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Borough of



Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1948

BY

DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

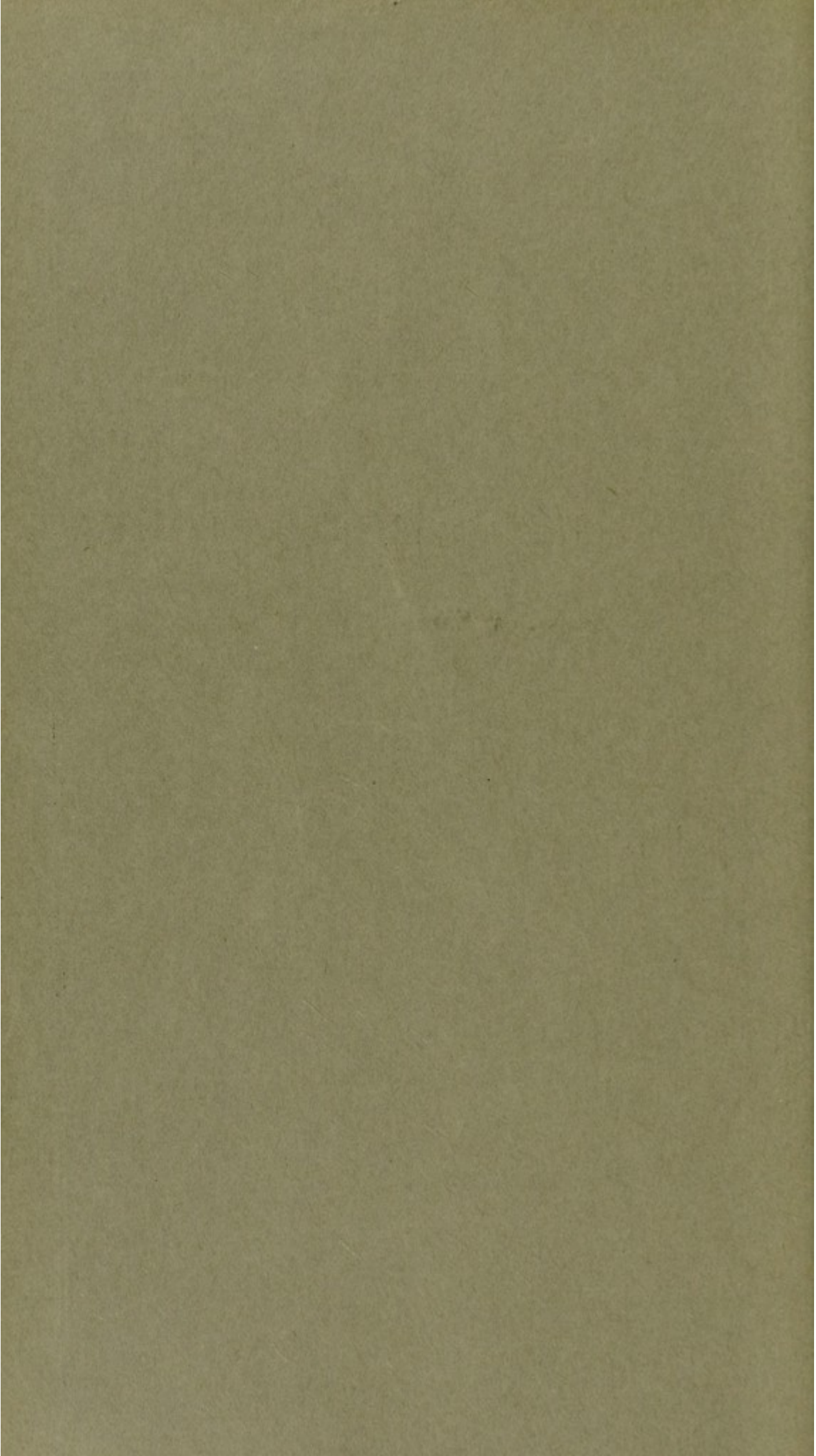
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of
F. R. JEFFORD, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"

Cheltenham: Norman Brothers, Limited.



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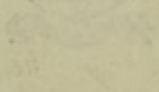
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Board of Health



ANNUAL REPORT

Health of Cheltenham

Wm. G. B. Street, Secretary

1848

Wm. G. B. Street, M.D. (Hon.), D.P.H.

Published with the Report of
E. R. JEFFORD, F.R.S.M., F.S.A.

Wm. G. B. Street, Secretary

Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1948

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The health of the Borough during 1948 was well maintained.

The general death rate was particularly low, taking the age level of the population into consideration.

New cases of Tuberculosis showed a decline and there were only two deaths from the Non-Pulmonary type of the disease during 1948.

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was 31.8 per 1,000 live births compared with 39, the average for the Great Towns. This is the lowest figure so far recorded for Cheltenham. The figure has been improving, with occasional setbacks particularly during the war, since the Cheltenham Voluntary Child Welfare Association commenced its activities in 1909. In that year the figure was 119 Infant Deaths per 1,000 births.

The improvement should continue, particularly with better provisions for premature infants, increasing nursing staffs and improvements in the treatment of infant diseases generally.

The success of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign was again reflected in the low record of 2 mild cases for the whole year.

On July 5th, 1948, the personal services of the Corporation passed into the hands of the County Council, to be directed in future by the County Health Committee.

The day to day management of some of the services transferred were delegated to a local Health Sub-Committee and the Medical Officer of Health was appointed Divisional Medical Officer to act under the directions of a local committee.

The Infant Life Protection duties of the Corporation and Thirlestaine Court Residential Nursery passed into the hands of a new Children's Committee established by the County Council under the Childrens' Act, 1948.

Attention is drawn to a note on the working of Sec. 47 of the Public Assistance Act, 1944 (page 18). A request for information on this matter in particular was made by the Minister of Health.

Attention is also drawn to a number of additional tables which have been included in the body of the report covering the ten-year period 1939-48 inclusive. The reason for including these Tables is that the Reports for the years 1939 and 1940 were printed in an abbreviated form and those for the years 1941, 1942, and 1943 were not printed at all owing to labour and paper shortages during the war. These tables provide in a handy form comparative vital and other statistics which might otherwise not be readily obtainable for future reference.

May I in conclusion take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to members of the Council for their consideration and help in the conduct of the work and to members of the staff, particularly to Dr. Perry, my Deputy, who was responsible for the work of the Department during my absence on sick leave for 2 months in the autumn.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1948

Area of borough	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	{	Census 1931, Corrected Figure	...	...	49,418
		Mid-year, 1948. Registrar General's Estimate	...	...	64,260
Number of inhabited houses End 1948	{	(1) structurally separate	...	14,371	
		(2) Flats, Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc.	...	1,203	
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£503,449
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£2,045

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1948

(with comparative Figures for England and Wales and other Great Towns).

	M.	F.	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
ive Births						
Legitimate ...	506	496	1002	Cheltenham	126 Great Towns including London (average)	England and Wales
Illegitimate ...	50	47	97			
TOTALS	556	543	1099	17.1	20.0	17.9
ill Births						
Legitimate ...	14	17	31	0.54	0.52	0.42
Illegitimate ...	1	3	4			
TOTALS	15	20	35			
DEATHS ...	347	423	770	12.0	11.6	10.8
Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year of age)						
Legitimate ...	19	10	29	Rates per 1000 Live Births	39	34
Illegitimate ...	6	0	6			
TOTALS	25	10	35	31.8		
Maternal Mortality						
Sepsis ...	—	1	1	0.88	Rates per 1000 Live & Still Births	0.29
Other Causes ...	—	1	1	0.88		0.73
TOTALS	—	2	2	1.76		1.02

NOTE ON TABULAR STATEMENT

The following points should be borne in mind when considering the comparative figures given above.

The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.

The figures given for England and Wales for Births and Deaths are calculated on the Total Population while for Cheltenham and the Great Towns they are calculated on the Civilian Population, because the figures for local Non-civilian populations are not known.

Other factors relating to the Death rates are referred to under the appropriate heading in the following notes on the Vital Statistics for the year 1948.

NOTE ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1948 is 64,260. This figure is 2,450 higher than the estimate for the previous year.

This is the highest population figure ever given for Cheltenham except that for 1941 when it was 65,770 at the height of the evacuation period.

Death Rate

The general Death Rate for Cheltenham was 12.0 per 1,000 Civilian Population compared with 11.6 for the Great Towns and 10.8 for the whole of England and Wales. The Registrar General has not yet found it possible to introduce area comparability factors, and it is scarcely likely that this will be possible until the information provided by the next census is available. Using "0.82" the last factor provided in 1940, the corrected Death Rate figure for Cheltenham would work out at 9.8.

Birth Rate

The total number of births ascribed to Borough Residents was 1,099 compared with 1313 for 1947, this gives a Birth Rate figure of 17.1 per 1,000 population, the lowest since 1941.

Illegitimate Births

The total number of illegitimate births was 101 giving a rate of 89 per 1,000 total births compared with figures of 73, 114, 155, 122, and 95 for the previous five years.

Infant Mortality

The number of Deaths of Infants is given among other figures by the Registrar General each year. The figures given cover deaths actually registered during the year, and they therefore include deaths which occurred at the turn of the previous year if they were registered in the year under consideration. Deaths at the end of that year are, of course, excluded under similar circumstances.

The Infant Mortality rate for 1948 was 31.8 per 1,000 Live Births. This is the lowest figure yet recorded for Cheltenham and compares with the figure of 39, the average for the great towns. Except for the year 1944, when there was a local epidemic of infantile gastro-enteritis, the Cheltenham figure has always been lower than the average for the great towns, among which Cheltenham is included. The average figures for the years 1934-47 inclusive are as follows: Great Towns 57.1, England and Wales 51.7, Smaller Towns 48.1, Cheltenham 47.1.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1939-48 (inclusive).

YEAR	CHEL TENHAM					INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births			TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population				
	Estimated Population RG	No. of Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham	Large Towns	England and Wales	Cheltenham		Cheltenham		England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham)	
										Recorded	Corrected		Pulmonary	Other
1939	53170†	802	15.08	34	41.1	53	50	831	15.35	11.36	12.1	0.46	0.16	
1940	54150*	877	14.99	47	48.1	61	55	971	16.6	13.6	14.3	0.49	0.15	
1941	65770	980	14.9	53	49.1	63	59	878	13.35	10.9	12.9	0.47	0.08	
1942	62650	1102	17.59	46	41.74	59	49	831	13.2	10.87	11.6	0.52	0.08	
1943	61260	1141	18.6	57	49.9	58	49	943	15.4	12.6	12.1	0.57	0.07	
1944	60810	1239	20.4	105	84.7	52	46	901	14.8	12.15	11.6	0.43	0.18	
1945	59030	1122	19.0	55	49.0	54	46	856	14.5	11.89	11.4	0.69	0.14	
1946	60540	1194	19.7	52	43.5	46	43	886	14.6	12.0	11.4	0.46	0.09	
1947	61810	1313	21.2	56	42.6	47	41	926	15.0	12.3	12.0	0.34	0.097	
1948	64260	1099	17.1	35.0	31.8	39	34	770	12.0	9.8	10.8	0.45	0.03	

(†) For Birth Rate.

(*) For Death Rate, etc.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF CHELTENHAM AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL FOR EACH OF THE TEN YEARS 1939-1948 (inclusive). (CIVILIANS ONLY).

All Causes	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Cerebro spinal fever	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
3 Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
4 Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 Diphtheria	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	14	10	16	13	15	16	19	14	19	16	17	9	20	13	19	8	10	11	16	13
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	6	3	3	6	2	3	2	3	2	2	5	6	4	4	1	5	4	2	1	1
8 Syphilitic diseases	6	-	4	4	8	-	4	1	3	1	2	2	5	1	7	4	5	1	3	1
9 Influenza	6	5	12	9	5	12	1	2	16	21	2	7	2	4	3	5	3	5	1	1
10 Measles	1	-	2	-	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
13 Cancer	59	73	39	80	43	63	55	65	49	81	60	82	47	77	58	80	52	85	51	80
14 Diabetes	3	10	7	6	3	3	2	2	6	5	2	7	3	3	4	5	4	4	2	1
15 Intracranial vascular lesions	17	37	25	50	36	52	22	49	26	60	30	68	36	66	38	63	28	61	34	59
16 Heart disease	107	135	107	148	99	146	98	131	104	147	108	156	119	153	118	157	130	190	99	154
17 Other diseases of circulatory system	20	28	11	17	9	15	7	14	13	14	7	9	5	10	4	9	13	13	9	8
18 Bronchitis	10	11	30	45	18	24	22	27	23	24	21	19	18	21	18	14	31	27	22	14
19 Pneumonia	16	15	23	29	24	18	21	17	11	18	19	24	17	20	26	16	16	12	12	7
20 Other respiratory diseases	2	-	11	5	2	4	6	7	11	10	5	3	2	5	3	6	5	1	3	4
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	9	3	7	1	13	2	16	2	9	3	5	2	9	7	5	8	9	5	8	1
22 Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	3	-	5	1	4	1	-	3	13	18	5	2	1	2	3	3	7	1
23 Appendicitis	2	1	3	4	3	-	4	1	5	4	3	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4	1
24 Other digestive diseases	6	14	6	20	15	12	14	12	12	11	7	8	14	10	13	13	9	15	7	12
25 Nephritis	6	12	5	15	15	15	13	15	17	17	10	7	16	15	9	19	16	18	13	12
26 Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
27 Other maternal causes	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
28 Premature birth	9	9	10	1	10	7	5	6	12	9	11	10	7	9	10	6	11	7	7	1
29 Congenital malformations birth injury, infant diseases	9	6	11	7	6	6	11	5	13	8	9	9	9	6	9	6	8	7	4	7
30 Suicide	-	-	8	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	4	-	3	5	4	3	5	2
31 Road traffic accidents	18	18	8	5	6	1	8	6	6	1	6	-	5	1	4	-	2	5	3	2
32 Other violent causes	44	58	15	21	12	12	14	15	13	11	8	7	11	5	7	10	4	13	5	6
33 All other causes	44	58	52	58	37	64	33	37	45	48	37	42	23	36	38	44	27	36	29	33

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH

The Borough of Cheltenham is supplied with water from four sources.

1. The main supply is taken from the River Severn at Tewkesbury and after sedimentation, filtration and treatment with chlorine, is pumped into Reservoirs on the summit of Churchdown Hill. From here it is delivered into a covered reservoir at the Hewletts Works for distribution to the town.

2. The supply of second importance is from the Dowdeswell Reservoir which impounds the waters of the Upper Chelt and a number of springs.

3. The Northfield Springs are collected into reservoirs at the Hewletts Works.

4. Water from a shallow well is pumped directly into Supply at Sandford Works.

The waters are of varying, but reasonable, hardness except for the supply from the Sandford Well, in the case of which the hardness is usually about 40 parts per 100,000 which is high for a public supply.

A full-time analyst, employed by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, is responsible for the treatment and purity of the water at the Tewkesbury Works.

All supplies are chlorinated.

Samples of water from the other town supplies, that is Dowdeswell Reservoir, Sandford Well and Hewletts Reservoirs are taken by the Medical Officer of Health monthly. These samples are examined and reported on by the analyst of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board.

During 1948 upwards of 600 separate Bacteriological and Chemical examinations were made of the water supplied from the Tewkesbury Works and the town supplies.

During 1948 the purity of the water from all sources was well within the high standard expected of modern public supplies.

SPA WATERS

Samples of Pittville Spa Waters were taken monthly and the bacteriological reports showed that a satisfactory standard was maintained. Chlorination was continued under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

MILK (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.

The following licences were issued by Cheltenham Borough Council during 1948 :—

	<i>Type of Licence Issued.</i>			
	<i>Pasteurisers</i>	<i>Dealers Bottling</i>	<i>Dealers</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>
A. Tuberculin Tested Milk	—	4	3	3
B. Accredited	—	—	—	3
C. Pasteurised*	2	1	5	1

*1. Holder Process.

1. High Temp. Short Time Process.

The Cheltenham Borough Council issue two licences for Pasteurising Plants.

One apparatus is a small pasteuriser of the positive "Holder" type. The other, originally of the same type, has been adapted to "High temperature short time" pasteurisation in order to meet the great increase in demand which has arisen during recent years.

Samples from both plants are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1948 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health, though bacterial tests have occasionally been unsatisfactory.

THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1948.

The following statement shows the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year; the corrections in diagnosis and the final numbers arrived at after deduction of these. Tuberculosis is dealt with separately.

The table includes Cheltenham Borough cases only.

Disease	Cases Notified	Diagnosis Corrections	Final Numbers	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	72	—	72	—
Diphtheria	4	2	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	14	—	14	1
Pneumonia	57	—	57	19
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	12	—	12	—
Dysentery	4	—	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	2	—
Measles	255	—	255	—
Whooping Cough	197	—	197	1

Note on Infectious Disease during 1948

The incidence of infectious disease in Cheltenham during 1948 was extremely light. Only four cases of Diphtheria were notified and in two of these the diagnosis was not confirmed. For the third year in succession there was no death from this disease.

The single case of Poliomyelitis, notified during 1948, occurred in a maternity home and related to a person from another area.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1939—48 INCLUSIVE

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Purperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis & encephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
																Pulmonary	Other
1939	—	90	136	1	16	43	2	33	3 CSM	3						56	22
1940	—	96	110	1	15	70	1	22	17 CSM	3						55	14
1941	—	54	66	1	25	114	1	12	12 CSM	2				380	344	81	10
1942	—	78	52	—	24	106	2	13	10 CSM	5	2			1297	67	69	19
1943	—	97	109	—	20	67	—	15	5 CSM	3	44	2	2	145	94	76	15
1944	—	141	88	—	11	56	1	19	1 CSM	4				120	134	69	23
1945	—	34	19	—	11	41	—	12	1	4	10			1202	171	59	21
1946	—	52	15	—	25	41	1	14	3	2	2			33	119	65	18
1947	—	108	4	—	18	44	3	14	2	1				1046	192	69	20
1948	—	72	2	—	14	57	1	12		2	4			358	221	53	13

N.B.—Two cases of Malaria were also notified: 1 in 1943 and 1 in 1945.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The annual return of figures relating to Diphtheria Immunisation which is required by the Ministry of Health, is set out below. This gives the position at the end of 1948.

In order to assist Medical Officers in making this return, the Registrar General provides estimates of the number of children in the Area in the under 5 group and the 5—14 group. These figures are included in the Return.

The Statement shows the number of children under 15 years of age known to have completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1948.

Age at 31/12/48 <i>i.e.</i> Born in years indicated.	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-1943	10-14 1934-1939	Total under 15
Number Immunised	158	680	613	606	629	3242	2961	8889
Estimated mid- year population of children 1947	(under 5) 5277					(5-15) 9232		14509

Note on Diphtheria Immunisation

From the figures given above the following percentages are arrived at :

	<i>Including all Children</i>	<i>Excluding Children under 8 months of age</i>
Children under 5 immunised	50.9%	59%
Children ages 5-14 immunised	67%	67%
Total	61%	64%

The figures include 105 immunisations carried out by private practitioners under the County Scheme during the period 5th July—31st December, which, together with 885 carried out by the School Doctors, make a total of 990 for the year.

It has not been possible previously to include immunisations done by private practitioners but it is believed that the number has been considerable. The percentage of children actually immunised is therefore appreciably greater than the figures given above.

As Immunisation is now advised as soon as possible after the age of 8 months the number of children protected before the 1st birthday is increasing rapidly. The figures for 1948 include 158 immunised before the age of 1 year and 623 during the 2nd year.

Re-Immunisation by a single dose is now offered for Infants on entry to school. This dose is given in order to increase resistance at a time when the chances of infection are much increased by close contact with other children.

A further dose will in future be offered for school children at the age of 10 years as a final protection.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE DELANCEY FEVER HOSPITAL DURING 1948.

During 1948, 139 cases were admitted compared with 184, 152, 253, 349, 408, 383 and 350 during the previous seven years.

The following table shows the numbers and types of diseases admitted and the Responsible Authority.

Responsible Authority	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	Mumps	Chickenpox	Pneumonia	Gastro-enteritis	Ringworm	Tonsillitis	Miscellaneous skins, etc.	Observation	TOTALS
Cheltenham Borough	24	2	5	3	3		1	1	1	1	2	1	8	2	10	64
Cheltenham R.D.C.	23		8		1	2	1	1		1	2		2		4	45
Charlton Kings U.D.C.	4					2			1				1			8
North Cotswold R.D.C.	12		1	2	1	1							1		1	19
Cirencester	1						1									2
Stroud							1									1
TOTALS	64	2	14	5	5	5	4	2	2	2	4	1	12	2	15	139

Deaths

There were two deaths during the year — one was a case of gastro-enteritis in an infant admitted from North Cotswold District and the other a case of Bulbar Polioencephalitis admitted from Stroud to the Cheltenham General Hospital and transferred to the Delancey Hospital. The latter was a case of rapidly spreading paralysis affecting the throat muscles and the muscles of respiration. The patient was treated in the "Iron Lung" for some hours without avail.

Operation

One operation for abscess of the neck was performed by Mr. Harvey.

General Notes

The number of cases showed a decrease over recent years.

Only two cases are included under the diagnosis of Diphtheria though a number of patients admitted as possible cases of this disease were found to be suffering from Tonsillitis.

It is reasonable to presume that the almost complete absence of diphtheria from the town and neighbouring districts is due to the efficient immunisation scheme which has been carried out in recent years. The picture was very different for the year 1940 when 173 cases of Diphtheria were admitted including 36 from the City of Gloucester.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis was admitted from the Borough compared with four in 1947. Considering the extent of the outbreak in England in 1947 and the continued prevalence of the disease in 1948, Cheltenham's experience of this dangerous disease has been an extremely fortunate one.

Staff

On the 5th July the Delancey Hospital after being under the administration of the Delancey Hospital Trustees since 1871 passed into the control of the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act.

In September Miss Atkinson who had been Matron for nearly 20 years resigned and Miss J. Knox Thomas was appointed in her place.

The shortage of nursing staff which has been felt throughout the Country continued to be a source of anxiety during 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality during 1948.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...								
1—5 years ...		2	2				1	
5—15 „ ...	2	3	7	2				1
15—25 „ ...	3	8		2	1	4		
25—35 „ ...	6	8		1	3	6		
35—45 „ ...	9	3			4	1		
45—55 „ ...	8		1		2	2		
55—65 „ ...	3	1			3			
65 and upwards ...	3				3			
	34	25	10	5	16	13	1	1
Registrar General's Figs.					16	13	1	1

Death Rates.

The Tuberculosis death-rates for Cheltenham during 1948 were as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.45	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.03	
Total	0.48	
Comparative Figures	{ Great Towns average	0.59
	{ England and Wales	0.51

NEW CASES AND DEATHS

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified is the lowest since 1940. This encourages the hope that a new period of improvement is commencing following the set-back due to the war.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis numbered 29, a figure which is almost exactly the average for the last ten year period, but there is a somewhat larger population at risk.

The Non-Pulmonary mortality of 2 is a new low record. The previous lowest figure was 4 in 1943. The averages for the last three ten-year periods were 6.5, 7.1 and 12.1. Much of this improvement is probably due to the increasing use of pasteurised milk. A very new factor is associated with the discovery and use of streptomycin as a result of which Tubercular Meningitis in particular is no longer always a fatal disease.

Treatment

Under the New Health Act the campaign against Tuberculosis passed out of the hands of the County and became a Regional function.

At the same time the provision of sanatoria became a responsibility of the Regional Hospital Boards.

Notification and Disinfection.

The duties of district authorities including non-County Boroughs, have regard largely to the keeping of a register of cases, the supply of articles for preventing the spread of infection and the general supervision of the housing of infected persons.

Housing has presented insuperable difficulties during recent years and the Medical Officer of Health has limited his recommendations for priority with but few exceptions, to families faced with the problem of a case of Tuberculosis. The Housing Committee has always given special consideration to these recommendations.

Disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs and antiseptic soap are provided free on the recommendation of the County Visitor.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS 1939-48
NEW CASES

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1939	30	26	12	10
1940	43	12	7	7
1941	45	36	7	3
1942	45	24	9	10
1943	42	34	8	7
1944	36	33	12	11
1945	37	22	14	7
1946	36	29	7	11
1947	38	31	8	12
1948	34	25	10	5

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS 1939-48

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death Rate	
	M	F	M	F	P	N.P.
1939	14	10	6	3	0.46	0.16
1940	16	13	3	6	0.49	0.15
1941	15	16	2	3	0.47	0.08
1942	19	14	2	3	0.52	0.08
1943	19	16	2	2	0.57	0.07
1944	17	9	5	6	0.43	0.18
1945	20	13	4	4	0.69	0.14
1946	19	18	1	5	0.46	0.09
1947	10	11	4	2	0.34	0.097
1948	16	13	1	1	0.45	0.03

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION

At the commencement of 1948 there were 23 Nursing Homes on the Register.

One new home was registered during the year and three were removed from the register leaving 21 at the end of the year.

The Victoria and Sunnyside Maternity Homes became Maternity Hospitals under the direction of the newly formed Regional Hospital Boards.

The Return for the end of 1948 showed that 51 maternity and 108 other beds were available but the provisions of the National Health Service Act have had some effect on the position of private nursing homes and the number continues to fall.

Some confusion occurred when the National Health Service Act came into operation as to the position regarding the inspection of Nursing Homes under the new Act. Following the receipt of an instruction from the County, that the duties of inspection were being taken over, no further visits were made during 1948. As a result of this, three of the homes were not inspected during 1948. On discovery of the mistake early in the present year, special visits were at once paid to these homes.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION. (National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47).

When the National Health Service Act divested the smaller Health Authorities of all personal health services, the National Assistance Act put into their hands a new power of a personal nature which remedies a long standing deficiency in Public Health Law

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act enables a Local Authority on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, to apply for Court Orders for the removal to Hostels or Hospitals of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or who are aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, if they are living under insanitary conditions and are not properly cared for. Action, however, can only be taken if it is in the interests of the persons concerned, or is necessary to protect other persons from nuisance or injury.

Old persons, particularly of the female sex, probably because they tend to live longer than males, are not infrequently found living under unsatisfactory conditions.

In the past the duty of dealing with such persons, who frequently object to removal from their surroundings, fell to the Relieving Officer who, by various devices usually managed to obtain their removal to institutions. Some, however, remained living under conditions of indescribable muddle and neglect as a nuisance and danger to neighbours.

Action under the new Act is complicated, because provision of accommodation for these cases lies between Hospital accommodation under the control of the Local Hospitals Committee and Hostel accommodation provided by the Local Welfare Authority. The decision involved is often a matter of difficulty. Moreover, the Hospital authority does not possess officers to act in the place of Relieving Officers and action depends on the giving of Certificates by private practitioners. Further, the Welfare Authority does not possess the services of a Doctor to take the place of the Public Assistance Medical Officer who was experienced in dealing with this type of case.

As a result of the divided responsibility, and in the absence of special officers to visit these cases and use powers of persuasion, it appears that there is a tendency for action to be delayed and for a call to be made for proceedings to be taken under Section 47 more often than is really desirable.

An old person can often be allowed to continue to live in the midst of muddle and moderate uncleanliness unless the comfort and safety of neighbours and other occupiers of a house are involved, so that these are frequently the deciding factors in the making of an application to a Court for a removal order desirable.

During 1948 several cases were investigated with a view to possible action under the new powers given by Sec. 47. In one case where application for a Court Order had been authorised by the Health Committee, the old person gassed herself before action could be taken. This event which was presumably accidental was one which had been feared. Fortunately no other persons were involved in the misadventure.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

These services were transferred to the County Council on the 5th July, 1948. It is not possible to present all the usual tables relating to the work carried out during 1948 up to that date because annual returns were in some cases made direct to the County Council.

Fifty-six Midwives gave notice of intention to practice during the period ending 5th July, 1948. Of these, five notices covered practice as a Maternity Nurse only.

Thirty-five notifications related to midwives employed directly or indirectly by Local Authorities, seventeen to midwives employed in private nursing homes and four only to midwives engaged in private practice.

1. Notices received from Midwives.

The following is a summary of the special notices received from midwives during the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948.

Notification of Still Births	...	...	...	9
„ Death of Infant	...	...	...	1
„ Death of Mother	...	...	...	2
„ Artificial Feeding being adopted	...	...	...	20
„ Liability to be a Source of Infection	...	...	...	1
„ Having laid out dead body	...	...	...	—
				—
				Total number of Notices received
				33
				—

2. Number of Cases in which Medical Aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act 1918, by a Midwife.

The following is an analysis of the reasons necessitating the calls for the assistance of a Doctor.

(a) Conditions arising before Labour	{ Albuminuria	...	...	6
	{ Other Conditions	...	...	30
(b) Miscarriage, Abortion and Premature Labour	...	...	...	3

(c) Conditions arising during Labour	{	Perineal Injuries ...	46
		Delayed Labour ...	17
		Abnormal Presentations	7
		Abnormal Haemorrhage	3
		Retained Products of Conception ...	2
		Other conditions ...	10
(d) Conditions arising after Labour	{	Rise of Temperature ...	8
		Other conditions ...	16
(e) Condition of the Infant	{	Feebleness or Prematurity	3
		Inflamed Eyes ...	12
		Deformities ...	—
		Other conditions ...	6
Total ...			169

Dental Treatment of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under 5.

The following table shows the work done by the School Dentist for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee up to 4th July, 1948.

No. of sessions held during 1948 = 68	<i>Saturday Morning & Thursday Evening</i>		
	<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Nursery Probationers</i>
Attendances	374	76	6
Extractions	172	—	—
Extractions (under gas)	344	12	—
Fillings	28	7	5
Attendances for other treatment, impressions, fitting dentures, etc.	177	45	3
Total number of dentures provided during 1947			22
Number of cases receiving assistance in payment...			Nil

Special Cases.

In order to meet the difficulty presented by younger children needing multiple extractions and requiring a period for recovery, one or two sessions are held each term at the Children's Hospital.

The following is a summary of this work:—

No. of sessions	4
No. of children treated	20
No. of teeth extracted	39
" " " " " " (under gas).	12

GYNAECOLOGICAL CLINIC

This Clinic, which was opened in 1938, is mainly intended for Birth Control work. Help is only given to Mothers whose health is such as to render further pregnancy undesirable.

During 1948, 27 clinics were held. New cases attending included 162 Borough and 53 County Patients.

Total attendances at the Clinic numbered 236.

THE MATERNITY WORK OF THE VICTORIA HOME.

STATISTICS FOR 1948 (Jan. 1st—July 4th)

1. Ward Cases.

		<i>Midwifery Cases</i>	<i>Maternity Cases</i>	<i>Ante-Natal Cases</i>
Borough Cases	121 comprising	62	18	41
County cases	—	—	—	—
Totals	121	62	18	41

2. District Cases.

Midwifery	...	...	...	131
Maternity	...	...	...	17
Total	...	...	...	148

These figures show the work of the "Domiciliary" Service provided under the Midwives' Act, 1936, by the Home, in conjunction with the Borough Council.

INFANT WELFARE.

Work of Health Visitors, January 1st—July 4th, 1948.

No. of Children on Register	...	...	...	...	4714
„ Un-notified Live Births discovered	...	...	...	...	14
„ Un-notified Still Births discovered	...	...	...	...	—
„ Home Visits paid by Health Visitors (a) 1 year and under	...	...	...	...	4331
„ „ „ „ (b) over 1 year	...	...	...	...	5112
„ Special visits to Mothers (Ante natal cases 529) (others 261)	...	...	...	Total	790
„ First Visits paid by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	695
„ Attendances of Health Visitors at Centres	...	...	...	...	195

HEALTH VISITORS WORK PERIOD, 1939-48

Year	No. of Children on Register	Home Visits to Children		Attendances at Centres
		1 yr & under	Over 1 year	
1939	3209	5993	6842	295
1940	4280	6614	7642	271
1941	4747	7400	8156	278
1942	4835	7188	8619	274
1943	4935	7601	7325	249
1944	5312	8078	8940	412
1945	5527	8072	10013	439
1946	5841	7260	8800	345
1947	6303	8657	9271	283
1948	4714*	4331*	5112*	195*

* Part of year only, Jan. 1st — July 4th, inclusive

Infant Deaths during 1948 numbered 35.

The causes of deaths are classified as follows :—

Enteritis	...	...	...	...	10
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	9
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc.	...	...	...	...	8
Congenital Deformities	...	...	...	...	3
Haemorrhagic Diseases, R.H. Factor, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	3
					—
			Total	...	35
					—

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The following figures show the extent of the work under Sections 206-220 P.H. Act. 1936.

Number of visits by Health Visitors	...	...	...	104
Number of visits by School Nurses	...	...	...	14
Number of individual children on the register at the end of the period	...	...	...	78
Number of children who died during the year	...	...	...	—
Number of Foster Mothers on the register at the end of the period	...	...	...	21

The visits are made by the Health Visitors in the case of children under 5 and by the School Nurses where children between the ages of 5 and 9 are concerned.

CHELTENHAM CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Fortieth Annual Report

April 1st, 1948 — March 31st, 1948.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Lock Mellersh, President of the Association for permission to include this report.

The Cheltenham Child Welfare Association present their 40th and final report. This has been a year of frustration, hindrances and final annihilation. At their meeting in February the Committee received a directive from the Gloucestershire County Council to form five voluntary committees, one for each Centre, this the Committee could not agree to, so the following resolution was passed:—"The Committee of the Cheltenham Child Welfare Association regret that they are unable to carry out the directive of the Health Committee of the Gloucestershire County Council, because it is convinced that the best way to organise Child Welfare work in the Borough is through one central Committee and they, therefore, will cease to be responsible for the work of the five centres after March 31st, 1949."

Many of the voluntary workers who have given so generously of their time over many years (some have over 30 years of regular work to their credit), feel they could not contemplate working under a new regime nor could they give any extra time to help in the running of the Centres, so with feelings of real sorrow they had no alternative but to resign with the Committee.

There has been a falling off in the attendances at the Baker Street and Whaddon Centres since the National Health Act came into force on July 5th. The Committee attribute this to the fact that the mothers can now go free to their own doctors for advice. Also there has been a very large transference of families from both of these districts to the new Lynworth Estate which is now under Prestbury. There have also been fewer new babies recently in the Whaddon area.

After the 5th July under the new restrictions of the Health Committee of the Gloucestershire County Council the Association was no longer allowed to supply preventive medicines and ointments at the Centres. This was considered such a seriously detrimental step that the Association wrote to the Ministry of Health. In the reply the Ministry stated: "It will be in order and in deed desirable for the authorities to supply simple drugs and medicines at the Centres. The cost will be borne by the County and grant will be paid by the Ministry on the expense involved." The Ministry understood the Gloucestershire County Council were intending to stock all their centres in the County with certain simple medicines and suggested the Association getting in touch with them.

Dr. Donnison in his position of consultant Paediatrician to the County Council visited the Centres in December.

Early in July the Committee gave a most successful party at Cowley Manor to the past and present helpers at the Child Welfare Centres. Seventy-one guests were present.

This year eleven Mothers and fifteen children have been sent to the Church Army holiday home at Weston-super-Mare. These mothers enjoyed very happy restful holidays.

Several more playpens have been bought for hiring out to the mothers thus making a total of twelve. This service has been of real value to the mothers and is a most welcome one.

WORK OF CHILD WELFARE CENTRES, 1948

Highbury Congregational Church, every Tuesday	...	2.30	
Bethesda Sunday School, every Wednesday (Great Norwood Street).	... ..	2.30	
St. Mark's every Wednesday Methodist Sunday School, Gloucester Road.	... ..	2.30	
Baker Street Institute, every Thursday	... ..	2.30	
St. Michael's Hall, Whaddon, every Thursday	... ..	2.30	
	Infants	Toddlers	Totals
Attendances at Highbury (47 meetings)	2928	1088	4016
Attendances at Bethesda (46 meetings)	1773	787	2560
Attendances at St. Mark's (47 meetings)	2197	1124	3321
Attendances at Baker Street (46 meetings)	1340	507	1847
Attendances at St. Michael's Hall (46 meetings)	1233	1048	2281
			Total 14025

CHELTENHAM HOME HELP SERVICE

Report for year ending June 1948

During the year the Home Help Service has expanded considerably with even greater demands from chronic and aged patients. Much more careful investigation has been necessary, as the majority have had relatives who could assist if they so desired.

Owing to the shortage of beds in Hospitals and Maternity Homes, many cases have been sent home before time and full time Home Helps have been provided.

No of cases assisted during the year : 347.

Consisting of Maternity	...	...	145
Domestic	...	...	202

There has been an average of 18 Home Helps in the Service throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1948, being my twenty-first as an Executive Officer of this Authority. It is of interest to record that since the incorporation of the Borough in 1875, I am the fourth person to occupy this office, and one officer's service was only of three years' duration.

A perusal of the old health reports discloses the wide scope of duties then undertaken and for the advancement made, we owe much to those earlier officials for their energy, perseverance and progressive thought.

Environmental hygiene is not a nomenclature that conveys a ready description of the duties and extent of our work. The rapid changes and developments of sanitary science which have evolved in creating this type of public health official, would materially assist the general public still more were he designated appropriately.

A determined effort has been made in this area to deal effectually with the pollution of rivers and streams, and the results have been published in detail. It is typical of the work facing Sanitary Inspectors to-day that with the necessity to keep abreast of developments in trade and industry, it is inevitable that new problems should arise and many difficulties be overcome. The members of this Town Council are in the forefront of Local Authorities who recognise and appreciate progress, and they readily assist the work of my Department, not being content to relegate the duties and scope of the work of a Sanitary Inspector to that of a nondescript part of Local Government. This characteristic is but a reflection of the inhabitants of this town and I have no hesitation in saying that the reputation of Cheltenham stands high amongst other officials conversant with this work.

It is of particular interest that various voluntary bodies and societies are anxious to obtain information concerning the duties of a Sanitary Inspector by way of talks and lectures. The Cheltenham Ladies' College have, in their senior class on Citizenship, included lectures on our work, which example could well be copied by other schools throughout the country, whilst the St. Mary's Women's Training College include in their curriculum a visit to the Public Abattoir.

I have endeavoured to show an interest in many of the trade associations whereby they can readily obtain information of assistance to their businesses. The creation of public confidence is best served by a deeper understanding and judging by the scanty knowledge of local government shown by many of the children leaving school, there is much to be done in that direction which would ultimately be of direct assistance to citizens both in business and the professions and in government generally.

It is of the utmost importance that the food publicity, initiated in 1947 by the British Tourist and Holidays Board Hygiene Scheme, should be encouraged in a town such as Cheltenham, a recognised centre for visitors, and especially for the benefit of its inhabitants. During the present year, 1949, a series of lectures were planned to cover all sections

of the food and catering services, and to give guidance to the general public. Substantial progress is being made in improving the general standard of preparation, manufacture and retailing of food stuffs, and a photograph is included in this report of an entirely new kitchen that has been completed in a leading hotel in Cheltenham, as the result of measures initiated in this department which received the full co-operation of the management. It must be recognized that to embark on a general plan for obtaining "Clean Food," in addition to the educative measures and a recognised code of practice in all food premises, a full and sufficient inspectorate staff must be available for maintaining adequate and persistent inspection.

The National Smoke Abatement Society held their annual conference in Cheltenham in September, and were addressed by Mr. Gaitskell, the Minister of Fuel and Power. A feature of the conference was a Brains' Trust, in which Dr. W. R. Perry, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, took part; this session was open to the public which many of the students from Colleges and Schools attended. The delegates who attended were impressed with the absence of industrial smoke in Cheltenham, and the Conference stimulated some interest in the town, judging by the letters which appeared in the public press.

Changes in the staff during the year include the appointment of Miss M. I. M. Price, as personal secretary to replace Mrs. M. Byron, who resigned, and Mr. R. J. Wintle who was taken on the staff as a pupil.

I am pleased to record the following list of examination successes in 1948. Mr. J. F. Ursell, Deputy Chief Inspector, passed the Final Examination for the Diploma in Public Administration, University of Bristol. Mr. A. L. Jones, District Sanitary Inspector, obtained a certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute. Mr. W. L. Booy, District Sanitary Inspector, passed the qualifying examination for Meat and other Foods.

The absence from duty, owing to illness from August onwards, of Mr. Frank Keene, Meat Inspector at the Public Abattoir, very seriously affected the work in the department. The situation was met later in the year by the appointment of Mr. G. J. C. Buck, a former pupil who had become qualified under the Government's training scheme for men who had served in the Forces.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and the Home Office, tables giving full particulars of the inspections made, together with notes and local information will be found in the Report.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Public Health and other Committees of the Council, also to express appreciation to the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their co-operation.

With pleasure I again record the loyal and valued assistance rendered to me by my Deputy, Mr. J. F. Ursell, and the District Inspectors and Staff in my department. There is a genuine team spirit amongst the staff, and the statistics submitted of work performed are only part of the contribution made in helping to safeguard the health and well-being of of the population.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

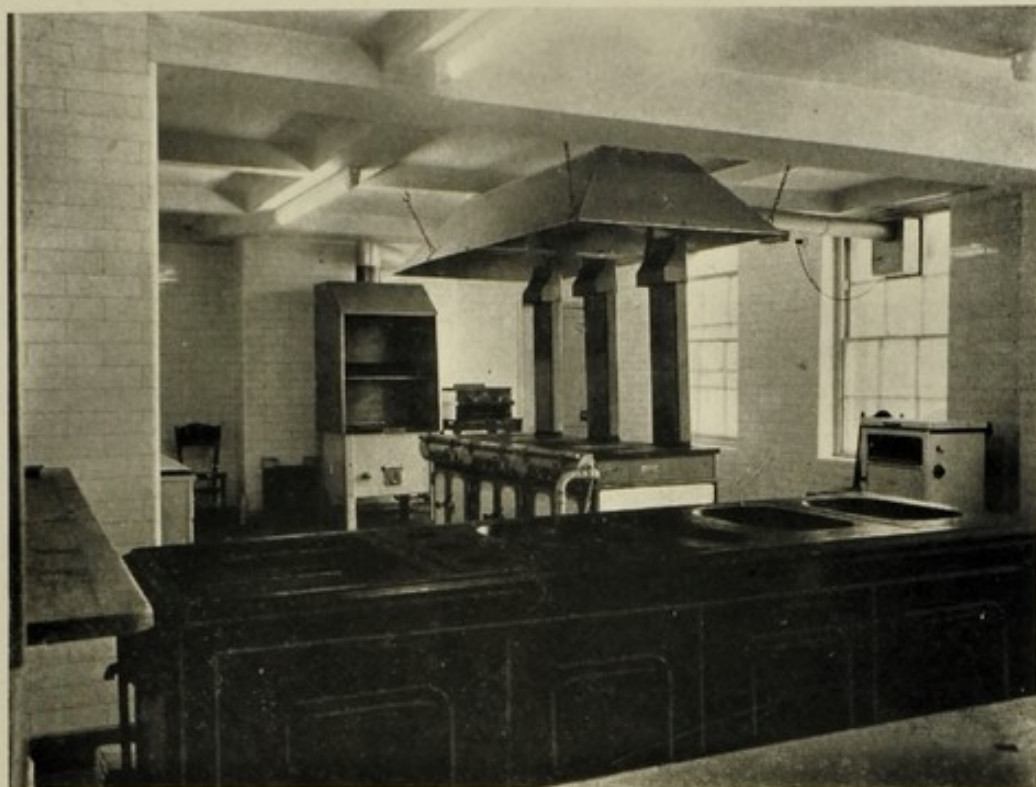
Your obedient servant,

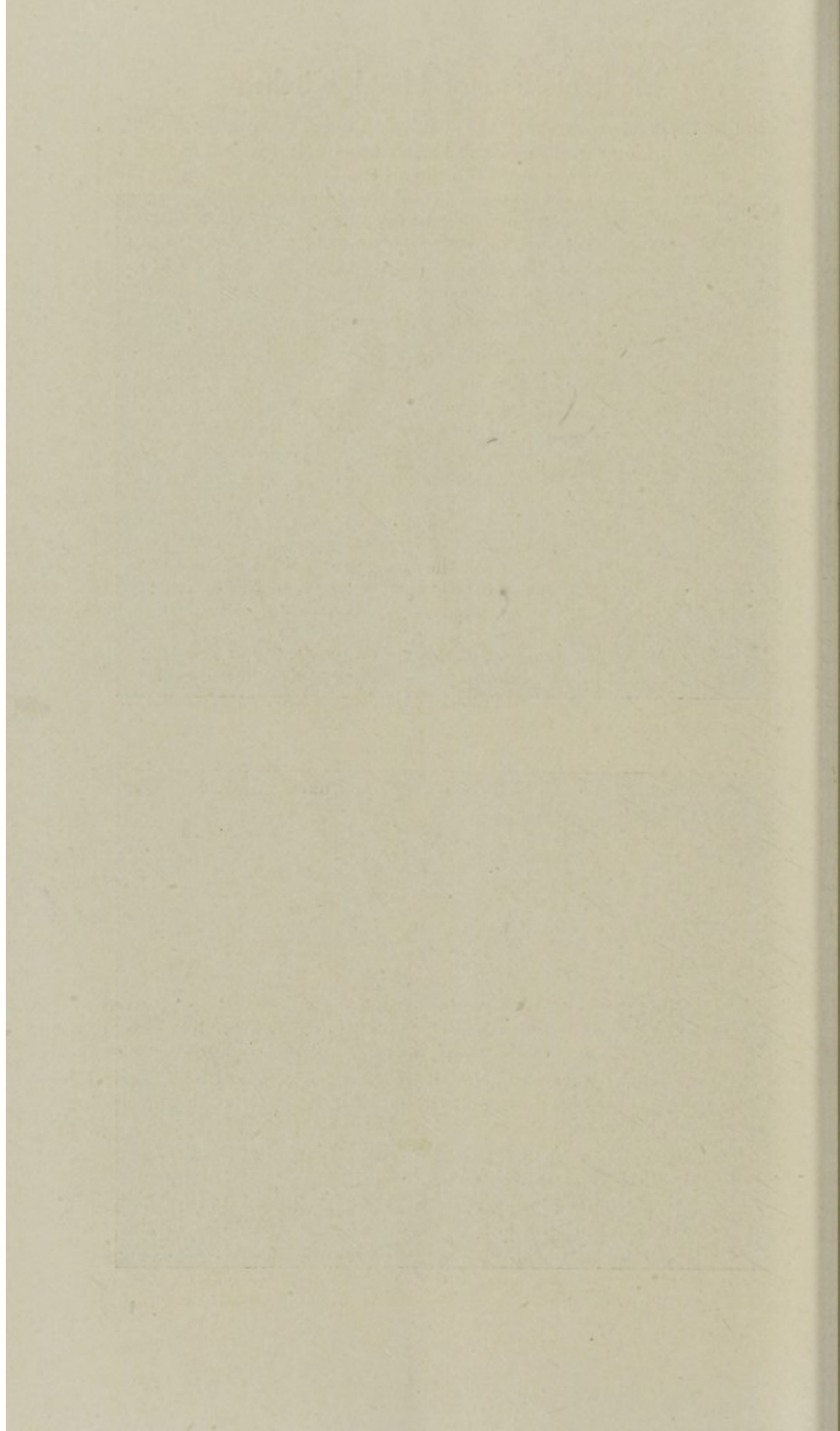
F. R. JEFFORD,

F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

Modernisation of Hotel Kitchen

Photographs show re-constructed Kitchen and Preparation Room of one of the oldest Hotels in the Borough.





Rivers Pollution

Following a complaint received during the latter part of 1947 from the occupier of a farm bordering on the River Chelt, notice under the Rivers' Pollution Act was served on a nearby factory. The Firm replied that they were not satisfied that the samples, taken prior to the service of the notice, were characteristic of the normal effluent.

In January, 1948, further samples were taken, the observations of the Public Analyst being as follows:—

(i) *Sample of Effluent discharged into river from Factory*

Remarks. The analysis shows that this sample is not satisfactory to discharge into any river or stream.

It does not satisfy the requirements of the standard laid down in the 8th Report of the Royal Commission on sewage disposal.

The biological oxygen demand and the suspended solids are both too high. In addition this sample contains a large amount of organic matter including sugar.

(ii) *Sample of River Chelt water (above effluent).*

Remarks. The analysis shows that the condition of the River Chelt as represented by this sample is very bad, showing gross pollution.

(iii) *Sample of River Chelt water (below effluent).*

Remarks. The analysis shows that the condition of the River Chelt as represented by this sample is very bad, showing gross pollution.

The factory concerned complied with the notice served by connecting to the foul water drain.

Three samples of effluent were also taken from a factory, the premises of which border the Hatherley Brook. The Public Analyst's reports were as follows:—

(i) *Sample from main scheme effluent.*

Remarks. Very satisfactory.

(ii) *Sample of Chrome effluent.*

Remarks. Satisfactory.

(iii) *Sample of surface water outfall.*

Remarks. The analysis shows that this sample is seriously contaminated with oil compounds, probably cutting oil, and in its present condition it is not fit to discharge into a water course.

A sample of the water from the Hatherley Brook was also taken at the same time from a point approximately a quarter of a mile below the factory. The Analyst's remarks were as follows:—

Remarks. The analysis shows that the water in this brook cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

The biological oxygen demand would come within the classification of a badly polluted stream.

If there was the discharge of a large quantity of surface water of the nature of sample (iii) above, it would give rise to a condition similar to that shown by the present sample.

The firm concerned, on notification of this unsatisfactory effluent, replied that they had no discharge of any description from any equipment connected to the surface water drains. The only explanation possible was that some unauthorised persons were tipping oil, suds, etc., down the surface water drains, and that notices had been posted throughout the works to the effect that anyone undertaking such a practice would be instantly dismissed.

Wyman's Brook

A report was received of the death of a large quantity of fish in Pittville Lake. On examination of the water, arsenical compounds were found, and in the opinion of the Public Analyst, these arsenical compounds had been responsible for the death of the fish.

This led to a thorough investigation of all possible sources of pollution. Wyman's Brook was surveyed from its source to its outlet in the lake, all factories bordering the brook being the subject of special attention. As a result of this, 2 samples of effluent from a factory were taken, and one of stream water, with the following results:—

(i) *Sample of Effluent from Chrome Plant.*

<i>Remarks.</i>	Total Chromium	(as Cr)	13.1	parts per million
	Oxidised Chromium	(as Cr)	8.9	parts per million
	Copper compounds	(as Cu)	12.0	parts per million
	Other metals	...		absent.

In order to treat an effluent of this type satisfactorily, it would require the addition of Copperas (ferrous sulphate), and then a subsequent treatment with slaked lime (calcium hydroxide).

The quantities required would depend on the amount of chromium present in the effluent, but a slight excess would not be injurious.

Taking an effluent containing 20 parts per million of chromium, in order to reduce it to chromous compounds it would require 3.6 pounds of Copperas per 1,000 gallons of effluent. The liquid resulting from this treatment would then require to be treated with slaked lime in slight excess. The amount of lime required would depend on the character of the other ingredients in the water, but, normally speaking, one pound of slaked lime per 1,000 gallons would suffice.

(ii) *Sample of Effluent immediately prior to discharge into stream.*

<i>Remarks.</i>	Chromium compounds	(as Cr)	4	parts per million
	Copper compounds	(as Cu)	0.12	parts per million
	Arsenical compounds	...	...	absent
	Nickel	...	...	absent
	Lead	...	...	absent
	Zinc	...	...	absent

The analysis shows that this sample contains small quantities of copper and chromium compounds.

In my opinion the quantity present is not sufficient to be injurious to fish, especially when there is dilution.

The fact that chromium is discharged from these works is an important factor and there are probably times when the amount discharged is greater than the present quantity.

The safety limit for the amount of chromium in an effluent discharged into a water course is usually taken at 5 parts per million.

(iii) *Sample of stream water taken below factory.*

Remarks. The analysis shows that this sample contains a trace of copper but no chromium. In its present condition it is safe for fish life.

The firm concerned was notified, following which the effluent storage tanks were thoroughly cleansed. No arsenical compounds were found in the samples.

Although the investigation into the death of the fish was continued, no trace of the source of this pollution could be found. No further deaths of fish in this lake have been notified.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following Tables show the amount of Routine Inspection work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors. The total number of complaints received in the Department during 1948 was 1,170.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

TABLE I

General Sanitation						
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	165
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	2,361
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	22
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	32
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	24
Houses—Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	35
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	57
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	10
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	36
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	36
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	8
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	36
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	808
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	24
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	285
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	665
						4,649
				Total	...	4,649

Housing

TABLE II

<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>				
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	511
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	1,323
<i>Under the Housing Act</i>				
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	269
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	305
<i>Overcrowding</i>				
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	88
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	9
<i>Verminous Premises</i>				
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	34
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	164
Total				2,729

TABLE III

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	3
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	—
Total				24

TABLE IV

Food Inspections, etc.

<i>Inspection of Meat</i>				
Visits to Abattoir (in addition to full time meat inspection)	...	...	...	186
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	15
Visits to other premises	...	...	...	27
<i>Visits to :—</i>				
Butchers	...	...	...	101
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	120
Grocers	...	...	...	343
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	30
Cowsheds	...	...	...	11
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	94
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	108
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	170
Market Stalls	...	...	...	45
Restaurants	...	...	...	140
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	2
<i>Visits in connection with Sampling :—</i>				
Milk—Bacteriological	...	...	...	4
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	...	226
Miscellaneous Food Visits	58
Rivers Pollution	4
Total				1,684

Total of Tables I, II, III, IV	9,086
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NOTICES SERVED.

During the year the following notices were served:—

	<i>Informal Notice</i>		<i>Statutory Notice</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act	472	413	48	42
Food and Drugs Act	26	33	—	—
Factory Act	9	11	—	—
Shops Act	1	1	—	—
Water Act	—	1	—	—
Rivers Pollution Act	—	1	—	—
	<hr/> 508	<hr/> 460	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 42

Some of these notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.

Movable Dwellings

There are two licensed caravan sites in the Borough, both of which are on the Gloucester Road. One site is licensed for 20 caravans, and the other for 2; the sites are fully occupied.

During the year the presence of several caravans, sited in the Borough without prior application, were reported to the Public Health Committee. Two of these were removed after visits from the District Sanitary Inspector but the others were still occupied at the end of the year.

The proper enforcement of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with movable dwellings, although perhaps possible, is in fact impracticable. The necessity for proving occupation of a site for the periods laid down in the Section, and the provision which allows a new site to be opened up at 100 yards distance from the old, imply an almost constant surveillance. In addition the granting of certificates of exemption to certain approved organisations further weakens control by the Local Authority.

At the Public Health Committee meeting held in December, 1948, the whole question of Movable Dwellings was considered, and it was decided that to overcome the problem of having caravans sited in various parts of the Borough, an endeavour be made to obtain land for use as a Municipal Camping Site.

It is intended that this site should be able to accommodate 50 caravans or tents and an area of one to two acres is considered a minimum. The site should be well drained with a suitable sub-soil; easy of access and should have good roads and all main services including refuse collection, and the laying on of electrical power.

The object of such a site is that all caravans would be centred in one part of the Borough only. Advantage would thus be gained both by the Local Authority and the caravan dwellers; the Local Authority having only to control and supervise one site instead of several, and the caravan occupants would benefit by having all main services, etc., available.

The question of the location of this site is to be considered in the new year.

DISINFESTATION.

No. of Premises treated for Bug Infestation	...	...	277
" " Flea "	...	...	43
No. of Articles treated	...	...	596

Rehousing of displaced families.

No. visited	...	...	8
No. premises treated	...	...	6
No. articles treated	...	...	38

Removal of Articles for Destruction.

No. of articles removed for destruction	...	...	69
No. of visits	...	...	482
No. of re-visits	...	...	293
No. of special visits	...	...	607

Total 2,419

DISINFECTION.**Infectious Diseases**

No. of Visits made	...	...	113
No. of articles steam disinfected	...	...	546
No. of Premises fumigated	...	...	80
No. of articles disinfected for Authorities outside Borough area	...	...	271
No. of articles disinfected for private requests (not infectious)	...	...	245
Total	...	...	<u>1,255</u>

Factory Act, 1937

Routine inspection of factories, workplaces and Outworkers continued throughout the year. It became more and more obvious, however that during the war years small and large factories had sprung up in so many parts of the Borough to such an extent that a complete overhaul of the Register was necessary. To do this in a methodical manner it would be necessary for each factory to be visited and up-to-date particulars obtained, prior to compiling a new register.

To this end, the help of H.M. Inspector of Factories at Gloucester was requested in order that a comparison of Registers could be undertaken.

Towards the end of the year I sent a member of my staff to Gloucester for this purpose, and a list of all known factories, both power and non-power, was completed from this comparison of registers.

These factories have been scheduled, and systematic inspection and registration is now being undertaken.

FACTORY ACT 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	86	13	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	297	53	8
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	384	67	8

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	5
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1
Totals ...	9	6

3. Outworkers

(a) No. of visits made to Outworkers' premises ...	36
(b) No. of lists received from employers	29
(c) No. of employers involved	18
(d) Outworkers involved	49
(e) No. of outworkers living outside the Borough ...	7
(f) No. of districts in (e)	6
(g) No. of lists received from outside Authorities ...	2
(h) No. of employers involved	2
(i) No. of outworkers involved	2

VENTILATION OF CINEMAS

During the year visits were made to two of the cinemas in the town, during evening performances, to ascertain the efficiency of the ventilation arrangements.

The air conditioning plants were examined and experiments conducted with the Kata thermometer, an instrument designed to test the cooling power of the atmosphere, giving in turn a true indication of the efficiency of the ventilation mechanism used.

The readings of the Kata thermometer were generally satisfactory, being only slightly below the suggested standard for such buildings.

It was evident, in both cases, that the management keep the atmospheric conditions under constant review throughout performances, taking all possible steps to contribute to the comfort of the audience.

HOUSING

The year has shown some progress in the closure of dwellings unfit for habitation and in the rehousing of families from such unfit premises. These, however, only constitute the fringe of the problem. Houses condemned prior to the war continue to remain in use for human occupation. Some underground dwellings condemned some two years ago remain occupied.

An unsatisfactory compromise has been effected in many other cases. Premises that have long outlived their usefulness have been temporarily patched up under the Public Health Act. In these cases it is felt that to insist on extensive repairs, and redecoration would not only prejudice effective action in the future but may well inflict undue hardship on the owners of this type of property.

The Corporation have now recommenced their policy of purchasing several of these old blocks of property. Some are being fully reconditioned with an anticipated life of 20 years, others temporarily rendered fit with a view to demolition as soon as rehousing or further deterioration indicates.

It has not been possible, as in the pre-war years, to deal with these cases as expeditiously as might have been desired. Negotiations for approval with the respective branch of the Ministry concerned have been very prolonged.

Houses let on Licence

There are, in the Borough, eleven houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Order, which are occupied temporarily under licence.

These licences, issued under the Housing Act, 1933, (Sec. 155), and the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, are for periods of six months. The houses are inspected prior to the renewal of the licence.

Housing Act, 1936

The following action under the above Act was taken during 1948 :—

(a) Closing Orders (Basements)	24
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of houses)	4
(c) Closing Orders determined	2
(d) Demolition Orders	4
(e) Undertakings to render premises fit accepted	2
(f) Undertakings to render premises fit complied	2
(g) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation	2
(h) Houses demolished	9

Due to pressure of work in many directions, it has not been possible to make a detailed survey of the housing requirements within the Borough and it is felt that the time is not opportune until a clear policy on housing and reconditioning is possible. Until houses are available in which to re-house those living under such conditions and within these old fabrics we must continue to tolerate these sub-standard dwellings.

Common Lodging Houses

The two lodging houses, namely, Rowton House and the Shamrock, Grove Street, are adjoining properties and owned by the same person, who is the Registered Keeper for both houses.

The general supervision, entering of the register and compliance with the respective provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been conducted as if the lodging houses were a single unit. In view of these circumstances, upon consideration of the applications for the Annual Re-registration it was resolved that to legalise the position the lodging houses be registered as one — Rowton House. The combined accommodation will be 54 men.

The premises have been well conducted during the year. Extensive repairs and structural alterations were carried out to the properties including re-building the gable end wall, framing a new slate roof to the Shamrock and provision of communicating doors in the party walls. Good progress has been made in the building of an additional wash-house, storeroom and shower bath. The supply of hot water to the showers will be heated by a large slow combustion cooker in the common room. This will also provide additional and more satisfactory means for the preparation of meals.

It is interesting to note that this will be the only Registered Common Lodging House in the town and it was first registered in 1910 as a model lodging house. There were eleven lodging houses registered in 1920, with a total accommodation for 195 persons. The majority, situated in Slum Clearance Areas of Stanhope Street and Grove Street, were demolished between the period 1927-1936.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Formal and informal samples taken during the year total 210, representing 3.06 per thousand of the population of the Borough. This figure slightly exceeds the requirements of the Ministry. Milk being an essential food has been the subject of frequent sampling representing 43.8% of the total number taken. There is at present an unfortunate trend to concentrate on quantity in milk production at the expense of quality. In the absence of an absolute standard, no action can be taken against anyone selling milk even if 50% below the fat content standard of 3% laid down providing that the milk is sold as it comes from the cow.

Dr. Kay, Director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying, University of Reading, in a paper read to the Sanitary Inspector's Conference at Brighton, last year, has summed up the position:—

“Like inflation of the currency by overmuch printing, so inflation of milk by overmuch breeding for volume has ultimately disastrous consequences for the citizen. As it has taken some 20 years or more for quality to fall to its present extent, the reversal of this tendency and the building up again of milk quality is likely to be a long-range process. I fear we are on a slippery slope as regards the average nutritional value of this key human foodstuff and the sooner steps are taken to check the descent, the better for all of us, producers, distributors and consumers alike.”

It is to be hoped that the indication given by the Ministry of Food in setting a standard of 4% milk fat for Channel Island milk will be a prelude either to an absolute standard or to a general system of differential pricing along these lines. This would encourage producers to give thought to quality and nutritional value as well as the volume of milk given.

Model byelaws dealing with hygiene in catering establishments are now being formulated by the Ministries of Health and Food. The adoption of such bye-laws adapted to suit local conditions would be of the greatest assistance not only to the department but to the catering industry as a whole. It has been noted that some of the more progressive of wholesale fish merchants are now sending fish in boxes with an impervious lining of a type of aluminium alloy. This is a great step forward not only in cleanliness but in the preservation of fresh fish from the taint that invariably accompanied the old ill-cleansed boxes

MOBILE FISH AND CHIP FRYING

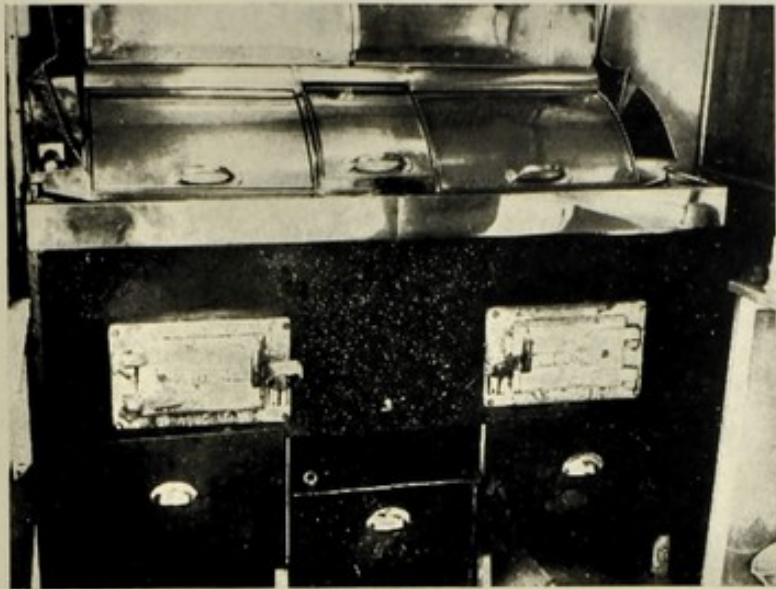
Two mobile fish and chip frying vans have commenced business during the past year, being based within the Borough. The area that they serve is primarily that of outlying districts and villages, where, according to the demand, they fulfil a most useful service.

These vans are a great advance on those that existed prior to the war, one is a trailer, the other mounted directly on a heavy lorry chassis.

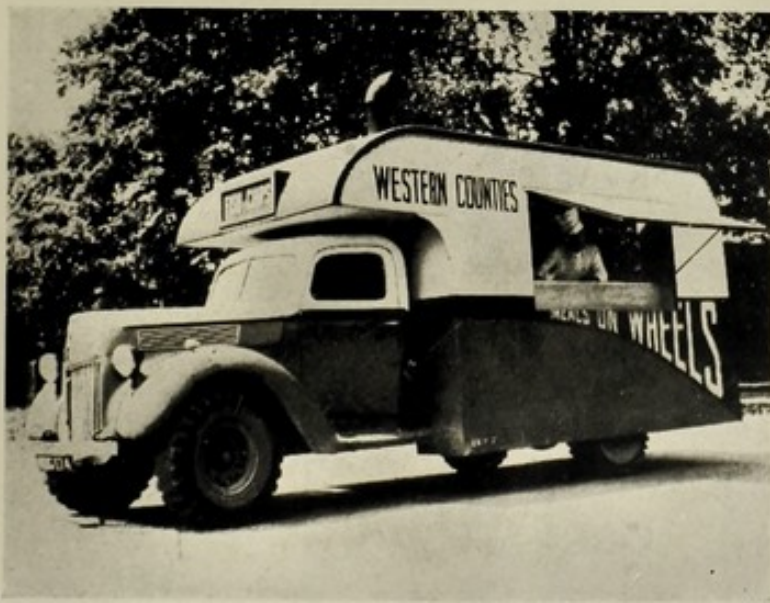
Supervision in maintaining satisfactory hygienic conditions involves inspection of the premises where the fish and potatoes are cleansed and prepared and the mobile frying vans.

Interior and Exterior views of Mobile Fish and Chip Van based within
the Borough.

Type of
coal burning
grate.

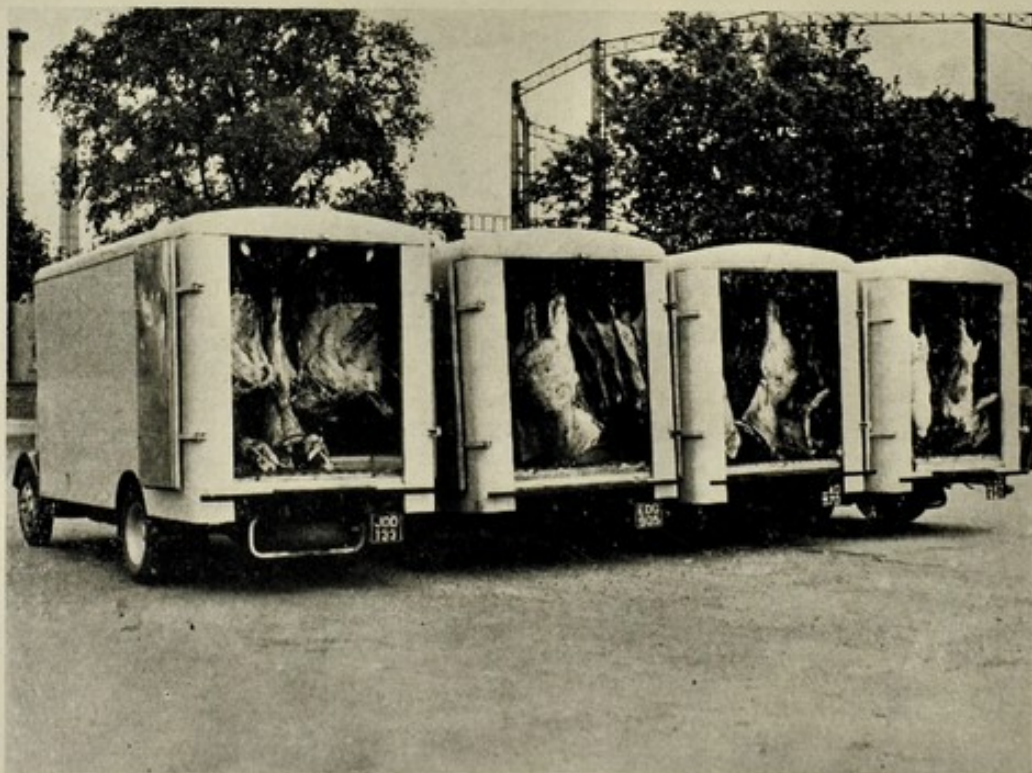


Interior showing clean
water tank, tray with
soap, nail brush and
sink with water laid on.



Type of
Mobile Van

New type of Vans used for Transportation of Meat



Potatoes are scraped by means of an electric scraper. The walls and floors of the preparation rooms are constructed of impervious material with smooth surfaces, essential for such conditions. The bodies of the vans were specially constructed for the purposes of fish and chip frying with impervious and non-corrosive sheet metal lining throughout. The cooking unit can be dismantled for cleaning. It is fitted with a condenser and a flue projecting through the roof.

No offensive smell or nuisance has been observed during the frying throughout the district. Water is available together with a sink and clean towels and soap for the staff.

It is a service which appears to be much appreciated in the country and especially in newly developed housing estates devoid of such amenities.

Transport and Handling of Meat

Following representations made early in the year the old canvas-covered trucks used for conveyance of meat from the Abattoir, or from the cold stores in the case of imported meat, are gradually being replaced with a modern type of vehicle.

This satisfies our requirements in every detail. These vans have an impervious non-rusting fabric of metal, are exceptionally well insulated and have provision for the hanging of quarters of meat.

It is to be hoped during the forthcoming year that the whole of the fleet serving the Borough will consist of these vehicles.

Licensed Slaughterhouses

Two licences in respect of Slaughterhouses were issued during 1948, though no slaughtering is carried on at these premises.

MILK

A new milk designations bill empowers the Ministry of Food to specify areas in which only milk of specific designations may be sold to the general public or supplied to caterers, institutions and schools.

Reduction of all cattle infected with Tuberculosis will take many years to complete. Dr. Summerskill, in a recent estimate, put the number of deaths attributed to milk infected by tubercle bacillus at about 1,500 annually and many more thousands were crippled. It is interesting to note that the percentage of deaths among the child population was ten times greater in the Rural areas than in the towns. It has been stated that 80% of abdominal tuberculosis in children was due to milk.

In areas such as London, where pasteurisation is extensively carried out, the death rate is very low. Medical opinion has stated that there is no evidence that half the food value of milk is destroyed by pasteurisation. The only ill effect was a slight reduction in Vitamin C. which could be remedied from other sources.

The Minister of Food has stated that while 40% of Britain's cows reacted to the T.B. test any drastic policy of destruction would be disastrous to both farmers and the country.

NEW PASTEURISATION PLANT

Some concern was felt with regard to a number of unsatisfactory samples of Pasteurised milk taken from a local pasteurisation plant. Investigations were carried out by the Department and every effort was made by the Dairy Company to comply with requirements. There was no doubt, however, that the chief factors leading to failure were the age of the plant and the heavy demands being placed on it.

A new machine had been on order for many months but it was not until late in the year that a "Paraflo" High Temperature Short Time Pasteurisation plant was installed by the A. P. V. Company Ltd. This plant is of the latest design with automatic control of milk temperature and milk flow and is equipped with flow diversion valve, alarm bell, and indicating and recording thermometers. It is constructed of stainless steel for ease of cleansing and has a capacity of 800 gals./hr. This is double the capacity of the old machine so that the time of operation is considerably reduced.

Upon completion of the installation by the A. P. V. engineers, samples were taken from the plant on different days and from different points in the circulation. This is a Statutory requirement of the Ministry of Health and results of these tests were most satisfactory.

The plant has functioned successfully since its installation.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Number of samples taken during 1948:

Formal	...	...	...	139
Informal	...	...	...	71
Total	...	...	...	210

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Arrowroot ...	-	1	Liquorice ...	-	1
Baking Powder ...	1	1	Margarine ...	1	-
Beer (Special Brew)	1	-	Marmalade-Orange	1	-
Bi-carbonate of Soda	-	2	Meat Pie ...	1	1
Black Pudding ...	1	1	Milk ...	90	2
Bottles, Empty			Milk, Tinned ...	-	1
Milk (Sealed) ...	-	3	Nutmeg, Ground ...	-	1
Brandy ...	1	-	Olive Oil ...	-	2
Brawn ...	1	-	Pea Flour ...	1	-
Butter ...	2	-	Pepper, Black ...	-	1
Cake Decorations			" White ...	-	1
(Edible) ...	1	-	Peppermint Essence	-	1
Castor Oil (Refined)	-	1	Pork Pie ...	2	-
Cooking Fat ...	1	-	Potassium Chlorate		
Cough Tablets ...	1	-	Tablets ...	-	1
Cream, Synthetic ...	-	1	Pudding Mixture ...	1	-
Culinary Green ...	-	1	Rissoles ...	1	-
Custard Powder Mix.	1	2	Rissol-Nut ...	1	-
Dandelion Coffee ...	-	1	Root Ginger ...	-	1
Effervescent			Saccharin Tablets ...	-	1
Digestive Tabs.	1	-	Salad Cream ...	1	1
Enerjoids ...	1	-	Salami ...	1	-
Faggots ...	1	-	Sausage Meat ...	6	-
Fish Cake ...	-	1	" Pork ...	1	-
Flavouring Cherry...	-	1	" Whalemeat	1	-
" Lemon...	-	1	Savoury Soup		
" Peppermint	-	1	Powder ...	-	1
" Rum	-	1	Sherry ...	1	-
Frizets ...	-	1	Singers ...	-	1
Fruitella Sauce ...	-	1	Soylina ...	-	1
Fruit Lollypop ...	-	2	Spice, Mixed ...	-	1
Gelatine ...	-	2	Sponge Flour Mixture	-	1
Gin ...	1	-	Steam Pudding ...	-	1
Glycerine & Thymol			Sweets		
Pastilles ...	-	1	(In glass pistol)	-	1
Glycerine			Tea Seed Oil ...	1	-
(Double distilled)	-	1	Throat Sweets ...	1	-
Grape Puree ...	-	1	Tomato Savoury ...	1	-
Gravy Browning ...	-	1	Tomato Soup		
Ground Almond			(Concentrated)	-	1
Substitute ...	-	1	Trifle ...	2	-
Haggage ...	1	-	Vinegar ...	2	1
Health Salts ...	-	1	Walnuts ...	1	-
Ice-cream ...	-	10	Water in which ice-		
Jam, Blackcurrant	2	-	cream servers were		
" Raspberry ...	1	-	kept ...	-	1
Jelly Mould ...	-	1	Whiskey ...	-	1
Laxative Syrup ...	-	1	White Pudding ...	1	-
Lemon Cheese ...	1	-	Zubes Cough Cure	-	1
Life Drops					
"Eldermint" ...	-	1			

THIRTY-TWO SAMPLES WERE ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON BY THE PUBLIC ANALYST DURING THE YEAR, viz. :

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1005	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	"Follow-up" sample proved genuine
1014	Pork Sausage	F	Seriously deficient in meat	Legal proceedings taken. Vendor convicted and fined £25 with £2 2s. costs.
1019	Fish cake	I	Slightly deficient in fish	Stock exhausted—unable to take formal sample. No further action.
1043	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in non-fatty solids	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor.
1045	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor.
1048	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	Legal proceedings taken. Vendor convicted and fined £2 with £4 4s. costs.
16	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Twenty "Follow-up" Samples (Nos. 21—40) taken simultaneously from this Vendor. Nos. 21, 22, 28-31, 33-40 proving unsatisfactory.
21	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	} See Sample Nos. 33 — 40.
22	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
28	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
29	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
30	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
31	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	

SAMPLES ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON—(continued).

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
33	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	Legal proceedings taken. Vendor convicted and fined £30 with £23 2s. costs.
34	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
35	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
36	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
37	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
38	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
39	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
40	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
45	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
46	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat		Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor
1311	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor.
1312	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
1313	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor.
1314	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor.
56	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to Vendor

SAMPLES ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON—(continued).

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1317	Water in which Ice-cream servers were kept	I	Bacteriological condition very unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent to Vendor. Also given advice as to what methods to adopt to avoid a repetition.
1319	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition unsatisfactory	Warning letter sent to Vendor drawing attention to possible causes of Bacteriological infection of the sample.
117	Walnuts	F	Strong possibility of having been soaked in water	Not sufficient evidence to justify proceedings. Vendor notified of result.
118	Milk—Tinned	I	Contained an appreciable amount of iron compounds but not sufficient to make it harmful	This tin of milk was returned to the Vendor from a customer, who complained it turned tea black. Vendor notified of Analyst's findings.

Sample No. 1030. Dandelion Coffee Essence

This sample, on analysis, proved genuine, but the Public Analyst was of the opinion that the label on the bottle was misleading. The article was described as "Dandelion Coffee Essence," but on the label it stated that the bottle did not contain coffee. A warning letter was sent by the Town Clerk to the Vendor.

Sample No. 1041. Throat Sweets

The analyst's report showed that these were medicated sweets and should have been licensed by the Ministry of Food to be sold as such. It appeared to the Analyst that this article came under Section 11 of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, and there should have been disclosed with the article at the time of sale a formula setting out the ingredients and the quantities present. A warning letter was sent by the Town Clerk to the Vendor.

Prosecutions

During 1948 Court proceedings were taken in four cases. The brief details of each case, together with the findings of the Court are as follows :—

Case No. 1. Food Contamination

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13

In co-operation with the Ministry of Food which authorised action under the Waste of Food Order, 1941, proceedings were taken against the proprietors of a cafe.

The kitchen was badly infested with mice, and as a result of contamination a large quantity of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Vegetables and fruit were stored in a water closet.

At the Hearing on 9th February, 1948, defendants were fined £10 for failing to take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent risk of contamination of food ; £10 for storing the food in a water closet, and £80 for wasting food. Total — £100, with 5 guineas costs.

Case No. 2. Pork Sausages

A sample of Pork Sausages was purchased from a Butcher's Shop during routine sampling. The Analyst's report showed that the meat content was 24.5%.

Legal Proceedings were instituted, and the Vendor was fined £25 and ordered to pay £2 2s. 0d. costs, for selling sausages, the meat content of which was less than the prescribed minimum.

Case No. 3. Milk

A sample of milk, purchased from a retailer, showed on analysis to contain only 2.4% fat content.

The Vendor, for selling milk the fat content of which was below the prescribed minimum of 3%, was fined £2, and ordered to pay £4 4s. 0d. costs.

Case No. 4. Milk

Information was received from a large milk receiving depot in the Borough that milk delivered to them by one of their suppliers was very deficient in fat.

Arrangements were made to sample this milk, and 17 samples were taken from the bulk milk coming into the Depot. Three samples were also taken from this supplier's retail roundsmen.

Of these 20 samples, the analyst reported that 14 samples were deficient in fat.

A previous sample was also reported on as deficient.

An employee of the Supplier was also charged with obstructing a Sampling Officer in the execution of his duty, in that he (the employee), knowing the Sampling Officer and being called on to stop, accelerated his lorry, and proceeded to deliver milk in another part of the Town.

The Supplier was fined a total of £30 on 15 summons relating to the sale of milk to the prejudice of the purchaser, and ordered to pay £23 2s. 0d. costs.

The summons of obstruction was dismissed.

**PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED
AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods					Tins	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beans	...	...	...	20					19
Cocoa	...	...	...	83					21
Dried Egg	...	...	...	1					1
Fish	...	...	...	531			2	1	23
Fruit	...	...	...	547			7	3	3
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	20					21
Jam	...	...	...	105			1	2	3
Marmalade	...	...	...	46			1	0	1
Meat	...	...	...	593			17	0	21
Milk	...	...	...	419			3	0	27
Mussels	...	...	...	40				1	7
Mustard	...	...	...	1					1
Paste	...	...	...	36					9
Peas	...	...	...	74				1	19
Pickles, Picalilli	...	...	...	45				1	4
Puddings	...	...	...	7					6
Salad Cream	...	...	...	3					20
Sauce	...	...	...	1					1
Soup	...	...	...	79				2	23
Spaghetti	...	...	...	3					3
Syrup	...	...	...	2					3
Vegetables	...	...	...	818			8	3	17
Total ...					3474	2	4	3	1
Flour and Cereals									
Biscuits	...	...	...	...					3
Corn and Wheat Flakes	...	...	...	...					5
Macaroni	...	...	...	...				1	12
Oats	...	...	...	...			1	0	16
Pastry	...	...	...	...				3	1
Pea Flour	...	...	...	...				1	0
Rye Crispbread	...	...	...	...					12
Sago	...	...	...	...			1	0	11
Semolina	...	...	...	...					14
Shredded Wheat	...	...	...	...					1
Sponge Mixture	...	...	...	...					1
Total ...							3	3	20
Dried Fruits									
Dates	...	...	...	...					1
Peaches	...	...	...	...					4
Prunes	...	...	...	...				2	11
Total ...								2	16

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.
General				
Bacon				25
Butter			1	27
Black Pudding				12
Cheese		2	0	12
Coffee Beans			1	21
Confectionery			1	23
Eggs		8	3	19
Eggs, Dried			1	5
Fat		1	0	4
Fish Cakes			3	12
Fish, Fresh	1	19	3	21
Fish, Preserved	1	9	3	25
Game				15
Jam				22
Jelly				1
Lobsters		1	2	10
Malt				1
Margarine				5
Marmite and Bovril				1
Meat, English		9	1	12
Meat Imported	1	9	1	1
Milk			3	17
Minced Meat				1
Oranges		2	0	16
Paste				2
Peas, Dried		4	0	0
Pickles			3	27
Poloney			2	27
Potatoes		1	1	0
Poultry			2	15
Prawns		2	0	0
Pudding Mixture				23
Rhubarb				5
Sandwich Spread				2
Sauce				5
Sausage			1	1
Sugar			2	6
Tea			1	1
Turkey (Imported)				11
Walnuts				10
Total ...	6	19	2	23
GRAND TOTAL ...	9	9	0	4

Note : In addition to the visits made by District Sanitary Inspectors to inspect and condemn the above foodstuffs, 452 additional visits had to be made with the Departments Van for the purpose of collection of the large quantities of food, including a large number of condemned tinned foods.

Public Abattoir

There have, during the past year, been many improvements and desirable alterations carried out at the Public Abattoir. Arrangements have been made for the installation of a carcass inflator. This apparatus is fed from an automatically operated compressor, from which leads are run to the Slaughter Houses. This is a great improvement from the old fashioned method of hand pumping, and is far more efficacious from the point of view of the slaughtermen.

The Tripery

A tripe dressing establishment has now been constructed at the Public Abattoir. It is detached from the main building, has impervious and easily cleansed floors and walls and adequate ventilation is ensured by means of a large Louvre skylight.

The latest electrical equipment has now been installed together with four new steam boilers. In this manner daily supervision is carried out by the Meat Inspector at the Abattoir and the nuisances that normally arise from such a business have been avoided. At the same time the Borough is assured of a good supply of this most valuable food.

Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection has progressed considerably during and since the war following research by the Ministries of Health and Food. Investigations had proved that a parasite known as *Cysticercus Bovis* was infesting cattle in various parts of the country. This parasite is transmittable to man should he eat infested meat that has not undergone sufficient treatment.

The factors that lead to this increase in these cases have not been clearly traced and many diverse views have been given. It is significant however, that large numbers of troops and prisoners were living in this country under field conditions and arriving from countries where the incidence of this parasite is very high. In order to detect this parasite in beef, a new technique has been laid down involving multiple incisions into various muscles of the head, heart and diaphragm. Several cases have been found at the Abattoir and the carcasses have been given the necessary treatment. Where possible, measures have been taken to trace the infected animal and to have the requisite authorities notified.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

One new licence was issued to a man engaged in the slaughter of animals during the year and 29 applications for renewal were granted.

Total Weights of Meat and Organs condemned, 1948.

Public Abattoir.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Total			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef in Carcase	17	12	1	1	19	16	1	16
Beef not in Carcase	2	4	0	15				
Veal in Carcase	-	7	0	8		7	0	12
Veal not in Carcase	-	-	-	4				
Mutton in Carcase	-	9	1	17		11	0	13
Mutton not in Carcase	-	1	2	24				
Pork in Carcase	-	16	3	1	1	1	0	15
Pork not in Carcase	-	4	1	14				
Total Meat					21	15	3	0
Total Organs					18	8	0	19
Total Meat and Organs					40	3	3	19

CARCASSES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD 1948

Species	Abnormal Pathological Condition	Jaundice	Mastitis	T.B.	Septi-caemia	Pyae-mia	Inflam-mation	Mori-bund	Im-mature	Dropsy and Emaciation	Injury	Totals
Cows	4	2	2	31	4	-	1	-	-	6	3	53
Heifers	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15
Bulls	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Steer	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Calves	4	1	-	-	-	4	1	3	6	2	1	22
Sheep	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	3	-	13	1	22
Pigs	1	-	-	7	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	13
Totals	11	3	3	57	7	4	6	9	6	22	5	133

Percentages of Animals Slaughtered during 1940-1948 found to be affected with T.B. (Cheltenham Abattoir).

Year	Cattle exclud. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1940	6.98%	30.24%	0.08%	—	6.73%
1941	10.15%	24.05%	0.11%	0.003%	8.56%
1942	7.05%	29.38%	0.07%	—	10.62%
1943	9.4%	35.98%	0.079%	0.004%	7.64%
1944	6.05%	34.91%	0.09%	—	6.77%
1945	7.26%	32.49%	0.09%	—	5.75%
1946	7.46%	33.81%	0.04%	—	6.45%
1947	5.20%	30.84%	0.06%	—	8.72%
1948	7.01%	30.53%	0.02%	—	9.00%
Over whole period	7.64%	32.11%	0.071%	0.001%	7.47%
No. of Animals	28,757	11,145	47,526	178,833	17,089
		GRAND TOTAL ...			283,350

Carcases Inspected and Condemned, 1948
Cheltenham Abattoir

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known) ...	2650	894	4479	12448	559
No. inspected	2650	894	4479	12448	559
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	4	22	22	22	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	635	406	30	472	137
Percentage of the No. in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	24.11	47.87	1.16	3.96	25.58
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	19	31	—	—	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	167	242	1	—	43
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	7.01	30.53	0.02	—	9.00

Rodent Control

Before commenting on the statistics for the year, it might be advisable to refer very briefly to the change over from the Ministry of Food to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The effect of this change has mainly been in the modification of conditions of grant.

The primary condition laid down is that "the Local Authority "maintains an organisation adequate to the requirements for effective "rodent control according to the conditions of infestation in its area." A condition which the Council have amply fulfilled.

The circular N.S.19, which lays down the conditions of grant aid, stresses the necessity of efficient and effective action as a sine-qua-non of any grant and the Inspectors of the Ministry constantly check up to see that the work of the Section comes up to the high standard set by the Ministry.

The Local Authority is left to determine its position in relation to charging occupiers for treatment of infestations at private dwellings. It was, therefore, decided to continue a free service for treatment against rats, but mice destruction has to be paid for by the Occupier. Grant aid is not available in respect of expenditure incurred on treatment of infestation at commercial or industrial premises, such expenditure having to be fully reimbursed by the Occupiers so that no part shall fall on public funds. The penultimate clause reads:—

"It is earnestly hoped that the good work of recent years will be "continued with unabated vigour and, where necessary, intensified.

"The Ministry will continue to render all possible guidance and "help."

The attached statistics give Cheltenham's response to this appeal.

Complaints

A total of 787 complaints was recorded during the year, a detailed monthly summary is given below. It will be observed that 149 relate to "other pests." It will be noticed that complaints exceed the number of treatments carried out. This is owing to a charge being made for this service — where complainants declined to accept this charge no service was rendered.

Inspections

Inspections numbering 6,322 were carried out during the same period. In addition to business premises under agreement with the Council there were 100 other business premises dealt with. The condition laid down by the Ministry has been carried out, and no expenditure on business premises has fallen on the public funds.

Other Pests

As usual the Public have received assistance in dealing with other pests, viz :—Ants, 3 ; Beetles, 7 ; Wasps, 106 ; Flies, 4 ; Hedgehog, 1 ; Badgers, 1 ; Moles, 1. Total 123.

Local Authority Property

The condition of the Abattoir, Destructor and Refuse Tip remain satisfactory. Regular inspections with treatments as required have kept infestation at these places at a low level. The whole-hearted co-operation of Foremen and workers has greatly facilitated the work, as early advice enables infestations to be cleared with a minimum of time and material.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment

Two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year, the results showing that infestation of sewers is diminishing. Nothing has or can be done in respect of the old sewers, which continue to harbour the rats. The final result of the treatments was as follows:—

Manholes baited, 287; Complete Takes, 203; Partial Takes, 3; No takes, 81; whilst an additional 104 manholes were "Test Baited" without any takes.

COMPLAINTS 1948 - 1949

Month	Rats	Mice	Beetles	Other Pests	Total
1948 April	43	14	2	3	62
May	25	22	1	5	53
June	21	19	3	9	52
July	24	18	8	54	104
August	25	9	5	48	87
September	30	27	1	13	71
October	47	31	2	7	87
November	42	30	3	4	79
December	19	14	3	0	36
1949 January	37	21	0	2	60
February	25	24	1	2	52
March	24	16	2	2	44
Total	362	245	31	149	787

INSPECTIONS

Month	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Premises under Agreements	Local Authority Property	Total
1948 April	194	79	121	36	430
May	127	35	175	28	365
June	145	21	113	64	343
July	452	65	97	63	677
August	301	51	99	65	516
September	226	80	145	61	512
October	332	149	151	46	678
November	227	121	135	63	546
December	168	71	206	61	506
1949 January	319	67	115	77	578
February	253	88	112	60	513
March	340	57	148	113	658
Total	3084	884	1617	737	6322

ANNUAL UNDERTAKINGS OR AGREEMENTS

1945		1946		1947		1948-9	
No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
25	£411	27	£422/10	39	£563	46	£659