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Borough of  Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1950

BY

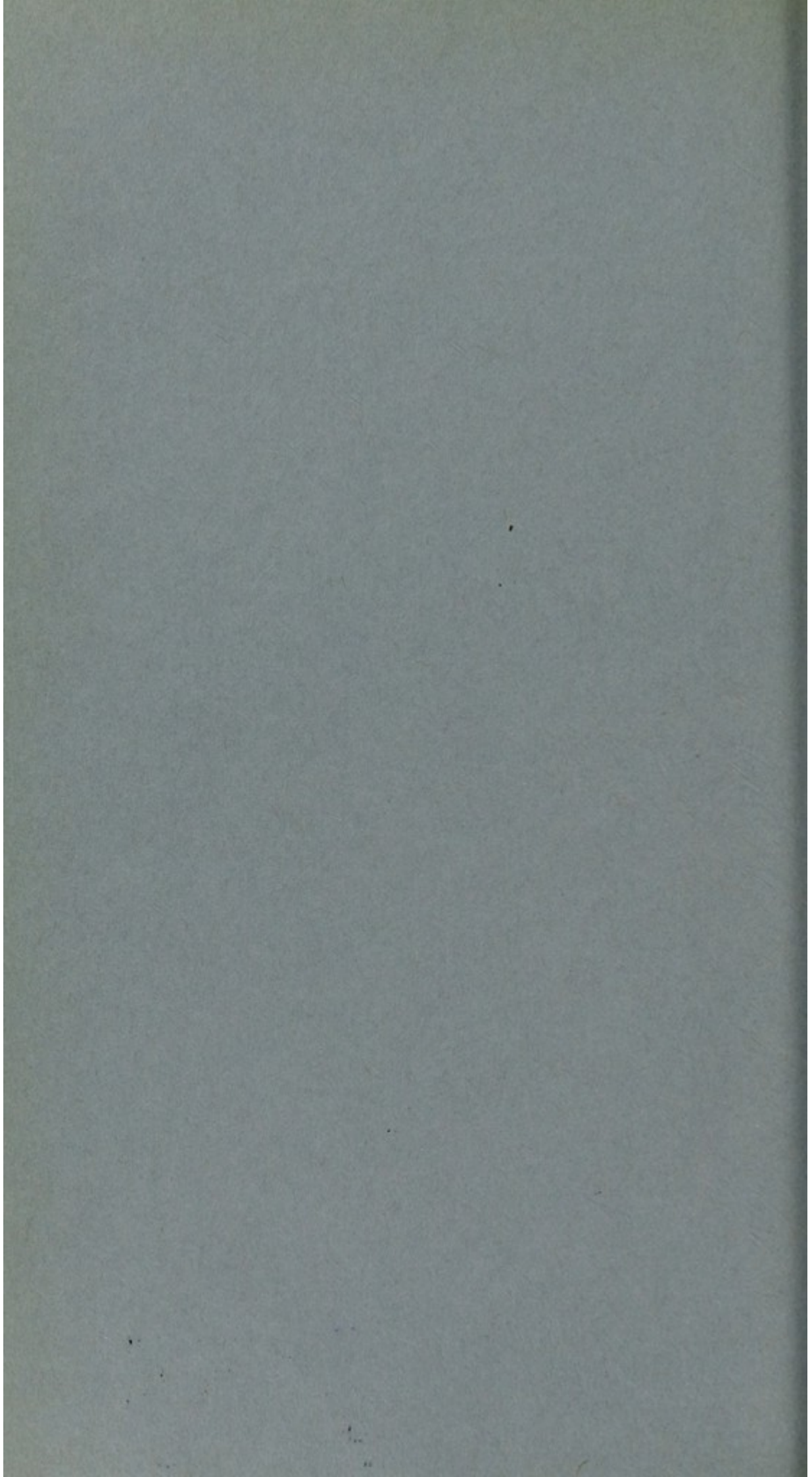
DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

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"



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Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.50)

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	}	Donald E. Morley, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>School Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Divisional Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>	}	P. C. Dismorr., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>Assistant School Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Assistant School Medical Officer</i>		
	}	Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>		
<i>Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>		
		F. R. Jefford, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.*
		J. F. Ursell, M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., D.P.A.*‡
<i>District Inspectors</i>		A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San Science R.S.I.*‡
		H. Stone, M.S.I.A.*‡
		J. A. McPherson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.Inst.M., M.R.S.A. (Scot)*‡
		G. J. C. Buck, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.Inst.‡
†† <i>Chief Clerk</i>		G. A. Lee.
<i>Senior Clerk</i>		W. H. G. Meakins.
†† <i>Medical Officer of Health's</i>		
<i>Secretary</i>		Miss G. W. Hiron.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector's</i>		
<i>Secretary</i>		Miss M. D. Heynes.
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<i>Pupil</i>		R. J. Wintle.
<i>Disinfection Officer</i>		G. Cross.
		* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.I.
		‡ S.I.E.J.B. Certificate.
		† Gloucestershire County Council.
††	{	50% Gloucestershire County Council.
	{	50% Cheltenham Corporation.
**	{	25% Gloucestershire County Council.
	{	75% Cheltenham Corporation.

NOTE.—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector, page 58.

Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1950

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Health of the Borough during 1950, apart from a somewhat high Infant Mortality, was satisfactory.

In common with most other towns Cheltenham had a visitation from Poliomyelitis. Fortunately out of 23 cases only 6 were paralytic in type and of these in only 2 cases was the paralysis extensive. A note on the somewhat unusual features of this outbreak will be found on page 13.

The Infant Mortality figure was 41.63 compared with an average figure of 33.8 for large towns and 29.8 for the whole country. Sixty seven per cent of the deaths were however deaths of infants under 3 weeks of age. A table showing the causes of these deaths will be found on page 7.6.

A particularly hopeful feature in the state of Health of the Borough is the marked improvement in death rate from Tuberculosis. This improvement which is in line with the general experience of the country as a whole is associated with improved methods of prevention and cure. A table will be found on page 20 which shows the figures for the last 25 years in 5 year periods.

A change in the staff during 1950 was necessitated by the acceptance by Dr. W. R. Perry of an appointment as a Divisional Medical Officer for the County Council of Nottingham. He had held the position of Deputy Medical Officer of Health for over two years and his departure was much regretted by all concerned. Dr. P. C. Dismorr was appointed in his place.

In addition to my Duties as Medical Officer of the Borough I continued to act as School Medical Officer to the Education Committee, Medical Superintendent of the Fever Section of the Delancey Hospital, Certifying Officer to the Cremation Authority, and as a Divisional Medical Officer under the Gloucestershire County Council.

My position as Borough Medical Officer includes the duty of carrying out medical examinations of entrants to the Superannuation Scheme, the giving of Certificates under Section 8 of the Scheme in the case of employees who become incapacitated before reaching retiring age and the giving of Certificates under Section 9 in the case of employees who wish to allocate a portion of their pension to a wife or husband.

An additional duty which has increased considerably in recent months is the provision of reports to Committees in cases of employees absent from duty for long periods of sick leave.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their consideration and help in the conduct of the work and to the staff for the zeal and loyalty with which they have carried out their duties in difficult times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1950

Area of borough	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	{	Census 1931, Corrected Figure	...	...	49,418
		Mid-year, 1950. Registrar General's Estimate	...	...	64,600
Number of inhabited houses End 1950	{	(1) structurally separate	...	...	15,033
		(2) Flats, Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc.	...	...	1,411
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£529,441
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£2,084

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1950

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

	M.	F.	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
Live Births						
Legitimate ...	494	463	957	Cheltenham	126 Great Towns including London (average)	England and Wales
Illegitimate ...	47	29	76			
TOTALS	541	492	1033	15.99	17.6	15.8
Still Births						
Legitimate ...	11	17	28			
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2			
TOTALS	12	18	30	0.47	0.45	0.37
DEATHS ...	375	447	822	11.3	12.3	11.6
Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year of age)						
Legitimate ...	19	18	37	Rates per 1000 Live Births	41.63	33.8
Illegitimate ...	5	1	6			
TOTALS	24	19	43			29.8
Maternal Mortality						
Sepsis ...	—	1	1	0.94	Rates per 1000 Live & Still Births	0.03
Other Causes ...	—	—	—	—		0.86
TOTALS	—	1	1	0.94		0.89

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 1950.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident Cheltenham population for mid-year 1950 is 64,600. This is an increase of 450 over the estimate for the previous year.

The recent preliminary report of the 1951 Census gives the population of Cheltenham as 62,823. This figure does not include School and College residents and therefore confirms the general accuracy of the Registrar's estimate.

Death Rate

The crude death rate was 12.7 per 1,000 population a figure not very different from those of the previous 3 years and quite definitely better than the rate for the war years. After correction to allow for the higher average age of the population the figure is 11.3 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales and 12.3 for the large towns.

Birth Rate

The total number of live births ascribed to Borough Residents was 1033 compared with 1143 for 1949. This gives a Birth Rate figure of 15.99 per 1000 population compared with 17.5 for 1949.

Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality rate per thousand live births and the Still Births rates per 1,000 population for Cheltenham were as follows. Comparative figures are given for the large towns and England and Wales.

	<i>Per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Population</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Live and Still Births</i>
	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Still Birth Rate</i>	<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
Cheltenham	41.63	0.47	28.2
Large Towns Average	33.8	0.45	—
England and Wales	29.8	0.37	—

The continued improvement of post war years has therefore been interrupted.

In order to assess the significance of this figure it is necessary also to consider the Still Birth rate because, although this is not usually the case, a highly efficient ante natal and maternity service may produce a low Still Birth rate but, as a direct consequence, result in the birth of a number of infants of low vitality. The Cheltenham Still Birth rate is, however, not particularly low.

The significance of the Still Birth rate is in any case very difficult to assess as it is affected in no small degree by the proportion of 1st births and by the ages of the mothers.

However a high Infant Mortality rate is usually associated with a high Still Birth rate and vice versa.

It can at least be claimed that in the case of a medium sized town such as Cheltenham the numerical factors affecting Infant Mortality are comparatively small and considerable fluctuations in the rate are to be expected.

An important matter in arriving at sound conclusions regarding Infant Mortality is naturally the consideration of the causes of the deaths.

The causes of the 43 infant deaths which occurred in Cheltenham during 1950 are classified as follows:—

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Prematurity ("Inanition" and Atelactasis)...	14	33%
Violence and Birth Injuries	8	19%
Congenital Malformations	7	16%
Haemorrhagic Diseases, Rhesus factor, etc	6	14%
Pneumonia	5	11%
Gastro Enteritis	2	4+%
Meningitis	1	2+%
	43	

Of the 43 deaths included above, 29 or 67% were deaths of children under 3 weeks of age. It can, therefore, be claimed that because less than one fifth of the total deaths, including still births, occurred after the end of the first 3 weeks of life the health visiting and child welfare services are not materially involved in the consideration of the adverse figure for 1950.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death during 1950. This gives a rate of 0.94 per 1,000 total births compared with the figure of 0.86 for England and Wales. The death was due to a complication of sepsis and the figure 0.94 therefore must be compared with 0.03, the sepsis rate for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during 1950 was 18 the lowest number ever recorded.

The number of deaths in 1949 was 21 which was also a record low figure.

The rate per 1,000 population was 0.28 compared with the figure of 0.36 for England and Wales.

The figures for recent years have been particularly satisfactory.

The mortality rates for Cheltenham (per 1,000 population) in five year periods for the last 25 years are as follows:—

1926—30	31—35	36—40	41—45	46—50
0.89	0.69	0.66	0.62	0.41

Causes of Death in the Borough of Cheltenham as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1950.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	8
2 Tuberculosis, other	1	2
3 Syphilitic disease	—	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
8 Measles	1	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	10
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	3
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	12
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	40	37
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1
16 Diabetes	1	7
17 Vacular lesions of nervous system	33	61
18 Coronary disease, angina	36	37
19 Hypertension with heart disease	9	14
20 Other heart disease	93	130
21 Other circulatory disease	10	10
22 Influenza	2	7
23 Pneumonia	13	12
24 Bronchitis	18	18
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	9	3
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	7	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	11	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
31 Congenital malformations	4	6
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	35	39
33 Motor vehicle accidents	6	2
34 All other accidents	5	12
35 Suicide	1	2
36 Homicide and operations of war	1	—
All Causes	375	447

POPULATION, BIRTHS, and INFANT DEATHS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1941-50.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population (R.G. estimate for Mid-year	65,770	62,650	61,260	60,810	59,030	60,540	61,810	64,260	64,190	64,600
Deaths of Children Under 1 year (Totals)	M. 30 F. 23	M. 33 F. 13	M. 32 F. 25	M. 46 F. 42	M. 23 F. 15	M. 32 F. 20	M. 28 F. 24	M. 25 F. 10	M. 15 F. 16	M. 24 F. 19
Illegitimate	2	3	6	11	10	6	3	6	3	5
Live Births	503	565	489	564	499	510	617	506	539	494
Legitimate	41	44	63	90	88	77	48	50	49	47
Illegitimate	544	609	552	654	587	587	665	556	588	541
TOTALS	544	609	552	654	587	587	665	556	588	541
Still Births	21	10	20	14	11	12	12	14	11	11
Legitimate	—	2	2	4	4	1	3	1	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	1
TOTALS	21	12	22	18	15	13	15	15	12	12
	10	5	19	18	17	16	19	20	11	18

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1950-51 (inclusive).

YEAR	CHELTENHAM					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 Townships	England and Wales	Cheltenham		Cheltenham Recorded	Cheltenham Corrected	England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham) Pulmonary	Other
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	31.8	39	34	770	12.0	9.8	10.8	0.45	0.03
1949	64150	1123	17.5	34	30.3	37	32	806	12.56	11.2	11.7	0.33	0.00
1950	64600	1033	15.99	43	41.63	33.8	29.8	822	12.72	11.3	11.6	0.23	0.046

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 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 Mr. J. Henderson, analyst to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, who has provided the following list which shows the number of samples examined bacteriologically and chemically during 1950:—

<i>Bacteriological Examinations</i>	<i>No. of Samples examined 1950</i>
Tewkesbury	
Raw River Water	56
Coagulated Water at Outlet from Tanks	48
Coagulated Water above Filters ...	29
Filtered Water	184
Chloraminated Water	486
	803
 Cheltenham	
Dowdeswell Clean	13
Northfield	14
Sandford	12
Swimming Pools	14
Miscellaneous	11
Spa Water—Pittville	13
	77

*Chemical Examinations***Tewkesbury**

Raw River Water	664
Coagulated & Filtered Waters	1075
Final Water	619
	<hr/>
	2358

Cheltenham

Dowdeswell Clean	1
Northfield	1
Sandford	1
Consumers' Supply	—
	<hr/>
	3

Addition of Fluorine to public water supplies as an aid in the development of decay resistant teeth.

The liability to early loss of teeth from decay has been ascribed to various causes associated with modern refinements of foods and the excessive intake of carbohydrates particularly of sugar. The possibility that the poor structure of the teeth of the rising generation is the main cause of early decay has also received much consideration during recent years and the provision of Vitamin D in the free allocation of Cod Liver Oil to small children has no doubt had a beneficial effect on tooth structure as well as on bone formation generally.

During the last ten years however evidence has accumulated to the effect that in areas where fluorine compounds have existed by chance in the water supplies, the teeth particularly of the child population have been appreciably more resistant to decay than is the case in areas with little or no fluorine in the water.

The effect of excess of fluorine in the water, (i.e. much over 1 part per million), on the other hand, is to produce an unsightly mottling of the enamel of the teeth or, depending on the amount of fluorine, even more serious troubles in the teeth and bones.

Experimental work in America has advanced to the stage of the adding of fluorine compounds to a number of water supplies. Much time however must elapse before the effects can be fully assessed as the action must be continued during the 8 year period of tooth formation of the rising generation.

Experimental work is also being carried out in England under the the direction of the Ministries of Health and Education.

A recent report in the Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service gives a very clear analysis of the comparative amount of dental decay in adults in 3 pairs of otherwise comparable, high and low fluorine areas in England. The dental decay was found to be lower in the high fluorine areas in every age group, particularly in the age group 20-30.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)

During 1950, licences to use special designations were issued as follows :—

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Type of Licence	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	20	4	24
Accredited Milk	2	1	3
Totals	22	5	27

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Type of Licence	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
Pasteurised	3*	13	1	17
Sterilised	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	13	1	17

*The Cheltenham Borough Council issues three licences for Pasteurising Plants.

Two pasteurisers are of the positive 'Holder' type and the other apparatus, installed in a large dairy late in 1948, is a High Temperature Short Time Pasteuriser.

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

Very few results during 1950 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, 1950**

The following statement shows the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year and the final numbers arrived at after correction. Tuberculosis is dealt with separately.

The Table includes Cheltenham Borough cases only.

Disease	Cases Notified	Final Numbers after Correction
Diphtheria	1	1
Dysentery	47	47
Erysipelas	6	6
Food Poisoning	—	—
Malaria	1	1
Measles	1448	1448
Meningococcal Infection	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1
Pneumonia	35	35
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	7	6
Non Paralytic	19	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4
Scarlet Fever	53	53
Whooping Cough	225	225

GENERAL NOTE

Apart from Measles and Poliomyelitis the incidence of infectious disease during 1950 was light. Notifications of Measles increased during the second quarter of the year and the third quarter showed the heaviest incidence with just over a thousand cases. Subsequently notifications rapidly decreased in number.

A summer rather than a winter visitation of this disease has many advantages and Cheltenham was certainly more fortunate in this matter than most areas in the Country which were faced with an extensive outbreak during the cold winter and spring seasons of 1950-51.

Poliomyelitis

Poliomyelitis cases during 1950, after correction, numbered 23, 17 were non-paralytic and 6 paralytic. The first outbreak occurred mainly in July and consisted almost entirely of non-paralytic cases. There was however a small group of paralytic cases early in the autumn and in two cases paralysis was very extensive.

It will be seen that one death from Poliomyelitis is recorded in the Registrars returns. This case was not notified and the facts elicited after careful enquiries allow of considerable doubt as to the validity of the diagnosis.

Note on the Non Paralytic Cases

The earlier outbreak of non-paralytic cases was associated with circumstances of particular interest in view of a possible origin of the infection.

The facts are as follows :—

About the middle of July the wife of the cowman at a certain dairy farm situated outside the Borough developed a severe attack of Poliomyelitis with extensive paralysis. The farm in question produces high quality tubercular tested milk all of which was Pasteurised except one bulk supply to a Childrens Hospital. On the occurrence of this case of Poliomyelitis the supply to the hospital was immediately pasteurised. About 14 days later one of the nurses at the hospital in question developed poliomyelitis. One boy of 11 developed poliomyelitis several days after discharge from the hospital and the sister of another case developed the disease some days after her brother had been discharged. The first boy infected two friends living in the same street and in one other case there was an indirect association with the hospital.

The outbreak at that time included some 15 or 16 children, some severe cases but all, as it proved, non-paralytic.

Samples of serum and faeces were submitted to the Virus Laboratory at Colindale and a virus has been isolated which is being further investigated.

It is not entirely outside the bounds of possibility that the infection from a severe paralytic case was passed on through the milk directly or even after passage through a cow in a form so altered as to cause the outbreak of non-paralytic cases.

ANNUAL RETURN OF CASES OF FOOD POISONING

Food Poisoning Notifications

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	—	—	NIL

No notifications were received during 1950 under the heading of Food Poisoning.

There were however 47 notifications relating to infection with *Sh. Sonnei* which gives rise to a comparative mild type of Dysentery. The spread of this infection is frequently associated with contaminated food and is often a form of Food Poisoning in all but name.

About one quarter of the cases occurred in a Residential Nursery. Dysentery is recognised to be the bane of the communal nursery and when once introduced is extremely difficult to eradicate. A technique approximating to surgical cleanliness is required to control the infection and this is all but impracticable in such institutions.

A number of cases also occurred among the children in the living quarters at St. Paul's Hospital where the same remarks apply with even greater force.

The other cases were scattered about the town. These were carefully investigated and some of them were found to be associated with a particular food supply. Though proof of cause and effect was lacking the hygiene of the premises concerned was carefully checked and certain precautionary procedures were instituted.

Details of the clean food campaign will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1941—50 INCLUSIVE

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis & encephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
																Pulmonary	Other
1941	—	54	66	1	25	114	1	12	12	2	—	—	—	380	344	81	10
1942	—	78	52	—	24	106	2	13	10	5	2	—	—	1297	67	69	19
1943	—	97	109	—	20	67	—	15	5	3	44	2	2	145	94	76	15
1944	—	141	88	—	11	56	1	19	1	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
1949	—	46	2	—	3	40	2	4	—	10	—	8	—	94	86	57	7
1950	—	53	1	—	4	35	24	6	2	—	47	—	—	1448	225	70	14

N.B.—Three cases of Malaria were also notified : 1 in 1942, 1 in 1945 and 1 in 1950.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The annual return of figures relating to Diphtheria Immunisation required by the Ministry of Health is set out below. The statement relates to the position at the end of 1950.

The estimate of the number of children in Cheltenham Area under the age of 15 has been provided by the Registrar General.

Age at 31/12/50 i.e. Born in years indicated.	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5-9 1941-1945	10-14 1936-1940	Total under 15
Number Immunised	322	524	540	731	656	3395	3218	9386
Estimated mid- year population of children 1950	(under 5) 5320					Estimated Number 5-14 incl. 9219		Total Children 14539

Percentage of Cheltenham Children Immunised against Diphtheria.

Children of age 8 months up to 5th Birthday	...	...	...	60%
" " 5 years up to 15th Birthday	...	...	...	72%
Total Children of age 8 months up to 15th Birthday	...	...	...	68%

It is not customary to immunise children before they reach the age of 8 months and for this reason children under this age are not included in calculating the percentages given above.

The figures given include the number of children immunised by Medical Practitioners from the 5th July, 1948, to the end of 1950. The number immunised by Private Practitioners prior to this date is not known so that the percentage of children actually immunised is appreciably higher than the figures given above.

During 1950 immunisation was completed in 307 cases by Doctors acting on behalf of the Health Authority and in 418 cases by medical practitioners.

The total of 725 cases for 1950 compares with a total of 870 cases for 1949.

In 322 cases immunisation was completed before the age of one year; in 237 cases during the second year; and in 166 cases during subsequent years.

Re-inforcing doses

An additional dose is offered at the ages of 5 and 10 years to increase the resistance to Diphtheria of children during school life. During 1950 491 such doses were given by the Health Staff and 18 doses by practitioners.

Progress

It will be seen that immunisation was completed in 145 fewer cases in 1950 than in 1949. To some extent this may have been due to the fact that there were 90 fewer live births in 1950 but it is probable that the temporary cessation of immunisation due to the prevalence of Poliomyelitis was the more important factor.

In spite of this it is clear most parents now recognise the importance of immunisation and the almost complete absence of Diphtheria from the Borough during recent years is a reflection of the success of the scheme which has been in operation for 16 years.

During 1950 only one mild case of Diphtheria was notified in the Borough and there has been no death for over 5 years.

The Health Visitors continue to urge parents to secure immunisation for their children as soon as they reach the age of 8 months.

The procedure is carried out by private practitioners and also at the Child Welfare Centres and at Special Clinics.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE DELANCEY FEVER HOSPITAL DURING 1950

During 1950, 121 cases were admitted compared with 134, 139, 184, 152 and 253 during the previous 5 years.

The following tables show the number of types of diseases involved and the area from which the cases came :—

<i>Responsible Authorities</i>	<i>Cases</i>
Borough of Cheltenham	84
Cheltenham Rural District	12
Charlton Kings Urban District	3
North Cotswold Rural District	5
Cirencester U.D.C. and Cirencester R.D.C.	6
Gloucester R.D.C.	2
Borough of Tewkesbury	3
Northleach R.D.C.	3
Other Areas	3

Classified Diseases

Scarlet Fever	36
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Influenza	1
Bronchitis	2
Chickenpox	7
Diphtheria	1
Pneumonia	6
Tonsillitis	5
Dysentery	14
German Measles	1
Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	27
Other cases observation, etc.	14

General Note

The small fever section at the Delancey Hospital fulfilled a useful purpose during 1950. The cases were of great variety and came from 9 different areas.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

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 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—15 „ ...	2	4	4	3	—	—	—	1
15—25 „ ...	3	9	—	2	—	—	—	—
25—35 „ ...	7	13	—	1	—	2	—	—
35—45 „ ...	6	10	1	1	3	1	—	—
45—55 „ ...	5	5	—	1	1	3	—	—
55—65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	3	1	—	—	1	2	1	—
	28	42	5	9	7	8	1	2
Registrar General's Figs.					7	8	1	2

Death Rates.

The Tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1950 were as follows:—

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.231	} Per 1,000 of Population
	Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.046	
	Total	0.28	
Comparative Figures	{ Great Towns average	Total 0.42	}
	{ England and Wales	Total 0.36	

General Note

There was an increase in the number of notifications for 1950. This is only to be expected as a result of improved methods of diagnosis and the increase in the use of Mass Radiography.

The figure must therefore not be taken in any way as an index of the position as regards the extent of Tuberculosis.

Deaths numbered 18 a record low figure.

The Death rate has improved throughout the country as a whole as a result no doubt of advance in methods of control and improved methods of treatment.

A review of the position is provided by the table on page 20 which covers 25 years in 5 year averages.

Associated Factors and Disinfection

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 Health Visitors.

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.

TUBERCULOSIS
AVERAGE OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN FIVE YEAR PERIODS.

	New Cases (Average)				Total	Deaths (Average)				Total	Death Rates from all forms of Tuberculosis, averages in five year periods	
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary			Cheltenham	England & Wales
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.			
1926—30	31	31	9	8	79	17	19	4	5	45	0.89	0.92
1931—35	24	22	10	6	63	17	13	2	3	35	0.69	0.81
1936—40	29	20	9	9	67	15	12	4	4	35	0.66	0.67
1941—45	41	30	10	8	89	18	14	3	4	39	0.62	0.66
1946—50	34	30	6	9	79	12	10	1	2	25	0.41	0.48

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

SECTIONS 187—194 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

At the commencement of 1950 there were 16 Nursing Homes on the Register. During the year 3 were discontinued and two new registrations were effected leaving 15 Homes on the list at the end of 1950.

One of the Homes discontinued was a Maternity Home of 10 beds which did good service during the latter part of the war. One of the new registrations relates to a Maternity Home of 5 beds.

The number of maternity beds in private Nursing Homes is now 15, in three Homes. Beds allocated to medical and surgical cases now number 93.

The number of cases accommodated during 1950 is estimated as follows :—

General surgical and medical	...	...	...	593
Maternity	...	...	...	235

Many of the medical cases are in fact more or less permanently resident old persons so that turnover is limited and the number accommodated during the year is not as large as might be expected from the number of beds.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

(National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47)

Further experience was gained during 1950 of the value and more particularly the limitations of the powers given in this section.

The section is not intended to apply to persons who are willing to be moved to an institution and it is not suitable for dealing with acute cases owing to the time which must elapse before it can be put into operation in any particular case.

Necessity for taking action under this section should only arise when an old person, in a neglected condition and living under insanitary conditions, refuses to be moved into an institution. It is important to remember that this method of procedure is necessarily slow and is never suitable for dealing with acute cases.

The correct procedure, where refusal to be moved is not involved, is for the patient's own doctor to arrange for admission to hospital.

In acute and really urgent cases, where the person has not got a doctor or one is not available, the nearest general practitioner should be called. If no doctor is available an ambulance should be obtained and the case transferred to hospital.

Several cases were investigated during 1950 but in no case was it considered desirable to apply for a Court Order for removal.

**SUPERANNUATION ACT 1937—NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
(SUPERANNUATION) REGULATIONS**

Medical Examinations of Borough and County employees are carried out for various purposes but mainly for admission of employees to the respective Superannuation Schemes.

During 1950 the following numbers of examinations were made :—

Cheltenham Corporation	...	...	...	77
Gloucestershire County Council	...	...	...	66

Divisional Duties

An outline of the duties carried out by the Medical Officer in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer under the Gloucestershire County Council was included in the report for 1949. During 1950 these duties remained the same except for minor variations.

School Medical Service

The Medical Officer continued to be responsible to the Cheltenham Education Committee for the administration of the School Medical Services.

The following figures relate to the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1950 :—

**TABLE I
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A. Periodic Medical Inspections									
Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups									
Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	897
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	680
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1190
									Total
									2767
Number of other periodic inspections									755
									Grand Total
									3522
B. Other Inspections									
Number of Special Inspections									
Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1838
									Total
									1850

C. Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin.)

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other condition recorded in Table IIa	Total individual pupils
Entrants	1	187	188
Second Age Group	94	114	194
Third Age Group	201	185	363
Total (prescribed Groups) ...	296	486	745
Other Periodic Inspections ...	73	102	164
Grand Total	369	588	909

TABLE II

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year.

Disease or Defect	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections.	
	Number of Defects		Number of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not Treatment
Skin	47	6	17	10
Eyes				
(a) Vision	369	4	18	—
(b) Squint	41	6	28	4
(c) Other	47	3	28	8
Ears				
(a) Hearing	6	16	7	23
(b) Otitis Media ...	12	26	19	22
(c) Other	15	8	14	16
Nose and Throat ...	146	279	220	398
Speech	5	14	30	13
Cervical Glands ...	1	110	3	118
Heart and Circulation	4	67	12	152
Lungs	16	116	23	229
Developmental ...				
(a) Hernia	7	11	11	21
(b) Other	3	18	9	30
Orthopaedic				
(a) Posture	54	55	46	52
(b) Flat Foot	101	21	52	12
(c) Other	68	21	93	45
Nervous System ...				
(a) Epilepsy	2	1	10	3
(b) Other	3	8	3	4
Psychological ...				
(a) Development ...	2	6	—	6
(b) Stability	2	21	2	42
Other	62	109	98	282

B. Classification of the General Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in the Age Groups

Age Groups	Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	897	225	25.1	623	69.4	49	5.5
Second Age Group	680	246	36.2	410	60.3	24	3.5
Third Age Group	1190	476	40.0	675	56.7	39	3.3
Other Periodic Inspections ...	755	183	24.2	550	72.9	22	2.9
Total	3522	1130	32.1	2258	64.1	134	3.8

TABLE III
Infestation with Vermin

(1) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	21,921
(2) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	328
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	1
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	1

TABLE IV

Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools
GROUP 1. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III)

	<i>Number of Cases treated, or under treatment during the year</i>	
	<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	5	4
(ii) Body	24	—
Scabies	7	—
Impetigo	92	1
Other skin diseases	57	12
Total	185	17

GROUP 2. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

	<i>Number of cases dealt with</i>	
	<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	107*	4
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	—	448
Total	107	452

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	...	...	...	...	—*	365
(b) Obtained	...	...	...	...	—*	332
Total						697

GROUP 3. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

		<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
		<i>By the</i>	
		<i>Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
Received operative treatment :			
(a) for diseases of the ear	...	—	11
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	—	425
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	...	—	27
Received other forms of treatment	...	262	31
Total		262	494

GROUP 4. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	19		
<i>By the</i>			
		<i>Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patients departments	...	28	79

GROUP 5. Child Guidance Treatment.

		<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
		<i>In the Authority's</i>	
		<i>Child Guidance.</i>	<i>Else-</i>
		<i>Clinics.</i>	<i>where</i>
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	...	12	—

GROUP 6. Speech Therapy.

		<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
		<i>By the</i>	
		<i>Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	...	108	—

* Including cases dealt with under arrangements with the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services.

GROUP 7. Other Treatment Given.

		<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
		<i>By the</i>	
		<i>Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
(a) Other (Specifys) Miscellaneous minor ailments	...	1670	21
(b) U.V.R. Treatment	...	—	—
Anaemia	...	22	9
Threadworms	...	12	5
Chest	...	22	34
Debility	...	25	6
Total		1751	75

TABLE V.
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE
AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—							
(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	657
						Total	657
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...		630
(3) Number referred for treatment	...	...	...	...	...		614
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...		609
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	...		1052
(6) Half days devoted to:	Inspection	...	...	...	...		—
	Treatment	...	...	...	...		84
						Total	84
(7) Fillings:	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...		138
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...		4
						Total	142
(8) Number of teeth filled:	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...		130
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...		4
						Total	134
(9) Extractions:	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...		270
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...		1005
						Total	1275
(10) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	...		535
(11) Other operations:	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...		86
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...		5
						Total	91

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1950, being my twenty-third as an Executive Officer of this Authority.

The members of the Public Health Committee are aware of the serious depletion of the staff, due to various unfortunate circumstances, and of the inevitable repercussions on the work of the department—these staff changes are given in detail on the concluding page of the report. It must be stated that every similar department in the country is endeavouring to make up for the stagnation during the war years and is attempting to reach the level and standard of inspection that previously existed. The work in connection with the prevention of Rivers Pollution in this town has not been neglected, and although Cheltenham is not an industrial town, my Department has been active in this important work and effected many improvements, generally by personal contact. Local Authorities have once again been deprived of a duty which has passed to the River Boards set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who are to be armed with greater powers to carry it into effect.

This Authority has been active during the past five years, under the Housing Acts, in dealing with unfit houses and the closure of parts of houses, and these have been of sufficient interest to set out in a table. An important adjunct in remedial action is to be found, under a separate report, of the purchase and reconditioning of a row of houses, carried out under the direct supervision of this Department, a work in which Cheltenham has been a pioneer.

In the field of Food Hygiene, a Clean Food Campaign was opened in this town in 1949, with a varied programme which, at most, can be said to have been of propaganda value; this was transformed into a live organisation in the autumn of the year under review and, at the time of printing this report, has far exceeded the early expectations. Local Authorities, realising the importance of this work, are appointing special whole-time officials, and the Government departments are inclined to the view that, despite the application of special by-laws under the Food and Drugs Act, and other enactments, it is in the realm of education that the most rapid and successful results can be obtained.

By comparison with the work of this section of Public Health in 1908, when I first entered the service, a complete change in the range and scope of duties has taken place. The designation of my office fails to assist members of the general public to understand that this includes Food and Food Hygiene. The U.S.A. have shewn a greater appreciation and realisation of environmental hygiene, simply because they have a natural urge for progress and a readiness to free themselves from regulations which are not democratic.

In the list of staff changes I have to record the resignation of Mr. W. L. Booy, District Inspector, on his appointment to the neighbouring authority of Charlton Kings U.D.C. On the 28th September, Mr. N. C. M. Pitman died after a long illness and after only seven weeks' service as a District Inspector; his death was deeply regretted. I also have to report that Mr. Frank Keene, Meat and Sanitary Inspector, who had completed thirty years' local government service, retired on the 16th November, due to ill-health; he had given very useful and conscientious service to this authority. Mr. J. A. McPherson, of Rushden U.D.C. was appointed on the 6th September, but owing to difficulties with the Ministry of Health regarding his salary, he did not take up his appointment until 20th November. In January, Miss M. E. J. Edden was promoted from Junior Clerk to Junior Shorthand typist, and Miss A. J. Burrows was appointed to fill the vacancy of Junior Entrant. Early in November, Miss N. E. Padfield was appointed to the staff of the Department to undertake the duties of organisation in carrying out the Authority's Clean Food Campaign in Cheltenham.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Health, Food and Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Home Office, tables giving full particulars of the inspections made, together with local information and notes of the general work of the Department will be found in the Report.

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

With pleasure, I again record the loyal and valued assistance rendered to me by my Deputy, Mr. J. F. Ursell, F.S.I.A., and the District Inspectors, who have largely contributed to the compiling of this report, also to the other members of my staff for conscientious service.

The Sanitary Inspector of today is finding the scope of his duties widening. This calls for the study of new methods and technique, and not, as some may conjecture, a mere repetition of routine visitation. It is only by such an approach to his duties that he has become such a valuable link in the Public Health chain.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. JEFFORD.

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

RIVERS POLLUTION.

A survey was made of the River Chelt over a considerable distance, and surface water and all other effluents discharging into it were noted and plotted on a map.

One of such effluents from the local Gas Works was observed running at full bore from a 6" pipe for a period of over one hour; it caused the river to be completely discoloured, and a white sediment was deposited on the bed of the river. Three samples of the effluent were reported by the Public Analyst to be unsuitable for discharge into the river. Another effluent from the Gas Works was heavily polluted with oil, and benzol scum; oil seepage from an adjoining refuse tip was also a contributory factor to serious pollution.

Representations were made to the Gas Board on this matter, and an assurance was given that everything possible would be done to avoid the pollution of the river by the discharge of waste products.

On 1st April, 1950 the matter of rivers pollution was, however, taken out of the hands of the Council when the Rivers Board Act, 1948, came into force, and all the functions exercised by the Council in respect of rivers pollution were transferred to the Severn River Board.

The Pollution Prevention Officer of the Board, together with the Chemist, visited the stretch of river most subject to pollution, and a discussion also took place on other streams and watercourses in the Borough. It was then agreed by the Public Health Committee that all records relating to the analysis of effluents should be handed over to the Severn River Board who stated these would be of material advantage in future investigations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following Tables shew the amount of routine inspection work carried out by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

The total number of complaints received in the Department during the year 1950 was 868.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supply	4
Drainage	2,387
Stables and Piggeries	3
Offensive Trades	12
Fried Fish Shops	15
Common Lodging Houses	28
Tents, Vans and Sheds	121
Factories	152
Workplaces	3
Outworkers	82
Bakehouses	34
Public Conveniences	9
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	3
Refuse Collection	428
Refuse Disposal	11
Smoke Observations	33
Schools	3
Shop Act	239
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	117
Interviews	493
	<hr/>
	Total 4,177
	<hr/>

TABLE II

Housing

<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>	
No. of Houses Inspected	450
Re-Visits	942
<i>Under the Housing Act</i>	
No. of Houses Inspected	261
Re-Visits	445
<i>Overcrowding</i>	
No. of Houses Inspected	27
Re-Visits	2
<i>Verminous Premises</i>	
No. of Houses Inspected	10
Re-Visits	1
<i>Miscellaneous Housing Visits</i>	24
	<hr/>
	Total 2,162
	<hr/>

TABLE III

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	1
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	4
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	6
			<hr/>

TABLE IV

Food Inspections, etc.*Inspection of Meat*

Visits to Abattoir	...	...	...	301
Visits to other premises	...	...	...	2

Registrations and Inspections

(Food and Drugs Act, Sections 13 and 14)

Butchers	...	...	...	51
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	...	81
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	33
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	84
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	78
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	159
Market Stalls	...	...	...	44
Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens	...	...	...	142
Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits	...	...	...	490
<i>Visits in connection with sampling</i>				
Milk—Bacteriological	...	...	...	56
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	...	174
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	65
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	1,762
				<hr/>

TABLE V

Rivers Pollution

Visits and Inspections in connection with sampling	...	...	23
			<hr/>
Total of Tables I, II, III, IV and V	...	...	8,130
			<hr/>

NOTICES SERVED.

During the year the following notices were served :—

	<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	274	280	49	50
Factories Act, 1937	21	18	—	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	31	21	1	—
Shops Act, 1934	13	10	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	339	329	50	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Information in regard to Land Charges

The Department is responsible for supplying information under the Land Charges Act on receipt of an Official Search in respect of all properties in the Borough, which are subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1936, and Statutory Notices under all Acts.

Requests for information were received and dealt with in respect of 1,390 searches.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The work of inspection of factories, work places and outworkers necessitated 152 inspections, and 21 written notices were served in connection with these premises.

There is still within the Borough a great shortage of suitable factory premises ; many of the factories and workplaces were started during the War and have consequently often developed beyond the capacity of their existing premises or sites. Many of the factory owners would be willing to build new premises were the necessary permits and material available.

Four factories were crossed off the register having ceased to function since last year.

On the current list are 90 non-power factories, 362 power factories, one sub-station (Midlands Electricity Board) and one building site, totalling 454 factories, 4.63% of these have been the subject of notices.

Thirty-seven outworkers, falling within the provision of Section 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937, are registered with this Authority and 82 visits have been made in connection with the premises used.

The following tables show the work carried out during the year :—

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health, (including inspections made by District Sanitary Inspectors).

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	90	32	5
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	362	119	16
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	1	—
Totals ...	454	152	21

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	15	8
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—
Totals ...	21	13

3. Outwork—Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)		Section 111 Notices Served
	February List	August List	
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	35	35	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	2	2	—
Furniture and Upholstery	1	—	—

VENTILATION OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Examinations continued to be made by means of the Kata thermometer of the atmosphere of several places of entertainment in the Borough.

A radical improvement has been made in the case of one cinema by the increased use of fans and ducts. Several readings from the Kata thermometer taken with a full house were satisfactory, and a reasonable temperature maintained throughout the performance.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In order to investigate the nature and extent of smoke and grit pollution the Council has agreed to purchase three Deposit gauges. A consultant of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research carried out, in conjunction with the Health Department, a survey of the areas where pollution was most prevalent. He recommended the siting of three Deposit Gauges in representative areas of the town and arrangements have been made to have these erected. Whilst the order for these gauges has been in hand for several months, the makers have stated that, owing to shortage of raw materials, they cannot give a definite date for delivery. When, however, these gauges are fixed, the resultant analysis will provide details of the type of pollution, where most prevalent, and the influence of the prevailing winds.

The Gas Board continued to carry out investigations to minimise the pollution from their works. The grit extractors fitted to one chimney have considerably diminished the nuisance that formerly existed.

Some minor nuisances were experienced from chimneys serving small factories. The owners of these premises, in all cases proved most co-operative, and either by fitting suitable apparatus, extending the chimney, or by receiving advice as to stoking, succeeded in mitigating the nuisance.

HOUSING.

One of the principal aims of a local authority is to provide adequate housing accommodation, and, in addition, to provide new houses to replace those that can be said to be unhealthy. In this connection the matter of environmental health is linked inextricably with that of economics; this has been recently demonstrated by the comprehensive reconditioning of the seven houses at Kew Place. Living accommodation of good standard can thus be provided, not only at reasonable cost, but at a satisfactory rental. There is little doubt that, in a short while, the rents of new houses will be prohibitive for many, without very heavy subsidy from the local rates.

In common with other authorities this Council has had to face the difficulty of houses that have long outlived their usefulness. The position often occurs of the owner of such a house, with a rent of a few shillings only a week, who will, if pressed to carry out extensive works, hand the house over to the Council rather than face the necessary expenditure. Many of these houses have now reached the stage when normal repairs will not achieve the desired standard nor can these repairs be carried out at reasonable cost. The only alternative is a repair notice under Section 93 to deal with the most urgent defects or comprehensive treatment under Section 11.

In order to obtain a complete picture of the work required to be done within the Borough a housing survey is desirable. The Ministry has not given any direction as to future activities in so far as comprehensive clearance or individual demolition work is concerned.

Those responsible for dealing with housing are only too well aware of the deplorable condition of many houses. If comprehensive action to deal with these dilapidated premises continues to be postponed there is no alternative to demolition.

The Borough Development Plan is now approaching a tangible form, and it is hoped that liaison will occur in order to avoid much overlapping. At present separate controls exist under the Planning Acts ; improvement grants under the 1949 Act giving a house an estimated life of thirty years are dealt with by another department ; whilst this Department deal with the demolition and reconditioning of houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. If we are to present anything to posterity in the way of a housing redevelopment scheme, it is imperative that there be complete liaison between these three activities in order to ensure a uniform and efficient plan of campaign to deal with the legacy of unfit houses.

For every house that becomes unfit for habitation, due to disrepair, another has to be provided by the local authority, and invariably this house is subsidized. It is interesting to note that in the County of London every new authority dwelling imposes a charge of £1 a week on the public purse, and the corresponding cost elsewhere in England and Wales averages £22 a year, a figure that would far exceed the cost of keeping the existing houses in proper repair.

RE-CONDITIONING.

Nos. 6—12 Kew Place

The reconditioning of seven houses Nos. 6-12 Kew Place, was completed during the latter part of this year. Originally these houses were the subject of a pre-war undertaking under Section 11, which the owner failed to carry out. The Council then acquired the property at the District's Valuer's valuation, and gave consideration to the advisability of reconditioning as an alternative to (a) effecting temporary repairs, or (b) demolition. Estimates were prepared, and it was eventually decided to recondition the seven houses.

A lengthy specification was prepared, and included such items as stripping and reslating all roofs, building new sculleries, W.C.'s, and larders, provision of baths, new drainage throughout, separate rear access, repair of external walls, additional windows, electric light and general internal repairs and redecoration.

Tenders were obtained, and the work was entrusted to a local Contractor with considerable experience in this type of work. The Ministry's sanction was subject to a limitation on expenditure of approximately £500 per house, which occasioned some modification in the original plans. The work proceeded for a year, due primarily to the fact that it proved impossible to rehouse the occupants of the houses even temporarily, and also to shortage of certain materials. The whole contract was carried out under the supervision of this Department, and the average cost per house was £539 the total being £3773 for the seven houses.

The houses will have a "life" of at least twenty years, and probably more, allowing for normal maintenance. The tenants have been delighted to retain possession despite increased rentals.

I consider this scheme one of the most successful undertaken by the Department, and it will be appreciated that the cost per house compares most favourably with that of a "prefabricated" type of dwelling.

HOUSING

Housing Act, 1936.

The following action under the above Act was taken during the year (1949 figures for comparative purposes) :—

	1949	1950
(a) Closing Orders (Basement Dwellings) ...	10	18
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.) ...	2	3
(c) Closing Orders determined ...	7	4
(d) Demolition Orders ...	2	4
(e) Undertakings to render premises fit accepted	3	2
(f) Undertakings to render premises fit complied with	6	1
(g) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation ...	—	2
(h) Houses demolished ...	3	1

The following action under the above Act was taken during the last five years :—

	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 ...	6	21
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 ...	14	59
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	119	401
Houses made fit as a result of formal notice under Sections 9-12 ...	38	—

The majority of housing defects were dealt with under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, rather than Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. This decision was made in order to deal with the lower grade property, so that whilst immediate defects were remedied, any future action under Section 11 would not be prejudiced. In this connection 180 notices were served on dwelling houses during the past year.

The Borough Surveyor has given me the following information relating to new houses that have been completed in the Borough up to the 31st December, 1950 :—

Prefabricated ...	558
Traditional Houses ...	212
" " (War Damage) ...	12
" Flats ...	78
" Old People's Flats ...	16
Non Traditional ...	550
	Total 1,426

SEVEN HOUSES ACQUIRED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
AND RECONDITIONED TO THE SPECIFICATION
OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.



Front elevation—completed block of seven houses.

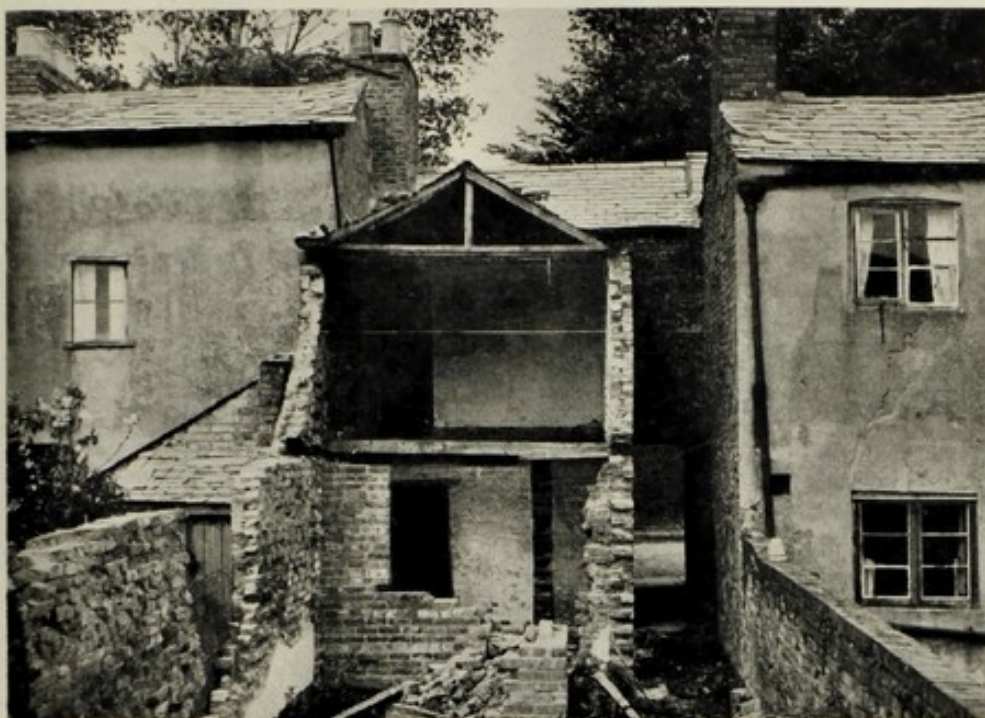


Rear view of three houses in block prior to reconditioning.



View of above houses on completion of work.

**Derelict Building in block converted into one-bedroomed accommodation
for old persons.**



Prior to reconditioning.

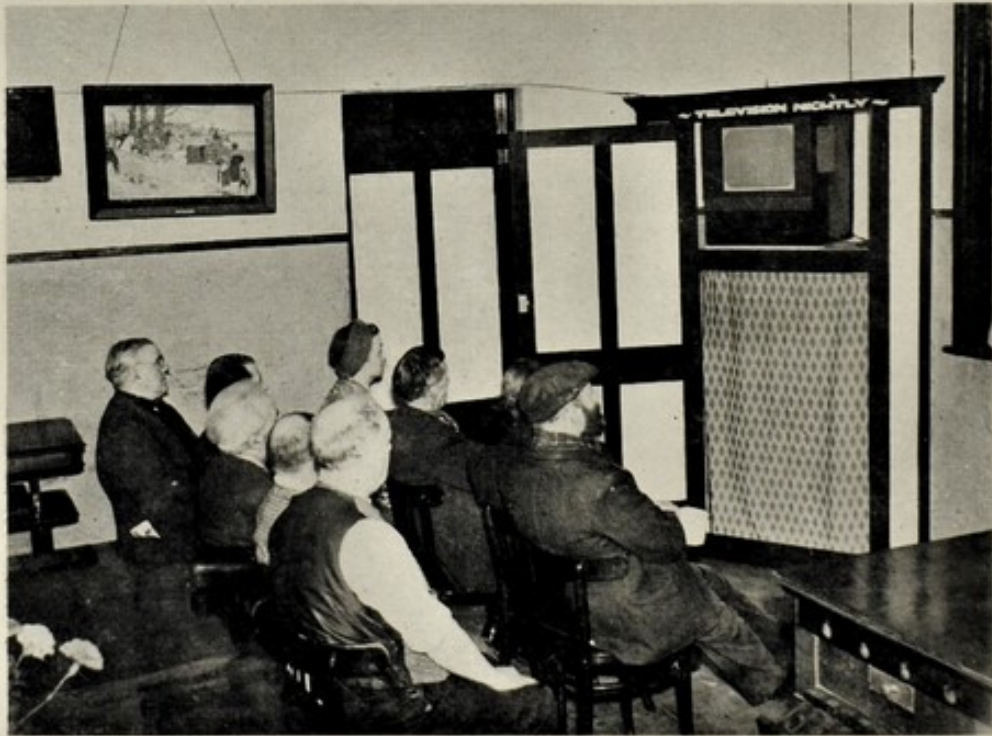


Same buildings on completion.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE, CHELTENHAM.



Exterior.



Recreation Room—(showing television viewing).

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

I am pleased to record that, in Cheltenham at a privately owned lodging house not subsidized in any way from outside sources, many extra provisions are made for the comfort and recreation of the lodgers.

From the hours of darkness the normal system of electric lights is available in the common rooms, reading rooms, stair cases and bedrooms. At 11 p.m. a system of dim or night lighting operates. This is much appreciated, as night movements can be made with the least possible disturbance to other lodgers in the common bedrooms.

A large room has been equipped as a reading room and games room. There are bar billiards, draughts, dominoes, and a wireless set. The recent innovation appreciated above all else is a modern television set of the projection type. This gives a 15in. picture, and can, therefore, be viewed by a fairly large gathering. The television set was installed after all the lodgers had been consulted, as in view of the expense of over £100 it would be necessary to increase the weekly charge by sixpence. One of the lodgers is, unfortunately, blind, and he has been excused the extra sixpenny charge.

The total accommodation at the lodging house is fifty-two beds; difficulty is being experienced in maintaining beds and bedding in a satisfactory condition in view of the rising prices of such articles—single bed mattresses at £3 10s. 0d. each; sheets at £3 a pair; blankets at £6 a pair—and at the same time keeping the charge low enough for “persons of the poorer classes.”

ICE-CREAM.

There are ninety-five premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream within the Borough; this constitutes an increase of sixteen in the past year. In all these cases, ice-cream is obtained direct from the manufacturers.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream (including both hot and cold mix) is eighteen, an increase of one over the previous year.

In the past year, seventy-eight visits were made, special attention being given to those premises where ice-cream is manufactured. Those manufacturers who were unable to comply with the recent regulations regarding heat treatment ceased manufacture, and now obtain their ice-cream from one of the large wholesalers.

The following representative samples indicate the quality of the ice-cream, which has been sold within the Borough:—

Chemical Examination :

<i>Analyst's Sample No.</i>	<i>Total Solids</i>	<i>Fat</i>	<i>Non-fatty Solids</i>	<i>Borates</i>	<i>Preservatives</i>
1536	36.60%	11.21%	25.39%	Absent	Absent
1537	31.58%	8.84%	22.74%	Absent	Absent
1538	37.95%	9.34%	28.61%	Absent	Absent
1542	35.07%	8.96%	26.11%	Absent	Absent

Bacteriological Examinations :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>No. of Micro-organisms in 1ml. at 37°C.</i>
1536	Grade 1	1900
1537	Grade 3	390
1538	Grade 3	200
1542	Grade 3	60

In so far as the bacteriological samples were concerned, two samples were classified, as may be seen, under the Methylene Blue test, as Grade 3, and although the number of micro-organisms per millilitre was quite low, bacillus coli was present in .1 of a ml. The subsequent investigations of the two plants concerned shewed that they were constructed in accordance with the best modern practice, but that the daily cleansing and sterilizing was not adequate. Another routine of sterilization was suggested and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

The Ministry of Food in their Circular MF 3/49 requested that manufacturers obtaining additional supplies should undertake to have a minimum fat content of 2½% in their ice-cream. At the time of receipt of this circular the Public Health Committee were informed that this was far below the average standard of fat content prevalent in this area, but nevertheless it was felt that it was a progressive step to obtain at least some compositional standard for ice-cream.

It is to be hoped now the supply position has improved, in so far as ingredients are concerned, that a considerably higher standard will be demanded by the Ministry of Food. In addition, it seems desirable that the fitting of recording and indicating thermometers should be necessary, prior to registration.

Number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream	95
Number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale	18
Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream only	1
Number of premises registered for the storage of ice-cream only	1
Total registered premises	115

MODEL BYELAWS

A comprehensive addition to Food and Drug legislation was secured during the year by the passing by the Council and subsequent confirmation by the Ministry of Food of the Model Byelaws which came into operation on 12th June, 1950. These Byelaws are designed to apply generally to all branches of the Food Trade and no attempt is made to lay down a detailed code of hygienic practices for any particular trade.

They have been found most useful for ensuring the observation of sanitary and cleanly conditions especially in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

The Byelaws make it an offence to keep food in any paper or wrapping material which is not clean and which is liable to contaminate food. This prevents the use of old newspapers which were formerly used, during the paper shortage, for the wrapping of fish and chips, and meat products.

PERIPATETIC CATERING.

I have felt for some time that more attention should be paid to the catering arrangements at Cricket Festivals, Garden Fetes, Dog Shows, etc. Investigations made by this Department during the course of an event of several days' duration, where many thousands of people were catered for, revealed that arrangements for the storage and sale of food, and for the cleansing of crockery and utensils were far from satisfactory. This Council subsequently made strong representations to the authorities concerned in this particular instance.

The difficulties arising from this type of catering are appreciated. Attendances may exceed anticipation, and heavy demands be made for refreshments, so that staffs are hard pressed and standards deteriorate. Food is left inadequately protected, and washing-up becomes haphazard. Reliance has often to be placed on a large proportion of untrained staff. Nevertheless, it is imperative that those firms who specialise in this type of catering, should make adequate arrangements to cover these eventualities, and, in particular, should ensure proper supervision by trained staff.

ILLICIT FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

An intimation was received that toffee apples were being made and sold in a private house, under conditions said to be unsatisfactory.

An inspection revealed that the toffee apples were prepared and manufactured in the scullery-bathroom, the ceiling, walls and floor of which were very dirty. The bath was full of dirty clothes, and other articles, and did not appear to have been used for a long time. There were about twenty apples ready staked with pieces of box-wood strewn over the floor, which was covered with a layer of grease and dirt. A boy about ten years of age was responsible for stirring the sugar in a saucepan on the gas cooker, into which the apples were dipped before being placed on a tray to "set."

The owner of the premises was a bricklayer by trade, who had started the business a week previously as a spare time job. He gave an undertaking to cease forthwith the manufacture and sale of toffee apples.

This incident illustrates the need for frequent supervision of the small general shop, also of the suppliers of such forms of confectionery. Only by these methods and by the vigilance of the public can such cases be prevented.

SAMPLING.

A sample of milk taken from a local producer-retailer was reported to be seriously deficient in fat. Seven days later 'Appeal to the Cow' samples were taken at the farm concerned. Thirty-two cows were milked in the presence of two Inspectors, who took a sample of each of seven churns, and of these, five samples were reported to be below standard. The average fat content of these seven samples was 2.8%. In view of the evidence that this milk was naturally 'poor' as it came from the cow, no further action was taken. The time of the year, i.e. April, and perhaps lack of feeding stuffs, may have accounted to some extent for the deficiency. Nevertheless, this instance illustrates the need for a more comprehensive standard, and I feel that the emphasis at present is on quantity production rather than quality.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

In accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken :—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Almond, ground ...	4	—	Liquid Apple ...	1	—
Angelica ...	—	1	Milk ...	75	3
Apple Jelly ...	—	1	Marmalade ...	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	Meat, Potted ...	—	1
Beer, draught ...	2	—	Olive Oil ...	—	1
Brandy ...	1	—	Paste Fish, Ham, etc.	—	10
Brislings in Tomato	—	2	Pastry Mixture ...	—	1
Cake, Fruitcream ...	—	1	Pastry Puff ...	—	1
Calves Foot Jelly ...	—	1	Peach Pulp ...	—	1
Candied Peel ...	—	1	Peel, mixed ...	1	—
Cherryade ...	1	—	Peas, processed ...	—	1
Cherries, Glace ...	—	1	Pepper, Floured Comp	—	2
Christmas Pudding	1	—	Pickling Spice ...	—	1
Cider ...	1	—	Port ...	1	—
Cocanut, desiccated	2	—	Potatoes, new ...	—	1
Cough Cure ...	—	1	Raspberries in Syrup	—	1
Cream of Tartar	—	1	Raising Powder ...	—	1
Curd Lemon ...	1	—	Rissoles, Vegetarian	—	1
Curry Powder ...	—	1	Rum ...	1	—
Custard Powder, Mixture	—	2	Salad Cream ...	1	2
Dripping ...	—	1	Sauce Pick-a-Pepper	1	—
Faggots ...	—	1	Sausages Beef ...	5	—
Fish Cakes ...	—	1	Sausages Pork ...	5	—
Gelatine, Powdered	—	1	Sausage Meat ...	1	—
Ginger, Ground ...	—	1	Sausage Rolls ...	1	—
Gin ...	1	—	Savoury Rolls ...	—	1
Herbal Tablets ...	1	—	Sherry ...	1	—
Hilvona Spread ...	—	1	Sponge Mixture ...	—	1
Honey, English ...	1	—	Suenut ...	—	1
Honey Wheat Crunch	—	1	Sweet Fat ...	—	1
Ice Cream ...	—	12	Syrup of Figs ...	—	1
Icing, soft ...	—	1	Tarts, Jam ...	1	—
Jam, Strawberry ...	1	—	Veal and Ham ...	1	—
Ketchup, Tomato	—	2	Vermouth ...	1	—
Lemonade Powder	—	2	Vinegar ...	3	—
			Whisky ...	2	—

Number of Samples taken during 1950 :

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	120
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	71
Total	...	...	...	...	...	191

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

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
140	Apple Jelly	I	Contains Benzoic Acid Preservatives in contravention of the Preservatives in Food Regulations	Notification received that this pulp contained benzoic acid. Confirmed by sample No. 140, and withdrawn from sale, and used in the manufacture of pickles, sauces, and other commodities in which benzoic acid is allowed, in limited proportions
143	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to vendor
1369	Brislings in Tomato	I	Specimen not sterile—bacteriological decomposition	Sample taken from consignment containing large quantity of blown tins. Sample of unblown tin reported on as satisfactory. All blown tins condemned
159	Tomato Ketchup	I	No preservatives detected—label stated "This ketchup contains preservatives"	Samples taken from consignment, one of which was reported as being suspected of causing illness. Wholesalers stated sauce imported, and very old stock (16 months). Suggested improper storage by vendors. Remainder of consignment condemned
1457	Tomato Ketchup	I	Heavily contaminated with bacteria indicating insufficient sterilisation	
2	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor
5	Milk	F	Seriously deficient in fat	7 "Appeal to Cow" samples taken, 5 deficient in fat—see samples Nos. 30, 31, 33, 34, & 35. The results of these samples were considered by the Public Health Committee, but in view of the deficiency in fat in the "Appeal to Cow" samples, decided to take no legal action. Vendor informed of Analyst's findings
10	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor
12	Pork Sausages	F	Slightly deficient in meat	Warning letter to Vendor

SAMPLES ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON—(continued).

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
13	Pork Sausages	F	Slightly deficient in meat	Warning letter to Vendor
30	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	"Appeal to Cow" samples—see sample No. 5
31	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
33	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
34	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
35	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
43	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	29 Samples of milk were taken from this Vendor on the same day, following complaint from the wholesale purchaser that the milk was of poor quality. 16 Samples were reported on as being deficient in fat. Legal proceedings instituted, and Vendor fined £240 with £30 ccsts
44	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
46	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
50	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
51	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
54	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
56	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
57	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
58	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
59	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
60	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
61	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
62	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
63	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
64	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
65	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
1400	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test—Grade 3. B. Coli present	Vendor notified of report, and visited by District Inspector

SAMPLES ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON—(continued)

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1401	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test—Grade 3. B. Coli present	Vendor notified of report and visited by District Inspector
73	Cough Cure	I	Slightly deficient in Chloroform	Vendor's attention drawn to deficiency
83	Paste	I	Slightly deficient in fish	Warning letter to Vendor
99	Peach Pulp	I	Unfit for human consumption, owing to decomposition	Imported pulp. Sample submitted to ascertain cause of unfitness. Large quantities condemned
109	Mixed Peel	F	Contains rather high proportion of copper	Warning letter to Vendor
114	Christmas Pudding	F	Very slightly deficient in oil	Warning letter to Vendor

FOOD HYGIENE.

During 1950, further efforts were made to teach Food Hygiene to both the food traders and to members of the public.

Talks and Lectures

In February and March, I spoke to students of two of the Teachers Training Colleges on Environmental Hygiene, stressing particularly the legal powers given to Local Authorities and the urgent need for pest control.

Both the Grocers' and the Bakers' Associations invited me to speak to their members at special meetings called for the purpose, when I emphasised the dangers of food poisoning.

Towards the end of the year I was asked by the Chairman of the Cheltenham & District Hotels & Caterers' Association to address their members at a General Meeting, when I outlined to them the Clean Food Campaign then being organised, laid stress on the dangers of Food Poisoning, and explained that the basis of the lectures to be arranged for all food handlers in the town was to point out the proper methods of handling food and the necessity for adopting high standards of cleanliness as a means of prevention.

Public Relations

In May, all food traders were invited to see five films on hygiene matters which were shown at the Old Town Hall. Owing to the poor response, I changed my tactics, and, with the co-operation of the managers, had "Another Case of Poisoning" shewn at all local cinemas during a week in August, when it was estimated some 30,000 to 40,000 persons attended.

Inauguration of new Campaign

My first action in organising this new Clean Food Campaign was to call a meeting of representatives of all food trades in the town. After the initial meeting, time was given for those who had attended to get in touch with their Association, and a further meeting was held a few weeks later, to hear the views and to consider the suggestions of the representatives. There was a genuine desire by all to take some concerted action to deal with each trade group in turn, and that proprietors and managers should have the lectures themselves before their staffs attended. It was further agreed that lectures be given to staffs in the management's own time. It was decided to deal with the trades in this order of priority; licensed victuallers; hoteliers and caterers; bakers and confectioners; butchers, fishmongers and fish fryers.

Owing to the very generous co-operation of the South-Western Gas Board, I was able to have the use of their Demonstration Theatre on most Mondays and Thursdays, free of charge, and a series of lectures to take place from November, 1950, to the end of May, 1951, was arranged. In addition to these general lectures, arrangements were made, in cases where the total number of staff exceeded thirty, to take the lectures to the larger hotels' and firms' own premises.

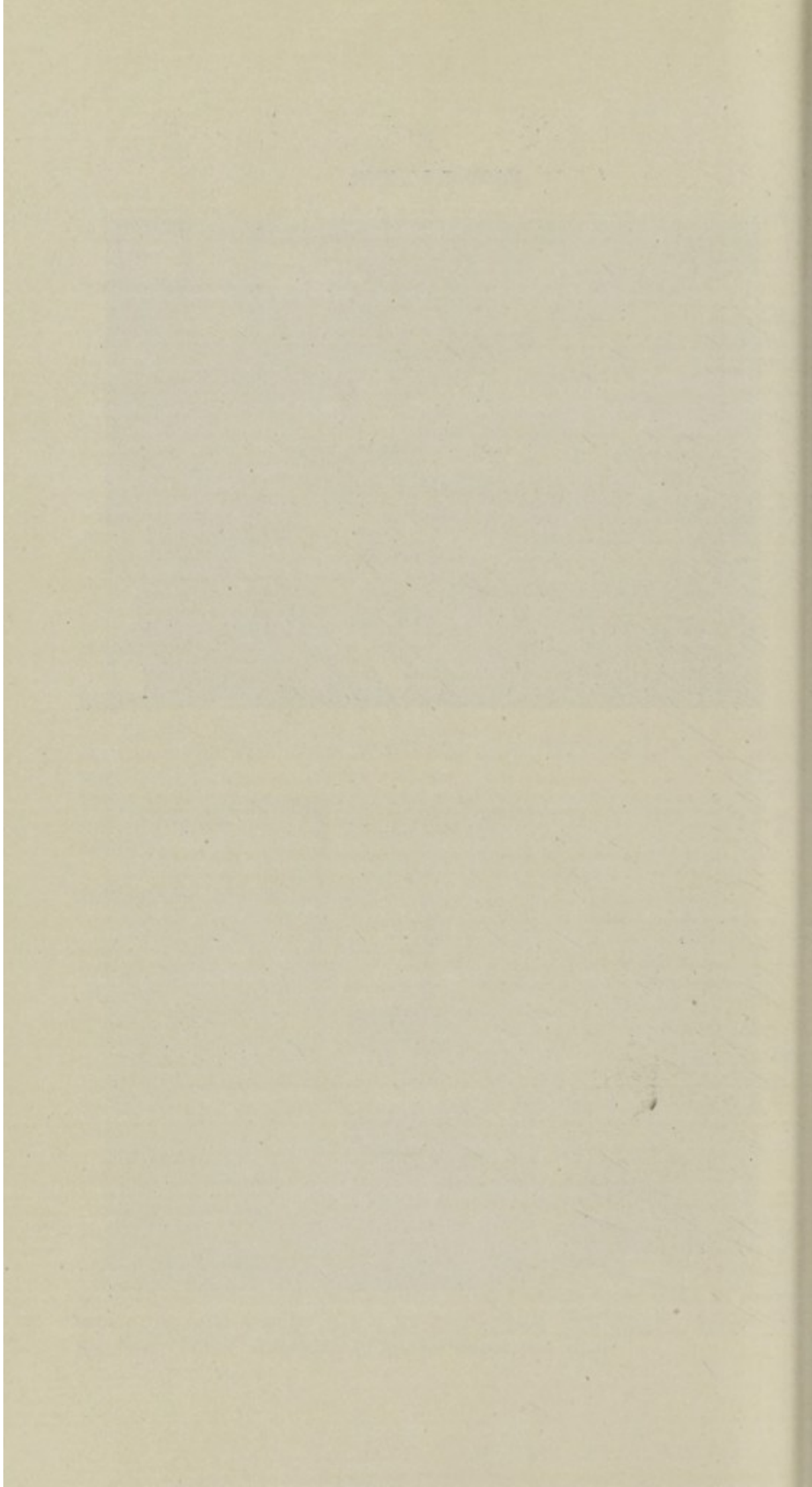
FOOD HYGIENE.



Modern food shop—no goods displayed in the window.



Rear of above shop, shewing wash-hand basin, H. & C. supply and individual towels for use by assistants.



A set of three film strips on Food Hygiene was obtained from the Central Council for Health Education, and sound films "Another Case of Poisoning," and "Insect Pests in Food" from the Central Office of Information.

On 3rd November, a temporary clerical assistant was appointed to take over organising duties and the clerical work required by this campaign. Much assistance was given in the lecturing by my Deputy and by the District Inspectors, of which I am most appreciative, especially as many of the lectures took place during the evening.

Further details of the scheme, and its progress, will be covered in the 1951 report.

FOOD CONTAMINATION.

In the following cases of contamination of food and food containing foreign bodies no prosecution was taken but a warning was issued by the Public Health Committee to those responsible.

On 30th January a complaint was received that a small loaf of bread purchased on the previous day was found, on slicing the same day, to contain a rusty screw firmly embedded. A visit was made to the bakery, and the foreman was interviewed. The management appeared to appreciate the seriousness of the matter, and put forward a suggestion as to the cause of the mishap. Investigations had revealed that a screw was missing from the lid of a zinc-lined proving trough. From the evidence of the case, it was accepted that no negligence was involved.

Another complaint was received regarding some tomato ketchup reported to have caused sickness and complaints. A sample was sent to the Public Analyst who reported as follows:—

"The examination shows the presence of the following micro-organisms:

Micro-organisms in 1 cc. capable of growing on Agar at 22°C	
in three days	60
Micro-organisms in 1cc. capable of growing on Agar at	
37°C in 48 hours	1,400
B. Coli. Absent in 100 ccs.	

The examination shows that this sample is heavily contaminated with bacteria, indicating that sterilisation during manufacture was inefficient.

As no preservatives could be detected, it would be natural for this sample to ferment during storage.

None of the micro-organisms detected was of a pathogenic nature, but the products of decomposition might render the substance harmful, or at the least, unpalatable.

(Signed) Rowland H. Ellis.

Citric Acid	0.70%
Tomato Solids	9.4%
Dangerous Metals	Within limits
Preservatives	Absent

Observations

The analysis does not show the presence of any injurious or harmful substance. No preservatives could be detected and fermentation had already commenced."

SHOPS ACT.

An extensive survey was carried out during the year in connection with the Shops Act. In general the facilities provided were adequate, but during the winter it was found that heating facilities left much to be desired. This is a difficult question, as the specimen reports shewn below illustrate, particularly as regards butchers, fishmongers, and greengrocers. One large fishmonger has no heating other than in the cash desk. A large fruiterer objects to heating actually in the shop. Other shops have made some provision for local heating. One grocer was without heating in the shop, but supplied a gas fire in another room. Most grocers have some form of heating, though the adequacy of this could only be found by a temperature check. The following temperature readings were taken during a cold spell:—

<i>Fishmonger</i>	Rear shop	42°F.—44°F.
	Centre „	46°F.—47°F.
	Front „	44°F. (open-fronted)
	Cash desk	51°F.
	External air temperature 40°F. taken 12 noon 27.1.50.	
No heating in shop.		
Small electric fire in cash desk.		
<i>Grocer</i>	Main Counter	45°F.
	End „	40°F.
	External Temperature 30°F. taken 26.1.50.	
One gas radiator and 2 electric fires operating at time.		
<i>Grocer</i>	Main Counter (6ft. from heater)	51°F.
	Back „	47°F.
	External Temperature 30°F.	
	One gas radiator operating.	
Taken 26.1.50.		
<i>Grocer</i>	Two Counters	45°F. and 46°F.
	No heating actually in shop.	

AN UNCOMMON NUISANCE

An unusual complaint was investigated in mid-summer, when it was found that the road gutters of a street of terraced houses contained literally hundreds of crawling white larvae. They burrowed from just under the surface of the fine silt in the joints of the brick gutters. "Nests" of maggots were exposed when this silt was scraped away.

The refuse bins are collected weekly on one fixed day, but unfortunately the Cleansing Service had been disrupted by a Bank Holiday, causing a delay in collection of four or five days, and as there are no secondary means of access to these houses, the householders had carried out the bins each day and deposited them over the gutters in anticipation of a collection being made. The bins had probably attracted the flies, which laid their eggs along the gutters.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Casualties

The question of casualties received at the Public Abattoir has, during the past year, caused considerable anxiety. The present condition in which these animals are received is most unsatisfactory. Little if anything is known of their history, although from the public health aspect they are, in general, most dangerous. The owner is often reticent in giving full details of the animals' health feeling that such would prejudice the Inspector's decision. It is strongly urged that the Ministry of Food should make a statutory order whereby no casualty animal can be accepted in any Abattoir unless it is accompanied by the Veterinary Surgeon's certificate stating in full why emergency slaughter is required.

Cysticercus Bovis

Eighteen cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were diagnosed during the year, amongst animals admitted for slaughter at the Abattoir. A table is included in the report giving post-mortem details on each case.

It was felt that, if sources of infestations were traced, with their subsequent removal, a positive public health service would thereby be rendered. Careful records were kept, and the names and addresses of owners were traced back through market channels. In some cases it was found that two animals had originated from a single farm. Letters containing this information were sent to Local Authorities in whose area suspected sources of infestation were situated, suggesting that inspection of the farms be made, with particular attention being paid to sewage disposal methods.

Thus, it is hoped that by carrying out these practical measures, the incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis*, in this area, will eventually be brought down to a minimum.

Warble Fly

An interesting case of a young heifer affected with paralysis was brought into the Cheltenham Abattoir for emergency slaughter. After slaughter and dressing no visible evidence of injury or damage accounting for the paralysis could be observed.

However, on careful examination of the spinal column it was found that in the lumbar region the lining of the spinal cord was inflamed. Further examination revealed the presence of "grubs" about half an inch in length and of a greenish colour. More grubs were found dispersed in the length of the spinal cord. Apart from the presence of these grubs no other abnormal conditions could be found and the carcass appeared normal.

On examination of the spinal cord and grubs at the veterinary investigation centre near Bristol, Mr. D. W. Menzies, the Veterinary Surgeon, was able to confirm that the grubs were, in fact, hypodermis larvae, i.e. larvae of the warble fly.

The warble fly, despite its short life of about a week at the most, may lay as many as 400 eggs in that time. Laid singly, the eggs are usually deposited on the hind limbs, although occasionally, are found on the belly of the animal.

It is interesting to note that apart from losses from reduction of milk yield from affected animals and loss of carcass meat, statistics shew that in hides alone there is an annual loss of between £130,000 and £150,000,

Carcases Inspected and Condemned at Cheltenham Public Abattoir.

Yearly Summary Ending :—December 31st, 1950.

	Total	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	23725	2753	1025	4929	14473	545
No. inspected	23725	2753	1025	4929	14473	545
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	106	3	15	33	46	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2206	627	474	37	851	217
Percentage of the No. in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	9.7	22.88	47.70	1.42	6.198	41.46
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	52	18	32	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	561	194	330	—	—	37
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	2.58	7.70	35.31	—	—	7.15

CARCASES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD 1950

Species	Tuberculosis	Acute Fever	Septicaemia	Uræmia	Swine Erysipelas	Path. Emaciation	General Bruising	Morbund	Pyæmia	Joint Ill	Dropsy	Acute Septic Mastitis	Acute Septic Peritonitis	Gangrenous Pneumonia	Other Abnormal conditions	Totals
Bulls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cows	32	4	3	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	47
Heifers	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	15
Steers	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Calves	—	4	2	—	—	2	—	2	6	15	—	—	1	1	—	33
Sheep	—	7	4	—	—	12	2	10	2	—	2	2	—	3	2	46
Pigs	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	11
Totals	52	16	10	1	2	17	3	13	11	15	2	4	4	5	4	159

**Percentages of Animals Slaughtered during 1940-1950 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%
1949	6.11%	32.78%	0.02%	—	5.99%
1950	7.70%	35.31%	—	—	7.15%
Over whole period	7.033%	31.85%	0.059%	0.001%	7.58%
No. of Animals	33,834	13,027	56,237	206,250	18,367
GRAND TOTAL ...					327,715

Total Weights of Meat and Organs condemned, 1950.

Public Abattoir.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs	Total			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef in Carcase	15	16	2	11	18	3	0	18
Beef not in Carcase	2	6	2	7				
Veal in Carcase	-	14	3	15		15	1	13
Veal not in Carcase	-	-	1	26				
Mutton in Carcase	1	0	3	25	1	5	1	2
Mutton not in Carcase	-	4	1	5				
Pork in Carcase	-	16	0	5	1	0	3	13
Pork not in Carcase	-	4	3	8				
Total Meat					21	4	2	18
Total Organs					22	6	0	5
Total Meat and Organs					43	10	2	23

MEAT INSPECTION—CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Sex of Animal	Number and Location of Cysts						Whether Viable or Degenerated
	Head		Heart		Diaphragm	Liver	
	External Masseters	Internal Masseters	Internal	External			
Heifer				1			D
Cow/Heifer				1			D
Heifer		1					V
Steer	1						V
Heifer	1			1			D + V
Heifer	1			1			V + V
Steer	1		1				D + V
Bull	1						D
Heifer	1		1				V
Heifer	1						D
Heifer	1						D
Heifer	1						D
Steer	1					1	D
Steer	1		1				D
Heifer	1						D
Cow	1						D
Cow	1						D
Cow	1						D
Steer	1			1			D
18	11	2	3	5	1	3	

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

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	Tins	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Bacon	1				1
Cake	6			1	8
Cheese	37			1	6
Cocoa	2				2
Fish	607		2	1	18
Fruit*	2543	13	4	0	12
Jam and Marmalade	108		1	1	17
Lemon curd	2				3
Meat	566		10	0	13
Milk	425		4	1	4
Nescafe	5				3
Paste	100				14
Fickles	1				1
Puddings, Xmas, etc.	17				21
Soup	85			2	15
Spaghetti	10				10
Syrup	14				21
Vegetables	1142		13	1	11
Total	5671	14	17	2	12
Flour and Cereals					
Barley kernels					1
Corn Flakes					1
Flour			1	3	2
Macaroni					24
Oatmeal					2
Pearl Barley					10
Ryvita					1
Shredded Wheat					2
Total			2	0	15
Dried Fruits					
Dates			4	0	0
Figs			1	1	2
Prunes					25
Total			5	1	27
General					
Bacon and Hams			2	1	21
Bisto					2
Butter and Margarine			2	0	27
Cheese			4	2	1
Cod Liver Oil and Malt					2
Coffee					3
Curd					7
Carried Forward			9	1	7

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Brought Forward ...		9	1	7
Eggs ...		9	0	25
English Meat ...		14	2	8
Fats, Dripping, Suet, etc. ...		1	0	8
Fish Fresh ...		10	3	27
Fish preserved ...		6	0	13
Fruit ...		3	2	4
Gravy powder ...				3
Honey ...				1
Imported Meat ...		13	2	22
Jelly ...				7
Lemon squash ...				1
Liver and Kidney ...			1	20
Marmalade and Jam ...			2	1
Meat, Luncheon type ...			2	2
Meat pies ...			2	25
Mince meat ...				17
Mineral water ...				1
Paste ...			1	4
Pickles ...			3	1
Potato crisps ...				25
Poultry ...		3	1	15
Puddings ...		1	2	20
Rabbits ...			2	7
Rice ...				8
Roes ...		2	0	13
Rolls ...				14
Salad cream ...				20
Salt ...				2
Sandwich Spread ...				7
Sauce ...		1	2	15
Sausages ...		3	1	11
Soup ...				4
Sponge and Pastry mixtures ...				24
Sugar ...		2	0	10
Sweets ...		1	0	10
Torox cubes ...				1
Vegetables ...				2
Vinegar ...			2	5
Vita cream ...			1	4
Wine (Ginger) ...				1
Total	4	9	2	23
Grand Total	19	14	3	21

* A large proportion of this tinned fruit condemned was from a fruit bottling factory within the Borough. The fruit was mainly apricot pulp consigned to the factory by the Ministry of Food, and a large percentage of this was condemned.

Note. In addition to the visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors to inspect and condemn the above foodstuffs, three hundred and fifty-nine visits had to be made with the department's van for the purpose of collection.

RODENT CONTROL SECTION

Complaints

During 1950 a total of 929 complaints was received referring to pests, as under :—

Rats 441. Mice 341. Beetles 52. Flies 7. Wasps 47. Other Pests 41 as compared with 1949 figures of 826 complaints, as under :—

Rats 393. Mice 248. Beetles 32. Flies 10. Wasps 111. Other Pests 32

The wet and cold summer is reflected in the increased number of complaints of rats and mice, which remained in the town instead of migrating to the countryside, and the big decrease in complaints of wasps—which is recorded above. In connection with these complaints, 478 dwelling houses and 131 business premises were cleared of rats and mice.

The public have found that the Rodent Control section will help them with infestations, other than rats and mice, as the 147 complaints of "other pests" clearly indicates. In some instances advice alone was necessary, but sixty-one treatments were carried out, i.e. ants—3, beetles—9, wasps—44, moles—2, badgers—2, bees—1, whilst five premises infested with beetles were dealt with under annual agreement.

Inspections

Total number of visits : (as compared with 7,843 in 1949)

Dwelling Houses	4,256
Business Premises	1,199
Business Premises under agreement	2,133
Local Authority property	895

8,483

Annual Agreements

1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950	
No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
25	£411	27	£422/10	39	£563	46	£659	47	£661	60	£733

The above figures clearly indicate the steady increase in the number of agreements in force year by year.

Local Authority Property

There has been a marked improvement in conditions at all Local Authority property, shewing that past efforts have brought all infestation down to a minimum. It is still very necessary to inspect all properties at regular intervals and to treat when required.

The position in the sewers is not so good, the maintenance treatments authorised by the Ministry are not enough to deal with infestations. Rats do not remain stationary, and judging by results it would be advisable to have a full treatment of all sewers. The original full treatment was carried out in 1945, and it is suggested that a similar operation at the end of seven years is not an unreasonable requirement. So far, the Ministry will not sanction grant aid for another full treatment. It might be considered advisable to press them on the subject. Rivers and streams have been under constant supervision, and attention, and treatments there have prevented the spread of rats to adjacent property.

Rodent Control

During 1950 the legal position in regard to the destruction of rats and mice was materially altered by the coming into force of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and the repeal of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. Owing to the repeal of this Act, the offence of harbouring rats and mice is no longer operative, and under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, failure to notify the presence of rats and mice "in substantial numbers" now constitutes an offence. Whilst one welcomes compulsory notification of infestations, the words "in substantial numbers" lacks definition, and renders the task of bringing home the offence of "failure to notify" extremely difficult. It is left to the discretion of the local authority to decide what are "substantial numbers" within the meaning of the Act. The Ministry have, so far, failed to give any clear guidance on this point.

Since it is no longer an offence to harbour rats and mice, where infestations are discovered or reported, the only line of action is for us to serve a notice under section 4 of the Act calling on the occupier to take steps to clear the infestations in accordance with methods laid down by the Ministry. In other words, the Act expects every man to be his own rodent operator, and be able to carry out the work satisfactorily. Not until a reasonable time has been allowed for the notice to be complied with can any action be taken by the Local Authority. When that period has elapsed action can be taken under Section 5, which authorises the Local Authority to do the work and recover reasonable costs of the same; also to take legal proceedings against the occupier for failing to carry out the work as detailed in the notice served under Section 4.

This is entirely unsatisfactory, since during the period between service of notice under Section 4 and action under Section 5, rats and mice will have multiplied and spread outwards; it does not seem reasonable to expect the public to have the knowledge necessary to clear infestations of rats and mice "in substantial numbers."

For the last nine months of the year the new Act has been in force, and, in view of the difficulties mentioned above, my Officers have endeavoured to carry out the work without recourse to statutory proceedings.

PROSECUTIONS.

During 1950, Court Proceedings were taken in two cases. The brief details of each case, together with the findings of the Court are as follows:—

Case No. 1—Milk

29 samples of milk were taken from a lorry belonging to a milk producer prior to delivery to a large dairy in the Borough. The Public Analyst reported that 16 of these samples were deficient in fat. One contained a fat content as low as 2.09 per cent.

The producer, pleading guilty to 16 summonses for supplying milk, not of the nature, substance and quality demanded, to the prejudice of the purchaser, was fined £15 on each summons i.e. £240 in all, and an order was made for the payment of £30 costs.

A further fine of £5 was imposed on the same producer, operating as a milk distributor in the Borough, for selling milk in an unclean bottle.

Case No. 2—Non-compliance with Statutory Notices

Three summonses were brought against a local landlord for failure to comply with statutory notices. Two summonses were in connection with failure to carry out works required under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936, and the other under Section 45 of the same Act.

A fine of £1 was imposed in respect of the summons served in connection with defective closets, and the other two were adjourned for one month. Necessary works were carried out by the Landlord prior to the adjourned hearing.

TRAINING OF STUDENTS.

The scheme arranged by the Ministry of Labour and National Service whereby ex-servicemen were given practical training in the Department was continued in the early part of 1950.

Four Students attended for periods from one to three months, and accompanied the District Sanitary Inspectors on their routine visits. They were also given a brief outline of the work of the Department.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STAFF, 1950

TECHNICAL

<i>Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	J. F. Ursell, M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., D.P.A.,*†
<i>District Inspectors</i>	A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San.Science R.S.I.*† H. Stone, M.S.I.A.*† G. J. C. Buck, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.† W. L. Booy, M.R.San.I., A. Inst. Housing*† (resigned February, 1950 and appointed to Charlton Kings U.D.C.). N. C. M. Pitman,*† (appointed April, 1950 died September, 1950).
<i>Pupil</i>	R. J. Wintle.

ABATTOIR

<i>Meat Inspector</i>	F. Keene, Cert. R.San.I. (retired November, 1950) J. A. McPherson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I M.Inst.M., M.R.S.A. (Scot)*† (appointed September, 1950).
<i>Superintendent</i>	T. Agg
<i>Carter</i>	R. Wiggett.
<i>Stoker</i>	H. Gram.

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.I.

† S.I.E.J.B. Certificate.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

<i>Disinfection Officer</i>	G. Cross.
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DRAIN-TESTING, ETC.

<i>Operator</i>	W. Taylor.
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RODENT CONTROL.

<i>Pests Officer</i>	A. Anson.
<i>Assistant Pests Officer</i>	F. Harrison-Smith.
<i>Operators</i>	T. A. Foster. C. E. Ilott.

CLERICAL.

<i>Senior Clerk</i>	W. H. G. Meakins.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary</i>	Miss M. D. Heynes.
<i>Junior Shorthand-typist</i>	Miss M. E. J. Edden.
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	Miss A. J. Burrows.
<i>Temporary Clerk (Food Hygiene)</i>	Miss N. E. Padfield.

