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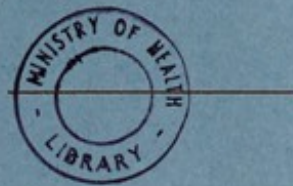
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BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY



# ***Annual Report***

ON THE WORK OF THE

**Public Health Department**

FOR THE YEAR

**1958**



OSWESTRY BOROUGH AND RURAL HEALTH DISTRICTS.

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*With the Compliments of  
the Medical Officer of Health*

Health Department,  
8, Oswald Road,  
Oswestry.

Telephone 388.

WESTERN BOROUGH AND RURAL HEALTH DISTRICT

*The Medical Officer of Health  
West the Supplement of*

Health Department  
8 Council Road  
Telephone 282

## OSWESTRY - SHROPSHIRE

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Situated close to the Welsh Border, Oswestry is predominantly a market town and agricultural centre, largely bilingual and with many activities and interests. The Smithfield is one of the leading markets, whilst the Agricultural Show is one of the biggest one day events of its kind. Apart from the shops which serve a population of 40-50,000, the railway repair sheds and maintenance services are the biggest employers, although light industries are being attracted by the surroundings and the adaptability and availability of local labour. Oswestry is a pleasant town in which to live, where strangers quickly find a sense of belonging.

Area (acres) . . . . .	2,180
Population . . . . .	11,100
Inhabited Houses (Rate Book) . . . . .	3,403
Rateable Value . . . . .	£154,199
Product of Penny Rate . . . . .	£601.18.6

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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Public Health Department, 8, Oswald Road, Oswestry.

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Public Health Inspector:

R. J. LEWIS, F.A.P.H.I., CERT. MEAT INSP., DIP. R.I.P.H.H.

Clerk to the Department:

L. WILLIAMS.

Pupil to the Public Health Inspector:

D. BOWES.

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

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors,

I have the honour to present for your perusal the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1958.

The contents include information requested by the Minister of Health.

The statistics show an increase in the Birth rate to 16.03 and a reduction in Stillbirths, but this is balanced by an increased number of deaths (particularly from coronary disease and angina). The Death rate is 10.36. Infant Mortality rate 28.0. No Maternal deaths or deaths from infectious diseases occurred.

It gives me pleasure to be able to report that there were very few cases of infectious disease during the year apart from an outbreak of Sonne dysentery during three summer months. This outbreak was less severe than that experienced in 1957, and again Dr. Alun Jones and the staff of the Royal Salop Infirmary Laboratory gave invaluable help in examining and reporting on the specimens collected by the Health Staff.

Protection against infectious disease continues to be offered, and vaccination against poliomyelitis for children of and below school age occupied a large part of the time of the County Health Staff and was also carried out by the General Practitioners. During the autumn the 15-25 age group was included, and evening clinics were held. The response during 1958 was not as good as had been hoped for, although the percentage

of young people who attended compared favourably with that in other areas of the County. The reason for lack of interest appears to be a belief that "it wouldn't affect me". Perhaps it was unfortunate for Oswestry that an average of one case of Poliomyelitis had been notified during each of the past few years.

Immunisation against Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Tuberculosis continues to be given.

Educational displays in the window of the Health Office are arranged from time to time on subjects such as Home Safety, Food Hygiene, Clean Air, and Immunisation, and we are also glad to have given publicity to the work of the Blood Transfusion Service and St. John's Ambulance Association.

Health Education is also given in lectures or more informal Talks in schools and food shops, and the standard of hygiene observed continues to improve.

One disappointing item is that during 1958 only 50 new houses were built by the Council (and 37 by private enterprise) while 15 houses were demolished or closed. The Slum Clearance Area (1957) had not advanced beyond the planning stage at the end of 1958.

Many young married couples still have to spend several years in rooms before they can enter a home of their own. Their lives, and the early years of their children are affected by the lack of freedom and independence that this entails.

The water supply continues satisfactory and adequate, purchase of water from the Liverpool Corporation making up for any shortage of water from the gathering ground at Penygwely during dry seasons.

The Home Help Service operated by the County Council provides domestic help for many of the elderly or sick in the Borough. Not only do the Helpers give help in the homes, but their visits brighten the days of some who would otherwise be very lonely. Should any of those who are visited be ailing or in special need the Helpers report to the Organiser, Mrs. Williams, who takes steps to obtain such further help as is required, e.g. medical, Welfare, Public Assistance, etc., and keeps me informed.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues in all departments of the Council for their help during the past years and for the sections contributed to this report. The assistance given by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Lewis and the Clerk to the Department, Miss Williams is invaluable, and I would like to record my appreciation of their co-operation.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
8, Oswald Road,  
OSWESTRY.

September, 1959.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate . . . . .	93	80	173
Illegitimate . . . . .	3	2	5
	96	82	178

Live Birth rate per 1,000 population . . . . . 16.03

Live Birth rate after correction by comparability factor . . 15.8

Still-births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate . . . . .	2	3	5
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	-	-
	2	3	5

Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births . . . . . 27.3

Total live and still-births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate . . . . .	95	83	178
Illegitimate . . . . .	3	2	5
	98	85	183

Infant Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate . . . . .	3	2	5
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	-	-
	3	2	5

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total . . . . . 28.0

" " " " " " - legitimate . . . 28.9

" " " " " " - illegitimate . . 0.0

Neo Natal " " " " " " . . . . . 22.47

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births . . . 2.80

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Maternal deaths (including abortion) . . . . . Nil

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births . . . . 0.00

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Deaths from Measles</u> (all ages) . . . . .	-	-	-
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough</u> (all ages) . . . . .	-	-	-
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea</u> . . . . .	-	-	-

<u>Deaths from all causes</u>	Male	Female	Total
	54	61	115

Death rate per 1,000 population . . . . . 10.36

Death rate after correction by comparability factor . . . . . 10.25

# BIRTHS, DEATHS, STILL BIRTHS, INFANT MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY

FOR THE YEAR 1958.

	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Still Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
OSWESTRY M.B.	178	16.03	115	10.36	5	27.3	5	28.0	-	-
COUNTY OF SALOP (1957)	4,528	15.20	3,167	10.63	101	21.82	118	26.06	1	0.22
ENGLAND AND WALES	738,323	16.4	526,792	11.7	16,274	21.6	16,620	22.5	326	0.43

# CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE.	OSWESTRY M.B.	1957
Tuberculosis, respiratory . . . . .	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis . . . . .	-	-
Syphilitic disease . . . . .	-	-
Diphtheria . . . . .	-	-
Whooping Cough . . . . .	-	-
Meningococcal infections. . . . .	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	-	-
Measles . . . . .	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases . . . . .	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach . . . . .	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus . . . . .	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast . . . . .	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus . . . . .	1	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms . . . . .	9	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia . . . . .	1	-
Diabetes . . . . .	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system . . . . .	11	11
Coronary disease, angina . . . . .	26	15
Hypertension with heart disease . . . . .	1	1
Other heart disease . . . . .	23	21
Other circulatory disease . . . . .	11	8
Influenza . . . . .	-	3
Pneumonia . . . . .	3	8
Bronchitis . . . . .	5	4
Other diseases of the respiratory system . . . . .	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . . . . .	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea . . . . .	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis . . . . .	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion . . . . .	-	-
Congenital malformations . . . . .	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases . . . . .	13	4
Motor vehicle accidents . . . . .	1	2
All other accidents . . . . .	1	-
Suicide . . . . .	1	5
Homicide and operations of war . . . . .	-	-
All causes . . . . .	115	100

# 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 Live Births
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
OSWESTRY M.B.	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	28.0

# NEO-MORTALITY

District	Deaths of infants under 1 month			Percentage of total infant deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	M.	F.	Total		
OSWESTRY M.B.	3	1	4	80	22.4

# CANCER

District	Deaths		Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
	M.	F.		
OSWESTRY M.B.	8	8	16	1.44
COUNTY OF SALOP (1957)	252	264	516	1.732
ENGLAND & WALES	50,732	45,067	95,799	2.120

Provisional figures by the Registrar General for deaths from Cancer in England and Wales during 1958 show that 50,732 males died from this disease of which number 17,030 (33%) died from Cancer of the lung and bronchus. For females, out of 45,067 cancer deaths 2,779 (6%) were due to this cause. Many of those who died from lung cancer were in the prime of life, and unfortunately the mortality rate from this disease continues to rise each year.

If 20,000 deaths, from, say poliomyelitis, occurred in any year there would be a determined attempt to combat the threat.

There is a clear relation between smoking and persistent cough with sputum ("chronic bronchitis"), and also a steady rise in the mortality rate from lung cancer with increasing amounts of tobacco smoked. Probably 20 years is the incubation period of human lung cancer due to tobacco.

The production of a nicotine-free tobacco might well be a safety measure, for nicotine has serious effects on certain organs of the body (particularly the heart and blood vessels). Unfortunately the smoking qualities of this tobacco does not meet with the approval of smokers.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE TABLE

Disease	Dysentery	Deaths	Food Poisoning	Deaths	Measles	Deaths	Meningo-coccal inf.	Deaths	Pneumonia	Deaths	Polio-myelitis (P)	Deaths	Puerperal Pyrexia	Deaths	Scarlet Fever	Deaths	Whooping Cough	Deaths
OSWESTRY M.B.	122	-	3	-	4	-	1	-	3	3	1	-	2	-	1	-	13	-

## MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	63	42	15	-	-	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Meningococcal inf.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (P)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-



# SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS, 1958

District	Percentage of children under the age of 1 year vaccinated	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	Over 14	Total	Re-vaccinations
OSWESTRY M.B.	61.8	110	3	4	6	15	138	15

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS, 1958

District	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	Re-inforcing injections
OSWESTRY M.B.	101	32	133	30

# WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATIONS, 1958

District	Total Number Immunised in 1958
OSWESTRY M.B.	79

# TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS, 1958

District	Total Number Immunised in 1958
OSWESTRY M.B.	19

# B.C.G. VACCINATIONS, 1958

School	Consent Forms given out	Refusals	* No. of consents received	* No. of Children skin tested	* Skin Test Readings		No. vaccinated	* Re-mantoux	
					Pos.	Neg.		Pos.	Neg.
Oswestry Boys High	65	12	53	48	10	38	37	-	-
" Girls High	69	10	59	44	13	31	31	-	-
" Technical	25	-	25	21	4	17	17	-	-
" Boys Modern	99	9	90	69	6	61	61	-	-
" Girls Modern	63	4	59	48	10	37	37	-	-
" R.C.	10	-	10	7	1	5	5	-	-

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

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND VACCINATION

The incidence of infectious disease of all kinds (with the possible exception of measles) has fallen steadily during the past 50 years, and dramatically since the specific protection for so many diseases has been discovered. Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tuberculosis and more recently Poliomyelitis now have had antigens isolated.

In order effectively to combat these scourges it is necessary that the great majority of the population at risk should avail themselves of the protection offered, and maintain their immunity by booster doses at the requisite intervals.

Unless the level of immunity is effectively maintained in individuals the community might at some unexpected time find an epidemic developing in their midst.

How many people in Oswestry have been vaccinated against smallpox during infancy and had a revaccination during the past 5 years ? I think the answer would be the Health Staff, Forces personnel and a few people who had been to those countries where vaccination is a condition of entry.

The large majority of school children and many under school age have been immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis.

Unfortunately the response of the 15-25 year group to the offer of poliomyelitis vaccination has been poor, though many over 25 would gladly avail themselves of the chance.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The reduction in incidence of infectious disease is one of the triumphs in Public Health work. Health education has made a contribution here. In the case of tuberculosis four lines of approach contribute

- (1) vigilance to discover early cases and screening of contacts;
- (2) the discovery and use of Antibiotic drugs;
- (3) better housing conditions and better food;
- (4) B.C.G. Vaccination.

The effect of using antibiotics in the period of infectivity means that in most cases the length of stay in sanatorium has been reduced to a few months instead of one or two years, and consequently it is now possible to admit cases within a few days of diagnosis.

B.C.G. vaccination is now offered to all children aged 13 years, and to contacts of confirmed cases of tuberculosis and is accepted in nearly all cases. Should the skin test show that no primary tuberculous infection has yet occurred the child is vaccinated with B.C.G. and presently a second skin test is made to confirm that protection has been conferred.

Healthy living conditions i.e. adequate food (including a sufficiency of milk, milk products and meat), ample rest and sleep, exercise and fresh air, and absence of overcrowding in the home, all contribute towards building up a body resistant to infections of all kinds.

No visit of the Mass X-ray Unit for public sessions has been possible this year.

# TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications during 1958.

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

Number of cases on Register at the end of the year :-

Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
51	34	3	11	54	45

Number of Primary Notifications during the year - 2

Death Rate per 1,000 population (Respiratory Tuberculosis)

ENGLAND & WALES . . . . 0.088

## 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	-	5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Males	:	Tuesdays	}	- 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 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 Diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles 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 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 4684.

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 1958 . . . . .	231	228

These figures include donors resident in the Oswestry 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 46.80 inches.

This compares with an average of 38.00 inches during the Standard Period 1881 to 1915.

Consumption for the year was 148,497,200 gallons.

- (1) Number of premises supplied from public water: 3,909
- (2) Number of population supplied from public mains: 11,160

- (a) direct to premises (1) . . . . . 3,892

- (2) . . . . . 10,095

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

- (2) . . . . . 65

Nature of supplies to remaining houses:

- 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.N/NR/19 (Raw Water).

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a small amount of buoyant matter.

Microscopical examination: Suspension of volvox.

Turbidity: 5

Colour: Filtered: 35

Odour: Very faint earthy

pH: 6.9

Free Carbon Dioxide: 5

Electric Conductivity: 69

Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 55

Chlorine present as Chloride: 5

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 17

Hardness: Total: 24

Carbonate: 17

Non-carbonate: 7

Nitrate Nitrogen: 5.0

Nitrite Nitrogen: Absent

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.034

Oxygen Absorbed: 4.1

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.15

Residual Chlorine: ...

Metals: Iron: 0.16,

Manganese: 0.04,

other metals absent.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
developing on Agar	16 per ml.	18 per ml.	130 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
form reaction	*100 ml.	50 ml.	1 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I)	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	

\*False presumptive reaction - non lactose fermenters.

This sample shows only slight opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water just on the acid side of neutrality,

very 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 shows distinct but not excessive colour and organic quality is very satisfactory for a surface water. Similarly, bacterial quality is very satisfactory this being of a high standard. No exceptional difficulty would be expected in the treatment of this water for the production of a public supply.

Ref.N/NR/20 (Tap Water).

#### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a very slight deposit.

Microscopical examination: Trace of ferruginous mineral matter and organic debris.

Turbidity: Less than 3

Colour: 20

Odour: Nil

pH: 7.4

Free Carbon Dioxide: Trace

Electric Conductivity: 90

Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 65

Chlorine present as Chloride: 6

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 20

Hardness: Total: 34      Carbonate: 20      Non-carbonate: 14

Nitrate Nitrogen: 3.5

Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.11

Oxygen absorbed: 1.7

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.063

Residual Chlorine: Absent

Metals: Iron: 0.11,      Manganese: 0.03,      other metals absent.

# BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies	( 1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
developing on Agar	( 40 per ml.	58 per ml.	78 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-	( Present in	Absent from	Probable number
form 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 minute traces of iron and manganese. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It shows noticeable but not marked colour and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

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

18th July, 1958.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of premises connected to public sewers . . . . .	3,871
Number of premises connected to satisfactory private sewage disposal or treatment works . . . . .	43
Number of premises 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.

## REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During 1958 progress in the improvement of food handling conditions continued to be made.

The main slaughtering unit underwent major alterations, and another grocery shop was modernised. One school canteen was closed, and another completely reorganised.

No positive progress was made with Clearance Area No.1, and this is acting as a brake on all housing work.

The year was one of the steady routine work of inspections, informal action, correlation of information and probably most important of all, by my movement about the town, acting as a reminder of those duties and standards which it is the responsibility of the local authority to maintain.

I remain,

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, 1958.

### A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In 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 ...	13	-	-
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ... ..	-	-	-

### B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	Number		
(8) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	2	2	1
(9) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	-	-	-
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	1	5	1

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

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority ... ..	32	////
(12) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts ...	3	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	-	-
(13) 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)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) under Section 48 ... ..	3	3
(b) under Section 17 (2)... ..	-	-
(c) under Section 46 ... ..	-	-
(15) Licensed for temporary occupa- tion under Sections 34 or 53 ...	-	////

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(16) 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.

No progress was made with this Clearance Area, declared in July, 1955, the Compulsory Purchase Order of January, 1956 being confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government in August, 1957.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### Dysentery (Shigella Sonnei).

A further outbreak occurred in 1958, but fewer cases were notified, and fewer specimens sent to the laboratory. A remarkable thing about these dysentery outbreaks is the divergence of medical opinion as to their seriousness and the need for isolation of contacts.

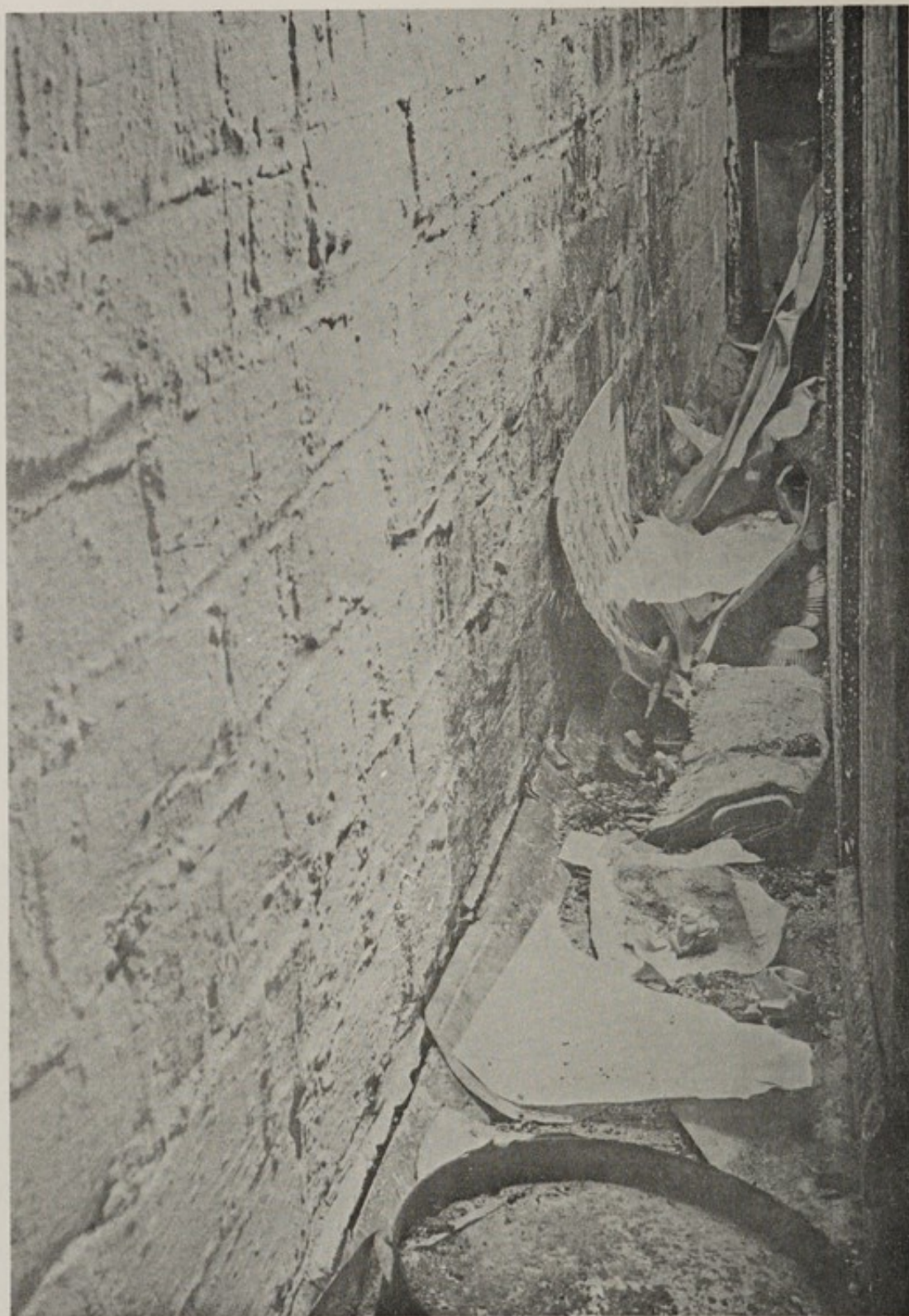
I would venture the opinion that the first control measure should be adequate hand washing facilities and controls in schools, especially amongst 5 - 11 year-olds. Only after two years of dysentery outbreaks have I obtained hot water to basins, and drinking fountains instead of communal beakers in a Junior School.

## 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. An annual inspection is made of shops which are not food premises.



Inadequate staff facilities which have been replaced by a staff room.



Rubbish found behind cupboard in a bakery..

## FOOD HYGIENE

The work of improving food premises continues steadily, and I must place on record the continuing co-operation of food traders. The Department assisted the local Press in the production of a third 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

### 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.)

### School Canteens.

Two canteens were closed, and one rebuilt. The closing of one canteen and the rebuilding were as a result of representations made to the County Council. There are now five kitchens supplying schools, all of a good standard; two of them are of a very high standard and are very well run.

### Ice Cream.

The only manufacturing premises (Cold Mix) ceased production.

50 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.

# 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	16	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	91	12	2	-
TOTAL	107	13	2	-

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	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-

## CLEAN AIR

The daily filter apparatus continued in operation during the year, and below we give details of the monthly average readings.

January	24.0	milligramms per 100 cu. metres.				
February	16.3	"	"	"	"	"
March	27.5	"	"	"	"	"
April	11.1	"	"	"	"	"
May	6.3	"	"	"	"	"
June	7.3	"	"	"	"	"
July	6.7	"	"	"	"	"
August	7.3	"	"	"	"	"
September	11.8	"	"	"	"	"
October	32.5	"	"	"	"	"
November	29.4	"	"	"	"	"
December	51.61	"	"	"	"	"

It is interesting to note that the readings for the month of December, when compared with those taken in the centre of the City of Coventry, showed that the average daily figures for the month disclosed greater pollution in Oswestry than Coventry City centre. Such is the pollution of the air in a small, compact, urban area.

## MEAT INSPECTION

The table on page 43 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. 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. :-

708 Cattle, 25 Cows, 31 Calves, 4,511 Sheep, 2,093 Pigs.

Animals killed at Willow Street and inspected by Borough :-

721 Cattle, 23 Cows, 29 Calves, 4,621 Sheep, 2,034 Pigs.

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

319 Cattle, 64 Calves, 2,449 Sheep, 126 Pigs.

The bulk of the slaughtering is done at premises occupied by the Oswestry Butchers Wholesale Supply Co. Ltd., a company formed by the local butchers. During 1958 extensive alterations were carried out, including the fitting of a stunning pen, electric hoist and electric saw, tiling out, adequate sinks and basins with hot and cold water supply, fly screening of windows and the provision of a messroom which includes a shower-bath which is regularly used by the slaughtermen at the end of the day. The slaughtermen wear khaki trousers and shirts and white caps supplied by the company and which can be easily washed. Lighting is not up to the high standard of the 1959 Hygiene Regulations but can be improved; the meat inspector is provided with a metal table with a fluorescent strip light

above at the point where offals are hung and inspected. The throughput is not enough to warrant an inspector being on duty all day, but the arrangement whereby cattle are slaughtered first thing and pigs at the end of the day does allow for good control.

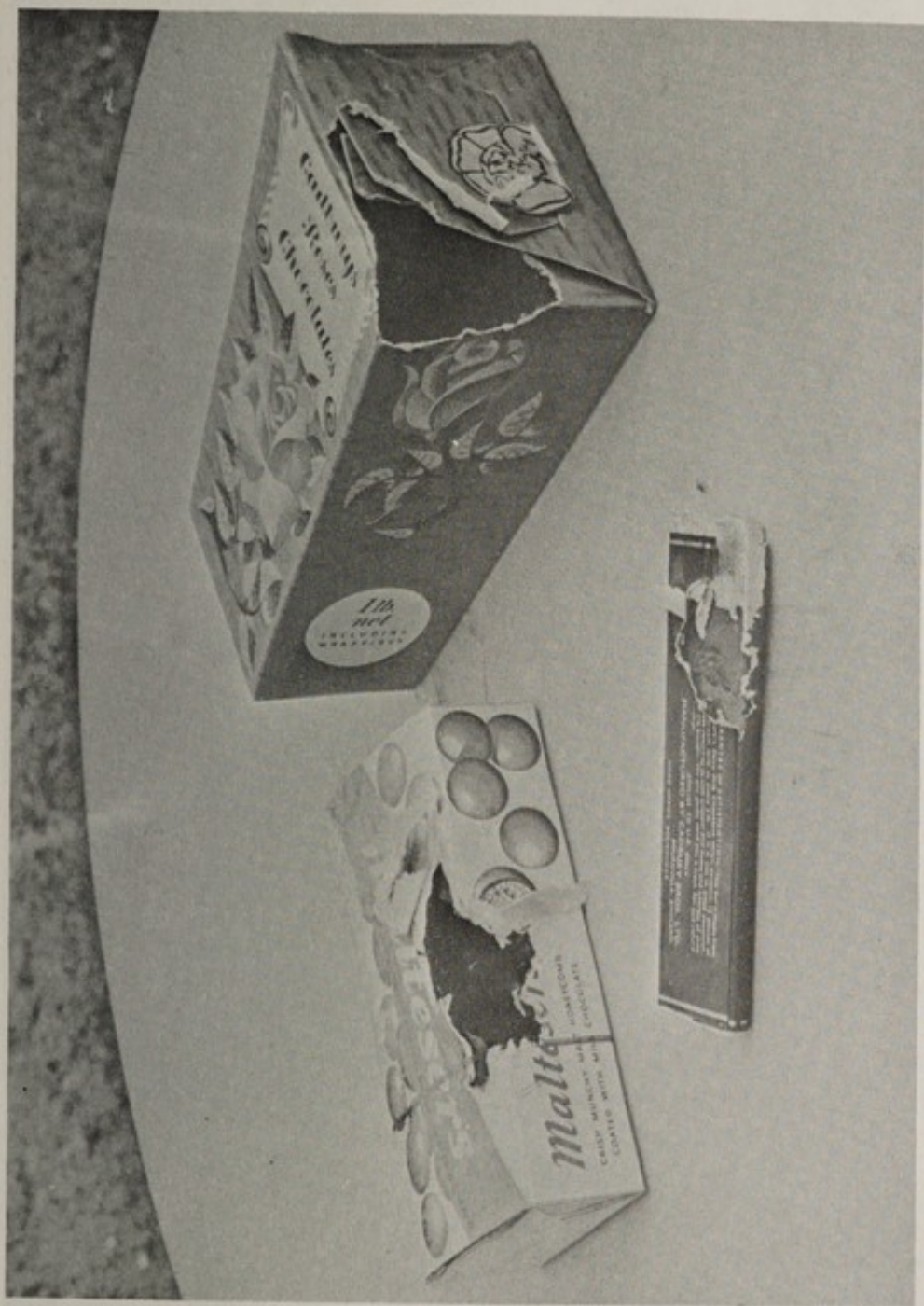
Pathogenic infections amongst animals slaughtered in the Borough is at a very low level; attestation has largely eliminated m. tuberculosis, the cattle slaughtered being good quality steers and heifers bought in the open market, and not, attestation rejects. Cysticercus Bovis was at a much lower level than in the previous year.

#### 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.



Examples of the damage and wastage caused by rodents.



Mice in a bakery. Droppings on the floor and on a box pulled away from the wall.

# MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed . . . . .	1,748	48	124	11,581	4,253
Number inspected . . . . .	1,748	48	124	11,581	4,253
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	-	-	-	2	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . . . . .	226	7	-	168	196
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis . . . . .	12.9	14.6	-	1.46	4.63
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . . . . .	32	1	-	-	149
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis . . . . .	1.83	2.08	-	-	3.5

C. Bovis localised (carcase frozen) 6  
 " " generalised (carcase condemned) Nil.

## 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.

## 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.



