

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Oswestry Borough.

Contributors

Oswestry (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1957

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/grgyvts6>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



Library

BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

FOR THE YEAR


1957

OSWESTRY BOROUGH AND RURAL HEALTH DISTRICTS.

*With the Compliments of
the Medical Officer of Health*

Health Department,
8, Oswald Road,
Oswestry.

Telephone 388.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29940199>

OSWESTRY

Oswestry is an ancient market town situated very close to the Welsh Border, and is a shopping centre serving a population of 40,000-50,000; Welsh is widely spoken in the town. The Smithfield is one of the leading stock markets in the country. Some light industry is developing in the town, and in the past the advent of the railways brought a little of the Industrial Revolution, but in the main Oswestry retains its long-developed character of a market town in the Border Country.

Area (acres)	2,180
Population	11,020
Inhabited Houses (Rate Book)	3,311
Rateable Value	£143,185
Product of Penny Rate	£574.0.0

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. C. B. McARTHUR, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

R. J. LEWIS, F.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat Insp., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector (Resigned 31.8.57)

J. WADE, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Department:

MISS L. WILLIAMS.

I N D E X

	Page
Foreword by Medical Officer of Health	3
Vital Statistics	6
Rate for Births, Deaths, Still Births, Infant Mortality	
Maternal Mortality	7
Table - Causes of Death	8
Table - Infant Mortality and Neo-Mortality	9
Table - Cancer	10
Table - Infectious Disease	11
Table - Vaccination and Immunisation	13
Comment on Infectious Disease and Vaccination	15
Comment on Tuberculosis	16
Table - Tuberculosis	18
 Clinics and Hospitals	 19
Ambulance Service and Laboratory Facilities	20
National Blood Transfusion Service	21
 Water Supply and Analyses	 22
Drainage, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal	27
 Foreword by Public Health Inspector	 28
Housing	30
Infectious Disease - Dysentery	32
Shops Acts, Food Hygiene	33
Factories Acts Return	37
Clean Air	38
Illustration - "Smoke haze over Oswestry"	39
Illustration - "Cysticercus Bovis"	40
Meat Inspection	41
Rodent Control and Verminous Premises	44
Illustration - Mile End Camp	45
Illustration - "Window Display"	46
Cinemas, Health Education, Petroleum Acts	47

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
OSWESTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

00000

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors,

I have the honour to present for your perusal my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1957.

The contents include the information requested by the Minister of Health.

Our town has grown during the past year, building of both private and council houses continues.

Unfortunately many families still live in overcrowded conditions and substandard houses and it is a matter of regret that the first Clearance Area under the Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in August 1957, has not as yet advanced beyond the planning stage. The raising of the Bank Rate curtailed the progress of building, but not the rate at which dilapidation continues.

It is heartening to see the improved living conditions, and the pride taken in their homes and gardens by many who have left substandard houses.

1957 has seen two epidemics affect our town. It was a year when measles was expected, nor did we escape the Asian Influenza epidemic which, originating in the wilds of China, gave rise to many cases (almost all the children were affected) during September and October.

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery gave the Health Department four very

busy months before the last case was closed. Invaluable help was given by Dr. Alun Jones and the staff of the Royal Salop Infirmary Laboratory in examining and reporting on the many pathological specimens collected.

The incidence of other cases of infectious disease remained at a low level. The increase in deaths due to pneumonia is largely due to influenza in elderly persons.

Protection against infectious disease has been extended by the provision of poliomyelitis vaccination (the first small group of children being vaccinated in 1956), and B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old children against tuberculosis. Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Smallpox continues to be given. The response by parents accepting all offers of vaccination and immunisation for their children has been very good.

Clean food is our great concern - and it should be a matter of concern to all housewives and customers.

The Health Department are constantly observing all premises where food is prepared or sold, and endeavour to instil a sense of pride and responsibility in all who work there. It is very satisfactory to note the improvements made in so many of these premises.

Public Conveniences. It has long been our wish to see these places as well constructed and maintained as the W.Cs. in our own homes. Unfortunately, in the absence of constant supervision, certain of our irresponsible citizens from time to time damage fittings. Consequently we have not yet been able to provide the Town with conveniences which would conform to good modern standards and enable those who use them to wash their hands before leaving.

Our water supply remains very satisfactory and adequate.

Sudden heavy rainfall taxes the capacity of the sewers in certain parts of the town beyond their capability, and on occasion has led to temporary floodings. When proposed extensions to the sewage disposal system are carried out these conditions should no longer arise.

The Clean Air Act has come into operation, and in the Health Department daily measurement of air pollution is being made. Where factories in the town emit undue quantities of smoke, faulty and therefore wasteful consumption of fuel is taking place. Advice from the Chief Public Health Inspector, and sometimes consultation with the Solid Fuels Advisory Board help to improve efficiency in fuel consumption.

Health Education Displays have been staged in the Office window and have attracted much attention.

In this connection I would like to thank the Editor of the Border Counties Advertiser for publishing the paragraphs on health topic particularly during times when infectious illness has been prevalent.

In conclusion I wish to thank my colleagues in all departments of the Council for the help they have so willingly given throughout the year and for the sections they have contributed to this report. All members of the Public Health Department have given constant and valuable assistance which I have pleasure in acknowledging.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office,
8, Oswald Road, Oswestry.
September, 1958.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.

<u>Live Births.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	82	75	157
Illegitimate	2	4	6
	84	79	163

Birth rate per 1,000 population 14.7

Birth rate after correction by comparability factor 14.6

<u>Deaths.</u>	Male	Female	Total
	54	46	100

Death rate per 1,000 population 9.07

Death rate after correction by comparability factor 9.07

<u>Still Births.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	3	4	7

Still Birth rate per 1,000 population 0.63

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Number of children under 1 year of age who died in 1957 . . . 3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births . . 18.4

Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 births 0.00

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea	-	-	-

BIRTHS, DEATHS, STILL BIRTHS, INFANT MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

	Total Births	Birth Rate	Total Deaths	Death Rate	Still Births	Still Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population	Infant Deaths	Infant Mort.	Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births
OF WESTERN M.B.	163	14.7	100	9.07	7	0.63	3	18.4	-	-
(COUNTY OF SALOP 1956.	4,424	14.85	3,279	11.0	114	0.38	120	27.12	3	0.66
ENGLAND AND WALES	722,952	16.1	514,946	11.5	16,554	0.36	16,641	23.0	349	0.47

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES.	OSWESTRY M.B.	1956
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	15
Coronary disease, angina	15	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
Other heart disease	21	30
Other circulatory disease	8	6
Influenza	3	-
Pneumonia	8	2
Bronchitis	4	5
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	-	3
Suicide	5	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	100	115

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Under 1 day		1 - 7 days		7 days - 1 month		1 - 3 months		3 - 6 months		6 - 9 months		9 - 12 months		Total		Combined total	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
C/S/ESTRY M.B.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	18.4

NEO-MORTALITY

District	Deaths of infants under 1 month	Percentage of total infant deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
OSWESTRY M.B.	M. F. Total - 1 1	33	6.13

CANCER

District	Deaths		Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
	M.	F.		
OSWESTRY M.B.	7	7	14	1.27
COUNTY OF SALOP (1956)	269	257	526	1.765
ENGLAND & WALES	50,045	43,962	94,007	2.087

This disease has been dreaded by so many because of the heavy mortality which occurred when at last a sufferer plucked up courage to consult the surgeon and have his fears confirmed.

Early diagnosis and treatment can effect cure, and now there are many amongst us who got rid of their cancers completely because they had treatment as soon as the first symptoms were noticed.

The approach to cancer research is from many angles, and makes fascinating reading. Some of the discoveries are surprising - others are perhaps unpalatable, and many arguments against some findings are raised by people who find that their habits would be classed as risky.

The Ministry of Health has asked Local Authorities to bring to the notice of the public the proved connection between cancer of the lung and cigarette smoking - that the more cigarettes smoked the greater the risk of contracting cancer, and also that reduction of smoking or change to pipe smoking reduces the risk.

Your Medical Officer of Health will continue to advise teenagers in school that it is inadvisable to start smoking.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE TABLE

Disease	Dysentery	Deaths	Measles	Deaths	Meningo- coccal Inf.	Deaths	Pneumonia	Deaths	Polio- myelitis NP	Deaths	Puerperal Pyrexia	Deaths	Scarlet Fever	Deaths	Whooping Cough	Deaths
OSWESTRY M.B.	167	-	308	-	1	1	22	8	1	-	1	-	4	-	30	

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery	-	-	31	69	22	34	10	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	2	16	98	166	25	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Inf.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	7	2	-	7
Poliomyelitis NP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	4	-	4	3	4	6	-	2	3	3	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Age	Dysentery	Measles	Scarlatina- coccal Infection	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis (12)	Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough
0-	M. 1	F. 3	M. 1	F. 1	M. 1	F. 1	M. 1	F. 1
1-	2	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	8	25	-	-	-	-	-	1
3-	3	23	-	-	-	-	-	3
4-	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	1
5-	45	79	-	-	1	-	2	5
10-	2	9	-	-	1	-	1	8
15-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
25-	3	10	-	2	-	-	-	-
45-	3	2	-	6	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Not known	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	79	88	168	140	-	1	3	14

No cases of paralytic poliomyelitis, encephalitis, erysipelas, food poisoning or typhoid fever occurred.

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS, 1957

District	Percentage of children under the age of 1 year vaccinated	Under 1	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	Over 14	Total	Re-vaccinations
OSWESTRY M.B.	52.75	96	2	3	6	14	121	29

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS, 1957

District	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	Re-inforcing injections
OSWESTRY M.B.	104	24	128	159

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATIONS, 1957

District	Total Number Immunised in 1957
OSWESTRY M.B.	111

TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS, 1957

District	Total Number Immunised in 1957
OSWESTRY M.B.	44

B.C.G. VACCINATIONS

School	Consent Forms given out	Refusals	No. of consents presented	No. of Children skin tested	Skin Test Readings		No. Vaccinated	Re-lantoux	
					Pos.	Neg.		Pos.	Neg.
Oswestry Boys High	47	6	41	36	7	28	28	27	-
" Girls High	92	11	81	80	15	63	63	62	-
" Technical	26	6	20	17	4	13	13	12	-
" Boys Modern	75	-	75	72	11	59	59	56	1
" Girls "	77	2	75	64	10	51	51	47	1
" R.C.	12	2	10	9	1	8	8	5	-
Bellan House	10	3	7	6	1	5	5	5	-

Discrepancies in figures in columns marked * are due to absentees.
A proportion of the pupils come from Oswestry Rural District.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

District	Children born in the years 1947 - 1956 (inclusive).
OSWESTRY M.B.	65

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND VACCINATION

Apart from an isolated case of Diphtheria in 1952 this disease has vanished from Oswestry since immunisation was introduced nearly 20 years ago. The percentage of children immunised is satisfactory, but I find that some parents put off asking for immunisation until the children start school.

Immunisation of these infants against Whooping Cough is asked for by most mothers, and in many cases protection against Tetanus is also sought. The request for vaccination against Poliomyelitis has been good (about 70 % of all children in the County), and it is hoped that the results will be a great reduction in the incidence of paralysis.

I am glad to see that the proportion of infants vaccinated against Smallpox is slowly increasing. As with diphtheria immunisation a booster dose is desirable at an interval of 4 - 7 years. At present the public only ask for revaccination when emigration authorities insist on it.

TUBERCULOSIS

This is one of the common infectious diseases which has shown a marked fall in incidence since health education has become widespread, and through the ceaseless search for contacts carried on by all engaged in Public Health work.

I am glad to find on talking to the schoolchildren that they realise that tuberculosis is infectious, and also that so many of the parents are willing for the 13 year old group of children to undergo the B.C.G. test for tuberculosis followed by protective vaccination should it be required.

Those children showing a positive reaction to B.C.G. are X-rayed and every effort made to determine how they became infected. I have been impressed by the absence of cases of tuberculous infection of glands in the neck since so much of our milk has been pasteurised before consumption.

Now that Shropshire has become a Specially Designated area we hope that it will not be long before it can be classed as an Attested Area, one where the cattle are free from Tuberculosis.

Mass X-ray.

The Mass X-ray Unit based at Stoke-on-Trent visited Oswestry during May, 1957. The Director, Dr. E. Posner, reported that 3,774 persons attended for X-ray, which was a larger number of adults than on the previous visit in 1954. It is gratifying to note from the results

obtained that very few cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered among those who came for screening.

If all who attended were residents in the Borough (which was not the case) this would represent two fifths of the adult population. To get a valid estimate of the incidence of undiscovered chest disease at least 90 % attendance is desirable.

Aberdeen holds the record for attendance at a Mass X-ray Survey with 87 %.

Better housing and living conditions have made their contribution towards the prevention of tuberculosis, but the importance of including adequate amounts of milk, milk products, meat and vegetables in the diet and ensuring that young people aged 15 - 30 still keep to early hours of retiring to bed. The lure of T.V. keeps many young (and not-so-young) people confined to semi dark rooms at times when they should be enjoying fresh air and exercise or else be asleep in bed. The price they pay is a chronic weariness and lack of resistance to infections.

Education is given at the Chest Clinics and Sanatoria by doctors and nurses in the hope of preventing further cases arising in the patient's family or visiting friends. Unfortunately where the patient cannot have a bedroom to himself, passage of infection becomes more probable.

B.C.G. vaccination to protect young children and infants where there is a family history of tuberculosis is being used in certain cases under the care of the Chest Physician; and the disease itself is being treated by the drugs introduced during the past 10 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications during 1957.

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Civilian cases	1	3	-	1	1	4
Service cases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	2	2	-	-	2	2
TOTAL	3	5	-	1	3	6
Cured	1	-	-	-	1	-
Left District	1	2	-	-	1	2
Deaths	1	-	-	-	1	-

Number of cases on Register at the end of the year

Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
51	33	3	8	54	41

Number of Primary Notifications during the year - 5

Death Rate per 1,000 population (Respiratory Tuberculosis)

ENGLAND & WALES 0.094

CLINICS AND HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT

TUBERCULOSIS: The Physician attends at:-

The Clinic, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, every Friday
from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Chest Clinic, Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury every
Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES: Facilities for treatment.- Clinics.

No.1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, as follows :-

Females : Mondays - 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Thursdays - 5. 0 p.m. to 7. 0 p.m.

Males : Tuesdays } - 6. 0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.
Fridays }

The aforementioned clinics and the following hospitals are
administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board which was
constituted in accordance with the National Health Service Act.

Oswestry and District Hospital.

Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury, treats cases of Enteric Fever,
Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis or Acute Encephalitis.

Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, admits other cases of Infectious
Disease such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough etc.

Other hospitals which provide accommodation are :-

The County Council Hospital, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury.

The Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

The Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury.

The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act it became the duty of the County Council, the Local Health Authority under the Act, to make provisions for securing that ambulances and other means of transport are available for the conveyance of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness and expectant mothers or nursing mothers, from places in their area to places in or outside their area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. Telephone : Shrewsbury 4389.

The Bacteriologist is Dr. A. C. Jones, and the Pathologist is Dr. G. Grant.

This Service undertakes work for Local Authorities free of charge in so far as it is relevant to diagnosis. It is invaluable particularly in the expeditious dealing with the bacteriological examination of food samples.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The National Blood Transfusion Service Unit based on Birmingham visits Oswestry twice each year when a large number of public spirited citizens attend.

New volunteers are constantly required to take the place of those leaving the district or reaching 'retiring age', and to keep pace with the ever increasing demand for blood transfusion as a part of Hospital treatment.

The Shrewsbury Office has kindly supplied the following figures:-

	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Bled</u>
Oswestry 1957	207	194

This includes donors resident in the Rural District.

Those of us who have received blood transfusions for ourselves or a member of our family owe a debt of gratitude which no money can repay to these donors.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following notes on water supply, etc.

Rainfall at the Penygwely Reservoirs for the year was 43.61 inches.

Consumption for the year 155,709,100 gallons.

During July, August and September, the Rainfall was 20.93 inches compared with the average of 9.24 inches.

(1) Number of premises supplied from public water: 3,834

(2) Number of population supplied from public mains: 10,935

(a) direct to premises (1) 3,834

(2) 10,870

(b) by means of stand pipes (1) 17

(2) 65

Nature of supplies to remaining premises:

13 houses supplied by private systems

10 houses supplied by wells

4 houses supplied by Liverpool supply

1 house supplied by Rural District supply

The houses supplied by wells are isolated dwellings on the outskirts of the town some considerable distance from the mains.

The water has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity. The Corporation gathering grounds and impounding reservoir at Penygwely, together with the storage reservoirs at Mount Road do not normally provide a sufficient supply for the requirements of the town, but it is possible to augment this by drawing 250,000 gallons per day from the Liverpool Corporation Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct, this latter supply being obtained under powers granted by an Act of Parliament.

The treatment given consists of an average period of seven days storage followed by rapid filtration with the prior addition of lime and coagulant, lime and calgon after filtration, and chlorination by the Chloramine system.

The water supply to all parts of the town is constant and more than 99 % of all dwelling-houses have direct supplies or stand pipes within easy reach.

REPORTS OF ANALYSIS

Ref.M/NH/99 (Raw Water).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Slight opalescence with a flocculent deposit.

Microscopical examination: Mineral and organic matter; chlorophyceae
and protozoa.

Turbidity: 5

Colour: filtered: 15

Odour: Very faint vegetable

pH: 7.1

Free Carbon Dioxide: Trace

Electric Conductivity: 88

Dissolved solids dried at 180°C: 60

Chlorine present as Chloride: 7

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 11

Hardness: Total: 30

Carbonate: 11

Non-carbonate: 19

Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0

Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.12

Oxygen Absorbed: 1.8

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.12

Residual Chlorine: ...

Metals: Iron: 0.10, Manganese: 0.03, other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
developing on Agar	5 per ml.	11 per ml.	170 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	Present in	Absent from	Probable number.
	10* ml.	1 ml.	50 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I)	10 ml.	1 ml.	25 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	

*Intermediate Type I.

This sample shows only slight opalescence and deposit, the turbidity

being noticeable but not marked. The water is neutral in reaction, soft in character, has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and manganese. It is of satisfactory organic quality for this raw water and bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is limited to a very moderate number of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group, including Bact. coli. No exceptional difficulty would be expected in the treatment of this water for the production of a public supply.

Ref.M/YW/00 (Tap Water).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with no visible deposit.

Turbidity: Less than 3

Colour: 5

Odour: Very faint earthy

pH: 7.4

Free Carbonate Dioxide: Trace

Electric Conductivity: 76

Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 52

Chlorine present as Chloride: 8

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 9

Hardness: Total: 30 Carbonate: 9 Non-carbonate: 21

Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0

Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.028

Oxygen Absorbed: 0.70

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.035

Residual Chlorine: Absent

Metals: Iron: 0.04, Manganese: Less than 0.03, other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies	{	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
developing on Agar	{	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	4 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-	{	Present in	Absent from	Probable number.
aerogenes Reaction	{	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)		- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction		- ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and manganese. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

25th July, 1957.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of premises connected to public sewers	3,796
Number of premises connected to satisfactory private sewage disposal or treatment works	43
Number of houses without satisfactory means of sewage disposal	11

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Number of wards in the town	6
Number of wards where refuse is collected	6

Method of collection: By direct labour.

Method of disposal: Controlled tipping.

Your Worship, Aldermen, Councillors,

I beg to present my Report for 1957, various items of those duties performed by public health inspectors being given. A great deal of the year was taken up with dealing with the Dysentery outbreak, and daily routine connected with this disrupting the normal duties of office and outside staff for five months.

The inspection of licensed houses was carried out during the year, this last being done by my predecessor just after the war. I was forced to comment in my report on the licensed houses that it was a pity that brewery companies were not as keen to stipulate to their tenants what they should clean the glasses with as they were to stipulate what should be sold in the glasses. One brewery operating in this area supplies its managed houses with automatic dispensers and a detergent sterilizer recommended for the licensed trade but allows its tenants to use what they like regardless of the effect on the beer-head or of the sterilizing quality.

Staffing problems arose again during the year when Mr. Wade a qualified inspector of considerable experience joined the department as Additional Inspector in January 1957 and resigned to take up another post in August 1957. It was then two-and-a-half years since the Council agreed to the appointment of an additional inspector and for fifteen months or half of the time the post had been filled, the remainder of the time being taken up with seeking staff. In view of this most

unsatisfactory position it was decided to take on a pupil in order to try to achieve some continuity.

I must express to the Health Committee and the Council my appreciation of their support at all times.

I remain, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. LEWIS,

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

I. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957)	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc ...	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	4	-	-
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
	Number		
(5) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	6	12	2
(6) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by local authority	55	////
(9) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts ...	2	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	-	-

C. continued.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(10) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	////

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of year	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(11) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) under Section 48 ...	-	-
(b) under Section 17 (2)...	-	-
(c) under Section 46 ...	-	-
(12) Licensed for temporary occupa- tion under Sections 34 & 53	-	////

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(13) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	-	-

HOUSING

CLEARANCE AREA NO.1.

The Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Minister in August, 1957. One Pink property was cross-hatched yellow.

The Department was pleased to have had this first Area confirmed with little amendment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Dysentery (Shigella Sonnei).

The outbreak which lasted during the late spring and summer created a great deal of work for the Public Health Inspectors and the Clerical staff, and of course, the Public Health Laboratory. Daily specimens were despatched to Shrewsbury, results recorded and patients advised of results. The extent of the work can be judged from the following figures

No. of specimens despatched to laboratory	1,126
No. of cases which were notified and gave positive specimens ..	130
No. of cases which were notified but gave negative specimens ...	90
No. of cases not notified but which gave positive specimens ...	45
No. of cases not notified but which gave negative specimens ...	154

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the 114 food shops listed in the food section there are 169 other shops on the office registers. There is no official half day for closing, and though most of the shops close on a Thursday many of the street corner general stores make use of the exemption clauses in the Shops Acts to stay open every day. These clauses and anomalies of the Act, which are really a conglomeration of legislation much of which was passed in other days, make strict enforcement impossible, even if this seemed really necessary. When Joint Council hours for adult shop assistants are less than those legally stated for 16-18 year olds, and when bottles of lemonade but not a packet of tea can be bought on a Sunday, the law is very near to becoming the 'ass' it is sometimes called.

FOOD HYGIENE

The work of improving food premises continues steadily, and I must place on record the continuing cooperation of food traders. The Department assisted the local press in the production of a second annual "Food Hygiene" supplement to the weekly newspaper during the summer. The list of the various food premises is as follows :-

9 Bakehouses	17 Greengrocers
19 Cafe's	20 Sweet Shops
9 Fish Friers	52 Grocers
4 Wet Fish Shops	2 Wholesale Premises
39 Licensed Houses	21 Butchers Shops

FOOD HYGIENE (Cont.)

During the year shops and other food premises were inspected and the following notices were served. (Licensed houses excluded). -

to provide washing facilities	5
to increase or improve washing facilities	10
to carry out structural improvements	5
to carry out structural repairs	8
to carry out redecoration	13
to increase or improve toilet facilities	8

Bakehouses.

5 of the bakehouses produce bread, 3 producing confectionery only.

Catering premises.

Most of the cafe's are family businesses and rely on regular custom from people working in the town, or country folk shopping; this factor is conducive to well ordered premises. Modernisation of premises and equipment is steadily progressive, even though floor area available is often limited. Sterilisation of crockery by double-unit sinks, washing machines or chemicals is generally practised. Refrigerated storage is available in all of them, and was so before Regulations made it essential.

Butchers Manufacturing premises.

As food poisoning organisms can so easily be spread by manufactured meats these premises can never be too good, and so, of course, can always be better. Further improvements were made in several premises.

FOOD HYGIENE (Cont.)

Licensed Houses.

During the year a survey of licensed houses was carried out, a report being presented to the Health Committee and the Magistrates at the beginning of 1958.

The survey can be summarised as follows:-

Number of houses	38
Number with hot water and sinks for glass washing	38
Number using detergent sterilisation	38
Number with unsatisfactory ventilation	25
Number with unsatisfactory living accommodation	12
Number with unsatisfactory toilet accommodation	30

The licensees were most co-operative during the survey.

Grocery Premises.

During 1957, one old grocery premises was completely gutted and converted to self service, a major improvement to the premises and the hygiene standard possible. In a walk around store a proper room for handling cooked meat and bacon was provided within the main stock-room.

A "neighbourhood" corner shop was strikingly modernised, and yet maintains its 'small shop' atmosphere.

FOOD HYGIENE (Cont.)

Ice Cream.

The only manufacturing premises (Cold Mix) ceased production.

45 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Wet Fish Shops.

Three wet fish shops have refrigerated covered units for display, the fourth has a full glass window. There are no traditional wet fish slabs in shops or in the market.

Market Hall.

The Council and the Market Superintendent have been co-operative in raising the standard. All butchers are in a tiled butchers' market, with a sink with hot and cold water. Counters have a screen that rises vertically and then goes backward at a rising angle. Butter and cheese are sold behind similar screens. Only fruit and vegetables are sold on the open market, all other foods being inside. Markets on a Wednesday and Saturday are regularly visited.

Magisterial Proceedings.

A prosecution was taken by the Council against a national grocery company for

- (1) Failure to protect bacon from contamination by flies;
- (2) Exposing for sale bacon which was unfit for human consumption, being maggotted.

The cases were found proved and fines of £30 levied on each charge, a total of £60.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	15	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	89	4	-
TOTAL	106	104	6	-

2.- CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -					
(a) Insufficient	3	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	6	2	-	3	-

CLEAN AIR

As a first step in explaining the amount of pollution that occurs even in a market town like Oswestry, a daily filter apparatus was installed in May, 1957. This runs for 24 hours a day, 5 days a week, and filters an average of 90 cu. ft. in 24 hours.

The results are interesting in that the density of the stain on the filter paper varies almost directly as air temperature, and is not affected greatly by wind direction (e.g.) from the railway or towards the railway.

Of course, Oswestry has not the problem that faces the industrial towns and cities, but I feel that as we have a shorter distance to travel to 'Clean Air' then we should be determined to make the journey more quickly than the 'black areas'.

The following figures are the monthly averages of readings taken from the air filter apparatus during 1957.

May	8.9	milligramms	per	100	cu.	metres.
June	6.5	"	"	"	"	"
July	11.2	"	"	"	"	"
October	13.1	"	"	"	"	"
November	22.2	"	"	"	"	"
December	21.2	"	"	"	"	"

These figures indicate the direct relationship between the average temperature and the rate of pollution, suggesting an association between smoke pollution and the heating of homes and offices.



Smoke haze over Oswestry.



Bovis Cyst in wall of bullock's heart.



Bovis Cyst in muscle of bullock cheek.

MEAT INSPECTION

The table on page forty-three gives details of the number of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough. Premises at Willow Street are operated by a Company formed by local butchers, and the Oswestry Rural District Council through its Chief Public Health Inspector continues to share meat inspection duties, for which I am most grateful. Two other premises operate in the Borough, and the total figure is made up as follows:-

Animals killed at Willow Street and inspected by R.D.C. :-

615 Cattle, 13 Cows, 62 Calves, 4,333 Sheep, 1,164 Pigs.

Animals killed at Willow Street and inspected by Borough :-

635 Cattle, 17 Cows, 61 Calves, 4,482 Sheep, 2,828 Pigs.

Animals killed at two other premises and inspected by Borough :-

384 Cattle, 92 Calves, 2,793 Sheep, 144 Pigs.

The main slaughtering centre is operated by the Oswestry Wholesale Butchers' Supply Company, and at the latter end of 1957, plans were laid by them for the improvement and modernisation of their premises, in view of the possibility of the Government sanctioning a municipal abattoir seeming remote in the near future.

A feature of 1957 meat inspection was a sharp rise in the incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis*, which caused some concern to the butchers and the Inspectors. Carcasses affected with a localised condition were discovered and were sent to Chester for cold storage treatment. At a cost of £20 per carcass to the butchers for treatment and loss, this was a serious

matter. Our investigations showed that there was in many cases a close link between infected cattle and sewage works outfalls. In one period of 10 days, 7 out of 27 cattle inspected were found to be affected, and this tested to the extreme the confidence of the butchers in the Inspectors, but I am happy to report that relations remained amicable. In the first half of 1958, much less *Cysticercus Bovis* has been found.

Slaughtering hours still extend beyond office hours considerably, and meat inspection has often to be done in the evenings and early mornings, and some Sundays. In many authorities this commonly means office hours plus

QUANTITY OF MEAT CONDEMNED

(a) Tuberculosis.

<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Lungs 70 lbs.	Lungs 28 lbs.
Liver 23 lbs.	Liver 26 lbs.
Heads 340 lbs.	Heads 647 lbs.

(b) Other than Tuberculosis.

<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Lungs 187 lbs.	Lungs 8 lbs.
Liver 298 lbs.	Liver 48 lbs.
Heads 625 lbs.	

Sheep.

Lungs	15 lbs.
Liver	64 lbs.
Part carcass	8 lbs.
Whole carcass	40 lbs.

Total weight condemned 21 cwt. 2 qtrs. 19 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,634	30	215	11,608	4,136
Number inspected	1,634	30	215	11,608	4,136
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	165	6	3	74	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	10.1	20.0	1.86	0.65	1.01
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42	-	-	-	121
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.57	-	-	-	2.92

RODENT CONTROL

The Borough Council and Rural District Council continue to operate a joint committee for carrying out duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Two operatives are employed by the Committee and are available for work in either district as indicated by the Public Health Inspectors; although generally work in the Borough is carried out by the one operator. Contracts are held with the Committee, the fee for a financial year being based on the number of hours worked at a premises during the previous calendar year.

The Refuse Tip is treated regularly and infestations kept to the minimum under the conditions prevailing.

Generally speaking, rat infestations are low and complaints are few. Mice are reported more frequently and at premises under contract most treatments are for these smaller but none the less destructive and unhygienic pests.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Once again it is pleasing to report that these are conspicuous by their absence. Occasionally infestations of cockroaches occur in various parts of the town but perseverance and modern insecticides will safely eliminate these and all other vermin - except the humble ant.



Huts at Mile End Camp. Occupied by Squatters at the end of the War, the occupants have been rehoused and the huts demolished.





Display in the window of the Health Department.

CINEMAS

The Cinemas had their annual inspection and certificates were issued for the guidance of the licensing magistrates.

As in past years the Cinema management have at all times been most co-operative and helpful, and continue to assist keeping health education in the public eye by showing slides.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Department is still housed in converted shop premises, and the window remains useful for the Health Education displays, with the opportunity to interest the public in one subject at a time. In addition, seasonal matters such as measles control in the spring, food hygiene in the early summer etc., can be dealt with at the right time. Various Government Departments have quite good set displays suitable for placing in show windows.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Forty premises are licensed for the storage of a total of 111,210 gallons of petrol. Five premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum mixtures (i.e. Cellulose) and three for the storage of calcium carbide.

CITIZENS

The Commission has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public.

REMARKS

The Commission has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public.

REMARKS

The Commission has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. The Commission has also held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public.

