MALVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956

M A L V E R N U R B A N D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

FOR THE YEAR 1956

by

H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

HUGH L. WHITWHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

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MR. T. COOK (CHAIRMAN)

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MRS. H. LLOYD MORRIS

MR. C. R. LOCKYER

MR. W. J. MARSH

MR. R. G. REED, J.P.

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DR. A. S. WIGFIELD

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	HUGH L. WHITWHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	RICHARD CRUDDAS, M.C., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
	JAMES B. FRANKS, C.R.S.H., R.S.H., Meat and Foods
Chief Clerk	EDGAR C. BARBER
Shorthand Typists/Clerks	DIANE B. DANIELS
	JACQUELINE FEWTRELL

Public Health Department, The Council House, Malvern.

Telephone: Malvern 1531

The Council House,

Malvern.

August, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1956.

It has been my custom in these annual reports not only to outline the state of Malvern's health during the past year but also to comment on the general trends in the life of the town and to discuss the probable difficulties that may become prominent in the future in any sphere that concerns Public Health Services.

During the past year we have begun to witness a change in the type of housing problem which is brought to the notice of this department. This change has occurred at the same time as a change in the policy of the central Government towards housing. Until October, 1955, subsidies were available for all houses built by Councils, but at the turn of the year it became no longer necessary for a contribution to be made from the general rate fund to the housing account and the subsidy upon houses was only granted in the year 1956 upon those houses which were erected for the accommodation of persons living in property condemned under the Housing Acts.

The problem of three generations living in one house is not a new one. In the early part of the 19th Century it was probably the normal means by which the old people were looked after and until 1911 it was a disaster for any couple to be childless or have only one child, for they could not rely then upon anyone to look after them in their old age. Small families have become fashionable and economically sound within the last fifty years so that any old people now needing care are unlikely to have more than one of their offspring able to shoulder a burden which may become intolerable because it is not shared. For the future the housing needs of the population will have to be worked out partly in terms of the difficulties arising in the three-generation household. During the past year we have managed to deal with two such difficult cases, both of which were time-consuming and exceedingly tiring for those who were actually doing the work. The repercussions of these problems in three-generation households may be felt for many, many years after the event. For instance, a bright child's education may be seriously hampered; the beginning of a successful career may be brought to an abrupt close by the need to return home to look after an aged parent.

At present there are no clear standards by which we may judge the amount of the problem, nor are there any agreed methods as to the way in which these problems may be dealt with. Encouragement is given to parents of young children to talk to the Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, or to seek interview with me, about any problems they may have. These problems are dealt with on an individual basis.

As a team, the staff of the department together with the Health Visitors and myself, have also had to deal in the past year with "problem" families. These are families who cause trouble or a nuisance to their neighbours or to others, or who fail for one reason or another to meet

the responsibilities that the community places upon the shoulders of all of us, e.g. the responsibility for the proper upbringing of children, paying rent and rates, et cetera.

We have dealt during the past year with eighteen families, some of them only once, some of them have required continued supervision, support and even treatment. All the members of all eighteen families are known personally to more than one member of the staff and most have been seen many times in past years. We have classified them into four groups.

In seven families one or other parent is so lacking in intellectual ability as to be unable to hold his or her own and meet responsibilities without assistance in the way of advice or very often actual physical help. (In writing this report I recall three such families where continued training and supervision in the past has resulted in their stabilisation as satisfactory members of the community). By and large, admonition and punishment does not help these cases very much and prolonged patience is our chief aid in dealing with the problems that they present.

In seven cases there is a psychopathic personality in one member of the family. These people are one of the difficult by-products of civilised community - they are the social misfits who form a fair percentage of the prison population. They are the least satisfactory to deal with and we cannot claim, in spite of a lot of work, to have done much, if any, good for any of them.

Two other cases are those of gypsy families who are now attempting to live a settled life but so far have not got the attitudes and characteristics of the nomad out of their system and are not properly integrated within the community.

Two other families defy classification.

Each of these "problem" families has to be dealt with on an individual basis and is in a sense a law to itself. It is exceedingly difficult to form a useful balanced judgement of the factors involved in any case unless in possession of a great deal of personal knowledge of the problem on the spot.

I think the preceding paragraphs in my introductory remarks reveal the degree of helpful co-operation that I have had during the past year from the members of the staff, without which this work becomes impossible. I should like also to record my thanks to Miss Hudson and the other Health Visitors, who are members of the County staff, for their close and unfailing co-operation with the Council staff and myself.

H. F. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Area of land and inland water	7,400 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	24,640
Number of dwelling houses	7,178
Total number of assessments	8,179
Rateable Value at 31.3.57	£339,539
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31.3.57	£1,355

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated resident population) ...	17.6
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	17.6
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated resident population) ...	0.28
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated resident population)	10.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)...	20.5

No deaths in 1956 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956.

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	15.7
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	23.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 home population)	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	23.8

DEATHS

Cause of Death - All Ages	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	0
" (Other)	0	0	0
Cancer (all forms)	45	18	27
" (of Lung and Bronchus)	3	3	0
Diabetes	1	0	1
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	3	2	1
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	160	65	95
Respiratory disease (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer)	38	20	18
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer (non-malignant)	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	2	0
Congenital Malformations	1	1	0
Violence	7	4	3
All other causes	28	10	18

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water supplies

There are two main sources of Malvern water. First a deep borehole at Bromsberrow which has been sunk into new red sandstone. It provides an abundant and good water supply showing an average total hardness of 17. It is not contaminated in any way. The second is water collected from the hills around the British Camp, the reservoir lying in a hollow in these hills. This supply is more in the nature of a standby than a main supply and the analysis is typical of hill water, that is, containing few "Solids in Solution" and having a low total hardness.

Samples of water have been taken this year from the British Camp Reservoir and from the Bromsberrow borehole. The analysis carried out was rather more complete than usual and is included here as an indication of the type of sources of our water. Two routine analyses, which are carried out monthly, are also included.

BRITISH CAMP RESERVOIR

Physical Examination	7th November, 1956.
Temperature at source	7°C.
Appearance	Clear and bright
Taste	Normal
Smell	Normal

General Chemical Examination (results expressed in parts per million)

Reaction	pH 7.8
Free carbon dioxide, as CO_2	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	0.10
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	Trace
Nitric Nitrogen, as N	2.1
Hardness, as $CaCO_3$:	
Temporary	85
Permanent	30
Permanganate figure (4 hrs., 80°F.) as O	0.50
Alkalinity, as $CaCO_3$	85
Total Solids	150

Mineral Analysis (results expressed in parts per million)

Calcium, as Ca	32.6
Magnesium, as Mg	8.8
Sodium, as Na	12.9
Carbonate, as CO_3	51.0
Chloride, as Cl	17.0
Sulphate, as SO_4	14.9
Nitrate, as NO_3	9.3
Iron	Nil
Fluoride, as F	0.08

MALVERN WATER

Physical Characters	23rd January, 1956.	31st May, 1956.
Colour	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None
Deposit	Very Slight	None
	pH 7.5	pH 7.8

Chemical Examination (results expressed in parts per million)

	23rd January, 1956.	31st May, 1956.
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	Very slight trace	Nil
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C.)	230	230
" " " (after ignition)	200	210
Chlorine expressed as Chloride	21	24
Hardness - Non-carbonate	40	50
Carbonate	130	135
Total	170	185
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.9	6.1
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	Nil	0.13
Toxic Metals	None detected	None detected
Residual Chlorine	Nil	0.02

No faecal coli have been found in any waters sampled at source or elsewhere in the piped water supply system during the year.

The monthly bacteriological examination of water taken from various points in the town was uniformly satisfactory.

Water Supply from Wells

Only a few houses are supplied with water obtained from shallow wells. Samples are submitted from time to time to the Laboratory for analysis. Three samples of well water were taken during the year 1956 all of which were chemically and biologically unsatisfactory.

Number of wells closed during the year - 3.

Public Cleansing

This work is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. The disposal of household refuse is undertaken at the Guarlford Sewage Works by means of tipping. Street sweeping in central area daily, elsewhere once weekly. Cesspool emptying by mechanical means as required.

Swimming Baths and Pools

(a) Public swimming pools or baths - Public pool owned by Local Authority.

(b) Privately owned swimming pools or baths open to public - None

(c) Action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of water - Routine Sampling.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Services

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics

There are none provided by this Authority.

The following clinics are provided by Voluntary Committees in Malvern on behalf of the County Council:-

Infant Welfare Centres

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	Tuesdays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Free Church Hall, Malvern Link.	Wednesdays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Methodist Church Hall, Lansdowne Crescent.	Fridays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Village Hall, Lower Wyche.	1st Tuesday in the month	2.45 - 4.0 p.m.

The following clinics are provided by the County Council:-

Ante-Natal

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	1st and 3rd Thursdays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Eye

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	As required (by appointment only)	

Speech Therapy

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	Thursdays (cases referred by School Health Service)	10.0 - 12 noon

Minor Ailments

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	Fridays (schoolchildren only)	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.
Chase County Secondary School.	Wednesdays (during term time)	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified during 1956.

Disease	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	Ages N.K.
Scarlet fever	16	-	-	1	1	-	13	1	-	-	-
Whooping cough	79	8	3	11	10	10	30	3	1	3	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis:											
paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
non-paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	85	4	4	7	6	9	29	1	1	1	23
Dysentery	7	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	3	-
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Ages N.K.
Ac. Pneumonia	18	-	5	-	3	10	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-	1	3	2	-
Food Poisoning	8	1	3	1	3	-	-

	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Ages N.K.
Tuberculosis:								
respiratory	6	-	1	2	1	2	-	-
meninges & C.N.S.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
other	4	-	1	-	3	-	-	-

There was no undue incidence of any infectious disease during the year.

PROPHYLAXIS

Diphtheria Immunisation

	Ages 0 - 4 years	Ages 5 - 14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of primary immunisation	313	39	352
Children who received a re-inforcing injection	29	221	250

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1956, (i.e. from 1st January, 1942).

Age at 31.12.56	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	Total under 15
No. of children immunised	1,061	1,618	1,182	3,861

Smallpox Vaccination

264 children under the age of one were vaccinated this year, being 67.7% of the number of children born during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

Action was taken under the 1951 Amending Act of the National Assistance Act in one case. This was an old man, acutely ill, who had to be removed to hospital against his wishes because his wife was infirm and there was no-one else to care for him.

Public Health Inspector's Office,

Public Health Department,

The Grange,

MALVERN

August, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Malvern Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel it will not be incongruous in the preface of this report for the year 1956 to mention the change in designation in the office of Sanitary Inspector to that of Public Health Inspector - a title which I am sure that enlightened members of the community we serve will come to regard appropriate, having a proper concept to the wide and varied scope of our duties, to which these Annual Reports make reference. The term "Sanitary Inspector" had for some time become a misnomer and conveyed to the minds of many as having something to do with offensive odours from drains, or conveniences euphemistically referred to as " outside offices ". It is however, with a sense of pride in the contribution made in our sphere of influence in public health matters for more than a century, that solace from such maleficent misrepresentation can be found and I have no doubts that generations of the future will continue to benefit in no small measure by efforts to improve conditions relating to environmental health in the conscientious exercise of our duties, whatever the designation.

Details of inspections made and action taken with informative comment, also statistics when applicable, are set out in the following pages.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Inspections of	Movable Dwellings	....	95
"	"	Shops	398
"	"	Factories	204
"	"	Bakehouses	31
"	"	Restaurant Kitchens	128
"	"	Outworkers Premises	13
"	"	Slaughterhouses	1,028
"	"	Butchers Shops, P.H. Meat Regs.	803
"	"	Stables and Piggeries	54
"	"	Dairies	238
"	"	Ice Cream Premises	179
"	"	Food Shops	308
"	"	Fish Friers Premises	23
"	"	Places of Public Entertainment	36
"	"	Schools	16

Inspections of Licensed Premises	51
" " Public Conveniences	72
Special Visits, Advisory Interviews etc., ...	2,503
Visits re Infectious Disease	53
Rat Infestations	199
Atmospheric Pollution	18
Miscellaneous	131
National Assistance Act	26
Housing including Inspections of Dwelling Houses	921
	7,528

COMPLAINTS

The Register shows that 431 complaints were received during the year under review, these having reference to the following matters:-

Blocked and Defective Drainage	78
Defective Closet Accommodation	19
Insanitary Conditions of Dwelling Houses	102
Smells from Public Sewers	20
Smells from Drains	17
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	19
Non-Collection of House Refuse	35
Verminous Premises	8
Wasps Nests	43
Miscellaneous	90

My comments under this heading in the report for 1955 are still appropriate, the increasing cost of building work has some effect on the economic position as regards the reluctance of property owners to incur financial outlay on repairs. Whilst informal action was again successful in most instances, statutory notices were served in six cases, two under Section 93 and two under Section 45, of the Public Health Act, 1936, and two under the provisions of Section 138 Public Health Act, 1936 as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Literature containing all the information required by Landlord or tenant on the provisions of this enactment are available to persons calling at this office.

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received, and this was granted.

A Revocation of this Certificate of Disrepair was issued on completion of the needful works.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Number of Houses and Premises Redrained	5
Repairs or Amendments to Existing Drains	50
Drains or Gullies Unstopped or Cleansed	88
Length in Yards ofStoneware Drains Laid	853
Length in Yards of Heavy Cast Iron Drains Laid	18
Manholes Provided	38
Manholes Repaired	31
Intercepting Traps Fixed	13
Fresh Air inlets Provided or Repaired	24
New Gully Traps Fixed	83
Gully Curbs Provided or Repaired	19
New Soil Pipes and Ventilating Shafts Provided	36
Soil Pipes and Ventilating Shafts Repaired	49
Water Tests Applied	128
Smoke Tests Applied	41
New W.C. Pedestals fixed	57
W.Cs. Unstopped, Cleansed or Repaired	23
Existing Flushing Cisterns Repaired	37
New Flushing Cisterns fitted W.Cs.	62
Joints between W.Cs. and Flush Pipes Repaired	12
New W.C. Apartments Provided	24
New Urinals Provided	2
Lavatory Basins Provided 1	45
Baths Provided	28
New Impervious Sinks Provided	53
Sinks Repaired or Refixed	19
New Waste Pipes Fixed	136
Waste Pipes Trapped, Repaired or Unstopped	18
Cesspools and Stagnant Ditches Cleansed	1
W.C. Apartments Cleansed	15
Septic Tanks Provided	2

MISCELLANEOUS

New Roofs	15
Roofs Repaired	62
Eaves Gutters Renewed, Cleansed or Repaired	71
Rainwater Pipes Provided, Repaired or Unstopped	49
Damp Walls Remedied	49
Walls Repointed or Repaired	71
Ventilation Under Floor Provided	15
Yards Paved	6
Paving of Yards Repaired	10
Floors of Rooms Relaid	34
Floors of Rooms Repaired	75
Rooms Cleansed, Distempered or Repapered	93
New Windows Provided	28
Windows Repaired and/or made to open	21
New Sash Cords Provided	59
Window Sills Repaired or Provided	27
Doors Provided or Repaired	64
Staircases Repaired	12
Workrooms (including Bakehouses) Cleansed and Repaired	19
Water Service Pipes Repaired	28
Movable Sanitary Dustbins Provided	17
Accumulations of Refuse Removed	5
Accumulations of Manure Removed	4
New Ranges and Stoves Provided	34
Stoves and Ranges Repaired	16
Verminous Rooms Dealt with	19

HOUSING ACT, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

Thirteen applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year 1956. Though thirteen Grants were made, one concerned an application submitted during the previous year.

In all cases the applicationswere made in respect of proposals to improve small dwellings as opposed to the conversion of the large residence. A previous paragraph in this report mentions the reluctance of property owners to expend capital on repair and improvement since house property does not appear to be an attractive investment; the result being that when a house becomes vacant it is sold and the new owner making the purchase to secure a house of his own is anxious not only to repair but to provide the amenities which are lacking. The Improvement Grant Scheme often makes this financially possible and I can state that applicants have been most appreciative, not only of the monetary Grant but of the assistance given by advice on the preparation of a scheme in the adaptation of existing accommodation or making additions to the building, thereby raising the sub-standard dwelling to the standard of a modern house. This is just what the Government aimed at in "Operation Rescue" since there are very many houses in the country capable of such modernisation: in Malvern we can safely estimate the figure in the order of 800 to 1,000. Because the private landlord does not show any interest let alone enthusiasm to take advantage of the financial assistance available it is obviously going to take a long time to make real progress in this valuable work of housing improvement which the Act was designed to accomplish.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION

The following dwelling houses, 24 in number, were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders at the owners expense.

Nos. 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, Newtown Road,
Nos. 81 & 83 (old numbers) 89, 91, 93, 121 & 123, Court Road,
Nos. 8, 10 & 12, West Malvern Road,

In connection with your Council's Slum Clearance Programme, Demolition Orders were made in respect of the following dwellings:-

Nos. 27, 29 & 31, West Malvern Road,
Nos. 5, 7, 92 & 94, Cowleigh Road,
No. 7, Victoria Walk.
Nos. 172 & 174, Lower Howsell Road,
Nos. 65 & 67, Old Wyche Road,
Cromwell, Half Key,
Edith Cottage, Edith Walk.

No. 4, Belmont Road, was rendered fit on the execution of works by the owners in lieu of a Demolition Order.

OVERCROWDING IN DWELLING HOUSES

47 new cases of overcrowding were either reported or discovered during 1956, thus increasing the number to 48 as 1 remained on our records from the preceding year. These cases mainly referred to the overcrowding of rooms normally used for sleeping in excess of the statutory "Permitted Number". I am pleased to report that 43 cases were abated thus leaving five on record at the end of the year.

In view of the high number of cases brought to attention the following information on the causes will be of some interest.

(a)	Increase where one family are sole occupants	15 cases
(b)	Increase where family is in lodgings	5 cases
(c)	Families returning home from abroad and demobilization from H. M. Forces coming to reside with relatives	7 cases
(d)	Married son or daughter making their home with in-laws	20 cases
(e)	Family making their home with relatives following loss of accommodation as the result of an eviction order	1 case

41 of the families living in overcrowded conditions were rehoused by your Council and 7 families were re-housed on account of Tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (as amended)

Section 50 of this enactment provides that it shall be the duty of the Council to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or has been found dead in the Urban District, in cases where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made.

The Department dealt with one case to which this section of the Act applies, details of which are as follows.

Miss Anna Josephine Fenton, aged 75 years, was found dead in her flat at 'Salisbury', Abbey Road on the 25th December. As a distant relative living in County Cork would not assume responsibility for the burial, arrangements for the interment were made as prescribed by the Act.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

10 Licences were granted under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising persons to station and use movable dwellings, 8 of these being for the period of one year and 2 for periods totalling four months.

Granting or renewal of a licence is given careful consideration on the housing needs of the applicants as well as the suitability of the site.

Applicants are informed that certain provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act must be complied with and liaison is made between this office and the Surveyor's Department in the approval of land proposed to be developed.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Redrainage of existing buildings and sanitary improvements to same continue to make a fairly heavy demand on the time of your Inspectors in meeting Contractors to discuss proposals, inspections of work in progress etc., since alterations to buildings are frequently in hand at the various Colleges, Schools and Hotels. Some of this work calls for special knowledge by reason of the gradients in certain parts of the town. At one of the large Banks where subsidence and dampness were giving concern for the safety of the building a complicated redrainage scheme was undertaken which required constant supervision over a period of nine months.

5 dwelling houses were entirely redrained and the drainage systems of 50 were partially reconstructed during the year under review.

2 dwellings situated in the outlying parts of the town were provided with septic tank and filter disposal units.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

When necessary, investigations are made on notification to the Medical Officer of Health of an infectious disease by medical practitioners. Contacts are traced and enquiries made in accordance with the usual practice or to meet the special requirements of the case and nature of the illness. Steam disinfection of patients clothing and bedding is carried out as required.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

With the closing of the Isolation Hospital at the end of October alternative arrangements had to be made for steam disinfection of articles of bedding and clothing exposed to infection or verminous. By arrangement with the South Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee this service is now available at St. Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern Wells at the existing charge per disinfector load.

The number of rooms fumigated was 10 and 13 loads of bedding were removed for steam disinfection. 7 loads of bedding were destroyed.

2 houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs.

Infestations of cockroaches, beetles, fleas, ants, mosquitoes and flies have been dealt with at various premises including dwelling houses, a hospital, restaurant kitchen and schools.

Treatments have been carried out at three dwelling houses for the destruction of woodworm.

43 wasps nests were also destroyed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1948

The provisions of the Factories Act, 1937 - 1948, which your Council has to administer, chiefly relate to the following matters:-

(1) Factories where mechanical power is used.

(a) Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences for both sexes.

(b) The provision of means of escape in case of fire in factories.

(2) Factories where mechanical power is not used.

(a) Cleanliness
(b) Overcrowding
(c) Ventilation
(d) Drainage
(e) Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences for both sexes.

(3) Provision of means of escape in case of fire in factories, Fire Certificates are issued by the Clerk of the Council.

Your Public Health Inspectors liaison with the Chief Officer of the Worcester City and County Fire Service who causes a survey to be made of factory premises and subsequently furnishes this department with a report stating, when applicable, structural alterations and/or equipment needed to fulfil the requirements of the Act and compliance with the details set out in the Fire Officers Report qualifies a Certificate to be granted. 4 Certificates were issued during 1956.

(4) Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.

(5) Homework.

The following table shows the list of factories on the Register.

Agricultural Engineers	2
Bakehouses	9
Beer Bottle Washing	1
Blacksmiths	2
Boot Repairing	14
Boots and Saddlery	4
Builders, Plumbers etc.	33
Cabinet Making	4
Concrete Slabs	3
Dairies	5
Dressmakers, Millinery etc.	8
Fireplace Manufacturers	1
Furniture Manufacturing	4
General Engineers	3
Glass Syringes	1
Hemp Drying and Processing	1
Joinery	13
Laundry	1
Marine Dealer	1
Motor Manufacturers	1
Motor Repairs	24
Organ Maker	1
Photographic	2
Picture Framer	1
Plant Repairs	1
Printers	3
Sausage Making	16
Saw Mills	2
Sheet Metal Work	1
Spectacle Makers	1
Stone Crushing	3
Stone Masons	3
Tailoring	3
Earmac Manufacturing	1
Tinsmiths	4
Tool and Plastic Moulding	1
Upholsterers	5
Vehicle Painting	3
Watch Repairers	8
Welding	6
Wines and Mineral Waters	3
Wireless, T.V. and Electrical Repairs	10

The number of inspections made of factories are as follows, the table being accordance with the requirements of the Home Office:-

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories (Mechanical Power)	84	NIL	NIL
Factories (Non-Mechanical Power)	138	NIL	NIL
Total	222		

Defects found in Factories are as follows:-

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of Cleanliness	7	6	NIL	NIL
Want of Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Other Nuisances	3	3	-	-
Sanitary Accommodation:				
Insufficient	3	3	NIL	NIL
Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	NIL	NIL
Not Separate for Sexes	-	-	NIL	NIL
Offences under Factories Act	-	-	-	-

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Your Public Health Inspectors are appointed inspectors for the purposes of this Act and the Regulations made thereunder.

The following is a summary of Improvements and Repairs carried out at Shop premises during the year:

Additional Sanitary Accommodation	9
Lavatory Basins Fixed	6
Heating Installations	11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The following is a table of action taken with regard to the administration of:

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
The Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Numbers of Dealers Licences (including supplementary licences) issued during the year in respect of:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk: (1) Bottling 3 (2) Distribution 86

Number of Licences issued in respect of Heat Treated Milk:

(1)	Pasteurising Plants	NIL	(2)	Distributors	8
(1)	Sterilised Milk Plants	NIL	(2)	Distributors	NIL

Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk - NIL

Samples of raw milk are taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, for statutory, biological and bacteriological examination, details are given in the table overleaf:

Class	Number of samples taken for examination	Satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
Designated "Tuberculin Tested"	106	101	5
"Pasteurised"	4	4	-
Ordinary	88	87	1

Biological Tests

Biological tests were made in respect of 108 of the samples referred to in this table and 5 of these showed evidence of infection with Br. abortus and 1 positive M. tuberculosis.

With regard to the dairy herd infected with Br. abortus the cows responsible were removed from the herd.

In the case of the milk found to be infected with M. tuberculosis the farm was situated outside the Urban area. The information was given to the appropriate officer for the area concerned and we were subsequently informed that a cow was removed from the herd and slaughtered.

Statutory examinations carried out on 84 samples of milk were found to conform to the required standards.

3 samples of pasteurised milk were subjected to the Phosphatase test with satisfactory results. 3 informal samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act were found to be satisfactory. 18 milk containers, namely glass bottles, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for rinse tests.

Distribution of milk within the district has continued to be generally satisfactory. 17 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow keepers) are registered as distributors.

238 visits were made to dairy premises for the purpose of inspections or to collect samples of milk on arrival from the place of production.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Specified Areas) Order, 1955 came into operation on the 21st March, 1955 which provides that all dairymen who retail milk in any part of the district must sell the milk under special designation, irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the district, and, any other milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

ICE-CREAM

The total number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream now stands at 80. There was 1 deletion by reason of the sale of this commodity being discontinued and 9 new registrations.

Ice-cream is not manufactured in the district.

Whilst most of the ice-cream is sold pre-packed inspections are made as to the means of storage and method of dispensing this article of food. 10 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis, all proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE - Bye-Laws
The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56.

Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 have been in operation since July, 1950.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on 1st. January 1956 with certain exceptions, the operation of which were delayed until 1st July.

Informative literature in the form of pamphlets were sent to all food traders and managements of catering establishments.

The following is a list of the various types of business, whilst the list is comprehensive certain duplications are unavoidable.

Food Premises.

Bakers and Confectioners	20
Butchers	21
Canteens	11
Confectionery and Sweets	23
Dairies	5
Fishmongers	10
General Stores	13
Greengrocers	17
Grocers	59
Guest Houses	13
Hotels (Licensed)	15
Hotels (Private)	18
Licensed Premises	31
Restaurants and Refreshment Rooms	19

The number of visits and inspections made to food premises is shown in the table on page 10.

By continuing to exercise tact and patience in carrying out their duties your Inspectors make every endeavour by instructive conversation with persons in control and personnel employed in these establishments to promote a clear understanding of what is required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. A talk was given to the members of the Malvern and District Grocers' Association on this subject.

Two new butchers shops were opened during 1956, these being well equipped to meet present day standards peculiar to this trade. Improvements and modernisation were also carried out at three grocers shops. Your Council made a special effort in the execution of a scheme of reconstruction and re-equipment of the Restaurant Kitchen at the Winter Gardens which is very worthy of comment in this report as your Inspectors can meet executives in the catering trade with some confidence that the Local Authority are not lacking in their efforts in making sure this undertaking is up to the standard required by the new Regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Six private slaughterhouses were again re-licensed for the period of one year. These are small buildings out-of-date in many respects, particularly in not having proper facilities for hanging carcase meat after slaughter, though it can be said in favour of these premises being in use, that the meat is handled with care and much better than one sees at some large abattoirs. Though new Bye-Laws were made under Section 68 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and came into operation in November 1956, it is difficult to formulate local administrative policy on the enforcement of certain requirements which involve structural alterations to the buildings, such as the provision of Sanitary Conveniences, since it is expected that the Government will soon be in a position to enlighten

Local Authorities following the publication of a White Paper (Cmd. 9761) on Slaughterhouse policy on the wider aspects of this problem which was brought to prominence after meat was taken off the ration in 1954.

Particulars of the principal slaughterhouses are set out below:

Name of Occupier	Address of Slaughterhouse
Messrs. G. C. Hewer & Son	Moorlands Road
Mr. R. Hill	311, Worcester Road
Mr. T. R. Hope	Lower Road, West Malvern
Mr. T. W. Lane	Old Hollow, West Malvern
Mr. A. V. Leyland and Miss M. E. Leyland	136, Worcester Road,
Messrs. C. Spencer & Son	Wedderburn Road.

Slaughtering still takes place at fixed times on fixed days in compliance with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and the inspection of all animal carcases and organs is undertaken at the time of slaughter or soon after, in accordance with the code of practice laid down in Memo. 3/MEAT of the Ministry of Food. The responsibility of meat inspection frequently involves extra hours of duty for your Inspectorate either early morning or evening as well as on Sundays.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following table shows the number of animal carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	609	16	76	1,475	426	NIL
Number inspected	609	16	76	1,475	426	NIL
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	3	1	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	148	9	2	6	7	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.3%	56.25%	2.6%	0.6%	1.9%	NIL
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	2	NIL	NIL	12	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.8%	12.5%	NIL	NIL	2.8%	NIL

 Table continued on next page

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

UNSOUND FOOD

The following is a detailed list of the diseased or unsound meat and other food examined by your Inspectors in slaughterhouses and shops and subsequently destroyed. The method of destruction of meat, meat products and tinned meat is by incineration by furnace fire. Other foods are buried.

	Tuberculosis	
Bovines	Carcase meat	410 lbs.
	Heads	9
	Tongues	5
	Lungs	11 sets
	Livers	6
	Mesenteries	10
	Hearts	1
Swine	Heads	8
	Mesenteries	4

	Conditions other than Tuberculosis	
Bovines		
Carcase meat	Bruising	102 lbs.
" "	Bone taint	426 lbs.
" "	Peritonitis	20 lbs.
Head and Tongue	Cysticercus bovis	1
Heart	Cysticercus bovis	1
Livers	Cysticercus bovis	1
"	Abscesses	7
" parts	"	37 lbs.
"	Angiomatosis	1
"	Cirrhosis	2
" parts	"	24 lbs.
"	Distomatosis	37
" parts	"	311 lbs
"	Echinococcus cysts	2
Lungs	Echinococcus cysts	4 sets
"	Cysticercus bovis	1 set
Spleens	Echinococcus cysts	1
"	Peritonitis	1

Calves	Conditions other than Tuberculosis	
Legs	Fracture	1
Lungs	Pneumonia & Pleurisy	1 set

Sheep		
Carcase and Organs	Moribund	2
" " "	Septicaemia	1
Livers	Distomatosis	5
"	"	1 lb.

Swine		
Carcase and Organs	Enteritis	1
Lungs	Congestion	1 set
"	Pleurisy	3 sets
Hearts	Pericarditis	4
Livers	Echinococcus Cysts	4

Meat, Poultry, Fish and Miscellaneous Foods

Bacon	20 lbs.	Ducklings	12
Ham	32 lbs.	Wet Fish	28 lbs.
Sausages	21 lbs.	Dried Apricots	40 lbs.

Tinned Meats		Tinned Ham	
78 Tins	178 lbs.	2 Tins	28 lbs.

Tinned Gammon		Tinned Bacon	
4 Tins	55 lbs.	2 Tins	26 lbs.

Tinned Food other than Meat			
Fish	9 Tins	Milk	36 Tins
Fruit	121 Tins	Vegetables	137 Tins
Soup	90 Tins	Miscellaneous	8 Tins

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - 54

The important requirements of these Acts which the Council are required to administer relate to the stunning of animals prior to slaughter and the licensing of persons engaged in slaughtering operations. The licences of thirteen slaughtermen were renewed for the period of one year.

One person was granted a Slaughterman's licence after satisfactory evidence of his efficiency had been supplied.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act is designed to lay down certain standards of cleanliness in the manufacture, use and storage of rag flock and other filling materials, and provides for the registration of upholsterers and certain other businesses, such as toy-makers and the licensing of manufacturers of rag flock, etc.

Two premises are registered under the provisions laid down by this Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

199 treatments for the destruction of rodents were carried out during the year.

Special attention is paid to periodical survey of the hedgerows and streams adjacent to farms and allotments where there are piggeries. Constant inspections and treatments are made at the Council's refuse tips and Sewage Disposal Works. The operative engaged on this work is supervised by your Inspectors.

A test treatment was carried out on the entire sewerage system which was followed up by two maintenance treatments. Particulars of investigations made and the results of the treatments carried out are recorded as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1887

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950

It was found necessary in December, 1955 to present a report to the Clerk of the Worcestershire County Council on investigations made by your Sanitary Inspectors relating to offences in connection with the sale of milk by a local firm of milk distributors. In consequence of this report the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority instituted proceedings which were heard at the Malvern Magistrates Court during February, 1956. The Defendants pleaded guilty to having in their possession for sale, milk to which a false trade description, namely Tuberculin Tested; Jersey Milk; Farm Bottled; etc., was applied, contrary to Section 2 (2) of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. They pleaded not guilty to the charge of using for the purpose of the sale of certain milk a special designation, namely 'Tuberculin Tested' in a manner calculated to suggest that it referred to that milk without holding a licence authorising the use of that designation in connection with that milk, contrary to Section 13 (2) of the Food and Drugs (Milk,Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

In the foregoing case the Defendants Solicitor stated that his Clients had been led to believe that a Certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries relating to Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme 1950 was a sufficient indication that the milk from animals to which this certificate related was 'Tuberculin Tested' milk

The Prosecution were allowed to withdraw a charge against the Defendants of having in their possession for the purpose of sale for human consumption milk to which water had been added contrary to the provision of Section 9 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

The Magistrates found the charge relating to the wrongful use of the Special Designation proved and fined the Defendants £12 on each of the two charges mentioned and ordered them to pay costs.

Whilst the action taken reached a satisfactory conclusion inasmuch that the charges were proved, one had the opinion that the public health significance of the offences was lost sight of, being subordinated to a confusion of legal technicalities.

The following is a precis of the case leading up to the charges.

The distributors were obtaining from a Producer bottled milk, namely "Tuberculin Tested", Jersey Milk, bottled at the place of production in the terms of a licence granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the Ministry being the only Authority empowered to grant such a licence. The distributors were authorised to retail this bottled milk by their licence issued by your Council under the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During October 1955 this arrangement terminated and it came to our knowledge that the distributors were still retailing bottled milk sealed with caps bearing the words "Tuberculin Tested", Jersey Milk, Farm Bottled, as well as the name and address of the producer. Since milk was also obtained by them in bulk from some 15 producers, 9 of which were licenced producers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, careful investigation had to be made before proceedings could be instituted; as a result it was ascertained that milk was collected from a certain producer during the evening, bottled after normal hours and sealed with the caps already mentioned. The producer from whose farm the milk was being wrongly labelled did not possess a herd of Jersey cows and was not licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested milk. An informal sample of this milk was found on analysis to be of a poor hygienic standard and adulterated with water.

From these facts it will be understood the unsuspecting public who were customers of the distributors were under the impression they had purchased milk of the highest quality and bottled at the place of production under ideal conditions.

Arising out of these proceedings your Council resolved to make representation to the appropriate Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Animal Health Division) requesting that it should be stated on the Certificate of attestation that the Certificate does not entitle the owner to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

CONCLUSION

I wish to express thanks to Dr. Green; the Clerk of the Council and his staff also to the Treasurer for their kind assistance and spirit of helpful co-operation.

Through the mediums of this report I extend my gratitude to the County Public Health Officer and the County Analyst: good relationship has always existed, but special thanks are due for their help and advice concerning the case outlined in the foregoing paragraphs.

The additional Inspectors and members of the Clerical Staff have again shown conscientious interest in their work and I wish to pay tribute by expressing my appreciation and thanks.

The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Housing Committee, as always, have again shown every consideration in matters which are of concern to this department, and it gives me pleasure to record my thanks.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

HUGH L. WHYTWHAM.