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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

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CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1959 on the environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health, and Regulations 5 (3) and 15 (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

I am indebted to the staff for much of the detail of the report and to Mr. E. H. Rosser, Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for the part dealing with the work of his department.

As is usual the Health Statistics, such as the Birth Rate, the Death Rate and particularly the Infantile Mortality, compare favourably with the corresponding rates for the country as a whole.

The District was free from acute poliomyelitis and other outbreaks of serious infectious disease. At the time of writing vaccination against poliomyelitis is available to all people under 40 years of age, it is to be regretted that the poorest acceptance is amongst teenagers.

Substantial progress continues to be made in dealing with unfit dwellings. The fourth of the five instalments of these houses was due for consideration but of the 86 houses in this batch, in only 34 instances was further action necessary.

Following a Public Inquiry the Minister gave his consent to the provision, at a cost of £7,900, of a piped water supply to Cowley village.

The additional 500,000 gallon reservoir was completed at Dixton and brought into use to improve the water supply to Bishop's Cleeve, Gotherington and Woodmancote.

Negotiations were undertaken with the War Department for acquisition of the Sewage Disposal Works at Ashchurch.

Sewers were laid in Bamfurlong and The Reddings and a start was made on the main sewerage scheme for Gotherington and Woolstone.

I am glad to be able to express my thanks to members of the Council for their support and to my colleagues for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1960.



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CHELTEMHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	...	29,700
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1959)	...	9,077
Rateable Value (at 31.12.59)	...	£429,487
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£1,734

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	536	283	253
Illegitimate	<u>21</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	557	293	264

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	19.0
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	.99
Corrected Birth Rate (19.0 x 0.99)	18.8
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	3.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	9	6	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	16.0

TOTAL LIVE and STILL BIRTHS 566

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year)

Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	10	7	3

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...	18.0	
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	..	18.6	
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	...	Nil	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks)			
Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	9	6	3
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1000 total live births	..	16.1	
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	..	14.4	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	..	30.	
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			
Number of deaths	...	None	
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	Nil	

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	287	120	167
Death Rate per 1000 population ...		9.7	
Area Comparability Factor ...		1.12	
Corrected Death Rate (9.7 x 1.12)...		10.9	

POPULATION

The estimate of the Registrar General for the population was 29,700 an increase of 450 over 1958. The natural increase of population, excess of births over deaths, was 270.

BIRTH RATE

There were 557 births and although only 15 more than last year, the Birth Rate 19.0 is much higher than in the country as a whole, where this rate is 16.5.

DEATH RATE

287 people died during the year and although 24 more than in 1958, the Death Rate, 9.7 is considerably lower than the national rate 11.6.

INFANT MORTALITY

Here again the District has been fortunate, only 10 babies died under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality rate is 18.0 and compares very favourably with the rate 22.0 for England and Wales.

CANCER

Forty three persons died of cancer, seven (4 male) of these were due to cancer of the lung. The position is similar to that of last year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification :

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	1
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	24	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
20. Other heart disease	19	40
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	7

	Male	Female
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	8	8
24. Bronchitis	6	2
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	3
34. All other accidents	4	2
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total	120	167

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	17.3	16.7	17.7	18.5	19.0
Death Rate (- do -)	10.1	11.0	8.4	8.9	9.7
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year) per 1000 live births)	24.5	15.4	29.7	18.4	18.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age) per 1000 live births	22.3	8.8	23.8	12.9	16.1

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES ETC.
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>Cheltenham R.D.</u>
Live Births	16.5	17.25	19.0
Still Births (per 1000 total live & still births)	20.7	19.60	16.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 yr.) (per 1000 live births)	22.2	17.67	18.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 4 weeks)(per 1000 live births)	15.8.	11.61	16.1
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	11.6	13.61	9.7

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS

AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1959
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 year		1 - 4		5 - 14		15-24		25 & over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	5	2	3	8	-	-	-	-	8	10
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	7	116	104	116	120	1	1	1	-	238	232
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	1	1	4	6
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

	Under 5 years		5 - 14		15 - 44		45 - 64		65 & over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pneumonia	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3	2	1	3	10
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	4
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of scarlet fever continued to be slight, and the character of the disease mild.

Diphtheria

The District was free from diphtheria as it has been since 1949.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of whooping cough was exceptionally light, only 3 cases were notified. Vaccination against whooping cough is available through the Child Welfare Centres and family doctors.

Measles

In contrast an epidemic of measles occurred, 470 cases being notified but there were no deaths.

Poliomyelitis

No one suffered from acute poliomyelitis. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was available to those under 25 years of age in addition to priority groups.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning occurred, which testifies to the high standard of cleanliness amongst food handlers in the District

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation between 1945 and 1959 :-

Age at 31.12.59 i.e. born in yr:	Under 1 year						
	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954/50	1949/45	
Number immunised: 63	299	301	333	319	1648	1255	
TOTAL " "		<u>4 2 1 8</u>					

Number of children immunised in :	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Primary	672	230	401	368	317
Maintenance	465	94	319	380	324

A marked and welcome increase took place in the number of immunisations against diphtheria because although 557 children were born, no less than 672 children were immunised against diphtheria, so that considerable progress was made in overcoming the deficit of the previous year.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year :-

	Under 1 year	1.	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Vaccination	292	17	6	8	14	337
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	7	11	18

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year :-

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
31	34	42	38	29	52

As was the case in immunisation against diphtheria, so it is in Vaccination against Smallpox; 292 babies were vaccinated a higher percentage (52%) than has been previously recorded in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	0 - 4	5 - 14	
Respiratory	-	-	11
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	1
Other Forms	-	-	-

Deaths

Respiratory	...	1
Meninges & C.N.S.	...	-
Other Forms	...	1

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December 1959 was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>			<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
76	41	117	2	1	3	12	21	33	153

There were twelve new cases of tuberculosis and two deaths from the disease during the year.

Although the outlook for the patient is much more favourable nowadays because of modern therapy, people are becoming infected and fall victims of the disease. Full support is required for preventive measures, maximum use made of the Mass Radiography Service and B.C.G. Vaccination which is offered to children leaving school.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Clean Food, and Food Hygiene

Regulations 1955.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air. The Food Hygiene Regulations require that clean food should be dealt with only by clean persons in clean premises, using clean equipment.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.
Section 47 : Removal to Suitable
Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951 - Section 1.

These Acts give Local Authorities powers for the compulsory removal of aged or sick people in need of care and attention and which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

The compulsory powers had to be used to remove a middle-aged woman to hospital. She was living alone and suffering from creeping paralysis in an advanced state.

The Home Help Service continues to be of great value in rendering timely assistance to old people living alone and so enabling them to carry on.

Old People's Welfare Committee

The Council have set up an Old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate efforts on behalf of old people throughout the whole of the Rural District. This Committee has proved most useful, it meets quarterly and is attended by representatives from each parish who report on the local situation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford.

The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examinations of specimens are undertaken by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This Service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness. As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Miss Cross, the Area Home Help Organiser, reports that during the year 136 cases received assistance through the Service.

HOME HELP SERVICE (cont'd)

A number of cases have been visited but on investigation have not required the sort of help provided by this Service, their needs have been met by referral to other statutory or voluntary services.

The following table shows the type of case assisted during the year :-

	<u>Old age & Chronic Sick</u>	<u>General Sickness</u>	<u>Maternity</u>	<u>T.B.</u>
NEW CASES	22	29	60	1
OLD CASES (brought forward)	20	3		1
	—	—	—	—
	42	32	60	2
	—	—	—	—

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, Council Offices, Charlton Kings. Telephone number - Cheltenham 55746 or 53179.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council.

Information is available from the Council Offices, or the Divisional Health Office, Charlton Kings.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apperley	2nd. Wednesday & last Thursday
Ashchurch	Alternate Tuesdays
Bishop's Cleeve	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton	4th. Friday
Leckhampton	Each Friday
Prestbury	" Tuesday
The Reddings	2nd. & 4th. Thursdays
Shurdington	1st. & 3rd. Wednesday
Stanway	2nd. Friday
Swindon Village (Mobile Unit)	2nd. Tuesday
Twynning	2nd. Thursday
Winchcombe	1st. & 3rd. Tuesday
Witcombe & Bentham	1st. & 3rd. Tuesday
Gotherington (Mobile Unit)	First Wednesday

PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH UNFIT HOUSES

Housing Act, 1957.

During the year under review the Council made quite substantial progress with its programme for dealing with unfit houses in the area. The houses selected to form the FOURTH instalment comprised all the Category V dwellings in the parishes of Bishop's Cleeve, Boddington, Elmstone Hardwicke, Gotherington, Leigh, Oxenton, Prescott, Prestbury, Southam, Uckington, Woodmancote and Swindon.

The re-survey carried out in 1954/5 showed that there were 70 Category V houses in these twelve parishes. A further 16 houses had been added bringing the number to 86 dwellings, or more than double the annual target set for us by the Ministry.

But by the beginning of this year no less than 26 of these had already been dealt with in earlier years on grounds of extreme urgency and a further 26 had been so improved by the owners as to merit up-grading, leaving only 34 houses for consideration by the Council. Four more houses, three in Winchcombe and one in Coberley, were brought forward on grounds of urgency, and the four almshouses which had been excluded by the Minister from the Deerhurst No. 1 (1956) Clearance Area were represented to the Council as individual unfit houses, bringing the total programme for 1959 to 42 houses.

By the end of the year the formal procedures had been completed, including the hearing by the Council of owners' submissions. The number of housing units for displaced tenants is not likely to exceed 24.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

STANTON OPEN-AIR POOL

This is a well constructed concrete lined pool, 138 ft. by 36 ft. with a mean depth of 4 ft. and a capacity of approximately 70,000 gallons.

It is beautifully situated in a fold of the hills on the eastern outskirts of the village, and it is in regular use during the summer months not only by bathers of Stanton and the surrounding villages but also by visitors to the Gloucestershire Education Authority's Summer Youth Camp which is close by.

There are six dressing huts and a sanitary convenience for females on one side of the pool and similar provision on the other side for males. Two white painted life-buoys are prominently hung within easy reach.

The pool is maintained and administered by the Stanton Parish Council. No charge is made for admission, but there is a collection box for voluntary donations.

The water is supplied to the Parish Council by the Cheltenham Rural District Council from its public supply reservoir at a concessionary charge of 6d. per thousand gallons.

The water derives from hill springs and is of very good quality. It is treated with sulphate of ammonia and chloros to maintain the residual chlorine at a minimum of 1 part per million. The frequency of changing is determined by the prevailing weather conditions and the extent to which the pool is used. During the summer bathing season of approximately four months in the year under review, the pool was emptied and refilled eight times. After each emptying the walls and floor of the pool are scoured with stiff brooms and hosed off to remove sediment and clinging algae.

Bacteriological examinations of the water have been consistently satisfactory the last report showing -

Coliform bacilli (per 100 m.l.) - Nil
 Plate count 24 hours at 37° C. - 2

WATER SUPPLY

Part of the Rural District is within the supply areas of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporation's water undertakings.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Twenty-four samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and one sample for chemical examination; in addition fourteen bacteriological and one chemical samples were taken from private supplies.

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied direct into house</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by means of stand- pipe</u>
Alderton	155	145	-
Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston- on Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	456	415	-
Badgeworth (incl. Bentham & The Reddings)	430	363	-
Bishop's Cleeve	1128	1116	-
Boddington (incl. Haydon)	87	86	-
+ Buckland (incl. Laverton)	83	76	7
Coberley	79	27	-
+ Cowley (Birdlip public, Cowley private supply)	101	82	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley & Walton Hill)	202	133	-
+ Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne, Little Washbourne & Wormington)	176	(97 (67	-

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied direct into house</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by means of stand- pipe</u>
Elmstone Hardwicke	65	56	-
Gotherington	136	120	-
+ Great Witcombe	32	32	-
Hawling	52	39	-
Leckhampton	1037	989	-
Leigh (incl. Coombe Hill)	94	92	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	53	37	-
+ Prescott	28	23	-
Presbury	1337	1270	-
Shurdington	501	472	-
Snowhill	74	45	-
Southam	161	161	-
Stanton	94	94	-
+ Stanway	142	140	-
Staverton	114	108	-
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	146	139	-
+ Sudeley (incl. Charlton Abbotts)	43	33	-
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)	126	120	-
Teddington (incl. Alstone)	56	56	-
Toddington	119	108	-
Twynning	248	116	-
Uckington	112	108	-
Up Hatherley	50	49	-
Walton Cardiff	16	16	-
Winchcombe (incl. Gretton & Greet)	1029	1009	3
Woodmancote	318	313	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9077	8352	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

+ Private or part private piped supplies.

Report by Public Health Inspector and Surveyor
on the work of his Department for the Year 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings, unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The provision of housing accommodation, whilst it is still a very important matter, is less acute than at any time since the War ended in 1945. The building of private houses has continued throughout the year and it is possible for anyone who wishes to purchase to find suitable accommodation within a short period. The number of completed private houses was 213 in 1959 as against 250 in 1958, and the number in course of erection had fallen to 91 as against 139 as at the end of 1958.

The number of houses completed in the District totalled 236, and based on an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, this means that 826 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Alderton, Stoke Orchard and Winchcombe. 71 houses are now in course of erection at Bishops Cleeve and 8 at Winchcombe.

The list of applications for houses fluctuates in the region of 300/350.

The occupation of caravans is still a feature of the housing of people in the district and a further licensed site came into use during the year.

Temporary Housing

At the end of the year 1959 the Council still controlled accommodation on the former camp site at The Park, Stoke Orchard. The policy of the Council is to re-house the families from this site as soon as permanent houses are available and to dispose of the buildings in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Families occupying dwellings on the temporary estate:-

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
at The Park, Stoke Orchard ...	59	41

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites:-

	Year ending: <u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
No. of dwellings	59	41
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors	97	39
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff	186	130
No. of Visits	483	299

Repairs to Council Houses

Repairs to Council houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of thirteen men upon this work (not including part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out:-

	Year ending: <u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time)	1345	1448
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff (an order may contain several items)	1690	1584
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors including electricity and gas	631	1035
	-----	-----
Total	2321	2619
	-----	-----
No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally:		
a. By Contract	238	249
b. By Direct Labour	7	4
	-----	-----
	245	253
	-----	-----
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy	5	9
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted	25	40
No. of defective draining boards replaced	73	56
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	25	20
No. of defective firebaskets replaced	52	20
No. of defective firebars replaced	69	78

No. of defective sinks replaced	13	15
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	8	6
No. of W.C. pans replaced	17	22
No. of defective taps replaced	38	51
No. of defective flush boxes replaced	7	13
No. of defective chimney pots replaced	6	4
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced	11	6
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced	57	72
No. of gate posts renewed	36	38
No. of roofs repaired	120	162
No. of eaves gutters repaired	126	93
No. of visits to Council houses for various purposes	4275	4760
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense	24	34
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with	153	146

Other activities in housing

During the year under review the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses has been further accelerated and this has resulted in the removal of another 90 houses from the list of Category V dwellings scheduled for Housing Act procedure, thus more than doubling the target of 41 houses per annum set for us by the Ministry.

This FOURTH instalment consisted in the main of the twelve parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Boddington, Elmstone Hardwicke, Gotherington, Leigh, Oxenton, Prescott, Prestbury, Southam, Uckington Woodmancote, and Swindon, comprising in all 86 Category V dwellings as indicated by the 1954/5 re-survey and added since. Four additional dwellings, three in Winchcombe and one in Coberley, were brought forward and dealt with on grounds of special urgency, bringing the total programme, as already stated, to 90 dwellings. Of this number 26 had already been dealt with and a further 26 had been improved and up-graded, leaving a net number of 38 houses requiring the Council's action. To this number were added four almshouses which had been excluded by the Minister from a modified Order made in connection with the Deerhurst No. 1 (1956) Clearance Area, and because of their deteriorating condition were re-represented to the Council as individual unfit houses. The number in which the Council took Statutory action during the year was thus 42 as summarised below:-

SUMMARY

<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>
Clearance Orders	Nil
Compulsory Purchase Orders	Nil
Demolition Orders	28
Closing Orders	2
Undertakings not to use for habitation until rendered fit for that purpose	7
Undertakings to execute works to render fit for habitation	5
- 15 -	Total
	<u>42</u>

By the end of the year substantial progress had also been made with the FIFTH instalment consisting of 82 dwellings in the parishes of Buckland, Dumbleton, Snowhill, Stanway, Sudeley, Toddington and Winchcombe. All the dwellings had been inspected and reports and representations presented to the Council in respect of those which called for action under slum clearance procedure.

Housing Act 1957.

A.	(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas and unfit for human habitation	...	7
	(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas but as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1)	...	7
B.	Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1)	...	18
C.	Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied		
	(1) After informal action	...	68
	(2) After formal notice under Public Health Acts		-
	(3) After formal notice under Sections 9 & 16	...	16
D.	Unfit houses in temporary use retained under Section 17 (2)	...	-
	No. of housing inspections or re-visits	...	925

Improvement Grants

In June 1959 the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into force and under this Act further provision was made for the granting of assistance for the provision of baths, water closets, hot water supply, food storage and wash hand basins. Formerly the decision as to whether a grant shall be given was left to the discretion of the Local Authority. Under the new regulations, provided the proposed scheme is satisfactory the owner can claim the grant as a right for the provision of the five items mentioned.

There are now two types of grant - the standard grant covering the five items mentioned and the discretionary grant under which all defects are remedied in addition to the provision of the various services and amenities. The Act also removed limitations upon the proportion and amount which local authorities can lend for the acquisition and improvement of properties.

The Council also adopted a policy of modernising Council houses erected before the War so as to provide these with all the services and amenities provided for in the Act. It has always been the policy of the Council to encourage owners to modernise dwellings with the aid of improvement grants, and very satisfactory results have been obtained, particularly in those cases where a discretionary grant has been agreed.

During the year 57 applications for Discretionary Grants affecting 74 properties and 7 applications for Standard Grants affecting 8 properties were approved. The total number of cases approved since the Council became the Authority for dealing with these cases has risen to 304 cases affecting 353 properties, and the amount of grants approved totals £106,763 up to the end of 1959. The results have in all instances been very satisfactory, and there is no doubt that this scheme has not only enabled properties to be brought up to a good standard but it has been the means of retaining properties which possess features that are not present in modern houses. In addition, it has enabled accommodation to be retained and thus avoided the Council having to provide more houses for the occupants.

No. of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued:-		
a. Improvements	47	58
b. Conversions	4	16
No. of inspections regarding Improvement Grants	393	435

Building Byelaws

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws is as follows:-

New houses completed:	<u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
Council houses	105	17
Dowty Housing Association	7	-
Private Enterprise	250	213
Gloucestershire County Council	5	6
	-----	-----
Total ...	367	236
	-----	-----
No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted ...	2	5
No. of houses in course of erection at:	<u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
Council	17	79
Private Enterprise	139	91
	-----	-----
Total ...	156	170
	-----	-----
Total number of plans received and considered	493	489
No. of plans resubmitted	60	65
Total considered by Committee	553	554
Total number of plans approved -permanent	527	518
Total number of plans approved -temporary	3	3
Total number of plans disapproved	23	33
Temporary approvals renewed	19	19
Plans declared of no effect	-	59
Temporary buildings removed	4	2
No. of informal notices sent	10	11
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Officer	272	340
No. of visits to properties and sites	2643	2251

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958 (as amended) and in such cases more frequent inspections are made and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfections, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year:-

	Year ending: <u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered	138	82
Nuisances abated	101	73
Complaints not justified	10	9
Informal notices sent	61	30
Statutory Notices served	7	1
No. of premises disinfested	10	19
No. of visits in connection with the above items	631	373
No. of new drainage systems installed	102	78
Visits to new drainage systems	286	296
No. of visits to public conveniences	124	96
Infectious disease visits	19	39
No. of visits in connection with street numbering	67	93

Inspection of Foods

The following foodstuffs have been condemned:-

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Canned Fish			22	0½
Canned meat	1	3	23	12
Canned soup			21	0½
Canned tomatoes		1	1	12
Canned fruit	3	1	23	7
Canned vegetables	1	1	9	4
Canned preserves		3	3	8
Sauces				13
Beverages			3	1
<hr/>				
Total ...	8	0	24	10

Fruit juice 37 pints
Tinned milk 95 pints

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

	Cattle Cows excluding cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	230	-	9	1131	231
Number inspected	230	-	9	1131	231
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	-	4	61	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	11.3%	-	11.1%	5.57%	3.46%

	Cattle Cows excluding cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>					
Total amount of meat condemned =	cwt. 6	qrs. 2	lbs. 9		

Methods of Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is disposed of as follows:-

- a. By burial in lime.
- b. In suitable cases by disposal to knackers' yards by arrangement with the adjoining Public Health Authority.

No. of Special Examinations of a Stock or Consignment of food - None.
No. of visits to Slaughterhouse - 157.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections are carried out periodically at food premises and no prosecutions were made.

The number of food premises in the District is as follows:-

Bakers	8
Butchers	11
Cafes	12
Confectioners	3
Fishmongers	1
General Stores	42
Greengrocers	7
Grocers	9
Sweet Retailers	2
Hotels	10
Public Houses	44
Factory Canteens	5
Clubs	9

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Section 16 (1))

No. of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream	...	...	85
No. of applications considered and licences issued during the year	...	...	8
No. of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods intended for sale	...	...	4

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959

No. of dairies registered	...	...	9
No. of Dealers licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	6
(b) Pasteurised	...	...	4
No. of Supplementary Licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	9
(b) Pasteurised	...	...	11

Total No. of visits in connection with the Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	157

Tents, Vans and Sheds

During the year the Council issued a further site licence for 25 caravans and this was subject to the surrender of a licence to station 20 caravans on an adjoining field. From the figures it will be noted that there was a slight increase in the number of individual caravans.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year:-

	Year ending: 31.12.58.	31.12.59.
No. of new applications for licences received	60	39
No. of new applications approved	56	33
No. of new applications disapproved	4	6
No. of previous licences renewed	61	93
No. of visits to sites	372	357
No. of informal notices served	9	5

Factories Act 1937: 1959.

No. of visits to factories	112	184
No. of informal notices sent	4	7

See also additional information annexed to this report.

Sewage Disposal

During the year two major schemes for providing sewers and sewage disposal works were undertaken. At the Reddings the sewers were extended to serve this area whilst at Gotherington and Woolstone work of providing sewers and a sewage disposal works was well advanced.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government also conducted enquiries into the need for sewerage schemes to deal with the village of Swindon and the hamlet of Aston Cross.

Negotiations were also opened with the War Department for the acquisition of the sewage disposal works constructed by the Department. By agreement the sewage from the Northway Housing site is also treated at these works and the sewage from the Aston Cross area will also be pumped to this site for treatment.

The Council agreed that sewers and sewage disposal works shall also be provided for Dumbleton and Laverton, and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to commence preparing these schemes.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works and 31 samples were submitted for analysis.

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. - 1767.

Water Supplies

The number of new connections made to the mains during the year totalled 400, and of these 237 connections were made to the Council's mains, 159 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains and 4 to the Gloucester City mains.

No. of visits to supplies, mains, etc. - 291.

The total length of cast iron and asbestos distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2-9 inches is approximately 108 miles. In addition there are approximately 11½ miles of galvanised, copper and asbestos pipes of between ¾" and 2" diameter and 21½ miles of supply and pumping mains from 3 to 6 inches in diameter.

Refuse and Salvage

Built up areas receive two collections and the remainder of the district one collection approximately every fortnight. This arrangement is satisfactory and has overcome previous difficulties which had been encountered especially at holiday times.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowhill, Winchcombe, Prestbury and Twynning.

No. of visits to tips etc. ... 336

Vehicles: 3 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu. yd. fore and aft tippers.

1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu. yd. (January to November)

1 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu. yd. (November to December on loan)

Year ending:	<u>31.12.57.</u>	<u>31.12.58.</u>	<u>31.12.59.</u>
No. of dwellings	8714	9068	9077
Quantity of Refuse collected (approx. cu.yds.)	34000	34500	35500
Distance travelled by vehicles (miles)	35731	35899	35807

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No. of informal notices served	...	3
No. of visits	...	162

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936.

No. of informal notices served	...	4
No. of licences issued to store petroleum		94
No. of visits	...	141

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The visits and treatments made during the year by the Pest Operator are as follows:-

	<u>No. of premises treated.</u>	<u>No. of visits</u>	<u>No. of premises inspected (incl. clearing of the baits)</u>
Cheltenham R.D.C. premises	124	362	74
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District	383	1071	457
	-----	-----	-----
	507	1433	531
	-----	-----	-----

Total number of complaints received and visited: 75

No. of visits by other members of the staff: 97

Treatment of Sewers

During the months of May and June the sewers at Ashchurch, Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Prestbury, Shurdington and Winchcombe were treated; of 78 manholes baited 23 were found infested, the majority being at Prestbury. These infested manholes, together with adjoining ones, were treated again during November, and takes were recorded at 6 manholes.

Additional test baiting was also undertaken in November and no takes were recorded.

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

This is another heading under which there is considerable activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

During the year advances were made in 20 cases, these totalling £23,610; the total advances to the end of 1959 was 261, the amount loaned being £370,754. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association and the Dowty Housing Association.

SUMMARY

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites, etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water supplies, or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage Schemes, is as follows:-

For the year:	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Temporary housing	522	483	299
Council House repairs	3761	4275	4760
Housing Act inspections	901	943	925
Improvement Grants	552	393	435
Building Byelaws	3193	2643	2251
<u>Public Health</u>			
Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.	373	631	373
New drainage systems	260	286	296
Public Conveniences	95	124	96
Infectious diseases	21	19	39
Street Numbering	130	67	93
Slaughterhouse	-	-	157
Food and Drugs Acts	244	317	157
Tents, vans and sheds etc.	366	372	357
Factories and Workshops Act	108	112	184
Sewage Disposal Works etc.	1472	1368	1767
Water Supplies	152	282	291
Refuse and Salvage	340	420	336
Public Rights of Way	66	132	162
Petroleum Act 1928.	130	136	141
Pest Destruction	1787	1655	2061
Miscellaneous Visits	284	292	219
Attendance at Meetings	94	95	98
	-----	-----	-----
	14851	15045	15497
	-----	-----	-----

No. of communications despatched from the office during the year 4462

As will be seen from the above, the year has again been one of increased activity, and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

APPENDIX

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1959 for the Rural District
of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucestershire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	52	24	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	84	160	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total....	136	184	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

No defects were found under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary conveniences(S7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work.)	4	-	-	-	-
Total	7	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110		Section 111			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (making etc., cleaning and washing)	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total...	3	-	-	-	-	-