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BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



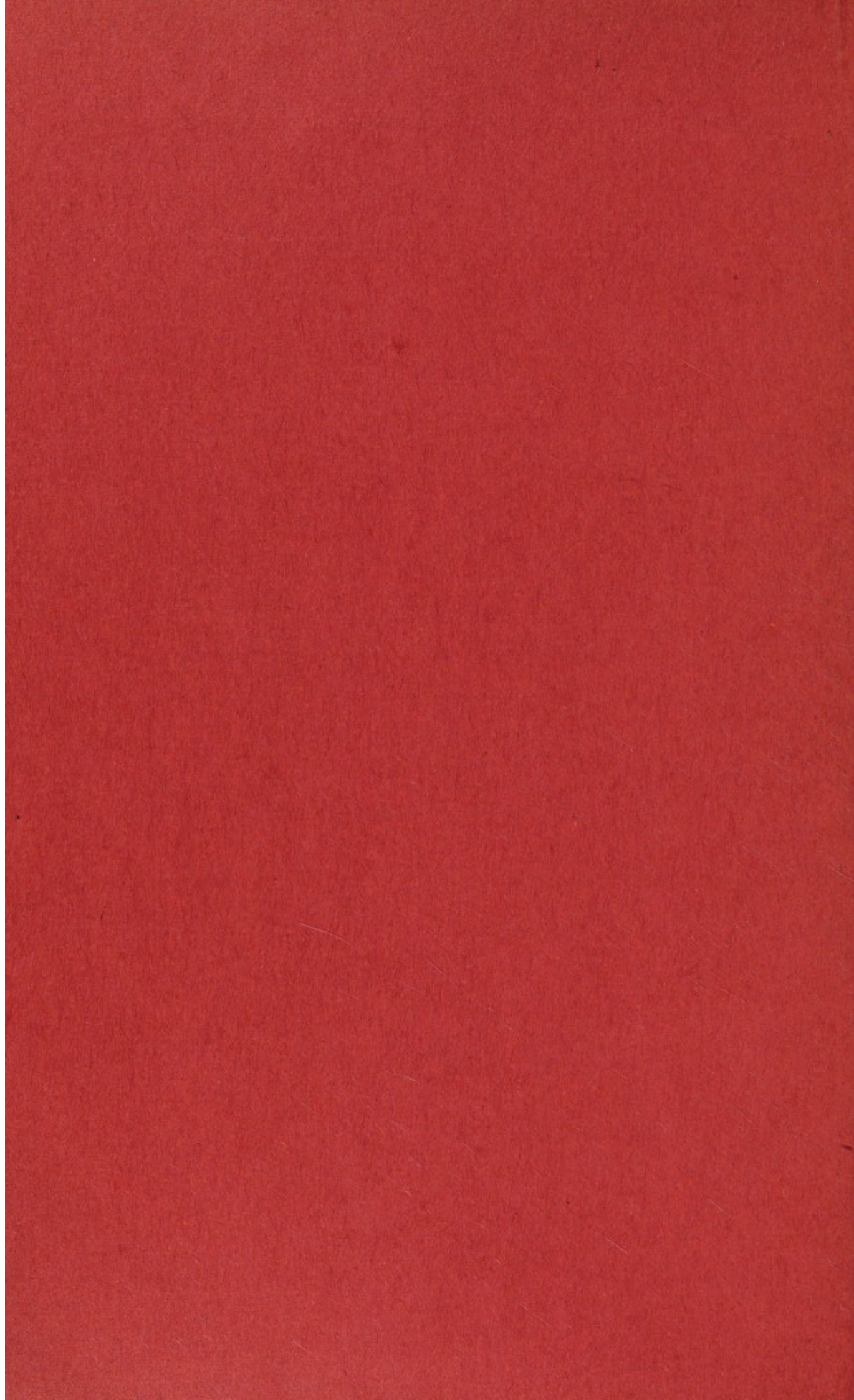
ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

**Public Health Services
1955**

A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

W. A. SHARP, M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector



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Senior Clerk :

MR. A. G. HALL.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of High Wycombe

I submit my twelfth Annual Report on the Borough Health Services.

In 1955 the total number of live births and the birth rate per thousand population were both greater than in 1954. The former figure rose from 675 to 694 and the latter from 16.0 to 16.2.

The still birth rate, expressed per thousand births (live and still) rose from 16.3 to 23.9. The still birth rate, however, should always be considered in conjunction with the neo-natal death rate, as it is often fortuitous whether death occurs before or after the milestone of delivery. If these two figures are calculated together the rate per thousand births (live and still)—which has been well termed the peri-natal death rate—is 32.3 for 1955 and 32.0 for 1954—a difference of no statistical significance. Only eight infants under the age of a year died in 1955. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 11.5 per thousand live births and is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. It is noteworthy that the corresponding average figure for the years 1901–1905 inclusive was 125.3 per thousand. To put it briefly, at the turn of the century in High Wycombe one child in eight died before reaching the age of one year, whereas in 1955 only one infant in ninety so died.

The death rate rose from 8.6 to 9.2 per thousand population, there being 393 deaths in the Borough during the year, 29 more than in 1954. Disease of the heart and circulation was again the leading cause of death. Tuberculosis, however, caused only two fatalities, the lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough. The downward trend of the tuberculosis death rate is in part due to more effective treatment and in part to more efficient diagnosis of the condition, enabling treatment to be started before there is irreparable damage to the lung.

There was a widespread epidemic of measles in the early months of the year and a total of 527 cases was notified. Not one of these was fatal. This high incidence was not altogether unexpected as this disease is noted for the occurrence of large outbreaks at intervals of approximately two years. A study of the figures in previous years confirms this. In 1951 there were 514 cases, in 1952 only 34. The number of notifications rose again in 1953 to 337, fell to 27 in 1954, and rose again in 1955 to the number already given.

Although measles was the only disease to assume epidemic proportions there was an increase in the notifications of poliomyelitis from 1 to 9, 7 cases being paralytic and 2 non-paralytic. This is the greatest number ever to be notified in the town, the previous highest being 8 cases in 1953. Fortunately no case was fatal.

For the ninth successive year no case of diphtheria was notified. In the country as a whole there are less than a dozen fatal cases a year compared with a yearly average of three thousand before the war. This happy position can be maintained only by immunisation and re-immunisation of the child population.

To the Council, Chief Officials and to my staff I express my thanks for their assistance and encouragement which has contributed so much to the smooth running of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. MUIR,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HEALTH CENTRE,
HIGH WYCOMBE,
September, 1956.

SECTION I

Statistics :

Area	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	42,800
Number of dwelling-houses	12,650
Rateable value as at 1/4/55	£384,909
Product of a Penny Rate (Actual 1954/55)	£1,530 0s. 0d.

Rainfall :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	24.14 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	25.01 ins.

Summary of Vital Statistics :

Live Births :	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	665	344	321	
Illegitimate	29	18	11	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Total Births	694	362	332	—16.2
Still Births	17	9	8	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—23.9
Deaths	393	191	202	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —9.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :

Total number of deaths	8
Death rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	11.5
Number of legitimate infant deaths	8
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.16
No. of illegitimate infant deaths	Nil
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Neo-natal death rate :

Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (4 Males, 2 Females)	6
Rate per 1,000 live births	8.6

Deaths (all ages) :

Deaths from Cancer	67
Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4
Total Tuberculosis Deaths (all cases)	2
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	0.04
Total Deaths—Respiratory Tuberculosis	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.04
Total Deaths—Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	Nil
Total Deaths—Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis)	39
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0.91

Infantile Mortality :

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England & Wales for the last ten years :—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England & Wales	43	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9
High Wycombe	14.9	28.05	20.62	25.28	24.27	25.20	15.13	12.12	17.8	11.5

Infantile Mortality :

Eight infants under the age of twelve months died during 1955, giving an infantile mortality rate of 11.5 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1955		1954	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	5	—
2 Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1
3 Syphilitic Disease	—	1	2	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8 Measles	—	—	—	—
9 Other Infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	8	7	6	4
11 Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	2	2
12 Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	4	—	4
13 Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	8	—	2
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	13	22	18

15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	1	2	—	—
16	Diabetes	....	....	1	4	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	....	....	14	35	19	28
18	Coronary Disease, angina	....	....	41	17	30	26
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	....	....	5	9	6	2
20	Other Heart Disease	....	....	16	41	19	27
21	Other Circulatory Disease	....	....	8	8	4	9
22	Influenza	....	....	1	—	1	—
23	Pneumonia	....	....	7	7	14	6
24	Bronchitis	....	....	9	10	11	9
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	....	....	3	2	4	—
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	6	1	2	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....	....	1	3	1	3
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	4	5	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	....	5	—	1	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	....	....	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformation	....	....	3	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	13	16	24	16
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....	4	—	5	1
34	All other Accidents	....	....	10	3	6	6
35	Suicide	....	....	4	3	5	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	....	....	—	—	—	—
Totals				191	202	192	172

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

The High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital is situated in the town. This is a general hospital of 100 beds with an annexe at Booker which has Geriatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and convalescent units comprising 46 beds. The Shrubbery Maternity Home of 20 beds is also in the Borough.

Infectious disease cases now go to Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or to the Isolation Hospitals at Maidenhead or Reading.

Professional Nursing in the Home

This is undertaken by the nurses stationed at the Grange, Amersham Hill—two of whom are engaged on general nursing work and three on midwifery. The Home Nursing Service is the responsibility of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

These are provided by the Bucks County Council with the aid of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The local ambulance station at West End Street came into operation during the year.

SECTION III

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Clinics and Treatment Centres**(a) Administered by the Bucks County Council.**

Women's Advisory Clinic Municipal Health Centre. Mondays,
2—4 p.m.

Infant Welfare Centres Municipal Health Centre, Dyke Meadow,
Tuesdays and Fridays, 2—4 p.m.
Sands Village Hall, Sands, 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.
Methodist Schoolroom, West Wycombe,
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.
Turner's Sports Pavilion, Totteridge,
Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.
St. Anne's Church Hall, Wycombe
Marsh, Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.
Methodist Church Hall, Rutland Avenue,
Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.

Sunlight Clinic Children under school age, Municipal
Health Centre.

Dental Clinic Nursing and Expectant Mothers and
Children under school age, 51 Priory Rd.

(b) Administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Ante-Natal and Post- War Memorial Hospital, Tuesdays and
Natal Clinic Wednesdays, 10—11 a.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic War Memorial Hospital, Mondays, 9.30
a.m., Contacts ; Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.,
New Cases ; Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.,
Refills ; Fridays, 9.30 a.m., Old Cases.

Venereal Diseases Clinic 49a Frogmoor, Mondays, 2—7 p.m.,
Thursdays, 4—7 p.m.

Dr. Korn is in attendance.

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities are provided by the Emergency Public Health
Laboratory Service at Oxford.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) Notifiable Diseases

The table on the following page gives the number of cases
during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1955

Disease	Total cases Notified	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age unknown
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	—	2	1	7	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—
Pneumonia	15	—	—	—	4	1	1	9	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis : (a) Infectious (b) Post-Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (a) Paralytic ... (b) Non-paralytic	7 2	— —	— —	1 —	3 1	— —	1 —	2 1	— —
Measles	527	11	98	131	277	9	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	5	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	—	—	—	2	1	—	16	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
	605	13	101	136	295	15	10	35	—

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria

Nowadays in this Area diphtheria immunisation is carried out in association with that against whooping cough. It is most unusual for injections against diphtheria to be given alone. A combined diphtheria-whooping cough prophylactic is administered in three doses with intervals of one month between. Primary immunisation is carried out in the child welfare centres and most boosting doses with a few primary doses are given in the schools when the children reach the ages of five and ten years.

During the year 486 children completed the course of primary immunisation and boosting doses were given to 815 ; 408 children were immunised against whooping cough.

(c) Scabies

With modern methods of treatment at the present time this disease has not given much trouble. Cases are few in number and are treated by the family doctor.

(d) Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 174 primary vaccinations and 26 revaccinations were carried out.

(e) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

During 1955 vaccination of the 13-year-old age group of school children was instituted. The scheme was put in operation by the Bucks County Council as Local Health Authority.

All the children in the age group, whether attending private or County schools were offered vaccination and parents were found to be most co-operative.

In the first place the children in the appropriate age group were tuberculin tested. Non-reactors were vaccinated with B.C.G. There were no untoward results from the vaccination.

The reason why the 13-year-old group was chosen is that when children leave school they are approaching an age when they are particularly liable to contract tuberculosis. It is felt that B.C.G. vaccination will help to reduce the incidence of the disease in adolescents.

(f) Tuberculosis

During the year only two deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. This is the lowest number ever recorded in the Borough. The reduction in mortality over the past 12 years is shown in the table below.

There is no doubt that the reduction is due to improved diagnosis and to the availability of drugs for treatment. Formerly the only weapons available were rest, fresh air and good food. These are still necessary but they serve to assist the action of the anti-biotic drugs which are now in general use.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No. of Deaths	19	22	22	15	15	9
Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Deaths	7	6	7	6	5	2

(g) Isolation Hospital

All cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are sent to Aylesbury, Reading or Maidenhead.

SECTION V**Tuberculosis**

The tuberculosis service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1955.

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1955	140	113	253	25	15	40	293
No. first notified during 1955	14	5	19	—	1	1	20
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	4	9	13	1	—	1	14
No. removed from Register during 1955 :—							
(a) Died	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
(b) Removed from District	2	6	8	1	—	1	9
(c) De-notified	8	5	13	1	1	2	15
No. remaining on Register 31/12/55	144	116	260	24	15	39	299

The number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on Register (either from tuberculosis or other causes) notified during 1955 are given in full detail in the following table :—

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	6	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	14	5	—	1	4	—	—	—

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47

No formal action required.

SECTION VII

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1955

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN

AND

COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting my Report of the work of the department during 1955, I gratefully acknowledge the keen interest that has been shown regarding the problems placed before you during the year.

The requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, including the work involved in preparing the first post-war Clearance Area, have occupied the major portion of your Officers' time. The figures required under the Act were submitted for your approval within the stated time, and the Clearance Area was the subject of an Inquiry held during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution has also occasioned a great deal of attention, mainly due to the emission of excessive smoke from factory chimneys.

The above work was possible only by the continued effort of your officers and staff, and due credit is given to that effort. This is also due to my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. SHARP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases

Inspectors' visits	100
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Disinfection**(a) Rooms**

Infectious diseases	23
Tuberculosis	8
Non-notifiable diseases	12

(b) Bedding and Clothing*Disinfected Destroyed*

No. of articles	77	94
-----------------	------	------	------	----	----

(c) Library Books

150 —

Disinfestation**(a) Eradication of the Bed Bug**

Number of disinfestations carried out :—

		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of Rooms</i>	<i>2nd Treatments</i>
Private houses	....	5	11	3
Council houses	....	6	23	5

(b) Wasps' Nests

Number destroyed	5
------------------	------	------	------	------	---

WATER SUPPLY**(a) Public Supply**

Samples of water from the Public Supply were submitted regularly for examination with satisfactory results.

Twenty-eight samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination.

Eight samples of raw water from the Public Supply wells and one sample of treated water were submitted to a London laboratory for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results showed these to be of a very good quality.

(b) Private Supply

Eleven samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory.

Statistics

	<i>No. of houses piped supply</i>	<i>No. of houses by standpipe</i>	<i>Estimated population served</i>
Borough of High Wycombe Supplied by Corporation works to places outside the Borough	13,106	9	44,000
	1,466	26	6,000

MILK SUPPLY

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)
Regulations 1949-1953

All milk supplied to the Borough now comes within one or other of the Special Designations, and for the first time it is possible to say that the milk supplied to Borough inhabitants is satisfactory. This has not been achieved without the closest co-operation of all concerned in the supply of milk.

From 21st March, 1955, the town became part of the " specified area " made by the Ministry of Food. The effect of this is that after a given day none but milk bearing a Special Designation is to be sold. The sale of undesignated raw milk, to which no standard of cleanliness applies, is now prohibited. This meant the closing down of many small bottling plants many of which were by modern standards unsuitable for the handling of milk. The milk is now heat treated and delivered in sealed bottles to the distributor, who in turn delivers it to the consumers. It will be seen that possible contamination has been reduced to a minimum. It is pleasing to note that the sale of designated milk to all consumers in the Borough was possible even before it became compulsory, and consequently the " Specified Area " became such with no trouble to the dairy industry.

Pasteurised Milk

Two pasteurisation plants which heat-treat approximately five thousand gallons of milk a day have operated satisfactorily. Numerous samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination with satisfactory results.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

The bulk of Tuberculin Tested milk is now pasteurised, so that it appears that the advantages claimed by the drinking of raw milk are now lost. Tuberculin Tested milks were submitted for examination in a similar manner to Pasteurised milk, and with similar results.

Sterilised Milk

This, in the main, can be termed " accommodation milk " and is sold in sealed bottles to consumers who have no regular supply. The samples submitted have satisfied the standard test.

Designated Milk—Licences granted

Pasteurisers' Licences	....	....	....	....	2
Dealers' Pasteurised Licences	....	....	....	....	15
Dealers' Sterilised Licences	....	....	....	....	31
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences	....	....	....	....	17
Dealers' Supplementary Tuberculin Tested Licences	....	....	....	....	5
Dealers' Supplementary Pasteurised Licences	....	....	....	....	4

Results of Samples taken

	<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>Result</i>	
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	162	161	1
T.T. Pasteurised	91	91	—
Tuberculin Tested	7	6	1
Sterilised	24	24	—
	—	—	—
	284	282	2
	—	—	—

The failures therefore were only 0.7% of the number of samples taken.

HOUSING

The requirements of Circular 30/54, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, requesting Local Authorities to submit numbers of sub-standard houses which they intended to include in Clearance Areas within the next five years, were complied with and details were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within the stated time.

As mentioned in my Report for 1954, the number was considerable—a total of 599 houses. In arriving at this figure, due consideration was given to the age and locality of the houses and also to the possibility of reconditioning or improvement. It was known that the majority suffered from rising or penetrating dampness due to absent or defective damp proof courses or porous brick-work. Roofs were also in a state of dilapidation. These defects alone ruled out their repair at reasonable cost, and therefore those houses had to be included in the five-year programme. Because of lack of space additions for the improvement of the houses or the amenities were not possible.

Clearance Areas

Final inspections of a detailed nature were carried out in Brook Street (No. 1 Area) preparatory to its being considered at the Public Inquiry. These houses had belonged to comparatively few owners over a very long period, but it was not surprising that when the present position was determined, practically 20% had changed ownership since the war, and were in fact owner/occupied. This unavoidable problem had been expected. Even if the purchasers had enquired as to the future of these houses no information could have been given, for at the time of sale no official decision had been made. If the necessary legislation is forthcoming, as promised,

better compensation will be available for owner/occupiers in future Clearance Areas. The Public Inquiry into Brook Street (No. 1 Area) having been concluded, it now remains for the Clearance Areas Development Committee to decide which areas are to be given priority in the future.

AIR POLLUTION

The Clean Air Bill, which is now being considered by Parliament, has created a considerable amount of interest both in Public and Local Authorities, and is also causing some concern in the furniture trade. Concern that prohibition of the burning of wood waste will be forthcoming is not surprising when, according to the trade, 70% of wood used goes to waste. Your Officers are, however, convinced that this waste can be disposed of by burning without undue nuisance, providing suitable apparatus is installed and controlled.

Smoke, however, is not the sole cause of air pollution, although it is the principal cause of "smog." The smoke nuisance within the Borough is minute when compared with some areas, but smoke, grit and dust can and should be absent from the atmosphere. Your Officers, given the full co-operation of those who are likely to cause such nuisances, will endeavour to ensure better atmospheric conditions than those at present existing.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(a) The inspection of foodstuffs was carried out in the normal manner and the following is a list of the foodstuffs condemned during the year :—

Beans, 28 tins	Jam, 13 tins
Beetroot, 1 tin	Meat, 197 tins
Carrots, 6 tins	Meat, 1,638 lbs.
Cheese, 578 lbs.	Milk, 146 tins
Cheese Spread, 19 pkts.	Peas, 70 tins
Chocolate, 14 cartons	Rabbit, 70 lbs.
Cream, 10 tins	Salad Cream, 24 jars
Fish, 34 stone 11 lbs.	Sandwich Spread, 3 bottles
Fish, 45 tins	Sausages, 6 lbs.
Fish Cakes, 12 lbs.	Soup, 15 tins
Frozen Egg, 4 tins	Spaghetti, 2 tins
Fruit, 453 tins	Tomatoes, 216 tins
Fruit Juice, 1 tin	Tomato Sauce, 1 tin
Fruit Salad, 14 tins	Various Foodstuffs, 236 tins
Ground Almonds, 5 tins	Vegetables, 5 tins
Ham, 369 lbs.	Welsh Rarebit, 1 tin

(b) The usual wide variety of foods was sampled for analysis by the Public Analyst and, as will be seen from the following table, all found to be genuine. The chemical composition of food and the labelling of food sold within the Borough was therefore quite satisfactory. Nevertheless, your Officers endeavour to seek out that which is new or unusual in order to protect the public as far as possible from food which is labelled misleadingly, to which there have been unlawful additions, or which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded.

Article Sampled	How Sampled		Result	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Aspirin	—	1	1	
Beef Suet	2	—	2	
Boracic Powder	—	1	1	
Brandy	1	—	1	
Butter	2	3	5	
Cake and Pudding Mixture ...	1	—	1	
Candied Peel	—	2	2	
Chandy	1	—	1	
Cheese Spread	1	—	1	
Chest and Lung Mixture ...	—	1	1	
Children's Tonic	1	—	1	
Chocolate Liqueurs	—	1	1	
Christmas Pudding	1	—	1	
Cooking Fat	2	—	2	
Cough Candy Lollies	—	1	1	
Creamed Rice	—	1	1	
Dates	—	1	1	
Dessicated Coconut	1	—	1	
Dripping	1	—	1	
Fish Paste	1	—	1	
Flavoured Milk	—	1	1	
Flowers of Sulphur	—	1	1	
Gelatine	1	—	1	
Gin	3	—	3	
Ginger Cordial	1	—	1	
Ground Almonds	2	—	2	
Ham Spread	1	—	1	
Honey	1	—	1	
Ice Cream	—	8	8	
Iced Lollies	—	8	8	
Jam	3	—	3	
Jellies	2	—	2	
Lard	1	1	2	
Lemon Curd	1	1	2	
Margarine	4	—	4	
Marzipan	1	1	2	
Marzipan Selection	—	1	1	
Meat Paste	1	—	1	
Mincemeat	4	2	6	
Nut Cream	1	—	1	
Olive Oil	—	1	1	
Orange Squash	3	—	3	
Oxo Cubes	1	—	1	
Pea Flour	—	1	1	
Phensic	—	1	1	
Picallilli	1	—	1	
Plum Pudding	—	1	1	
Port	1	—	1	
Robinade	—	1	1	
Rum	1	—	1	
Salad Cream	1	—	1	
Sauce	1	—	1	
Sausages (Beef)	3	—	3	
Sausages (Pork)... ..	2	—	2	
Sherry	2	—	2	
Sweets	1	—	1	
Tea	—	2	2	
Tenderising Salt	—	1	1	
Whisky	4	—	4	
Totals	63	44	107	

Laboratory Testing of Milk

In addition, 113 samples of milk were taken for qualitative analysis in the department's laboratory. These all proved to be genuine and of good quality, the average fat content being 3.76% and solids not fat 8.84%. The legal standards are 3.0% and 8.5% respectively.

Food and Drugs Act—Section 14 (2)

During the year thirteen registrations were granted for the storage of Ice Cream intended for sale and for the sale of Ice Cream. There are now 133 registered premises within the Borough.

Sampling—Bacteriological

Twenty-eight samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	....	....	....	....	13 samples
Provisional Grade 2	....	....	....	....	1 sample
Provisional Grade 3	....	....	....	....	8 samples
Provisional Grade 4	....	....	....	....	6 samples

MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Meat inspection was carried out during the year under conditions which are known to you ; the two slaughterhouses now used are unsuitable for their present purpose. Furthermore, carrying out the necessary 100% inspection of meat is difficult due to the inadequacy of these premises and irregular hours of slaughtering, which require your Officers to work many hours overtime.

The recently published report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Slaughterhouses suggested areas where it considered slaughterhouses should be built, the sizes of areas varying on a population basis from approximately thirty thousand to over a million inhabitants. The suggested area in which the Borough is included consists of eleven Local Authorities with a total population of 192,000, with the centre of slaughtering at Aylesbury.

Enquiries were made as to whether the Local Authorities concerned were interested in any particular plan. The replies were all non-committal with the exception of the Borough of Aylesbury, who considered that their town was most suitable as a centre for slaughtering.

Briefly summarising a very long report, it seems that if put into effect it will end all hope of the Borough's obtaining its own abattoir.

Cysticercosis

No trace of this disease was found in any animal slaughtered within the Borough during the year.

Slaughter of Animals

The total number of animals slaughtered at the slaughterhouses during 1955 was :—

Oxen	....	....	....	....	968
Cows	....	....	....	....	429
Calves	....	....	....	....	222
Sheep	....	....	....	....	3,951
Pigs	....	....	....	....	1,471
Horses	....	....	....	....	Nil
					<hr/> 7,046 <hr/>

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	968	429	222	3,951	1,471
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	1	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	353	122	—	255	37
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	36.46	28.43	0.45	6.45	2.65
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	77	42	—	—	18
Percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis	7.95	10.49	—	—	1.22
Cysticercosis :					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table Showing Condemned Organs of Animals

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Skirts	Livers	Spleens	Tripe	Intestines	Mesenteries	Kidneys	Udders	Tails	Totals
Cattle :														
Tuberculosis ...	59	57	59	13	6	21	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	240
Abscess ...	1	2	4	1	2	58	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	72
Actinomycosis ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cavernous Angioma ...	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
Cystic ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Distomum Hepaticum ...	—	—	—	—	—	317	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	317
Inflammation ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mastitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Necrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Totals ...	62	61	63	15	8	474	4	4	5	4	8	4	3	715
Calves :														
Tuberculosis ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Totals ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Sheep :														
Abscess ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cystic ...	—	—	1	1	—	130	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	133
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Distomum Hepaticum ...	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
Larvae ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Parasites ...	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Strongylosis ...	—	—	2	1	—	22	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Totals ...	—	—	4	2	—	218	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	226
Pigs :														
Tuberculosis ...	20	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Abscess ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Congestion ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cystic ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Larvae ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Milk Spot ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Oedema ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Parasitic ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Peritonitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pleurisy ...	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia ...	—	—	4	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Totals ...	21	20	9	8	1	26	1	1	1	1	4	—	—	93

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1955 was :

Beef in Carcase	940 lbs.
Beef NOT in Carcase	2,479 "
Mutton in Carcase	Nil
Mutton NOT in Carcase	13 "
Veal in Carcase	30 "
Veal NOT in Carcase	Nil
Pork in Carcase	120 "
Pork NOT in Carcase	155 "
Offal	7,337 "
	<hr/>
	11,074 lbs.

Or 4 tons 18 cwts. 98 lbs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspection of Factories has been carried out during the year as follows :—

Number of Inspections	371
Number of defects found	9
Number of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories	1
Number of Fire Certificates issued	14

BOROUGH MORTUARY

A twenty-four hour service was maintained by the Mortuary Attendant during the year. The statistics are :—

Number of bodies deposited	101
Number of post mortems held	92

PESTS ACT, 1949

The work of rodent control has again been carried out with complete satisfaction. Open spaces and refuse tips have been treated periodically, and all agreements have been carried out. Treatment was carried out to the Borough sewer system in April and October, and infestation was again found to be slight.

Statistics

Agreements—Current	13
Total complaints received (each re- quiring a minimum of 6 visits for treatment)	354
Agricultural premises	2
Business premises	103
Private houses	249
Complaints not justified	18

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

The registration of premises where explosives, *e.g.* fireworks, etc., are stored was carried out as required under the above Act. Number of registrations for the period ended 30th September, 1955, was 113.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Preliminary notices served	....	....	67
Work completed after service of preliminary notice	....	....	40
Statutory notices served	....	....	8
Work completed after statutory notice			8
Work completed after court action	....		1

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Preliminary notices served	....	....	4
Work completed after service of preliminary notice	....	....	3
Statutory notices served	....	....	3
Work completed after statutory notice (including two outstanding from 1954)	....	....	4

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Samples of various filling materials were taken during the year, and inspection was carried out of premises used in the manufacture of upholstery. It is pleasing to report that no major contravention of the Act was found.

The use of Rag Flock in the loose form is now practically non-existent, being superseded by layered Woollen and Cotton Felt. These materials are mainly of very high quality and comply with all the tests laid down in the Act. No manufacture of Rag Flock from rags is now carried out within the Borough.

It is a matter of regret that the main local supplier of Cotton Felt discontinued production during the year, for this firm had always been noted for the high quality of its product. Most of the Cotton Felt used within the Borough is now manufactured elsewhere. Samples obtained from the outside sources have proved satisfactory.

A new manufacturer of Woollen and Cotton Felt has now started to produce within the Borough, and samples obtained have proved to be of a very high quality. Application has been made by this firm to use the British Standards Institution mark of quality, and this will no doubt be granted in the near future.

Statistics

Licences to manufacture	Nil
Licences to store Rag Flock for resale	9
Total number of registrations	120

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>
Algerian Fibre	1	1	—
Cotton Felt	10	10	—
Coir Fibre	3	3	—
Feathers	2	2	—
Millpuff	1	1	—
Rag Flock	5	5	—
Woollen Mixture Felt	5	3	2
	—	—	—
Total	27	25	2
	—	—	—

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st
DECEMBER, 1955**

Acts, Orders and Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result	Fines
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94	Non-compliance with Statutory Notice	Nuisance order made with three months to complete work	Court costs 8s. 6d.
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, Section 2	Imported tomatoes not labelled with country of origin	Conviction	Fined £1

GENERAL STATISTICS

Table showing number of inspections made during the year :—

Bakehouses	21
Butchers' Shops	117
Drain Clearance	92
Drains inspected	122
Entertainment Houses	4
Explosives Act	103
Factories	371
Food Inspection, miscellaneous	40
Food Poisoning	1

Food Premises, grocery	118
Fish Shops and Fried Fish Premises	25
Greengrocers	27
Housing Acts	1,636
Ice Cream Premises	28
Infectious Disease	100
Interviews	512
Licensed Premises	1
Markets	184
Merchandise Marks Act	30
Milk Shops and Dairies	161
Overcrowding	12
Pet Animals	6
Police Court Visits	3
Public Conveniences	4
Public Health Act (visits to premises)	713
Rag Flock	158
Rats and Mice (Inspectors' visits)	86
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operator's visits)	2,265
Rats and Mice (visits on contract)	939
Rats and Mice (sewers and block infestations)	256
Refuse disposal	34
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars	72
Rivers, Watercourses	40
Sampling visits—Food and Drugs	168
Sampling visits—Ice Cream	28
Sampling visits—Milk, Bacteriological	278
Sampling visits—Water	46
Sanitary visits (miscellaneous)	239
Schools	2
Shops Act	401
Slaughterhouse Inspections	876
Smoke Abatement	115
Stables and Piggeries	8
Stalls and Hawkers' Carts	477
Tents, Vans and Sheds	9
Verminous premises	26
Wasps' Nests	5

Total number of inspections = 10,964



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