school attendance, as a precautionary measure, was put into force pending treatment of each case by the family doctor.

The cases of Dysentery notified were all confirmed on bacteriological examination to be Shigella Sonne. The majority of the cases were school children. These school children were excluded school attendance until each child produced three consecutive negative stool specimens.

TUBERCULOSIS.

It is a pleasure to report that during the year no case of Tuberculosis was notified in the Borough. This is the first year since 1949 that it has been possible to record a "Nil Return" under this heading. Similarly no deaths occurred from this disease during 1956.

Although the number of cases of tuberculosis notified year by year previous to 1956 have been, by comparison with other parts of the country, small, it should be noted that a healthy environment with good housing conditions for all classes of the community are important factors in the prevention of this serious disease. In this respect the Council is to be congratulated on its efforts in providing alternative housing accommodation for certain cases of tuberculosis occupying unsuitable houses.

Notified cases of tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1956 were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	12	12	24
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	5
TOTAL:	15	14	29

The National Assistance Act, 1948
Sec. 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was not found necessary during the year to effect the compulsory removal of any person to hospital under the provisions of this Act.

Diphtheria Immunisation and
Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1956.

Under 1 year	Ages 1-4 years	Ages 5-14 yrs.	Total
155	52	6	213

Total immunised child population at 31.12.56.

Ages 0-4 years	Ages 5-14	TOTAL
413	969	1, 382.

Vaccination.

The following children were vaccinated during 1956.

Under 1 year	Ages 1-4	5-15 years	Total
57	5	3	65

In addition, ten children in the age group 5-15 were re-vaccinated during the year.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956 - a year in which the full implications of the new Food and Housing legislation were beginning to make themselves felt.

In this introduction it is unnecessary to amplify the many spheres of work embraced by the department - these are self evident in the pages of the Report proper.

The layout follows closely on the lines adopted in previous years but where it is found possible to use tables and figures to illustrate the subject matter these have been included, and, I hope, will prove of interest.

Certain additional information has been included this year at the request of the Minister of Health - dealing mainly with Food - and this has been included under specific headings.

The work of the Department continues to grow, both from the administrative and practical aspects. In the field of Meat Inspection alone, just over 1,000 more animals were inspected this year at the Private Slaughterhouse, than in 1955, the actual total being 13,341.

The year has been one of satisfactory progress and in conclusion I should like to thank the members of the Health Committee, Dr. Broomhead and Mr. Dowding for the support they have given.

I am, Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS V. OLIVER,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Rainfall.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day. From this information the following table has been compiled.

MONTH	TOTAL RAINFALL INCHES	GREATEST FALL IN 24 HOURS	NO. OF DAYS WITH .01 OR MORE RECORDED
January	4.42	.66(22nd)	18
February	.17	.06(12th)	6
March	.66	.24(20th)	7
April	1.34	.27(13th & 14th)	10
May	.57	.21(25th)	6
June	3.04	1.10(11th)	14
July	3.19	1.74(18th)	13
August	4.91	1.00(26th)	18
September	2.86	.61(8th)	13
October	2.23	1.02(2nd)	12
November	.83	.25(8th)	8
December	3.64	.86(15th)	19
	27.86		144

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Wet Days	15	5	3	9	4	11	9	14	10	9	6	13	108
Rain Days	3	1	4	1	2	3	4	4	3	3	2	6	36
Dry Days	13	23	24	20	25	16	18	13	17	19	22	12	222

These figures compare with 23.49 total rainfall recorded in 1955 which proved to be the driest year since the gauge was installed in 1928.

The average rainfall for the previous three years was 27.43. Whilst there were several periods of consecutive days without rain during the year there were only two officially dry spells (15 or more consecutive days no one of which is a wet day, i.e. .04 inches or more) and they were between February 13th - March 2nd and March 4th - 19th.

The wettest day was July 18th with 1.74 inches.

August proved to be the wettest month. February was the driest compared with May and August respectively in the previous year.

It is interesting to note that the weight of water falling within the Borough during the year was more than 3½ million tons.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Undertaking has been owned by the Town Council since 1947. The area served by the Calne Water Orders 1882 to 1938 includes the Municipal Borough and the Parish of Calne Without in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

The supply is obtained from the Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about three miles to the South-East of the town in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

The water is of good quality and non plumbo solvent. It is chlorinated at source.

WATER SUPPLY (Continued).

The water is brought to the Borough by 6" and 9" mains and thence it is ditributed throughout the town. The distribution mains vary in size from 2 to 6 inches and the total length is estimated to be 11.6 miles.

New 2" and 3" mains were laid during the year to serve the Council's new Housing Estate at Lickhill.

Attention has again been given to the question of meeting an estimated peak demand of 2,500,000 gallons per week as the Borough grows and it is suggested this can be met by adopting either of three schemes :-

(1) By applying for a new water order to increase the abstraction rate from the stream and at the same time buy out the Millowners claim so that no annual payment to the Millowners is made.

(2) To increase the efficiency of the present method of collection from the springs.

(3) To sink a borehole to augment the existing supply.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have reported on the two latter schemes but no decision has yet been reached.

Two major fractures of the mains occurred during the year, one on the 9" main attributed to corrosive action of the clay surrounding the pipe and the second, a double fracture of the 2" main in Silver Street which had caused considerable worry in connection with the lack of pressure in the Mile Elm area. Both fractures were repaired and the services restored.

During the year 46 samples of chlorinated water were taken for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

The number of samples of water taken at the intake were :-

Lower Spring ...	...	5
Main Spring ...	...	5
Springs in Bank	...	5

Of these samples eleven showed evidence of some pollution by both faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms, one showed gross pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms and two showed moderate pollution by both faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms. These sources of supply must always be treated as suspect but it is significant that after treatment all samples taken proved satisfactory.

The last chemical report on a sample of the town supply is as follows:-

Appearance: clear, colourless.
Reaction: pH 7.0

		Parts per million.
Free Carbon Dioxide		46
Free and Saline Ammonia	less than	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.036
Chlorine (as Chlorides)		13
equivalent to Sodium Chloride		21
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)		0.23
Nitrite		Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrates		2.1
Total Solids		400
Loss on Ignition		25
Appearance on Ignition		Slight charring
Hardness: Temporary		290
Permanent		33
		323
Lead and Copper		Absent

WATER SUPPLY (Continued).

There are no street standpipes within the Borough and the number of houses served by a well supply is eight, of which three are beyond the limits of the water main.

All the wells have been proved, on analysis, to be unpolluted.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is sewered, although owing to difficulty in falls and isolation there will always be a few houses which have to rely upon septic tanks or earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main sewer is 87 or less than 5% of all those inhabited. About 2/3rds of this number are outside the drainage area.

The new outfall sewer was brought into operation during the year and a comprehensive scheme for the enlargement of the existing outfall works has now been commenced.

The amount of the accepted Tender was £72,151. 4. 9. to which must be added Engineer's fees and legal and loan expenses, making a total of £79,100. 0. 0.

The Trade Effluent Agreement with Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., had not been finalised at the end of the year.

One sample of effluent taken by the Bristol Avon River Board on the 24th January, 1956, was reported on as follows:-

"This sample satisfies the permanganate oxygen absorption test and only just fails the B.O.D. test (standards 20 P.P.M. in each case) (actually by 1 P.P.M.) the latter probably because of the suspended matter present."

No further samples were taken during the year because reconstruction of the works was in progress.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

All refuse is collected weekly by direct labour and in spite of increasing demands on the available labour force due to the addition of new houses, the service was satisfacorily maintained.

The refuse tip is at Calne Low, about 1 mile to the east of the town, in worked out sandpits owned by Messrs. Bradley & Sons. The tip is sprayed with dressing during the summer months to preclude nuisance from insect pests. Rat infestation is dealt with by gassing or baiting as and when necessary.

The following table shows the cost of collection for Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste during the year:-

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (Continued).

Particulars.	House Refuse.			Salvage.			Kitchen Waste.			Total.		
Running Costs of Refuse Vehicle including Licences, Insurance, Depreciation, Protective Clothing, etc.	290	4	2	142	4	5	82	6	4	514	14	11
Gross Wages.	842	13	1	623	8	3	96	2	10	1562	4	2
Gross Total.	1132	17	3	765	12	8	178	9	2	2076	19	1
Credits.				949	8	0	221	4	3	1210	12	3
	1132	17	3	223 (Credit)	15	4	42 (Credit)	15	1	866	6	10

Collection Costs per house (nearest ½d).

Gross	11. 6d.	7/9½d.	1/9¾d.	£1.1.0.
Nett	11. 6d.	2/3½d. (gain)	9d. (gain)	8.5¾d.

These figures are taken to the end of the financial year 1956.

SALVAGE.

A weekly collection of Salvage has been in operation since 1940. The amount collected in 1956 is detailed in the table hereunder:-

	Weight. Tons.	Cwts.	Value. £.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	120	5½	855	15	6
Black Scrap		3½		10	6
Non Ferrous Metals		1	3	0	0
Textiles		13	14	12	0
Kitchen Waste	18	1	70	0	10
	139	4	£943	18	10

The collection of Kitchen Waste was discontiued on the 3rd May owing to the inability of the processors to continue to collect the raw material.

HOUSING.

Steps were taken to implement the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, with regard to the sub-standard houses in the Borough and a Sub-Committee was formed to recommend necessary action based on the information submitted by the Council's Officers.

During the period under review 3 houses were demolished and 2 houses were closed under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. These latter houses are scheduled as being of Architectural Interest.

Defects were remedied in 16 houses as the result of informal action.

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

HOUSING (Continued).

Improvement Grants. Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954.

4 applications for grant were approved during the year.

Requisitioned Properties.

One dwelling which is divided into three flats was purchased by the Town Council on the 10th. December.

New Properties.

26 Rooms Flats at Brookn Cross and 17 houses at Lickhill Estate were completed and occupied during the year.

10 private enterprise houses and bungalows were completed making a total of 104 since 1945.

Sale of Council Houses.

No council houses were sold to tenants during the year.

Overcrowding.

Cases of overcrowding were dealt with by voluntary interchanging of council house tenancies arranged through the Housing Officer with the consent and encouragement of the Local Authority.

All applicants on the Council's waiting list were circularised in November, 1956, with a view to ascertaining the up to date housing requirements. The survey showed:-

Number still requiring a house	134
Number no longer requiring a house..	39
Number of envelopes returned)...	28
by G.P.O. marked address unknown)	
Number who failed to reply	38
Number who replied indecisively	1
	240

The state of the waiting list as at December was :-

Number requiring house (Nov.1956)...	134
Added in Dec.1956	15
Total	149

RODENT CONTROL: PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT,1949.

For this purpose the Council employ a part-time rodent operator. As usual the systematic treatment of sewers, refuse tip, the river banks and other municipally owned property was carried out.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with. Gassing has once again been employed with great success in connection with infestations at the refuse tip and also the river banks. Whilst all other infestations were treated with Warfarin or probaiting and poisoning.

Several large retail foodstores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operator and close co-operation has been maintained by all parties concerned.

RODENT CONTROL: PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. (Continued).

The following is a summary of the year's work:-

Measure of Control by Local Authority.

	Type of Property.				
	(1) Local Auth.	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	(3) All Other (including Business Premises).	(4) Total of Cols. (1),(2) & (3)	(5) Agricultural
1. Total Number of properties in L.A. area.	5	1973	208	2186	11
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	78	30	108	10
(b) Survey.	5	126	22	153	1
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	74	329	59	462	39
4. Number of properties inspected (under 2) found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major	2	1	-	3	-
(a) Rats (Minor	1	69	17	87	1
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Mice (Minor	-	1	-	1	-
5. Number of infested properties (under 4) treated by L.A.	3	70	17	90	1

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One firm is registered under the provisions of the above Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One shop is licensed under the provisions of the above Act.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Two slaughterhouses are now operating within the Borough. One serves the factory of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., at which the meat inspection service is carried out by a part-time Veterinary Inspector who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health.

The other slaughterhouse serves the local butchers and the butchers of several adjoining areas as well as supplying meat for Smithfield Meat Market, London.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. (Continued)

The meat inspection at this establishment is carried out by a qualified Meat Inspector who holds the certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods of the Royal Society of Health.

The number of animals returned under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, and the amounts condemned are tabulated in the prescribed form :-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	446	20	9503	1310	2062
Number Inspected.	446	20	9503	1310	2062
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	29	6	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	89	12	36	88	356
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.95%	60%	.683%	7.17%	17.701%
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	2	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	49	8	-	-	122
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.23%	40%	.02% (corrected)	-	5.95%
Cysticerci.	No cases.				

The following foodstuffs (other than home killed meat) were also condemned :-

Fruit	- 187 tins.	Meat	- 50 tins.
Fish	- 19 "	Soup	- 8 "
Milk	- 18 "	Preserves	- 17 "
Vegetables	- 134 "	Cheese	- 2 Boxes.

14 lbs. part of hind quarter Imported Beef.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. (Continued).

Fish.

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried fish establishments in the district. Most of the fresh fish is delivered in refrigerated vans and the retailers are well equipped with refrigerators. For this reason it has been unnecessary to condemn any fish during the year. The fresh fish shops are of the "closed-in type" with glass fronts and the fish on display is well protected from contamination by vehicle dust and traffic fumes.

The trend in frozen pre-packed food continues and it is satisfying to note that some of the smaller shops have adopted this method of storage and sale.

Milk.

Licences issued to Distributors under the appropriate Milk Regulations for the year 1956 were as follows :-

(1) Dealers licence to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested 4

(2) Supplementary licence to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested 3

(3) Dealers licence to use the special designation Pasteurised 2

(4) Supplementary licence to use the special designation Pasteurised 1

Three of the above Distributors retail Channel Island Milk.

In all, there are three Distributors with premises within the Borough and four retailers distributing milk whose premises are in the adjoining Rural District.

Samples.

Milk from all the Distributors is sampled and passed on to the Public Health Laboratory Service for testing. Each sample from designated milks is subjected to the statutory tests as prescribed in the regulations. In addition samples of raw milks are submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli - the test for Brucella Abortus is also carried out.

The number of samples taken during the year was

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Statutory Test	69	4
Biological Examination	14	2 *

* In the Biological examination 2 samples failed the "abortus ring test".

Deliveries of School Milks are sampled by the County Authority.

The Wiltshire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the area and are responsible for licensing the Pasteurisation Plant within the Borough.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUIRED AS DETAILED IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S CIRCULAR 19/56.

(i) Number of Food Premises by type.

Bakehouses	4
Confectioners	10
Cafes	3
Butchers	6
Pork Butcher & Preserved Foods	1
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers	13
Greengrocers	5
	46

(ii) Number of Food premises registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Fried Fish shops	2
Preserved Foods	1
Ice Cream Premises	14

Distributors of Milk with premises within the Borough 3

(iii) Number of inspections of Food Premises (including slaughterhouse visits) 729

"Informative Comment".

Between July 1956 and December 1956 the following works have been carried out in food premises as a result of informal action by the Department:-

Traders Vans.

Partitioned and lined	3
Washing facilities installed	3

Washing facilities were asked for where the trader sells food for "immediate consumption".

Premises.

Additional or new washing facilities	11
Shop re-decorated throughout	3
Alterations to W.C. accommodation	3
Alterations to drainage, etc., (figure does not include above)	2
New butcher's blocks provided	2
New counters	1
Tables in food preparation rooms recovered...	2
Bakehouses re-decorated	1
Clothes lockers provided	1

In addition all school canteens were visited with the County P.H.I. and recommendations made.

During the year the following works were carried out at the Slaughterhouse of Mr. L.C.Hawkins :-

New floor laid with carborundum non-slip surface.
New sticking channel provided and alterations made to drainage.
Automatic drinking facilities have been provided in the animal lairage.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUIRED AS DETAILED IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S CIRCULAR 19/56. (Continued).

(iv) Educational Activity.

A successful meeting was held at the Town Hall on Friday the 14th September, when Food Traders and other interested members of the Chamber of Trade were addressed by the Medical Officer of Health and the Additional Public Health Inspector on aspects of Food Hygiene and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

A meeting of the Air Training Corps Committee was also attended by Mr. Dowding (Additional Public Health Inspector) when the implications of the new Hygiene Regulations, as applicable to clubs and canteens, were discussed.

(v) The method of disposal of condemned meat.

All meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption is treated with a green dye and then disposed of and manufactured into fertilizer by Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.

(vi) Stocks of Food Examined.

No large stocks of Food have been examined.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.,) Regulations, 1947-52.

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream within the Borough. All Ice Cream sold is pre-packed well known proprietary brands and is sampled regularly.

24 samples were submitted for examination by the Analyst and placed in the following categories :-

Grades.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Number of Samples.	15.	8.	1.	0.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

It has been unnecessary to institute formal proceedings against any Food Trader and all works have been carried out as a result of informal action.

It is significant that nearly all Traders handling perishable goods now possess some kind of refrigerator, (including storage for ice cream) and a recent survey shows the following :-

Number of premises with 1 refrigerator	... ...	13
" " " " 2 "	... ...	12
" " " " 3 "	... ...	3

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 54.

On the 13th August, 1956, in the Calne Magistrates' Court the Town Council secured a successful prosecution on each of 3 counts against a rag dealer who pleaded guilty to offences under the above Act. He was fined a maximum of £5 on each count making a total with costs of £17. 2. 0d.

The dealer's appeal to quarter sessions against the conviction was dismissed.

SHOPS.

No statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1950.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1938.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act, with respect to the matters under Parts I and VIII which are adminstered by the District Council.

PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER.	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
1. Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	31	39	2	NIL
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL:	31	39	2	-

Cases in which defects were found.

	FOUND.	REMEDIED BY L.A.	PROSECUTIONS.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.			
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-

One Outworker is registered under Section 110.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of the year's work in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51 :-

Dwelling houses inspected. 38
Re-inspections and visits. 112
Inspection for Housing Records 38
Registered and Licensed premises inspected 729
(including visits to Slaughterhouse)
Complaints received and investigated 13

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT,(Continued).

Samples taken.

Number of samples of raw spring water for Bacteriological examination	15
Number of samples of chlorinated water for Bacteriological examination	46

Inspections.

Number of new houses connected to main drainage system.	53
Number of houses connected to main water supply	53
Number of existing houses connected to main drainage system	-
New lengths of drain constructed and tested	101
Drain and W.C. obstructions cleared	25
New W.C.s constructed to existing houses	4
Houses disinfected	-
Houses re-decorated internally	3
Roofs repaired or renewed	31
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	37
External walls repaired	15
Walls replastered	32
Ceilings repaired or replastered	14
Rainwater pipes and gutters cleared, repaired or renewed	84
W.C. Cisterns repaired or renewed.	205
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	19
W.C.Pans renewed or repaired	24
New W.C.s installed to existing houses	9
Minor repairs and miscellaneous.	773