1955

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BOROUGH

OF

CHIPPENHAM

1955

BOROUGH OF

C H I P P E N H A M

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S E N I O R S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne & Malmesbury and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

S.F. French, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

R.P. Pengelly, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

(c) The Committee of the Borough Council dealing directly with Public Health matters is:-

The Public Health & Highways Committee.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

Vital Statistics and the incidence of Infectious Disease, with comments thereon, will be found in subsequent pages of this report.

The health of the community was satisfactory during the year. Large quantities of meat and meat products are produced within the Borough, and it is gratifying to note no cases of food poisoning have been attributed thereto during the year under review.

The following notes on general health with present tendencies will be of interest to the Council.

The principal causes of adult mortality are vascular lesions of the nervous system, coronary disease and cancer. Lung cancer, especially in the male, has occasioned much investigation and comment in both the medical and national press.

The death rate of infants under one year has been nearly halved in less than 20 years. Further reduction will require extensive investigation into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations.

The population is growing more elderly, due principally to the increase in the proportion of those aged 65 years and over. Elderly women are substantially more numerous than men.

Immunisation against the major infectious diseases still requires emphasis. The Minister of Health, in his report for the year 1954 states that only 34.5% of live births are vaccinated against Smallpox. Modern technique in the control of smallpox relies on early diagnosis and isolation, combined with vaccination of all persons known to be contacts. Present day air travel brings the population into close temporal relationship with parts of the world in which smallpox is still endemic. For adequate protection of the population, at least 75% of infants should be vaccinated.

The decreasing incidence and low mortality of Diphtheria should not be viewed with complacency. The only safeguard against a return of Diphtheria is the maintenance of a high level of immunisation.

The severity of measles has declined in recent years. The early infectiousness makes application of preventive measures practically useless. The complications of measles may be dangerous, especially in early life.

Although the number of notified cases of Bacillary Dysentery tends to increase in England & Wales, the severity of the disease os fortunately not great. Infection is rarely conveyed by food, direct or indirect personal contact is mainly responsible. Three quarters of notifications relate to children under 15 years of age; those of 4 and under are especially liable to infection.

Like other communicable infections of the intestinal tract, Dysentery has an undergorund organisation of symptomless excreters only discovered during the bacteriological investigation of an outbreak. Prevention is simple, cleanliness of body and clothing, scrupulous person hygiene and above all washing of hands after a visit to the toilet.

The made up meat dish is the principal cause of food poisoning, due to the usual lapse of time between its preparation and eventual consumption. Prompt attention to minor injuries and infections on the hands of food handlers and strict attention to their cleanliness will prevent most outbreaks.

During the last six years, the mortality from Tuberculosis has fallen by 64%; nevertheless the decline in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has not been so great. Tuberculosis is still a serious problem, as more cases come to be known and more patients, due to improved methods of treatment, survive to constitute a reservoir and a source of infection.

Whooping Cough principally affects children under school age when it can be a dangerous disease. Girls are more commonly affected than boys.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has commenced during the preparation of this report and it is hoped that this preventive measure will become a regular feature in future.

There is a tendency for accidents in the home to increase. Most fatal accidents occur at the two extremes of life; 73% are at the ages 65 and over.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that three sessions, at which 538 donors attended, were held in the Borough during 1955. Although these results are excellent, the need for blood continues to increase. During the year, the use of blood increased by 2000 in S.W. England. Recent work on the treatment of severe post-partum haemorrhage by massive transfusion is likely to call for further increases. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.

The positive good health enjoyed by the population nowadays is taken for granted, and it is not sufficiently realised that this is in part due to the health legislation of the last hundred years. During this period, the population has almost doubled and the more serious infectious diseases have become practically non existent. Nevertheless it should be appreciated that a healthy environment for all classes of the community can only be maintained and improved by constant vigilance.

I am grateful to Mr. French and the Staff of the Council for their assistance in the preparation of this report and their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (In acres) . . . . . .1,843.

Population . . . . . .15,140.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955 according to the Rate Book) . . . 4,615.

Rateable Value . . . . . £110,034.

Sum represented by Penny Rate . . . . . £424 (Estd)

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	116	103	219
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Total:	122	107	229

Birth Rate for the Borough. . . . . 15.1 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . . 15.0 per 1000 of the population.

The Birth Rate for 1955 shows only a minimal increase as compared with the rate for 1954 when it was 15.05 per 1000 of the population. The comparative rate for England & Wales is slightly lower than the rate given for 1954 which was 15.2 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS.

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
TOTAL:-	3	2	5

Rate per 1000 of the population 33

Rate per 1000 total live & still births . . . . .21.4.

DEATHS.

Male	Female	Total.
101	112	213

Death Rate for the Borough . . . . . .14.0 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . .11.7 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate for the Borough for 1955 is slightly lower than the rate expressed for 1954 when it was 14.7 per 1000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	5	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	11	25
Coronary disease angina	21	11	32
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	11	32	43
Other circulatory disease	7	6	13
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis & nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	22	32
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide & operations of war.	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:-	101	112	213.

Cancer, Heart Disease and Coronary disease collectively accounted for 50% of the deaths recorded in the Borough during 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	3	2	5

Infant Mortality Rate:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births. . . .21.8

Comparative rate for England & Wales 24.9

Table "B"

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illigitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	2	1	3

The figures shown in Table "B" have already been included in Table "A" above. Three of the total of five infant deaths recorded, occurred during the first month of life.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1955 as compared with the previous years since 1950:-

	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
DISEASE.												
Scarlet Fever	17	17	26	25	14	15	19	19	11	11	13	13
Whooping Cough	22	22	47	47	2	2	48	48	7	7	28	28
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Measles	87	87	188	188	6	6	198	198	1	1	304	304
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	8	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	29	29	31	31	21	21	20	20
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	5	-
Erysipelas	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	7	7	2	2	4	4	2	2	5	5	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	141	136	277	270	60	59	303	301	50	49	371	366

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

The numerical increase in the number of cases notified during 1955 as compared with the previous year was due principally to an outbreak of measles.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of Infantile Paralysis, Diphtheria or Food Poisoning were confirmed during the year.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia continue to figure prominently in these statistics. This is due in part to the definition of this disease given in the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951which is not necessarily indicative of true Puerperal Sepsis

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year are shown in the following table with comparative figures for previous years.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	12	1	13
1949	10	3	13
1950	6	2	8
1951	6	1	7
1952	10	3	13
1953	5	1	6
1954	7	1	8
1955	4	2	6

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955 ACCORDING TO AGE & SEX.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5				1				
15		1						
25		1						
35				1				
45	1	1						
55					1			
65 upwards.								
TOTALS:-	1	3		2	1	-	-	-

The above table of new cases occurring during the year under review does not, of course, represent the total number of tuberculous patients living in the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the town or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified cases were resident in the area at the end of 1955.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	44	30	74
Non-Pulmonary	7	19	26
TOTAL:	51	49	100

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

During January, the Mobile X-Ray Unit visited the Borough. A total of 1576 examinations were carried out (including school children), with the following results:-

Active Tuberculosis found . . . . . NIL
Inactive Tuberculosis found 9
Other conditions, except tuberculosis 10.

It is hoped to arrange a further survey during 1956.

LEGISLATION.

During 1955 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important being the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. The former was laid before Parliament on the 21st. December, 1955 and came into operation on the 1st. January, 1956.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

The Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas)(No.2) Order, 1955.

The Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 replace Sec. 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles etc. where food is handled.

The regulations lay down requirements regarding the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing.

Persons suffering from or being carriers of certain infections will receive special supervision from the Public Health Department.

The administration of this particular legislation will entail increased sanitary supervision.

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

During the year it was found necessary to effect the compulsory removal of one aged female person to hospital under the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act,1951. Statutory action was only taken after every attempt to persuade the person to enter hospital had failed. One aged male person was also compulsorily removed to hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1955.

Under 1 year	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-14	TOTAL
114	97	24	235

Total immunised child population as at 31.XII.55.

Ages 0-4	Ages 5-14	Total
621	2470	3091

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1955.

Under 1 year	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-15 & over.	TOTAL
134	6	22	162

The following information on Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal and the collection and disposal of refuse has been supplied to me by the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.

WATER SUPPLIES - PRESENT POSITION.

The Council's water undertaking has produced as average of 2,455,000 gallons per day during the year. This output is within the possible yield of the borehole sources at Westmead and Ivyfields, Chippenham.

The quantity and quality has been satisfactory. Precautionary chlorination of .2 parts per million continues to be carried out at the Council's Pumping Stations.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

During 1955 the distribution of the average daily output of the Undertaking may be approximately allocated as follows:-

	Thousands of gallons per day.
Bulk supplies to the Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.	725
Bulk supplies to Bradford & Melksham R.D.C.	55
Bulk supplies to Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board	165
Bulk supplies to Government Establishments in Hawthorn	215
Local Industrial Supplies	480
Chippenham area of supply	815
	2,455

Samples of raw water from each of the sources in use, and from points of supply to consumers, are regularly examined to maintain supervision of the purity of the water. With few exceptions of slight contamination, the examinations have proved consistently satisfactory.

During 1955 the new bulk supply to the Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council's Eastern area supply scheme has been put on a permanent basis for which the Corporation have installed additional machinery to pump water to the new reservoir at Bowden.

The Corporation have received a report discussing the results of the yield of sources tests carried out in 1954 with a programme of development directed to achieve full production of the Undertaking in 1970. This report has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and its immediate proposals have been approved in principle.

The two first stages of the development programme are being prepared for engineering contracts and a new bore-hole pump of a capacity of 150,000 gallons per hour has been installed at Ivyfields Station.

Future Schemes.

Futute development of the Waterworks is planned to be undertaken in stages as demand for water justifies in accordance with the report mentioned above.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection in the Borough continues to be carried out by 2 vehicles, a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collecting Machine and a covered Refuse Collecting Vehicle. The collection of house refuse is carried out weekly and trade refuse from business premises is also collected weekly. Additional collections are made at premises where food is being handled, such as cafes, food shops etc. This work is continually being revised and re-routed in order to deal with additional houses which have been erected in the Borough.

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites. The Cuttings, Bath Road and the dis-used river bed at Westmead. The latter site is used for summer tipping and the former during winter months.

The Corporation have recently acquired a crawler tractor bulldozer and scraper to handle refuse at the disposal tip. This equipment also cuts, spreads and consolidates the material with which the refuse is covered.

Nuisances continue to be controlled by covering the refuse with soil and used moulding sand from the local industrial works, and by the use of tip dressings and the frequent eradication of rats, in which work the assistance of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is acknowledged.

Salvage and Kitchen Waste.

The Corporation's experimental collection of kitchen waste by individual bins supplied to householders was successful but as The National By-Products Company were unable to receive this material, this service has been ended. The Corporation has not called for the return of the bins as they continue to be used for private collectors of kitchen waste.

Sewage Disposal.

The Ministry of Housing & Local Government have agreed to the Corporation obtaining reports and schemes for the extensions of the Westmead Sewage Works, which has become overloaded by increases in the population and trade effluents from industries. The schemes will be prepared as soon as possible. In the meantime everything possible is being done with the present plant to avoid excessive pollution of the River Avon.

Sewers.

During 1955, the Surface Water Drainage Scheme for the North Eastern area of the Borough was completed and has already received the flooding which occurred regularly before this work was carried out. Up to the time of writing two severe storms of rainfall intensities of over ¾" per hour have been successfully drained by this scheme.

The soil and surface water sewers of the Borough have been extended to drain new building estates. The Corporation continue to follow the policy of obtaining separate drainage of sewage and surface water.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories reported on a sample of water received by them pn the 19th. March as follows:-

"Labelled : Filter Weir Chamber, No. 5 Borehole,Ivyfields.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance since it carries only a few particles of mineral matter in suspension.

The water is on the alkaline side of neutrality, very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is free from iron and other metals. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

CHIPPENHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE.

This Committee came into being at the latter end of 1954 with the object of promoting and assisting in the general good of all old people in the Borough of Chippenham. The Borough Council is represented on the Committee by the Mayor and Mayoress for the time being and by two members of the Council appointed from year to year. In addition some twenty Statutory or Voluntary organisations appoint representatives to serve on the Committee.

During the year under review progress has been made with several projects; others have not been so successful but good work continues to be done by various organisations. The Committee have been particularly concerned with the following:-

VISITING SERVICE

A list was compiled of those persons over 60 years of age who are living alone and the Committee has organised a visiting service. Different organisations have accepted responsibility for various streets and in this way it has been found possible to cover the town. From reports received it appears that a worthwhile service is being rendered.

BOARDING OUT AND NIGHT ATTENDANCE.

No real progress has been made with either of the above schemes. After a request from the Wiltshire Council for the Care of the Elderly to organise a "Boarding Out" scheme, press publicity was given to the matter but there was no response. Similarly with "Night Attendance", although it is considered that such a service would be useful, no names of suitably qualified persons willing to assist with this service were received.

VETERANS' CLUBS.

The Clubs in the town continue to be very active; they maintain contact with hospital and house-bound cases, arrange some home-help and generally do an immense amount of good work. Their members meet regularly each week for tea and entertainment. During the year the Committee have made grants to cover the cost of the hire of premises for Club activities.

WORKSHOP FACILITIES FOR THE AGED.

A start has been made towards the equipping of a room at the Community Centre where it is hoped workshop facilities will beavailable for every aged person in Chippenham.

FINANCE.

The Committee is indebted both to the Local Council and to other bodies for grants made during the year.

In conclusion it may be safely said that the main object of the Committee, that of "promoting and assisting the general good of all old people in the Borough of Chippenham" is being pursued in as vigorous and as practicable a manner as possible.

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

To :- The Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Chippenham Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work carried out in my Department during the year 1955.

The tables and particulars conform to the Ministry's Regulations and requirements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. FRENCH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

825 inspections were made of 355 premises in connection with Housing and Nuisances, and as a result 142 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances and housing repairs. 5 Statutory Notices were served and complied with.

Of the many complaints received some were trivial and proved a waste of inspectors' time. On the other hand, it is felt that members of the public fail to realise the help that can be given in overcoming nuisances they have suffered for weeks and even months, although if complainants would first approach the person responsible, much of the Sanitary Inspectors' time would undoubtedly be saved.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1955.

1. Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.

(a)	By Local Authority -	20
(b)	By Private Enterprise -	52

2. Inspection of Dwellings during the year.

(i)	Inspected for housing defects under P.H.Acts.	40
(ii)	" " " " " Housing "	212
(iii)	Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	20
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	106

3. Remedy of Defects by Informal Action.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	92

4. Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health & Housing Acts)

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act 1936.

(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	NONE
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By Owners	NONE
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	NONE

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	5
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By Owners	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	NONE

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1955 (Continued)

C. Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act 1936

(i) Number of Demolition Orders made	7
(ii) Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	1
(iii) Number of undertakings accepted	1
(iv) Number of undertakings completed	0

D. Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 Housing Act 1936

(i) Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	NONE
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	NONE

E. Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936.

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	NONE
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as result of premises having been made fit	NONE

5. Housing Act, 1936 Part IV - Overcrowding

(i) Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	14
(ii) Number of cases discovered during year	0
(iii) Number of cases abated during year	4

We are fortunate in this area in that overcrowding does not cause us serious concern. Our records show no case of overcrowding in non-Council houses.

A survey was made during the year in order to draw up a slum clearance programme. This programme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and should be completed within the next 8 years.

Two applications only were received under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 for Certificates of Disrepair. In one case the Council refused to issue the Certificate and in the other, although the Certificate was issued, the applicant acquired the property.

The number of applications for Certificates has not been as great as expected. I think it is fair to say that House Agents generally are advising clients against the demand for increased rents.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The following sites were used during the year :-

Foghamshire	3
Bath Road	2
Saltersford	3
Burlands Road	1
Derriads Lane	3
Patterdown	1
Hardenhuish Lane	1
Council's Sites :	
Greenway Lane	4
Bath Road	4

Frequent inspections are made of these sites, which, generally speaking, are well maintained.

All the above caravans are used as dwelling-houses.

The problem of the use of unsuitable sites in this area is a small one in comparison with other places.

The Council have provided a further site for 4 caravans at Bath Road during the year and it is proposed to enlarge this to take 8 caravans during 1956.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

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

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of Inspns.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	7	2	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7.is enforced by the Local Authority	66	18	9	-
3. Other Premises in which Sec.7.is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers'premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	88	25	11	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	To HM Inspr.	By HM Inspr.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (SI)	9	9	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
SanitaryConveniences (S7)					
(a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating toOutwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	11	11	-	1	-

Informal action was taken regarding the emission of smoke and/or grit from the chimneys of four factories. As a result, in one case, a new dust extractor plant was installed in a foundry, and in the case of a laundry, oil burning equipment was installed.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection was carried out in 23 homes and one hospital (9 occasions) after infectious diseases. Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam or destroyed when this is considered necessary. No charge is made for fumigation or steam disinfection when this is done because of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Some cases of verminous infestations were dealt with by the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane Insecticides.

RODENT CONTROL

The methods used have, on the whole, become standardised throughout the country, and are as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Warfarin, A.N.T.U., and Red Squill.

The sewers, brooks and sewage outfall works are now treated as a routine measure twice yearly, the refuse tip is closely watched and treated as often as may be necessary.

The following details are in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authy.	Dwelling Houses (inc.Cncl. Houses.)	All Other (inc. Business Premises	Total of Cols.1. 2 & 3.	Agric-ultural
1.Number of properties in L.A's Dist.(Notes 1 and 2)	14	4603	603	5220	4
2.Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a)Notification	-	21	16	37	-
(b)Survey under the Act	5	34	3	42	2
(c)Otherwise	-	192	137	329	-
3.Total inspections carried out-incl. re-inspections	34	283	196	513	6
4.Number of properties inspected(in Sec.2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a)Rats(Major.	1	-	-	1	-
(Minor.	5	34	13	52	2
(b)Mice(Major.	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor.	-	3	7	10	-
5.Number of infested properties(in Sec. 4)treated by the LA.	6	33	15	54	2
5.Total Treatments carried out incl. re-treatments	10	34	24	68	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Both Bacon Factories continued to maintain the heavy slaughtering of the last few years. The Wiltshire Bacon Company, during the year, slaughtered some 75,073 pigs on their premises. Messrs.Spear Bros.& Clark killed 8730.

A system of detention is operated at the bacon factory slaughterhouses. Factory operatives examine the pigs during the course of slaughter, incising the head and offal glands. Animals which show any disease or abnormalities in carcase or organs are detained and brought to the attention of the meat inspector while he is engaged on routine meat inspection. This system of detention is the best that can be adopted under the circumstances, obviates a full-time meat inspector and is working well in practice.

The arrangement made in the previous year with the Chippenham Butchers' Association for the use of two slaughterhouses continued during 1955. It will be remembered the Council took over the leases and let the premises to the local butchers.

Although the slaughterhouses are old and badly designed for the purpose, the standard of hygiene maintained was very good and the animals were killed in a humane manner.

One hundred per cent meat inspection was carried out.

There has been a noticeable improvement during the past two years in the quality of the animals killed at the slaughterhouses.

The vehicles used for the transport of meat in this area have been maintained in fair condition.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1955.

	Cattle exclg. cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep, Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed (if known)	760	136	32	1924	84860
Number inspected	760	136	32	1924	84860
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	66
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	105	30	-	56	3523
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.8	2.2	-	2.9	4.2
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	3	-	-	-	44
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	12	-	-	3420
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.7	8.8	-	-	4.0
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	3	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED (HOME KILLED) DURING 1955.

BOVINE.	T.	C.	Q.	Lb.
4 Carcases	1	2	3	1
8 Forequarters		10	2	18
41 Heads		11	2	22
107 Livers plus 46 Pt.Livers.		13	2	8
37 Plucks		4	3	23
15 Skirts			1	7
Meat		5	1	2
Other Offal.		4	3	24
PIGS				
128Carcases	5	19	1	5
2047 Heads	12	8	0	14
Meat	3	2	0	4
Other Offal	24	12	0	23
SHEEP				
Offal			1	27
CALVES.	-	-	-	-

TOTAL: 49 tons 16 cwts. 1 qr. 10 lbs.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Routine examination of beef carcases and organs is carried out to detect the parasite of Cysticercus Bovis as required by the Ministry of Food. Cysticercus Bovis is the cystic stage of taenia saginata, the tapeworm of man. During the year 14 cases were found, the cysts being located in the head in 7 cases and in the heart in 7 cases. Where infestation is localised, the part of the carcase or the organ affected is rejected as unfit for human consumption; the remainder of the carcase is placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20°F for a period of three weeks, and then released for human consumption. Failing refrigeration, the entire carcase and offal is rejected.

Method of disposal of condemned food.

All carcases and offals found at the Bacon Factories and Slaughterhouses to be unfit for human consumption are mutilated and dyed prior to disposal for processing. Other foodstuffs are collected and disposed of on Council's Refuse Tip.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.

MEAT	FRUIT
140 lbs tinned luncheon meat	231 tins fruit
16 lbs tinned veal	
86 lbs tinned ham	VEGETABLES.
58 lbs beef	
40 lbs pork	392 tins vegetables
14 tins various meats	

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS (Contd:)

MILK.

64 tins milk

CHEESE

10 lbs cheese (New Zealand)
32 Pkts.Cheese-spread.

FISH

14 lbs. cod roe
64 tins fish

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.

20 tins Soup
2 tins Puddings
1 tin Nescafe
7 lbs Sultans Cake
2 Jars Tomato Paste.

FOOD HYGIENE

411 inspections were made of premises preparing and retailing foodstuffs. Matters dealt with included provision of washing facilities, cleanliness of premises, utensils etc., and the hygienic wrapping of foodstuffs. Constant supervision is exercised over the stalls retailing foodstuffs in the weekly Market.

Progress in maintaining improvements in food premises in the district was satisfactory during 1955. No formal action was required under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, and occupiers of shop premises willingly co-operated following inspection and advice. It is beginning to be realised that good food hygiene is also good business.

The country is experiencing a decided move towards the use of frozen foods. Immense studies have been made by the frozen-foods industry, leading to improved quality; methods of treatment which preserves the freshness of foods; handier and more attractive packaging and a more varied range of foods - all designed to save trouble for the housewife.

Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act 1938.Sec.14.

Preparation or manufacture of sausages potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.	20
Manufacture and sale of Ice-cream (only one manufactured during the year)	5
Sale of ice-cream	44

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of registered dairies		7
Number of Registered Distributors	8	
Number of Registered Distributors with premises outside the Borough	1	9
Number of "T.T."Dealers' Licences		6
Number of "T.T."Supplementary Dealers' Licences		1
Number of Pasteurised Dealers' Licences		5
Number of Pasteurisation Plants		2
Number of "T.T." samples examined(Methylene Blue)		167
Number of Biological samples examined		60
Number of inspections made during the year		83

MILK AND DAIRIES (Contd:)

Of the 167 samples of T.T.milks taken, 13 failed the standard required by the Milk(Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/50. Failures were notified to the County Milk Regulations Officer in order that investigations could be made on the producers' premises by the Milk Production Advisory Officers. Of the 60 samples taken for biological tests, the reports showed "T.B.not present" in every case.

As a check on the efficiency of milk bottle cleansing 10 sets were submitted for bacteriological examination. One of these was found to be unsatisfactory which necessitated follow-up procedure, with an improvement in results.

The Borough was included in a Specified Areas Order on the 6th. December 1955. All milk sold by retail after this date must be "specially designated" milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised, or tuberculin tested milk).

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale (only one manufactured during the year)	5
Number of premises registered for sale only	44
Premises from which ice-cream is sold but exempt from registration	3
Inspection of premises	115
Number of samples	97

Of the 97 samples taken, 84 were placed in Grades 1 & 2.

The Ministry advise that "if ice-cream consistently fails to reach grades 1 and 2, it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or of handling, which call for further investigation." The thirteen which failed to reach these grades were manufactured outside the area. The local authority concerned was, therefore, notified of these results.