[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary / Public Health Inspector, Peterborough City.

## Contributors

Peterborough (England). City Council. nr 94004832

## **Publication/Creation**

1957

## **Persistent URL**

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cg7gf8mh

## 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

# CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

Lolinny



# REPORTS

OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

## AND OF THE

# Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1957

CASTERS, THE PRINTERS, CROMWELL ROAD, PETERBOROUGH



# CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

I.

# REPORT

## OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1957

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

https://archive.org/details/b2998774x

## CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1957

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1957)

Chairman : Coun. MRS. M. SWIFT

Vice-Chairman : Coun. G. A. SMITH

THE MAYOR, COUN. G. A. SMITH (ex-officio) CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio)

> ALD. G. R. CHAMBERLAIN ALD. H. R. HORRELL

Coun. W. E. Auckland Coun. J. W. Fowler Coun. C. R. Goose Coun. G. W. Govey Coun. C. E. Hall Coun. T. C. Hitchborn Coun. J. F. Jeffery Coun. A. L. Robinson, m.b.e. Coun. J. W. Setchfield Coun. C. W. Swift Coun. G. Tyers

Medical Officer of Health : G. DISON, M.C., L.R.C.P., & S. (ED.), D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

> Assistant Medical Officer of Health : DIANA MCKNIGHT, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the City of Peterborough for the year 1957.

This Report covers the period during which my predecessor, Dr. G. Dison, was your Medical Officer of Health, and deals with matters which arose whilst he was still in office.

The vital statistics, as seen on the following pages, continue to remain satisfactory and compare favourably with those issued by the Registrar General for England and Wales.

It is pleasing to note that, once more, no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. It is, however, only with the continued response of the public to the immunisation campaign that this pleasing state can be maintained.

There were 3 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year and one of these proved fatal. The poliomyelitis vaccination campaign has been most successful in securing the vaccination of 3,313 children during the year and it is hoped that, in time, it will prove as effective as the diphtheria immunisation campaign.

The slum clearance programme has progressed very satisfactorily. It is unfortunate, however, that in the case of Compulsory Purchase Orders there is often some delay in demolition owing to the lapse of time between the rehousing of occupants and the conveyance of the properties to the Council, resulting in unsightly houses standing empty for some time.

Vigilance must be kept regarding the caravan situation in the city. It is well controlled at present, but if this control were slackened in any way, it might well lead to a future multiplicity of "shanty" towns. It must also be clearly understood that a caravan is a poor substitute for a council house. Greater steps should also be taken to prevent overcrowding in "Houses Let in Lodgings." This overcrowding could greatly encourage the spread of infectious disease.

Development has so far been impeded on the west side of the town owing to lack of adequate water and sewerage facilities. It is hoped that efforts will be made to expedite the completion of the schemes in hand.

The City of Peterborough is a growing industrial town and it behoves this authority to take all practicable steps to prevent a future smoke nuisance by taking full advantage of the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. For this reason serious consideration should be given to the introduction of a smoke control area.

I am sure it would have been Dr. Dison's wish to convey his thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their continued support and the County Medical Officer for his co-operation and to acknowledge the assistance given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and all other Officers of the Council.

> Yours faithfully, W. G. SMEATON.

## SECTION I

## STATISTICS

#### Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for Peterborough is 55,730, which shows an increase of 1,350 over that of last year. The natural increase, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 403.

#### **Birth Rate**

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 18.23. The national figure was 16.1. Both of these figures show an increase on last year.

The number of live births born during 1957 was 1,016, of which 526 were males and 490 were females. There were 47 illegitimate births during the year, which is a decrease of 12 on the previous year.

There was a welcome drop in the number of stillbirths during the year, the total figure being 13 as compared with the high figure of 27 during 1956. As was the case last year, only 2 of these stillbirths were illegitimate. The Still Birth Rate was 12.63 and was considerably lower than the national figure of 22.5.

## **Death Rate**

The crude Death Rate for the year was 11.00 per 1,000 population and, as the comparability factor for the year was 1.00, the Index Death Rate was also 11.00. This is a lower figure than for the previous year and compares favourably with the national figure of 11.5.

There were 305 deaths due to circulatory diseases, showing a decrease of 6 over the previous year. 102 of these deaths were due to vascular lesions of the nervous system, a decrease of 2 compared with last year. Deaths from coronary diseases accounted for 98, an increase of 17 on last year's figure.

Malignant diseases accounted for 118 deaths, an increase of 14 on the 1956 figure. Of these deaths 29 were due to carcinoma of the lung and bronchus, an increase of 7 over the previous year.

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis was only 2 as compared with 5 in the previous year.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents was 5, the same as last year. The number of deaths due to all other accidents was also the same as last year, the total being 15.

There was 1 death during the year due to paralytic poliomyelitis, namely a woman of 29 years.

## Infant Mortality Rate

25 infants under the age of 1 year died during 1957. This is a decrease of 5 over the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate at 24.60 is slightly higher than the national figure of 23.1.

Of these 25 infants 19 died under 4 weeks of age and is identical with last year's figure.

## Maternal Mortality Rate

There was again 1 death due to childbirth, which represented a maternal mortality rate of .97 per 1,000 total births.

## SECTION II

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The outstanding feature of 1957 as regards infectious diseases was a measles epidemic. Other features were a notable drop in the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia and of food poisoning and an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough.

## Scarlet Fever

There were only 8 cases of scarlet fever during the year and 4 of these were between 5 and 10 years of age.

#### Diphtheria

Once again it is extremely pleasing to note that there were no cases of diphtheria in the City.

## Measles

There were 1,302 cases of measles notified during 1957 compared with 13 cases in 1956. The peak months were March and April with figures of 445 and 418 cases notified respectively. Nearly half the cases notified occurred in children between the ages of 5 and 10 years.

## Whooping Cough

The number of cases of whooping cough notified during the year was 73 compared with the 1956 figure of 7.

### Acute Pneumonia

There was an increase in the number of cases of pneumonia notified, the figure for 1957 being 51 as compared with the figure of 37 in the previous year. 32 of the cases notified were over 35 years of age. 7 of the remaining 19 cases notified were between the ages of 5 and 10 years.

#### **Puerperal Pyrexia**

There was a very considerable drop in the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia notified during 1957. Only 5 cases were notified as against 40 cases in 1956.

## **Acute Poliomyelitis**

During 1957 there were 3 cases of poliomyelitis notified. 1 case was paralytic and the other 2 cases were non-paralytic.

1 death occurred from this disease, the unfortunate victim being a woman of 29 years.

## Dysentery

18 cases of dysentery were notified during 1957 as compared with a similar figure during 1956.

#### Tuberculosis

A total of 28 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. Of these, 25 were cases of respiratory tuberculosis compared with 32 such cases in 1956. It is interesting to note that 75% of the cases notified were males, whereas, in the previous year, the females were predominant by a margin of 3.

The tuberculosis death rate fell from 0.09 per 1,000 population in 1956 to 0.04 per 1,000 population in 1957. The England and Wales figure was 0.11.

## **Food Poisoning**

There were 16 cases of food poisoning notified during the year compared with the very high figure of 62 in 1956.

There was one outbreak of food poisoning accounting for 14 cases. It occurred in a household where three families were living. The agent causing the outbreak was not identified.

Of the 2 single cases of food poisoning notified, 1 was due to Salmonella typhimurium and the cause of the other was unknown.

## SECTION III

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

#### The Weather

During the first three months of 1957, rainfall was about average. The six summer months' total was above average as 13.42 inches fell as compared with the average of 11.18 and this in spite of the very dry April which had the lowest fall since 1938. The wet period really started on 22nd June and 30th June was the wettest day of the year with 1.04 inches.

The Agricultural Show in July had its first day spoilt by a fall of .80 inches and, though August Bank Holiday was dry this year, a fall of .73 inches followed on the 8th.

September was the wettest month of the year, with four falls of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch or more, and the total was 3.92 inches, the highest since 1930. The last three months only yielded 4.32 inches, or 1.41 less than the average.

The year ended with an excess of .74 inches. Rain was recorded on 176 days, which is 13 above average, but there were only 108 days when the daily fall was .04 or more and this is 4 less than the average. In the period from 22nd June to 17th August (57 days) the total fall was 6.98 inches.

Meticulous records of the rainfall at 74 London Road, Peterborough, were kept by Mr. E. H. Colman, and Table VII showing the rainfall month by month will be found in the Appendix.

#### Housing

The number of persons on the waiting list on 1st January, 1958, was 1,208, which shows an increase of 220 as compared with the figure at 1st January, 1957.

Further progress was maintained during the year in connection with the clearance of Westwood Camp Sites and at the end of 1957 only half-adozen huts remained in occupation.

#### Water Supply

There has been no change in the source of the Corporation's supply, but a new and automatic chlorinating plant has been installed at the Wilsthorpe Waterworks.

During the year all treated water was satisfactory, although there was a great variation in the bacteriological quality of the untreated water.

The average daily consumption in the city was 3,052,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 79,000 gallons per day over last year and a consumption of 54.8 gallons per head per day. In addition, 1,323,000 gallons were supplied to neighbouring authorities, representing a decrease of 58,000 gallons per day on the 1956 figure. The number of dwellings within the city with direct water supplied by tap in the house was 17,992 and the number supplied by standpipe was 485.

#### Public Slipper Baths

The number of persons using the Corporation's Public Slipper Baths was 32,476, which represents a weekly average of 624. This represents a decrease of 33 persons a week as compared with 1956. Once again the number of males who made use of the facilities was far in excess of the females. It is interesting to note that 466 old-age pensioners made use of the baths as compared with 898 in the previous year.

## **Open-Air Swimming Pools**

The Public Swimming Pool was open to the public from 4th May to 8th September between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. The number of bathers during this period was 127,262 and the number of spectators was 21,183. This shows a considerable increase in both swimmers and spectators over the figures of 1956, which were 90,119 swimmers and 15,179 spectators. This increase was no doubt due to the better summer. Regular samples of water were taken from the pool and submitted for laboratory examination. All the samples showed the water to be of suitable bacterial and chemical quality for use in the Swimming Pool.

Samples of water taken from a School Swimming Bath were found to be unsatisfactory. These samples were taken at the request of the Headmistress. The plant was being misused. After advice and adjustment, further samples taken were satisfactory, since when the water has been of a satisfactory quality in colour, clearness and cleanliness.

This example illustrates the necessity for trained staff in addition to good plant.

### **Public Cleansing and Scavenging**

There are approximately 20,600 moveable ashbins in the City.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The construction of foul water sewers in Longthorpe, Marholm Road and Bishop's Road have been completed during the year.

#### **Closet Accommodation**

Although the foul water sewer in the Longthorpe area has now been completed, there are still 43 buckets and one tank to be emptied weekly by the City Engineer's Department, in addition to the 27 buckets in the Newark area.

## SECTION IV

## MISCELLANEOUS

#### **Health Education**

The programme of Health Education Lectures was continued during the year. A total of 21 talks were given to various organisations in the City and 657 people attended these talks.

## **International Certificates**

During the year 390 International Certificates were franked in the Department. These were made up as follows :---

Smallpox	 348
Cholera	 33
Others	 9

## National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Once again it was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any persons under the above Act during the year.

## **Medical Examinations**

29 medical examinations were carried out for persons entering the employment of the Corporation and 2 were carried out for the Combined Police Authority.

## APPENDIX

## **GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1957**

Area of the City in Acres		 	10,022
Population : Census 1951		 	53,412
Registrar-General's Estimate (Mid.	1956)	 	54,380
Registrar-General's Estimate (Mid.	1957)	 	*55,730
Density of Population : Persons per acre		 	5.56
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956)		 	17,913
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957)		 	18,483
Housing Density; Houses per acre		 	1.84
Mean number of occupants per house		 	3.02
Rateable Value as at 1st October, 1957		 	£765,748
Product of a Penny Rate		 	£3,154/9/4

\*Statistics in this Report are based on this estimate of resident population.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957

## Live Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	 	 500	469	969
Illegitimate	 	 26	21	47
Total Live Births	 	 526	490	1,016

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population: 18.23

## Still Births

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					6	5	11
Illegitimate					1	1	2
Total Still	Births				7	6	13
Still Birth F	Rate pe	er 1,00	00 total	l (Live	and Still	) births :	12.63
Still Birth H	Rate pa	er 1,00	00 pop	ulation	ı:		0.23
Total Birth	Rate	(Live	and Sti	ll) per	1,000 pop	oulation :	18.46
		(Con	nparabi	ility fa	ctor 1.00	)	

## Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Numbers during year	316	297	613
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 populat	tion :		11.00
Index Death Rate per 1,000 populat	tion :		11.00
(Comparability fa	actor 1.00	)	

## **Maternal Mortality**

(Number of women dying as a result of childbirth— Heading No. 30 in the Registrar-General's Short List)

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	 	1	.97

## Infant Mortality

(Deaths of infants under one year	r of age):		*
	Male	Female	Total
	14	11	25
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live	Births :		24.60

## Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of infants under four weeks	of age :		
	Male	Female	Total
	10	9	19
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live	Births :		18.70

## OTHER STATISTICS, 1957

Deaths	from	Coronary Disease, Angina (all ages)	 	98
"	"	other Cardiac Conditions (all ages)	 	89
"	"	Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	 	118
"	"	Measles (all ages)	 **	0
"	"	Whooping Cough (all ages)	 	0

## TABLE I

## BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEAR 1957

Figures for the City of Peterborough, and, where available, for England and Wales.

	City of P	eterborough	England and Wales
	Nos.		1,000 Civilian
BIRTHS :		at a subset	-
Live	1016	18.23	16.1
Still	13	0.23	0.37
DEATHS :		in the second	and the second
All causes	613	11.00	11.5
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	015	0.00	11.5
Whooping Cough	Ő	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	ŏ	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	2	0.04	0.11
Influenza	8	0.14	0.15
Smallpox	0	0.00	_
Acute Poliomyelitis (including			
Polioencephalitis)	1	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	33	0.59	0.52
NOTIFICATIONS		1.51	
NOTIFICATIONS :		0.00	0.00
Typhoid Fever		0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0.00 0.02	0.00
Meningococcal Infection Scarlet Fever	8	0.02	0.02 0.66
	73	1.31	1.45
Whooping Cough Diphtheria	15	0.00	0.00
P 1	1	0.00	0.08
C. II.	1	0.02	0.00
M I	1302	23.36	14.11
Desumania	51	0.92	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including	51	0.74	0.75
Polioencephalitis) :			
Paralytic	1	0.02	0.07
Non-Paralytic	2	0.04	0.04
Food Poisoning	16	0.29	0.20
Acute Encephalitis :			
Infective		0.00	0.04
Post-infectious		0.00	0.00
Malaria	_	0.00	_
Dysentery	18	0.32	0.64
Ophthalmia neonatorum		0.00	0.03

The manage	City of	Peterborough	England and Wales
E ( saw i free par ) free as	Nos.	Rates per 1,	000 Live Births
MORTALITY : Infant Deaths under one year of age Infant Deaths under four weeks of age	25 19	24.60 18.70	23.1
POG0 3 1 5000 0 10 0	Nos.	Rates per 1,0	000 Total Births
Women dying as a result of childbirth	1	0.97	× maggint
NOTIFICATIONS :	5	4.86	antaroti antaroti antarotian

TABLE I - continued

STATISTICAL ANALYSI	S OF	CAUS	ES OI	E DEATH,	1957
Causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List	1	Number:	5	Rates per 1,000 pop.	Rates per 1,000 Deaths
	M.	F.	Total	.,	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	0	2	0.036	3.263
Tuberculosis, Other	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Syphilitic Disease	2	1	3	0.054	4.894
Diphtheria	20	0	0	0.000	0.000
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Acute Poliomyelitis	Ő	1	1	0.018	1.631
Measles	0	Ô	Ó	0.000	0.000
Other infective and parasitic				0 000	0 000
discourse	2	1	3	0.054	4.894
Malignant Neoplasm; stomach	11	10	21	0.377	34.258
	11	10	21	0.511	54-250
	24	5	29	0.520	47.308
bronchus		9		0.320	47.306
Malignant Neoplasm; breast	0		9	Pyresign	Putting
Malignant Neoplasm; uterus	0	4	4		
Other Malignant and Lym-	22	22	55	0.007	00 702
phatic Neoplasms	23	32	55	0.987	89.723
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	23	0.036	3.263
Diabetes	2	1	3	0.054	4.894
Vascular lesions of Nervous					
System	55	47	102	1.830	166.394
Coronary Disease, Angina	52	46	98	1.758	159.869
Hypertension with heart					
Disease	6	3	9	0.161	14.682
Other heart disease	33	47	80	1.435	130.506
Other circulatory disease	10	6	16	0.287	26.101
Influenza	4	4	8	0.144	13.051
Pneumonia	21	12	33	0.592	53.834
Bronchitis	17	6	23	0.413	37.520
Other diseases of respiratory					
system	1	3	4	0.072	6.525
Ulcer of stomach and duode-					
num	3	3	6	0.108	9.788
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diar-					
rhoea	2	1	3	0.054	4.894
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2 5 5	î	6	0.108	9.788
Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	Ó	5	0 100	1.00
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1 I		
Congenital malformations	1 i	5	6	0.108	9.788
Other defined and ill-defined	1	5	0	0100	100
1.	18	36	54	0.969	88.091
	3	2	5	0.909	8.157
Motor vehicle accidents	9	6	15	0.090	24.470
All other accidents	4	3	15	0.269	11.419
Suicide	4	5	/	0.120	11.419
Homicide and operations of	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
war	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
	216	207	(12		
TOTALS	316	297	613		

TABLE II

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957

TABLE III

17

## TABLE IV

## TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality during 1957

Carlo Carlos		New	Cases			Dea	aths	
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F
0		_		_	_	-	_	-
1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	4	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	18-
25	3	-	1	-	-	-		-
35	2 3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-		-	-
Totals, 1957	18	7	3	-	2	-	-	-
Totals, 1956	15	17	1	2	5	-	-	-
Totals, 1955	21	9	2	5	7	1	_	-

## TABLE V

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1957

		Respiratory		Non- Respirator	
		М	F	M	F
No. on Register 1/1/57	 	172	160	10	8
Notified during 1957	 	29	22	3	1
Removed during 1957	 	25	18	3	4
No. on Register 31/12/57	 	176	164	10	5

## TABLE VI

## HOUSING STATISTICS

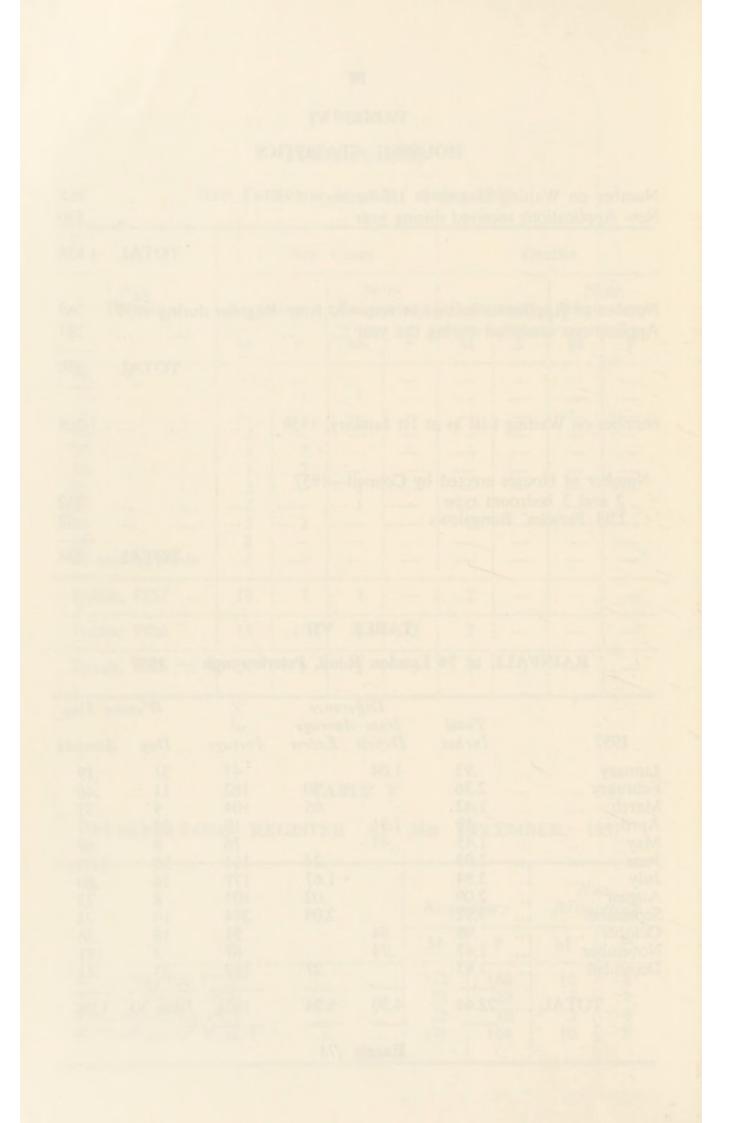
Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1957				988
New Applications received during year				870
		TOT	ΓAL	1,858
Number of Applicants housed or removed from Reg	gister of	during	1957	369
Applications cancelled during the year	- 2010 Class			281
		-		
		101	FAL	650
Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1958				1,208
Number of Houses erected by Council-1957				
2 and 3 bedroom type				232
Old Persons' Bungalows				62
		TOT	ΓAL	294

## TABLE VII

## RAINFALL at 74 London Road, Peterborough - 1957

		Test		rence	%	Wett	test Day
1957		Total Inches		lverage Excess	of Average	Day	Amount
January		 .92	1.04		47	31	.19
February		 2.36		.90	162	11	.46
March		 1.42		.05	104	9	.33
April		 .19	1.31		13	22	.07
May		 1.45	.47		76	9	.69
June		 1.93		.24	114	30	1.04
July		 3.84		1.67	177	16	.80
August		 2.09		.02	103	8	.73
Septembe	r	 3.92		2.09	214	10	.74
October		 .98	.94		51	16	.26
Novembe	r	 1.47	.74		67	3	.51
December	r	 1.87		.27	117	23	.41
Т	OTAL	 22.44	4.50	5.24	1031	June 30	1.04

Excess .74



## CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

## Π.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# **Chief Public Health Inspector**

FOR THE YEAR

# 1957

(J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.)

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

## **STAFF**, 1957

Chief Public Health Inspector : J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., CERT.R.SAN.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

- (South) P. LANGSTON, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.SAN.I.
- (North) K. R. ENDERBY, CERT.R.SAN.I.
- (West) A. MORTON (Pupil)
- (East) A. N. VENTERS (Assistant)
  - M. FIRMEDOW (Pupil)

Clerks :

G. LARRINGTON

## MRS. M. HORMAN

MRS. F. WOOD (part-time)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

TOWN HALL,

PETERBOROUGH.

1958.

## To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1957, this being my ninth Annual Report, and the forty-seventh in the series, the first one being in 1911, the year the Council appointed its first full-time qualified Sanitary Inspector as a result of the coming into force of the Sanitary Officers' Regulations.

For the benefit of new members of the Council and because the establishment has not been up to strength for some considerable time, I thought it might be a good idea to set out the present position.

With the many duties now undertaken and new Acts, Regulations, etc., it is possible for additional Staff to be fully employed, but obviously it is ridiculous to ask for additional Inspectors when it is impossible to obtain qualified Staff to the number on the establishment. Until December 1956, in addition to myself, there were three qualified Inspectors, an unqualified assistant Inspector (who because of his length of service and experience makes an exceptionally good man on the district), and a pupil training to be an Inspector. At the present time, the Department is short of a qualified Inspector, and this work is being done by the original pupil, who should shortly qualify, and in his place another pupil has been employed. Numerically the establishment is complete, but unfortunately many of our duties must be done by qualified Staff.

To make the most of inspectorial time, the Inspectors have been relieved of as much clerical work as possible. The clerical staff, which is up to full strength, is fully employed.

The incidence of cysticercus bovis discovered in meat has doubled over last year, indicating a large increase in this disease.

We are up-to-date with our programme of slum clearance, but no doubt the Medical Officer of Health will be commenting on this in his part of the report.

You will find that comments pertaining to the various statistics in the report are included in the separate sections for convenience.

I express the hope that the year's work has been carried out to your satisfaction and that it has, in no small measure, contributed to the health and comfort of the Citizens in whose interest the various Acts and Regulations are made and enforced.

I should like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, Dr. Dison, the Medical Officer of Health and the members of my Staff for their co-operation and loyal help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

## J. HALL,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## COMPLAINTS

The Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, has now been safely buried. It is to be hoped that the new Rent Act will have a better fate and judging by the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair applied for during the short period of the year in which it has been in force, this seems highly probable. It is obvious from the amount of jobbing work and redecoration of house property that Owners and Tenants are settling their differences amicably in most cases, but in addition 60 applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received. Any defects which required urgent remedying found when visiting for the purpose of reporting on the justification of an application for a Certificate of Disrepair, are dealt with under the Public Health Act or Housing Act, as may be appropriate, keeping the procedures separate.

As may be expected with Landlords and Tenants preoccupied with the ramifications of the Rent Act, the number of complaints of defects in houses has diminished during the latter part of the year. The number of complaints this year was 477, rats and mice complaints numbered 319, making a total of 796. Of the 319 complaints of rat infestation, it was found that in 32 cases, defective drains were the cause.

#### Statutory Notices Served

It was necessary to serve 87 Statutory Notices as follows :--

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936

P

Section	Number of Notices	Result				No.
11	7	Houses closed				4
		Houses demolished				2
		Undertaking given				1
9	1	Outstanding at end of	year			1
PUBLIC HI	EALTH ACT, 19	936				
24	61	Work completed by Lo	cal	Authori	tv	55

24	61 Work completed by Local Authority	y	55	
	Work completed by Owner		4	
	Outstanding at end of year		2	
93	13 Work completed by Owner		9	
	Outstanding at end of year		4	
269	1 Prosecuted for keeping van on site more than 42 consecutive days	for	1	
40	1 Work completed by Owner			
45	1 Work completed by Owner		1	
39	2 Work outstanding at end of year		2	

It will be noticed how much the number of Notices served under Section 24 has increased. This is explained by the increased number of defects found in the course of rat disinfestations and by the lessening of the amount of work done by the Owners after informal approach.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

The various sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been enforced during the year. I give below an abridged list of nuisances abated and defects remedied :—

Drains relaid, repaired, cleansed, etc	 200
W.C.'s and urinals repaired, renewed or reconstructed	 65
Roofs repaired, rain-water pipes renewed, etc	 73
Chimney stacks rebuilt, etc., walls rebuilt and repaired	 21
Woodwork repaired (floors, windows, doors, etc.)	 26
New sinks fixed, waste pipes refitted, etc	 11
Accumulations of refuse and manure removed	 10
Miscellaneous	 128

In addition to the list given above, six complaints were received of smoke nuisances when observations were taken and the local pollution of the air mitigated. Following representations, one firm's furnace installation and method of stoking was completely redesigned and built.

A circular was sent to the persons having control of the major steam raising and hot water plants in the City explaining the provisions of the Clean Air Act. This resulted in several Firms installing mechanical stokers and controlled draught.

#### Moveable Dwellings

This year there are 320 vans on 48 sites. The increase is the result of a further site being opened. This site is to be organised as a residential site of some long standing. It is provided with main sewage, water and electricity. During the year 170 visits were paid to the various sites.

## Swimming Pools

At various stages of the treatment of the swimming pool water, samples were taken for bacteriological examination. At the beginning of the season, samples of the water taken were not bacteriologically satisfactory, but after adjustment to the plant, all samples taken were satisfactory. The plant used is pressure-filtered, using a chemical flocculant. Disinfection is by gas chlorination. Samples were also taken of the Paddling Pool water in the Park and recommendation made that this pool should be emptied and cleaned at the very least, weekly.

## Infectious Diseases

The amount of disinfection continues to drop, being done only for cases of T.B. The total number of rooms disinfected this year was 12.

#### Infestations

- 10 filthy premises cleansed.
- 6 verminous premises disinfested.

## **Common Lodging Houses**

The common lodging houses continue to be well administered and have not changed in character. As the result of Slum Clearance progress, one of these common lodging houses will cease to exist next year.

37 visits were paid to these premises.

#### **Offensive Trades**

The only offensive trade carried on in Peterborough is that of Rag and Bone Merchant. Offal and Refuse from the Slaughterhouses is collected by a firm of Manure Makers, see report on Meat Inspection.

## **Knacker's Yard**

None practising in the City.

#### Fairgrounds

Inspections were made of the Fairs during the year and as in previous years all vans were found to be provided with proper means of sanitation and water supply. The stalls used for selling food to the employees of the showmen, in addition to those selling food to the general public, were visited before and during the fairs.

The catering arrangements at the annual "Show" were inspected before and during the Show. Several improvements were made to the facilities for washing-up, washing of hands and the additional collection of refuse.

#### **Provision of Sanitary Accommodation**

All the premises which are licensed at the Brewster Sessions have been visited at regular intervals during the year; these included public houses, music halls, theatres, cinemas and miscellaneous places of entertainment. It is noted that there has been great activity amongst the Brewers in improving existing public houses and building and opening new ones.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-55

Regular inspections of the premises licensed or registered under the Food and Drugs Acts have been made. In addition and particularly, Cafes and Restaurant kitchens have been visited. The larger hotels, centrally situated in the City, are under constant supervision.

An analysis has been made of the 549 shops which sell food. Of the shops listed below inspections have not been frequent to many of the Confectioners, Green Grocers or General Grocers, but so far as the Butchers, Fish Shops and premises registered for the sale of ice-cream are concerned, inspections have been made regularly.

BUTCHERS		63
SHOPS SELLING ICE-CREAD	M	203
WET & FRIED FISH SHOPS		42
CONFECTIONERS		39
GREEN GROCERS		23
GENERAL GROCERS		119
CAFES		60

Total 549 (none has been counted under more than one heading).

In addition to the foregoing, there are 18 Bakehouses, of which 10 are situated at the rear of the Bakers' Shops. The necessary redecoration as required by law has been carried out at these premises during the year and the standard of cleanliness has been maintained, though in some cases only after representation from the department.

#### **Registered Premises under Section 16**

Except for occasional traders coming into the City area, mostly on Sundays, all the Ice-cream sold is prepacked.

(a) Ice-cream : Ice-cream is manufactured by two firms in the City. These manufacturers pasteurise their ice-cream by the "Holder" method.

> The recording thermometers are regularly inspected and checked with the certified thermometers owned by the Department.

There are 203 premises retailing ice-cream in the City, to which 199 visits have been made.

(b) Making-up Premises : 113 visits were paid to 48 premises in the City (1 for the preparation of boiled crabs). This does not include visits to Making-up Premises adjacent to Slaughter-houses for voluntary surrender of unsound food.

#### Food other than Meat

112 requests were received during the year, which resulted in 976 Condemnation Notes being issued, covering 3,077 tins of food and 1 ton 2 cwts. 1 qtr. 9 lbs. of other foodstuffs.

## FOOD SAMPLING

It is necessary to cover milk sampling fairly well throughout the year and for this reason 35 samples were taken, all formal. One of these was certified as being short of milk fat. On appeal to cow, it was found that the original sample was as given by the cow and the matter was reported to the local Agricultural Executive Committee. Further samples from this producer have been above the standard set by the Milk Regulations.

The average composition of the milks gave 3.66% Fat and 8.91% Solidsnot-Fat.

28 Formal and 29 Informal Samples of food other than milk were taken, as follows :---

INFORMAL—One each of the following :--

Bread, Mustard, Farinoca, Ricory, Pepper, Tasteless Castor Oil, Table Jelly, Fruit Crystals, Chocolate Covered Toffees, Gelantine, Pru-sen, Lemon Crystals, Baking Powder, Yoghourt, Strawberry Jam, Pure Honey, Roselle, Mixed Cut Peel, Malt Vinegar, Ground Almonds, Sponge Mixture, Salmon and Anchovy Paste, and 3 samples of Margarine. These last 3 samples were also tested for vitamin content. The Informal Sample of Mixed Cut Peel contained 55.3% sugar. Representations were made to the Firm that the sugar content should be increased to 60%.

FORMAL—One each of the following :--

Sausage Meat, Salami Sausage, Beef Sausage, Pork Pie, Cottage Cheese, Crab Meat, Pork Dripping, Lard, Steak Pie and Pork Chippolata Sausage.

Two each of Softa Freez and Cream Buns. Three each of Potted Meat and Ice-Cream.

In addition to the above, 8 Formal Samples and 4 Informal Samples of Pork Sausages were taken, the average price being 2s. 10d. per lb. Of the sausage samples, it was found that 3 pork and 1 chippolata were below 65% meat content. Representations were made to the Manufacturers.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947/8 broadly require that the ingredients of ice-cream shall be heat-treated after being mixed, for a specified time the mixture shall be held at that temperature and it shall then be cooled until the freezing process has begun. After freezing, the ice-cream must not be sold unless it has been kept at a temperature not more than 28°F.; or, if its temperature has risen above 28°F., unless it has again been heattreated and then kept at not more than 28°F. after having been frozen.

A national Firm commenced selling a product which it claimed was not Ice-cream, but a sample taken gave a chemical composition similar to Icecream. The product looked and tasted like Ice-cream and in my opinion complied with the definition. This product was stored frozen, was then melted so that it could be poured into the Freezer/Server, where it was again frozen before being sold. Representations were made to the Firm, but, during the year under review, the season for sale of Ice-cream finished before alterations were made to this system. At the time of compiling the Report, I notice that the method of storage and retailing the product complies with the heattreatment regulations. This amended system is, I understand, now used nationally.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

#### **Processing Plants**

There are three Pasteurising Plants for the treatment of milk in the City and they continue to function satisfactorily. These plants incorporate bottling plants as is usual, but in the City no milk is sold treated in the bottle. All milk is either pasteurised at one of the three plants (two of which are H.T.S.T. and the other the "holder" method), or sold in the bottle which has been delivered by a Firm operating from Grimsby. This latter milk is sterilised in the bottle. The remainder of the milk sold in Peterborough is bottled on the farm and is Raw T.T. 38 samples were taken and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for approved tests, all of which were satisfactory.

NOTE.—For Tuberculin-Tested Milk, the test is Methylene Blue, for keeping quality, i.e. cleanliness; for Pasteurised Milk, the tests are Methylene Blue, for keeping quality, i.e. cleanliness, and Phosphate to show whether or not the milk has been heat-treated; for Sterilised milk a Turbidity test is applied.

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

In the Annual Report for 1956, it was mentioned that a New Act to regulate the provision of Slaughterhouses in England and Wales was on the stocks—it remains there. In the meantime, the byelaws which require improvements on existing Slaughterhouses are enforced, and the disadvantages of not complying with the recommended standards of the layout and equipment of Slaughterhouses as issued by the Ministry, are brought to the notice of the Butchers.

## MEAT INSPECTION

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned

water in tim bian	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,467	149	188	12,477	17,291
Number inspected	4,467	149	188	12,477	17,291
All diseases except T.B. and C.C. whole carcases was condemned	4	5	3	16	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	749	1	. 1	172	755
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than T.B. and C.C.	16.83%	4.04%	2.13%	1.51%	4.47%
T.B. ONLY Whole carcases condemned	10 00 76	3			2
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	511	13	7		181
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	11.66% 1956— 8.75%	10·74% 6·83%	3·72%		1·06 % ·77 %
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	62	1			
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	62	1	_		
Generalised and totally condemned			-	_	

The total number of animals slaughtered during 1957 was : Beast (including cows) 4,616; Calves 188; Sheep and Lambs 12,477; Pigs 17,291.

During the year, although there were variations in the figures of animals killed compared with last year, there was approximately the same weight of meat prepared.

There were 63 cases of Cysticercus Bovis, giving an incidence of 1.36%, which compares with .85% in 1956.

**Comparing T.B.**: For the first time for several years, the percentage of carcases inspected affected with this disease has increased. Surprisingly, the number of cows killed has decreased. The comparable percentages are given in the table.

BEEF								Stones
								4041
								112
Beef (forequa	rters, nind	is and pa	rt carca	(ses)				117
For Cysticercos	is							
62 Beasts							2	2,384
1 Cow								42
(These carcas The affected Sons Ltd., of	offal was :	submitted sent for o	for tro disposal	by dig	t by re gestion	efrigera to May	tion. ys &	
Other Causes								
1 Beast carca								$25\frac{1}{2}$
3 Cows carca			naciatio	n				111
1 Beast carca								453
1 Beast carca								43 <u>1</u> 25
1 Cow carcas 1 Beast carca								463
1 Cow carcas								321
Beef (buised,	heated an	d other o						491
Deer (oursea,								- 2
Livers: 64	Congues : (T.B.) ; 4 (T.B.) ; 4 (Abscesse	0 (Pleuri 16 (Disto	isy, etc. ma);	). 1 (Cave	ernous-	Angion		
Other Edible Offa	<b>Is.</b> 402 :	stones.						
CALVES								
For Tuberculosi								-
Parts of carcase	S						••••	2
Other Causes								
2 Calves' card	cases, imm	ature and	d fevere	b				4
1 Calf's carca	ise, jaundi	ce and d	ropsy					$2\frac{1}{2}$
Parts of carc	ases and v	various o	ffals					11

## Stones

-

Other	Causes	
1 Sh	een's carcase	Pyae

For Tuberculosis

1	Sneep s	carcase,	, Pyaemia	 	 2
8	"	"	Moribund	 	 31
2	.,	,,	Dropsy and/or Emaciation	 	 7
2	"	,,	Oedema and Fevered	 	 73
1	,,	"	Septicaemia	 	 44
2	,,	.,,	Immature and Dropsy	 	 13
N	lutton (	bruised,	etc.)	 	 81

## Offals

SHEEP

Livers : 24 (Parasites) ; 14 (other causes). Other Edible Offals : 29 stones.

## PIGS

For Tube 2 Pigs'	rculosis carcases	-Non-mediated				 	21
Other Ca	uses						
2 Pigs'	carcases,	Septic Peritonitis				 	17
1 "	"	Nephritis				 	24
1 "	,,	Septic Metritis				 	1
6 "	,,	Erysipelas				 	2
4 "	,,	Septic Pneumonia	a			 	2
2 "	"	Pyaemia				 	1
1 "	,,	and the second se				 	
1 "	,,	Septic Pericarditi	s and	Pyae	mia	 	1
Pork (v	arious cau	uses)				 	1

## Offals

Heads and Tongues: 180 (T.B.). Various Offals: 131 Stones.

## **Disposal of Condemned Meat and Other Foods**

All condemned meat is collected by Mays & Sons Ltd., of Bourne, for disposal by digestion on their premises. All condemned meat and offal is immediately coloured green to ensure that it will not be sold for human consumption.

Other foods, when condemned, are collected and disposed of by burying in the Council's tip. Sometimes the food is poisoned for use as rat baits.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-54

No horses are killed in the City and no horseflesh is retailed for human consumption.

## RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Materials submitted for analysis under the above Act were as follows :--

2 samples of rag flock.

1 sample of cotton felt.

All were found to comply with Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The total of Factories (so there is no ambiguity) is compiled to include :— Bakehouses, Making-up Premises, Dairies and one Ice-cream Factory. The visits to these premises are not included under this heading, except when action was required under the appropriate section of the Factories Act.

Number of Factories on register-N	Aechanical				242
Number of Factories on register-N	Non-mechan	ical			45
Number of Workplaces on register					27
					314
Number of inspections (exclusive of Notices from H.M. Inspector of Fa		evision	purpo	oses)	64
Re: (a) New Factories					10
(b) Deletions					23
(c) Change of Occupier					12
Letters sent to Factory Owners					10
Sanitary accommodation repaired	or provided	l			7

Various nuisances and works of cleansing were carried out after informal action by this Department, in addition to the above.

Visits have been paid to 25 building sites re : sanitary accommodation.

## **OUTWORKERS**

Addresses of Outworkers :

Received from Employers	 	 	200
Received from other Councils	 	 	Nil
Forwarded to other Councils	 	 	3

All the Outworkers' premises in the City have been visited, and found to be satisfactory.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The sewer treatment was varied this year, the July operation being carried out in conjunction with the Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food using Warfarin mix. This treatment was extended and consequently fairly expensive. The antimould included in the mix stood up well to the work, the baits being fresh after four weeks. The following test baiting in December showed an improvement over the previous year, but I am of the opinion that for this purpose the additional cost of the labour of the Warfarin treatment does not justify using this method locally. It is, however, possible that a use might be made of the mixture by laying large amounts of bait and not revisiting for some considerable time. This would be used purely as a deterrent to the increase in the rats, but not as an organised treatment.

This year there has been an increase in the rat population on the land, perhaps because of the increased use of combined harvesters with the consequent spillage of seed in the fields. There was very little threshing from ricks this year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY					
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Agri-	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	30	17,947	90	3,089	21,066	
2. Number of pro- perties inspected by the Local Authority during 1957 as a result of :						
(a) Notification (b) Survey under	6	188	4	50	244	
(c) Otherwise, e.g. Visited for	15	384	28	103	502	
other purpose primarily	2	518	20	969	1,489	

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 - continued.

matery of Agriculture	Type of Property					
nur bron o nu ads ni nu alterolles alles Marshalles and and Marshalles an Marshalles an Marshalles an Marshalles an Marshalles an Marshalles and Marshalles an Marshalles an	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total (excluding Agri- cultural)	
3. Number of pro- perties (under 2) found to be in-{	Major 1		_	5	6	
fested by rats	Minor 13	83	4	23	119	
Mice	Major —		- 1	2	2	
	Minor —	17	_	10	27	
4. Number of in- fested properties (under 3) treated by the Local Authority	14	100	1	40	154	
5. Total treatments carried out inclu- ding re-treatments	76	105	19	48	229	
<ul> <li>6. Number of Notices served under Section 4 :</li> <li>(1) Treatment</li> <li>(2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing)</li> </ul>						
<ol> <li>Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Autho- rity following issue of Notice under Section 4</li> </ol>						
			1			

