

**[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Portsmouth Borough.**

**Contributors**

Portsmouth (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1956

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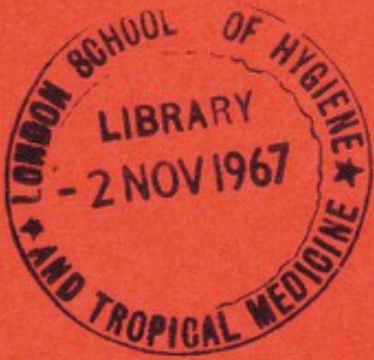
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year 1956  
*including*  
THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

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"SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX"



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year 1956

*including*

*THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST*

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*The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor*  
COUNCILLOR A. G. ASQUITH-LEESON, T.D., J.P.

**HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**1956-1957**

*Chairman*

ALDERMAN J. P. D. LACEY, O.B.E., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman*

ALDERMAN H. G. COOK

*Aldermen*

ALBERT JOHNSON      MRS. S. A. C. SHARPE

*Councillors*

J. F. FREESTON	G. F. COLLINS	MRS. W. FIELDER
M. J. E. WALLIS	H. SOTNICK	M. BRESLER
S. S. RABBITS	T. J. SMITH	S. H. MONARD
C. W. STEVENS, O.B.E.	MISS H. M. BRADY	G. B. COOPER
G. S. FURNEAUX	J. OXLEY	L. J. EVANS
P. MCG. CORSAR		

*Co-opted Members*

MRS. L. L. ALLAWAY	MRS. M. DURRANT, O.B.E.
MRS. C. E. ATKINS, J.P.	DAME ELISABETH KELLY, D.B.E., J.P.
MRS. D. BOWLES	MR. R. E. MORGAN
DR. H. K. CHILDS	MRS. L. C. NICHOLSON
DR. G. H. DUTHIE	MRS. D. SPITTLE

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**HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**  
**1956-1957**

*Chairman*

ALDERMAN FRANK MILES, C.B.E., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman*

ALDERMAN A. W. WEST

*Aldermen*

ALBERT JOHNSON      J. P. D. LACEY, O.B.E., J.P.

*Councillors*

A. G. ASQUITH-LEESON, T.D., J.P. (Lord Mayor)	P. MCG. CORSAR	L. FLAGG
M. J. E. WALLIS	W. J. EVANS	M. BRESLER
S. S. RABBITS	A. F. BICKNELL	E. W. MARRIOTT
G. A. DAY	F. A. CURREY	MRS. H. M. KER
H. BELL	MISS H. M. BRADY	L. J. EVANS
	A. H. W. POPE	

The following ladies were co-opted to serve on the Committee  
for housing purposes:

MRS. A. E. FERGUSON-BAKER;    MRS. I. HUNGATE;    MRS. W. STEVENS

SENIOR MEMBERS OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health,  
Principal School Medical Officer,  
Chief Administrative Medical Officer to the City Council and  
Medical Officer of Health to the Port of Portsmouth

T. E. ROBERTS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal  
School Medical Officer

R. WOODROW, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and  
Child Welfare

RUBY N. E. PIKE, M.B., CH.B.

Vaccination and Immunisation Medical Officer

E. D. B. WOLFE, E.D., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Maternity and  
Child Welfare Officer

AUDREY E. STEWART, M.B., CH.B., D.R.C.O.G.

Chief Health Inspector

W. F. APPLETON, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Veterinary Officer

R. SCOULAR, M.R.C.V.S.

Administrative Assistant

H. S. WOODCOCK

Executive Officer—Mental Health Service

A. F. T. ROSE

Superintendent Health Visitor

MISS E. M. BUSSBY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., D.N.(Lond.)

Supervisor of Midwives

MISS D. J. KINSEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D.

**Joint Appointments with Regional Hospital Board**


Consultant Chest Physician

J. H. DADDS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.

Chest Physician

J. C. HESKETH, M.B., B.S.





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Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
1 Western Parade,  
Portsmouth.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Services Committee, and to the  
Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.*

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City for 1956, which follows the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

Figures in brackets represent the corresponding numbers or percentages for the previous year.

### HEALTH STATISTICS

(pages 27 - 32)

The Registrar General's return for the year 1956 reveals a decrease of 7,600 in the total population (including Service personnel), which is now estimated to be 231,100.

Although by the end of the year some 11,219 (10,569) post-war properties were let, including 31 (418) requisitioned premises, there were still at that time 17,333 applicants on the list for rehousing (including 1,154 aged persons). The Health and Housing Committee's accelerated programme of house building reached its peak level in the years 1954 and 1955; during 1956 new dwellings were completed at the lower average rate of 94 per month. At the present time the number of new dwellings under construction is maintained at over a thousand and the completion rate is expected to average approximately 100 new dwellings per month during 1957.

As will be seen from Table I on page 30, the following are the main features of interest for the year under review:—

1. An increase in the birth rate from 14·16 in 1955 (the lowest ever recorded) to 15·08 per thousand population, compared with 15·6 for England and Wales.

2. A slight decrease in the maternal mortality rate from 0·29 per thousand total births in 1955 to 0·28 (the lowest ever recorded), compared with 0·56 for England and Wales.

3. A decrease in the neo-natal mortality rate from 18·34 per thousand live births in 1955 to 16·35, compared with 16·9 for England and Wales.

4. A slight increase in the infant mortality rate from 23·96 per thousand live births in 1955 to 24·10 (both rates being amongst the lowest recorded), compared with 23·8 for England and Wales.

5. An increase in the general death rate from 10·77 per thousand population in 1955 to 12·22, compared with 11·7 for England and Wales.

6. An increase in the death rate from the principal infectious diseases from 0·02 per thousand population in 1955 (the lowest ever recorded), to 0·03.

7. An increase in the death rate from all forms of tuberculosis from 0.09 per thousand population in 1955 (the lowest ever recorded) to 0.116, compared with 0.121 for England and Wales.

8. An increase in the death rate from cancer (including leukaemia) from 1.97 per thousand population in 1955 to 2.09, compared with 2.075 for England and Wales.

Consideration of the foregoing statistics, together with the summaries and tables on pages 27-32 of the Report, shows that the maternal mortality rate was again the lowest ever recorded—only one maternal death having occurred in each of the past two years. The infant mortality rate is almost equally satisfactory, those for the past five years, which together comprise the lowest rates recorded, being: 1952—23.24 (the lowest ever recorded), 1953—23.80, 1954—23.71, 1955—23.96, 1956—24.10.

The general death rate shows a substantial increase after the exceptionally low figures of the two previous years; it is indeed the highest rate since 1947. Perhaps the explanation of this and of the increased death rate from cancer is to be found in the further decline in the total population due to migration of younger families to Leigh Park, leaving an ageing population within the City. Compared with the "lowest ever" figures for 1955, the death rates from the principal infectious diseases and from tuberculosis also show an increase.

The incidence of minor sickness, as reflected by the weekly returns kindly furnished by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, showed a deviation from the previous pattern of biennial fluctuations. The year's total of "new claims to sickness benefit", 29,937, was slightly greater than for 1955 (29,522) instead of substantially less, as would have been expected. The weekly average was 576 (568).

Since October, 1954, the weekly totals of deaths in the City have been plotted on a graph side by side with the sickness figures, and it is interesting to note the close correspondence between their seasonal variations.

### METEOROLOGY

A study of the meteorological statistics for 1956 reveals that, with the exception of the figures for rain, snow or sleet and thunderstorms, these compare unfavourably with the previous year's, which presumably surprises no-one who can recall the type of weather experienced during their holiday.

The total sunshine recorded was 1,714.6 hours—166 less than in 1955 and 88 below the average for the past 10 years; the sunniest month was May, with 263.8 hours. Strangely enough, there were 12 more days (294) on which  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or more of sun was registered and, what is more, Portsmouth and Southsea's position in the sunshine table rose from 27th to 16th amongst the health and holiday resorts on the mainland and from 45th to 33rd amongst the 322 meteorological stations in the British Isles. Some comfort can therefore be drawn from the fact that the weather at many other places suffered even more than this City's by comparison with the year 1955. Jersey (Gorey Castle) topped the list with 1917.3 hours—251.5 less than the highest for last year—also Jersey (St. Helier). The rainfall of 24.11 inches was 0.49 inches less than 1955 and 2.93 below the past 10-year average; measurable rain fell on 135 (130) days and the months of January (4.38"), August (4.88") and December (4.22") accounted for well over half the total. The warmest day was 24th July, when the temperature reached 77° (15th July and 24th August—81°), and the coldest were 2nd and 3rd February—19° (13th and 27th February—21°).

The following phenomena are worthy of note:—

Snow or sleet on 14 occasions, compared with 21 in 1955;  
thunder on 8 (11) occasions, 20 (15) fogs, 16 (14) gales,  
88 (82) ground frosts.

Prevailing winds were from the south-west quarter.

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Details have been given in previous Reports of the changes which took place in the administration of the health services and of the responsibilities devolving upon the local health authority when this Act came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, in accordance with the proposals submitted to the Minister in 1947-1948, and there was included in the Report for 1952 (pages 9-29) a "Special Survey of Local Health Services provided under the National Health Service Acts" as existing at the end of that year. Any subsequent developments are referred to in the sections which follow.

Cordial co-operation between the three main branches of the National Health Service on the lines indicated in the Special Survey (pages 10-12 of 1952 Report) has been maintained throughout the year. A comprehensive Health Services handbook giving details of the services for which the Portsmouth Group Hospital Management Committee, the Executive Council and the Local Authority are responsible was published in March, 1955, and a new edition is at present being printed.

#### (1) SECTION 21 (HEALTH CENTRES)

No further progress has been made regarding the provision of health centres, either at Paulsgrove or elsewhere, but in the City Development Plan the erection of a health centre at Paulsgrove in 1955-1957 is included in the programme for the first five years; during the fifteen-year period commencing 1st April, 1958, it is hoped to provide three principal health centres—for the Central and Southern, North Portsea and Cosham areas respectively and subsidiary health centres at Southsea, Milton, Copnor and Farlington.

#### (2) SECTION 22 (CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN) SECTION 23 (MIDWIFERY) SECTION 24 (HEALTH VISITING) (pages 36-44)

During the five year period, 1950-1954, the annual birth rates remained remarkably constant at the lower post-war level of 15 per thousand population, which corresponds closely with those for the immediate pre-war years 1933-1939. For 1955, however, the birth rate showed a substantial decrease to 14.16 per thousand population—the lowest ever recorded in Portsmouth, that for 1939 of 14.72 being the lowest rate hitherto. In 1956, however, the birth rate reverted to the previous post-war level of 15.08 per thousand population. During the war years the birth rates were on a higher level, reaching a post-war peak of 24.29 (5,149 births) in 1947—the highest rate since 1920.

Domiciliary confinements numbered 1,487 (1,525), equal to 41.6% (43%) of the total births while, of the remainder, approximately 38% (37%) of patients were confined in the maternity sections of Saint Mary's Hospital and its annexes, and 734 (732), or 20%, in private nursing homes (including the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Maternity Home). The average number of cases attended by each municipal midwife during the year was 77.5 (82.5).

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was only one death in respect of which pregnancy was considered to be the primary cause, compared with one in the previous year and five in 1954. Thus, the maternal mortality rate of 0·28 per thousand total births was the lowest ever recorded.

### INFANT MORTALITY

The death rate of infants under one year—24·10 per thousand live births—was again very favourable; indeed, those for the last five years together comprise the lowest rates recorded: 1952—23·24 (the lowest recorded), 1953—23·80, 1954—23·71, 1955—23·96, 1956—24·10. The neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under four weeks) of 16·35 per thousand live births, although better than the rate of 18·34 for the previous year, compares unfavourably with that of 14·01 for 1954, which was the lowest recorded.

### DAY NURSERIES

In view of the decreasing demand for places following the introduction of a new scale of assessment in March, 1953, which increased the weekly charges considerably to all but the lowest income groups, three of the day nurseries were closed in that year, and in March, 1956, a further nursery was closed—Anglesea Road. During 1956 there were 129 (164) admissions to the two remaining nurseries, in which there are now places for 75 (75) children; (a) St. Peter's Institute, Somers Road—old complement 46, revised 40, (b) Twyford Avenue—old complement 40, revised 35.

### NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATION ACT, 1948

Three (4) new premises providing accommodation for 23 children were registered during the year. At the end of the year there were in all sixteen (17) premises registered under this Act providing accommodation for 329 (360) children; no daily minders are at present registered to receive children.

### HEALTH VISITING

At the end of the year there were 22 (23) health visitors, and two trained nurses engaged as full-time tuberculosis visitors. Total visits paid numbered 62,747 (66,504), of which 51,554 were to children under five, 6,468 to other age groups in the family, especially the aged, and 4,725 to tuberculosis patients. Visits to old people and other adults have increased considerably in recent years: 1952—3,172, 1954—5,171, 1956—6,468.

### (3) SECTION 25 (HOME NURSING) (page 45)

The Portsmouth Victoria Nursing Association, founded in 1884, which had for many years prior to the "appointed day" provided a very efficient service of home nursing in the area, has continued this service under the general control of the Authority. As will be seen from the report of the Secretaries (page 45), an average of 36 (40) nurses was employed, 18 (19) at Radnor House and 18 (21) at Beddow House, the total number of cases attended being 4,853 (5,002) and visits paid 122,211 (116,270). Analysis of the cases attended shows that more than half were patients over 65 years of age, over two-thirds of the visits paid being to members of this age-group. Due to the ageing population this trend has become more marked in recent years; fortunately, infants and young persons seem to be healthier and requiring less attention than formerly.

Nursing equipment is supplied on loan to patients from a stock held by the Victoria Nursing Association; this is additional to that issued from the medical loan depots of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society.

(4) SECTION 26 (VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION) (pages 47-50)

(a) VACCINATION

The proportion of infants vaccinated during the first year of life was similar to that of recent years—1,094 vaccinations, or 31·4% of the total births, compared with 31·5% in the previous year and 31·6% in 1954; of this number 715 infants were vaccinated by their family doctors and 379 by medical officers of the Health Department. Total vaccinations numbered 2,857 (2,888), of which 2,150 (2,110) were primary and 707 (778) re-vaccinations.

(b) IMMUNISATION

During the year 3,176 (3,222) children were given a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria and 8,059 (7,227) a supplementary injection; of these 45·2% were immunised by private practitioners and the remainder by medical officers of the Health Department. The total number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1935 is now 86,782.

The success of the diphtheria immunisation scheme is clearly shown in the appended table giving the yearly statistics of confirmed cases of diphtheria admitted to hospital and deaths from this disease.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Died</i>
1938	302	14	1950	1	—
1940	79	4	1951	5	1
1942	75	2	1952	—	—
1944	17	2	1953	1 (Haslar)	—
1946	17	—	1954	—	—
1948	6	—	1955	—	—
1949	7	1	1956	2	—

In connection with immunisation against whooping cough (pertussis), 2,162 children were given a full course of three injections by medical officers, compared with 2,013 in the previous year and 2,126 in 1954.

(5) SECTION 27 (AMBULANCE SERVICE) (pages 51-55)

During the year the record number of 71,176 patients was conveyed—an increase of 4,695 or 7·1%, compared with 1955—of whom 15,322 (15,191) were stretcher and 55,854 (51,290) sitting cases. The greater part of this increase was due to the opening of the Cerebral Palsy Day Unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital in February, 1956, since which date spastic children have been conveyed on 2,518 journeys during the year under review, and to further developments at the same hospital necessitating the conveyance of additional patients both as stretcher and sitting cases. Patient carrying mileage, nevertheless, was reduced slightly to 244,924—a decrease of 3,645 or 1·5% compared with 1955, and “miles per patient” showed the very satisfactory reduction of 0·3 (8·1%) to 3·4.

Installation of radio-telephony in eighteen first-line vehicles in March, 1953, has proved of immense benefit—not only by increasing the general

efficiency and speed of dealing with emergencies, but by a reduction of nearly 20% in the "average mileage per patient carried" from 4.2 miles in 1952 to 3.4 in 1956. Thus, it was possible for the Ambulance Service to deal with a greater number of patients in each of the last four years without increasing the staff or vehicle establishment, the total mileage being actually less than the peak figure of 250,940 in 1952, when only 59,421 patients were conveyed.

Year	Patients Carried:			Patient Carrying Mileage	Av. Mileage per Patient
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total		
1952	14,642	44,779	59,421	250,940	4.2
1953	15,102	48,628	63,730	244,182	3.8
1954	14,271	49,296	63,567	242,791	3.8
1955	15,191	51,290	66,481	248,569	3.7
1956	15,322	55,854	71,176	244,924	3.4

#### (6) SECTION 28 (PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE)

There has been no further development during the year of the services operated under this section which have been referred to in previous reports. The supply of milk to tuberculosis patients has continued, convalescent home treatment has been arranged for patients in need of recuperative rest after illness or operation, and items of equipment for home nursing have been provided, either on loan or for permanent use, by the Victoria Nursing Association, British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Local Authority.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

*Handbooks.* Two well-illustrated, commercially-prepared handbooks were published—on "Safety in the Home" and on "Clean Food". Towards the end of the year work was started on a new edition (the fifth) of our Health Services handbook.

*Newspaper Feature.* In August the *Portsmouth Evening News* published an excellent article on the work of the health visitors, illustrated by some attractive photographs.

*Displays.* Enlargements were obtained of the photographs mentioned above and made up into a display unit, which was used in public for the first time in December at the "Make Leisure a Pleasure" exhibition held at Twyford Avenue Community Centre.

A tripartite display was prepared for the June Dairy Festival on Southsea Common, featuring welfare foods, health visiting and food hygiene. One of the health visitors won a prize in an associated essay competition.

*Filmstrips.* The building-up of a library of suitable strips for use with the filmstrip projector continued—two of the additions being obtained from America.

*Lectures.* In July a two-day lecture course on the Care of the Aged was given by a team of lecturers from the Central Council for Health Education. In addition, an evening lecture to home helps on first aid was held.

*Family Doctor.* The management of the excellent monthly magazine *Family Doctor* (published under the auspices of the British Medical Association) are now extending their health education activities in several other associated fields. We have been able to take advantage of this in no fewer than five ways, viz:

1. the free loan of four display cabinets, housing twelve interchangeable displays on such subjects as posture, nutrition, accidents, foot health, etc. These displays, featuring sculptor-designed figures in attractive settings, were said to cost £100 each.
2. the welcome advent of a series of supporting posters on similar subjects.
3. the adaptation of the theme of one of these small posters—"Wash Your Hands"—to fill the large hoardings in the Guildhall Square and on Copnor Bridge.
4. the sale of *Family Doctor* from the Elm Grove Welfare Foods Centre (through the kind co-operation of the W.V.S.)
5. the bulk purchase of their popular booklet *Having a Baby* for re-sale at the ante-natal clinics.

### B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Full details were given in the Report for 1954 of the B.C.G. vaccination scheme for 13 year old "school leavers", and the same procedure was followed during 1956, as it was found entirely satisfactory. The great advantage of the present scheme is that the "Heaf" method of tuberculin testing can be carried out by a nurse—thus saving a great deal of the medical officer's time. In addition, this method of testing is more acceptable to the children than the Mantoux test which involves an intradermal injection.

Particulars of the numbers dealt with are given in the table on page 50, from which it will be seen that 2,459 (2,369) forms were sent to the parents of children aged 13½—14 years in the Education Committee's schools and 80·3% (82·2%) agreed to tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination being done, if found necessary. Subsequently 50 visits were paid to schools and 1,899 children were tested; of these 84·9% (79·9%) were tuberculin-negative and 1,575 were vaccinated. Positive reactors numbered 293—15·1% (20·1%) of those tested; 31 were already attending the Chest Clinic, and 296 were given appointments for the Mass Radiography Unit.

In addition, B.C.G. vaccination of contacts of all ages was further extended, regular sessions being held at the Chest Clinic for this purpose and for follow-up of those previously vaccinated; during the year 345 contacts were vaccinated.

### TUBERCULOSIS (pages 56–60)

In his informative and encouraging report the Consultant Chest Physician points out that, in addition to the steady fall in the death rate from respiratory (pulmonary) tuberculosis during the past ten years, a comparable decrease in the incidence of this form of the disease has more recently become evident. This trend is clearly shown by a decline in the primary notifications of respiratory tuberculosis which numbered only 149 in 1956, compared with 165 in the previous year and 312 as recently as 1950. This general improvement in the overall picture of tuberculous infection is further borne out by the results of the tuberculin testing of thirteen year old school children preliminary to B.C.G. vaccination. Although the infectivity rate varies widely from school to school, the average figure for "positive reactors to tuberculin" is now only 15·1%, compared with 20% in 1955 and a substantially higher level only a few years ago. "However, the continued occurrence of the occasional far-advanced chronic patient does not leave any room for general complacency in the situation as yet".



Moreover, as will be evident from the appended table showing deaths from tuberculosis for the ten year period 1947-1956, the dramatic decline in the mortality from this disease which has been such a favourable feature of the previous nine years has been arrested, so far as respiratory tuberculosis is concerned, during the year under review when deaths numbered 26, compared with only 20 in 1955:—

	RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			COMBINED		Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	
1947 ...	84	60	144	10	10	20	94	70	164
1948 ...	69	51	120	7	3	10	76	54	130
1949 ...	62	36	98	5	4	9	67	40	107
1950 ...	56	31	87	6	2	8	62	33	95
1951 ...	39	21	60	5	1	6	44	22	66
1952 ...	40	11	51	7	4	11	47	15	62
1953 ...	30	16	46	4	2	6	34	18	52
1954 ...	24	14	38	3	4	7	27	18	45
1955 ...	16	4	20	—	3	3	16	7	23
1956 ...	21	5	26	—	1	1	21	6	27

#### MASS RADIOGRAPHY (pages 61-68)

During the year the original Mass Radiography Unit, established at Saint Mary's Hospital in July, 1944, when Portsmouth was selected by the Ministry of Health as almost the first local authority to receive one, continued to operate mainly in the City. At a survey conducted in Gosport 7,559 persons were X-rayed.

On 17th October, 1956, the long-awaited fully mobile second Unit, complete with caravan and staff-transport car, commenced operations and in the remaining 2½ months of the year made fifteen moves, including six to factories, etc. in Portsmouth. The original Unit has now become static.

A total of 60,312 (42,696) X-ray examinations was carried out during the year, the highest number ever recorded, including 43,058 (28,776) in Portsmouth, of which only 45 (58) were found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis (Table V)—an incidence of 1·05 (2·02) per thousand examined, the lowest hitherto recorded. However, as the Medical Director comments in his excellent report "the position is not one for complacency. It will be noted that the two groups with the highest disease rate are predominantly from the City—the school leavers and the cases referred from general practitioners. For this reason I hope that the B.C.G. scheme will be extended to state-aided and private schools, and that G.Ps. will send increased numbers to the Unit. The Unit itself will try to increase its range of case finding."

In connection with the B.C.G. vaccination scheme for 13-year old "school-leavers" 591 (255) tuberculin-positive reactors and 315 (201) family contacts attended the Unit; in the former group four (2) cases of active tuberculosis were found; amongst contacts, however, none was discovered.

**(7) SECTION 29 (DOMESTIC HELP)** (page 38)

The Home Help Service provides domestic assistance in households where such help is required "owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age".

With the ever-increasing number of old people in the community, the accent continues to be on this type of case and it is here that the "group home help scheme", under which specially selected home helps were appointed exclusively to look after groups of old people living in close proximity to each other, plays a large part. Unfortunately, several difficulties were encountered in this connection during the year and it was not possible to introduce any additional groups; in fact, one stopped functioning as the old people concerned passed on. However, plans were in hand at the end of the year to extend the scheme to seven more districts and it is hoped to continue expanding as circumstances allow; there is no doubt of the benefits to old people of this type of home help attendance.

The continual resignations of home helps and absences due to sickness and holidays often led to administrative difficulties in endeavouring to meet the demands made upon the Service, which was severely strained at times, and occasionally the assistance given had to be drastically reduced or even suspended because of shortage of staff. This action sometimes produced complaints but it is obviously impossible to get a quart into a pint pot; generally, the Service is very much appreciated, as evidenced by the many expressions of thanks received.

The Home Help Service, though not obligatory under the National Health Service Act, is one which has grown from year to year, as the following figures show:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Home Helps employed</i>	<i>Cases attended</i>	<i>Hours worked</i>
1949	57	509	64,181
1950	52	503	58,688
1951	58	506	57,719
1952	58	516	59,500
1953	54	593	74,334
1954	56	654	82,794
1955	58	751	92,096
1956	57	775	86,115

Even so, much more could be achieved in this field of public health if a larger allocation of monies could be granted for this purpose.

**(8) SECTIONS 28 & 51 - PART V OF THE ACT (MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES)** (pages 69-71)

The organisation of the Mental Health Service has continued as was described in the Report for 1953 and outlined in that of the Executive Officer for the year under review.

Cases of alleged mental illness dealt with by the Service show a further increase, 620 persons having been referred, compared with 605 in the previous year, while at the end of 1956 there were 280 (257) mental defectives under statutory supervision and a further 452 (479) under "voluntary supervision"—not being "subject to be dealt with".

The present Occupation Centre at Milton Church Hall provides for some 70 mental defectives of both sexes (another 26 cases being on the waiting list for admission) and a senior female class of 20 meets in another church hall four times weekly, under the handicraft instructress who also gives some home teaching to selected cases. During 1954, after consideration of the

urgent need to provide more suitable premises and to expand the facilities for training generally, the Council obtained the approval of the Minister of Health to the erection of a new "Day Training Centre" for 137 mental defectives on the Eastern Road, and by the end of that year preparation of plans was in progress. These were finally approved by the Minister and loan sanction was given in November, 1955; building was commenced in December.

Langstone House Day Training Centre was completed on 24th May, 1957, and will shortly be occupied. The building has accommodation for 137 trainees in eight classrooms, a large handicraft room and an assembly hall, part of which can be partitioned off to serve as a dining room. The contract figure for this building was £39,520. The official opening ceremony will be performed by the Minister of Health on 9th October, 1957.

Considerable difficulties were again encountered in securing the admission to hospital of mental defectives in need of institutional care. This question is a continual source of anxiety to the Mental Health Service and there appears to be little prospect of any immediate improvement in the situation.

### CARE OF THE AGED

Reference is made in other sections of this Report to the increasing proportion of old people in the community and this national trend is even more marked in cities like Portsmouth where the younger members of the population are being rehoused outside the City boundary.

The ideal mentioned in last year's Report to "assist elderly people to remain for as long as possible in health and comfort in their own homes . . ." is constantly kept in mind by all those agencies, local authority and hospital as well as voluntary, who are dealing with the welfare of old people. Liaison between these organisations continues to be very good and it is rare for any case to defeat their combined efforts. This is reflected in the small number of persons whom it has been necessary to deal with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. (None in the last two years.)

Although it was not possible to extend further the "group home help scheme" for old people during 1956, plans were in hand at the end of the year to provide such a service in seven additional districts. There is no doubt of the benefit derived by those who are assisted in this way.

The schedule below gives details of institutional accommodation, apart from hospitals, available for old people in Portsmouth.

#### Local Authority Provision

So far as the Local Authority is concerned, the body responsible for residential care of aged persons is the Welfare Services Committee, and they had made the following provision by the end of the year. Highgrove Lodge, mentioned last year, was opened during 1956 and, at the time of writing, tenders have been received for the erection of the proposed home at Link Road, Cosham, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of 1957 or early in 1958. A further home at Stone Street is also proposed and these two will together provide accommodation for approximately another hundred persons.

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
St. Mary's House, Portsmouth	315 total—top floor rarely used
St. Vincent Lodge, Kent Road	35
St. Bernard Lodge, Merton Road	42
Jubilee Homes for the Blind, Cosham	28
Elizabeth House, Wymering	35
Margaret House, Farlington	35
Highgrove Lodge, Drayton	35

**Voluntary Provision**

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION
Portsmouth Social Service Council, Old People's Welfare Committee.	Sunbury Court, Festing Road (hostel). Accommodation for 26 old ladies. Kelly Homes, Northern Parade (five bungalows for married couples).
Women's Voluntary Services	Queen Anne Lodge, Nightingale Road (hostel). Accommodation for 20 old persons.
The Church Army	Churchill House, Ashburton Road (single rooms with kitchenette). Accommodation for 10 residents.
Committee of Management (C. of E.) <i>Chairman</i> , Mr. A. E. Hadley	Home of Comfort, Victoria Grove (registered nursing home). Accommodation for 11 infirm ladies.
The Forces Help Society	Princess Christian Home, Grand Parade (hostel). Accommodation for 14 pensioners—male (some infirm).
Friendly Society's Homes	Glasgow Road, Southsea. 24 flats—16 single, 8 for married couples. Canal Walk, Landport. 9 flats — all for married couples (4 flats only fit for use at present time—remainder, on top floor, considered unsafe). Negotiations are proceeding with Charity Commissioners with a view to preparing a scheme to deal with the whole of this block.

In addition to residential provision, assistance to elderly persons in their own homes occupied the attention of not only the Local Authority but also the voluntary bodies in the City. The Old People's Welfare Committee continued to expand and extend their programme. Recreational activities included parties, outings, the provision of wireless, food parcels, and many other forms of social service, including thirteen "Good Companions" Clubs, all of which are self-supporting and have long waiting lists. These clubs do a tremendous amount to relieve the loneliness of old people living by themselves, and also encourage members to help each other by friendly visiting, etc. The Committee maintain a close liaison with hospital almoners and health visitors and are often able to assist in cases referred to them from these sources. The demand for the type of accommodation provided at Sunbury Court is increasing as elderly people become more infirm and less able to maintain their own homes, and the Committee is still conscious of the need for "Half-way Houses", i.e. accommodation for elderly people who do not need hospital care but are not fit to enter a hostel or remain at home. They have been busily exploring the possibility of adapting Victorian houses to provide flatlets for old people but, after a very careful survey of the situation and examination of the expenses involved, the Committee have decided to abandon this plan. They are now in course of arranging for the building of a block of four flats for elderly old age pensioner couples and have found a delightful site to be developed.

The Women's Voluntary Services' "meals on wheels" continues to deliver a two-course meal to between 50 and 75 old people twice a week, and the

mobile library, run in conjunction with the City Librarian, is still a most popular service. The five "Darby and Joan" clubs have a membership of between 750 and 800 and a waiting list. Members of the service are always willing to visit lonely old people brought to their notice.

#### **SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

Section 47, which gives local authorities power to effect the removal to hospital of persons who, because of grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated and living in insanitary conditions, are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, was amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, which came into force on 1st September, 1951. Briefly, this means that it is now possible to arrange for the removal of persons in need of care and attention immediately; formerly it was necessary to give seven clear days' notice.

In no case was it necessary to apply for an Order under this section of the Act during 1956, but numerous investigations and visits were again made by health visitors, public health inspectors and members of the medical staff to elderly persons living alone or receiving inadequate care. The number of cases dealt with in this way, particularly by health visitors, has remained high, over 3,000 visits once more being made by them in connection with the care of old people. Action taken to remedy the unsatisfactory conditions found in some of these cases included the provision of home help and/or home nursing, supply of clothing and bed linen through voluntary agencies, the National Assistance Board, etc.; some were persuaded to enter St. Mary's House voluntarily, while many others are being kept under regular supervision so that further action may be taken if necessary.

### **EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS**

#### **Epileptics**

During the year 17 children were brought to the notice of the School Health Service as suffering from epilepsy—the total now being 83. Most of these cases were slight and required no special educational treatment, with the exception of one boy of 14 years, who was admitted to an epileptic colony. In common with other handicaps it must be emphasised that epileptics should as far as possible be treated as normal, except where the frequency or severity of the fits or the concomitant behaviour disorders make this impossible, owing to the bad effect these may have on their school-fellows, or where the responsibility is too great to ask a teacher to assume.

Registration of school leavers suffering from epilepsy as "disabled persons" is not carried out as a routine except where the child has been in residence in a special school or colony, as there is great difficulty in securing employment for known epileptics. Most prefer to take a chance on their condition not being found out and, because of the efficacy of modern drugs, many epileptics go through life without their disease being known to anyone but their own families. Advice is, of course, given to all school leavers on the selection of a suitable job—the emphasis being on the avoidance of work which might prove dangerous should a fit occur.

I am indebted to the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour for the information that there are now 108 registered epileptics—87 men and 21 women, of whom about 25% are unemployed. He still finds great difficulty in placing epileptics in suitable employment and, owing to the increasing shortage of jobs in Portsmouth, this situation is bound to get worse.

Mental defectives who are also epileptics are supervised by the Mental Health Department.

A local branch of the National Epileptic Association has recently been started in Portsmouth.

### Spastics

The Cerebral Palsy Day Unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital started receiving patients in February and was officially opened by Mr. Wilfred Pickles in August. The nine Portsmouth children and five from the surrounding County districts who have been in attendance have made satisfactory progress—all of them socially and physically, and some of them educationally. The enthusiasm of the whole staff is infectious and the children benefit greatly from this atmosphere. The routine of ascertainment of the children and running of the Unit were described in last year's Report and only minor modifications have had to be made.

The slight cases of cerebral palsy who have attended ordinary schools give no trouble in future life and employment, but the problem of employment of those with major handicaps is one which is exercising the minds of Government and voluntary bodies. The National Spastics Society have opened several hostels for the training of suitable cases, though many will remain a great burden on their families and the State.

## BLIND PERSONS

Under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act the Welfare Services Committee is responsible to the Council for the welfare of the blind; the information given in the appended table regarding registered blind and partially sighted persons has accordingly been provided by the Director of Welfare Services:—

### A.—FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which F.1 of Form B.D.8 recommends:—	Cause of Disability				
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Others
(a) No treatment ...	10	3	—	—	29
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical, optical or hospital supervision) ...	25	5	—	2	22
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ...	9	5	—	2	12

There have been no further confirmed cases of retrolental fibroplasia since September, 1952, when it became obvious that excessive concentration of oxygen in the "Oxygenaire" box was responsible for the condition, and simple practical steps were taken to obviate this.

## B.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during year ...	2
(ii) Number of cases in which:—	
(a) Vision lost ... ..	
(b) Vision impaired ... ..	NIL
(c) Treatment continuing at the end of year	

It will be noted that two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year, compared with four in the previous year and fourteen in 1952, and in neither of these was there any impairment of vision.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES (pages 72-79)

As will be seen from the table on page 74, there was a marked decline in the incidence of nearly all the infectious diseases during the year under review, when the total cases notified numbered only 1,597, compared with 5,239 in 1955. The principal decrease occurred in measles, of which only 784 cases were notified, compared with 4,479 in the previous year when there was a severe epidemic.

Decreases also occurred in scarlet fever—122 notifications, compared with 156; typhoid fever—no cases, compared with three; para-typhoid fever—two, compared with four; meningococcal infections—three, compared with six; erysipelas—14, compared with 20; ophthalmia neonatorum—two, compared with four; notifiable pneumonia—45, compared with 60; food poisoning—18, compared with 56; tuberculosis—pulmonary 149, compared with 165 cases notified, and other forms 13, compared with 17.

There was, however, an increase in cases of whooping cough notified—312, compared with 204; in puerperal pyrexia—59, compared with 35; and in dysentery, mainly of Sonné type—64, compared with 26 in the previous year.

Two cases of diphtheria occurred at the end of August—the first since 1953, when a Naval rating was admitted to Haslar Hospital with this disease; three contacts from one of the affected families were also admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment when they were found to be “carriers”. The actual cases were discovered by swabbing for supposed tonsillitis of children aged 8 years and 16 months respectively from widely separated households between which no common link could be found. The younger child affected was the only member of this family who had not been immunised. Both cases made a good recovery.

The incidence of poliomyelitis has again remained low—only eight confirmed cases (six paralytic and two non-paralytic), one of which was not admitted to hospital, compared with four in the previous year, three in 1954 and thirteen in 1953. There were 27 deaths from tuberculosis, compared with 23 in 1955 and 45 in 1954—pulmonary 26 (20), and other forms one (3), and one death from dysentery of Sonné type in a young child. There were also seven deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age, compared with four in the previous year.

### CANCER (page 75)

Although the total number of deaths from this disease, which since 1952 has included leukaemia, was only thirteen more than in 1955—484, compared with 471, and 510 in 1951—the death rate, owing to a further decrease in the

total population, shows an increase of 6.1 per cent, from 1.97 per thousand population in 1955 to 2.09, compared with 2.075 for England and Wales. Presumably the proportion of elderly people in the City is increasing owing to migration of younger families to Leigh Park. Consideration of the table on page 75, reveals that in both sexes deaths from cancer of the lung still show an upward trend as, to a lesser degree, do those from cancer of the stomach.

The appended table shows the dramatic decline in recent years in deaths from respiratory (pulmonary) tuberculosis, compared with the marked increase in those from cancer of the lung, which in 1956 numbered 84 in males and 14 in females. The total deaths from lung cancer are now nearly four times the mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis and account for rather more than one-third of the total deaths from cancer in males; as recently as 1951 the proportion was only one-quarter.

Year	Males		Females		Total Deaths	
	T.B.	Cancer	T.B.	Cancer	T.B.	Cancer
1948 ...	69	27	51	12	120	39
1949 ...	62	47	36	7	98	54
1950 ...	56	58	31	9	87	67
1951 ...	39	66	21	11	60	77
1952 ...	40	61	11	10	51	71
1953 ...	30	70	16	18	46	88
1954 ...	24	87	14	9	38	96
1955 ...	16	72	4	13	20	85
1956 ...	21	84	5	14	26	98

### CANCER EDUCATION

During the six months January to June, the Victoria Nursing Association, my health visitors and home helps co-operated with the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation in conducting a Night Nursing Survey. The information supplied by us and similar authorities throughout the country has not yet been fully analysed.

The Victoria Nursing Association is the primary source of notification of cases needing financial assistance from the M.C.M.F. fund. In order, however, that no deserving person should be overlooked, a circular letter was sent this summer to all local doctors, advising them of the existence of "a modest fund for the emergency relief of cancer patients". It would appear, however, that for several reasons there is not the same need for such aid among cancer sufferers in Portsmouth as among T.B. patients, for example.

In June, I was invited to address an afternoon meeting of Drayton Methodist Church Young Wives' Club. In support, the American film "Time is Life" was shown, and leaflets were distributed. The meeting was well attended—by about 100 ladies—whose questions I dealt with in a special session afterwards.

The fifth Annual General Meeting in December was addressed by the eminent surgeon, Mr. R. W. Raven, who had been the speaker at the first Annual Meeting in 1952.



**VENEREAL DISEASE** (pages 76-77)

The table of statistics shows another all-round decrease in the number of cases, and it is again very gratifying to record that no case of congenital syphilis in infants was seen—thus demonstrating the value of routine antenatal blood testing. The excellent liaison with other centres and the Naval Health Authorities and the co-operation of patients have made contact tracing relatively successful. However, despite the good educational work carried out by everyone concerned, more patients than usual failed to complete their course of treatment or surveillance.

**PARASITIC INFESTATION** (pages 78-79)*(a)* SCABIES

The incidence of scabies was the lowest recorded, only 41 cases and 49 contacts being treated during the year, compared with 78 cases and 46 contacts in 1955; in 1947, however, cases numbered 656 and contacts 521—an aftermath of the war years.

*(b)* PEDICULOSIS (Lice)

Cases of pediculosis also showed a most gratifying decline, 47 families and 150 individuals—of whom 82 were actually infested—being dealt with, compared with 77 families and 271 individuals in 1955.

**PUBLIC BATHS**

(pages 80-83)

The financial year 1956-57 was the most favourable ever experienced in the history of the Park Road Baths, total patronage having attained the record figure of 169,475—an increase of 30,239 on the previous year, and the revenue of £5,946 being £441 more. These excellent results must be attributed in the main to the enthusiasm and enterprise of the Baths Superintendent and his staff, and fully justify the modest expenditure incurred by your Committee in 1949 by the installation of modern filtration and chlorination plant for the swimming pool.

As will be evident from the appended table, the number of persons, other than school children under instruction, using the swimming pool is now more than three times the figure prevailing before the filtration plant was installed and the total receipts have increased to a similar degree.

<i>Year ended 31st March</i>	<i>Number attending</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Swimming Pool</i>	<i>Slipper Baths</i>	<i>Attendances</i>	<i>Receipts</i>
1949	19,920	43,259	74,928	£2,038
1951	28,091	34,141	88,921	£3,637
1953	34,574	35,445	97,940	£3,895
1954	36,832	36,753	119,936	£4,730
1955	55,896	38,390	135,720	£5,190
1956	61,736	38,939	139,236	£5,505
1957	67,066	36,477	169,475	£5,946

The Anglesea Road Baths were under construction in 1939 when war broke out; work was stopped in the following year and the building subsequently suffered severe bomb damage as well as considerable deterioration from exposure to the weather over a period of fifteen years. After the refusal of several applications, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in December, 1953, gave approval in principle to the completion of the building.

In the spring of 1954, the Health and Housing Committee approved a scheme of reconstruction recommended by the Baths Sub-Committee, and instructed the City Architect to prepare sketch plans. These will include a number of improvements to bring the scheme up to modern requirements and are principally extending the swimming bath and hall, providing facilities for international swimming and diving events. They will also provide 24 slipper baths and 20 showers for men, and nine slipper baths for women, together with an immersion pool for remedial exercises; these now supersede and will occupy that part of the building originally allocated to medicated baths. In September, 1955, the Committee resolved that "having regard to the amenity value of a modern swimming bath and washing facilities in a City which has suffered so severely from the effects of enemy action, approval be given to the project being proceeded with and that, subject to the approval of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Council, the City Architect be now authorised to forward his sketch plans together with estimates to the Minister for his approval to the scheme". The Government's communication concerning the restriction of capital expenditure unfortunately intervened and in December the Committee decided that the proposal be deferred indefinitely.

However, towards the end of 1956 the matter was again raised and the Council at their December meeting agreed that the sketch plans and estimated cost of reconstruction be forwarded to the Minister for his approval, which is still awaited.

Meantime, many improvements have been made at the Park Road Baths, including:—new diving boards, hair dryers, a weighing machine, additional changing accommodation and equipment for swimmers and the redecoration of the swimming hall. The slipper baths section has also been redecorated and last year seven new baths were provided in replacement of old ones. In addition, the laundry has recently been modernised by the installation of a new washing machine and hydro-extractor.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(pages 84–88 and 94–97)

During the year, 1,830 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Of these 75 were found to be adulterated, incorrectly labelled or otherwise unsatisfactory, or 4·1% compared with 5·6% in 1955. Of these 75 samples, 7 were formal samples, 66 informal or test samples and 2 private purchase samples.

All the adulterated samples were dealt with by cautions or, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate Ministry.

### FOOD AND DRINK INFECTIONS

A year practically devoid of incident, 1956 produced only two cases of the more serious infections, both salmonella paratyphi B, and neither related by 'phage type. Greater dissimilarity in case history could scarcely have occurred, for the first case was a crippled lady, whose mobility was limited to her immediate environment with contacts only in her own family and few friends, whilst the second patient was a publican's wife with a complicated history of movement and myriads of contacts. Comparison of diet gave only one common factor—shellfish—and though the routine sampling of cockles from identical sources was carried out nothing useful developed. All contacts were similarly negative. No secondary cases occurred and as happens in most of these mysterious sporadic visitations no source of infection was discovered.

A marked decrease in the number of other salmonella infections was also recorded, there being 14 cases (12 notified) in 8 families. The excretions of numerous contacts yielded the inevitable proportion of salmonella typhi murium "carriers" whose history purported to be symptomless. One patient's diet consisted mainly of ducks' eggs and, although none of the remaining stock of eggs in the household contained the organism, the incubation period coinciding with the eating of a lightly boiled duck's egg seemed to justify the attribution of the illness to this dubious source of nourishment. A salmonella heidelberg patient's history made the infection appear to be an import to the City, but no light was thrown on the solitary appearance of a salmonella bovis morbificans.

A rise in Sonné dysentery was attributed to minor outbreaks affecting a residential nursery, a day nursery and a families unit. Examinations of home contacts disclosed the existence of a few infected persons, numbering among them, no doubt, the original vectors.

Staphylococcal poisoning occurred in two families. In a family of five, two persons were violently ill after eating ham; a small portion of ham recovered from the household refuse bin yielded staphylococcus pyogenes of the same 'phage type as found in specimens from the patients and the housewife who prepared the meal. Further 'phage type staphylococci were isolated from the nasal swabs and faeces of two children who had not eaten ham and were therefore unaffected.

More startling in its implication was the toxin poisoning of two persons after consuming part of the contents of a tin of a well-known brand of meat. No pathogens were recovered from the vomit or faeces of the patients but stained films of the meat revealed enormous numbers of staphylococci. It would appear that, prior to canning, the meat had been infected with staphylococci for a sufficiently long period to enable the formation of toxin and, whilst subsequent processing destroyed the bacteria, it did not affect the toxin. Three additional tins, purchased at the same time as the incriminated one, were sent to the laboratory and subsequently reported negative, but a fourth tin's contents gave a scanty growth of staphylococcus pyogenes. Pursued to the parent firm the investigation included 54 tins of the original consignment which were recalled for that purpose, but bacteriological examination by the producers failed to reproduce the original finding, the only discovery being micrococci whose introduction was attributed to a leaking seam. How one tin became isolated in a continuous canning process and remained unretorted for a sufficiently long time after infection for toxin formation has so far not had a logical explanation.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

(pages 89-102)

### WATER SUPPLY

There is nothing new to be recorded regarding the water supply, which continues to be of excellent character both in purity and quantity. The results of the Public Analyst's chemical and bacteriological examinations are referred to on page 121.

### HOUSING

The City Architect has supplied the following information regarding housing progress during the year:—

- 1,276 houses were completed during 1956  
(1,121 Local Authority, 155 private enterprise).
- 1,021 were under construction  
(958 Local Authority, 63 private enterprise)
- 233 were under contract, but building not started  
(233 Local Authority)

These figures include houses outside the Local Authority's boundary.

## DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD

### MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

Reference has been made in previous reports to a project to improve the City's mortuary facilities by extending and modernising the mortuary at Saint Mary's Hospital and installing refrigeration, the cost to be shared equally between the Portsmouth City Council and the Regional Hospital Board. It is pleasing to be able to record that this scheme reached fruition during 1956 and that the new Central Mortuary, which undoubtedly goes a long way to fulfil the needs of the City, came into operation on the 1st November. The main features are a new 24-body refrigerator, new post-mortem tables and better facilities for conducting post-mortems, and an attractively designed Chapel of Rest, with an adjoining curtained-off viewing room, having a separate entrance.

The total cost came to £12,971 18s. 7d., of which the Corporation paid one half; the Board will be responsible for maintaining the mortuary and the furniture and equipment therein in good decoration and repair, the total running costs being apportioned between the Board and the Council pro rata to the number of bodies received into the mortuary for which each party is responsible.

The Public Mortuary in Park Road ceased to be used as such from the above date, its functions being transferred to the Central Mortuary, but the building continued in use for viewing purposes for Coroner's inquests. The former "post-mortem room" became the viewing room and the former "inquest room" was adapted by the erection of a partition and provision of floor covering and comfortable chairs as a waiting room for relatives and others who have to attend inquests.

The number of bodies received into Park Road mortuary during the first ten months of the year was 339, compared with 361 for the whole of 1955. These were brought to the mortuary from fatal accidents—70 (included in (c) below); from private residences, hospitals, etc. (a) for post-mortem examination—153, (b) for post-mortem and subsequent inquests—45, and (c) for inquest only—128. In addition, thirteen bodies were brought in on whom neither post-mortem nor inquest was held. The premises were used for 28 inquests during the months of November and December.

### CREMATORIUM

The construction of a crematorium at Cornaway Lane, Portchester, the site for which has been acquired by the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee, of which Fareham, Havant, Gosport and Portsmouth are the constituent bodies, will, it is hoped, commence in the near future and be completed by June, 1958. Tenders have recently been received and the total cost of the project will be in the region of £65,000.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Once again I would express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Services Committee and of the Health and Housing Committee for their assistance and encouragement, and I should also like to record my thanks to my medical colleagues and the various voluntary organisations in the City for their helpful co-operation. Thanks are also due to the Town Clerk and other chief officials of the Corporation for their help and advice, so willingly given, to the Physician Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital for his assistance with epidemiological investigations, and to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for his expert help with enquiries into cases of infectious disease.

Finally, I would record my appreciation of the willing service given by the staff of the Health Department throughout the year, special thanks being due for their valuable assistance to my Deputy (Dr. Woodrow), the Chief Health Inspector (Mr. Appleton) and my Administrative Assistant (Mr. Woodcock).

I have the honour to be, my Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. E. ROBERTS.

June, 1957.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## STATISTICAL SUMMARIES FOR 1956

Total Population (estimated by the Registrar General) ... 231,100

## GENERAL STATISTICS

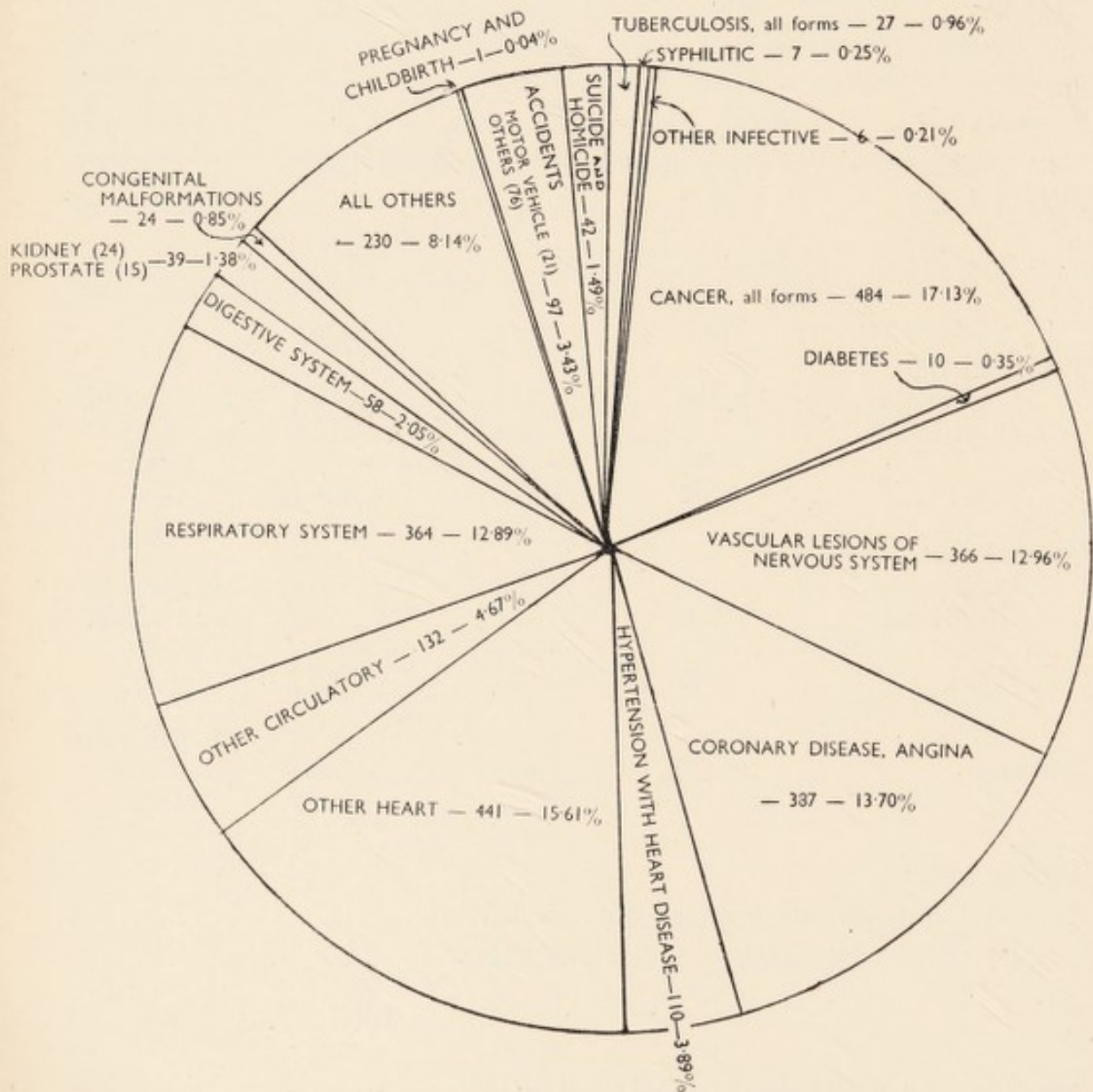
Area in acres (land and inland water) ... 9,249  
 Population (Census 1951) ... 233,545  
 Number of dwellings ... 62,905  
 Rateable value (31st March, 1957) ... £4,003,571  
 Nett product of a penny rate (year ended 31st March, 1957) ... £15,950  
 Total rainfall ... 24.11 inches

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<b>LIVE BIRTHS:</b>				
Legitimate ...	3,269	1,712	1,557	} Rate per 1,000 population 15.08
Illegitimate ...	217	106	111	
Total ...	3,486	1,818	1,668	
<b>STILLBIRTHS:</b>				
Legitimate ...	83	53	30	} Rate per 1,000 total births 24.89
Illegitimate ...	6	1	5	
Total ...	89	54	35	
DEATHS ...	2,825	1,423	1,402	} Rate per 1,000 population 12.22
<b>Deaths from:</b>				
(a) Complications of pregnancy and delivery ...				1
(b) Other complications of the puerperium ...				—
			Total ...	1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ...				0.28
<b>Death rate of infants under one year of age:</b>				
All infants per 1,000 live births (84) ...				24.10
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (79) ...				24.17
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births (5) ...				23.04

## PROPORTION OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL DISEASES

TOTAL—2,825



## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS

					1956	1955	1954
Total					2,825	2,571	2,622
Under 1 year					84	81	88
1-4 years					12	12	13
5-44 years					142	143	149
45-64 years					593	552	592
65+					1,994	1,783	1,780
<b>Causes</b>							
*Other heart disease					<b>441</b>	407	406
Coronary disease, angina					<b>387</b>	369	346
Vascular lesions of nervous system					<b>366</b>	337	350
*Defined and ill-defined diseases—various					230	229	<b>243</b>
*Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms—other sites					225	232	<b>237</b>
Bronchitis					<b>176</b>	146	133
Pneumonia					<b>150</b>	100	123
*Other circulatory disease					<b>132</b>	114	112
Hypertension with heart disease					<b>110</b>	80	75
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus					<b>98</b>	85	96
Accidents, other than motor vehicle					<b>76</b>	58	59
Malignant neoplasm—stomach					<b>75</b>	71	63
Malignant neoplasm—breast					<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	41
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum					<b>43</b>	23	30
Suicide					<b>40</b>	34	34
*Other diseases of respiratory system					<b>35</b>	23	23
Tuberculosis—respiratory					26	20	<b>38</b>
Malignant neoplasm—uterus					<b>26</b>	25	<b>26</b>
Nephritis and nephrosis					24	<b>27</b>	24
Congenital malformations					<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	23
Motor vehicle accidents					21	24	<b>26</b>
Leukaemia, aleukaemia					16	10	<b>19</b>
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea					15	<b>18</b>	11
Hyperplasia of prostate					15	18	<b>27</b>
Diabetes					10	<b>20</b>	18
Syphilitic disease					7	9	8
*Other infective and parasitic diseases					6	5	7
Influenza					3	9	4
Homicide and operations of war					2	1	3
Tuberculosis—other					1	3	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion					1	1	<b>5</b>
Meningococcal infections					—	1	2
Whooping cough					—	—	3

\*Causes not specified elsewhere in table.

(The highest figures in the statistics for the years under review are shown in heavy type.)



TABLE I  
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR (1955)

	1956 Population 231,100		1955 Population 238,700	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 living	Number	Rate per 1,000 living
Births ... ..	3,486	15·08	3,380	14·16
Deaths ... ..	2,825	12·22	2,571	10·77
" Principal Infectious Diseases ... ..	8	0·03	5	0·02
" Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
" Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—	—
" Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—
" Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—
" Dysentery ... ..	1	0·004	—	—
" Typhoid and Para- typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	1	0·004
" Enteritis and diarrhoea (under 2)	7	0·03	4	0·02
" Influenza ... ..	3	0·01	7	0·03
" Pulmonary tuber- culosis ... ..	26	0·11	20	0·08
" Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	1	0·004	3	0·01
" Cancer (including leukaemia) ... ..	484	2·09	471	1·97
	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	84	24·10	81	23·96
	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
Deaths—Maternal:				
Sepsis ... ..	1	0·28	—	—
Other Causes ... ..	—	—	1	0·29
Total ... ..	1	0·28	1	0·29

TABLE II  
TABLE SHOWING BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATES AND POPULATION  
FOR YEAR 1956 AND THE TEN PRECEDING YEARS

Year	Birth-rate per 1,000 population	Death-rate per 1,000 population	Death-rate from infectious diseases per 1,000 population	Deaths of children under 1 year—percentage of total deaths	Deaths of children under 1 year—per 1,000 live births	Population (R.G.'s estimate)
1956	15.08	12.22	0.03	2.97	24.10	231,100*
1955	14.16	10.77	0.02	3.15	23.96	238,700*
1954	15.23	10.76	0.03	3.36	23.71	243,600*
1953	15.21	11.59	0.04	3.12	23.80	245,800*
1952	15.43	10.77	0.04	3.33	23.24	242,600*
1951	15.05	11.87	0.06	3.76	29.64	244,400*
1950	15.22	10.92	0.05	4.16	29.84	240,020*
1949	19.06	12.05	0.07	3.80	24.04	218,250
1948	21.06	11.01	0.06	4.45	23.28	216,200
1947	24.29	12.98	0.12	6.25	33.40	212,020
1946	23.69	12.13	0.07	6.65	34.05	204,540
Average for 10 yrs. 1946-55	17.84	11.49	0.06	4.20	26.90	—

(The most favourable figures in the statistics are shown in heavy type) \*Total population

TABLE III—TABLE SHOWING POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH RATE, ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATES, INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES OF THE 20 LARGE TOWNS OF ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 1956

Name of Authority	Population (total)	Adjusted Rates per 1,000 population		Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births	Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Death-rates per 1,000 population from:									
		Birth							Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	Diphtheria (under 2 years)	Meningococcal Infections	Influenza	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	Tuberculosis—Non-respiratory	Cancer—Lungs and Bronchus	Cancer (all forms including Leukaemia)
		Birth	Death															
CROYDON	249,300	14.4	9.9	—	19.0	10.0	20.0	28.0	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.100	0.004	0.521	2.375		
BRISTOL	440,500	14.99	10.78	0.292	19.34	14.54	24.86	36.70	—	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.084	0.014	0.40	2.11		
COVENTRY	272,600	16.1	11.3	0.42	26.7	21.1	19.46	36.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.14	0.018	0.018	0.351	1.7		
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>	231,100	15.83	11.61	0.28	24.10	16.35	24.89	37.48	—	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.11	0.004	0.42	2.09		
SOUTHAMPTON	196,400	16.58	11.67	0.59	30.08	20.76	26.93	42.74	—	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.127	0.015	0.51	2.20		
BIRMINGHAM	1,110,800	15.63	11.75	0.63	24.6	17.6	22.95	37.44	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.14	0.01	0.45	2.08		
LEICESTER	284,000	15.2	12.0	0.45	19.7	13.7	23.3	36.2	—	—	0.007	0.056	0.095	0.011	0.363	2.02		
PLYMOUTH	216,200	16.64	12.29	0.27	17.58	13.05	23.80	35.44	—	—	0.00	0.05	0.12	0.00	0.33	1.83		
CARDIFF	249,800	16.81	12.59	0.66	27.76	19.03	25.7	41.00	—	0.012	0.004	0.04	0.14	0.004	0.396	2.08		
NOTTINGHAM	312,500	15.67	12.60	0.76	21.92	15.11	23.67	35.61	0.00	—	0.01	0.05	0.11	0.01	0.42	2.01		
SUNDERLAND	182,800	19.25	12.74	0.52	25.38	16.83	24.24	38.0	—	—	—	0.03	0.14	0.01	0.43	2.05		
LEEDS	508,600	15.5	13.0	0.61	26.9	19.0	21.6	37.5	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.11	0.02	0.44	1.94		
SHEFFIELD	499,000	14.25	13.25	—	23.6	18.0	21.95	37.2	—	0.002	0.008	0.040	0.184	0.020	0.535	2.188		
KINGSTON-U-HULL	300,200	17.84	13.3	0.71	28.86	19.18	24.48	36.2	0.003	0.003	0.01	0.006	0.15	0.013	0.48	2.04		
BRADFORD	286,400	16.8	13.4	0.41	28.2	19.3	25.08	41.7	0.00	0.00	0.024	0.007	0.04	0.09	0.46	2.33		
NEWCASTLE-U-TYNE	277,100	17.02	13.49	1.186	24.628	17.708	28.86	43.882	0.0036	—	—	0.0036	0.0288	0.011	0.458	2.132		
LIVERPOOL	773,700	19.16	14.05	0.43	25.91	17.36	24.11	38.68	0.006	0.001	0.006	0.005	0.022	0.009	0.579	2.054		
STOKE-ON-TRENT	273,000	14.7	14.5	0.228	27.0	18.13	30.58	46.32	—	—	0.007(3)	0.003(6)	0.022	0.011	0.491	2.989		
MANCHESTER	686,200	16.74	14.57	0.24	29.92	20.14	26.36	43.77	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.15	0.02	0.59	2.23		
SALFORD	167,400	16.20	15.13	1.03	29.37	20.17	28.20	45.05	0.006	0.12	—	—	0.048	0.006	0.621	2.449		

## METEOROLOGY—1956

**BAROMETER.** The mean barometric pressure (corrected to sea level) for the year was 29.987 inches (29.947). The highest observed reading was 30.669 on 3rd February (30.566), and the lowest 29.023 on 29th July (28.725).

**TEMPERATURES.** The mean temperature in the shade was 50.15° (51.0°).

*Maximum.* The mean maximum temperature in the shade was 55.6° (56.5°), the highest being 77° on 24th July (81°).

*Minimum.* The mean minimum temperature was 44.7° (45.5°), the lowest being 19° on 2nd and 3rd February (21°).

*Minimum on Grass.* The mean minimum temperature on the grass was 38.8° (39.0°), the lowest being 10° on 4th February (11°).

*Earth Temperature.* The mean temperature at one foot below the ground was 51.3° (52.3°), and at four feet 52.0° (53.0°).

*Frosts.* The minimum temperature in the shade, four feet above the ground, fell to and below freezing point on 43 days (49), and there were 88 (82) ground frosts during the year.

**SUNSHINE.** 1,714 hours 36 minutes (1,880 hours 36 minutes) of sunshine were registered by the Cambell-Stokes recorder. The greatest amount on one day was 14 hours 54 minutes on 26th June (14 hours 42 minutes).

**RAINFALL.** The total rainfall was 24.11 inches (24.11 inches (24.60)). The greatest fall in twenty-four hours was 2.32 inches on 6th August (1.31).

**HUMIDITY.** The mean humidity of the air (saturation 100) was 80 (79).

The following phenomena were recorded:—

**SNOW or SLEET** on fourteen occasions (21).

**THUNDER** on eight occasions (11).

**FOGS.** Twenty (15).

**GALES.** Sixteen—8 fresh, 8 moderate (fourteen—7 fresh, 7 moderate).

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AVERAGES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS (1947-56)

*Rainfall*  
27.04 inches

*Sunshine*  
1,802.6 hours

*Mean Temperature*  
51.7°

(Figures in brackets refer to 1955)

TABLE IV  
MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1956

Month	Mean Pressure (ins.)	Temperature—Degrees F.				Sunshine		Rainfall			Relative Humidity (Saturation 100)
		Mean	Absolute		Mean Daily Range	Total No. of hours	Days of 0.5 hrs. or more	Total m.m.	Total ins.	Days of 0.01 ins. or more	
			Max.	Min.							
January ...	29.816	42.2	55	31	47.1	37.3	72 hrs.	12 mins	4.38	18	88
February ...	30.200	32.8	51	19	37.8	27.7	96 "	0 "	0.10	6	76
March ...	29.914	44.3	59	29	49.2	39.4	157 "	0 "	0.25	5	79
April ...	29.926	46.2	59	32	52.5	39.9	171 "	6 "	1.73	8	74
May ...	30.136	53.7	75	39	62.7	44.7	263 "	48 "	0.62	8	73
June ...	30.032	58.2	76	45	64.4	52.1	176 "	42 "	1.74	11	73
July ...	29.894	61.9	77	51	67.2	56.7	193 "	24 "	2.08	11	81
August ...	29.782	59.8	70	49	65.0	54.5	199 "	36 "	4.88	21	81
September ...	29.917	60.6	73	49	64.8	56.5	129 "	30 "	2.37	8	83
October ...	30.117	52.1	63	36	57.5	46.7	129 "	0 "	1.13	9	85
November ...	30.114	45.2	57	28	50.1	40.3	95 "	54 "	0.61	11	83
December ...	29.996	44.8	55	27	48.9	40.6	30 "	24 "	4.22	19	89
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,714 "	36 "	612.5	135	—
MEAN ...	29.987	50.2	—	—	55.6	44.7	142 "	53 "	51.0	11	80

TABLE V  
MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF WIND DIRECTIONS—1956

(recorded at 9 hours G.M.T.)

	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm	Totals
January ...	3	4	0	1	2	9	7	3	2	31
February ...	4	13	2	0	0	2	3	5	0	29
March ...	0	6	10	6	2	2	3	2	0	31
April ...	3	7	2	4	1	5	3	4	1	30
May ...	3	3	1	3	1	11	6	2	1	31
June ...	6	2	0	0	2	9	5	6	0	30
July ...	1	3	3	2	2	9	8	2	1	31
August ...	1	5	0	2	1	12	9	1	0	31
September ...	2	3	8	4	3	4	4	1	1	30
October ...	7	5	0	1	3	5	6	4	0	31
November ...	6	3	1	2	1	6	2	8	1	30
December ...	0	4	1	3	3	10	5	1	4	31
TOTALS ...	36	58	28	28	21	84	61	39	11	366
% (nearest whole Nos.)	10	16	8	8	6	23	17	11	3	—

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

*By the Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health  
(Maternity and Child Welfare)*

**CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN****MATERNAL MORTALITY**

The maternal mortality rate showed a slight decrease from 0·29 per thousand total births in 1955 to 0·28, the lowest ever recorded. This represents one death, the cause of which was as follows:—

Uraemia. Septic infection of uterus. Self-injection of fluid into genital passages. Self-induced miscarriage.

**INFANT MORTALITY**

The infant mortality rate for 1956 increased slightly to 24·10, compared with 23·96 in 1955; the actual number of infant deaths was 84 (81). An analysis of these figures (page 42) shows that in 1956 the deaths occurring in the first four weeks of life numbered 57, and those from four weeks to one year 27 (comparable figures in 1955 were 62 and 19), making a neo-natal death rate of 16·35 in 1956 compared with 18·34. Of the 57 neo-natal deaths, 45 occurred in the first week of life, representing a perinatal mortality rate of 37·48.

**PREMATURE BIRTHS**

Special visits were made by midwives and health visitors to all premature babies. A premature baby outfit, including cot equipment, etc., is supplied by the local authority and is available for nursing premature babies on the district.

Wherever it is possible arrangements are made for premature births to take place in hospital and during 1956 116 (126) premature births occurred in Saint Mary's Hospital.

The total number of premature births reported during 1956 occurring at home and in private nursing homes was 96 (86). Of the 35 (41) born and nursed at home, 1 baby died during the first twenty-four hours and 34 (40) were still surviving at the end of the month; 32 (15) babies born at home were transferred to hospital. Of the 27 (27) babies born and nursed in nursing homes, no baby died during the first twenty-four hours and 27 (26) were still surviving at the end of the month; 2 (3) babies born in nursing homes were transferred to hospital.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM**

During the year 2 (4) cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. There was no resultant impairment of vision in either of these cases.

**ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS**

The number of new patients attending the municipal ante-natal clinics showed a slight decrease from 1,714 in 1955 to 1,680. During the year patients made a total of 10,912 attendances, compared with 11,855 in 1955. Co-operation between the general practitioners and the staff of the ante-natal clinics continues to be most satisfactory.

The number of patients who attended the post-natal clinics for the first time decreased to 153, compared with 247 in 1955. Patients made a total of 295 attendances, compared with 419 in the previous year.

The child welfare clinics continued to be well attended as will be seen from the table on page 39. There was a slight increase in the total attendances made by the children—55,889, compared with 55,534 in 1955.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

Mothercraft talks continued to be given weekly by health visitors and midwives at the child welfare centre, Trafalgar Place, Clive Road, Fratton, and were very well attended. Practical instruction in ante-natal exercises and relaxation continued to be given and has become increasingly popular.

#### MOTHERS' CLUBS

The mothers' clubs continued to meet at Portsea and Cosham child welfare centres as previously. Social and educational meetings, including lectures and the showing of films, were held and were appreciated by the mothers.

#### NATIONAL WELFARE FOODS

The arrangements for the distribution of national welfare foods continued to work smoothly; the total issues from 15 distribution centres during the year were:—

##### National dried milk

108,219 tins (weekly average of 2,081, compared with 2,256 for 1955)

##### Cod liver oil

20,156 bottles (weekly average of 388, compared with 455 for 1955)

##### A and D tablets

12,180 packets (weekly average of 234, compared with 217 for 1955)

##### Orange juice

152,273 bottles (weekly average of 2,928, compared with 2,724 for 1955)

#### NURSERIES

During the year the total number of children under five years of age admitted to the day nurseries was 129 (164). The number of places available remained at 75.

Medical Officers of the Health Department continued to carry out medical examinations regularly at Annesley House residential nursery.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and of young children continued to be carried out mainly by the hospital authorities. During the year 409 cases were referred from the local authority's clinics to Saint Mary's Hospital, compared with 365 cases in 1955.

#### MIDWIVES SERVICE

The total number of domiciliary midwives who were practising at the end of the year was 26, all of whom belonged to the Portsmouth Municipal Service. The total number of cases delivered by them was 1,487 (1,525) representing an average of 77.5 (82.5) cases per midwife per annum.

Close liaison continues to be maintained between the maternity section of the Health Department and the hospital maternity booking office. The Supervisor of Midwives continues to make investigations into home conditions where admission to hospital is sought on grounds of inadequate accommodation at home. During the year she investigated 807 (952) cases.



The domiciliary service of midwives continues to undertake the district training of pupil midwives for their Part II examination of the Central Midwives Board. During the year 34 pupil midwives entered for the examination and 32 were successful at their first attempt.

#### ANALGESIA IN CHILDBIRTH

There was an increase in the percentage of cases to whom gas and air analgesia was administered on the district in 1956—90·8, compared with 87·1 in 1955.

The administration of pethidine by the midwives continues to be most successful in bringing relief to mothers in labour.

The following is an analysis of cases:—

Gas and air and pethidine used	799 (780)
Gas and air alone used	551 (548)
Pethidine alone used	10 (24)

The remaining cases—127—were those in which a different form of analgesia was used, those where for medical reasons it was contra-indicated, cases in which the delivery was too rapid, and where the mothers preferred to have no analgesia.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to work satisfactorily and all cases receiving assistance are carefully selected and supervised.

The group scheme, to further the more efficient care of old people, continues to work satisfactorily. In this scheme a home help is given the care of approximately six cases whose homes are in close proximity to one another. Eight of these groups were in operation at the end of the year. The number of hours worked by home helps for old people represents 88·5% of the work of the service, compared with 86% during 1955.

An analysis of the statistics for the year 1956 is as follows:—

Number of home helps at the end of the year	...	57
Number of maternity cases helped	...	100
Number of tuberculosis cases helped	...	20
Number of chronic sick cases helped (including the aged and infirm)...	...	573
Number of other cases of illness helped	...	82
Number of hours worked for maternity cases	...	3,785 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total number of hours worked	...	86,115 $\frac{3}{4}$ (92,096 $\frac{3}{4}$ )

#### HEALTH VISITING

The number of health visitors employed at the end of the year was 22 (23). One health visitor is engaged on full-time tuberculosis work, five of the remaining health visitors do part-time tuberculosis work and, in addition, two trained nurses are engaged as full-time tuberculosis visitors.

The total number of visits paid was 62,747, compared with 66,504 in 1955. The number of visits paid to children under five years of age was 51,554, compared with 55,155 in the previous year. 6,468 (6,196) were paid to other age groups in the family, especially the aged, and 4,725 (5,153) to tuberculosis patients.

A total number of 3,214 (3,227) visits was paid to the aged. It is felt that this work is very worthwhile as definite improvement can be made in so many cases by the introduction of home helps, contacts with relatives and helping with financial difficulties. Liaison is maintained with the Queen's Nurses, the Women's Voluntary Services and other social agencies.

Each health visitor has approximately 600 families in her area.

Portsmouth is one of the five authorities which co-operate with Southampton University in the training of student health visitors.

#### PROBLEM FAMILIES

The approximate number of problem families in the City remains at 60. They continue to be kept under constant supervision by the health visitors who work in close co-operation with the other social services in the City. Occasional successes are obtained but in the majority of cases improvement in the family's condition seems to be temporary. This is understandable owing to the mentality of the families dealt with.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STATISTICS

#### CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

The number of attendances, new cases and children seen by the Medical Officers at the Child Welfare Centres functioning during the year are set out below:—

	Attendances	New Cases	Seen by the Medical Officer
Fratton (two afternoons per week) ... ..	8,866	606	983
Epworth Road (one afternoon per week) ...	6,948	226	809
Drayton (one afternoon per week) ... ..	4,097	166	440
Eastney (two afternoons per week) ... ..	11,333	671	1,215
Portsea (one afternoon per week) ... ..	4,173	382	675
Stamshaw (one afternoon per week) ... ..	6,899	262	819
Tangier Road (one afternoon per week) ...	4,356	162	436
Cosham (one afternoon per week) ... ..	3,170	239	382
Paulsgrove (one afternoon per week) ... ..	6,047	246	568
TOTALS ... ..	55,889	2,960	6,327
TOTALS for 1955 ... ..	55,534	3,252	6,639

Attendances at Child Welfare Centres during the year 1956, classified according to the age of the child concerned, were as follows:—

Children from 0 to 1 year of age ... ..	42,622
"    "    1 to 2 years of age ... ..	7,880
"    "    2 to 5 years of age ... ..	5,387
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>55,889</b>
<b>Total for 1955 ... ..</b>	<b>55,534</b>

Proprietary brands of dried milk were issued from the Child Welfare Centres to expectant mothers, nursing mothers and infants, at a total cost of £3,948 (£3,497); £4,323 (£3,838) was recovered from the patients.

#### DAY NURSERIES

The following are the statistical details relating to the three Day Nurseries:—

	Admissions during the year	No. on Register at 31st Dec.	Awaiting admission 31st Dec.
ST. PETER'S DAY NURSERY ... (Complement 40)	78	46	} 5
TWYFORD AVENUE DAY NURSERY ... (Complement 35)	46	38	
ANGLESEA ROAD DAY NURSERY ... (Complement 20)	5	Closed 17-3-56	

#### MIDWIVES

The practice of district midwives and of those practising in nursing homes during the year was satisfactory, and the inspection of midwives' bags, books and appliances was carried out regularly.

	1956	1955
Number of midwives practising on the district and in nursing homes on December 31st ...	38	36
Total number of cases attended by them ...	2,221	2,257
Number of cases attended by municipal midwives ...	1,487	1,525
Number of cases attended in nursing homes ...	734	732
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought where no doctor was engaged ...	176	182

#### DOMICILIARY SERVICE OF MIDWIVES

	1956	1955
Number of municipal midwives employed in Portsmouth at 31st December ...	26	26
Number of cases booked ...	2,082	2,155
Number of patients delivered ...	1,487	1,525
Excluding holidays and sickness:		
Average number of cases per midwife per month ...	6.5	6.9
Average number of cases per midwife per annum ...	77.5	82.5
Average weekly number of bookings ...	40.0	41.4

## ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

Details of the work carried out at Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics during the year are given below:—

	ANTE-NATAL				POST-NATAL			
	No. of new patients		Total attendances		No. of new patients		Total attendances	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Fratton (A.N., 5 clinics weekly) ... (P.N., 1 clinic weekly)	1,042	1,126	7,112	8,075	131	219	250	331
Cosham (A.N., 2 clinics weekly) ... (P.N., 1 clinic monthly)	395	389	2,266	2,383	22	28	45	88
Portsea (A.N., 1 clinic weekly) ...	243	199	1,534	1,397	—	—	—	—
Saint Mary's Hospital (A.N., 7 clinics weekly) ... (P.N., 1 clinic weekly)	1,257	1,045	15,411	14,536	697	779	922	1,077
TOTALS ...	2,937	2,759	26,323	26,391	850	1,026	1,217	1,496

## INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT OF MATERNITY CASES

	Saint Mary's Hospital	Royal Naval Maternity Home
No. of maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour) ...	73	19
No. of patients admitted ...	2,429	250
Average duration of stay ...	11 days	14 days
No. of cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives ...	1,682	190
(b) Doctors ...	393	41
Cases in which medical assistance was sought by midwife ...	Doctor always available	Doctor always available
No. of cases notified as puerperal pyrexia ...	49	5
No. of cases of pemphigus neonatorum ...	—	—
No. of infants not entirely breast-fed while in Institution ...	520	41
No. of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—
No. of maternal deaths ...	2	—
No. of foetal deaths—		
(a) Stillborn ...	111	2
(b) Within 28 days of birth ...	51	—

## HOME VISITING

The health visitors paid 62,747 (66,504) visits during the year:—

	Total Number of Visits	
	1956	1955
First visits to children ... ..	3,315	3,405
Subsequent visits to children from 0 to 1 year of age ...	18,892	19,424
"    "    "    1 to 2 years of age ...	9,815	10,855
"    "    "    2 to 3 years of age ...	8,015	8,754
"    "    "    3 to 5 years of age ...	11,517	12,717
Visits to expectant mothers ... ..	1,330	1,365
Visits in respect of home helps and the aged ... ..	5,138	4,831
Visits in respect of tuberculosis patients ... ..	4,725	5,153

## INFANT MORTALITY, 1956

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES  
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
	Pneumonia ... ..	1	3	1	—	5	3	—	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	6
Congenital Malformations ... ..	3	3	1	—	7	2	5	—	1	15
Injury at Birth ... ..	7	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	14	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	14
Immaturity ... ..	16	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	16
Other Causes ... ..	3	—	2	1	6	2	—	2	—	10
Accidents ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ... ..	45	6	5	1	57	12	8	3	4	84
Previous Year (1955) ... ..	54	5	1	2	62	5	7	4	3	81

**DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND  
NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

*By the Senior Dental Officer*

The continued reluctance of dentists to join local authorities' dental services results in a persisting shortage and instability of dental staff and the consequent inability of some authorities to fulfil completely their statutory obligation to provide a comprehensive dental service for all the "priority classes" in the area. Portsmouth is no placed. The recommendation that the staff of the School Dental Service should allocate part of their time to the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers cannot be applied, for at the close of the year that service was reduced to less than three full-time dentists to provide for 34,000 children at school. Nevertheless, a number of children under five are seen at the school clinics.

Under an agreement with the Portsmouth Group Hospital Management Committee, clinics are held for maternity and child welfare patients in the Dental Department of Saint Mary's Hospital and all forms of dental treatment, including the provision of dentures, are available; the facilities of the hospital's X-ray department can be used when necessary.

Although no arrangements have been made for the regular dental examination of children under five, a number find their way to the school clinics. They are brought (or appointments sought) by parents when they are attending with other members of the family who are of school age and, except when a general anaesthetic other than 'gas' is necessary, they are treated or the advice sought is given.

The children, who all attend the child welfare clinics, are referred from there to Saint Mary's Hospital when they are in need of dental care. The patients in this group are entitled to free treatment but not to free dentures under the general dental service and, because practitioners have always shown them some priority, it does not appear that any have difficulty in obtaining the treatment they require at the hands of the dentist of their choice.

In fact, the opinion has been expressed on behalf of the practitioners that 'It is most undesirable that anything should be done to restrict the patients' free choice of dentist.'

The details of treatment provided are given in the appended tables.

**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

**DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN**

(a) Numbers provided with Dental Care:

Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
119	86	83	72

(b) Forms of Dental Treatment provided:

Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Fillings
114	19	7	5

## SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC

DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS  
AND PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

## (a) Numbers provided with Dental Care:

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	190	146	137	137
Children under five	216	206	195	195

## (b) Forms of Dental Treatment provided:

	Scalings and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Extractions	General Anaesthetics
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	5	2	133	127
Children under five	—	4	197	195

## HOME NURSING

The Secretaries of the Portsmouth Victoria Nursing Association, Messrs. Edmonds & Co., have kindly supplied the following report for 1956:—

“The trend reported in previous years that patients over 65 years of age were requiring more attention than hitherto has continued. An analysis of cases shows that over half of the number of cases and over two-thirds of the number of visits made during 1956 were in respect of this class who, usually living alone, require considerable nursing attention extended over a lengthy period of time. On the other hand it is encouraging to note that the proportion of work attributable to infants and children is small and of a minor character which shows a good standard of general health and says much for the work of the School Health Service and health visitors.

It is also encouraging to note that the figures show a marked decline in the attention afforded to tubercular patients.

During 1956 drugs were administered by the staff to over one-third of the total number of cases on instructions received from the doctor in charge of the case.

In addition to the many bicycles used by the staff in visiting cases, the Association operated eight motor vehicles to help in the remoter and more scattered parts of the City. Four male nurses were employed on the staff during the year.

Both homes of the Association are recognised training homes for district nurses and as well as training local candidates entrants have been sent for training by other Authorities in Southern and South Western England.

The superintendents and staff continue to work in close liaison with all other branches of the health service with whom they are associated in carrying out their duties.

The Executive desire to record their thanks to our superintendents and nurses for the very efficient and untiring manner in which they have carried out their increased work.

The Executive also wish to thank the representatives of the Portsmouth Corporation, who have continued to offer us their help, and also the doctors and other social service workers for their willing help in giving lectures to candidates for the Queen's Roll.”



## PORTSMOUTH VICTORIA NURSING ASSOCIATION

## STATISTICS FOR 1956

	NURSES' HOMES				TOTAL	
	<i>Radnor House</i>		<i>Beddow House</i>			
Number of nurses employed for visiting (average) ... ..	18	(19)	18	(21)	36	(40)
Minimum in any one month ...	14	(16)	15	(18)	29	(34)
Maximum in any one month ...	22	(21)	22	(24)	44	(45)
Supervisory Staff ... ..	2	(2)	2	(2)	4	(4)
Number of cases visited in 1956:						
(a) Maternity ... ..	12	(14)	13	(15)	25	(29)
(b) Pre-school children ...	69	(120)	53	(73)	122	(193)
(c) School children ... ..	95	(118)	56	(81)	151	(199)
(d) Tuberculosis ... ..	46	(82)	28	(232)	74	(314)
(e) Other cases... ..	2,789	(2,827)	1,692	(1,440)	4,481	(4,267)
	3,011	(3,161)	1,842	(1,841)	4,853	(5,002)
Total number of visits in respect of these cases:						
(a) Maternity ... ..	108	(110)	81	(99)	189	(209)
(b) Pre-school children ...	391	(651)	318	(376)	709	(1,027)
(c) School children ... ..	575	(666)	481	(542)	1,056	(1,208)
(d) Tuberculosis ... ..	3,306	(3,306)	785	(2,240)	4,091	(5,546)
(e) Other cases... ..	71,394	(65,433)	44,772	(42,847)	116,166	(108,280)
	75,774	(70,166)	46,437	(46,104)	122,211	(116,270)

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

*By the Medical Officer in Charge***Vaccination**

The numbers vaccinated by the Health Department and medical practitioners were as follows:—

	1956			1955		
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Re-Vacc.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Re-Vacc.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health Department ...	556	298	854	632	457	1,089
Practitioners ...	1,594	409	2,003	1,478	321	1,799
	<u>2,150</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>778</u>	<u>2,888</u>

Children born in 1956 numbered 3,486 (3,380) and, of these, 1,094 (1,071) or 31·4% (31·5%) were vaccinated in the same year.

Weekly vaccination sessions are now held at all the nine child welfare centres, as well as twice weekly at the Vaccination and Immunisation Clinic, "F" Ward, Infectious Diseases Hospital. Primary vaccinations are performed from the age of two months.

During the year members of the Health Department, including doctors, health visitors, public health inspectors, clerks, ambulance drivers and attendants, were again offered vaccination and the response was good.

Vaccine lymph still continues to be obtained from the Central Public Health Laboratory, Winchester.

**Diphtheria Immunisation**

Immunisation sessions are held weekly at all the nine child welfare centres and twice weekly at the Vaccination and Immunisation Clinic, "F" Ward, Infectious Diseases Hospital. Primary immunisations are carried out from the age of four months, the vaccine used being Glaxo's combined Diphtheria F.T. (P) and Pertussis. P.T.A.P. vaccine, which is issued free by the Ministry of Health, is used for primary immunisation in children of school age and for supplementary doses. These are given to the five year old group and again at nine and 13 years.

While the number who completed the initial course was approximately the same as last year, there has been a substantial increase in the supplementary or "Booster" doses. The number given was 8,059—the highest figure yet attained and nearly double that of 4,243 for 1946, when "Booster" immunisation was commenced in Portsmouth on a large scale.

The following table indicates the work done since 1943:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Completed course</i>	<i>"Booster" doses</i>	<i>Cases of diphtheria admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Deaths from diphtheria</i>
1943 ...	4,784	75	31	1
1944 ...	2,518	106	17	2
1945 ...	3,633	820	13	2
1946 ...	4,763	4,243	17	—
1947 ...	4,375	3,060	15	1
1948 ...	4,917	5,452	6	—
1949 ...	4,437	3,335	7	1
1950 ...	3,428	3,756	1	—
1951 ...	3,479	5,261	5	1
1952 ...	3,214	6,551	—	—
1953 ...	3,243	5,292	1 Haslar	—
1954 ...	3,499	7,169	—	—
1955 ...	3,222	7,227	—	—
1956 ...	3,176	8,059	2	—

Supplementary doses are given almost entirely in the schools, and the excellent co-operation which has been given by the head teachers is reflected in the record number given this year. The usual annual letter was sent to the principals of private schools, offering immunisation but again the response was poor; only three replied.

The proportion immunised by the various agencies (shown as a percentage of children under 5 years of age) was:—

	1956	1955
Clinics ... ..	53·7	61·1
Schools ... ..	0·5	0·4
Nurseries ... ..	0·6	1·4
Private Practitioners ... ..	45·2	37·1

Number of children who received the complete course:—

Under five years ... ..	2,618	2,720
Five to fifteen years ... ..	556	495
Over fifteen years ... ..	2	7
TOTAL ... ..	3,176	3,222
Supplementary doses ... ..	8,059	7,227
	<u>11,235</u>	<u>10,449</u>

The total number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1935—86,782.

The percentage of children immunised was as follows:—children born during 1956 and immunised the same year—19·4, between one and four years 70·7, and between five and fourteen 83·3, giving an overall percentage of 75·7.

The fact that diphtheria can still occur in spite of the immunisation campaign is demonstrated by the occurrence of two cases during the year. Each occurred in different households separated by several miles and with no common link. In one the case was diagnosed clinically as tonsillitis but nevertheless had a positive swab of the gravis type. This was the only child in the household who had not been immunised. In the other household the child had recently come from another town and had received immunisation there.

## REACTIONS

As in previous years those reactions which are brought to our notice have been recorded and classified as mild, moderate or severe, as shown in the following table.

	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
First diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—
First combined ... ..	1	—	1	2
Second diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—
Second combined ... ..	1	1	4	6
Third combined ... ..	—	—	1	1
Supplementary ... ..	18	10	—	28
	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>37</u>

Reactions are not always brought to the notice of the Department but it can be assumed that those which are not are mostly of the mild type. The above table is considered to give a fair example.

### Poliomyelitis and Immunisation

There were eight confirmed cases of poliomyelitis in the City during the year; seven were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and one remained at home. None of them had been immunised during the previous six months. The use of combined whooping cough-diphtheria vaccine was temporarily suspended during the months of August and September, owing to the occurrence of these cases.

### Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Immunisation

Immunisation is carried out with Glaxo's Diphtheria-Pertussis (combined) vaccine in most cases, though pertussis vaccine is available for cases in which a child has already been immunised against diphtheria.

312 cases of whooping cough were notified by general practitioners and 35 (11.2%) were stated to have been previously immunised; in six of the cases immunisation had been incomplete, only two injections having been given and they are therefore not counted as having been immunised.

Information was not available as to the severity of the cases; none of the immunised cases was admitted to hospital.

#### STATISTICS RELATING TO PERTUSSIS IMMUNISATION

	1956	1955
First doses ... ..	2,365	2,597
Second doses ... ..	2,259	2,296
Completed doses ... ..	2,162	2,013
Completed doses: Under five ...	2,129	1,989
Five to fifteen ...	33	24
	2,162	2,013

### Cholera, Typhoid, Tetanus and Typhus

129 (122) individuals, mostly persons going abroad, were vaccinated for one or more of the above diseases.

The actual numbers were:—

	1956	1955
Cholera ... ..	30	27
Cholera-typhoid ... ..	27	18
Typhoid and para-typhoid ... ..	65	77
Tetanus-typhoid ... ..	7	0
	129	122

57 (45) international certificates for cholera were issued.

### Needle Sharpening

This is undertaken at the clinic, I.D.H., by the male orderly and the number of needles sharpened during the year was;—

	1956	1955
Midwives Service ... ..	4,169	3,866
Victoria Nurses ... ..	1,670	1,893
Immunisation Clinic ... ..	4,808	2,764
	10,647	8,523

Sterilisation of syringes and needles is still carried out by the Central Laboratory Syringe Service; preliminary cleaning is done by the staff at the clinic.

### B.C.G. Vaccination

The Superintendent School Nurse visited each school, by appointment, and applied the 'Heaf' multiple puncture tuberculin test. The Medical Officer in charge of Immunisation visited three days later to read the results of the tests and to vaccinate the non-reactors. All positive reactors were given appointments to attend the Mass Radiography Unit. Testing and vaccination were carried out at six-monthly intervals.

The acceptance rate by parents 80.3% (82.2%), although a slight reduction on last year's figure, was considered satisfactory.

There was no testing for conversion this year.

The results of the mass radiography of the positive reactors are dealt with by the Medical Director of the Unit in his report on page 62.

STATISTICS RELATING TO B.C.G. VACCINATION

No. of visits to schools	Forms sent out	No. of acceptances	Number tested	Absent from initial test	Already att. Chest Clinic	Negative Reactors (vaccinated)	Positive Reactors	M.R.U. appts.	Absent from initial reading
50	2,459	1,974 (80.3%)	1,899	44	31	1,575 (84.9%)	293 (15.1%)	296	31

During the year a case of pulmonary tuberculosis was found in a child who had recently left Langstone Junior Girls School and gone to Copnor Modern Girls School. At the request of the Principal School Medical Officer, girls at both schools were "Heaf"-tested and the positive reactors referred to the Mass Radiography Unit.

Cases of tuberculosis also occurred at the Northern Grammar School for Girls and Milton Modern School for Girls, and similar action was taken at both these schools. Results of the tests are shown in the following table:—

	<i>Negative Reactors</i>	<i>Positive Reactors</i>	<i>Percentage Positive</i>
Copnor Modern School for Girls ...	148	62	29.5
Langstone Junior Girls School ...	276	14	4.8
Northern Grammar School for Girls ...	92	21	18.6
Milton Modern School for Girls ...	321	34	9.6
TOTALS ...	837	131	13.5

B.C.G. vaccination was not carried out on the 837 negative reactors, but will be done when they reach the age of 13 years.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

In May, 1956, the Ministry of Health's scheme to vaccinate children against poliomyelitis was introduced, and supplies of vaccine were received in May, June and November. The children vaccinated were from age groups chosen by the Ministry of Health, provided they had been registered not later than the 24th March, 1956.

In order to cause the minimum of inconvenience to mothers the vaccinations were done at four child welfare centres and at the Vaccination Clinic, Infectious Diseases Hospital.

170 children received the complete course of two injections.

## MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE AND MEDICAL CAR SERVICE

*By the Ambulance Officer*

### GENERAL

In comparison with the previous year there was an increase in the number of patients conveyed, a high proportion of the increase being the conveyance of spastic children and of outpatients to Queen Alexandra Hospital. There continued to be a constant pressure of work to the general hospitals, Queen Alexandra having the greatest increase, but other hospitals showed a decrease.

Peak hours of work were from 8.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m., which, in comparison with the previous year, was a slightly earlier start and finish. The morning build-up was generally at 9.30 a.m. and the afternoon one at 2.0 p.m. The higher percentage of work was in the mornings; the average busiest days were Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

There was no seasonal decline during the year — the numbers conveyed each month did not vary to any great extent, except in December, where the numbers conveyed were well below the monthly average. In seven months of the year there were over 6,000 patients each month—July the highest with 6,647 and December the lowest with 5,033.

### PATIENTS

The number of patients conveyed by the directly provided service was 71,176, comprising 15,322 stretcher and 55,854 sitting cases. In comparison with the previous year this was an increase of 4,695 (7%). The daily average was 195—an increase per day of 12.9 in comparison with 1955; the general hospitals accounted for 152.5 of these.

*Admissions* were 12.4% of the total. This was an increase of 105 in comparison with 1955 and, generally, the level to all hospitals remained much the same as in that year. Within this category there was a slight increase in sitting case admissions.

The ratio of stretcher to sitting cases was approximately 7 to 1.

*Discharges* were 7% of the total conveyed. This was a decrease of 139 patients compared with 1955. With the exception of Saint Mary's and the Eye and Ear Hospitals, all showed a slight decrease in this category but there was a slight increase in the number of stretcher case discharges. The Royal Portsmouth Hospital continued to have the greatest number of discharges requiring transport—approximately 50% of the total in this category.

The ratio of stretcher to sitting cases was approximately 1 to 3.

*Transfers* were 11.5% of the total. This was a decrease of 2,190 patients compared with the previous year and nearly all hospitals except Queen Alexandra showed a decrease. The main decrease was in sitting cases.

The ratio was approximately 1 stretcher to 2 sitting cases.

*Outpatients* were 69.1% of the total. The increase over the previous year was 6,919 patients. Within this category there was a slight increase in stretcher cases, the hospital showing the greatest being Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The ratio was approximately 1 stretcher to 12 sitting cases.

The overall ratio was 1 stretcher to 3 sitting cases. Ambulances carried 15,322 stretcher and 22,388 sitting cases; sitting case vehicles carried 33,466 sitting patients. There were 1,656 patients conveyed to places outside the City, 1,491 of them by ambulance or car and 165 by train. The highest proportion was to maternity and convalescent homes within the Hospital Management Committee area and the greater number of rail journeys was patients to London.

Patient-carrying mileage was 244,924; ambulances covered 136,925 miles, whilst sitting case vehicles covered 107,999; the miles per patient were 3.4.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICE

There were 2,489 calls and 2,280 patients during 1956, this being an increase of 25 calls, but a decrease of 27 patients compared with 1955. The mileage was 9,827—a decrease of 1,026 in comparison with the previous year. Calls wherein an ambulance was not required numbered 159, which is 11 more than in 1955; there was only one malicious call throughout the year.

The distribution was:—

St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	...	...	221
Royal Portsmouth Hospital	...	...	...	...	1,935
Eye and Ear Hospital	...	...	...	...	7
Queen Alexandra Hospital	...	...	...	...	4
Taken home or to other places	...	...	...	...	113

The average busiest days for emergency calls were Mondays and Fridays; the busiest month was August.

The public are becoming more aware of the "999" system for obtaining an ambulance in an emergency, and are also becoming better at calling an ambulance immediately an accident occurs — as the calls wherein an ambulance was not required show. But it is a sad thought that, of the total admissions to hospital (8,686) requiring ambulance transport, 26% of them were emergency calls, mostly accidents.

#### ANCILLARY

The conveyance of analgesic apparatus accounted for 10,310 miles, this being a reduction of 677 miles in comparison with the previous year. There were about 1,400 gas and air machine deliveries and collections.

Abortive and Service mileage for the year was 13,059—an increase of 1,031. This is approximately 1.8 miles per vehicle per day.

#### VEHICLES

During the year the operational ambulances were increased by one to make a total of twelve by decreasing the reserve; two of the operational sitting case cars were disposed of and replaced by two dual-purpose vehicles, and the sitting case car reserve was also reduced by one. The vehicle complement at the 31st December, was:—

12 operational ambulances
2 reserve ambulances
2 dual-purpose ambulances
4 sitting case cars
1 reserve car.

Throughout the year there were very few breakdowns on the road and generally mechanical efficiency was good, but a rather higher expenditure than normal was required to maintain it. Five ambulances required rebores; one was reframed; three were repainted; two cars had major engine overhauls—these were the principal major repairs. Major repairs carried out at Central Depot were generally done expeditiously, and good liaison with the garage manager was maintained. The maintenance schedule was reasonably well kept up to date; the maintenance chargehand's sickness; frosty weather, etc., did result in it being retarded at times.

The rather severe weather in January and February caused considerable difficulties and it was necessary at nights to start up and warm the vehicles every three hours. Lack of housing during wet weather also caused difficulties in starting and general dampness in the stretcher compartments.

The number of accidents involving Ambulance Service vehicles was 13. No serious accident occurred and there were no injuries to persons—the damage caused was mainly to the bodywork of vehicles.

The special ambulance for respiratory poliomyelitis cases had its use extended to convey all infectious cases except tubercular; all other ambulances, except three, had holes drilled in their stretcher racks to take special jacks for tipping stretchers to accommodate "bulbar" poliomyelitis cases in the event of there being more than one requiring transport at the same time.

#### STAFF

The sickness rate was higher than previously and was spread throughout the year. Approximately 25% of it was due to industrial injuries, mostly strained back muscles, and affected all age groups. When staff was sick during the holiday period, it caused considerable overtime and, on some occasions, delays to patients.

Staff timekeeping was generally good and there was no absenteeism at any time. No noteworthy disciplinary action was necessary and generally all members worked willingly and well; on many occasions verbal and written messages were received, complimenting them on their work. Only one complaint of note was received, alleging slowness at an accident—this was refuted by an experienced nursing sister and others who were at the scene of this accident.

#### RADIO

This now very essential item of equipment continued to be almost trouble-free during the year. One additional vehicle set was obtained to cover the increased vehicle establishment, and this was of a different type because the PTC 113 was out of production.

The result of all operational vehicles being fitted with radio was again a saving in manpower and mileage. There was an increase of 4,695 patients, but none of staff; a decrease of 3,645 miles in comparison with 1955 further reduced the miles per patient to 3.4.

Servicing arrangements of the agents were very satisfactory, liaison was good, and no delay occurred in repairing faults.

#### MUTUAL AID

Standing arrangements with Hampshire County Council for the conveyance of premature babies continued to operate satisfactorily; arrangements made with neighbouring local health authorities regarding Section 24 of the Amendment Act continued to work smoothly, and in this the hospitals co-operated extremely well. Close liaison with the Surrey and London Ambulance Services during the year saved mileage in making use of returning empty ambulances.



Mutual aid in the meeting of trains and boats operated well throughout the year. In this, special mention must be made of the London Ambulance Service in the meeting of trains, and of the co-operation of the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service in meeting our patients transported by boat. The co-operation in all sections of the Portsmouth Stationmaster's staff was excellent and assisted greatly in the movement of patients by rail and sea.

#### VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Hospital Car Service conveyed 91 patients, covering 8,238 miles. This is an increase of 32 patients and 2,695 miles compared with 1955. Continued co-operation of the Area Organiser has assisted in dealing with patients on semi-distant journeys—some of these she arranged at very short notice.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade carried 46 patients, covering 561 miles—a decrease of 16 patients but an increase of 9 miles in comparison with the previous year.

The British Red Cross Society conveyed 2 patients covering 87 miles—a decrease of 6 patients and 18 miles compared with 1955.

The figures in this paragraph are not included in the preceding patient-carrying analysis.

#### STORES AND EQUIPMENT

During the year a stock of blankets and pillows was obtained and each ambulance now has sufficient of these for two stretcher cases. In addition, carrying chairs, first aid boxes and back-rests were provided, so that each ambulance is now reasonably well equipped.

The provision of blankets, pillows and carrying chairs has speeded up patient conveyance, whilst the carrying chairs have proved most useful in the expeditious removal of both sitting and recumbent cases. The specially constructed back-rests have proved most comfortable for those patients requiring them.

#### CIVIL DEFENCE

Mileage covered during 1956 in Civil Defence training was 29,720. Ambulances covered 17,405 miles, cars 10,343 miles, vans 1,972. This is a decrease of 5,447 miles in comparison with 1955. There were 24 learner-drivers; 4 passed, 7 failed and 13 were suspended.

In convoy driving there were 42 students, a total of 108 hours—each student averaged approximately 2.5 hours in this subject.

There were 5 exercises, 35 drivers participated and each student averaged about 3 hours driving.

There were 105 students on practice driving, each receiving approximately 10.6 hours instruction.

In section training, there were 1,272 hours of instruction and 8,849 attendances—an average of 7 students per session.

During the year 18 volunteers sat an instructor's examination; 14 obtained full certificates, 2 received restricted certificates, 2 failed. During the year 2 vans were obtained for casualty collecting training—making a total of 3 C.D. vehicles. In addition 2 ambulances are held surplus to the Section 27 fleet for Civil Defence training.

Generally, the training went reasonably smoothly, and the receipt of items of training equipment did much to reduce improvisation.

**STATISTICS RELATING TO THE PERIOD  
1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1956**

**PATIENT CARRYING ANALYSIS**

	<i>Patients</i>		<i>Mileage</i>	
St. Mary's Hospital ... ..	19,800	(19,155)	68,884	(67,425)
Infectious Diseases Hospital ... ..	1,350	(1,824)	7,591	(11,579)
Chest Clinic ... ..	3,580	(5,296)	7,193	(9,449)
Royal Portsmouth Hospital ... ..	23,822	(22,489)	68,362	(67,010)
Queen Alexandra Hospital ... ..	12,104	(8,443)	44,306	(37,016)
St. James Hospital ... ..	844	(1,240)	5,033	(7,903)
Eye and Ear Hospital ... ..	1,596	(1,644)	6,724	(5,975)
Ministry of Health ... ..	899	(1,230)	2,133	(4,181)
Nursing Homes ... ..	361	(283)	2,530	(2,018)
Other requesting authorities ... ..	2,022	(2,570)	16,267	(25,160)
Spastic Children... ..	2,518	(—)	6,074	(—)
Accident service... ..	2,280	(2,307)	9,827	(10,853)
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>71,176</b>	<b>(66,481)</b>	<b>244,924</b>	<b>(248,569)</b>
Average patients per day ... ..	=		195	(182.1)
Average miles per patient ... ..	=		3.4	(3.7)
Average patient-carrying miles per day ... ..	=		671	(681)

**ANCILLARY AND CIVIL DEFENCE ANALYSIS**

Analgesic Apparatus ... ..	10,310	(10,987)
Service and Abortive ... ..	13,059	(12,046)
Civil Defence ... ..	29,720	(35,167)
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>53,089</b>	<b>(58,200)</b>

## WORK OF THE TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE

*By the Consultant Chest Physician*

The decline in primary notifications of respiratory tuberculosis continued last year. This, together with the falling level of infectivity as seen in the school leaving age group by routine tuberculin testing before B.C.G. inoculation, is now our most useful index of the level of tuberculous infection in the City. However, the continued occurrence of the occasional far-advanced chronic patient does not leave any room for general complacency in the situation as yet.

At the Chest Clinic the institution of routine X-ray sessions for general practitioners, which have now been running since the end of 1954, has proved useful to practitioners, who can refer a patient for direct miniature X-ray and report, and has also served to take some burden off the general run of new cases referred for examination at the Clinic, giving family doctors the opportunity of getting their patients X-rayed without the necessity of a consultant appointment. During the year 1956, 969 patients were X-rayed in this manner, a report being sent to the family doctor in each case.

B.C.G. inoculation of contacts was further extended, regular sessions being held at the Clinic for this purpose and for follow-up of contacts already vaccinated in previous years. 345 were vaccinated during the year in this way.

### NOTIFICATIONS BY AGE GROUPS

AGE GROUP	* NEW CASES						GRAND TOTAL
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		COMBINED		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)
1—4	1 (—)	— (2)	— (1)	1 (2)	1 (1)	1 (4)	2 (5)
5—14	2 (3)	8 (8)	1 (—)	2 (3)	3 (3)	10 (11)	13 (14)
15—24	20 (24)	18 (19)	1 (—)	1 (3)	21 (24)	19 (22)	40 (46)
25—34	16 (9)	10 (12)	— (1)	4 (2)	16 (10)	14 (14)	30 (24)
35—44	9 (18)	5 (14)	— (—)	— (2)	9 (18)	5 (16)	14 (34)
45—54	15 (19)	4 (2)	1 (1)	— (1)	16 (20)	4 (3)	20 (23)
55—64	20 (14)	1 (2)	1 (—)	— (—)	21 (14)	1 (2)	22 (16)
65 plus	11 (12)	8 (6)	— (—)	1 (1)	11 (12)	9 (7)	20 (19)
TOTAL ...	94 (99)	55 (66)	4 (3)	9 (14)	98(102)	64 (80)	162(182)

\* Includes all primary notifications and new cases coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health by other means  
(Figures in brackets are those for 1955)

### PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
1951	270	29	299
1952	223	25	248
1953	260	24	284
1954	200	16	216
1955	165	17	182
1956	149	13	162

## NEW PATIENTS EXAMINED

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
1490	1537	1528	1476	1407

## CONTACTS

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of new contacts examined ...	914	903	1107	742	763
No. of contacts proved definite cases ...	15	33	13	9	10

## DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		COMBINED		GRAND TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)
1—4	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)
5—14	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (1)	— (-)	— (1)	— (1)
15—24	— (-)	— (1)	— (-)	— (-)	— (-)	— (1)	— (1)
25—34	1 (-)	— (1)	— (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
35—44	2 (1)	1 (1)	— (-)	— (1)	2 (1)	1 (2)	3 (3)
45—54	5 (5)	1 (1)	— (-)	— (-)	5 (5)	1 (1)	6 (6)
55—64	7 (1)	2 (-)	— (-)	— (-)	7 (1)	2 (-)	9 (1)
65 plus	6 (9)	1 (-)	— (-)	— (1)	6 (9)	1 (1)	7 (10)
TOTAL ...	21 (16)	5 (4)	— (-)	1 (3)	21 (16)	6 (7)	27 (23)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1955)

Of the 26 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, 9 cases (35%) were not notified during life

## DEATHS

	Respiratory	Death rate per 100,000 population	Non-respiratory	Death rate per 100,000 population
1951	60	24·6	6	2·5
1952	51	21	11	4·5
1953	46	18·7	6	2·4
1954	38	15·6	7	2·9
1955	20	8·2	3	1·2
1956	26	11·3	1	0·4

## NUMBER OF CASES ON REGISTER 31st DECEMBER

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Respiratory ...	1935	2042	1993	2006	1970
Non-Respiratory	188	186	165	167	171
TOTAL ...	2123	2228	2158	2173	2141

## SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON DISPENSARY REGISTER 1956

DIAGNOSIS	RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			TOTAL			GRAND TOTAL	
	MEN	WM.	CH.	MEN	WM.	CH.	MEN	WM.	CH.	WM.	CH.
A. (1) No. of definite cases of tuberculosis on Register 1st January, 1956	1,114	792	100	52	75	40	1,166	867	140	2,173	
(2) Transfers from other Authorities	27	32	2	2	1	2	29	33	4	66	
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during year	3	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4	
B. No. of New Cases diagnosed as tuberculosis during 1956:											
(1) CLASS A (T.B. minus)	35	26	11	3	6	4	38	32	15	85	
(2) CLASS B (T.B. plus)	56	20	1	-	-	-	56	20	1	77	
C. No. of cases included in A and B written off the Register during the year as:											
(1) Recovered	32	19	2	3	1	-	35	20	2	57	
(2) Dead (all causes)	37	11	-	-	1	-	37	12	-	49	
(3) Removed to other areas	51	41	1	1	1	-	52	42	1	95	
(4) For other reasons	28	25	3	2	4	1	30	29	4	63	
D. No. of definite cases of tuberculosis on Register 31st December, 1956	1,094	778	98	55	82	34	1,149	860	132	2,141	

## ALMONER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

During the year 780 patients were helped by the Almoners' Department. The majority of these patients were referred by doctors and health visitors, some by outside agencies, and the remainder made application themselves.

The problems which they presented might be divided as follows:—

- (1) *Information.* Many patients required information about what to do in order to obtain financial and other benefits available to them; for instance, through the Ministry of Pensions, Ministry of National Insurance or the National Assistance Board.
- (2) *Material help and liaison work.* Many patients required straightforward forms of practical help or after-care to enable them to carry out treatment. This involved bringing in statutory authorities or voluntary agencies to arrange for the care of children, home helps, convalescence and rehabilitation, and certain kinds of after-care visiting. In some instances, these services were all that was required to supplement medical care, but in others they were part of a comprehensive social plan for those patients needing a case-work service.
- (3) *A case-work service.* A number of patients require a case-work service if they are to obtain the full benefit of the medical care available to them and, as there have been two fully trained almoners at the Chest Clinic during the year, it has been possible to provide this service.

This is a method of help which is based on an understanding of people, of their needs, and the difficulties which are created if they are not met. It seeks, through the establishment of a professional relationship between the almoner and the patient, to reach to the root cause of the difficulties, whether these lie in personal inadequacy or undue social stress. It aims at helping people to achieve the personal and social adjustments which often have to be made as the result of illness and disability. Some patients require help in sorting out their social situation and altering their environment. Case-work is used as a method of assessing the problem, and the help required by the patient may involve acting for him, or showing him how to act so as to improve his social situation over such matters as housing difficulties, change of work, financial or home problems. Others may require case-work because, although they are basically stable people, they find the whole structure of their lives is upset by the stress of illness and its consequences. They may need understanding and supportive help in working out how they can deal with the situation created by their illness, and as part of this service, they may often need practical help.

## THE PORTSMOUTH VOLUNTARY TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.

The members of this Committee have continued to give invaluable help in a variety of practical ways. They have financed holidays for patients and their families, supplied extra nourishment and paid for home helps, made grants towards hire purchase accounts, and helped the families who have been re-housed to furnish their new homes. Patients in hospital, too, owe much to the generosity of the Care Committee, who, in addition to helping to pay for the services of an art therapist and supplying all art materials, have now equipped each ward with a television set. They have also paid for correspondence courses for patients who may wish to do these,

either to improve their skill in their normal work, or with a view to taking up some kind of work when they are well again. Many of our patients when they return to their employment have to work "a week in hand", and, therefore, do not receive any pay until the end of a fortnight. Sickness benefit and National Assistance Board grants stop when the patient starts work, and the Care Committee, in very many instances, have made grants to tide patients over this period, thus ensuring that they get a fair start, and not subjected to the additional strain of financial difficulties immediately they are fit for work.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

The problem of finding suitable employment for those people who are only fit to do light work is still a difficult one, and this has been accentuated by the fact that Remploy, which employs 32 men and 28 women, is now full and not likely to expand.

**MASS RADIOGRAPHY—1956***Report of the Medical Director***A.—GENERAL**

There are two items of major interest in the working of the Unit for 1956. The first is the marked fall in the rate of active tuberculosis found by the Unit, in spite of a considerable increase in the number X-rayed, and the second is the arrival of a second, mobile unit.

**MOBILE UNIT**

At long last a second Unit has been delivered to Portsmouth, and this Unit is fully mobile. It was originally the Unit supplied to Southampton, and was transferred complete with caravan and staff-transport car. This in itself was highly satisfactory, but it will be appreciated that the apparatus and the vehicles were all second-hand, and certain, mostly minor, defects were present. The caravan and the darkroom have each given some trouble. On the technical side, we have also had our share of troubles but it was disappointing that, although serviced immediately before delivery to us, unsatisfactory films were found to be due to the camera lens being loose in its mounting.

The mobile Unit commenced operations on the 17th October, 1956. As one who is new to a mobile unit, but with years of experience of the 'transportable' unit, the caravan has proved to be a huge advantage, making us independent of the difficulties found in connection with finding suitable halls and other accommodation.

**AREAS SURVEYED**

The original Unit, now static, visited Gosport and a local Ideal Home Exhibition, before the arrival of the mobile unit. The moves made by the latter numbered fifteen in 2½ months.

**NUMBERS EXAMINED**

The static Unit felt the impact of Suez. It proved impossible for firms and for the Admiralty to transport their employees to the Unit, because of petrol rationing and this reduced the numbers attending considerably. In spite of this and the short time during which the mobile Unit was in action, a total of 60,312 examinations was completed, some 18,000 more than in 1955.

**TUBERCULOSIS**

The drop in the number of active cases found is the greatest ever recorded by the Unit, as is shown in Tables II and VI. In 1955 a total of 121 cases was found, compared with only 65 in 1956, a fall of 49% in the rate per 1,000 examined, which is the lowest ever recorded, at 1·1 per 1,000.

There are several possible explanations for this fall, of which the most important is the true fall in the number of unsuspected cases: another factor is that, although the figures for those X-rayed were increased as the result of the operation of the mobile unit, the latter was in fact working in Portsmouth on 'old ground' for the majority of its two and a half months. The figures are also likely to be reduced by the absence of the usual dozen or so active cases found in the 'follow-up' group which the static Unit used to keep under observation.

In any case the result is very encouraging from the tuberculosis point of view.



### B.C.G. SCHEME

Co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health continues. All positive reactors from skin tests amongst school-leavers (prior to the giving of B.C.G.) are offered an X-ray, and the great majority come. This group yielded a rate of 6.8 cases of active disease per 1,000; this figure is the highest of all the groups (see Table IV), although it must be borne in mind that numbers are relatively small.

315 individuals from the families of those with positive tuberculin tests volunteered to be X-rayed, and I am a little surprised that no cases of active disease were found in this group.

This policy of X-raying positive reactors and their families is being carried out also on the mobile unit. I wish to repeat my opinion, given in the previous report, that this scheme should be extended to *all* schools, not only local authority schools.

### G.P. REFERRALS

Cases referred by general practitioners show the next highest rate to the positive reactors, at 4.5 per 1,000, on a total of some 1,770 cases referred. As it is the intention to keep the old Unit static, it is hoped that more practitioners will avail themselves of the facilities at the Unit's H.Q. at Saint Mary's Hospital.

### STAFF

All the new staff are welcomed: they will, I hope, continue the interest and enthusiasm they have already shown.

This has been a difficult year for the staff once again. There have been difficulties in obtaining the services of radiographers, the Organising Secretary left the Unit, and I, myself, was off work for two months, necessitating the provision of a locum. Mr. Lyne has taken up the work of Organising Secretary, fresh to M.R. work, and I wish to thank him, in particular, for coping with the difficult task of learning the routine as well as the organisation for increased staff, increased accommodation, and the mobile Unit. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. L. B. P. Hartley, who carried out the work of the Unit during my absence, for his excellent work and for fitting into our routine so well.

I wish also to thank all the members of the staff of the old Unit for their continued hard work and loyal support under difficult conditions.

Finally, I wish to thank the various chest physicians for their help in dealing with the cases referred, as well as with the forms now made necessary by the new statistical office returns.

### MEDICAL COVER

The arrangements made for the additional medical assistance needed with two Units are that two of the chest physicians on the staff of the Portsmouth Clinic each do three sessions at the Unit. Whereas this is useful as an economy measure by the Board (but not by the Unit), it is by no means the ideal arrangement. It has been stated that, owing to their clinic commitments and the travelling time involved with the mobile Unit, they cannot do their sessions with that Unit, but only with the static Unit. Thus, before work begins, the Medical Director's powers to direct are removed.

There are other disadvantages; it is not possible for the Director to spend as much time at H.Q. as is desirable, making control more difficult: the presence of two doctors on one Unit is less desirable than one and causes more difficulties than need be, and the fact that the work has gone so smoothly is to the great credit of the doctors concerned, to each of whom I tender my thanks for their help.

I sincerely hope that the family doctor will continue to use the service available—now with no intermissions due to 'outside surveys'—in ever increasing numbers, as both doctors are experienced in this work.

#### B.—PORTSMOUTH

Reference to Table VI will show that the rate of active disease found in Portsmouth was consistently above that of 'all areas' surveyed, until 1955, when it was slightly below. This year the two rates are the same at 1.1 per 1,000. This is a satisfactory fall from the 2.0 per 1,000 in 1955 and continues the trend, present since 1950, of a new low record each year.

The position, however, is not one for complacency. It will be noted that the two groups with the highest disease-rate are predominantly from the City—the school-leavers and the cases referred from general practitioners. For this reason I hope that the B.C.G. scheme will be extended to state-aided and private schools, and that G.Ps. will send increased numbers to the Unit. The Unit itself will try to increase its range in case-finding.

## TOTAL NUMBERS EXAMINED BY MINIATURE FILM AND AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

TABLE I

		AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION														TOTAL						
		Under 14 years		14 years		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54				55-59		60-64		65 and over
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male ...	262	·43	743	1·23	3,968	6·58	3,153	5·23	7,058	11·70	6,883	11·41	6,066	10·06	2,083	3·45	1,295	2·15	1,044	1·73	32,555	53·97
Female ...	328	·54	690	1·14	4,577	7·59	4,320	7·16	6,427	10·66	5,184	8·60	3,638	6·03	1,109	1·84	714	1·18	770	1·19	27,757	46·03
Total ...	590	·97	1,433	2·37	8,545	14·17	7,473	12·39	13,485	22·36	12,067	20·01	9,704	16·09	3,192	5·29	2,009	3·33	1,814	3·02	60,312	100·

Number recalled for large film examination=1,880 (% of total examined 3·12)

Number recalled for clinical examination= 374 (% of total examined 0·62)

## ANALYSIS BY AGE — CASES SHOWING EVIDENCE OF ACTIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

(Rate per 1,000 in each group)

TABLE II

	Under 14 years		14 years		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-59		60-64		65 and over		TOTAL previous columns	
	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000	No.	per 1,000		
Male ...	1	3·83	—	—	3	·76	2	·63	6	·85	11	1·6	3	·49	1	·48	3	2·32	1	·96	31	·95
Female ...	2	6·1	1	1·45	5	1·09	8	1·85	11	1·71	4	·77	1	·27	1	·9	—	—	1	1·3	34	1·23
Total ...	3	5·09	1	·7	8	·94	10	1·34	17	1·26	15	1·24	4	·41	2	·63	3	1·49	2	1·1	65	1·08

## ANALYSIS OF ABNORMAL FINDINGS

TABLE III

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000
<b>SECTION A</b>				
1. CASES OF INACTIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS				
(a) Primary lesions ... ..	841	668	1,509	25·02
(b) Post-primary lesions ... ..	482	291	773	11·16
2. NEWLY DISCOVERED CASES OF ACTIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS				
(a) Primary ... ..	3	1	4	·07
(b) Post Primary—Unilateral ... ..	17	25	42	·70
(c) Post Primary—Bilateral ... ..	10	8	18	·30
(d) Pleural effusions ... ..	1	—	1	·02
3. Cases recommended for hospital D5 ... ..	30	31	61	1·00
4. Cases recommended for observation D4 (Clinic and domiciliary) ... ..	12	6	18	·30
5. Cases recommended for observation D 3 (or occasional supervision) ... ..	69	47	116	1·92
<b>SECTION B</b>				
NON-TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS				
1. Abnormalities of the bony thorax and soft tissues—congenital ... ..	204	603	807	—
2. Abnormalities of the bony thorax and soft tissues—acquired ... ..	312	307	619	—
3. Tumours of the bony thorax: primary and secondary ... ..	1	2	3	—
4. Congenital malformations of the lungs... ..	48	24	72	—
5. Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs ... ..	26	24	50	—
6. Other infections of the lungs ... ..	1	5	6	—
7. Bronchiectasis ... ..	50	28	78	—
8. Honeycomb lung ... ..	—	—	—	—
9. Emphysema ... ..	197	106	303	—
10. Pulmonary fibrosis—non-tuberculous ... ..	119	53	172	—
11. Pneumoconiosis ... ..	6	—	6	—
12. Spontaneous pneumothorax ... ..	2	1	3	—
13. Benign tumours of the lungs and mediastinum ... ..	3	7	10	—
14. Carcinoma of the lung and mediastinum ... ..	28	1	29	—
15. Metastasis in the lung and mediastinum ... ..	1	2	3	—
16. Enlarged mediastinal and bronchial glands—non-tuberculous ... ..	—	1	1	—
17. Sarcoidosis and collagenous diseases ... ..	7	4	11	—
18. Pleural thickening or calcification — non-tuberculous ... ..	654	287	941	—
19. Abnormalities of the diaphragm and oesophagus—congenital and acquired ... ..	15	24	39	—
20. Congenital abnormalities of heart and vessels ... ..	9	11	20	—
21. Acquired abnormalities of heart and vessels ... ..	196	256	452	—
22. Miscellaneous ... ..	55	19	74	—
23. Pneumoconiosis with tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—
24. Cases who fail to attend for further films or clinical examination ... ..	32	26	58	—

**SURVEY ANALYSIS**  
(ORGANISED GROUPS)

TABLE IV

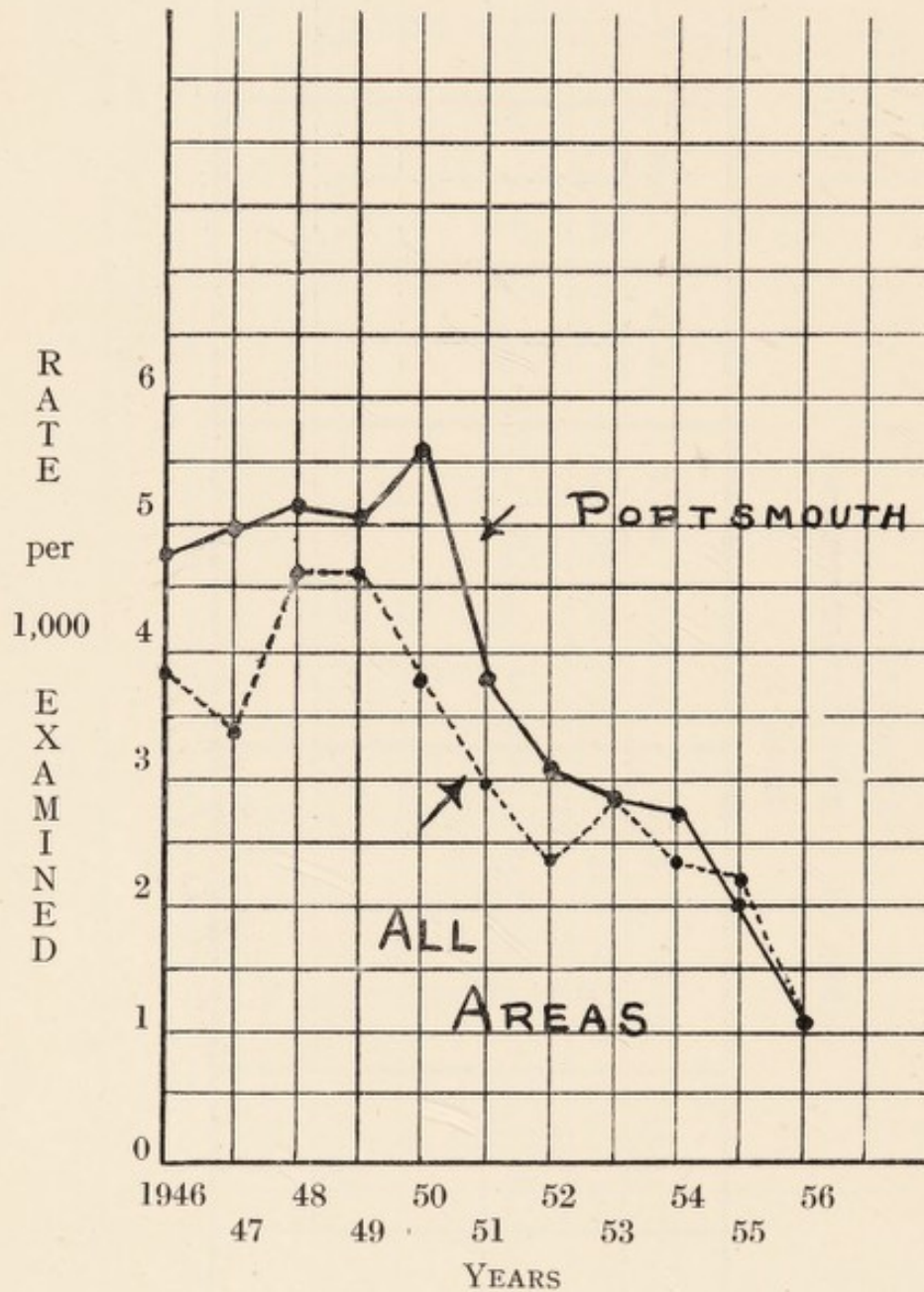
TYPE OF SURVEY	NUMBER EXAMINED				NUMBERS SHOWING EVIDENCE OF ACTIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS					
	Code	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male		Female		Combined Total	Combined Incidence per 1,000
					No.	Incidence per 1,000	No.	Incidence per 1,000		
A. General public ... ..	7	7,247	14,199	21,446	8	1.1	19	1.34	27	1.26
B. Industrial groups ... ..	6	20,124	8,437	28,561	10	.5	6	.71	16	.56
C. School children ... ..	3	1,058	705	1,763	—	—	—	—	—	—
Positive reactors—school children	3V	249	342	591	1	4.02	3	8.77	4	6.77
D. General practitioner groups ...	2	861	913	1,774	5	5.81	3	3.29	8	4.51
E. Mental hospitals and institutions	9	592	535	1,127	2	3.38	1	1.87	3	2.66
F. National service recruits ... ..	1	1,439	—	1,439	1	.69	—	—	1	.69
G. Contacts ... ..	4	46	239	285	—	—	—	—	—	—
Families of positive reactors— school children ... ..	40	128	187	315	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Out-patients: general hospitals ...	0	543	546	1,089	4	7.37	—	—	—	3.67
I. Special surveys ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. Ante-natal groups ... ..	8	—	1,663	1,663	—	—	2	1.2	2	1.2
K. Borstal, prisons and approved schools ... ..	6X	259	—	259	—	—	—	—	—	—

PORTSMOUTH  
**CASES OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS**  
 TABLE V

	Under 14		14 years		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-59		60-64		65+		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number examined	201	280	265	261	3,027	3,329	2,609	3,427	5,427	4,493	5,044	3,398	4,297	2,371	1,479	741	892	458	659	400	23,900	19,158
Number of active cases	1	2	—	—	2	5	1	6	4	7	7	3	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	20	25
Rate per 1000 examined	5.00	7.14	—	—	.66	1.50	.38	1.75	.74	1.56	1.39	.88	.47	.42	—	—	2.24	—	1.52	2.50	.84	1.31
Combined rate	6.25		—		1.10		1.16		1.11		1.18		.45		—		1.48		1.89		1.05	

## RATE OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS PER 1,000 EXAMINED BY YEARS

TABLE VI



**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE***By the Executive Officer***1.—Administration****(A) Committee**

The prevention, care and after-care of mental illness and mental defectiveness are undertaken by the Mental Health Service, which is administered by the Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Services Committee.

**(B) Staff**

Under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health the work of the Service is performed by the following staff:—

One medical officer employed part-time on the supervision of mental defectives in their own homes.

Executive Officer—lay administrator, petitioning officer, with duly authorised officer powers.

Senior psychiatric social worker—has petitioning officer and duly authorised officer powers.

Six mental health social workers—three men and three women, of whom the former have duly authorised officer powers. One has, in addition, petitioning officer powers. Of the three men, two were for many years relieving officers and the third a charge nurse in a mental hospital; and, of the three women, two possess social science diplomas, and the third, though without academic qualifications, has had many years experience in social work.

**OCCUPATION CENTRE STAFF**

Supervisor.

Handicraft Instructor.

Five Assistants.

Handicraft Instructress

(who is also part-time home teacher).

**(C) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees**

There is still user of the local health authority's staff by Saint Mary's Hospital in the supervision of mental defectives on licence from that Hospital.

The advisory service of the psychiatrists of St. James Hospital continues to be available to the local health authority through the normal consultant channels.

**(E) Training**

The Staff of this service is unchanged since the last report, and all members are trained social workers.

**2.—Account of Work undertaken in the Community****(A) Under Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946.**

The Service continued to maintain a close liaison with the various regional and local departments of the National Health Service, and with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Pensions, and all other social agencies in the City, in the provision of community care for the prevention of mental illness, and the care and after-care of mental patients and mental defectives.



Reference has been made in past reports to the difficulty in rehabilitating mental patients and mental defectives because of the absence of large industries, the high unemployment rate in the City, and the lack of suitable employment for mental defectives in particular, most of which is domestic and confined to the holiday season. The arrival of Service people with acute problems (mostly Royal Navy and usually without warning) continues to produce difficulties, since they make demands on the Mental Health Services of equal urgency with those of resident Portmuthians, and not uncommonly leave the City as suddenly as they came, whilst endeavours are still in train to adjust their problems.

(B) *Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatments Acts, 1890-1930.*

620 (605) persons were referred as cases of alleged mental illness. Of those cases dealt with under the Lunacy Act, 1890, 241 were admitted to designated wards under Section 20, 31 were admitted thereto by Order of Justices under Section 21, 34 were admitted to mental hospitals under Section 16, and 5 were admitted to mental hospitals by Urgency Order under Section 11. Of those dealt with under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, 56 became voluntary patients under Section 1, and 134 were admitted to mental hospitals as temporary patients under Section 5. Because of the lack of more appropriate accommodation, 1 case was admitted to a geriatric ward. In 121 cases the Justices to whom notice was given considered no action was required. The extreme shortage of hospital observation beds, designated for the purpose of Sections 20 and 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, is still attended by the undesirable risk of recourse to admission to mental hospitals by reception and temporary treatment orders.

Portsmouth is a "hospital area", and numerous patients are brought to the mental observation wards of Saint Mary's Hospital, or are taken, with a view to voluntary admission, to St. James Hospital, by duly authorised officers of adjacent local health authorities; patients from these areas admitted to the general or infectious diseases hospitals have sometimes to be admitted to St. James Hospital. Besides this, during the summer months large numbers of visitors (from the Midlands in particular) enter the City, among whom there are quite frequent cases of mental illness which break down here—having come to the seaside after "nervous breakdowns", and so on. All this results in a considerable number of persons brought to the notice of the duly authorised officers having eventually to be taken by them to mental hospitals other than St. James Hospital—sometimes at a considerable distance. It is for this reason that the local health authority does not accept the "knock for knock" principle understood to be adopted by certain local health authorities in operating Section 25 of the National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1949.

(c) *Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.*

(i) ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASCERTAINING AND SUPERVISING MENTAL DEFECTIVES

The liaison with other departments and agencies mentioned above has been developed to the extent that the powers and duties of the local health authority concerning mental defectives are widely known. In the process of ascertainment, where diagnostic confirmation is required, this is available through the consultant services of the psychiatric staff of St. James Hospital and supervision is carried out by the foregoing staff of social workers.

At the end of 1956 there were 280 mental defectives under statutory supervision, and a further 452 under voluntary supervision, not being "subject to be dealt with".

(ii) GUARDIANSHIP

Mental defectives under guardianship (of whom there were 19 at the end of the year) are similarly supervised, the frequency of visitation being determined by the nature of the case. Medical supervision under Article 76(1) of the Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1948, is carried out by a part-time medical officer of the Council. Of the number given 10 cases were, at the end of the year, placed with nominees of the Guardianship Society. Of both these and local cases, the majority of those needing pecuniary assistance are now maintained by the National Assistance Board.

(iii) ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVIDING OCCUPATION AND TRAINING FOR DEFECTIVES

An Occupation Centre for mental defectives is in operation, having 73 patients of both sexes on the register at the end of 1956, chiefly of low-grade feeble-minded and imbecile grade, divided into primary mixed and intermediate mixed classes, and a senior male class. Instruction is given in sense training, elementary handicrafts, reading and writing and physical training. A senior female class of 20 meets on four afternoons weekly under the handicraft instructress, who also gives some home teaching to suitable cases.

By the end of the year the erection of a new Day Training Centre for 137 mental defectives, on a site nearly opposite the Corporation Depot in the Eastern Road, was well advanced. This Centre will supersede the premises in which the Occupation Centre and female class above referred to are at present established, these being rented church halls. It is expected to occupy the new premises during the summer of 1957.

The shortage of institutional accommodation for mental defectives again produced many grave difficulties; approaches have continued to be made to the appropriate authorities but the situation continues to worsen notwithstanding. The Minister of Health was asked to receive a deputation from the City Council, but a reply was received to the effect that the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board had under review the question of institutional accommodation for mental defectives and the Minister suggested that the local health authority should discuss their problems with the Regional Hospital Board. A request was accordingly addressed to the latter for a meeting to be arranged between the Council's representatives and the Board, and at the end of the year the outcome was still awaited.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

*By the Physician Superintendent*

## ADMISSIONS

The total number of admissions was lower than in 1955.

During the year, 1,026 fever (in 1955—1,215), 39 geriatric (in 1955—45), and 264 tuberculosis (in 1955—254) cases were admitted.

Of the fever cases, 318 (in 1955—406) cases were admitted from outside of the City boundary. There were 28 Service cases (in 1955—11).

## DISCHARGES AND DEATHS (FEVER)

Discharges—990. Deaths—39. TOTAL—1,029.

Of this number, 295 discharges and 16 deaths were outside of the City boundary, making a total number of Portsmouth cases—718.

## CASES DISCHARGED DURING 1956

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria (including carriers)	Other Infections	Non-Infectious (not ntfd.)	Deaths	TOTAL
January ...	5	—	72	9	4	90
February ...	6	—	53	14	10	83
March ...	13	—	62	26	3	104
April ...	1	—	70	18	3	92
May ...	7	—	69	19	4	99
June ...	2	—	76	20	4	102
July ...	6	—	52	15	5	78
August ...	9	—	53	19	—	81
September ...	3	1	56	18	4	82
October ...	7	3	62	28	—	100
November ...	4	—	40	13	1	58
December ...	7	1	42	9	1	60
TOTAL ...	70	5	707	208	39	1,029
Outside Cases...	16	—	188	91	16	311
Portsmouth Cases ...	54	5	519	117	23	718

## DEATHS—1956

During the year there were 39 deaths from the causes stated below:

Broncho - Pneumonia and Gastro Enteritis ...	2	Congestive Cardiac Failure ...	1
Broncho - Pneumonia ...	8	Hypertensive Cardiac Failure and Pharyngitis ...	1
Poliomyelitis ...	1	Sonnë Dysentery ...	1
Pneumonia and Varicella ...	1	Haemorrhage from Chronic Duodenal Ulcer and Aortic Stenosis ...	1
Pneumonia and Staphylococcal Pemphigus ...	1	Tuberculous Meningitis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1
Polyneuritis ...	2	Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	2	Tuberosc Sclerosis, Von Gierke's Disease and Marasmus ...	1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	2	Salmonella Typhi Murium Enteritis and Myocardial Degeneration ...	1
Toxic Myocarditis and Erythema Multiforme ...	1	TOTAL ...	39
Broncho - Pneumonia and Measles ...	1		
Gastro Enteritis ...	7		
Uraemia—Type 2 Nephritis ...	1		
Uraemia—Arteriosclerosis ...	1		
Spontaneous Pneumothorax and Cerebral Oedema ...	1		

The following table gives in more detail the deaths for 1956.

Under 1 year ...	...	17
1-5 years ...	...	8
5-20 years ...	...	1
20-70 years ...	...	7
70+ years ...	...	6
		—
TOTAL ...	...	39
		—

This gives an over-all mortality rate for infectious diseases of 3.79%

It will be noted that, of the 39 deaths, 23 occurred in the extremes of life, i.e., under 1 year and seventy plus. Also, 14 deaths occurred within twenty-four hours of admission to this hospital. The following table gives a more detailed analysis of the ages of the cases which died within twenty-four hours of admission.

Under one year	0-14 days ...	1
	14-28 days ...	1
	1-3 months ...	—
	3-6 months ...	1
	6-9 months ...	1
	9-12 months ...	—
1-5 years ...	...	3
5-20 years ...	...	1
20-70 years ...	...	5
70+ years ...	...	1
		—
TOTAL ...	...	14
		—

### Diphtheria

There were 9 cases (Portsmouth—7) admitted as observation diphtheria. Two cases proved to be diphtheria and three cases carriers (all Portsmouth).

### Paratyphoid

One case (Portsmouth) was admitted as paratyphoid. Two cases (Portsmouth) proved to be this disease. The second case was admitted as diarrhoea.

### Scarlet Fever

There were 77 cases (Portsmouth—63) admitted as scarlet fever.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

There were 21 cases (Portsmouth—4) admitted as puerperal pyrexia.

### Poliomyelitis

During the year there were 58 cases (Portsmouth—22) admitted as poliomyelitis. 23 cases (Portsmouth—7) proved to be this disease.

Respiratory—7. Paralytic—14. Non-paralytic—2. TOTAL—23.

### Meningitis

46 cases (Portsmouth—27) were admitted as meningitis and 4 cases (Portsmouth—2) as tuberculous meningitis. 13 cases (Portsmouth—10) proved to be meningitis and 1 case (Portsmouth) tuberculous meningitis.

		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	Meningococcal Infection	Acute Poliomyelitis		Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Notifiable Pneumonia	Food Poisoning		Tuberculosis	TOTAL
						Paralytic	Non-Paralytic								Pulmonary	Other Forms		
Jan.	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	
"	14	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	13	
"	21	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	13	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	25	
"	28	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	-	1	-	3	-	18	
Feb.	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	2	-	1	-	2	3	24		
"	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	3	-	-	1	-	5	-	33	
"	18	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	1	-	-	3	-	4	-	23	
"	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	23	
Mar.	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	15	3	-	-	-	3	-	25		
"	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	-	-	5	-	4	-	30		
"	17	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	4	-	-	14	4	-	55		
"	24	4	-	-	-	-	-	11	41	3	-	3	3	5	-	70		
"	31	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	4	-	-	-	1	-	25		
April	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	50	4	-	3	4	1	-	65		
"	14	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	37	2	-	1	-	5	-	48		
"	21	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	8	-	2	2	7	-	47		
"	28	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	9	-	3	-	9	-	50		
May	5	6	-	-	1	-	1	9	55	8	-	-	-	3	-	83		
"	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	52	1	-	3	-	1	-	63		
"	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	75	2	-	3	-	4	1	90		
"	26	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	3	-	2	-	25		
June	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	38	3	-	1	-	3	-	47		
"	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	6	-	2	1	2	-	36		
"	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	12	-	1	1	4	1	50		
"	23	4	-	(PT)	-	-	-	18	10	4	-	1	1	1	1	40		
"	30	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	5	7	-	-	-	5	-	23		
July	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	9	-	-	-	-	-	33		
"	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-	3	2	18		
"	21	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	7	-	2	-	7	-	48		
"	28	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	1	1	1	1	21		
Aug.	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	8	1	1	1	1	-	39		
"	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	-	-	1	1	1	26		
"	18	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	16	-	3	-	4	-	39		
"	25	-	1	(PT)	-	2	-	1	15	2	-	1	-	3	1	26		
Sept.	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	13	-	-	-	2	-	23		
"	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	8	-	1	1	2	1	17		
"	15	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	12	-	-	-	3	2	27		
"	22	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	16	-	1	2	2	4	33		
"	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	11		
Oct.	6	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	2	5	20		
"	13	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	2	-	1	1	10		
"	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	1	-	4	-	20		
"	27	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	9		
Nov.	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	1	-	2	-	13		
"	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	3	-	4	-	14		
"	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	4	-	4	-	15		
"	24	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	6	-	2	-	2	-	13		
Dec.	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	1	1	1	5	19		
"	8	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	8	-	-	-	3	-	19		
"	15	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	9	-	-	2	1	-	18		
"	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	2	1	-	9		
"	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	2	1	16		
Total	1956	122	2	2	3	6	2	14	64	784	312	2	59	45	18	149	13	1597
	1955	156	-	7	6	3	1	20	26	4479	204	4	35	60	56	165	17	5239
Deaths	1956	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	150*	-	26	1	178	
	1955	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100*	1	20	3	126	

\* All Forms

## ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1956

	0-1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 & over		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Malignant neoplasm—stomach ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(-)	11(13)	4(10)	20(13)	8 (7)	11(14)	10(14)	43 (40)	32 (31)
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(2)	2(1)49(34)	7 (9)	22(27)	4 (1)	11 (9)	1 (2)	84 (72)	14 (13)	
Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-(-)	2(6)	- (-)	17(16)	- (-)	7(12)	- (-)	18(14)	- (-)	44 (48)
Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-(-)	3(1)	- (-)	6(15)	- (-)	12(5)	- (-)	5 (4)	- (-)	26 (25)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(3)	1(-)	11(7)	8(6)	25(36)	38(37)	31(40)	30(25)	42(44)	37(32)	110(132)	115(100)
Leukaemia, aluckaemia ...	-	-	1(-)	-	1(-)	-	-	-	2(3)	-(-)	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	2 (-)	4 (-)	- (1)	12 (7)	4 (3)
TOTAL ...	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	15	16	86	74	76	63	68	80	249	235
1955...	-	-	1	2	-	4	-	12	14	85	88	81	50	67	67	67	251	220
																	484	471

## VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT CENTRE

*By the Venereal Diseases Officer*

It is gratifying to report that there were only two cases of early syphilis seen during the year, both infections being acquired from sources outside this area.

Gonorrhoea still shews a decline from 86 to 78 patients, in spite of a general rising tendency throughout the Country. This is probably due to the excellent liaison we have with Naval Health authorities over the matter of "Contact Tracing", coupled with the good work of the health visitor attached to the Department.

Again the value of the ante-natal blood testing arrangements is shewn by the fact that this is again another year in which we have seen no infants with congenital syphilis.

### DETAILS OF WORK OF THE ALMONER

	1956	1955
Number of patients helped by Almoner ... ..	91	72
Visits paid by Almoner ... ..	105	72
Number of patients visited by Sister Trimble ...	5	5
Reports and letters sent ... ..	58	68
Reports and letters received ... ..	37	40
Number of interviews ... ..	92	102
Number of attendances ... ..	1,550	1,811

TABLE OF STATISTICS

	SYPHILIS			GONORRHOEA			OTHER CONDITIONS		
	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
Patients under treatment or observation on 1st January ...	95 (90)	116 (135)	211 (225)	17 (8)	13 (6)	30 (14)	46 (38)	10 (17)	56 (55)
Patients removed from the register in previous years who returned during the year for treatment or observation of the same condition ...	7 (9)	4 (7)	11 (16)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	3 (1)	- (1)	3 (2)
Patients transferred from other centres after diagnosis ...	2 (1)	3 (3)	5 (4)	6 (10)	3 (4)	9 (14)	13 (22)	2 (2)	15 (24)
Patients dealt with for the first time ...	12 (16)	20 (16)	32 (32)	42 (53)	36 (33)	78 (86)	255 (261)	102 (96)	357 (357)
Patients completing treatment and/or observation ...	19 (17)	21 (36)	40 (53)	25 (18)	31 (27)	56 (45)	200 (228)	89 (95)	289 (323)
Patients transferred elsewhere ...	4 (2)	7 (5)	11 (7)	16 (27)	3 (3)	19 (30)	40 (48)	9 (11)	49 (59)
Patients not completing treatment and/or observation ...	3 (2)	12 (4)	15 (6)	13 (9)	8 (-)	21 (9)	23 (-)	- (-)	23 (-)
Patients under treatment or observation on 31st December ...	90 (95)	103 (116)	193 (211)	11 (17)	10 (13)	21 (30)	54 (46)	16 (10)	70 (56)
Attendances by patients— seen by physician ...	701 (971)	710 (770)	1,411 (1,741)	334 (306)	182 (185)	516 (491)	1,318 (1,245)	424 (535)	1,742 (1,780)
not seen by physician ...	86 (148)	137 (124)	223 (272)	61 (19)	- (3)	61 (22)	543 (433)	97 (194)	640 (627)
Contacts attending for examination referred by patients, etc.	8 (10)	16 (11)	24 (21)	1 (-)	26 (27)	27 (27)	2 (-)	5 (15)	7 (15)



## PARASITIC INFESTATION

*By the Medical Officer in charge, Disinfestation Clinic***Scabies**

The decrease this year was evenly distributed through the age groups.

Total number of cases dealt with during the year:—

						1956	1955
Cases	...	...	...	...	...	41	78
Contacts		...	...	...	...	49	46
TOTALS						90	124

Twenty cases were referred by private doctors and ten by the City's hospitals. The remainder were sent by the School Clinics.

A vanishing cream containing 25% Benzyl Benzoate was used for treatment.

Distribution as to age and sex was:—

	Under 5			5—15			Over 15			Totals		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cases ...	1	3	4	8	10	18	8	11	19	17	24	41
Contacts ...	3	4	7	7	7	14	9	19	28	19	30	49
Totals ...	4	7	11	15	17	32	17	30	47	36	54	90
Sent by Private doctors	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Subsequent Attendances	1	9	10	15	23	38	18	27	45	34	59	93

Total attendances for the year—Original ... 90

Subsequent ... 93

GRAND TOTAL 183

Three letters warning of possible legal proceedings for non-attendance at the clinic were required. These had the desired effect and court proceedings were unnecessary.

The following table gives figures for earlier years:—

Year	Cases	Contacts	Year	Cases	Contacts
1947 ...	656	521	1953 ...	87	82
1949 ...	160	127	1954 ...	64	21
1951 ...	47	65	1955 ...	78	46
1952 ...	109	100	1956 ...	41	49

**Pediculosis**

Again there has been a decrease in the number seen and treated, and during the year 45 households, comprising 47 families and 150 individuals, of whom 82 were infested, were dealt with.

Total number of cases dealt with during the year:—

	1956	1955
Cases ... ..	82	135
Contacts ... ..	68	136
	<u>150</u>	<u>271</u>

The distribution as to age and sex was:—

	Under 5			5—15			Over 15			Totals		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Infested ...	7	6	13	18	25	43	10	16	26	35	47	82
Not infested	6	8	14	14	14	28	6	20	26	26	42	68
Totals ...	13	14	27	32	39	71	16	36	52	61	89	150
Sent by private doctors	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

## ATTENDANCES

	Under 5			5—15			Over 15			Totals		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Original ...	13	14	27	32	39	71	16	36	52	61	89	150
Subsequent	5	5	10	22	45	67	2	21	23	29	71	100
Totals ...	18	19	37	54	84	138	18	57	75	90	160	250

52% (52.6%) of those infested were school children aged 5-15.

Two cases were sent by general practitioners, five from other sources, including police and local hospitals, and the remainder as a result of school inspections by the school nurses. Seven of the cases were infestations of *phthirus pubis* (crab-lice) and one of body lice.

Three letters giving warning of possible prosecution under Section 85 of the Public Health Act of 1936 for non-attendance at the clinic were sent; all had the desired effect. On one occasion Ambulance Service vehicles were used to fetch patients otherwise unable to come for treatment.

Treatment of choice was a proprietary emulsion containing D.D.T. and Pyrethrin. Use was also made of a concentrate of B.H.C. gamma isomer, diluted for use as required.

The following table gives comparative figures of infested persons treated at the Clinic during the past ten years:—

1947 ... ..	640	1952 ... ..	850
1948 ... ..	573	1953 ... ..	479
1949 ... ..	826	1954 ... ..	279
1950 ... ..	916	1955 ... ..	135
1951 ... ..	733	1956 ... ..	82

## REPORT OF THE BATHS SUPERINTENDENT

It is with pleasure that I have to report that the year 1956/57 was the most favourable on record in respect of total patronage and revenue. The former reached the unprecedented total of 146,479 patrons; to this should be added club attendances of 20,236, season ticket attendances of 755 and pass attendances of 2,005, resulting in a grand total of 169,475, which must be considered exceptional for a swimming bath establishment of this size. The income of £5,945 19s. 10d. shows an increase over the previous year of £441 6s. 6d., and far exceeded our expectations.

Presumably the rather poor summer weather was a contributing factor in this increased patronage, but credit is also due to the efficient staff who have assisted me in management and maintenance and to the personnel of the Education Authority, who have coached, taught swimming and diving and held galas and competitions under exacting conditions with the limited facilities available.

### SWIMMING BATH SECTION

Again this department catered for a tremendous total of 107,839 (98,795 last year), without taking into consideration persons attending clubs and competitions.

School children attending in classes under the Education Authority reached a new record of 40,773 (37,059) and all persons instrumental in providing this beneficial exercise are to be complimented.

New records were created in the 6d. male and female and the 2d. boy swims, the detailed totals as follows:—

<i>Male</i>	1/- swims	9,979—a decrease of	49	Net increase 1,337.
	6d.	31,473—an increase of	894	
	2d.	5,097—an increase of	492.	
<i>Female</i>	1/- swims	2,152—a decrease of	120	Net increase 3,993.
	6d.	16,316—an increase of	4,280	
	2d.	2,049—a decrease of	167.	

Spectator attendances were 2,136—an increase of 661 and a new record.

Swimming lessons, with a total of 1,214, showed a slight decrease of 53. This is only to be expected as the bath continues to cater for more general public and schools, as the instruction is at present being carried out under trying and crowded conditions which are unsatisfactory to both instructors and pupils alike. Pupils require quiet periods, especially in the evenings, for tuition but increased attendances mean fewer of these and, consequently, many lessons are declined.

Private hire of the swimming pool maintained its record, with a total booking of 756½ hours—an increase of 1½; this is almost the maximum. The Infantile Paralysis Fellowship continued their patronage of the bath on Sundays and the Jehovah Witnesses have again taken bookings for baptismal purposes.

Season tickets showed a decline of 8, 19 having been purchased during the year.

The hair dryers had 15,936 users—an increase of 3,654, thus showing how much this service is appreciated.

Brylcreem hair oil, with 12,495 users, had an increase of 1,416.

Self-weighing scales again showed an increase—183, the total number of patrons being 3,504.

These last three services attract considerable revenue to the baths without any expenditure and all show record takings.

#### PRIVATE HOT BATHS

Unfortunately, I cannot report the same success in this section of the establishment, there having been decreased patronage after three years of improvement, but this is to be expected as more houses with bathrooms become available.

The installation of seven new baths has improved the facilities but the decorative and structural condition leaves much to be desired, owing to the dampness percolating through the bath hall walls.

I have coupled up the existing fresh and salt water pipes, giving a much greater and speedier supply of hot water to the slipper baths and thereby meeting the demand at rush periods.

The sectional figures are as follows:—

<i>Male</i>	1/2d.	18,783—a decrease of 1,520	
	9d.	10,470—an increase of 4,665	
	6d.	397—a decrease of 5,404*	Net decrease 2,259
<i>Female</i>	1/2d.	2,461—a decrease of 163	
	9d.	4,110—an increase of 3,300	
	6d.	256—a decrease of 3,340*	Net decrease 203

(\* NOTE.—6d. bath discontinued May, 1956).

Luma remedial baths continued to improve, although only slightly, the increase being 5.

#### EQUIPMENT

During the year the old combined washer and hydro-extractor broke down completely and a new "Cherry Tree" washing machine was installed, together with the hydro-extractor from Anglesea Road Baths. This equipment is proving very satisfactory—economical, efficient and speedy in dealing with the needs of the establishment.

One Cornish boiler is completely out of commission; the other is proving satisfactory since its last survey but this boiler's age gives rise to a little anxiety.

The re-designing of the diving boards has been well received by the diving potentials and the graduated firm board is a tremendous attraction and aid in modern diving. Its installation, coupled with the moving of the one-metre spring board, is greatly appreciated.

Filtration and chlorination plants are giving excellent service, dealing with the extra loads from the swimming bath water adequately, and assisting my staff and me to maintain "Breakpoint" chlorination to the satisfaction of our patrons. The numerous satisfactory bacteriological tests of the bath water bear testimony to the excellence of this equipment.

The extra accommodation provided in the old Bath Superintendent's quarters is proving a tremendous asset during rush periods.

## GENERAL REMARKS

The national survey of baths establishments shows that, since 1938, there has been an increase of patronage of 28%. The Park Road Baths have increased their patronage much more; in the swimming bath section alone the improvement is far above this figure. In 1945, 14,451 males and 2,774 females attended; last year the comparable figures were 46,549 and 20,517.

Whilst the difficulties of instructing in a crowded bath are appreciated, it is regretted that the management cannot give the exclusive use of the bath to some of the persons teaching swimming at the expense of the general public.

I must again report the continued "break-in" of the Anglesea Road Baths, damage done to fittings and lead stolen, although I have kept this to a minimum through continual watch and repair to the fencing.

The staff continued to show increased efficiency; although the patronage and actual work entailed in running the establishment have considerably increased in consequence of extra trade, they have responded with added effort, endeavour and zeal, managing to deal with the numerous patrons without any extra help, except on Saturdays, when pressure of work necessitates casual assistance.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st, 1957

	PRIVATE BATHS										SWIMMING BATH										BATH TOTALS				
	Male					Female					TOTAL	Male					Female					Total	Male	Female	Total
	1/2	9d.	6d.*	Total	1/2	9d.	6d.*	Total	1/-	6d.		2d.	Total	1/-	6d.	2d.	Total	1/2	6d.	2d.	Total				
1956/57	18,783	10,470	397	29,650	2,461	4,110	256	6,827	36,477	9,979	31,473	5,097	46,549	2,152	16,316	2,049	20,517	67,066	76,199	27,344	103,543				
1955/56	20,303	5,805	5,801	31,909	2,624	810	3,596	7,030	38,939	10,028	30,579	4,605	45,212	2,272	12,036	2,216	16,524	61,736	77,121	23,554	100,675				
Increase	—	4,665	—	—	—	3,300	—	—	—	—	894	492	1,337	—	4,280	—	3,993	5,330	—	3,790	2,868				
Decrease	1,520	—	5,404	2,259	163	—	3,340	203	2,462	49	—	—	—	120	—	167	—	—	922	—	—	—			

\* Discontinued from May, 1956

	£	s.	d.
Brylcreem ...	...	...	3
Hair-Dryers ...	...	...	0
Self-Weigh ...	...	...	0
Private Club Attendances	20,236		
Season Ticket Attendances	755		
Pass Attendances ...	2,005		

	Classes	Spec-tators	Grand Total	Hire of Bath—Hrs.	Tuition Fees	Luma Baths	Season Tickets	Total Cash £ s. d.
1956-57	40,773	2,163	146,479	756½	1,214	128	19	5,945 19 10
1955-56	37,059	1,502	139,236	755	1,267	123	27	5,504 13 4
Increase	3,714	661	7,243	1½	—	5	—	441 6 6
Decrease	—	—	—	—	53	—	8	— — —

## REPORT OF THE VETERINARY OFFICER

### MEAT INSPECTION

The fact that the City was at no time during 1956 included in any of the areas scheduled by the Ministry of Agriculture following the confirmation of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease allowed the wholesale meat trade activities at Greetham Street to function normally throughout the year. Wholesalers served retailers from an extensive area far beyond the City boundary; home-killed and imported supplies of meat and offal were despatched to the wholesale meat market, Greetham Street, from Fareham, Petersfield, Swindon, Westbourne, Wimborne, Southampton, Chichester, Salisbury, Isle of Wight and the London docks. Regular weekly shipments of meat and offal from the Irish Republic arrived at the Camber from January to April. The prolonged interruption in this trade which followed was probably influenced by the rapid expansion in the export of livestock to Continental ports from Ireland. Road vehicles moved the Irish supplies from the Camber to various centres which included Smithfield Market (London). Towards the end of the year some meat and offal from the Irish Republic were consigned to the City by rail following importation at Holyhead. Considerable time was spent visiting cold stores in order to ensure that home-killed bovine carcasses and offal infested with *Cysticercus bovis* were submitted to suitable refrigeration treatment in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry; if these are not carefully observed tape-worm in man may be the result. Frequently during the year the condition known as bone-taint, which spoils meat for human consumption, was detected. The condition is usually found in the hindquarters of bovine carcasses and necessitated the condemnation of a substantial weight of imported hindquarter beef, despite the fact that great care was exercised to save as much as possible for human consumption. 28 visits were made to schools in connection with the School Meals Service. On a number of days during the year I travelled to Fareham and worked in the Fontley abattoir.

### MEAT CONDEMNATIONS

English: 501 lbs. hindquarter beef; 264 lbs. pork; 3 lbs. pigs' kidneys; 13 lbs. veal.

Imported: 2,513 lbs. hindquarter beef; 368 lbs. forequarter beef; 81 lbs. pork; 1,259 lbs. pigs' livers; 201 lbs. pigs' kidneys; 21 lbs. pigs' hearts; 60 lbs. pigs' melts; 40 lbs. calf livers; 80 lbs. ox tails; 32 lbs. ox kidneys; 96 lbs. ox livers; 60 lbs. sheep livers; 39 lbs. lamb; 271 lbs. lamb livers; 20 boxes minced pork.

### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Most of the limited time available for this work was spent at the wholesale meat premises in the vicinity of Greetham Street. One can see many indications that the new Regulations have been well received by the wholesalers; they have set a good example which retailers who come to Greetham Street for their supplies have not failed to notice and have thus given considerable help to the local authority, who is responsible for the observance of the provisions in the Regulations.

Most of the meat and offal consigned to the City and supplies distributed from Greetham Street were carried in road vehicles. Throughout the year the work of meat transport was carried out very smoothly and there was no

evidence that the general provisions of the Regulations were not well observed. Once again United Carriers—a meat transport organisation—was responsible for carrying most of the meat supplies in the City and surrounding areas and credit is due to the manager, his deputy and their staff for another year of satisfactory meat transport.

#### ANTHRAX

There was ample evidence to show that the year did not start very favourably for the Ministry of Agriculture in the struggle with this deadly disease. Compared with the previous month the returns for January revealed that the Ministry had experienced a serious setback as the number of outbreaks confirmed was much more than doubled. Serious figures associated with anthrax which represented a marked deterioration in the position continued throughout February and March. The extraordinary situation caused by this disease was reflected in the quarterly details which showed that at the end of March a total of 822 outbreaks was detected. Normally one expects the monthly total to be around 40. The position improved during April, when a substantial decrease in the number of outbreaks was recorded. Comparatively satisfactory returns continued without interruption until the end of the first half of the year. The fact that over 1,000 outbreaks were confirmed this year at the end of June indicates the anxiety it must have caused. A more satisfactory trend in the monthly totals was observed during the third quarter of the year but at the end of September the comparable annual figures were running very unfavourably and there was already evidence pointing towards the year being one of exceptionally high incidence. The marked improvement in the position recorded in October continued without interruption until the end of the year. When one looks at the comparable annual details one is immediately struck by the extraordinary activity which anthrax has caused. During the year 1,245 outbreaks were detected, compared with 764 in 1955.

#### FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Following a year of exceptionally low incidence of foot and mouth disease the opening of the new year was very satisfactory, as no outbreak was detected throughout January. This country's complete freedom from it allowed normal meat trade activities which can be seriously disturbed by irritating movement restrictions applied by the Ministry of Agriculture to susceptible species of food animals in scheduled areas following outbreaks of disease. The Ministry's returns reveal that Great Britain remained free from this disease up till mid-February, a fact which confirmed that once again the Ministry's policy of slaughter and compensation was successful. During the second fortnight of February it reappeared and four outbreaks were detected. A few more outbreaks were confirmed during the first fortnight of March but none was detected in the second half of the month. Probably the Ministry did not regard as entirely unsatisfactory details of the work for the first quarter of the year, when eight outbreaks were detected compared with six for the comparable period last year. At the end of March the position was that it had been eradicated once again and all movement restrictions were withdrawn. The situation could not have been better throughout April, as no outbreak was confirmed. Following a period of freedom which lasted about two months four outbreaks were recorded in May, and only one was discovered in June. The comparable figures for the first half of the year were running unfavourably. At the end of June 13 outbreaks, involving over 2,600 animals, were recorded against six and over 900 animals for the same period last year. Although no outbreak was recorded in July, 67, involving well over 9,000 animals, were detected in August. As the monthly total of



outbreaks for September was 36 the third quarter was the worst of the year for this disease. A more favourable trend in the figures was noticeable throughout the last quarter of the year. One has only to glance at the Ministry of Agriculture's complete annual returns to realise that the year was one of exceptionally high incidence for this disease. The returns show that there were 162 outbreaks, involving well over 28,000 animals, compared with nine and just over 1,600 animals during the year 1955. The cost of this disease for 1956 was £825,000.

#### SWINE FEVER

The year opened satisfactorily, when the Ministry of Agriculture's fortnightly returns for January gave favourable details which indicated that the improvement in the position recorded at the end of 1955 was maintained. Satisfactory fortnightly returns continued without interruption throughout February and March which was reflected in the very favourable quarterly details. 153 outbreaks were detected during the year's first quarter compared with 312 in the corresponding period of 1955. The marked improvement in the position was not maintained during April. One was unable to find any evidence to indicate the beginning of the Ministry's recovery from the setback experienced in April until the month of June. It was true, however, that the comparable figures for the first half of the year showed a striking improvement—387 at the end of June this year against 848 at the same date in 1955. Throughout the third quarter one was unable to discern any evidence in the Ministry's returns which indicated real substantial progress in the struggle with swine fever. At the end of the quarter, however, the comparable annual figures were running very favourably—592 outbreaks against 1,138 at the corresponding date in 1955. The monthly totals associated with this disease showed a steady favourable trend until the end of the year and finally a marked improvement in the annual details was recorded which must have been very encouraging to the Ministry. According to the returns 741 outbreaks were confirmed in 1956 compared with a total of 1,403 in 1955.

#### FOWL PEST

As anticipated, a substantial drop in the monthly total of outbreaks for January compared with that of the previous month indicated a marked improvement in the position relating to fowl pest. From experience one learns to expect this seasonal improvement which is often of a striking nature. The fortnightly returns for February issued by the Ministry contained more satisfactory details which revealed another considerable fall in the monthly total. Following steep seasonal rises in the monthly figures at the end of one year and the beginning of the next, usually one can expect a marked improvement in the situation during the year's first quarter. Evidence of the improvement was provided by the withdrawal of restrictions and revocation of Orders by the Ministry. There was little change in the position until May when a striking decrease in the monthly total was recorded which almost made one think that the Ministry was gradually bringing this disease under control. One learns to associate sudden fluctuations with fowl pest. The returns for June indicated that the Ministry had experienced a serious setback. Besides the comparable figures for the first half of the year were running considerably higher than those of last year. Unsatisfactory returns continued without a break throughout the year's third quarter with no evidence of the Ministry's recovery from the setback in June. At the end of September 516 outbreaks were confirmed compared with 401 at 30th September, 1955. Following a considerable increase in the number of outbreaks recorded in October there was a serious deterioration in the position

during November. No doubt the Ministry was not greatly surprised by this setback as usually November is the beginning of the most difficult period of the year for fowl pest. During the last month of the year the position continued to deteriorate and 185 outbreaks were detected. One finds from the complete annual details that there was an increase of 50 in the number of outbreaks this year compared with 1955—the actual figures being 956 and 906. No doubt the Treasury was very interested in this disease as the slaughter and compensation policy was practised in an attempt to eradicate it.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

It seems to me that the action by the Ministry of Agriculture during the year confirms that a strong suspicion exists that some premises licensed under the Pet Animals Act may be potential channels in the spread of fowl pest. Under the Poultry Premises and Vehicles (Disinfection) Order, 1956, issued by the Ministry, considerable powers are given to local authorities designed to prevent the spread of fowl pest. The order provides detailed instructions relating to the cleansing and disinfection of premises, equipment and vehicles. Fortunately there was no evidence that the general provisions of the Act were not on the whole well observed, which ensured the welfare of the animals. I suggest that a great deal of the credit for the year's smooth working of this comprehensive Act is due to the occupiers of premises licensed under it. A total of 29 pet shops was licensed in the City and 31 visits were made during the year.

#### FISH

The following is a list of the various species of fish relating to parcels surrendered after inspection and condemnation:—gurnet, dogfish, megrims, herrings, crabs, skate, haddocks, mackerel, cod, prawns, whiting, sprats, fillets (various).

#### OTHER FOODSTUFFS

As in previous years, practically all kinds of foodstuffs, other than fish, homekilled and imported meat already mentioned, were handled under this heading. Canned foods were an important item, 9,217 tins being surrendered as unfit for human consumption following inspection.

#### DUTIES AT THE PORT.

No clinical evidence of the existence of any notifiable disease was detected in livestock landing at Point and all animals were able to proceed to their destinations. A total of 68 visits was made to the Dockyard, Camber, Flathouse and Rudmore; a number were of a preventive nature to ensure that certain livestock were not allowed to enter this country illicitly—the regulations being designed to prevent disease entering this country at the ports. Other visits to the Port were associated with the trade in the importation of foodstuffs at the Camber and Flathouse. Compared with previous years the Italian fruit trade at Flathouse was not so good. Recently the importer's agent informed me that the decline was due entirely to very severe weather on the Continent.

#### VISITS

1,867 visits were made during the year, including 583 to meat premises (wholesale and retail), 777 to provision shops (wholesale and retail), 85 to fish premises (wholesale and retail), 62 to piggeries, 144 to sausage makers, 68 in connection with my duties at the Port, 28 to schools, 31 under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and 371 relating to complaints.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year 1,830 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Of these, 75 were found to be adulterated, incorrectly labelled or otherwise unsatisfactory, or 4.1%, compared with 5.6% in 1955. Of these 75 samples, 7 were formal samples, 66 informal or test samples and 2 private purchase samples.

All the adulterated samples were dealt with by cautions or, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate Ministry.

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

During the year 59 licences were issued for the sale of pasteurised milk, 7 for sterilised milk and 4 for tuberculin tested milk.

90 samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were examined and all passed the test for this type of milk.

350 samples of pasteurised milk were examined and 3 failed the test.

53 samples of pasteurised milk supplied to schools were examined and all were found satisfactory.

11 samples of sterilised milk were examined and all passed the test.

### MILK

707 samples of milk were taken during the year; 26 were found to be adulterated and 43 not up to standard, the deficiencies being due to natural causes. Of this number, 203 represented milk supplied by farmers to retailers in the City, 24 being found to be adulterated.

### ICE CREAM

74 samples of ice cream were taken for examination, with the following results:

27 samples were grade 1	20 samples were grade 3
25 samples were grade 2	2 samples were grade 4

### DRUGS

122 samples of drugs were taken and 19 were found not to be in accordance with the standards or requirements laid down in the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, and the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, 1933.

### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926, AND ORDERS IN COUNCIL MADE THEREUNDER

During the year 89 visits were made to business premises to see that the provisions of these Orders were being complied with.

### WATER

122 samples of swimming pool and paddling pool water were taken during the year.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. F. APPLETON, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.*

As long ago as 1952 I commented "this report . . . may well be the last bearing the above title" and now that four years later The Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, enacts that sanitary inspectors are to be designated public health inspectors—from 2nd August, 1956—I have the pleasure of presenting my first annual report under the new title.

I have frequently expressed my growing concern at the enforced dereliction of some of the important duties on account of staff shortage and this report is no exception to what for some years past has been the rule. The statistical information shews clearly the results of concentration on Housing Survey inspections to the detriment of routine work under the Public Health Act, the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations, etc., etc.

Although the depleted staff was augmented by two of my students who qualified for appointment as sanitary inspectors, the Department prematurely lost the services of the Senior Sanitary Inspector (Housing), Mr. E. B. Shaw, who retired on grounds of ill-health, and was succeeded by Mr. C. W. Cooksley on promotion. I am glad to record the return to duty, after a long absence on sick leave, of Mr. W. J. Sandford, Specialist Public Health Inspector (New Buildings).

At the end of the year there were five vacancies in the complement of twenty public health inspectors.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

It is surprising that 1956 with one of the wettest summers in living memory should be a year in which the total rainfall was only 24·11 ins. or ·49" less than 1955, but analysis of the 3,226 complaints received once again showed the relationship between weather and reported defects to be fairly constant. Allegedly defective dwelling houses numbered 2,300, an approximate to the corresponding figure for 1954.

Investigation of these complaints and the follow-up of the resultant notices occurred in the course of 3,819 inspections and 4,794 visits. Statutory requirements were requested through the action hereunder:—

Intimation notices issued . . . . .	971
Abatement notices served . . . . .	239
Letters requiring work "without further delay" . . . . .	56
Letters requiring work "within seven days" . . . . .	45
Letters requiring work "forthwith" . . . . .	1

197 of the statutory notices terminated in the required works being carried out to the satisfaction of the inspector, whilst of the remainder, 21 were referred to the Town Clerk for the necessary legal process. The balance of notices served are those carried over into 1957 by the time factor. The 21 instances referred for proceedings resulted as follows:—

Settled without further proceedings	...	...	...	...	8
Withdrawn before case heard	...	...	...	...	1
Orders made	...	...	...	...	10
Work completed before proceedings, but costs awarded					1
Work proceeding when case heard, no order made but costs awarded	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 21
Further proceedings, under Section 95	...	...	...	...	3

## TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS

### AUTHORISED CARAVAN SITES

#### CLIFFDALE, GREAT SALTERNS, HENDERSON ROAD

The general maintenance of these Corporation-owned caravan parks was satisfactory and no complaints reached the Department either from site residents or from other members of the public.

### PRIVATE SITES

A complaint was lodged by occupiers of premises adjoining a licensed site to the effect that some caravan-residents were digging soak-aways to receive discharge of sink waste pipes, and that such, being at a higher level, were causing a nuisance to the complainants. Representation to the supervisor abated this nuisance and so far there has been no recurrence.

Two notifications were received from Service sources indicating intention to create small caravan parks on Crown Land for housing Service personnel. Although such sites are exempt from local authority jurisdiction it was intimated that the establishments would be of the standard required for similar civilian ventures, and the necessary advice was given.

The promiscuous camping of families in the Swan Street—Russell Street area continues an aggravation despite the co-operation of the management of the neighbouring theatres who direct touring entertainers to authorised sites. The perpetrators of these offences rely on the fact that before legal proceedings can be instituted they are in another place.

Action to stop the exploitation of space in a Southsea garage enclosure resulted in the caravans thereon illegally stationed being removed. Some of these so-called caravans were unfit adapted bus-bodies.

The Department's attention was directed to an area of land behind an Eastney private dwelling house, and accommodating two caravans. There being a separate w.c. and water supply and one caravan having been removed, temporary permission for the occupation of one caravan was given and no action was taken on the contravention of Section 269.

An application to station a caravan on the site of a partially erected filling station was refused on the grounds that the sanitary arrangements, claimed to be accessible to the applicants, were not in existence and further that the Corporation site with full facilities existed across the road.

### HOUSEBOATS

No applications to berth boats at the houseboat station on the Eastern Road were received.

## HOUSING

*"The house of every one is to him as his castle and fortress."*

SIR EDWARD COKE, 1552-1634.

Saving for mass destruction like the great fire of London, or the devastation by aerial bombardment wrought in World War II, it can be said that at no time in history has the clearance of obsolescent dwelling houses kept pace with new building construction. Add to this fact the enforced holiday from major repairs caused by financial and material stringencies arising out of the last war and the cumulative effect is the same in most cities and towns of the United Kingdom—an aggregation of decrepit buildings. In Portsmouth the pressing problem of finding living accommodation caused many people to buy houses in areas noted for inferior and unfit homes, at prices greatly out of proportion to their value. Thus, what could have been a straightforward problem to be solved by a vigorous campaign in 1939, by reason of an increase to the surprising figure of 25% in owner-occupied properties, had become a Gordian Knot when the Government finally directed local authorities to submit proposals for slum clearance. In sixteen years a radical change in values had made the existing legislation obsolescent as well as the houses. Here it may be useful retrospection to record that in 1948 I urged that a housing survey should be made in the City and that an increased complement of qualified staff be secured to carry this out. Unfortunately neither materialised, and in 1954, when the resumption of powers under the Housing Act, 1936, was urged upon local authorities, the Council was faced with the problem of submitting by 1955 an estimate of the number of unfit houses within their boundary. In the absence of sufficient time and staff to make the statutory survey it was felt incumbent to use the statistics available in the City Development Plan and from this it appeared that, of 18,000 "sub-standard houses" in Portsmouth, 7,000 seemed to be a reasonable number for clearance over a period of 20 years, and further inquiry showed that this figure had already been accepted by your Committee. A programme dealing with 100 houses in 1956, 200 in 1957, 300 in 1958 and accelerating to 400 a year thereafter to achieve 7,000 was approved. Shortly afterwards in 1955 it became evident that owners of property in the scheduled streets might complicate the situation by applying for and receiving improvement grants under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, and for easy reference to prevent this a plan showing the areas affected in five year stages was submitted to the Committee. It is on record that at this meeting I referred to the difficulties which were liable to arise from the absence of a comprehensive housing survey of the areas concerned.

Whitehall's surprising reaction to the programme submitted was to urge its accomplishment in 15 years instead of 20 and to divert at least one third and up to one half of the City's annual production of dwellings to this end, the Ministry's opinion being that the building land shortage would be eased by sites provided by clearance with a peak effort in 1958. In compliance with Ministry wishes the scheme was compressed into 15 years, and the information was released to the Press.

The vehemence of the public reaction when the proposals were ventilated surprised even those who had anticipated vigorous opposition. An Owner-Occupiers Protection Association was formed and it is to the credit of these and similar nation-wide bodies that Parliament hurriedly amended the compensation clauses in the existing legislation to be more favourable to dispossessed post-war owner-occupiers. Nevertheless, the press correspondence carried partisan sub-titles such as "Resistance Movements", "Legalised Robbery" more frequently than the common-sense injunction "Caveat Emptor". It would appear that the misapplication of the term

"Slum Clearance" to a "Provisional Housing Redevelopment" Programme stimulated public indignation almost as much as the two main objections (1) the basis of compensation and (2) the wish not to be dispossessed from what appeared, to the owner/occupier, suitable accommodation. To the official, his position between Government instruction and local opinion became something like Macaulay's legendary figure when "those behind cried 'Forward' and those before cried 'Back'". The necessity for a more accurate classification of the properties in the scheme having become imperative your instructions relating to pilot surveys were put into effect in the "Green area" in which were houses "at the present time in many cases not seriously unfit". (Health and Housing Minute 176—15.2.1956). This prospecting by your staff yielded the information that 2,400 out of the 2,568 properties could not be regarded as unfit for human habitation, regard being had to the standard of the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, and the Housing Act, 1936, and the result of this 10% survey was duly reported to the Committee on 21st March, 1956. Later in July, by a progress report, I stated that a 43% survey of 2,573 houses scheduled in the 5—10 years period revealed that 1,482 properties should be excluded but that in some of the streets to be deleted there existed 161 individual unfit houses. I added that it would be necessary to scan the first five years programme to the extend of 99% of the houses.

In November, in company with Alderman Lacey, Councillor Nye and my colleagues, the City Development and City Estates Officers, I visited Birmingham to observe operations on temporary rehabilitation of unfit dwellings in that City, and whether any parallel could be established between the immense problem and "solutions" in Birmingham and the lesser, but more complex, difficulties of the Portsmouth housing programme. A report subscribed by your officers and summarising the useful knowledge gained was submitted to and approved by the Special Joint Housing Redevelopment Sub-Committee.

By the end of the year the following inspections had been made.

<i>Period</i>			
1956-60	...	...	1,803
1961-65	...	...	1,199
1966-70	...	...	303
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	3,305
			<hr/>

#### DEMONSTRATION OF IMPROVED HOUSES

To stimulate public interest in the fact that improvement grants and loans may be obtained from local authorities for the rehabilitation of outmoded but structurally sound dwelling houses, the Government have demonstrated several examples of improved buildings in various parts of the country. In 1956 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government selected Portsmouth as an ideal venue for a similar exhibition in the Southern region and asked for the co-operation of the Council to locate suitable premises for the experiment.

Many factors influenced the choice of houses and considerable prospecting had to be done to find properties that

- (a) could be acquired quickly and at suitable cost
- (b) were structurally sound
- (c) were outmoded in that they had no bathrooms, no hot water installations, no internal w.c's, etc.
- (d) were situated so as to be reasonably accessible to the public
- (e) were fairly representative of dwelling houses in the city.







**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

To identify buildings with these specifications needed more information than was available in any one Department, but in the ultimate selection the records of the housing inspections carried out by the public health inspectors proved invaluable, leading to the choice of 140, 142, 144 Malins Road, Mile End, three terrace type houses built in the age of architectural poverty when solidity and continuity excluded imagination and light.

These 70 year old houses were acquired for £750 and after rehousing the sitting tenants, sums of £609 and £635 were expended on works in Nos. 142 and 140 respectively, whilst the remaining property was left in its original state for purposes of comparison. Alternative treatments were given to the improved houses but both included insertion of damp-proof courses, modernisation of kitchens (see photographs opposite this page), installation of hot water systems, creation of bathrooms and internal w.c.'s. Particular emphasis was made on the replacement of obsolete firegrates by others of approved design for the economical use of solid fuel. The rejuvenated freeholds were reassessed by the Council at rents of £1.7s.1½d. (including 10/3d rates) and £1.9s.7d. (including 10/3d. rates) as compared with 15/8d. and 17/8½d. (including 8/2d. rates). Ranking for grant on these properties were amounts of £304.10s.0d. and £317.10s.0d.

The exhibition was an unqualified success in that 28,089 people made a tour of the three houses in the 24 days they were on view, their orbit through the furnished rooms being ensured by temporary doorways so that persons entering at the untreated No. 144 circulated through No. 142 and departed at 140. It is not possible to gauge the value of this demonstration within the scope of this report as any appreciable increase in applications will not be apparent until early 1957.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses Demolished.	Demolished		Displaced during year	
	Unfit	Others	Persons	Families
<b>IN CLEARANCE AREAS:</b>				
(Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Houses on land required under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	4	—	8	2
<b>NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS:</b>				
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ...	4	—	73	16
<b>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED:</b>				
Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 10(1) and 11(2) ... ..		<i>Number</i>		
Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 ...		26	93	21
Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) Housing Act, 1949 ... ..		—	—	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..		4	13	3
<b>Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.</b>				
After informal action by local authority ... ..			<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
After formal notice under:			586	—
(a) Public Health Acts ... ..			197	—
(b) Housing Act, 1936 ... ..			1	—
<b>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).</b>				
Retained for temporary accommodation under Sections 2, 3 and 4 ... ..			—	—
Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 6 ...			—	—
<b>Purchase of Houses by Agreement.</b>				
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased ... ..			—	—

**Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.**

No. of applications for certificates of disrepair ... ..	7
No. of certificates of disrepair granted ... ..	7
No. of applications refused ... ..	—
No. of applications for revocation of certificate of disrepair	6
No. of applications for revocation of certificate of disrepair	6
granted ... ..	6
No. of applications for revocation of certificate of disrepair	—
refused ... ..	—

**Improvement Grants.**

Formal applications for Improvement Grants investigated	65
Formal applications for Improvement Grants not investi-	20
gated ... ..	20
Completion certificates issued in regard to Formal Im-	35
provement Grants ... ..	35
Informal applications for Improvement Grants investi-	83
gated ... ..	83
Informal applications for Improvement Grants not visited	163
Formal applications for Loans investigated ... ..	3
Formal applications for Loans not investigated ... ..	1

**Persons Inadequately Housed.**

(a) Housing applications requested for assessment ... ..	1,735
(b) Housing applications referred by the City Treasurer	4,856
for assessment ... ..	4,856
(c) Housing applications forwarded for Public Health	1,381
Inspector's investigation prior to allocation ... ..	1,381
(d) Housing applications issued to the Public Health	1,023
Inspectors... ..	1,023
Total number of housing applications dealt with ... ..	<u>7,972</u>

NOTE:—figure (d) included in (a) and (b)

Action resulting from investigation of applicant's conditions was as follows:—

Principal tenants informed that after rehousing of	
their sub-tenants no further sub-tenants would be	
rehoused from that sub-standard house ... ..	4
Underground rooms inspected ... ..	34
Owners of underground rooms sent extract from	
Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	9
Owners of underground rooms required not to relet	
same ... ..	2
Dwelling house not to be relet ... ..	1
Owners required not to relet unfit caravans ... ..	3
Notifications to external authorities on rehousing of	
persons occupying unfit premises in that authority's	
area ... ..	3

**LAND CHARGES INQUIRIES**

3,184 addresses or sites in course of conveyance to new owners were the subjects of memoranda from the Town Clerk, and besides being searched against for existing notices were checked against the Provisional Housing Redevelopment Programme.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, AND FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955****PREMISES GENERALLY****CATERING**

There was minimal activity in this sphere of work, only immediately necessary investigation of complaints or inspection of proposed food premises being undertaken. Fortunately the year was practically devoid of incident so far as public dissatisfaction with local caterers was concerned, and there was a corresponding lull in new ventures in the catering business. Therefore the impact of the new legislation in the above statutes was a little dulled.

The repeal of the 1938 and 1954 Acts and the operative date of 1st January, 1956, for the superseding enactment were not unobserved by all the local caterers, and many requests were made to the Department for literature outlining the new requirements and these were met so far as Departmental facilities would allow. Several of the larger establishments requested that their premises be appraised in the light of the recent standards and so far as this could be done their requests were complied with.

At the instance of the Director of Welfare Services a survey was made of the catering arrangements in St. Mary's House, Jubilee Homes for the Blind, Elizabeth House, Margaret House, Workshops for the Disabled, St. Vincent Lodge and St. Bernard Lodge. Although nowhere in these establishments was cleanliness lacking, it was observed that in the older, outmoded premises it was only secured at the expense of much hard work when compared with the newer, better equipped premises. Omissions of statutory requirements were noted and a copy of the inspector's report embodying general recommendations for satisfying them was sent to the Director.

The long awaited conclusion of the life of the sub-standard Willow Cafe, which has had interminable reprieves through being on Crown property, eluded 1956 and has now been officially forecast for 1957.

Another establishment causing Departmental headaches was that adapted from space under the British Railway arches at Ordnance Row.

#### FAGGOTS AND PEAS

Worthy of comment in this report is the optimistic application for the conversion of a failing business of cats and dogs meat shop into that of a manufacturer of faggots and peas. Fortunately the unsuitability of the premises was unsurmountable and this dubious project thereby failed.

#### TOFFEE APPLES

Many amateur confectioners are tempted by an assured market and the relative ease and cheapness of production into the manufacture of toffee apples. Through juvenile eyes these may appear as delectable sweetmeats, but enquiry into their origin may make them anything but desirable. This Department has in previous years stopped the sale of toffee apples which were manufactured under dubious conditions and carried to the vending site in a dilapidated suitcase. In 1956 a complaint revealed a considerable traffic in this confection from a sub-standard house with extremely poor kitchen facilities. The toffee was boiled in the household saucepan in a dingy scullery and the dipped apples were impaled on sticks splintered from wood lying unprotected in the yard and accessible to all local animals. A notice to the offender to cease production was at first ignored, but by threat of prosecution the Department solved another sticky problem.

#### VANS

With the increase in mobile shops and other food-dispensing vehicles, whose capacity and range enable them to operate at considerable distance from the firms' headquarters, the problem of ensuring facilities for personal hygiene of driver-salesmen has become an urgent one. The comparative ease with which mass food-poisoning can originate from an infected food handler is exemplified in many classical cases, and this risk to the public must be even greater in the case of the itinerant food-vendor, who has recourse to sundry sanitary conveniences but no ablution facilities. I have therefore discussed the essentials of this matter with members of the food trade and have obtained that at least soap, nail brush and clean towel be available in vans whilst attaining the long-term objective of washing facilities en vehicle. A list of the firm's depots, and the inevitable exhortation to wash the hands after use of toilet are also to be posted in the vans.

### COMPLAINTS

Such complaints as were made to the Department were of minor consequence, e.g. an objection to the use of a communal spoon on string for tea stirring in a B.R. refreshment room; the type of interior decoration used to typify a rural cafe; dermatitis on the hands of a confectionery vendor.

### PREMISES USED FOR PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF PRESERVED FOODS

Two applications for registration of premises under Section 16 were investigated and approved.

### FOOD PREMISES

It is regretted that no reliable information exists at present regarding the number of food premises in the City by type of business.

### CLEAN FOOD GUIDES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

No clean food guild has been established in the City and, owing to the intensification of the housing survey, no official time was absorbed by educational activities, although senior members of the staff devoted a certain amount of leisure time to keeping the public informed on Departmental activities.

At the Dairy Festival Exhibition in June an exhibit on a theme of Clean Food was made available by the Ministry of Health and attracted much attention.

The poster sites inherited from the Empire Marketing Board have been used to display posters designed by a member of the staff.

### EXTRANEOUS MATTER IN FOOD

That staple article of diet, bread, figured on no less than seven occasions in complaints about foodstuffs containing foreign bodies and generally there was a marked increase of these incidents. The need for careful and impartial investigation was emphasised particularly on two occasions where microscopic examination proved the meretricious nature of the alleged find. The first instance was the so-called discovery of a cigarette end in a loaf of bread, a claim which was discredited by the Public Analyst's report that the surrounding crumb had been unaffected by the tobacco and the condition of the butt itself was evidence that it had not been incorporated in the dough during baking but had been placed in the loaf afterwards. At what stage between leaving the bakery and reaching the Department this had occurred remains conjecture. A similar finding was made in the second instance where tinned corned beef allegedly containing a moth larva was brought into the Department. The Analyst's scrutiny showed that larva had not been subjected to the temperatures of the canning process, but must have arrived somehow after the opening ceremony! A further incorrect assumption was alleged presence of brush fibres in minced chicken, which microscopic examination demonstrated as the muscle fibre of the chicken.

No proceedings were entered against offenders, the action being given in the following table.

<i>Material or object</i>	<i>Found in</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Oil	Bread	Explanation accepted
Moth larva	Corned beef	Disproved
Hair	Roll	Explanation accepted
Match stick	Fruit cake	Explanation accepted
Fibres	Minced chicken	Proved to be chicken muscle fibre
Mould	Sausage roll	Serious warning
Glass flakes	Dressed crab	No action
Cardboard shavings	Between loaf and wrapper	Explanation accepted
Piece of wire	Loaf	Serious warning
Cigarette end	Loaf	Disproved
Dead fly	Loaf	Explanation accepted
Rodent excreta	Loaf	Proceeding
Sacking fibres and rodent excreta	Flour	Proceeding
Rodent excreta	Loaf	Proceeding

### MISUSE OF SOFT DRINKS BOTTLES

The considerable risk to the public arising from the sometimes unhealthy and often dangerous practice of using soft drinks bottles as containers for disinfectants and other lethal liquids has been drawn to my attention by the Secretary of the National Association of Soft Drinks Manufacturers. This Association recently succeeded in proceedings against a firm for putting up and selling bleach in the bottles of a well known lime juice manufacturer. Further, they have been advised that legally there is no material difference in selling a liquid other than that properly meant to be sold in a proprietary bottle from the act of filling a similar sale into a branded bottle brought in by a customer. This interpretation of the Merchandise Marks Act and its possible effect on complaints made to the Public Health Department seemed to justify an offer to dispense any of the Association's warning notices to local merchants.

### SHELLFISH

One anonymous complaint telling of the gathering for sale or distribution of cockles in the Rudmore area of the foreshore in contravention of the Portsmouth (Shellfish) Regulations, 1918, was grudgingly investigated and an undertaking from the offender not to so fish for gain or distribution was accepted.

### EXHUMATIONS

The mass exhumation from the site of St. Mary's Churchyard, Old Portsmouth, envisaged in my 1954 report, commenced last autumn. The site, now immediately under the shadow of the C.E.A.'s generating station, and, according to a tombstone survey, reputed to hold 204 bodies, was required for a coal stock yard. Because of the area involved, individual exhumation was impracticable but, although mechanical digging was resorted to, the operation lost nothing of the reverence and decency required for single grave-opening. The collection and re-interment of such remains as were unearthed were the responsibility of a London firm specialising in this type of work. A few brick vaults in excellent preservation were uncovered, but no complete cadavers came to light, the mouldering of coffin and corpse being practically complete after nearly one hundred and fifty years of burial. Each lift of earth was meticulously searched for human traces, those found being collected in specially made containers and thereafter transported to another local cemetery for second committal. Vault and obvious grave sites were limed. The operation which lasted over a period of several weeks was visited frequently to see that the ordinances governing exhumations were observed.

The granting of two other faculties was notified to the Department and the district health inspector reported that both exhumations were carried out in the required manner.

#### NUISANCES FROM DEPOSITS, DUST, SMELLS, ETC.

This usually prolific, if somewhat unrewarding field of work, yielded fewer complaints.

A high percentage of those made were offences against police-operated bye-laws and referred to inorganic matter being dumped on war-damage sites. Together with misdirected complaints about improper conduct in public places, they were redirected to the City Police.

The penetration of a solicitor's offices by diesel exhaust fumes from the running engines of stationary public service passenger vehicles at a bus depot was the subject of complaints made by the solicitor. The latter referred to this occurrence as a contravention of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1951, and the correspondence was accordingly viewed by the Chief Constable who took appropriate action. It has since been observed that vehicles waiting for any noteworthy time at this point now switch off.

Perhaps the premier achievement of the year was the successful outcome of the vigorous campaign launched by the occupiers of houses in the Central Depot neighbourhood against the continued use of the concentrator plant on this Corporation property. Innumerable protests against the fumes from the cooking processes and accumulated swill which permeated the vicinity were investigated with the conclusion that, although justification for complaint from smell existed, the well known difficulty of proving prejudice to health prevented effective objection by the Department. Although the loss of revenue may be regretted, the decision to stop using the plant will put an end to this source of complaint.

Considering the number of adults and children who suffer from that distressing condition—travel sickness—it is remarkable that soiled buses occur so infrequently and this year brought the first recorded complaint of such a happening. The Company stated that the continued use of a fouled bus could only have occurred by oversight during a peak-travel hour, as all such buses are withdrawn for cleansing immediately they reach a depot.

Equipment to deodorise a potato crisp factory is still being experimented with in order that the considerable expense of purchasing may be justified.

As usual, complaints under this section of the Public Health Act showed great variety and included such diversities as fumes from the burning of fish, ducks kept outside a mission chapel, deadly nightshade in council flats, rabbit breeding in a pram shed, diesel oil stains, defiling of hedges, soiling of bedding, etc., etc.

One complaint of noise, investigated at the insistence of an old lady, was found to have no justification. It had a rather pathetic solution when the elderly complainant made a demonstration against the alleged source and was removed to hospital where she continued to hear the noises complained of.

#### REFUSE RECEPTACLES

These heterogeneous containers still used by householders who are hygiene-unconscious are as primitive as ever. It is a nice discrimination by the loaders which presents these filthy vessels from being removed with the other corruption.

## PESTOLOGY

Two hundred and ninety-six complaints of infestations were received. Most unique was one which would have given considerable cause for reflection to anybody named Pharoah, when a host of frogs invaded the Cosham area, and by-passing normal routes appeared in w.c. pans via sewer! Their origin was never definitely established but may have had to do with the alterations in the Cosham sewage and surface water disposal works.

Despite the ease with which disinfection by spraying insecticide can be carried out, there are still citizens who are indifferent to the presence of vermin in their homes and a number of the inspectors became infested with fleas despite liberal applications of so-called deterrents to their garments. 208 sorties were made against a catalogue of insects by the disinfector.

A mass infestation of land disturbed by building operations was identified as that of the larvae of crane-flies, large numbers of which emerged from the ground on a nocturnal migration and caused considerable wonderment to their discoverers. Identification of bugs, steam-flies, gentles, woolly bears, furniture beetles and flour beetles was also sought and advice on disinfection measures to eradicate fleas, bugs, moths, ants, black beetles, flour beetles, steam-fly, woolly bear, woodlice was dispensed to perplexed or irritated complainants.

Occasional advice was sought and given on the subject of rodent infestation, a report on which figures on other pages.

## CINEMAS

Again this year only minor defects, easily remedied, were noted during inspection and no certificates were thereby jeopardised.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It was fortunate that no major outbreak of infectious disease occurred with the staff fully extended on other matters.

387 visits were made to homes where either actual cases occurred or contacts lived.

No case of typhoid fever occurred, but two cases of paratyphoid B. were investigated but remained exasperatingly obscure in origin. Whilst the diet and history of one patient could be checked in every detail, the other had woven a complicated pattern of movement and consequently the items of her diet could not be adequately checked. Comparison of the two cases revealed only one similarity, both had eaten shellfish round about a probable date of infection, but bacteriological examination of cockles from identical sources as those suspected proved abortive, as did specimens from all contacts.

Eight minor family outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning infections involved fourteen cases of which one at least could be attributed in theory to ducks' eggs other than which the patient ate practically nothing. Examination of the household's stock of eggs was negative but the mother, also a duck-egg virtuoso, yielded a similar organism to that of the patient.

Two staphylococcal food poisoning outbreaks were investigated. Most inquiries end with the fact that none of the suspected food is left for examination, but in both these cases sufficient remained to identify the organism. The violent illness of two people after consuming part of a can of a well-known brand of corned beef was found to be due to the previous action on the meat by the staphylococci, enormous numbers of which were found in the residue of the beef. No organisms were isolated from either patient, and as the identified bacteria in the food had apparently been destroyed by the



processing heat it appeared reasonable to attribute the outbreak to a pre-formed toxin, due to infection of the meat some time before canning. The high standard of the firm's product was without question but nevertheless four other tins from the same consignment were bacteriologically examined, and one gave a scanty growth of staphylococci. A further 54 tins recalled from the original retail order were examined, and were negative with the exception of micrococci, apparently an incursion through a leaking seam. That one tin should become isolated from its fellows and be untreated for sufficient time for toxin to form, and then be discovered, processed and released, is the only possible explanation at the production end.

The second family staphylococcal outbreak was due to infected ham, a small piece of which recovered from the household bin yielded an organism identical with that of the patients and of the housewife who prepared the meal.

Some dysentery flared up in a residential nursery, a day nursery and a families unit, and the routine investigation produced a number of unsuspected positives from family contacts.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Records of the chemical and bacteriological analysis of piped water drawn from various sources are a continuity in the Public Health Department shewing the unvarying excellence of the supply, the several analysts being unanimous that the City is provided with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. 1956 proved no exception and, with one year to go to complete its century as a public utility supplying the prime necessity of life, the Portsmouth Water Company may well be proud of its service to the public.

On four occasions specimens were submitted to the laboratory for chemical analysis because consumers had some doubts about their supplies. Two revealed traces of metal corrosion due to galvanic action, this having a probable origin in the different metals used in the domestic system, but the deposits, although undesirable, were so fractional as to have no toxic effect. One sample was taken at the request of a firm who sought assurance that their food factory commanded an organically pure supply. The fourth specimen came from a basement and its source was thought to be the mains; but analysis shewed that it had the characteristics of unchlorinated spring water.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT

INSPECTION OF PREMISES							1954	1955	1956
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,969	4,282	3,819
New dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,484	1,574	659
Boarding houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	—
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2
Tents, vans, sheds, caravans, camping sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	153	59	31
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	343	93	117
Houseboats	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	7	4
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	5	14
Smoke, chemical and colour tests to old drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	334	188	244
Chemical and other tests to new drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	230	211	189
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,147	236	2,520
Housing Act, 1936, Permitted No. Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	1	2
Underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	39	34
Power factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	779	215	195
Non-power factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	111	44	29
Work places	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	18	6
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	23	30
Rag Flock Act, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	16	15

Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	214	42	11
Town and Country Planning Acts, 1940/48	...	...	...	...	...	50	4	—
Cinemas, theatres, circuses, fun-fairs and other places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	24	24	12
W.D. buildings and sites	...	...	...	...	...	16	4	5
Rodent control (other than included in rodent control report)	...	...	...	...	...	260	109	79
Nursery schools and child minders	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	8
Private schools	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
Nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	1
<i>Re</i> Rent Restriction certificates	...	...	...	...	...	23	32	7
<i>Re</i> Revocation	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	6
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	65	89	38
Beaches	...	...	...	...	...	14	6	—
Chapel of Rest	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
<i>Re</i> informal application for Improvement Grant	...	...	...	...	...	—	43	83
<i>Re</i> formal application for Improvement Grant	...	...	...	...	...	18	81	65
Loans, Section 4, Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	34	79	61
Ships	...	...	...	...	...	148	91	68

## VISITS

	1954	1955	1956
To dwelling houses <i>re</i> notices and miscellaneous visits	11,449	6,850	4,794
Factories <i>re</i> notices	79	30	10
To rodent infested premises (not included in rodent control report)	290	89	133
To new buildings <i>re</i> occupation certificates	2,230	1,185	1,010
<i>Re</i> obstructed and defective sewers	511	225	292
Abortive Visits (Housing Act)	—	—	710

## INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

	1954	1955	1956
Ice cream manufacturers	128	183	145
Ice cream retailers	520	317	298
Tripe boilers	4	3	1
Bakeries	207	77	114
Shellfish vendors	13	6	21
School meal cooking depots	—	2	15
Fish friers	168	21	1
Fishmongers	36	33	12
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	964	151	33
Butchers, etc.	—	24	26
Grocers	—	39	26
Sugar boilers	5	2	1
Sugar wholesalers	—	3	1
Bacon smokers	1	1	—
Mineral and aerated water bottlers	3	6	—
Beer bottlers	3	3	—
Pickle manufacturers	7	2	—
Potato crisp manufacturers	20	5	5
Dairies	321	325	362
Preserved food premises, Section 14	9	5	7
<i>Re</i> meat and food condemnation	51	87	79
Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	2,048	34	—
Miscellaneous	—	19	120

## INVESTIGATIONS

	1954	1955	1956
Recorded complaints	3,337	3,094	3,226
Additional unrecorded complaints	584	36	81
Smoke nuisances	133	41	118
Infectious diseases	421	467	387
Typhoid cases and suspected cases	3	4	—
Smallpox, typhoid, etc. contacts	82	75	34
Paratyphoid B. cases and suspected cases	37	41	44
Food poisoning and suspected food poisoning cases	67	63	118
Council house applications and transfers	3,773	2,218	1,023

Council accommodation allocations ... ..	3,335	1,004	1,381
Cleanliness in factories ... ..	—	1	—
Verminous persons and premises ... ..	112	120	145
Rodent infestation complaints (not included in rodent report)	203	96	79
Mosquito infestation ... ..	5	3	28
Sea water ... ..	63	6	2
Swimming and paddling pool water ... ..		103	38
Various ... ..	—	47	83

## NOTICES AND NOTIFICATION

	1954	1955	1956
Abatement Notices, Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	632	299	239
Letter forms <i>re</i> defects (Intimation Notices) ... ..	1,810	1,338	971
Letters requiring execution of work with further delay ... ..	226	102	56
Letters requiring execution of work within 7 days ... ..	156	107	45
Letters requiring execution of work forthwith ... ..	22	3	1
Notice of intention to enter buildings ... ..	15	10	3
Dangerous buildings ... ..	95	41	94
Obstructed or defective sewers ... ..	204	57	239
Occupation certificates ... ..	931	862	471
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	22	6	1
Factories Act, 1937—Informal notice ... ..	36	6	5
Shops Act ... ..	86	—	20
Sanitary certificates (Rent Restriction) ... ..	23	33	7
Notification premises or parts of premises closed ... ..	19	15	3
Basements or underground rooms ... ..	44	3	34
	<u>4,321</u>	<u>2,882</u>	<u>2,189</u>

## RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received ... ..	1,514
Number of premises visited during survey ... ..	10,494
Total ... ..	<u>12,008</u>

Number of premises treated by Local Authority 2,943

2,163 of the premises treated were private dwelling houses, 404 business premises, and 171 Local Authority premises. Sixteen Naval establishments and 5 agricultural properties were included in the business premises. Ten major infestations and 1,415 minor infestations of rats and 1,318 minor infestations of mice comprise the 2,743 premises treated.

Of 4,205 manholes in the City's sewerage system, 2,639 were baited and good results obtained.

Refuse tips, sewage disposal works, docks, foreshores, and allotments received treatment as necessary, and no complaint was received from the British Railways in respect of their permanent ways being affected by rodents.

Education Committee premises were visited and treated where necessary.

The contract between the Council and the Director of Navy Contracts affecting Admiralty property within the City continues.

The principal poison used was again Warfarin, but sewer treatments alternated between zinc phosphide and arsenic with one experimental exception making trial of Warfarin.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. APPLETON,  
*Chief Health Inspector.*

## REPORT ON CLEANSING

I am indebted to the Manager of the Cleansing and Haulage Department for the following report on the Cleansing Service during the year:—

In 1956 the collection of refuse was maintained at regular weekly intervals by a fleet of vehicles and ninety refuse collectors, with special services for hotels and larger boarding houses as requested during the summer season. Altogether approximately 75,000 tons of refuse were removed.

Disposal of refuse was carried out by controlled tipping at Great Salterns, where a large area of land has now been reclaimed. At the tip a bulldozer, excavator, bucket loader and four men were engaged in regulating the tip.

The sweeping staff of one hundred men and two mechanical sweepers ensured that the 219 miles of streets in Portsmouth received regular attention, all main roads being swept daily, and all others twice weekly. Fortunately the weather in the early months of the year was cold, although no heavy falls of snow were experienced, which made the work of the Department lighter than for some years past. Gritting and sanding of roads at danger spots continued in times of bad weather. Gully cleansing and alley washing continued at regular intervals, two machines and four men being engaged on this work.

Three cesspool emptiers and six men were fully engaged during the year endeavouring to maintain the monthly service. New premises erected at Paulsgrove caused an extra heavy burden to be borne by this service.

The Salvage Section of the Department continued to do good work in reclaiming waste materials from the refuse, four men being engaged at the controlled tip and eight others in the sorting and baling shed.

1956 saw the closing down of the Concentrator Plant, due to increased pressure from residents in the neighbourhood. The temporary plant which was erected during the war has processed thousands of tons of pig food during its life, and contributed in no small measure to the relief of rates in the City.

The markets for waste paper and other salvageable materials remained steady, and during the period an average monthly tonnage of 160 tons of waste paper was maintained.

## PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
1 Western Parade,  
Portsmouth.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the work of the Port Health Authority of Portsmouth during the year 1956.

### SECTION I—STAFF

**TABLE A**

<i>Name of Officer</i>	<i>Nature of appointment</i>	<i>Date of appointment</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Any other appointment held</i>
T. E. ROBERTS	Port Medical Officer of Health	1.11.47	M.B., B.S. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer, City of Portsmouth.
W. F. APPLETON	Chief Port Health Inspector	1.1.52	F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.	Chief Public Health Inspector, City of Portsmouth.

*Address and Telephone Number of the Medical Officer of Health:*

*Official:* 1 WESTERN PARADE, PORTSMOUTH 74581, Ext. 144

*Private:* 3 CARMARTHEN AVENUE, COSHAM, PORTSMOUTH 76143

### SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

**TABLE B**

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	448	133,505	—	35	—
Coastwise* ...	4,497	892,325	—	33	—
Total ...	4,945	1,025,830	—	68	—

\*Includes local traffic between Southampton, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth.

### SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

**TABLE C**

There is no passenger traffic.

*Cargo Traffic.* The principal imports were coal, cement, stone, oil, timber, glassware, building materials, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cauliflower, citrus fruits, apples, pears, peaches, nuts, chocolate and general cargo traffic, from France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Norway, North Africa, Spain and Channel Islands.

The principal exports were pitch, machinery, scrap iron, fertilisers, oxide, barley and general cargo.

#### SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic.

#### SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

No change.

#### SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

No change.

#### SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) Cases of smallpox are removed to the smallpox hospital at Crabwood, near Winchester.
- (2) Cases are conveyed by the Portsmouth Municipal Ambulance and Medical Car Service, the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews being: 17 vaccinated in 1956, 12 in 1955, 5 in 1954, 1 in 1952, 1 in 1951, 3 not known.
- (3) The smallpox consultant is Dr. I. M. McLachlan, Physician Superintendent, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Portsmouth (Tel. 74531).
- (4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox exist, by arrangement with the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Area Pathological Service, at the Central Laboratory, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Portsmouth.

#### SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

No change.

#### SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ships ... ..	—	—	—	—

#### SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No malaria occurred in ships during the year.

#### SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No plague or suspected plague occurred in ships during the year.

#### SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

- (1) Vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Health Inspector. Rat disinfestation is carried out by the Rodent Control Section of the Health Department in the port area.

- (2) Bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents can be carried out at the Central Laboratory, Infectious Diseases Hospital; none was examined during the year.
- (3) The Port is not approved for the deratting of ships and, by agreement with Southampton Port Health Authority, this is undertaken by them, and fourteen Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued during the year.
- (4) When necessary, rat guards are placed on ropes between ships and quays.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports:							
Category							Number
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

(Not applicable)

## SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Primary 54	—	9	9 complied with
Others 14	—	—	—
Total 68	—	9	—

## SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948

No change.

## SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS (APPLICABLE ONLY TO PORTS APPROVED FOR THE LANDING OF ALIENS)

No change.

## SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS

No change.

I desire to express my thanks to the Queen's Harbour Master and H.M. Collector of Customs and their staff for their cordial co-operation and valuable assistance during the year, and to record my appreciation of the service rendered by the Port Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. E. ROBERTS,  
 Medical Officer of Health,  
 City and Port of Portsmouth

13th March, 1957.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

THE PUBLIC ANALYST'S DEPARTMENT,  
TRAFALGAR PLACE,  
CLIVE ROAD,  
PORTSMOUTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.*

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work carried out in my Department during the year 1956.

The total number of samples submitted for examination was 3,617.

These may be summarised as follows:—

Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	1,830
Designated Milk	...	...	...	504
Ice Cream (Hygienic quality)	...	...	...	74
City Water	...	...	...	20
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	122
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act	...	...	...	9

SAMPLES examined for:—

Borough of Gosport	...	...	...	190
Isle of Wight County Council	...	...	...	170
Fareham Urban District Council	...	...	...	108
Other Local Authorities	...	...	...	127
Portsmouth Corporation Departments	...	...	...	236
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	227
				3,617
				906

Atmospheric Pollution Tests

Of the 1,830 samples purchased in the City of Portsmouth and submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 75 (equal to 4.1%) were found to be adulterated, incorrectly labelled or otherwise unsatisfactory.

I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the efficient and loyal service of the technical and clerical staff and the valuable co-operation of the Sampling Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

A. L. WILLIAMS,

*Public Analyst.*



Nature of Sample	Number Examined	Number Genuine	Number Irregular
<b>Foods</b>			
Milk ... ..	707	681	26
Arrowroot ... ..	1	1	-
Baking Powder ... ..	8	8	-
Beef Suet ... ..	12	12	-
Biscuits ... ..	2	1	1
Blancmange Powder ... ..	2	2	-
Flavourings ... ..	5	5	-
Bread ... ..	1	1	-
Butter ... ..	62	62	-
Cake Confectionery ... ..	4	-	4
Cake and Pudding Mixture ... ..	31	29	2
Canned Fish ... ..	7	7	-
Canned Fruit ... ..	2	2	-
Canned Peas ... ..	4	4	-
Canned Soup ... ..	19	19	-
Canned Tomatoes ... ..	6	6	-
Canned Vegetables ... ..	10	10	-
Cereals ... ..	32	32	-
Cheese and Cheese Preparations ... ..	21	20	1
Chocolate Spread ... ..	2	-	2
Cider ... ..	4	4	-
Cinnamon ... ..	4	4	-
Cocoa ... ..	14	14	-
Coconut ... ..	2	2	-
Coffee and Coffee Preparations ... ..	16	16	-
Concentrated Fruit Drink ... ..	2	2	-
Condensed Sweetened Milk ... ..	34	34	-
Cooking Fat ... ..	14	14	-
Cornflour ... ..	3	3	-
Cream of Tartar ... ..	4	4	-
Crystallised Fruit ... ..	6	5	1
Curry Powder ... ..	4	4	-
Custard Powder ... ..	9	9	-
Dried Fruit ... ..	2	2	-
Dried Herbs ... ..	19	19	-
Dried Milk ... ..	2	2	-
Dried Peas ... ..	8	4	4
Drinking Chocolate ... ..	1	1	-
Dripping ... ..	5	5	-
Edible Oil ... ..	6	6	-
Evaporated Milk ... ..	7	7	-
Fish Paste ... ..	13	13	-
Fruit Curd ... ..	13	13	-
Gelatine ... ..	2	2	-
Golden Raising Powder ... ..	7	7	-
Gravy Powder ... ..	1	1	-
Ground Almonds ... ..	12	12	-
Honey ... ..	9	9	-
Ice Cream ... ..	21	17	4
Ice Lolly ... ..	3	2	1
Jam and Marmalade ... ..	44	44	-
Lard ... ..	56	56	-
Margarine ... ..	63	61	2
Marzipan ... ..	7	6	1
Meat Paste ... ..	14	14	-
Mince-meat ... ..	13	13	-
Minced Chicken ... ..	1	1	-
Mixed Peel ... ..	7	7	-
Mixed Spice ... ..	13	13	-
Mustard ... ..	2	2	-
Pepper ... ..	19	19	-
Salad Cream ... ..	9	9	-
Carried forward ...	1,433	1,384	49

Nature of Sample	Number Examined	Number Genuine	Number Irregular
<b>Foods—cont.</b> Brought forward ...	1,433	1,384	49
Salmon with potato salad ...	1	1	—
Sauce and Ketchup ...	10	10	—
Sausages ...	21	18	3
Self Raising Flour ...	11	11	—
Soft Drinks ...	6	6	—
Solid Soft Drinks ...	13	13	—
Soya Flour ...	2	2	—
Sterilised Cream ...	23	23	—
Stuffing ...	2	2	—
Sugar ...	56	56	—
Sugar Confectionery ...	33	31	2
Table Jelly ...	18	18	—
Tea ...	55	54	1
Tomato Juice ...	8	8	—
Tonic Water ...	2	2	—
Treacle and Golden Syrup ...	3	3	—
Vinegar ...	10	10	—
Wine Aperitif ...	1	—	1
<b>Total Foods</b> ...	1,708	1,652	56
<b>Drugs</b>			
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine ...	9	7	2
Anadin and Aspro Tablets ...	2	2	—
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1	1	—
Boracic Ointment ...	6	6	—
Camphorated Oil ...	11	11	—
Castor Oil ...	8	8	—
Cinnamon and Quinine ...	1	1	—
Cod Liver Oil ...	1	1	—
Cold, Cough and Influenza Mixture ...	10	10	—
Emulsion of Liquid Paraffin ...	2	2	—
Glycerin ...	1	1	—
Hydrous Wool Fat ...	5	4	1
Liquid Paraffin ...	1	1	—
Menthol and Wintergreen Cream and Ointment ...	12	7	5
Oil of Eucalyptus ...	2	2	—
Petroleum Jelly ...	1	1	—
Raspberry Vinegar ...	3	3	—
Sal Volatile ...	12	5	7
Seidlitz Powder ...	13	12	1
Sulphur Ointment ...	9	7	2
Syrup of Squills ...	4	4	—
Tincture of Iodine ...	2	1	1
Throat and Cough Tablets ...	3	3	—
White Precipitate Ointment ...	2	2	—
Zinc Ointment ...	1	1	—
<b>Total Drugs</b> ...	122	103	19
<b>TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS</b> ...	1,830	1,755	75

	Number Examined	Number Irregular	Percentage Irregular
Milks ...	707	26	3·7
Other Foods ...	1,001	30	3·0
Drugs ...	122	19	15·6

## CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

Some of the 1956 legislation which affects the work of this Department is as follows:—

THE MILK AND DAIRIES (CHANNEL ISLAND AND SOUTH DEVON MILK) REGULATIONS 1956 provides that all milk which is sold as Channel Island, Jersey, Guernsey or South Devon shall contain not less than 4% milk fat.

THE FOOD STANDARDS (CURRY POWDER) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1956 has raised the maximum permitted lead content of Curry Powder from 10 to 20 parts per million.

THE FOOD STANDARDS (TOMATO KETCHUP) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1956 changes the limit for the amount of copper in Tomato Ketchup and similar products from 50 parts per million expressed on the dry total solids to 20 parts per million on the whole sample.

THE FLOUR (COMPOSITION) REGULATIONS 1956. Flour is the most important single item in the British diet and supplies approximately one third of the energy value, protein, vitamin B, nicotinic acid and iron of the total intake. The public demand for white flour has led to fears that such flour containing less vitamin B, nicotinic acid and iron might possibly lead to certain nutritional deficiencies. Accordingly the Government, in order to safeguard against this possibility and at the same time permit the public to have a whiter flour, has under the above Regulations decreed that certain of these lost nutrients be replaced by the millers. The Regulations provide that all flour shall contain a certain minimum amount of iron, vitamin B and nicotinic acid (or nicotinamide) and that all flour, except that containing the whole of the products derived from milling wheat, shall provide a certain level of Calcium in the form of *Creta Praeparata*.

FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. During the year the Committee has published four reports, viz.

1. Copper in Food
2. Emulsifying and Stabilising Agents in Food
3. Meat Content of Sausages
4. Processed Cheese and Cheese Spread

In the Copper Report the Committee consider that whilst certain foods which are liable to contain excessive amounts of Copper, e.g. Tomato Ketchup, should have a statutory limit prescribed, it is unnecessary to make a statutory limit for all foods.

The Committee has also recommended that, with regard to Emulsifying and Stabilising Agents, only certain chemical compounds should be permitted to be used and that before making additions to this list the substance should be shown to present no health hazard.

With regard to sausages, after consideration of evidence from all sources, the Committee has recommended that beef sausages should contain a minimum of 50% meat and pork sausages a minimum of 65% meat of which at least four-fifths should be pork. It is further recommended that the fat content should not exceed 50% of the meat content.

Finally, the Committee have recommended minimum standards for Processed Cheese and Cheese Spread. The purpose of these standards is to restrict the use of cheese prepared from skimmed milk and to restrict the addition of too much water.

## MILK

Milk is examined in the laboratory from two aspects—chemical and bacteriological.

Chemical examination seeks to disclose the presence of added water, added preservative and added colouring matter, all of which are prohibited. In addition the chemical composition measures the nutritive value of milk and indicates the deviation of a particular sample from the average quality.

Testing for hygienic quality includes an examination which will indicate whether the milk contains an excessive number of bacteria, sufficient to impair the keeping quality of the milk. A further test measures the efficiency of the processes of pasteurisation and sterilisation which, when carried out in the prescribed manner, guarantee that milk is free from the organisms of tuberculosis and other pathogenic diseases.

## CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

During the year 1956, 707 samples were examined from the following sources:—

- 451 from retailers selling to the public
- 203 from farmers delivering to local dairies
- 53 from deliveries of one-third pint bottles to various schools

All the school milks were of satisfactory quality.

Of the 354 samples of ordinary milk in pint bottles from retailers, none contained added water and only 2 could be criticised for a deficiency of cream. In each case the reason was inadequate bulking of churns of morning and afternoon milk.

54 samples of ordinary milk out of 166 from farmers were inferior in quality.

7 samples from one farmer contained small amounts (1 to 3%) of added water. There was evidence of carelessness and the farmer was cautioned.

Milk low in solids-not-fat was recorded in 45 samples from farmers but the low quality was due to the condition of the cows and not to the addition of water.

5 farmers were found to be sending to local dairies churns of milk which were deficient in fat. In most cases the milk satisfied the minimum standard when the whole consignment was efficiently bulked together.

4 farmers were referred to the Agricultural Advisory Service who gave advice on management with a view to improving the quality of milk produced by the herds.

It is important to note that the samples of milks from farmers are selected because they are under suspicion. For this reason, the high proportion of inferior samples is not a measure of the general quality of the milk which farmers are sending to the City. The general quality is best judged by the monthly average composition of the bulked milk sold to the public as shown in the following table:—

Month	% Fat	% Solids-not-Fat	% Total Solids	No. of Samples examined
January ... ..	3·81	8·60	12·41	46
February ... ..	3·82	8·60	12·20	37
March ... ..	3·64	8·58	12·22	37
April ... ..	3·56	8·59	11·92	34
May ... ..	3·52	8·71	11·74	20
June ... ..	3·52	8·74	12·26	34
July ... ..	3·68	8·64	12·32	20
August ... ..	3·71	8·65	12·36	31
September ... ..	3·88	8·77	12·65	33
October ... ..	3·85	8·81	12·66	41
November ... ..	3·87	8·73	12·60	40
December ... ..	3·92	8·69	12·61	26
<b>Average</b> 1956... ..	3·73	8·67	12·32	399
„ 1955... ..	3·75	8·69	12·44	357
„ 1954... ..	3·76	8·69	12·45	396

#### CHANNEL ISLAND MILK

This milk, for which a higher price is charged, is produced from cows of Channel Island breeds and it contains more cream than ordinary milk. For a number of years a standard of 4% fat (as against 3% for ordinary milk) has been applied to this milk. From 1st July, 1956, food and drug authorities have the the responsibility of enforcing this standard. Previously, the quality was governed by a Price Control Order enforced by the Ministry.

134 samples of this type of milk were examined during the year. 97 represented pint bottles sold to the public, 37 from farmers' deliveries to the dairies.

7 churns from 4 different farmers contained less than the minimum standard of fat. In each case the total consignment was satisfactory if all the churns were efficiently bulked together.

This variation in individual churns means that the dairies must carefully bulk the morning with the richer evening milk. Failure to carry out this operation efficiently was responsible for a deficiency of cream in 4 samples from pint bottles.

The superior quality of Channel Island Milk is well maintained as shown below:—

				Average Fat per cent. in mixed milk from one pint bottles	
				Channel Island Milk	Ordinary Milk
1955 ... ..	...	...	...	4·54	3·73
1956 ... ..	...	...	...	4·54	3·75

#### HYGIENIC QUALITY OF MILK

All the milk sold in Portsmouth is processed by heat treatment, i.e. pasteurisation and sterilisation.

The law provides for regular laboratory testing to ensure that these processes are carried out in an efficient manner and last year 451 samples were examined.

The public can be assured that when the tests are satisfied, the milk can be regarded as being free from pathogenic organisms and of reasonable keeping quality.

In 1956, only 3 samples failed to pass the test for efficiency of pasteurisation. All samples were otherwise satisfactory.

## ICE CREAM

### NUTRITIVE QUALITY

Ice cream has an established place as a part of a meal and the proportion consumed in this way must now be comparable with the amount consumed as a delicacy. Under these circumstances the nutritious aspect is important and legal minimum standards of 5% fat, 7½% skimmed milk solids and 10% sugar are prescribed.

16 samples of ice cream were examined for compliance with these statutory limits. Two samples from one manufacturer contained only 4·5% and 4·9% fat. Investigation showed that the recipe in use provided for the bare minimum of 5% fat leaving no tolerance for inevitable manufacturing errors. Another sample contained only 3·9% fat. The deficiency was due to the incorrect use of a complete cold mix ice cream powder and the manufacturer was cautioned.

The remaining 13 samples were satisfactory and the results of analysis show once again that manufacturers can only sell in this highly competitive market if the fat content exceeds the legal minimum by a considerable margin.

Fat per cent.	No. of Manufacturers
Less than 5% ... ..	2
5·0%—7·9% ... ..	1
8·0%—9·9% ... ..	3
10·0% and over ... ..	9

Originally, ice cream was a dairy product but it is now accepted that the fat may be margarine. However, in 1956, one manufacturer introduced a superior product containing over 10% of butter fat and justifiably charged a higher price and made prominent claims for the presence of butter in advertisements.

Exception was taken to the claim of a second manufacturer who advertised that his ice cream 'now contained butter'. A sample contained only 1·4% butter fat and 11·3% margarine fat. The manufacturer claimed that his formula provided for 2½% butter fat and, as this was equivalent to 50% of the minimum standard prescribed by law, it was a substantial amount which justified the claim.

If proposals now under consideration by the Ministry materialise, the law will be amended to provide for three different types of ice cream, viz. :—

Dairy Ice Cream: at least 8% butter fat. Claims for the presence of less butter would be prohibited.

Ice Cream: at least 8% fat (type of fat not specified).

Milk Ices: at least 3% fat—all butter fat.

In addition it is suggested that the milk solids other than fat should be at least 9% for each type of ice cream and that the amount of sugar need not be specified. Saccharin would be prohibited.

## HYGIENIC QUALITY

During the year, of 74 samples examined, 22 were found to be inferior or unsatisfactory from a hygienic viewpoint.

The following table gives the results of all samples together with those for the previous 2 years:—

		1956	1955	1954
Satisfactory	Grade 1	36%	50%	69%
	„ 2	34%	30%	22%
		} 70%	} 80%	} 91%
Inferior	„ 3	27%	10%	5%
Unsatisfactory	„ 4	3%	10%	4%

Although there has been a small decrease in Grades 1 and 2 samples this year, it may be noted that the proportion of samples which are completely unsatisfactory (Grade 4) is the lowest for any year since this system was introduced. As in previous years, manufacturers and retailers have willingly co-operated to provide a minimum of handling of ice cream.

## SAMPLES OTHER THAN MILK NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD

No.	Nature of Sample	Formal Informal Private	Nature of Offence	Observations
H52 H137	Margarine	I	Rancid and unpalatable	Stock withdrawn from sale
H113	Tincture of Iodine	I	Contained excess potassium iodide	Stock withdrawn from sale.
H136	Compound Wintergreen Ointment	I	Misleading description. Formula not in accordance with that prescribed by the B.P.C.	Stock withdrawn from sale. Manufacture ceased
H333	Compound Wintergreen Ointment	I	Contained 42.3% of salicylate instead of 45%. Supplied in porous container — unsuitable for this ointment	Retailer cautioned
H334	Compound Wintergreen Ointment	I	Misleading description	Label to be amended
H348	Compound Wintergreen Ointment	I	Misleading description	Label to be amended
H349	Strong Wintergreen Ointment	I	Formula satisfactory but the ointment was discoloured due to contamination from iron	Stock withdrawn from sale
H298	Pork Sausages	I	Contained 260 p.p.m. undeclared sulphur dioxide	Caution
H337	Cream Horns	I	The filling consisted wholly of imitation cream	Caution
H338	Cream Doughnuts	I		Caution
H447	Peas (prepacked)	I	Label offence. Ingredients of steeping tablet omitted	Label amended
H457	Peas (prepacked)	I		Label amended
H458	Peas (prepacked)	I		Label amended
H391	Tea (prepacked)	I	Label offence. No description of contents	Label to be amended
H476	Processed Cheese (prepacked)	I	Label offence. No name and address of packer	Label to be amended
H501	Butter Toffees rich in butter	I	Misleading label. Contained only the minimum amount of butter. The claim "rich" implies more than minimum	Claim discontinued
H542	Sponge Cake Mixture — Sugar Sweetened	I	Label failed to clearly inform the purchaser that an egg must be added	Old Stock. Satisfactory label introduced in 1954
H919 H934	Chocolate Spread	I	The unqualified word "Glucose" used to describe the ingredient Liquid Glucose	Referred to Food Manufacturers Federation



No.	Nature of Sample	Formal Informal Private	Nature of Offence	Observations
H964	Sulphur Ointment	I	Contained 11.0% Sulphur instead of not more than 10.5%	Stock withdrawn from sale
H967	Ointment of Sulphur B.P.	I	Contained 8.3% Sulphur instead of not less than 9.5%	Stock withdrawn from sale
H985 H1007	Tincture of Quinine B.P.C.	I	Contained excess Quinine and deficient in Ammonia	Stock withdrawn from sale
H962 H1005	Sal Volatile	I	Contained excess Ammonia	Stock withdrawn from sale
H975 H1000 H1001	Sal Volatile	I	Deficient in Ammonia	Stock withdrawn from sale
H991 H1006	Sal Volatile	I	Deficient in Ammonia	Stock withdrawn from sale
H1145	Ice Cream	I	Misleading advertisement. Claimed "Now containing butter" implying a substantial proportion of butter. Sample contained 1.4% butter fat and 11.3% margarine fat	Manufacturer informed
H1146	Fruit Creamy Lolly	I	Misleading description. Contained neither fruit nor fruit juice	Caution Label to be amended
H1238	Double Strength Seidlitz Powder B.P.C.		Six white papers contained excess weight of Tartaric Acid	Caution
H1114	Pork Sausage	I	Contained 100 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide preservative undeclared	Caution
H1269	Ice Cream	I	Deficient of 10% of the prescribed minimum fat	Caution
H1346	Ice Cream	I	Deficient of 22% of the prescribed minimum fat	Caution
H1351	Ice Cream	I	Deficient of 2% of the prescribed minimum fat	Caution
H1340	Peas (prepacked)	I	Label offence. Ingredients of steeping tablets omitted	Label to be amended
H1475	Beef Chipolata Sausages	I	Contained 340 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide undeclared	Caution

No.	Nature of Sample	Formal Informal Private	Nature of Offence	Observations
H1493	Chocolate Cake	P	Contained a mould growth in the centre of the cake	Caution
H1515	Apple Pie	P	Apple filling contained mould growth	Caution
H1388	Butter Shortcake	I	Label offence. Declaration of registered trade mark given inadequately	Packer has undertaken to amend label
H1526	Lanolin Ointment	I	Erroneously labelled B.P.	Label amended
H1450	Marzipan (prepacked)	I	Presence of colour not disclosed. The unqualified word 'Glucose' used to describe the ingredient Liquid Glucose	Label amended
H1605	Glacé Cherries (prepacked)	I	The unqualified word "Glucose" used to describe the ingredient Liquid Glucose	Packer has undertaken to amend the label
H1659	Golden Pudding Mixture	I	Label failed to indicate clearly that purchaser must add egg and fat to make a pudding with the mixture	Manufacturer has undertaken to amend the label
H1795	Wine Aperitif	I	Label offence. No declaration of proof spirit content although claimed to be a mixture of wine and spirits	Label amended
H1716	Liqueur Flavoured Filled Chocolate Bottles	I	Label offence. Inadequate disclosure of the fact that the article was not true liqueur chocolates	Label amended

## ADULTERATED AND UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

## SAUSAGES

The meat content of sausages has been under discussion since 1953. Up to that time, permission to charge a maximum price carried with it the sting of a minimum meat content; 50% for beef sausage and 65% for pork sausage.

No official standards have been in force since de-control in 1953 and the question "What is a sausage?" has been raised frequently in Police Courts, the High Court and the House of Commons. In 1956, the Food Standards Committee examined evidence from all parties interested in the question and eventually issued a report which recommended that the above standards should be maintained by Order as a protection to the public.

Some sections of the trade argue that there is a public demand for cheap sausages containing less meat than the amounts proposed. They cannot, however, agree that a high price will always ensure a high meat content because they claim that a good sausage can be made with less meat if the quality of the meat is superior. These points imply that the quality of sausages must be left entirely to the integrity of the manufacturer.

The matter is now under consideration by the Minister. He must decide whether the protection of the public demands minimum standards or whether trade competition is adequate.

Last year, the analysis of 21 samples indicated insignificant variations from the proposed meat contents and manufacturers appeared to aim to satisfy these standards.

In 3 instances the retailer failed to inform the purchaser that preservative was added to the sausages, contrary to the Preservative Regulations.

## CREAM-FILLED CONFECTIONERY

Articles sold as Cream Horns and Cream Doughnuts contained a filling of imitation cream. A new responsibility is placed squarely on the shoulders of retailers by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, viz. the obligation to inform the purchaser whether the cream-like filling in cakes, etc. is an imitation of genuine cream.

## LABELLING OFFENCES

A sample of Butter Toffees consisted of sugar confectionery, each toffee wrapped with a label which claimed "Rich in Butter". The butter fat, was 4.0%, the minimum amount which justifies the use of butter in the description of sugar confectionery. The manufacturer did not deny that his claim implied something substantially more than the minimum and he stated that his recipe provided for 7% butter fat. Evidently he could not guarantee that all batches would conform to this recipe and he undertook to discontinue making the claim.

In 1952 the trade organisation representing manufacturers of cake mixtures discussed the labelling of these products with this department and agreed to adopt a more informative label for these mixtures—one which would tell the purchaser what she is buying prior to making a purchase. It was provided that the front panel of a packet of incomplete cake mixture would disclose, clearly and prominently, that the purchaser must add her own eggs and/or fat. Last year two samples, a Sponge Cake Mixture and a Pudding Mixture failed to give this information. The manufacturers readily agreed to conform to the agreed recommendations on labelling.

At the time of these discussions with the trade, it was forecast that complete cake mixtures containing dried egg and fat would soon be commercially practicable. During the past few years this has, in fact, occurred, and many varieties of complete cake mixtures are now on sale. They have brought a further labelling problem. The packets are provided with attractive illustrations of cakes covered with icing and decorations. Sometimes the materials required for the icing and decorations are to be found inside the packet. All too frequently they are missing and must be provided by the purchaser. Efforts are being made to reach agreement with the trade on the point at which an illustration becomes misleading especially when the contents of a packet are claimed to be 'complete'.

**Fruit Creamy Lolly:** An article described in this manner contained neither fruit nor fruit juice. In correspondence, the manufacturer recognised that criticism of the description was justified and he undertook to amend it.

The label of a sample of Liqueur Flavoured Chocolate Bottles was held to be misleading because the front panel of the container gave no indication of the contents other than the names of various liqueurs on miniature chocolate bottles visible through a cellophane window. It required a search on the sides of the container to find that the article was not offered as true liqueur chocolates but as liqueur flavoured chocolates. The liquid centres contained 4% of proof spirit so that the article was neither the real thing nor a completely non-alcoholic imitation.

#### LABELLING OF FOOD ORDER

Eleven foods sold in pre-packed form failed to give the information required by the Labelling of Food Order.

The composition of the steeping powder enclosed in packets of dried peas was not disclosed. This might be regarded as a trivial matter especially as one could argue that an insignificant proportion of the steeping powder (sodium carbonate and bicarbonate) enters into the composition of the peas when prepared for eating. Sometimes, however, the steeping powder contains green colouring matter and if a certain packer had observed his obligations on labelling he would have noticed that he was packing green coloured steeping powders in a box of dried peas which already claimed that the contents were free from artificial colouring.

Much correspondence and the considered opinion of the Ministry's legal advisor was required to convince a large multiple firm that the use of a trade mark in place of a full name and address is only permissible if the label gives the words "registered trade mark" in full.

In three instances, the generic word glucose has been used on labels to describe liquid glucose (corn syrup) in a list of ingredients contrary to the Labelling of Food Order.

Over the past few years this misuse of the word glucose has been the subject of frequent comment in the reports of this department. Correspondence with manufacturers has resulted in a change to the correct description "Liquid Glucose" on the list of ingredients of many pre-packed foods.

Unfortunately the Order does not apply to the products of Soft Drinks and Sugar Confectionery Industries. Here the word Glucose is used as an adjective and the law does not insist that the manufacturer shall tell the purchaser to which glucose his description refers.

Modern food legislation has a very simple aim—to provide labels which tell the purchaser what she is buying. This aim cannot be achieved if two substances of different composition are permitted to have the same name. The food industry can rightly claim that Glucose was used prior to 1900 as the description for the syrup made from starch and therefore history supports their claim. On the other hand it was not until the pharmaceutical industry informed the public that Pure Glucose is “good for you” that the food industry increased its use of the word in descriptions and advertisements. Only one fifth of the commercial syrup (liquid glucose) is pure glucose and all the claims made for it are only partly true. Not all manufacturers understand the difference between the two forms of glucose. Instances have occurred where a desire to emphasise that the ingredients of a product are pure has led to the use of the description Pure Glucose for an ingredient which was in fact Pure Corn Syrup. Clearly, one of the two industries, food and pharmaceutical, must give way in this matter in the public interest.

There are two alternatives. Glucose could be reserved as the description for the pure sugar and the description Starch Syrup or Corn Syrup used for the product of hydrolysis of starch. Alternatively, if the claims of history are to be given precedence, Glucose might be used for the syrup and the chemical term “Dextrose” used for the pure sugar. This would mean re-educating the public that it is dextrose which is quickly absorbed into the blood to give immediate energy, etc.

This department has frequently suggested a conference of all the interested parties in this problem. In 1956, the label of a very large food manufacturer, with a high national reputation, was criticised. In correspondence, it was agreed that the time has arrived for the Food Manufacturers Federation to consider the matter in the interests of all the many branches of the food industry making use of liquid glucose as an ingredient.

## DRUGS

During the year 122 samples of drugs and medicinal preparations were examined and 19 samples (15·6%) were unsatisfactory.

Three manufacturers were cautioned for using the description Compound Wintergreen Ointment for an ointment which failed to comply with the B.P.C. requirements for Compound Methyl Salicylate Ointment. The proportion of methyl salicylate varied from 7 to 12% whereas the official preparation contains 50%. The description Compound Wintergreen Ointment is to be regarded as an official title because it is a translation of “Unguentum Betulae Composition”. The public use the word “Wintergreen” with familiarity and it is to be regretted that the B.P.C. does not include the word as a synonym for Methyl Salicylate. The manufacturers were advised to re-designate their products in a way which would distinguish them from the official preparations.

The above samples were purchased from general stores. Another two samples were purchased from pharmacists. One was contaminated with iron giving an unacceptable discoloured ointment; the other was deficient in methyl salicylate due to the porosity of the cardboard container in which it was supplied.

One sample of sulphur ointment was deficient in sulphur; another contained an excess of sulphur.

A sample of Tincture of Quinine was deficient in Ammonia and contained an excess of Quinine.

Various samples of pre-packed Sal Volatile, from three sources, were examined. In two cases there was a deficiency of Ammonia; in the other an excess.

All the white papers of 6 packets of Seidlitz Powders were overweight and the manufacture undertook to improve the supervision of packing.

### SWIMMING POOL WATERS

Bacteriological and chemical samples of swimming pool and paddling pool waters were taken at regular periods during the summer months.

Chlorination has provided a high standard of purity in the swimming pools but it has not always been possible to maintain the same standard in the paddling pools when good weather has attracted exceptionally heavy loads. At Hilsea, the problem has been minimised by providing additional chlorine and increased circulation of water in the paddling pool. This additional purification can be brought into operation whenever it is considered necessary; it has been valuable when hot weather attracts large numbers of children to the pool.

### CITY WATER SUPPLY

A very high standard of bacteriological purity has been maintained throughout the year in the City Water Supply, and the chlorination has been adequately controlled. Analysis shows that, as supplied to consumers, the water is free from metallic contamination. Two instances of copper contamination were reported during the year, both the result of corrosion in the plumbing system, probably due to galvanic action between zinc and copper piping.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In 1956, the Southern Gas Board provided a plant at Hilsea Gas Works for the manufacture of gas from oil. It is understood that the Board may wish to add another three similar plants in the future and this has led to a consideration of the effect upon atmospheric pollution, in particular, the amount of Sulphur Dioxide emitted. On the instructions of the Development and Estates Committee and the Health and Housing Committee four testing stations were set up in August, 1956, at George Street School, Copnor, Northern Grammar School, North End, Technical School, Hilsea, and Solent Road School, Farlington.

The apparatus draws 70 cubic feet of air over a period of 24 hours through a solution which absorbs the Sulphur Dioxide. The amount is subsequently determined in the laboratory. The apparatus also provides a measure of the smoke in the atmosphere.

Although completed towards the end of 1956, the gas from oil plant was not in full operation so that the figures obtained are a measure of the atmospheric pollution without this source. They show that the atmosphere at these four testing stations contains much less sulphur dioxide and smoke than the average industrial town. The sites are residential areas and the pollution from domestic fires produced an inevitable increase in the figures for November and December.

	<i>George Street School</i>		<i>Technical School, Hilsea</i>		<i>Northern Grammar School</i>		<i>Solent Road School</i>	
	SO <sub>2</sub>	Smoke	SO <sub>2</sub>	Smoke	SO <sub>2</sub>	Smoke	SO <sub>2</sub>	Smoke
August ...	1	9	1	6	1	5	1	4
September	1	9	1	9	1	8	1	6
October ...	2	20	1	16	1	22	1	17
November	5	36	1	18	3	23	2	22
December	5	28	3	16	2	30	2	12
Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) ...	parts per 100 million of air.							
Smoke ...	milligrams per 100 cubic metres of air.							

These results represent the average of the daily observations of each month. Occasional results vary considerably from the average due to changes in the direction and force of wind. In particular, a high sulphur dioxide is to be expected when there is mist or fog.

Nevertheless, the results so far obtained will prove of value when it is desired to confirm or refute an allegation that the atmosphere in these areas has deteriorated.

#### ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL

Of the 162 samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act, 16 (9.9%) were unsatisfactory. 10 (6.2%) of these were labelling offences. 8 samples were submitted under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

Of the 32 samples of milk, one sample, deficient of 40% of the minimum limit of fat was the subject of legal proceedings. The case was dismissed. One sample of milk contained a small quantity of water and another a slight deficiency of fat. 29 samples were satisfactory.

A sample of home made Marmalade was deficient in soluble solids (sugars) indicating that insufficient water had been boiled off during manufacture. Under these circumstances the marmalade would be prone to fermentation.

A Cream Bun contained a filling which was wholly artificial cream and Pork Sausages contained undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative. In each case the retailer gave an undertaking that the purchaser would be fully informed in the future.

A Cream of Tomato Soup contained insufficient fat to justify the designation "cream" soup. Samples of Minced Turkey and Minced Chicken were found to contain 20% of added water. The manufacturer undertook to amend the description to Minced Turkey (Chicken) in Jelly.

Sugar confectionery is not required to be labelled with a list of ingredients but when given voluntarily the ingredients should be given in terms which are not likely to mislead the purchaser. The label of Dessert Nougat used the unqualified description Glucose for an ingredient which proved to be corn syrup. The manufacturer of Mint Rock stated in an advertisement that one of his ingredients was Pure Glucose. The ingredient was corn syrup and this case demonstrated the need for ending the confusion concerning the description Glucose.

A sample of Processed Cheddar Cheese Spread was claimed to be made "with dairy cream". The claim was made prominently but the cheese in the product contained no more milk fat than cheddar cheese of average quality. It was held to be unreasonable to use cheddar cheese of inferior quality and boast about the addition of cream which merely raised the quality to the normal average.

Offences against the Labelling of Food Order included the use of the non-specific description "stabiliser" in the list of ingredients of an Ice Lolly. Similarly the generic description "citrates" was used on the label of a powdered beverage. Another Ice Lolly failed to give the ingredients in the correct order of proportion by weight and the label of Canned Vegetable Sausages failed to disclose the presence of artificial skins.

### BOROUGH OF GOSPORT

190 samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Act during the year and of these 17 were unsatisfactory (9.0% compared with 6.0% in the previous year).

63 samples of milk were examined. None was adulterated. One sample was inferior in quality but the fault lay with the condition of the cows and not to the addition of water. Only one out of 20 samples of Channel Island Milk failed to comply with the minimum standard of 4.0% fat.

A number of offences against the Labelling of Food Order were disclosed. A sample of Cheese Spread did not declare the ingredients and a sample of Mint Concentrate failed to declare the ingredients in the correct order of proportion by weight and failed to disclose sugar as an ingredient. The generic description "edible gum" was used on the label of Concentrated Mint Sauce. The label of Canned Turnips failed to give the name and address of the packer.

The main panel of a packet of Complete Cake Mix carried an attractive illustration of an iced cake. Under these circumstances it seemed unreasonable to find that the purchaser was expected to provide the icing sugar and the description "Complete" only applied to the cake portion. It is to be presumed that the front panel illustration of an article of this kind is an important factor in persuading the housewife to buy and, accordingly it should be an honest illustration free from ambiguity.

All the 13 samples of sausages contained the appropriate amount of meat but 4 samples were preserved with Sulphur dioxide which was undeclared.

A sample of Sausage Rolls had a heavy mould on the surface of the sausage. A Meat Pie was contaminated with tobacco and another Meat Pie contained a heavy mould on the surface of the meat together with live maggots. In the latter case proceedings were taken against the manufacturer and a fine of £10 was imposed.

### FAREHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

108 samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Act during the year and of these 9 were unsatisfactory (8.3% as compared with 4.2% last year).

43 of these samples were milks and of these 2 samples from one source contained added water to the extent of 29% and 34%. It was alleged that the presence of water was due to this particular milk having been the last to pass through the pasteurisation plant. The producer has since adjusted his processing so as to avoid any repetition. 3 other milks were slightly below the statutory standard but were found to be free from added water on the basis of the Freezing Point Test. The 3 samples of Channel Island Milk submitted were all found to be satisfactory.

Of the remaining 65 samples, 7 were unsatisfactory and of these 5 were labelling offences.



In two cases, one a sample of Cherry Cobs and the other Pure Almond Marzipan, the generic word "Glucose" had been used instead of the specific "Liquid Glucose". In both cases the manufacturers admitted their error and agreed that on reprinting the labels this would be rectified.

Alteration on reprinting of their label was also agreed to by the manufacturer of a jelly containing fruit when it was pointed out that the declaration of ingredients was not given in conspicuous and prominent print as required by law.

Objection was taken to the use of the description "Minced Chicken" for a product containing 80% chicken and 20% water; a more informative description would be "Minced Chicken in Jelly". The manufacturer stated that the water added was necessary in order to obtain palatability and the right consistency. He referred the matter to his Trade Association for an opinion on the question of designation. The label has now been amended.

A sample of "Buttered Rolls" contained a spreading which was wholly margarine. A general warning was issued to all retailers of Buttered Rolls, Bread and Butter, etc. that in such cases the spreading should be wholly butter.

A sugar confection—Butternuts—was found to contain less than 0.1% of total fat contrary to the Code of Practice which requires sugar confectionery using the word "Butter" in the name to contain a minimum of 4% butter fat. The manufacturer attributed the error to the use of the wrong formula during manufacture and stated that only one such batch had been made.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES

A wide variety of problems which have a chemical aspect are brought to this Department. Some points of interest associated with the work are as follows:—

In connection with three cases of suspected poisoning, 21 specimens were submitted by Coroners. In each case the analytical findings justified a verdict of death from an overdose of barbiturates. In 1956, it was felt that the frequency with which cases of barbiturate poisoning occur, justified some investigational work. As a result, it is now possible for the laboratory to give a speedy indication of the quantity and type of barbiturate from a very small specimen of blood. For this purpose, the ultra violet spectrophotometer is used.

In 1956, evidence was given in a charge of murder brought against the parents of a child which died from an overdose of barbiturate. In the previous year specimens from the post mortem examination of the child were brought to this laboratory in a routine manner for assistance as to the cause of death. The police were informed that the findings were extremely suspicious, and after a subsequent examination of the specimens by the Home Office laboratory, an exhumation, and a lengthy hearing in the Assize Court, the father of the child was found guilty of murder.

Large sums of money are spent each year by the local authority in the purchase of food for the School Meals Service. Last year it was considered appropriate to check the quality of these purchases and 84 samples were submitted for analysis. On two occasions, cooked tongue was found to be showing signs of decomposition. Some soya flour was contaminated with moth webbing and maggots and some skimmed milk powder had deteriorated during storage with the result that half the powder was insoluble in water. A specimen of cooked rhubarb was fermenting due to yeast contamination and some cooked potato was beginning to decompose by bacterial action. In

appropriate cases, advice was given on the safe storage of cooked and uncooked food. The quality of 78 samples was found to be satisfactory.

The detection of the source of oil contamination in a public water supply in the Isle of Wight was assisted by the use of the ultra violet spectrophotometer. The oil was suspected to be derived from one of three different sources. The faint trace of oil in the water could only be detected by taste but the spectrophotometer provided a means of comparing its characteristics with those of the suspected sources and identified the contaminant. In one sample, the oil was present in such amounts (0.2 parts per million) as to be almost undetected by taste but its presence was demonstrated and its source identified.

During a test pumping of a new borehole in Fareham, daily tests were made to detect any infiltration of sea water. The chloride content of the water, however, remained remarkably constant at 27 parts per million throughout the test which lasted fourteen days.

Other water sewage samples included specimens taken from sewers to detect infiltration of surface water and sea water. Specimens of water and soil were examined for excessive amounts of sulphate which might prove deleterious to concrete. Samples of water from the sub-floor space of buildings were examined to obtain an indication of the source of the water.

Examination of specimens of soap and floor polishes were made for the Contracts and Supplies Department in connection with contracts for supply of these materials to the Corporation. Sausages were examined for meat content to determine whether the supply complied with the specification.

Fees charged for miscellaneous samples together with the fees for work carried out under official appointments to neighbouring authorities amounted to a total of £1,293 in 1956.

<b>Private</b>			Chocolate Colour ...	1	Dried Milk ...	1	
Bread ...	...	2	Cocoa Powder ...	2	Fertiliser ...	2	
Bricks ...	...	3	Disinfectant ...	1	Flour ...	2	
Carpet ...	...	1	Liquid Fertiliser ...	1	Milk Bottle ...	2	
Chair ...	...	1	Orange ...	1	Roll & Bread Spread	1	
Clay ...	...	5	Sal Volatile ...	1	Sausage & Meat Pie	1	
Cream ...	...	24	Solgon ...	1	Smoke Dust ...	1	
Crystals ...	...	1	<b>City Architect</b>			Soap ...	4
Detergent Powder ...	...	1	Efflorescence ...	1	Tomato Ketchup ...	1	
Dripping ...	...	80	Plaster ...	7	Water ...	13	
Extraneous Matter ...	...	1	Water ...	1	<b>Havant U.D.C.</b>		
Flour ...	...	1	<b>City Engineer</b>			Milk ...	1
Iron Drillings ...	...	1	Sewage Effluent ...	8	Milk Bottle ...	1	
Lubricating Oil ...	...	1	Soil ...	47	Orangeade ...	2	
Milk ...	...	69	Water ...	14	Sewage Effluent ...	1	
Milk Bottle ...	...	1	<b>City Planning Officer</b>			Soil ...	1
Pig Meal ...	...	1	Coal Dust ...	1	Water ...	7	
Plaster ...	...	2	<b>Contracts and Supplies</b>			<b>Aldershot U.D.C.</b>	
Powder ...	...	1	Disinfectant ...	2	Water ...	12	
Preservative ...	...	1	Floor Polish ...	5	<b>Alton R.D.C.</b>		
Salt ...	...	3	Sausages ...	3	Water ...	1	
Sausages ...	...	2	Soap ...	3	<b>Borough of Gosport</b>		
Seasoning ...	...	1	Soap Flakes ...	2	Water ...	1	
Tallow ...	...	3	<b>Director of Parks</b>			<b>Sandown-Shanklin U.D.C.</b>	
Upholstery ...	...	1	Fertiliser ...	1	Water ...	2	
Water ...	...	18	<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>			<b>Borough of Newport</b>	
Whisky ...	...	1	Handbag ...	1	Stream Water ...	8	
<b>Town Clerk</b>			Solvent ...	1	Water ...	1	
Dried Milk ...	...	1	<b>Petersfield U.D.C. and R.D.C.</b>			<b>Isle of Wight C.C.</b>	
<b>Chief Education Officer</b>			Bread ...	1	Water ...	3	
Paint Thinner ...	...	1	Sewage Effluent ...	8	<b>Isle of Wight R.D.C.</b>		
School Meals Service	...	84	Stream Water ...	1	Milk ...	1	
<b>Chief Constable</b>			Water ...	7	<b>Cowes U.D.C.</b>		
Substance from lock	...	1	<b>Fareham U.D.C.</b>			Water ...	3
<b>Coroners' Specimen</b>			Bread ...	1	<b>Isle of Wight Water Board</b>		
Portsmouth ...	...	8	Water ...	32	Deposit ...	1	
Isle of Wight ...	...	7	<b>Health Department</b>			Kettle Element ...	1
South Hants ...	...	6	Bread ...	2	Oil ...	4	
<b>Central Laboratory</b>			Biscuit ...	1	Scaling from kettle ...	1	
Swab ...	...	1	Cooked Meat ...	1	Water ...	12	
<b>Laboratory Information</b>			Dressed Crab ...	1			
Alkali ...	...	1					
Blood ...	...	1					
Caustic Wash Solution	...	1					