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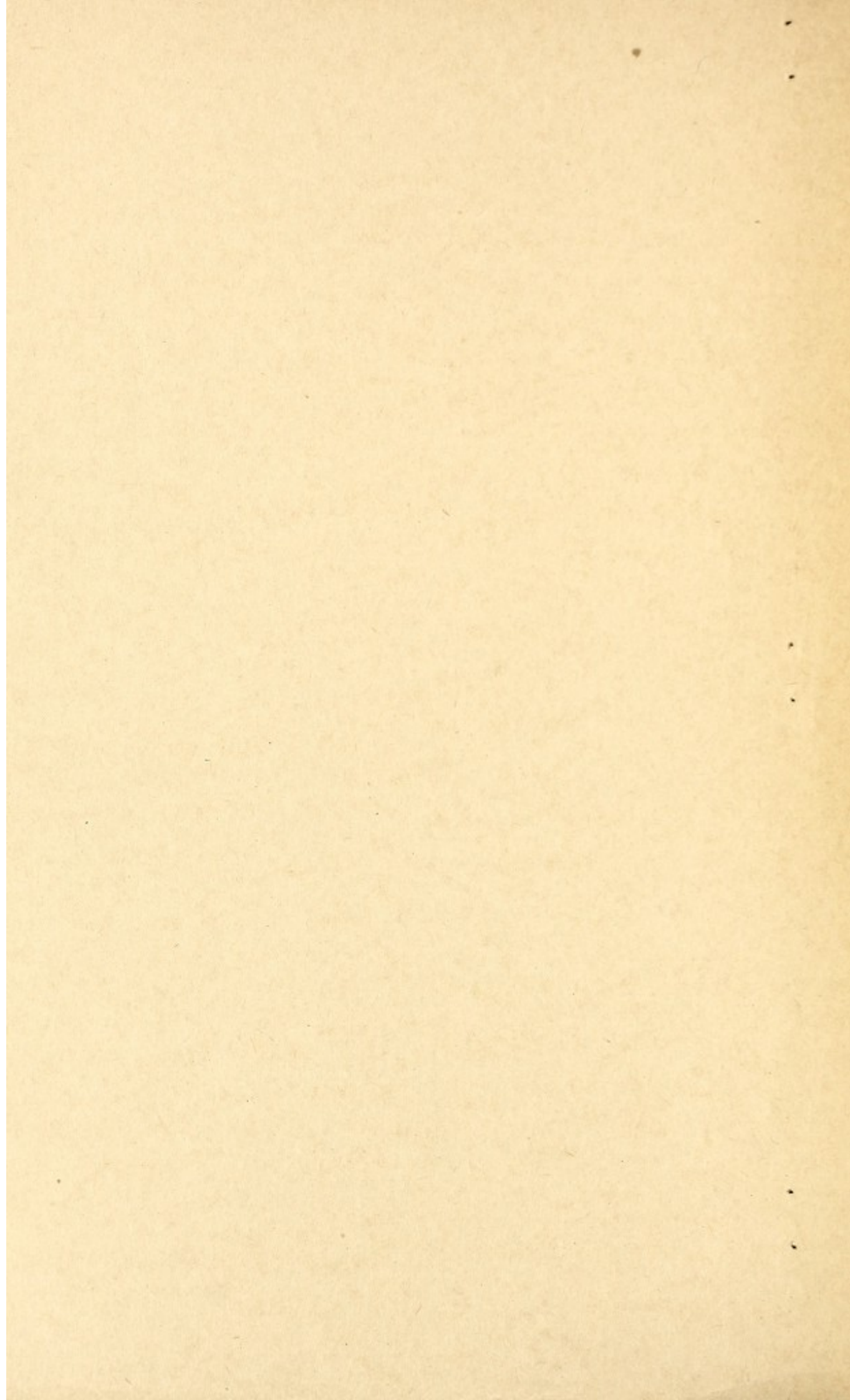


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BOROUGH
OF
CALNE

M. O. H. Report. 1957



BOROUGH OF CALNE

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER

- 1957 -



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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.

- - - - -

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

(1) Health, Housing and Town Planning Committee

and

(2) Water & Sewerage Committee.

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, 1957.

Apart from a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever, associated with the Guthrie School and a few cases of Dysentery and occasional sporadic infections with Salmonella Typhi-Murium, the health of the community has remained good during the year.

The death rate has remained practically the same as the previous year and the birth rate has shown some increase, whilst the infantile mortality rate is unique in that no deaths of infants under the age of one year occurred during 1957.

Detail concerning the above, with appropriate comments will be found in the substance of this report.

Although the Council is principally concerned with environmental hygiene such as housing, the provision of pure water supplies to the Borough, sewage disposal and clean food production, nevertheless the personal health services and other factors influencing health are of interest, and comment thereon should not be excluded from a report on public health. The personal health services administered by the County Council include Maternity and Child Welfare, The School Health Service, The Mental Health Service and Home Help Service.

Improvements in housing and accommodation of all kinds are still necessary but increasing attention is now given to the occupants. Domiciliary care is extended to the aged, the physically and mentally handicapped and to the problem family. The activities of local communities interested in the welfare of the aged and the health visitor, all make contributions to personal welfare and reduce the demands on hospital and welfare accommodation.

Accidents in the home have reached formidable proportions, some 7000 persons dying in England & Wales each year from such a cause. Those in the age groups 75 years and over and 0 - 4 years being particularly at risk.

The Clean Air Act of 1956 is designed to increase the powers of Local Authorities over the emission of industrial smoke and to facilitate the establishment of smoke control areas. Much research is now undertaken on the physical, chemical and medical aspects of air pollution and it is likely that clean air legislation will be strengthened as further knowledge becomes available.

The control of tuberculosis has been assisted since the war by improved housing standards, improvements in case finding with isolation and treatment of the infectious person, the examination of all contacts and their subsequent supervision, new drugs and B.C.G. Vaccination. The visits of Mass Radiography Units are of value in the detection of unknown cases, but as might be expected, the yield of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis by this means varies throughout the country from barely one case per thousand examined to a figure of 3.5 per thousand.

Appropriate statistics, and details of a visit of the Mobile X-Ray Unit to Calne during 1957, will be found in the substance of this report.

During 1956, in England & Wales, there were 794 more male deaths from Cancer of the Lung than in 1955, an increase of 5.4 per cent. Tobacco smoking and air pollution are the two main factors, particularly cigarette smoking. A survey on the deaths of British doctors whose smoking habits had been previously ascertained, showed that the death rate from lung cancer rose in proportion to the amount smoked. The figures also showed that the mortality rate was lower amongst those giving up smoking and diminished progressively with the increase in time during which smoking had been given up.

In the report for the year ended 31st December, 1956, of The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, makes some interesting comments on mental health. The number of patients in residence under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts in 1956 was 149,219 and the number of mental defectives in residence was 213,230. It appears that the Regional Hospital Boards allocated 34% of their total capital expenditure on mental and mental deficiency hospitals, although many types of mental illness can be treated as out-patients. During 1956, figures for out-patient attendances at the various hospitals in England and Wales is given as 762,072. It is apparent that mental health is a large and complicated subject, influenced by many circumstances, and of interest to all types of Local Authority. Mental hygiene, or preventive psychiatry, is generally accepted as worthy of further development. A proper appreciation by parents, and teachers, of the healthy emotional progress of children from infancy onwards, is a basic necessity.

Nowadays the public shows a lively interest in all aspects of health education and receives advice and instruction from many sources. Few regular weekly publications fail to produce an article on health or physical fitness, and the British Medical Association has produced its own periodical for the instruction of the public. This general concern over health is not likely to diminish and it is important that the public should not be misinformed. The recent B.B.C. television series "Your life in their hands" dramatised the rare operative procedures sometimes undertaken in large hospitals, but failed to seize the opportunity to advise the public on the simple hygienic practices necessary to prevent the spread of dysentery, food poisoning and similar intestinal infections.

The procedure for the notification of infectious diseases requires review and consolidating. Infectious diseases such as dysentery, food poisoning and poliomyelitis may only be diagnosed with certainty after laboratory investigation and the isolation of the causative organism. Notification is occasionally received after admission to hospital and laboratory investigation, with consequent delay in the institution of means to prevent the spread of infection. There is a tendency to consider Scarlet Fever as a disease of little importance nowadays. Positive action is still necessary to prevent the spread of this and allied streptococcal infections, particularly in view of the large amount of milk produced in the surrounding rural districts. Certain strains of streptococci isolated during Scarlet Fever outbreaks have been responsible for severe Nephritis as a complication.

During the year no notifications of Poliomyelitis were received. The campaign to immunise school children and expectant mothers and those exposed to special risk no doubt will in time be extended to the population as a whole and will be a valuable preventive measure of this serious infection. Clean food production and the practice of good hygiene in the home must not be neglected however.

Sporadic infections by the organisms of food poisoning occur from time to time, also small outbreaks of dysentery due to the Sonne Bacillus. Routine measures of control include segregation and treatment of the patient, house and garden quarantine and bacteriological investigation of contacts, with their subsequent exclusion from school or employment if found necessary. No contact is permitted to resume school or employment until bacteriologically proved free from infection. These procedures occasion many visits to the homes of patients by Health Inspectors when the opportunity is also taken to give the necessary advice on personal hygiene.

The Public Health Laboratory, Bath has provided invaluable service during the year and has examined and reported on a large amount of material. A confident and firm diagnosis of many infections would be quite impossible without this service. Dr. Paul Mann, the Director of the Bath Laboratory is always most co-operative and of great assistance in dealing with outbreaks of all forms of infection.

The cost of the National Health Service is of interest; only figures for 1956 however are available at present. The Report of the Ministry of Health for the year ended, 1956 states that the cost of the National Health Service was £535,000,000; Hospital, Specialist and General Medical Services cost £360,000,000 or 67%, Local Health Authorities engaged in the prevention of disease and personal health accounted for £46,000,000 or only 8½%. The report shows, amongst others, as sources of finance, Exchequer £423,000,000 (79%) transfer from National Insurance Fund £36,000,000 (6¾%) Superannuation Contributions £27,000,000 (5%), Rates £22,000,000 (4¾%).

I wish to thank Mr. Oliver and all the staff of the Borough for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1276
Population	6,340
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1957 according to the Rate Book	2,029
Rateable Value (at 1.4.57)	£63,525
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1956/7)	£272.0.10.

VITAL STATISTICS.LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	58	50	108
Illegitimate	3	-	3
Total Live Births	61	50	111

Crude Birth Rate for the Borough.	17.5 per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Birth Rate for the Borough	18.1 per 1000 of the population
Comparative Birth Rate for England & Wales . .	16.1 per 1000 of the population

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Birth Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Birth Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor, i.e. 0.99.

The Birth Rate for the Borough for 1957 is higher than the figure for 1956 which was 14.5 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

It is gratifying to record that no still births occurred during 1957.

INFANT MORTALITY

No child died in the Borough during its first year of life during 1957. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that it has been possible to record such a satisfactory state of affairs.

DEATHS.

Deaths recorded in the Borough during 1957 were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
	33	17	50
Crude Death Rate for the Borough	7.8 per 1000 of the population		
Adjusted Death Rate for the Borough	7.87 per 1000 of the population		
Comparative Death Rate for England & Wales	11.5 per 1000		
Crude Death Rate for the Borough (1956).	7.6 per 1000 population.		

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	2	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	5	11
Coronary disease angina.	8	1	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	9	7	16
Other circulatory disease	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other diseases of resp. system.	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases.	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	33	17	50.

COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE STATISTICS.

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Death Rate is based on this total population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Death Rate for the Borough has been multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (1.01).

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following tables show the infectious diseases notified during 1957 with comparative statistics for the years since 1952.

<u>DISEASE</u>	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	1	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	5	5	23	21
Whooping Cough	52	52	52	52	39	39	4	4	38	38	8	8
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	2	199	199	3	3	13	13	2	2	230	230
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	19	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	7	7	7	7
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia.	5	5	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	61	61	260	260	45	45	20	20	67	67	288	284

a = Numbers originally notified

b = Final numbers after correction.

By comparison with the years 1954, 1955 and 1956, Measles contributed largely to the increase of infectious disease during 1957.

MEASLES.

An outbreak of measles occurred during April and the first week of May.

FOOD POISONING

The seven cases of food poisoning notified occurred over a period 24 Jul to 31 Oct. The cases were distributed among five families and concerned 4 school children, 2 of pre school age and one adult aged 72 years.

There was no association between the cases notified, and the causative organism was confirmed in all seven cases to be *Salmonella Typhi Murium*. There was no evidence that infection had been conveyed by food.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, the Borough was carefully surveyed for rat and mice infestation, and appropriate action taken where necessary.

Dead rats and mice were sent to The Public Health Laboratory, Bath, but no evidence was found of *Salmonella Typhi-Murium*.

During the investigation, a dead rat closely resembling the Black Rat (*Rattus Rattus*) was forwarded to The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food for identification and subsequently confirmed to be the Black Rat. This was an isolated case and no further specimens were found during the investigations.

DYSENTERY

Of the total of nineteen cases of Dysentery originally notified, seventeen patients were confirmed, following bacteriological investigation, to be suffering from *Shigella Sonne*.

All cases notified occurred during the first quarter of the year. They concerned ten school children, three of pre-school age, and four adults.

Apart from contacts within the family groups, the only other obvious vector in the spread of infection was sub-clinical cases amongst children attending the Guthrie School.

School children and adult Food Handlers shown to be bacteriologically positive, were restricted pending treatment and the receipt of three negative faeces specimens.

The individuals concerned were advised on the prevention of intestinal infections and the school concerned was given a supply of paper towels and B.K.C. for use by the children after every visit to the W.C. and before taking meals.

The last case of Dysentery was notified on the 27th March and no further cases came to light during the remainder of the year.

SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT.

A total of twenty three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year; the diagnosis was subsequently confirmed in twenty one cases.

The first case was notified on the 3rd February, and the remaining cases occurred in regular sequence during the remainder of the quarter and during the early part of the second quarter. One isolated case occurred on the 4th September. No further cases came to light during the remainder of the year.

School children, principally those in the 5 to 9 year age group constituted the majority of the notified cases, and many attended the Guthrie School.

Two visits were made to the Guthrie School and the Baptist Chapel on the 1st and 2nd July and all the children were examined for the signs and symptoms of Streptococcal infection. Nineteen children were swabbed on account of infected tonsils or glands, and the Public Health Laboratory reported that ten children were suffering from Streptococcal sore throat (Beta Haemolytic Streptococcus).

All notified cases of Scarlet Fever and those children suffering from Streptococcal infection were excluded further school attendance pending treatment and the receipt of a negative throat swab.

Subsequent to this action no further cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables show the new cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the Chest Physician during 1957.

<u>Age Groups</u>	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
Under 5						
5-14						
15-24						
25-44		2				
45-64	1					
65 & over	1					
Age unknown.						
Totals:-	2	2	-	-	2	2

The four cases shown above were notified during the third quarter of the year.

1957 marks the second year in succession during which no deaths were registered in respect of persons previously notified as suffering from any form of tuberculosis.

The number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1957, were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	12	11	23
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	5
Totals:	15	13	28

MASS X-RAY.

During July a Mobile X-Ray Unit operated in the Borough and at the premises of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. A total of 1,426 adults and children attended for examination. Of that number, one female in the 15/24 age group was found to be suffering from active tuberculosis of the lungs, and three adults in the 45/60 age group were found to be suffering from inactive tuberculosis.

It is gratifying to record that the public are taking a keen interest in this valuable service. The number of persons availing themselves of chest X-Ray during 1957 was double that recorded during a survey in 1955.

On the 10th March, 1957 a Vienna Loaf, baked and sold in the Borough, was voluntarily surrendered by the purchaser on account of apparent rodent droppings in the substance of the bread.

The loaf was forwarded to the Public Analyst who confirmed that rodent excreta was present in the bread.

On inspection, the bakehouse concerned was found to be unsatisfactory.

The Council resolved that the owner of the premises be given six weeks to put in order certain structural and other defects together with a warning against any further breach of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Extensive structural alterations were satisfactorily carried out, and no other complaints were received.

MEAT INSPECTION AND EXCHEQUER GRANTS TOWARDS COST
(Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Circular FSH/57.

The following report was submitted to the Council on the 27th May, 1957.

The circular dated 11th April, 1957 published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, is an important document and it is considered advisable for the Committee to be fully aware of the present arrangements for meat inspection within the Borough which produces in the phraseology of the circular a large amount of "export meat".

The scheme covering grants for payment towards costs during 1956-1957 has been outlined in Mr. Oliver's report dated 29th April, 1957. The Minister has emphasised that the scheme is provisional measure subject to review in the light of the general reorganisation of the structure and finance of Local Government and any changes found necessary as a result of experience may be introduced in respect of grants for 1957-58.

To appreciate the implications of this new scheme of Exchequer Grants towards the cost of meat inspection, the following details will be of assistance to the Committee:-

- (1) A person shall not slaughter an animal for sale for human consumption unless he has given a time and place notice to the Local Authority so that the carcass may be inspected (The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The methods to be employed in meat inspection, are shown in Memo 3/Meat of the Ministry of Food, 1952. This memorandum lists under Part III "Post Mortem Inspection" of bovines, 37 separate operations alone.
- (2) These inspections are carried out by Mr. Hale, a Veterinary Officer at Messrs. C. & T. Harris Ltd. on behalf of the Council, and by Mr. Dowding, Additional Public Health Inspector, Calne Borough Council, at Messrs. Hawkins Slaughterhouse.
- (3) The appointment of Mr. Hale as Meat Inspector and the conditions and terms of his appointment occasioned much discussion and correspondence some years ago and I have asked the Clerk to produce the relevant detail for the information of the Committee.

MEAT INSPECTION AND EXCHEQUER GRANTS TOWARDS THE COST (CONTD)

- (4) Although I receive a monthly statement of the diseased organs etc. found at meat inspections at Messrs. C. & T. Harris, the actual numbers killed and inspected are not divulged. The actual numbers slaughtered and inspected at Mr. L.C. Hawkins' Slaughterhouse are given by Mr. Oliver each month to this Committee.
- (5) It will be apparent therefore, that before a return can be completed to ensure that the maximum grant is received, it will be necessary to know the numbers killed and inspected at Messrs. C. & T. Harris Bacon Factory because the Circular from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food specifically refers to "the carcasses actually inspected" (para 3 of the circular). The circular does not say by whom the inspection shall be carried out.
- (6) The present daily kill at Messrs. C. & T. Harris approximates 2500-3000 per week bacon pigs, but on occasions as many as 1000 per day have been slaughtered. A number of "spotters", experienced and trained by Mr. Hale, carry out the preliminary exclusion of carcasses requiring further examination by the Veterinary Officer. I understand that the number set aside for inspection by Mr. Hale approximates to 18 to 20 per cent of the kill, i.e. 200 carcasses per 1000 slaughtered are "actually inspected" by the Veterinary Officer. If all the 1000 carcasses are to be "actually inspected" individually by either a Veterinary Officer or a Public Health Inspector, the time required, at say an absolute minimum of three minutes per carcass, would be 50 hours per day. This large number, furthermore, must be inspected within a period of time acceptable to the Bacon Factory so that the rate of production is not impeded i.e. the Slaughterhouse must be cleansed before starting the next session and the other departments of the factory must not be held up for lack of material.
- (7) Fifty hours "actual inspection" time per day at Messrs. C. & T. Harris alone, would require the services of six Meat Inspectors, either Veterinary Officers or Public Health Inspectors working an 8 hour day each, doing nothing else, and still leaving meat inspection at Messrs. Hawkins' to be carried out. This inspection alone requires on average three hours per day, mostly carried out in the evenings between 7 and 10 and Sunday mornings from 11 to 12.30. This occasions approximately 34 hours overtime per month by the Health Inspector. Memo 3/Meat states that all animals should be inspected before slaughter and those showing signs of disease segregated.
- (8) In addition to meat inspection, supervision for cleanliness etc. (Slaughterhouses Act, 1954) (The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty No. 2 Regulations, 1954 and the Bye Laws made by the Council on the 9th July, 1956, all require attention by the Health Inspector.
- (9) It will be appreciated by the Committee that the Health Inspectors have other statutory duties to perform in addition to meat inspection.

MEAT INSPECTION & EXCHEQUER GRANTS TOWARDS COST (CONTD)SUMMARY

- (1) "Actual inspection" by qualified Inspectors of all carcasses at the Bacon Factory would require a large increase in the number of Meat Inspectors, either Public Health Inspectors, suitably qualified to inspect meat or other foods, or Veterinary Officers. Public Health Inspectors, suitably qualified to inspect meat are in short supply.
- (2) Meat inspection is only one part of a Health Inspector's duties; he has many other responsibilities.
- (3) The present arrangements for meat inspection are the best that can be arranged with the staff available. If "actual inspection" of every carcass by a Health Inspector is to be a pre-requisite before a grant towards the cost of inspection, then apparently more inspectorial staff will require appointment.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) That the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food be asked for a clear definition of the term "actually inspected"; by whom he considers this "actual inspection" is to be carried out and whether he considers that the present arrangements for meat inspection justify a return of all killings at Messrs. C. & T. Harris to be designated as "actually inspected" for the purpose of grant.
- (2) On receipt of a reply, a sub-committee should meet to reconsider the whole question of meat inspection within the Borough in conjunction with Messrs. C. & T. Harris Bacon Factory and Messrs. Hawkins' Calne.

The National Assistant Act, 1948Sec. 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 immunisation during 1957.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5- 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
137	28	2	167.

Total immunised child population at 31.12.57.

<u>Ages 0-4 years</u>	<u>Ages 5-14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
413	605	1,018.

There is a reduction in the numbers immunised as compared with the figures for 1956.

VACCINATION.

The following children were vaccinated during 1957.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4 years</u>	<u>Ages 5-15 years</u>
84	3	6

TOTAL: - 93.

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 1957, which is, of course, supplementary to that of the Medical Officer of Health.

This is the thirtieth, and last, Report with which I shall be associated, due to my retirement on 5th. July, 1958.

It may be interesting to record one or two facts, which indicate the growth of the district during the last three decades and which conveys to some extent, the increase in the amount of work falling upon the Public Health Department, viz :-

	<u>1928.</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	
			<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>
Area in acres.	356	1276	920	258.4 %
Population.	3563	6340	2777	77.9 %
Number of Inhabited Houses.	857	1938	1081	126.1 %
Number of Council Inhabited Houses.	78	681	603	773.0 %
Rateable Value	£ 17,889	£ 66,319	£ 48,430	270.7 %
Product of Penny Rate.	£ 63.14.3	£ 158.12.5½	£ 94.18.2½	148.96%

At least forty Acts of Parliament have been passed during this period, which to a greater or lesser extent, have brought additional duties and responsibilities on the Public Health Department.

Incidentally, I have been associated with six Medical Officers of Health, including three who acted for various periods during the last war in the absence, on military service, of Dr. Broomhead.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the present Members of the Health Committee, Dr. Broomhead, and Mr. Dowding, for the support they have given during the past year.

I am, Mr. Mayor and 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	2.21	.37 (31st)	17
February	3.22	.52 (23rd)	22
March	2.49	.44 (9th. & 19th)	14
April	.30	.3 (22nd.)	1
May	1.67	.48 (8th.)	10
June	1.24	.37 (30th.)	8
July	4.56	.71 (19th)	16
August	3.18	.70 (11th.)	14
September	3.39	.9 (10th.)	14
October	2.35	.52 (26th.)	11
November	1.96	.84 (2nd.)	8
December	2.63	.80 (10th.)	14
	<u>29.20.</u>		<u>149</u>

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Wet Days	14	19	13	-	7	7	16	11	14	10	6	11	128
Rain Days	3	3	1	1	3	1	-	3	-	1	2	3	21
Dry Days	14	6	17	29	21	22	15	17	16	20	22	17	216

These figures compare with 27.86 total rainfall recorded in 1956.

The average rainfall for the previous three years was 28.02.

There was one period of absolute drought which occurred between April 1st. and 21st. The wettest day was September 10th. with .9 inches.

July proved to be the wettest month. Compared with August of last year, April was the driest with only one day on which it rained - only .3 of an inch was registered.

It is interesting to note that the weight of water falling within the Borough during the year was 3.76 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 & 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 & Chippenham. The water is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. It is chlorinated at source.

The water is brought to the Borough by 6" and 9" mains and thence it is distributed throughout the Town. The distribution mains vary in size from 2" to 6" and the total length is estimated to be 12 miles.

During the year consideration was given the implementing the suggestions contained in a Memorandum received from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government which recommended the setting up of four Regional Water Boards for Wiltshire along the lines contained in the Minister's Circular 52/56. To this end, a series of meetings were arranged between interested Authorities and reports and plans from their Technical Officers were received and considered, together with alternative views expressed by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

It was finally decided to reject the latter and adopt the recommendations put forward by their own Water Engineers. Accordingly it was resolved to apply for an Order under Section 9 (1) of the Water Act 1945 for a joint Water Board for the purpose of exercising all the functions relating to the supply of water in the following areas, viz :-

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District.

Bradford & Melksham Rural District (With the exception of the Parishes of Westwood & Wingfield).

Calne Borough.

Calne & Chippenham Rural District.

Chippenham Borough.

Devizes Rural District.

Devizes Borough.

Malmesbury Borough.

Malmesbury Rural District (with the exception of the Eastern Area and those parts already supplied by the West Gloucester Water Company).

The Town Council's attention was directed to the necessity for increasing the supply of water to the Borough and a report from their Consulting Engineers was received and adopted; this provides for the extension of the present system of water collection and improvements to the storage facilities by the construction of a new dual level storage reservoir. These proposals aim at a total abstraction of 350,000 gallons a day. The Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare and finalize the Scheme for submission to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

Representations were made to the Town Council by the Rural District Council of Calne & Chippenham regarding the inadequacy of the supply to the Mile Elm area. This was due in part to the breakdown of the booster pump. The system has now been put in tandem to preclude any further trouble from this cause.

Samples.

During the year 53 samples of chlorinated water from the Town's supply were taken and analysed and all were found to be satisfactory.

The number of samples of water taken at the intake were

Lower Spring	-	4
Main Spring	-	4
Spring in Bank	-	5

Of these samples 4 showed no pollution, 2 showed signs of slight pollution with non faecal coliform organisms, 1 showed signs of slight pollution with faecal coliform organisms, 4 showed moderate pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms, 1 showed moderate pollution with faecal coliform organisms, and 1 showed very considerable pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms.

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 some houses which have to rely upon septic tanks or earth closets.

The percentage of such houses not connected to the main drainage system is, however, less than 1% of all those inhabited and about 2/3rds of these are outside the drainage area.

SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL Cont...

The Scheme for enlarging the sewage disposal works at a cost of approximately £79,000. 0. 0d. was practically completed by the end of the year. The new settlement tanks, pumping stations, humus tanks and sludge drying beds were brought into operation whilst four new filter beds were in an advanced stage of construction. A sewage works attendant was appointed at the end of the year to supervise the new works under the general direction of the Borough Surveyor.

One problem remains and that is the disposal of the final sludge. At the present time this is being carted to the refuse disposal tip and buried with the house refuse.

No samples of final effluent have been taken by the Bristol Avon River Board pending the completion of the works.

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 satisfactorily 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 and salvage during the year :-

	<u>Collection.</u>	<u>Salvage.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Wages	784. 11. 2.	639. 18. 3.	1424. 9. 5.
Running Costs of Refuse Vehicle. Incl. Licences.	628. 12. 11	307. 19. 11.	936. 12. 10.
Gross	1413. 4. 1	947. 18. 2.	2361. 2. 3.
Less Credits.	- - -	853. 18. 6.	853. 18. 6.
Nett. £	1413. 4. 1	£ 93. 19. 8.	£ 1507. 3. 9.

Collection costs per house to nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Refuse Collection	Gross	$14\frac{1}{4}/6\frac{3}{4}$ d.	Salvage	Gross	$9/9\frac{1}{4}$ d.
	Nett	$14\frac{1}{4}/6\frac{3}{4}$ d.		Nett	11d.
	Gross Total per House				$24\frac{1}{4}$ d.
	Nett " " "				$15/6\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The collection of kitchen waste has been discontinued.

HOUSING.

The following table is compiled from the Returns made to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

Houses Demolished.

In Clearance Areas	(Housing Acts 1936-57)	NIL.
--------------------	------------------------	------

Individual Houses demolished (Not in clearance areas) :-

Housing Act	1936 - 57	3
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(7, 8* and 9* Quarr Barton)

(* previously closed)

<u>Houses Closed.</u>	(Housing Act 1957)	2
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(9 and 11, Curzon Street).

Houses in which defects were remedied by informal action.	3
---	---

Number of persons re-housed by Local Authority as a result of above action.	7
---	---

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

Improvement Grants.

The number of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts 1949 - 57, was six and the total amount of grant approved was £ 1,191.

New Properties

43 three bedrooned houses and 8 two bedrooned flats were completed for the Council during the year.

18 private enterprise houses and bungalows were completed, making a total of 122 since 1945.

Sale of Council Houses.

Two 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.

Council's Housing Waiting List.

At the end of the year 162 names remained on the Council's waiting list.

RODENT CONTROLPrevention 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 dealt with. Gassing was once again 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 pre-baiting and poisoning.

RODENT CONTROL cont.....

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

Incidence of Salmonella Typhi Murus food poisoning within the Borough prompted investigations into the cause and specimens of rodents were sent to the laboratory but with negative results.

All food shops were inspected with special reference to rodent infestations and in this the Department received the co-operation of the Area Rodent Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

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 <u>properties</u> in L.A.area.	5	2038	226	2269	11
2. Number of <u>properties</u> insp- ected as a result of :-					
(a) Notification	-	41	11	52	4
(b) Survey	5	130	49	184	5
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections.	209	510	137	856	37
4. Number of <u>properties</u> ins- pected (under 2) found to be infested by :-					
(a) Rats (Major	1	5	1	7	4
(Minor	4	58	17	79	2
(b) Mice (Major	-	3	-	3	-
(Minor	-	1	4	5	-
5. Number of infested pro- perties(Under 4) treated by L.A.	5	67	14	86	5

PAG 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.

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 hereunder in the prescribed form:-

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed (if known)	520	21	8471	1959	1901
Number inspected	520	21	8471	1959	1901
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	----	1	20	6	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	132	13	92	70	414
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	25.38	66.6	1.32	3.82	22.25
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses	---	---	1	---	4
Carcasses of which some part of organ condemned.	43	6	---	---	122.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	8.27	28.57	0.011	---	0.06.
<u>NO INFESTATIONS OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS IN CATTLE WERE FOUND.</u>					

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS Cont....

The percentage increase and decrease over the killings for 1956 is as follows :-

Cattle excluding cows	rise	16.05%
Cows	rise	5%
Calves	fall	10.8%
Sheep	rise	49.5%
Pigs	fall	7.8%

TRANSIT OF ANIMALS AMENDMENT ORDER 1931.

As a result of information laid by the Department, a conviction was secured against the driver of an animal transport lorry for not using proper ramps for unloading.

GAME LICENCES.

There are two holders of game licences.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

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

Fruit	138 Tins	Fish	17 Tins	Soup	17 Tins.
Meat	54 Tins	Milk	27 Tins	Preserves	12 Tins.
Vegetables	139 Tins	Meat Paste	2 Tins	Nuts	2 Tins.
Cheese	5 Boxes	Olives (Stuffed)	1 Jar.		

FISH

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried fish establishments in the District. It has been unnecessary to condemn any fish during the year.

Many traders have now installed frozen food cabinets and amongst other foodstuffs, pre-packed frozen fish in many varieties continues to be extremely popular. This method of food preservation has much to commend it and ensures the public obtaining commodities in extremely fresh condition.

MILK.

Licences issued to Distributors under the appropriate Milk Regulations for the year 1957 were as follows :-

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (1) Dealers Licence to use the special designation <u>Tuberculin Tested.</u> | - | 4 |
| (2) Supplementary Licence to use the special designation <u>Tuberculin Tested.</u> | - | 3 |
| (3) Dealer Licence to use the special designation <u>Pasteurised.</u> | - | 2 |
| (4) Supplementary Licence to use the special designation <u>Pasteurised.</u> | - | 2 |

Three of the above Distributors retail Channel Islands 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. Samples of raw milk are not now submitted for biological examination.

The number of samples taken during the year was :-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Statutory Test	65	5

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to all the schools in the Borough.

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

OTHER SAMPLING.

Six samples of dried egg and egg albumen were submitted to the Analyst for examination for the presence of salmonella organisms. All were found to be negative.

ICE-CREAM

All ice cream sold within the Borough is pre-wrapped and no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream by cold or hot mix.

Samples

46 samples of ice cream were submitted for analysis and placed in the following categories :-

Grade 1	-	37 Samples.
Grade 2	-	8 Samples.
Grade 3	-	1 Sample.
Grade 4	-	Nil.

CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD PREMISES IN TRADES.

Many premises are now being used for the sale of a wide range of food commodities, and it is increasingly difficult to be specific. The following are the broad classifications based on the principal trades :-

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

SHOPS.

No statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act 1950. All shops are inspected from time to time.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1938.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts 1937-48, which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act, with respect to the matters under Parts I & VIII which are administered 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	63	NIL	NIL
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL.
TOTAL	31	63	-	-

Cases in which defects were found :-

	<u>FOUND.</u>	<u>REMEDIED BY L.A.</u>	<u>PROSECUTIONS.</u>
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>			
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-
(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.

Visits under the Food & Drugs Act 1955	803
Building Byelaws Administration	New Drains 101
	Others 789
Visits under the Housing Acts 1936 - 1957	86
Visits under the Factories Acts 1937 - 1948	63
Visits under the Shops Act 1950	56
Miscellaneous unclassified visits	1538



