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COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1959

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1959

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman A. Haslam)

Aldermen :

ALFRED LOVELL	LILIAN MARY MILLER
THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART	

Councillors :

WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM (Chairman)	HERBERT WILLIAMS
ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS	PERCY BELCHER
EDITH MORRIS	IRIS BOSIER BUTCHER
HENRY GEORGE WHEELER (Vice-Chairman)	GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND
JAMES CYRIL HARRY BUTCHER	HERBERT WILLIAM LEE
CHARLES FREDERICK SAGE	IVY SILVIA BLAGROVE
MAURICE ARTHUR WARNIFORD VALE	GEORGE FRANK ROBINSON

Non-Members of the Council :

SAMUEL MARTIN JENNER, M.B., B.S.	CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
E. A. BURTON, M.P.S.	INNES HAROLD PATTISON, M.B., B.S.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1959

Medical Officer of Health :

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. K. SYLVESTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.(Obst)R.C.O.G., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant M.O.H. and Senior School Medical Officer :

HARRY IAN LOCKETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers :

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.R.C.O.G.

ALBERT MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

IAN FRASER RALPH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare :

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Analyst :

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. GREEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

Senior Inspectors :

R. W. BASHFORD (Sampling)

D. V. C. COOPER (Meat)

A. D. E. HARDING (Housing)

E. CARSON (Smoke Abatement)

M. CARTER (Meat)

J. HANDBY (Meat)

District Public Health Inspectors :

H. MORTIMORE

S. J. A. HALL

D. A. RATCLIFFE

R. C. GOSLING

Superintendent Health Visitor :

Miss M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Health Visitors :

*Miss H. A. MORTIMER

*Miss M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

*Miss J. SMITH

*Miss S. G. HANSFORD

*Miss B. H. WHITE

*Mrs. K. DULBOROUGH

*Mrs. A. ALLISON

Mrs. KINGSLEY (Part-time)

*Miss M. E. GRANT

*Miss B. HEATHCOTE

*Miss F. L. GATES

*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors :

Mrs. G. R. STONE

Mrs. L. E. MEDWAY

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer :

Miss B. I. HARTLEY

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss F. L. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Domiciliary Midwives :

Miss E. J. ODELL

Miss F. HOLLAND

Miss E. CHARNELL

Miss B. LOYE

Mrs. R. M. TEAL

Mrs. Y. M. TROTTIER

Miss T. SMITH

Miss M. FOX

Miss V. GARRIGAN

Miss M. HALL

Miss B. ACHURCH

Premature Baby Nurse :

Miss A. FARAGHER

Family Caseworker :

Miss N. D. R. CALVELEY

Mental Deficiency Officer :

Miss J. M. ROBB

Psychiatric Welfare Officer :

Mrs. A. J. TREGILLUS

Duly Authorised Officers :

C. E. HOUSE

D. WEBB (relief)

Miss J. M. ROBB (relief)

Chief Clerk :

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service :

(Assistant Organisers)

Mrs. H. A. FINCH

Miss M. CHURCHILL

Mrs. L. R. RUSSELL (part-time)

Occupation Centres :

Miss E. M. BARKAS (Supervisor)

Superintendent Home Nursing Service ;

Miss A. M. EDWARDS

Day Nursery :*Holybrook House:* Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)**Blind Welfare Officer :**

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind :

Miss A. E. SMITH

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

Welfare Officer " Other Classes " of Handicapped Persons :

Mrs. J. D. SNOW

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948 :

D. H. COMERFORD

OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES :**" Woodlands "**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

" Wychcotes " and " Warren House "

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

" Parkhurst "

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

" Southern Hill "

Miss A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

" Arthur Clark "

Mrs. A. K. DALE (Superintendent)

" Dysons Wood "

Mrs. I. G. WAKEFIELD (Superintendent)

" Alice Jenkins "

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,
BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,
173/4 FRIAR STREET,
READING.

May, 1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1959. Detailed comments on various aspects of the Department's work will be found in the body of the report and, therefore, I only wish to refer to one or two matters in this introduction.

The first is the O. & M. Survey which was carried out in the Department. Such surveys are becoming fashionable in industry nowadays, but one of the difficulties about Local Government is the inability to obtain a suitable yardstick of efficiency. However, I feel sure that the method which has been adopted by Reading and neighbouring local authorities in combining to form one O. & M. team for the group is the most satisfactory one. I was pleased to have members of the team visit my Department because certain practices had grown up when we were scattered in various parts of the town and I was very glad of the help of the team to discuss the best way of organising the Department now that we are under one roof. It is gratifying to report that, by and large, their views agreed with mine. No doubt the Committee will wish to have a fuller report from me in due course on this subject and, therefore, my remarks here are only of a brief and introductory character.

To discuss an entirely different topic—houses let in lodgings. Most authorities in the South of England are faced with this problem and have found it very difficult to know what to do about it. Ultimately we decided to take action, under Section 90, coupled with Section 36, of the Housing Act, 1957. Unfortunately, shortage of staff has prevented us with proceeding as quickly as I would have liked in these matters and there is no doubt that our actions to reduce overcrowding may result in displacement of a certain number of families. But the conditions which exist in some of these houses are extremely bad.

It is an old saying that there is nothing new under the sun, and members might like to read the following extract from the appendix to the copy of the Governing Charter of Charles the First, dated December 17th, 1639 [The History and Antiquities of Reading, by John Man (dated 1816)]:—

“ And, whereas certain covetous persons, preferring their own private benefit to the public good of the said borough, have built, and daily do build, divers cottages within the said borough, the liberties, and precincts of the same, and have subdivided, and daily do subdivide, several messuages and houses fairly built, fitting for dwellings of men of the better sort, in small tenements, or rather receptacles and harbours for poor people, not only those that are natives, and people of the same borough, but also foreigners flocking thither from other places and coming privately and intruding into the same borough, to the great grievance and manifest impoverishment of that borough, unless it be prevented by our princely care, as we are informed. We therefore seriously advising for the good of the said borough, and minding to prevent so great a mischief, by applying a speedy remedy, we do command, and, by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do declare, that, for ever hereafter, no cottage be erected, no messuage be divided into two tenements, nor two families live asunder in one messuage either so divided or not divided, upon any demise, grant, or contract hereafter to be made within the said borough, the liberties and precincts thereof; and, if any one presume to offend, in any case, contrary to the form and effect of these letters patent, he shall incur the pains and penalties to be ordained by the mayor, alderman, and assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater number of them, in their assemblies hereafter mentioned in that behalf.”

Shortage of staff has still been with us. This is especially difficult in the midwifery section because the number of domiciliary births continued to rise and we are very near the peak period of 1947. Therefore, it is all the greater pleasure for me to pay tribute to the willing way in which the staff have worked during the year. We were sorry to lose the services of Dr. O'Donnell, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, who was appointed to the post of M.O.H. to the City of Worcester; we all wish him well in his new appointment.

The good relations with the Reading & District Hospital Management Committee, General Practitioners in the town, and Officers of the Local Executive Council have continued throughout the year.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and to your Committee, I also tender my thanks for your very constant support and understanding of the problems, which I have brought to you during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

							1959	1958
Area (acres)							9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1959)							118,200	117,900
Area Comparability Factor:—								
Births							1.01	1.01
Deaths							0.94	0.95
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book								
at 31.3.60							34,675	34,170
Rateable Value							£1,908,949	£1,848,535
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.59)							£7,726	£7,467
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1960:—								
Expenditure less income other than Government Grants)							£315,869	£285,516
Live Births								
(not adjusted):—								<i>Birth Rate</i>
		<i>Total</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>per 1,000 pop.</i>
Total	1981	(1974)	1077	(1024)	904	(950)	16.76	(16.74)
Legitimate	1862	(1852)	1007	(962)	855	(890)	15.75	(15.71)
Illegitimate	119	(122)	70	(62)	49	(60)	1.01	(1.03)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births							6.01	(6.18)
Stillbirths							41	(40)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths							6	(6)
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths							20.28	(19.86)
Total live and stillbirths (not adjusted)							2,022	(2,014)
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year):—								
Total							38	(43)
Legitimate							37	(42)
Illegitimate							1	(1)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (not adjusted):—								
Total							19.18	(21.78)
Legitimate							19.87	(22.68)
Illegitimate							8.40	(8.20)
Deaths of infants under four weeks							25	(33)
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)							12.62	(16.72)
Deaths of infants under one week							22	(29)
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)							11.11	(14.69)

*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ...	31.16	(34.26)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	—	(—)
From sepsis	—	(—)
From other causes	—	(—)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...	—	(—)
*Deaths—Net	1,400	(1,255)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population (<i>not adjusted</i>)	11.84	(10.64)
*Deaths from Cancer	263	(197)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system	289	(268)
Coronary heart disease	220	(184)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	210	(207)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms	8	(8)
Pulmonary	7	(8)
Non-pulmonary	1	(—)
*Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—		
All forms	0.07	(0.07)
Pulmonary	0.06	(0.07)
Non-pulmonary	0.01	(—)
Number of marriages	1,020	(1,062)

* Registrar-General's Returns

All figures in brackets refer to (1958)

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population—		
Births—		
Live births	16.93	16.5
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births	20.48	20.2
Deaths—		
All causes	11.13	11.6
Rates per 1,000 Live Births—		
Deaths—		
All causes under 1 year of age	18.03	22.0

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1959

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens				Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University			
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature Minimum	Temperature Mean Maximum	Temperature Mean Minimum	*Mean Humidity	Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
January ...	2.54	18	43.45	28.61	93.93	79.1	2.55	31
February ...	0.22	25	45.68	32.61	98.04	65.7	2.35	24
March ...	2.11	32	55.42	36.81	95.68	105.2	3.39	29
April ...	2.22	33	60.63	40.83	94.90	165.8	5.52	40
May ...	0.20	33	69.23	44.71	98.03	238.2	7.68	49
June ...	1.62	41	74.40	49.77	98.33	248.3	8.28	50
July ...	2.03	44	79.10	53.81	93.93	298.8	9.64	60
August ...	1.22	45	77.97	53.74	96.77	254.1	8.20	56
September ...	0.02	41	76.80	48.27	92.63	224.6	7.49	59
October ...	2.50	32	66.77	44.48	88.12	141.5	4.56	43
November ...	2.08	21	51.77	35.90	93.90	52.8	1.76	20
December ...	4.02	21	48.48	34.68	95.45	40.2	1.30	17
Year ...	20.78					1914.3	5.25	43

* As recorded at 9 a.m.

Employment. I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading area was estimated to be 60,000 in June, 1958, the latest date for which statistics are available. The main industries in which they are employed are:—

Agriculture and Horticulture
Biscuit Manufacture
Brewing and Malting
Building and Civil Engineering
Clothing Manufacture
Distributive trades
Engineering (including aircraft and metal goods manufacture, vehicle manufacture and repair)
Furniture and shop fittings
Government Service (National and Local)
Hotel Catering
Printing and Publishing
Transport (road and rail)

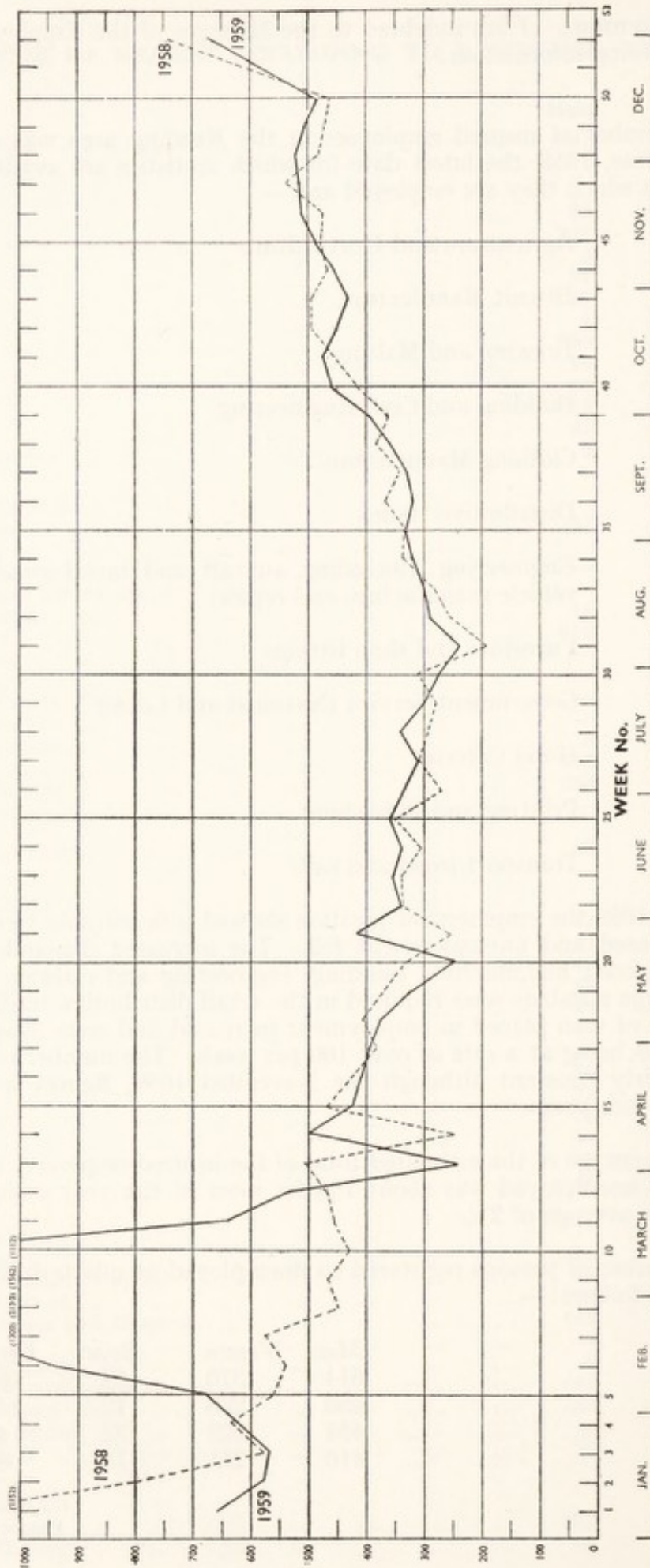
During 1959 the employment position showed a favourable trend, demands for labour increased and unemployment fell. The increased demands for men were mainly in aircraft manufacture, building, engineering and railways and women in relatively large numbers were required in the retail distributive trades and catering. The number of men placed in employment increased and were especially heavy in October, 1959, being at a rate of over 100 per week. The number of women placed remained fairly constant although the November, 1959, figures were the highest recorded for four years.

The percentage of the estimated total of the insured employees in the area who registered as unemployed was about 1% for most of the year compared with the National rate average of 2%.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly intervals during 1959 were as follows:—

					<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Totals</i>
March	...	...	...	...	614	310	22	16	962
June	...	...	...	...	456	203	12	14	685
September	...	...	...	...	454	229	32	14	729
December	...	...	...	...	410	211	18	6	651

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK, 1959
 (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages		Under 1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 and Over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2—Tuberculosis (other) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3—Syphilitic disease ..	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4—Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5—Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6—Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7—Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8—Measles ..	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	39	22	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ..	62	52	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11— " " Lung, bronchus ..	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12— " " Breast ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
13— " " Uterus ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	124	65	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16—Diabetes ..	7	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	210	83	127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18—Coronary disease, angina ..	220	125	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
19—Hypertension with heart disease ..	32	11	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20—Other heart disease ..	189	68	121	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
21—Other circulatory disease ..	68	33	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
22—Influenza ..	21	14	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
23—Pneumonia ..	84	48	36	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24—Bronchitis ..	61	42	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ..	19	11	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	13	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
28—Nephritis and nephrosis ..	14	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
29—Hyperplasia of prostate ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31—Congenital malformations ..	12	7	5	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	104	48	56	18	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
33—Motor vehicle accidents ..	10	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
34—All other accidents ..	31	21	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35—Suicide ..	12	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
36—Homicide and operation of war ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS..	1400	695	705	32	6	2	—	6	5	5	2	23	22	194	102	198	188	235	380
			1400		38		2		11		7		45		296		386		615

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

(A) GENERAL

I have no special points to which I wish to refer under this particular heading. Reference is made to the O. & M. Survey in the introduction to my report.

(B) PARTICULAR SERVICES

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No steps have been taken to provide health centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act. Tilehurst Clinic was opened by the Mayoress in February, 1959. The new clinic has worked very satisfactorily throughout the year and has been well patronised. Not only are our infant welfare sessions conducted under much better conditions and conditions which allow of a reasonable amount of health education, but also we have been able to have midwives' ante-natal clinics, parentcraft classes, immunisation clinics, a parents' club, in addition to the use of the clinic for special inspections. Mr. Campbell, senior dentist, is also using the dental suite on a sessional basis. Unfortunately it has not been able to recruit a whole-time dentist who could be based on the Tilehurst clinic.

During 1959 work was also started on a clinic for the Emmer Green area. This clinic is rather a small clinic and is the first instalment of the Committee's new policy of providing smaller clinics than hitherto but providing more of them. The object of this is to decrease the distance which mothers and young children have had to travel. The total cost for clinic services should not be any greater and I hope there will be a distinct improvement in so far as mothers and young children are concerned. Unfortunately there were several delays in building the Emmer Green clinic. We had hoped to open it at the end of 1959 but the indications are that it will be open in the first half of 1960.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) Preparation of a "Risk" Register

In the section which deals with the ascertainment of deafness in young children (National Assistance Act section), reference will be found to the preparation and use of a "risk" register. In summary, I can say that we obtained particulars of the ante-natal and post-natal history of mothers who have developed certain complications either during their pregnancy or during their confinement. There is a good deal of evidence to suggest that babies born of these mothers run a greater risk of developing abnormalities than do the children of mothers whose pregnancy and confinement have been normal. This register also forms the basis of a regular follow-up of children with deafness or suspected deafness so that we may be sure that they are receiving all necessary treatment and supervision.

(b) Infantile Mortality, Stillbirths and Peri-natal Rate

It will be seen that the infantile mortality rate was 19.18 per thousand live births, and the neo-natal mortality rate was 12.62. The stillbirth rate was 20.28 per thousand births, while the peri-natal mortality rate was 31.16. The following table gives the figures since 1948:—

	I.M.R.	S.B.R.	P.N.R.
1948	34.60	24.76	41.90
1949	26.20	21.42	36.57
1950	26.10	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26
1959	19.18	20.28	31.16

The table on page 35 gives the cause of death of infants during the first year of life.

(c) *Ante-natal Clinic*

Most of the medical ante-natal attention given to expectant mothers is given by general practitioners in their own surgeries but the use of our clinics by domiciliary midwives continues successfully and is well appreciated. Medical sessions now appear to be confined to the extremely useful one of taking samples of blood at the request of general practitioners for examination at the Pathological Laboratory.

The midwives' sessions continued to be held during the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday Afternoons Friday afternoons (Q.V.I.) Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (with Doctor). Tuesday afternoons
Tilehurst	Wednesday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises

The following table gives particulars of attendances throughout the year at medical sessions at Whitley and Star Lane Municipal Ante-Natal Clinics:—

Clinic	Number of Sessions held	Ante-natal		Post-natal
		New Patients	Re-attendances	
Star Lane ...	52	1	6	Nil
Whitley ...	49	65	395	47
Total ...	101	66	401	47

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	No. of Sessions	New Patients	Re-attendances
Star Lane	49	112	585
Whitley	52	141	567
Southcote	52	115	660
Tilehurst	85	154	919
Total	238	522	2,731

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests. Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Kahn tests for general practitioners has continued.

The following table gives particulars:—

Blood tests on:—

Clinic patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	...	Nil
General Practitioner patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	...	983
Clinic patients at Whitley	...	...	...	...	97
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	...	...	...	...	93

Post-Natal Clinics. There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations and the work is carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions, as would be expected by virtue of the fact that nearly all the ante-natal work is carried out by the patient's own doctor, few women attend municipal clinics for their post-natal examinations. During the year 47 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children. This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading & Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and with other agencies. If necessary, cases can be dealt with by the department's own staff. We have also collaborated closely with the Children's Officer, more especially when there was any question of adoption or fostering of the child when the mother was ready to resume work. The Welfare Officer of the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During 1959 the number of new cases involving illegitimate children and their parents referred to the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association for help was again 88. In addition, 43 cases involving illegitimate children were brought forward from 1958 as they were still receiving help.

557 interviews took place at St. Mary's Gate, and 433 home visits were paid.

Grants were received from Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Children's Society towards the maintenance of several children.

Help in the form of gifts of clothing, cots and prams has been given by friends, and such gifts are most welcome and useful.

**SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY
RATES SINCE 1910**

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1910	84,355	1,673	19.83	126	75.3	3	4	4.2	844	10.00
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	-	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	-	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	-	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	-	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	-	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	-	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	-	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	-	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	-	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	-	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	-	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	-	-	-	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	-	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	-	-	-	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	-	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	-	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	-	-	-	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	-	-	-	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	-	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	-	-	-	1,255	10.64
1959	118,200	1,981	16.76	38	19.18	-	-	-	1,400	11.84

The girls who have gone to Mother and Baby Homes have been helped by their stay in them, and they all appreciate having time to come to an unhurried decision about the future of their child.

Several girls have married during the year and have been able to provide a home for their babies; others have been able to return to their parents' homes, and their babies have been welcomed into the family.

Once again I should like to express my gratitude for the help and co-operation received from the Public Health Department.

<i>Annual Record of Cases for 1959</i>				<i>New</i>	<i>Old*</i>	<i>*Total</i>
(A)	Involving illegitimate children and their parents			88	43	131
<i>*Ages of Mothers on referral</i>				<i>*Domicile of Mothers</i>		
	14 years and under	...	—	Home in area	...	70
	15 „	...	3	Home elsewhere	...	18
	16 „	...	5			
	17 „	...	4			
	18 „ and over	...	76			
<i>*Marital Status (Mother)</i>				<i>*Nationality (Mother)</i>		
	Single	...	73	British Isles	...	80
	Married	...	12	Commonwealth	...	7
	Widowed	...	—	U.S.A.	...	—
	Divorced	...	3	Others	...	1
<i>*Marital Status (Putative Fathers)</i>				<i>*Nationality (P.F.)</i>		
	Single	...	60	British Isles	...	65
	Married	...	27	Commonwealth	...	11
	Widowed	...	—	U.S.A.	...	8
	Divorced	...	1	Others	...	4
<i>*Details of Maternity Cases (A) above—</i>				<i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Children in care of mother (at home, in family, with her in post, etc.)			24	19	43
	Children in touch with mother (fostered, in Nursery, etc.)			5	2	7
	Children in care of L.A.			2	1	3
	Children in care of Voluntary Society			—	2	2
	Children adopted or placed for adoption			26	17	43
	Mothers in Voluntary Homes			22	5	27
	Mothers in L.A. Homes, Burnell House			6	2	8
	Mothers still in Home, 31.12.59			3	—	3
	Mothers left area before birth of child			6	1	7
	Mothers Married before birth of child			2	—	2
	Babies stillborn, died, miscarriage			3	1	4
	Babies not yet born			17	—	17
	No. of Maintenance grants from L.A.			23	7	30

*New Cases only

†Current cases, new and old, on which any work has been done during the year.



New Clinic at Tilehurst



Infant Welfare Clinics. It is estimated that 88.5% of the children born during the year attended one or other of these clinics during 1959.

The following table gives particulars of attendances:—

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attendances	Average attendances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road, Reading— Monday p.m.	49	65	1,369	366	196	1,931	40
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading— Tuesday a.m.	52	31	737	196	121	1,054	20
Tuesday p.m.	52	88	1,761	437	250	2,448	47
Thursday p.m.	52	82	1,091	344	174	1,609	31
Filehurst Clinic, "The Laurels," School Road— Monday p.m.	49	92	1,528	478	225	2,231	46
Thursday p.m.	52	117	1,902	364	310	2,576	49
Star Lane, London Street, Rdg.— Tuesday p.m.	52	171	2,967	425	133	3,525	68
Wednesday p.m.	52	144	1,921	381	105	2,407	46
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue— Wednesday p.m.	52	144	1,852	364	129	2,345	45
Friday p.m.	50	115	2,010	428	164	2,602	52
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield— Thursday p.m.	52	126	1,870	360	122	2,352	45
West Memorial Institute, Caversham— Tuesday p.m.	52	93	2,057	448	258	2,763	53
Thursday p.m.	52	101	1,540	456	255	2,251	43
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading— Monday p.m.	49	96	1,773	368	133	2,274	46
Friday p.m.	50	136	2,163	547	216	2,926	58
St. Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green Wednesday (alt) p.m. ...	26	16	328	193	122	643	21
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square— Wednesday p.m.	52	93	1,334	305	193	1,832	35
Friday p.m.	50	64	1,036	238	164	1,438	29
Totals	895	1,774	29,239	6,698	3,270	39,207	44

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1959

(1) Centres provided by	(2) Number of centres provided at end of year	(3) Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	(4) Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age	(5) Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			(8) Total number of children who attended during the year	(9) Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			(12) Total attendances during the year
				1959	1958	1957-54		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
L.H.A.	10	74	1,774	1,710	1,578	1,114	4,402	29,239	6,698	3,270	39,207

Welfare Foods. The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily throughout the year. During 1959 we distributed the following from the main depot at 22 The Forbury:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20-oz. tins)	303
National Dried Milk Full-Cream (20-oz. tins)	12,679
Orange Juice (bottles)	37,547
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	3,019
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	5,552

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20-oz. tins)	65
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half-Cream (16-oz. packets) ...	888
National Dried Milk Full-Cream (20-oz. tins)	6,535
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full-Cream (16-oz. packets) ...	28,176
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	44,984
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	5,328
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	4,146
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	2,861
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles) ...	2,616

Women's Advisory Clinic. Arrangements continued as previously, viz., the clinic is administered by a voluntary body which has free use of Corporation clinic premises and receives a small financial subsidy from the Council. The following figures refer to the work done:—

During the year 1959, 2,725 patients attended the clinic of whom 1,630 were seen by a doctor. Of this number 510 were new patients, of whom 136 had been sent there by their general practitioner; 17 were directed by one of the hospitals, 27 by District Nurses or Midwives, and 9 were sent by the Marriage Guidance Council.

Towards the end of the year an evening session was commenced at Star Lane. At the commencement there were only about half a dozen patients but this number soon increased. It is hoped that this will relieve the pressure from the normal Thursday afternoon clinic.

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS					
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed there entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	(17)	(18)	(19)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
(a) 3-lb. 4-oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	14	7	5	3	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	7	—	—
(b) Over 3-lb. 4-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 6-oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	14	3	11	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	2	—	2	7	1	1
(c) Over 4-lb. 6-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 15-oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	13	—	13	5	—	4	2	—	2	5	—	5	—	—	—	2	1	—
(d) Over 4-lb. 15-oz. up to and including 5-lb. 8-oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.)	20	—	20	23	1	22	2	—	2	17	—	17	1	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	61	10	49	31	4	26	6	—	6	24	—	23	5	—	5	17	2	1

* The Group under this heading will include cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another

Care of Premature Infants. The general plan for the care of premature babies continued as previously and with the same good results, and with the same good co-operation with the staff of Battle Hospital.

The following tables give the results of our follow-up of certain of these premature babies:—

Born January to December, 1955

REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	7	6	6	7	1	1	—	One was spastic. Began walking at 2½ years. Gait stiff but improving
Group B	14	14	14	14	—	—	—	
Group C	14	13	13	13	1	1	1	
Group D	30	27	30	30	3	—	—	

Born January to December, 1956

REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	5	5	5	1	1	1	1 kernicterus of prematurity— Now greatly improved
Group B	5	5	5	5	—	—	—	
Group C	9	9	9	9	—	—	—	
Group D	44	43	44	44	—	—	—	

Born January to December, 1957

REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	1 Mongol
Group B	11	10	10	10	1	1	1	
Group C	19	19	19	19	—	—	—	
Group D	37	37	37	37	—	—	—	

Born January to December, 1958
REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	10	10	10	10	-	-	-	
Group B	19	18	18	18	1	1	1	1 Microcephalous
Group C	27	25	26	26	2	1	1	1 Mongol
Group D	60	52	60	60	2	-	-	

Born January to June 1959
REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	7	7	7	7	-	-	-	
Group B	7	7	7	7	-	-	-	
Group C	11	11	11	11	-	-	-	
Group D	28	27	28	28	1	-	-	

Day Nurseries. Unfortunately Victoria Square Nursery had to close down on March 31st, 1959. Certain improvements were carried out at the one remaining nursery, Holybrook House, and the number of places was increased from 45 to 50. The criteria for admission to the nursery, which have always been strict, have to be made even stricter and unfortunately it was not possible to admit some children whom one would have liked to have admitted on social grounds.

The following details relate to the position as at December 31st, 1959:—

Number of Approved Places		Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
20	30	20	30	17	26

Daily Average Attendance at Holybrook House for each month of the year, 1959
(Monday to Friday)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Holybrook House ...	30	* 29	31	42	* 38	* 37	43	39	44	49	48	47	477
Victoria Square ...	18	16	16	closed on March 31st, 1959									

* Measles

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children. Mr. J. Campbell L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

Pre-School Children. The observations made in previous years, apply equally well to 1959. These children were all treated at the main clinic in Queen's Road as the outlying clinics are closed for lack of staff. Parents find it rather difficult travelling a long distance with young children and this has a diminishing effect on the number of attendances. The cases who do attend are usually children suffering with toothache.

There has been a slight increase in the number examined and these include children, under five, in the nursery sections of schools. There is also a smaller number requiring treatment than in the previous year. This is all to the good, but a great deal more could be done if the Dental Officers were available.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers. The number of mothers, requesting treatment remains fairly constant and the amount of treatment was not extensive. No dentures were supplied but several mothers treated at the end of the year will receive dentures in the near future and will be reported in the next year's statistics.

During the "Health Education Scheme" month at Whitley Welfare clinic, the Oral Hygienist paid four visits to the clinic and gave instruction in Oral Hygiene and Dental care.

The appended tables explain the nature of the treatment given.

The following table gives further details of the work done:—

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspected	222	6	2
Found to require treatment ...	92	6	2
Treated	92	6	2
Attendances	128	14	3
Extractions	64	15	—
Local Anaesthetics	13	3	—
General Anaesthetics	28	3	—
Fillings	23	7	—
Clean and Polish	26	—	—
Dressings	4	—	—
Silver Nitrate	57	—	—
Discharged	90	4	1

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE, 1959

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	8	8	8	5
Children under five	222	92	92	90

FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scaling and gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures	Radio-graphs
Expectant and nursing mothers	1	7	—	15	3	—	—
Children under five	26	23	57	64	28	—	—

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Last year I commented at some length on the problems which we face as a result of a reluctance of women to take up domiciliary midwifery as a career. This problem is accentuated by the increase in the birth rate. Miss Meacham, Supervisor of Midwives, continued her arduous and important task of selection of normal cases for admission to hospital or to general practitioner maternity homes on social grounds.

During the year 879 applications were investigated, of whom 625 were recommended for institutional confinements, either in Dellwood or one of the other general practitioner maternity homes in the district.

The following table gives comparative figures for each year since 1938:—

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64.4
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6
1959	1,982	872	43.9

Stillbirths. There were 39 stillbirths reported during the year as compared with 38 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1954	...	...	17.28
1955	...	...	23.00
1956	...	...	19.00
1957	...	...	25.20
1958	...	...	19.86
1959	...	...	20.28

An analysis of these 39 stillbirths revealed the following:—

- 29 occurred in Battle Hospital
- 4 occurred in Dellwood
- 6 occurred in Domiciliary practice

The probable causes were as follows:—

Domiciliary

Hydrocephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cord tightly around neck	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prolapsed Cord	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 6

Battle Hospital

Anencephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ante Partum Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cord tightly around neck	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gross abnormalities	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hydrocephalic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 29

Dellwood

Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No known cause	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Abnormalities	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placental insufficiency	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 4

Maternal Deaths. There were no maternal deaths of Reading residents during the year.

Baby's eye and umbilicus. S.P.	1
Baby's nose and mother's nose. S.P.	1
Baby's eye. S.A. Mother's nose S.P.	1
Baby's eye and skin. S.P.	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth mother's nose. S.P.	4
Baby's eye, nose, hand and umbilicus. S.P. Mother's nose. S.P. ...	1
No significant findings	22
Baby's eye, nose and hand. S.P. Mother's nose. S.P.	1
Midwife, nose. S.A.	1
Baby's eye mixed growth, skin. S.P.	1
Midwife, nose. S.P. Pupil midwife skin and nose. S.P.	1
Baby's eye, nose and hand	1
Baby's eye and spot heavy mixed growth	1
Baby's spot coagulase negative, staph. Mother's nose and throat. S.P.	1
Baby's eye. S.A. Nose. S.P.	1
Baby's spot. S.A.	1
Baby's spot, mixed growth	4
Baby's spot and nose. S.P.	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth, nose. S.P.	2
Baby's eye strep., viridans, nose and hand. S.P.	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth, mother's nose. S.A.	1
Baby's bleb umbilicus and nose. S.A.	1
Baby's face, mixed growth	2
Baby's eye, nose and hand mixed growth	1
Baby's mixed growth, baby's and mother's nose. S.P.	1
Baby's eye, nose and hand. S.A.	1
Baby's finger and hand. S.A.	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth, hand. S.A.	1
Baby's nose. S.P. Spots, mixed growth, hands. S.A.	1
Baby's skin and hands. S.P.	1
Baby's bleb and nose. S.P. Skin and umbilicus. S.A.	1
Baby's eye and nose. S.P. Hand. S.A.	1
Baby's skin, bleb and nose, also mother's nose. B.P.	1
Baby's eye, mixed growth umbilicus. S.P. Midwife hand and nose S.P.	1
Baby's eye and mother's throat. S.P.	1

S.P. = Staphylococcus Pyogenes

S.A. = Staphylococcus Albus

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

Births

Male ... 1,621	Legitimate ... 2,985	Live ... 2,998
Female ... 1,452	Illegitimate ... 88	Still ... 75

Weights

2-lb. 3-oz. or under	31
2-lb. 4-oz.-3-lb. 4-oz.	34
3-lb. 5-oz.-4-lb. 6-oz.	60
4-lb. 7-oz.-4-lb. 15-oz.	55
5-lb. 0-oz.-5-lb. 7-oz.	101
5-lb. 8-oz.-5-lb. 15-oz.	163
6-lb. 0-oz.-6-lb. 7-oz.	331
6-lb. 8-oz.-6-lb. 15-oz.	473
7-lb. 0-oz.-7-lb. 7-oz.	616
7-lb. 8-oz. or over	1,209

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
24	3	1	4
25	1	—	1
26	1	3	4
27	1	1	2
28	3	7	10
29	2	2	4
30	2	12	14
31	6	4	10
32	6	12	18
33	5	3	8
34	18	15	33
35	12	11	23
36	39	38	77
37	43	49	92
38	105	83	188
39	155	116	271
40	1,363	653	2,016
41	84	56	140
42	69	52	121
43	14	14	28
44	6	3	9
	1,938	1,135	3,073

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1959

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	1	1	4	3	—	—	3	10
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	—	—	—	13	1	—	—	—	14
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	22	1	1	1	25	4	2	3	3	37

		Number of Midwives practising in the area of the Local Supervising Authority at the end of the year		
		Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority	13	—	13
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—
(ii)	Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	25	25
(ii)	Otherwise	—	—	—
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	8	8
	Total ...	13	33	46

Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year

	Domiciliary Cases				Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked			
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	—	37	201	630	868	—
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	1,903
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	1	—	1	293
Totals ...	—	37	202	630	869	2,196

	Number of Domiciliary Midwives practising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board (2)	Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of inhalational analgesics in use at end of year		Number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year				Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year		
		Gas and air (3)	"Trilene" (4)	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child	
				Gas and air (5)	"Trilene" (6)	Gas and air (7)	"Trilene" (8)			
(1)										
(a) Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by the Local Health Authority	13	14	13	87	161	260	450	90	239	
(b) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(c) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	13	14	13	87	161	260	450	90	239	3

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The shortage of Health Visitors continues. During the year three whole-time visitors left us and three joined the staff—Miss Few who commenced duties in May, Miss White and Miss Heathcote, Reading sponsored students, completed their training and commenced in August.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse	...	...	1
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	...	...	10
Part-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	...	...	2
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent)	...	...	3
Part-time School Nurses (temporary)	...	...	3
Tuberculosis Visitors	...	...	2
Vacancies	...	...	5

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to children under 1 year of age	...	1,953
Total visits to children under 1 year of age	...	7,007
Total visits to children aged 1-2 years	...	3,927
Total visits to children aged 2-5 years	...	10,151
Total number of children visited (first visit only)	...	7,929
Total number of families visited (first visit only)	...	6,021
Total first visits to expectant mothers	...	356
Total return visits to expectant mothers	...	53
Total number of visits to old people for hospital assessment	...	35
Total number of visits for care and after-care	...	412
Total number of miscellaneous visits	...	793
Total number of infant death investigations	...	29
Total number of visits to T.B. households	...	7
Total number of ineffectual visits	...	4,108
Total number of attendances at clinics	...	1,395

Mothercraft Classes. These classes have been much appreciated and a talk on Accident Prevention and First Aid in the Home has been included in the course of talks. The classes at Southcote Clinic (in conjunction and during their ante-natal period) and Star Lane Clinic have continued throughout the year, and it is interesting to note that we have had a return of some mothers who have come along to join these classes now that they are expecting their second child.

A further class was commenced at the new clinic at Tilehurst and this has proved to be very successful. Talks have been given by Health Visitors and Domiciliary Midwives on similar lines as those given at the Star Lane Clinic.

The following table gives particulars of the eight lectures which comprise a mothercraft course:—

1. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mother, diet, teeth, clothing, etc. (Health Visitor)
2. Birth Mechanism (Midwife)
3. Layette. Suitable materials and patterns
Washing—woollens, nappies, etc. (Health Visitor)
4. Breast Feeding and its importance
Artificial Feeding and Sterilisation of bottles. (Health Visitor)
5. Administration of Gas and Air (Midwife)
6. Early Management of baby's day. Time for rest, exercises, etc.
7. Vaccination and Immunisation
8. Prevention of Home Accidents and First Aid in the Home (use of filmstrips)
(Health Visitor)

The following table gives the statistical summary of the visits paid by nurses to various types of cases during the year:—

					<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Medical	...	...	...	...	1,433	58,596
Surgical	...	...	...	...	244	6,507
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	5	43
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	30	1,642
Maternal complications	...	...	...	...	65	630
Others	...	...	...	...	367	1,669
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					2,144	69,087
					<hr/>	<hr/>

The following information is also of interest:—831 of the 2,144 patients were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit and altogether they received 49,455 visits. Of this number 84 had more than 24 visits during the year and, in fact, received a total of 27,967 visits between them. Forty-three of the total cases were under the age of five years and received 457 visits.

The decline in the work required for tuberculous patients continues.

The following table gives a comparison of the home nursing work carried out since 1949:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1949	2,741	92,000
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836
1959	2,144	69,087

SECTION 26—Vaccination and Immunisation (excluding B.C.G.)

Diphtheria

Number of children who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1944 and 31st December, 1959.

Age at 31/12/59 i.e. born in the year ...	Under 1 1959	1-4 1955-1958	5-9 1950-1954	10-14 1945-1950	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether prim- ary or booster)					
A 1954-1958 ...	539	5,148	3,321	54	9,062
B 1953 or earlier ...	—	—	3,006	7,623	10,629
C Estimated mid-year child population ...	1,990	6,510		18,600	27,100
Immunity Index	27.08	79.07		75.29	72.66

The number of children who completed the course of inoculation with Pertussis Vaccines (including combined diphtheria/pertussis vaccines) during 1959 was follows:—

Age at Date of Final Injection		
0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
1,536	87	1,623

Booster Doses for Diphtheria alone	...	...	...	...	...	135
Booster Doses—Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	864
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0
Combined Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	311

Vaccinations performed during 1959

Age at 31/12/59 i.e., born in year	Under 1	1 year	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	1,046	41	33	26	64	1,210
Number Re-vaccinated	23	6	1	4	69	103

IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1959

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Diphtheria		No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Whooping Cough		No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Tetanus		No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Diphtheria		No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Whooping Cough		No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Tetanus		Total
		Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Not Completed	Completed	Not Completed	
Grovelands ...	12	5	13	—	101	6	79	—	—	—	—	—	34	238
Whitley ...	25	4	5	1	195	19	117	—	—	—	—	—	80	421
Tilehurst ...	13	3	9	2	115	15	112	—	—	—	—	—	45	305
St. Michael's School (Booster Session)	—	—	—	—	—	4	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Caversham ...	13	3	11	1	60	27	102	—	—	—	—	—	38	242
School, Queen's Road	25	7	36	1	223	19	176	—	—	—	—	—	76	540
Southcote ...	22	1	3	—	72	9	100	—	—	—	—	—	26	214
Emmer Green ...	8	—	—	—	9	7	24	—	—	—	—	—	2	42
Carried out by Private Practitioners ...	—	3	80	4	682	29	141	—	—	—	—	—	10	981
Totals ...	—	26	157	9	1,457	135	864	—	—	—	—	2	311	3,000

Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1959

Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-6 months	7-12 months	over 12 months	Totals
Grovelands ...	12	39	15	7	61 (3)
Whitley ...	25	112	18	9	139 (7)
Tilehurst	13	65	14	4	83 (3)
Caversham ...	13	34	4	9	47 (9)
School (Queen's Road)	25	108	40	42	190 (32)
Southcote ...	22	58	13	9	80 (6)
Emmer Green	8	6	—	—	6
Carried out by Private Prac- titioners ...	—	424	119	164	707 (43)
Totals		846	223	244	1,313 (103)

Figures in Parenthesis denote re-vaccination

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. 1959 was an extremely busy year for poliomyelitis vaccination.

The following table gives particulars of the persons who *completed* a course of immunisation during the year:—

Children born in the years 1943 to 1959	...	...	3,989	<i>Total vaccinations since inception</i> 22,869
Young Persons born in the years 1933 to 1942	...	...	6,902	7,418
Expectant mothers	...	...	707	1,449
General Practitioners and their families	...	...	6	121
Ambulance staff and their families	...	...	3	31
Hospital staff, medical students and their families	...	...	119	289
		Total	11,726	32,177
Number of persons who have received three injections			18,646	21,837
Total	...	...	*30,372	54,014

*Of the above, 11,890 were done by G.P.'s.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The day-to-day supervision of this service continued under the aegis of the Transport Manager and Engineer, to whom I am indebted for the following information and to whom I would like to express my appreciation of the efficient manner in which the service operates.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough cases:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949 ...	8,797	10,098	88,884
1950 ...	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951 ...	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952 ...	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953 ...	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954 ...	21,361	24,453	159,361
1955 ...	22,224	26,207	162,369
1956 ...	23,681	27,296	152,241
1957 ...	24,141	27,758	155,283
1958 ...	25,526	31,883	164,949
1959 ...	32,121	35,485	167,292

Summary of work carried out during 1959 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
	Total All Areas	Borough Cases only	Total All Areas	Borough Cases only	Total All Areas	Borough Cases Only
Emergency (i.e., 999 Calls) ...	1,687	1,341	1,627	1,248	9,032	5,387
Urgent and Non-urgent Cases ...	30,308	25,095	33,800	28,389	156,249	97,495
Flying Squad Duties ...	126	—	58	—	2,011	—
Stretcher Cases ...	12,092	8,922	13,112	9,786	88,737	51,298
Sitting/Walking Cases ...	20,029	17,514	22,373	19,851	78,555	51,584

Ambulance Fleet. The fleet available for all purposes at December 31st, 1959, consisted of 10 dual-purpose ambulances, seven of these being powered by diesel engines which have maintained a satisfactory record of miles per gallon.

Channelling of Calls. Since April 1st, 1956, all calls for the transport of patients (residing in or near the Borough of Reading) and attending Battle Hospital were channelled through the Ambulance Service. As from April 1st, 1959, arrangements were made for all requests for Ambulance and Hospital Cars from places within the "999" Telephone Area of Reading (approximately 112 square miles) to be channelled through the Ambulance Service.

This has resulted in a more efficient use being made of all available resources of both the Ambulance and Car Services transport.

The result over the past two years being as follows:—

	Patients		Mileage		Miles per Patient	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Ambulance Service	*31,883	35,485	*164,949	167,292	5.17	4.71
Hospital Car Service	10,394	6,572	67,842	57,725	6.53	8.78
	<u>42,277</u>	<u>42,057</u>	<u>232,791</u>	<u>225,017</u>	<u>5.51</u>	<u>5.35</u>
* Including 3,846 Avenue School Children, 753 miles						

Radio Control. This method of communications has enabled the Ambulance Service to carry out its obligations with greater efficiency than was possible before its introduction into the service, and with the increased demands on the Ambulance Service it is doubtful whether all of the requests could have been met.

Dunlop Pneuride Pneumatic Suspension. A local authority has for some time been experimenting on a new type of rear suspension for Ambulances with the object of improving the comfort of patients whilst in transit. A careful check has been kept on these experiments which have proved most successful. Arrangements have been made for certain of our existing fleet to be fitted with this type of suspension.

General. The assistance of the British Railways staff in reserving compartments for both stretcher and sitting/walking patients and for the attention given to the patients upon arrival and departure from the stations is greatly appreciated. The system of conveying patients over long journeys by train is used whenever possible and in this connection 144 journeys were arranged during the past year.

The Borough, Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Police Forces, the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade and the Ambulance Service have an excellent mutual understanding and fully co-operate when called upon.

Both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade give valuable assistance in providing escorts for patients from time to time.

Increased Demands. The Ambulance Service conveyed 7,448 additional patients in 1959 as compared with 1958 (excluding the Avenue School Children), of these 965 were stretcher cases and the remainder sitting/walking patients. A considerable number of the sitting/walking patients require the assistance of two men.

The figures given in this report do not represent the total requests for transport which are channelled through the Ambulance Service. Several thousand duties for the conveyance of sitting/walking patients residing within the county Areas of the "999" Telephone Area were passed to the Hospital Car Service to be carried out on our behalf. All of these duties are rechargeable to the County Authority direct and are not recorded in the figures above.

It was reported last year that the general trend was showing an increase in the number of patients requiring transport, and if this trend continued, the strength of the Ambulance Service would have to be increased. During the past year the increased demands made on the Ambulance Service have been such that no further increases can be undertaken with the manpower and vehicles available. This matter is being brought to the notice of the appropriate Committee.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

A. Tuberculosis. (see also Section *re* Infectious Disease). Arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients continued on lines similar to previous years, viz., a great deal is done directly by the Council in providing extra milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc. This is supplemented by the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association and the Council's Tuberculosis Welfare Officer acts as Hon. Secretary for the Association. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of the R.T.C.A. for the time and thought they have given to this work. Also a very special word of thanks to the Seal Sale Committee which, once again, organised a highly successful sale to provide the bulk of the money from which the Care Association meets its expenses.

One of the features of tuberculosis work during recent years has been the decline in the number of cases who have required assistance and, therefore, discussions took place as to whether or not the R.T.C.A. should extend the scope of its activities. The present indications are that such an extension will take place to include diseases of the chest and heart.

(a) *Report of the Tuberculosis Welfare Officer*:—During the year 1959 the work of the department showed that while the main bulk of the cases were tuberculous there had been an increase in the number of patients with non-tuberculous diseases, such as lung cancer and chronic bronchitis, who were seen by the Welfare Officer.

The problem of finding employment for tuberculous patients when they become fit has gradually become much less difficult. This is probably due to the fact that tuberculosis is no longer considered such a serious disease and the numbers unemployed have been very low in Reading for some time. There still remains a hard core of chronic tuberculous patients who apart from having the specific problems caused by the disease also present most of the social problems found with the aged.

The facilities provided by the Public Health Department during the year were as follows:—

Recuperative holidays	...	8
Free Milk	... ..	96

In December 76 parcels of Christmas groceries were distributed to needy patients. This was organised by the Care Association. Two-thirds was paid by the Public Health Department and the remainder by the Association.

(b) *Reading Tuberculosis Care Association.* The Secretary reports as follows:—The Reading Tuberculosis Care Association has over the past year continued to give help to tuberculous patients and their families. It has however become apparent in the last three years that the number of tuberculous cases is gradually declining. In view of this, the Association has under consideration an enlarging of its scope to cover all diseases of the chest. This would bring the work of the Association in line with the policy of the Chest Clinic. The emphasis would however still be on work with the tuberculous for some years to come. Individual grants for 1959 were as follows:—

Provision of clothing	...	4
Radios (repairs, batteries and licences).	... ..	3
Relatives' holiday	... ..	1
Bedding	... ..	3
Fuel	... ..	6
Groceries	... ..	9
Occupational therapy material	...	4
Other	... ..	8

The Garden Scheme enabled 14 patients to have gardens dug and planted by a retired gardener. Messrs. Sutton & Sons very kindly provided the vegetable seeds for the patients.

The Fuel Scheme provided 74 patients with 4 cwt. of coal in October and a further 4 cwt. was given to 25 patients during the cold weather in February.

At Christmas, toys were given to the children of hospital and home treatment patients, who were living on a small income.

The St. John Ambulance and British Red Cross continued to issue books to home-bound tuberculous patients and 1,073 were issued in 1959.

(c) *Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale.* A committee of twenty-six members with the help of ten "Friends of the Committee" organised this the tenth annual sale, raising £659 13s. 6d.—an increase of £6 3s. 6d., over the 1958 effort—towards the funds of the local Tuberculosis Care Association.

The Association are grateful for the co-operation of the following for allowing the sale of seals at their premises, viz., Messrs. Heelas Limited, Messrs. Wellsteeds Limited, Messrs. H. J. Tutty Limited, the Reading Co-operative Society (Cheapside, London Road, and Prospect Street, Caversham branches), the Reading Cattle Market, the Chest Clinic and Health Office. Also to the thirty-two persons who attended these places as "seal sellers."

Contributions from private residents showed an increase, but the amounts collected from employees at the two hundred places of employment contacted was slightly less than previously.

Mrs. M. Aubrey (a Committee member) held at the Hermann Gollancz Hall, Goldsmid Road, Reading, a "bring and buy" sale with a concert given by the Reading Borough Police Male Voice Choir (by kind permission of A Iveson, Esq., Chief Constable), to whom thanks are due. This effort raised £43 0s. 2d. A Christmas Raffle contributed a further £19 2s. 0d. Keen appreciation is expressed to the firms giving prizes for the raffle and to the many who provided articles for the sale and the many helpers who assisted in making the function so successful.

(d) *Occupational Therapy.* Miss L. D. Saunders continued her work as Occupational Therapist for tuberculous patients and has submitted the following report:—

The number of tuberculous patients needing occupational therapy for a considerable length of time at home has diminished this year, and those who were receiving treatment in hospital also were transferred during the year to Peppard Chest Hospital.

On returning home their occupational therapy is continued there, as long as it is considered necessary during the remaining period of inactivity, until most of them finally return to their own employment.

About 70 patients were frequently visited this year, 27 being new, and the usual varied crafts were in constant use with very successful results.

Approximately 140 of these finished articles were sent to the "Helping Hand" Shop where 100 of them were sold, and about a dozen patients benefited by a little profit on these sales owing to a further much appreciated grant from the R.T.C.A., which enabled their materials to be paid for in advance in cases of hardship, and always a feature where long term inactivity is entailed.

(e) *B.C.G. Vaccination.* During the year 322 vaccinations of contacts were carried out. There were 367 in 1958. The total number of contacts vaccinated since 1950 is now 2,995.

Vaccination of school leavers has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Freeze-dried vaccine has been used. The figures for school leavers are as follows:—

Number skin tested ...	...	1,379
Number found negative ...	...	1,163
Number vaccinated ...	...	1,163

B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus. There were no changes in the arrangements for the issue of nursing equipment and apparatus although the scope of this work seems to extend steadily. During the year 1,132 articles were distributed.

C. Provision of Convalescent Holidays. During the year 53 patients including 47 adults and 6 children, were sent away for period of convalescence under the Council's scheme.

D. Health Education. (See also report of Chief Public Health Inspector and report of School Medical Officer). Apart from the campaign to popularise vaccination against poliomyelitis there was no special campaign during the year. Appropriate members of the department continued their steady propaganda in respect of immunisation diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox, food hygiene, and the care of infants and young children. On June 5th, a special meeting was held in the Town Hall which was addressed by Dr. Dalzell Ward, Director of the Central Council for Health Education. His topic was: "Maternal and Child Welfare Work under the World Health Organisation." This was followed by the film: "People Like Maria."

WORK OF THE FAMILY CASEWORKERS—PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES (Circular 27/54).

Miss N. Calveley reports as follows:—

The establishment allows for two Family Caseworkers but for most of 1959 this section has operated on an understaffed basis. Miss Harrison left at the end of February, and in June we were able to obtain the part-time services of Mrs. Saunders in her place. On this basis a further 18 families have been visited regularly, but with varying degrees of frequency according to circumstances prevailing at the time.

This group involves a further 84 children in the inadequate care of their parents.

Last year mention was made of the increase in the number of families who need immediate help and advice when overwhelmed by their difficulties, but after an initial sort-out do not necessarily need long term supervision. 1959 shows a further trend in this direction revealed in an analysis of those who have come to the office to seek out help. It is equally true that a section of the population who tend to move from one lot of rooms to another during their wait for rehousing by the Council call unnecessarily, as homelessness or threatened eviction is not a real threat. The following table gives particulars of this work during 1959:—

Total Callers	New	Repeats	Reason for call				
			General Acc.	Threatened Eviction	Homeless	Problem Family	Misc.
347 (232)	210 (182)	137 (50)	201 (114)	49 (56)	40 (18)	15 (5)	42 (39)

The 1958 figures are shown in brackets underneath

Reading Family Aid Group. After being in existence since April, 1952, the Family Aid Group held a review of its own work in January, 1959, with special reference to its future policy and past successes. The most valuable lines on which it was desirable to develop were carefully considered.

The Group decided that the need to support inadequate families continued, and that voluntary funds and material gifts were necessary for the use of the Caseworkers, whether official or voluntary, who were engaged in this work. They also agreed that the combination of voluntary workers and officials was effective in this particular field, and reaffirmed that voluntary members of the Group should only undertake actual casework visiting if they were trained social workers.

A separate section of the Group consisting of voluntary workers only, was formed to deal with the raising, and general administration, of funds and to organise collective activities not directly concerned with casework with an individual family.

Arising out of these decisions the monthly meetings of the Group are now confined to dealing with reports on individual families, and to discussing new proposals for building up their efficiency.

With these variations established, the Group has continued its unchanging work with 18 families, of which 9 were visited by the Family Caseworkers and 9 by voluntary members. These families account for 86 children under school leaving age resident at home, and are in danger of backsliding to permanent social problem level without constant supervision. These same families have 9 additional children already resident in various institutions, and 5 attend the Avenue E.S.N. School.

Homeless Families. Admission to Woodlands per the Family Caseworkers amounted only to seven mothers with 12 children reasonably spaced throughout the year. For only four days were two families in residence at once. This seems to compare favourably with the number (40) of apparently homeless families who sought assistance, and an additional 49 who were threatened with eviction. Of those families who were admitted to Woodlands, only one was rehoused by the Council. Others went to other rooms or relatives, but families in similar circumstances might in future qualify for intermediate accommodation.

SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

Demands on this service continued to increase. It is interesting to note that there has been an increase in the number of maternity cases attended during 1959. Probably this is accounted for, in part, by the fact that the patient may receive 9 hours of help in a fortnight but is charged for only 48 of these. This is a satisfactory arrangement for the patient; she can relax completely knowing that there is a home help in the house all day to cope with the children, whereas previously children were often left in the bedroom with the mother during the afternoon until the father arrived home from work.

The demand for night attendants and the use of the special soiled linen laundry service has also shown a slight increase.

The following is a summary of the cases where domestic help was provided during the year:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	299
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	1,094
Others	315
	<hr/>
	1,712
	<hr/>

The number in which help began prior to 1959:—

Maternity cases (including expectant mothers) ...	17
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	817
Others	109
	—
	848
	—

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	1
Part-time	212

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Work performed		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of Householders helped at first day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	871	871	866	879	850	883	890	873	855	869	887	918
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	6	5	7	4	5	4	4	7	5	4	7	6
Number of Householders helped at last day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	875	868	879	847	886	888	869	851	870	889	915	925
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	6	6	4	3	5	2	5	3	5	4	5	10
Source of New Applications:—													
(a) Direct application by Doctor	.. .. .	18	17	11	20	24	18	6	17	11	12	22	20
(b) Hospital	.. .. .	9	15	10	4	16	7	13	8	11	13	18	6
(c) Midwife	.. .. .	21	42	16	24	23	35	26	24	31	16	28	34
(d) Householder	.. .. .	20	20	14	8	19	11	9	13	7	9	10	10
(e) Welfare Worker	.. .. .	7	15	17	13	10	7	10	8	7	6	22	10
Classification of reasons of help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	32	45	37	32	35	24	22	26	23	27	39	25
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	19	27	12	10	22	14	12	15	10	12	28	19
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	24	47	19	26	33	40	30	28	1	17	30	36
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary													
8 12 26 7 17 13 16 16 11 19 8 14 11													
Number of Households receiving help for the first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	64	89	63	51	79	51	49	53	43	49	75	52
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	9	15	16	9	14	6	7	9	10	14	15	11
Classification of reasons why Households had received help for over one month at the end of period:—													
(a) Old age and infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	721	719	678	705	694	690	686	691	716	708	755	758
(b) Acute Sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	85	78	78	77	83	90	89	76	84	84	87	92
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	3	6	5	2	3	7	6	3	9	6	1	1
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	1	1	2	1	1	3	4	4	7	6	7	6
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps employed during period													
15722 20264 16094 16189 20549 16640 16067 17100 15655 16845 21926 16593													
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period													
197 204 205 210 213 213 213 213 212 209 211 212 212 214													
Number of visits paid by Organisation:—													
(a) New cases	.. .. .	84	112	86	85	97	77	58	92	67	97	120	80
(b) Re-visits	.. .. .	373	436	359	342	422	397	386	340	316	364	370	383
Meals by Home Helps (1 week)													
843 790 800 762 679 805 772 686 683 699 655 650													

SECTION 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. Administration

1959 is an important year in the annals of Mental Health Services since it was during this year that the Mental Health Act was passed. At the time of writing these notes we are not quite sure of the exact date of its commencement. In my report for 1957 I mentioned that I myself had quite a number of reservations about the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on the law relating to mental illness and mental deficiency. Nevertheless, most of these recommendations have been embodied in the Mental Health Act, 1959, but although the passing of this Act was attended with a great deal of publicity I think I now see signs of doubt as to whether or not too much has been claimed for it. I do not think that it is sufficiently realised that Local Authorities already have powers to carry out all the main duties they are expected to carry out under the Mental Health Act, 1959. The fact that none or practically none, of them did in fact exercise these powers to the extent which some people now think is necessary can be regarded either as a criticism of the Local Authorities or, as I think more accurately, that these objects present much greater difficulties than have been admitted. Nevertheless, we did take definite steps to prepare our administrative machinery to deal with the new concept of the way in which a Local Authority should carry out its work. The duties of the deputy Medical Officer have been modified so as to leave him more free to deal with Mental Health work and to undertake much more medical supervision of the Mental Welfare Officers. We have appointed a Senior Assistant Medical Officer who is responsible for the day to day administration of the Maternity and Child Welfare services in the borough, and will thus relieve the Deputy of most of his former work in this field. The arrangements for trainee mental welfare officers outlined in my last Annual Report have been continued. At the end of 1959 the first trainee completed his twelve months term of in-service training and was duly appointed as an Assistant Mental Welfare Officer. We hope that the second trainee will complete his in-service training this summer.

I must report my impression that we seem to have taken all the appropriate steps which are necessary in anticipation of the implementation of the Mental Health Act, with the exception of the provision of residential accommodation for mentally disordered people. The Council were quite willing to purchase and staff a probation hostel for boys which was being vacated, but the Ministry of Health Inspector considered that the accommodation was not suitable, and there the matter has rested. But I must repeat that, in my opinion, the provision of hostels is a thing about which it is much easier to talk than to act. There are many difficulties, not least of which is the necessity for obtaining the approval of the Town Planning authority.

2. Mental Illness

(a) *Report by Duly Authorised Officer.* Mr. House has submitted the following particulars about his work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.

During the year the following have been ADMITTED into various Mental Hospitals from Reading:—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order	9	20	29
Section 20—Removed under Duly Authorised Officers' Order—3 days	17	14	31
Section 21—Removed under Justices' Order—fourteen days	2	-	2

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890 (contd.)</i>	Male	Female	Total
Section 21a—Persons removed under Section 20, whose Orders were extended for a further period of fourteen days by Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer ...	10	11	21
Persons removed under Section 21, whose Orders were extended for a further period of fourteen days Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer ...	—	—	—
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order at expiration of Section 20 and Section 21a Orders ...	1	—	1
Persons Examined by Justice but NO ORDER made	—	2	2

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Section 1—Voluntary Patients ...	56	136	192
Section 5—Temporary Patients ...	1	2	3

The following Reading patients have been REGRADED during their in-patient stay at Mental Hospitals:—

From Lunacy Act, 1890

Section 6—to Voluntary Class ...	—	1	1
Section 16—to Voluntary Class ...	12	32	44
Section 20—to Voluntary Class ...	2	2	4
Section 21—to Voluntary Class ...	2	—	2
Section 21a—to Voluntary Class ...	6	7	13
Section 20—to Informal Class ...	1	—	1
Section 16—to Informal Class ...	18	33	51

From Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Section 1—to Informal Class ...	4	1	5
Section 5—to Voluntary Class ...	1	—	1

From Mental Treatment Act, 1959

Section 5—to Voluntary Class ...	—	1	1
----------------------------------	---	---	---

The following Reading patients have LEFT Mental Hospital:—

Lunacy Act, 1890

Left hospital on trial period prior to discharge for a period of one month (4 or 5 weeks) ...	—	3	3
Extension of trial period for three further months ...	—	1	1
Discharged recovered at expiration of trial period ...	—	2	2
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 20 Order ...	1	2	3
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 21a Order ...	2	1	3
Discharged relieved ...	—	8	8

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Voluntary Patients—Left hospital ...	61	152	213
Temporary Patients—Left hospital ...	—	1	1

The following Reading patients have been TRANSFERRED:—

Lunacy Act, 1890

Section 16—transferred to another mental hospital ...	1	—	1
Section 16—transferred to mental deficiency hospital ...	—	1	1

The following DEATHS have occurred amongst Reading patients in Mental Hospitals:—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>										
Section 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	12	20
<i>Mental Treatment Act, 1930</i>										
Section 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	15	19

The above table shows that 257 persons from the Reading County Borough area entered mental hospitals under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. It does not reveal the total number of admissions. As from October 6th, 1959, the Minister of Health made an order that patients could enter designated mental hospitals informally under Section 5 of the new Mental Health Act, 1959. The local health authority is not informed of this type of admission. The Reading Officers did assist in securing the admission of 28 persons informally—so that it can be stated with confidence that the total number of admissions exceeded those of last year, when 293 admissions were effected.

(b) **Report by Mental Welfare Officer.** Mrs. A. J. Tregillus writes:—

The lack of a full-time Social Worker at Fair Mile has inevitably resulted in more cases being referred to the Local Authority Mental Welfare Officers. Also, the types of patient with whom we are dealing in this report are apt to reopen their own cases, and to present themselves on occasions at the office or clinic for help with their problems. Together with the cases normally referred, these groups have provided a heavy case load over the year.

New drugs and treatment have resulted in many patients leaving hospital after comparatively short periods. Similarly, the use of these new drugs, coupled with supportive therapy both inside and outside the clinic, have enabled some patients to weather the crisis without resort to hospital admission. It is too early to estimate the lasting effect of these drugs, but their advent has certainly changed the picture of mental treatment.

Informal admission to a mental hospital has proved a welcome beginning to the operation of the new Act. It helps the patient to know that admission to Fair Mile can now be on the same basis as to any general hospital. In the case of patients admitted to the George Schuster Hospital, they need not now report in the first instance to the main building, i.e. Fair Mile.

It is anticipated that once the day hospital in Eldon Street is in operation, one room at least will be available for social gatherings for clinic and ex-hospital patients. An informal get-together will afford the Welfare Officers an opportunity for keeping in touch with more patients over a shorter period. In my opinion, however, Eldon Street should not become a substitute for the social clubs and community centres already in operation in the district. On the whole, I do not favour the idea of psychiatric patients being encouraged to form groups between themselves. Rather should they mix and become part of the general community.

The case for a hostel is still as strong as ever from the Welfare Officer's viewpoint, and there is still evidence of the need for some sheltered employment. Although we have received increased help from Miss Turner and the Occupational Therapy Centre, this does not produce the gainful employment so necessary to stimulate some of our patients back into the routine of regular employment.

We have continued to receive help and co-operation from the N.A.B. and Ministry of Labour Disablement Resettlement Officers. Also the W.V.S. have generously assisted by providing clothing and, in one case, sheets. The Domestic Home

Helps have, as always, been ready to co-operate, and helpful consultations are often held with them. The Health Inspectors, Health Visitors and the Children's Department have collaborated willingly, and the Housing Department has helped to house, rehouse or exchange a house, whenever desirable and possible.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to a voluntary worker, Mrs. Ditchburn who has virtually taken over two of our patients, maintaining regular contact with them and reporting to the Welfare Officer after each visit.

During the year 1959, 585 visits were made by Mrs. Tregillus, and the number of office interviews amounted to 399. In addition 146 clinics were attended and 4 Case Conferences at Fair Mile Hospital.

The newly appointed Assistant Welfare Officer, Mr. Lacy made 633 visits; he gave 89 office interviews, and attended 69 clinics and 33 Case Conferences.

3. Mental Deficiency

(a) Miss J. Robb reports that the waiting list for hospital cases, especially of cases, has continued to be of pressing importance, and there seems little likelihood of getting hospital accommodation for these cases for some time to come. Short term vacancies are offered from time to time, and this year nine cases have been dealt with in this way. Once again, we must offer our thanks to the physician superintendents of the mental deficiency hospitals in this area for their kindness.

During 1959, nine patients were admitted to hospital, seven were admitted on an informal basis and two were admitted under Court Orders. As the Orders of the patients in hospitals became due for consideration they have, in most cases, been allowed to lapse and the patients have remained in hospital on an "informal basis". In the same way the patients in the community under Guardianship have been placed under Statutory Supervision when their Orders have been allowed to lapse.

Although at the end of 1958 a number of high grade patients were unemployed the situation eased during the year, and nearly all who are employable are safely placed in a job. For this, we must again thank the Youth Employment Officers, and the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour, for their help.

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over
	M.	F.	M.
(1) Particulars of cases reported during 1959:—			
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with"			
Number in which action taken on reports by:—			
(1) Local Education Authorities on children—			
(i) While at school or liable to attend school	1	1	—
(ii) On leaving special schools	—	1	4
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts	1	—	—
(3) Other sources	3	2	1
Total of 1 (a)	5	4	5
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at December 31st, 1959, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	1	—	—
Total of 1 (a)-(d) inc.	6	4	5

Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.

(2) Disposal of cases reported during 1959:—

(The total of 2 (a), (b) and (c) must agree with that of 1 (a) and (b) above)

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (a)), number:	...	...	...	...	...
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	5	3
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	-	2
Total of 2 (a)	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	5	5
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (b)), number:	...	...	...	...	...
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
(ii) Action unnecessary	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Total of 2 (b)	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Total of 2 (a)-(c) inc.	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	5	5

(3) Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the Local Health Authority under Circular 5/52 during 1959 and admitted to:—

(a) National Health Service Hospitals...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	1	1
(b) Elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	1	1

(4) Total cases on Authority's Registers at December 31st, 1959:—

(i) Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	15	22	96	77
(ii) Under Guardianship (including patients on licence)	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	2	-
(iii) In "Places of Safety"	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
(iv) In Hospitals (including patients on licence)	...	...	...	...	...	18	14	77	83
Total of 4 (i)-(iv) inc.	...	...	...	...	...	33	36	175	160
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	13	15
Total of 4 (i)-(v) inc.	...	...	...	...	...	34	36	188	175

- (5) Number of defectives under Guardianship on December 31st, 1959, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (included in 4 (ii)):—

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(6) Classification of defectives in the Community on December 31st, 1959 (according to need at that date):—				
(a) Cases included in 4 (i)–(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority:—				
(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—				
(i) "Cot and Chair" cases	2	3	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	—	2	—
(iii) Medium grade cases	1	—	—	1
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—
Total urgent cases	3	3	2	1
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—				
(i) "Cot and Chair" cases	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	—	3	1
(iii) Medium grade cases	1	—	4	4
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	1
Total non-urgent cases	1	—	7	6
Total of urgent and non-urgent cases	4	3	9	7
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—				
(i) Occupation centre	11	18	24	20
(ii) Industrial centre	—	—	—	—
(iii) Home training	—	—	—	—
Total of 6 (b)	11	18	24	20
(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiving training on December 31st, 1959:—				
(i) In Occupation centre (including voluntary centres)	10	15	20	17
(ii) In Industrial centre	—	—	—	—
(iii) From a home teacher in groups	—	—	—	—
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	—	—	—	—
Total of 6 (c)	10	15	20	17

Particulars of Mental Defectives as at December 31st, 1959:—

(1) Cases "subject to be dealt with"	M.	F.	Total
(a) Borocourt, 72; Bentry Colony, 5; Wayland House, 30; St. Mary's, Alton, 1; Pewsey Hospital, 38; Winslow Hospital, 2; Botley's Park, 2; Manor House, Aylesbury, 12; State Institutions, 5; Normansfield, Teddington 1; Purley Park, 2; Agricultural Hostel, Newent, 1; Wokingham Hospital, 1; Ravenswood, 1; Smith's Hospital, 2;	85	90	175

						M.	F.	Total
(b)	On Licence from Hospitals							
	Employed away from home	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
	Employed living at home	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
	Living at home attending Day Hospital	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
	Licensed from State Institution to hospital	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
(c)	Under Guardianship							
	Receiving National Assistance	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
	Not employed	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
(d)	Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	111	99	210
(2)	Disposal of cases during 1959							
(a)	Granted licence from hospitals	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
	Returned from licence to hospitals	...	...	...	...	-	3	3
	Died	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
	Left the district	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
	Discharged from hospitals	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
	Admitted to hospitals	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
	Discharged from Guardianship	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
(b)	Awaiting removal to Hospitals							
	Cases of some urgency	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
	On waiting list for care in the future	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
(3)	Number of cases ascertained during 1959							
(a)	Cases reported by Local Education Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act 1944							
	(1) Under Section 57 (3)	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
	(2) Under Section 57 (5) on leaving special school	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
(b)	Other ascertained mental defectives reported during 1959 and found "Subject to be Dealt with"	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
(4)	Cases not at present "Subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	14	15	29
(5)	Supervised on behalf of other Authorities:—	...	...	...	...	2	6	8

(c) **Occupation Centres.** Miss Barkas, the Supervisor, has contributed this interesting report on the work carried out at both centres during the year:—

Wakefield Lodge. At this junior centre there were 34 children on the register at the end of December, including 6 from Berkshire. This shows a rise of 5 children on the corresponding numbers for last year. Amongst the children admitted were two whose backwardness was also accompanied by behaviour problems. In each case their behaviour improved as they settled down to the supervisory regime carried out at the centre. A room is being prepared so that we can accept the mildly psychotic child for training in suitable cases.

When the new Mental Health Act comes fully into operation, attendance at an occupation centre will become compulsory for the mentally handicapped child under 16 years of age who cannot benefit from formal education in school, unless he is receiving comparable training elsewhere. Since most parents have been only too pleased to avail themselves of the services of the centre, we do not anticipate any great increase in our numbers.

The staff consists of the following: 1 Supervisor (who has supervision of The Beeches and Wakefield Lodge), 4 Female Assistant Supervisors, and appropriate domestic staff.

Transport Arrangements. On November 30th an additional bus was brought into the service so as to apportion the routes more evenly.

Medical and Dental Services. We have been indebted to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health for routine medical inspection, and also to the School Dental Officer for dental treatment. Cleanliness inspections have been carried out during the year, and also any other necessary treatment, such as Speech Therapy.

Meals. These have been supplied by the School Meals Service as before, including one-third of a pint of milk for each child.

Activities. The subjects taught at this centre are aimed at giving each child as comprehensive a training as possible. An effort is made to give a child basic training in 3R work as well, if he seems to be likely to benefit from it.

Various social events took place during the year:—

(a) Two open days were held on March 17th and 18th. The first day we invited Councillors and officials, and on the second day we invited parents and their friends. The usual programme of activities was produced, after which Miss Harman kindly showed a series of her coloured transparencies of our children at work and play.

(b) Sports Day was held at Wakefield Lodge on June 20th, both Centres meeting on this occasion. Prizes were given by the Parents' Association, who also kindly supplied the refreshments. We were pleased to welcome a party from Borocourt, who also joined in the events. Many parents and friends attended.

(c) 4 boys and 4 girls accompanied the adults on their annual visit to the St. Mary's Bay Holiday Camp which was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned.

(d) A Harvest Festival Service was held at Wakefield Lodge by the Rev. L. W. Harman, both centres attending. The offerings of fruit, vegetables and flowers were distributed to some of the aged and sick who are friends, or known to us.

(e) A Christmas party was held at Wakefield Lodge on December 11th for the younger children. Games, tea, and a visit from Father Christmas (Mr. Allen) made a very happy afternoon.

(f) The children attended a performance of the local pantomime.

Students. Again this year, we were pleased to accept two students taking the course of Training for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped sponsored by the N.A.M.H.

The Beeches Training Centre. This adult centre caters for pupils of both sexes from the age of 16 years upwards. At December 1959, 21 males were attending including one from Berkshire, and 19 females. The staff consists of:—1 Supervisor (who also has supervision of Wakefield Lodge); 1 Senior Assistant (male) with Supervisory duties; 2 Female Assistant Supervisors; 1 Part-time Boot Repairing Instructor giving two half-day sessions weekly; 1 Caretaker, who gives gardening instruction and assists also with the male pupils. There is also one domestic help. Miss S. George returned to this centre in September having obtained her diploma in Teaching of the Mentally Handicapped. Mrs. Fade was transferred to assist at Wakefield Lodge.

Transport Arrangements. The same facilities were available as for Wakefield Lodge.

Meals. These have been supplied by the School Meals Service.

Medical and Dental Services. At this centre a routine medical inspection was carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and the School Dental Officer supplied dental treatment to several of the pupils.

I feel that this has been an experimental year, and that progress has been made in the right direction. At this Centre the pupils are respected as adults, and are encouraged to feel that they are "going out to work." In the case of the higher grade pupils the experience gained at The Beeches should help to prepare them for possible future employment in the "open market." Responsibility, however slight, is given to those capable of taking it. To quote an example, a truck was acquired during the year and those male pupils engaged in the wood chopping activities have delivered their products and collected the money in payment. We feel that this achievement has been valuable from the social aspect, and has been a test

their reliability. Another activity that has been started this year is the making of concrete blocks, and orders have been taken for this work. The usual basket making and chair seating crafts have been taught throughout the year. Weekly pocket money, earned from their labours, has been maintained at one to three shillings per week.

3 male pupils were placed in employment in the town during the year, and at the end of the year all were still holding their jobs.

On the female pupils' side, I am pleased to report that the making of Christmas crackers was started in September. All the pupils have had a hand in the production of these goods, and the more competent ones have assembled them. The finished products have looked quite professional. Orders from various sources have been such as to justify payment of pocket money to the women as well as to the men. We are grateful to various bodies for their interest, and we already have a repeat order placed with us for next Christmas.

Needlework is still very much in demand, and many articles are sold through the Helping Hand Shop and at our Sale of Work. Domestic Science instruction has continued throughout the year, and orders for cakes, biscuits, preserves and pickled goods have been executed.

Some of the social events were shared with Wakefield Lodge and have been mentioned in the report for that Centre.

We were privileged to receive 30 tickets for the Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia and the Parents' Association kindly defrayed the cost of transport by coach. Those pupils who did not go, went to the local pantomime. Other events taking place during the year were:—

An Open Day was held on July 22nd in the garden of The Beeches. A programme of Physical Education, song and dance was given by the pupils.

On December 9th the Annual Sale of Work was held at St. John's Hall. His Worship the Mayor kindly consented to open the proceedings—others present included the Mayoress, Councillor Allum, and a large gathering of friends.

The Christmas Party was held on December 21st, and 8 older children from Wakefield Lodge attended. The Mayor and Mayoress, accompanied by several members of the Mental Welfare Committee, kindly honoured us with their presence at tea. The Mayor kindly handed the pupils their Christmas gifts after tea. We also appreciated the entertainment of songs and carols given by Messrs. Warman, A. H. Turner, Willis and G. Turner during the intervals between dances.

The Committee of the Parents' Association has again been very active in raising money for our outings and extra equipment. We are very grateful for all their efforts.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The table on page 66 gives particulars of notification of infectious diseases received during the year. These figures include patients who are not normally resident in the Borough.

Diphtheria. For the eleventh year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the borough.

Scarlet Fever. Notifications of this disease showed a marked decline and such cases as were notified were very mild. Personally I doubt very much the justification for continuing to regard scarlet fever as a notifiable disease except in so far as it may give us some information about incidence of streptococcal infection.

Whooping Cough. It is interesting to note that of the 70 cases notified as whooping cough during the year, only one of them was known to have had a complete course of immunisation consisting of a primary course of 3 doses of 1 c.c. of pertussis vaccine in early infancy followed by a single booster dose of 1 c.c. a year later. This refers to pertussis vaccine given separately or in combination with immunising agents for other diseases.

No evidence could be traced in the majority of cases of ever having received any form of protection against whooping cough. Of the twelve cases that had had some form of protection, eleven received either an insufficient number of doses or an insufficient size of dose. The one case known to have received a full course of immunisation, as fulfilled by the criteria mentioned above, had completed the course $2\frac{1}{2}$ years before contracting the disease.

The age range of these cases was from 3 months to 10 years, 43 of them being 5 years or under. Only 7 of the children of 5 years or less had had any form of protection during a period when the pertussis vaccine has been known to be more effective; one of them was the case that had had a full immunisation course.

These figures would seem to support the value of immunisation against pertussis, and also to stress the need for an adequate course since the persistence of acquired immunity by vaccine may be relatively short-lived. In most instances, however, an adequate immunisation course as described above is sufficient to protect children completely or at least against severe attacks of whooping cough, during the infant and toddler periods of their lives when the fatalities and more serious complications of the disease occur.

Poliomyelitis. Remembering our experience of the winter of 1957/58, when we had quite a severe outbreak of this disease it is pleasing to record that there was only one case notified during 1959. This was a non-paralytic case. It would be nice to think that this reduction in the incidence of poliomyelitis is due to vaccination. No doubt vaccination has played its part but I would not be bold enough to say that it is the only cause since poliomyelitis is a disease which is known to fluctuate considerably from year to year.

The following tables give particulars of the incidence of poliomyelitis since 1953:—

TABLE 1

1953

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	-	2	-	2
15 years and over	1	2	-	3
Total	1	4	-	5

1954—No cases

TABLE 2

1955

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	-	-	1
15 years and over	3	-	1	4
Total	4	-	1	5

TABLE 3

1956

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	2	-	-	2
15 years and over	-	1	-	1
Total	2	1	-	3

TABLE 4

1957

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	21	20	2	41
15 years and over	2	6	1	8
Total	23	26	3	49

TABLE 5

1958

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	1	-	2
15 years and over	2	1	-	3
Total	3	2	-	5

TABLE 7

1959

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	-	-	1
15 years and over	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1

TABLE 8

Year	1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5+ months ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6-11+ months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	—	—	—	—
5-9+ years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	11*	9*	—	1	—	—
10-14+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
15-19+ years ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-24+ years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 years and over	—	1	—	—	1	1*	—	—	2*	5	1	1	—	—
Total males and females in each year ...	1	4	—	—	3	2	1	2	29	20	2	3	1	—
Grand Total	5		—		5		3		49		5		1	

* Includes 1 death

TABLE 9

1959

Age Group	Males		Females	
	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic
0-5+ months ...	—	1	—	—
6-11+ months ...	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	—	—	—	—
5-9+ years ...	—	—	—	—
10-14+ years ...	—	—	—	—
15-19+ years ...	—	—	—	—
20-24+ years ...	—	—	—	—
25 years and over ...	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	—	—

Typhoid Fever. Of the four cases notified, two were Reading residents and the following notes may be of interest:—

Case 1—An unemployed man of Polish origin was admitted to the Park Hospital on June 19th, having complained of a fever for about ten days. He was reported to the health department as a suspected case of typhoid fever, which was later confirmed.

It was subsequently discovered that he had recently changed his lodgings, and had felt ill before he moved. All contacts in both lodgings were investigated and the landlady at the patient's previous lodgings was found to be excreting the typhoid organism in her fæces, her blood test also showing evidence of active infection. The other contacts were all negative. One contact, who lived at the patient's previous lodgings and had never had any inoculations against typhoid was given T.A.B. vaccine. The original patient recovered in hospital following treatment with chloramphenicol. The landlady, who was discovered as the carrier, was also admitted to Park Hospital, but chloramphenicol therapy was unsuccessful. She was subsequently treated by cholecystectomy, since she had complained of long-standing symptoms indicative of gall-bladder disease. She had been in a Russian concentration camp, and also served in General Anders' Army in Iraq before she arrived in England. Enquiries were made at the places where she had stayed in England prior to coming to Reading, but there did not appear to have been any outbreaks of typhoid in any of these places during the time that she stayed in them.

At the time of writing, both these patients have been free of infection since their treatment was finished.

Case 2—A lady was admitted to a medical ward in the Park Hospital for investigation on August 28th, having been feverish for 8 days. She had been on holiday in Italy where she had felt perfectly well until she complained of a headache on the evening of August 20th. From then on she had headaches and fever, returning to this country on August 22nd. For the remainder of the time prior to being admitted to hospital she was nursed at home.

Various persons who had been in contact with this patient during her illness were investigated. These persons included her own household contacts, some relatives who accompanied the patient's family to Italy and had subsequently visited her at home, a relative who worked in the Nurses Home at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, three district nurses who had nursed the patient at home, and the nursing staff and patients of the medical ward of the Park Hospital. General practitioners of patients already discharged from hospital and of those due to be discharged soon, and the Medical Officers of Health of the areas in which they resided, were informed that these patients had contacted a case of typhoid fever. All the other contacts mentioned had specimens of fæces and urine investigated immediately, and further specimens

and a blood sample were tested a month later. The district nurses, the relative working in the Nurses Home, who was also a food handler, and the schoolchildren were excluded from work or school until deemed to be free from infection. The general practitioner of the various relatives who contacted the patient in her own home was also informed of the position. Fortunately none of these contacts had become infected. Despite treatment with chloramphenicol, tetracycline, penicillin and benemid, the patient remained a carrier after her discharge from hospital in November. In view of this carrier state it was decided to serve a notice upon her in accordance with the 4th Schedule of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953. This is an unusual procedure and, therefore, for the purpose of interest and for the record I append a list of the conditions which were imposed:—

1. To discontinue or to refrain from engaging in any occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink for human consumption;
2. To thoroughly cleanse her hands always after relieving her bowels or urinating;
3. Under no circumstances to use a roller or other towel which may be used by other persons;
4. To ensure that all her garments and bedding, before being laundered, are steeped in a disinfectant bath for 24 hours;
5. To treat her excreta and urine with a disinfectant solution for two hours before disposal;
6. To take all possible steps: (a) to promptly kill all flies getting into the premises where she is living, and (b) to prevent them carrying infection from her, her clothes or excreta;
7. To notify the Medical Officer of Health of any change of address (temporary or otherwise).

This lady is under supervision and it is not possible to say at this juncture whether or not she will become a permanent carrier.

Enteritis due to B.Coli O.55. Two minor outbreaks of mild diarrhoea in infants were reported from a children's nursery in July and November respectively. On neither of these occasions were any of the affected infants more than moderately ill, and the casual organism was identified as B.Coli O.55. A few infants who were contacts were found to be symptomless carriers of the organism.

The outbreaks were dealt with by isolation of those infants whose stools were positive for B.Coli O.55, and the removal to hospital isolation wards of those infants who had the more severe symptoms.

Food Poisoning (see also report of Chief Public Health Inspector). The following notes may be of interest because they relate to an unusual type of infection, viz. Salmonella Anatum.

A part-time food handler was taken ill with severe abdominal pains, diarrhoea and fever on October 20th. These symptoms persisted in milder form for six days. Subsequently a food poisoning organism, salmonella anatum, was isolated from a stool specimen.

It was thought that the source of the infection was possibly some cold roast pork that only the patient had eaten at 4 p.m. the previous day. None of the other home contacts had symptoms, nor were they found to be carriers on investigation. Unfortunately no portion of the piece of pork, cut from a leg, was available by the time the case came to the notice of the Public Health department. The grocer from whom it was purchased could not recall having any complaints, nor could he recall any other customer who had brought a piece from the same leg of pork.

The patient remained away from work until the Medical Officer of Health was satisfied that she was no longer a source of infection. Her carrier state lasted between six and seven weeks, clearing after selective antibiotic treatment.

Dysentery. The following note relates to a family outbreak of Flexner Dysentery:—

A teenage schoolgirl was notified as a case of suspected flexner dysentery on November 17th. She was also stated to be quite ill with diarrhoea and vomiting.

The organism that had been isolated from her faeces was later identified as *Shigella flexneri* 2a. Her younger brother had been reported as having similar symptoms in September, when a shigella flexner organism of the same type was isolated from his stools. The boy recovered after treatment from his general practitioner. The type to which this flexner dysentery organism belonged was an unusual one to be found in this country.

It was thought that the child's father might have introduced the organism in question into his family. It was also considered that the organism might have come from one or more of numerous pets kept in the household, i.e. two rabbits, two cats, a dog and two budgerigars.

Further enquiry revealed that the father had from time to time complained of mild abdominal upsets. It also came to light that the eldest boy had come back from a holiday in the South of France in August suffering from diarrhoea, as had many of his companions.

The girl recovered from her attack of dysentery following treatment from her doctor. Both children were excluded from school until three negative specimens had been obtained. Three negative specimens were also obtained from the father and the eldest boy.

The mother, who is a canteen supervisor and serves food, had sent in specimens at intervals. These had been negative until she had diarrhoea one night at the end of December after eating some fruit. A specimen submitted at this time was positive for flexner dysentery of the same type as that which had affected the two children. She was excluded from work until three negative specimens were obtained following appropriate treatment from her doctor.

From this account it can be seen that there are at least three possible sources by which the infection could have been introduced into this family. Subsequent investigation failed to identify any of them, though at least two of these sources might have become non-infective by the time it was possible to obtain suitable specimens for examination. It is also impossible to know if the mother had in fact been a symptomless carrier for some time, possibly initially infected from her husband, and that this state of affairs had been brought to light as a result of the bowel irritation produced by eating an unaccustomed amount of fruit.

Salmonella Typhimurium infection. The following account of an infection by salmonella typhimurium is also of interest.

We were notified on October 17th that salmonella typhimurium had been isolated from the stool of a lady aged 77. Her illness had commenced about a month previously, the main feature had been vomiting and the story was not typical of salmonella infection.

She gave the interesting story that she had been involved in an outbreak of food poisoning in 1951 while on holiday at Keswick. This outbreak apparently affected a large number of people. Her husband and her son were free of symptoms, although they had shared the same meals as the patient.

We formed the impression that it is quite possible that the patient had acquired the infection in 1951 and that she has been carrying it since then, the isolation of the organism from her stools in this particular illness being probably coincidental. This idea has been reinforced by an independent observation made by Dr. Wood, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, that the number of organisms was very small and that he suspected that this was indicative of the carrier state rather than an acute infection.

TUBERCULOSIS

These remarks should be read in conjunction with those under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and with any comments made in my report as Principal School Medical Officer. The following table shows the number of primary notifications of cases of tuberculosis and the number of deaths due to the disease since 1938 :—

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	135.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900
1959	73	6	61.76	5.08	7	1	0.06	0.01	118,200

It will be noted that there has been a sharp drop in the notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis. Although the number of deaths has been falling steadily this is the first year in which there has been any appreciable decrease in the number of notifications.

Once again I wish to thank Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the very great help he given has me in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages of this report.

TABLE II.

Source and Type of new cases of tuberculous infection first seen in 1959.

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odeleca Clinic	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals	Transfers from other areas
Respiratory Tuberculosis								
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>								
Positive	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-
Negative	-	1	2	-	3	2	8	-
Apparently healed	1	3	3	-	-	3	10	-
<i>Tuberculin Conversion in Juveniles</i>	-	4	1	-	1	26	32	-
<i>Tuberculous Pleural Effusion:</i>								
Positive	-	-	2	2	2	-	6	-
Negative	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>								
Positive	1	4	14	12	9	3	43	36
Negative	2	1	9	1	2	-	15	9
P. T arrested and Observation	4	6	45	16	9	10	90	-
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis	8	20	77	31	27	45	208	45
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	1	2	3	-	6	-
Total Tuberculosis Cases ...	8	20	78	33	30	45	214	45

TABLE III.

Summary of Primary Notifications, 1959.

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odeleca	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis:							
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>							
Positive	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Negative	-	1	2	-	3	2	8
<i>Tuberculous Pleural Effusion:</i>							
Positive	-	-	2	2	2	-	6
Negative	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>							
R.B. 1	1	3	7	4	5	1	21
R.B. 2	-	1	5	3	1	1	11
R.B. 3	-	-	2	5	3	1	11
R.A. 1	1	1	7	-	1	-	10
R.A. 2	1	-	2	1	1	-	5
R.A. 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	7	28	15	17	6	76
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	-	-	1	2	3	-	6
Total Tuberculosis Cases	3	7	29	17	20	6	82

It is difficult to account for this sudden and marked drop, except in terms of a genuine reduction in the incidence of new cases, brought about by the intensive case finding and ever improving chemotherapy over the past ten years. If this explanation is correct we should see a further reduction in 1960 and succeeding years. It is disappointing, however, that 11 of the 42 positive pulmonary cases were patients with advanced disease, classified R.B.3. Two new patients, never previously treated, had organisms resistant to all three standard antituberculous drugs.

Our rigid standards for notification have been maintained, 51 of the 76 newly notified respiratory cases (i.e. 67%) being bacteriologically positive, compared with 70% in 1958 and 67% in 1956, a rate substantially higher than the national average.

Contacts. 564 new contacts were examined, compared with 755 in 1958. This figure was obviously affected by the number of new notifications and the yield of new cases of tuberculosis was also low. Only 7 new notifications, of which 5 were bacteriologically positive, were obtained from this source.

B.C.G. Vaccinations. 322 vaccinations were carried out, compared with 367 in 1958. The total number of contacts vaccinated since 1950 is now 2,995.

Cases of Tuberculosis Positive in 1959. There were 43 persons whose bronchopulmonary secretion was positive and who were not at the time in an institution (Ministry of Health definition).

Bacteriological Investigations, 1959

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Gastric lavage	4	39	43
Laryngeal swab culture	3	164	167
* Sputum	37	719	756
Total	44	922	966

* 384 sputum specimens were cultured for pathogenic organisms.

Domiciliary Chemotherapy. An average of 87 patients per week were receiving chemotherapy at home. The great majority of new patients in this area start treatment in hospital, but carry on with chemotherapy at home.

167 home visits were made by the medical staff and 2,376 visits by the two health visitors.

Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register.

Notified cases only:—

Recovered	28
Died (all causes)	20
Transferred	44
Other	39
	—
Total	131
	—

Non-Tuberculous Chest Diseases. 808 new non-tuberculous cases were seen in 1959, compared with 850 in 1958 and 491 in 1950. Of this total, 135 adults and 21 children were admitted for investigation to Peppard Chest Hospital, and a smaller number to Prospect Park Hospital. The remaining diagnoses were made by means of out-patient examination.

TABLE V
Diagnoses of Non-Tuberculous Cases
First Seen in 1959

Asthma	25
Pneumonias	145
Other acute respiratory infection	135
Chronic bronchitis	187
Bronchiectasis	20
Unexplained haemoptysis	1
Bronchial carcinoma	52
Secondary lung carcinoma	4
Pleurisy (non-tuberculous)	6
Spontaneous pneumothorax	6
Sarcoidosis	4
Other lung conditions	23
Cardiac disease	35
Other diseases	39
Diagnosis not completed by December 31st, 1959	11
No organic disease	115
	—
Total	808
	—

Chronic Bronchitis. The Chest Clinic is participating for the second year in a large-scale chemotherapy trial in chronic bronchitis, organised by the British Tuberculosis Association. Preliminary results of last year's trial show that there is a place for preventive chemotherapy during the winter months, best given in the form of tetracycline, 250 mg. b.d., or penicillin, 300 mg. b.d.

Chronic bronchitis has in 1959 again formed the single largest group of new non-tuberculous patients, and as general interest in this condition is increasing there is every sign of growing demand for the investigation and treatment of these cases, particularly in winter, when they form a considerable proportion of emergency hospital admissions.

Hospitals. The tuberculosis beds at Prospect Park Hospital were closed in May, 1959, owing to reduced demand and reorganisation of tuberculosis services in the area, but to compensate for this loss an increased number of tuberculosis beds were allocated at Peppard Chest Hospital.

Non-Tuberculous Patients. Beds are available in the medical wards of Prospect Park Hospital for admission of acute cases.

The non-tuberculous ward at Peppard is used for patients requiring specialised investigation or treatment. The 32 beds usually cover the existing demand except for the winter months, when a shortage of beds for acute chest cases is felt both in Peppard and the Reading hospitals.

135 non-tuberculous adults were admitted in 1959, and the following diagnoses were made:—

Bronchial carcinoma	52
Acute respiratory infection	30
Asthma and bronchitis	16
Bronchiectasis	7
Heart disease	7
Lung cysts and bullae	4
Secondary carcinoma	4
Spontaneous pneumothorax	3
Right middle lobe syndrome	2
Empyema	3
Foreign body in bronchus	1
Other conditions	6
Total	135

Average stay in hospital was 24 days, including the time spent on the surgical ward (25 days in 1958 and 28 in 1957).

Tuberculous Patients. A total of 97 patients from the Reading clinic area were admitted to Peppard in 1959, comprising 53 men, 36 women and 8 children.

Five adult patients were submitted to surgery, against 12 in 1958 and 19 in 1957.

Cases remaining under Clinic supervision, December 31st, 1959

Notified tuberculous cases	1,185
P.T. Observation, incl. app. healed and recent tub. conversions in juveniles	262
Non-tuberculous cases	613
Total	2,060

Care and After-Care. Reference to this important subject will be found in our remarks on our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

Venereal Disease. Patients suffering from venereal disease in Reading are treated at the Royal Berkshire Hospital which also serves a large part of the surrounding countryside. The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time in 1959:—

Syphilis	6
Gonorrhoea	46
Other conditions	77

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

1. The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. During the year there were two occurrences of contamination of the River Kennet source but despite these a satisfactory standard of purity was maintained by the routine measures of filtration, chlorination, tests for residual chlorine and regular analyses.

First case of contamination occurred on 31st January, 1959, and was caused by a fractured fuel pipeline which fell into the river near Padworth. Fortunately an advance warning was received and the works were closed down. The pollution prevented the undertaking using the Kennet source, but additional pumping from Pangbourne coupled with manipulation of valves enabled supplies to be maintained. It was not until February 9th that normal abstraction could begin again at the river stations.

The river works were again closed on March 25th following a report that some pollution of a drain running into the Lambourne, had occurred. The Department's Chemist made careful tests and in view of satisfactory results of analysis the Kennet stations were restarted at mid-day on March 26th.

3. Evidence was given at a Public Enquiry held on August 26th, 1959 in connection with an appeal against a refusal by the Bradfield R.D.C. to permit certain housing development at Tidmarsh. The Corporation contended that the absence of a sewerage system might involve possible pollution of their Pangbourne source of supply. The Minister of Housing and Local Government dismissed the appeal.

4. The chemical and bacteriological examination of water was continued during the year in the laboratories at the Water Department Depot, Berkeley Avenue. Samples were taken from the raw water sources, from all stages of the treatment processes, and from the distribution system. In addition, samples were submitted at regular intervals for independent examination by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The numbers of samples from each point, together with the type of examination made, are set out below:—

A. *By the Counties Public Health Laboratories*

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples	
		Full Bact.	Full Chem.
Fobney Works ...	Final Water, chlorinated	5	4
Southcote Works ...	Final Water, chlorinated	5	4
Pangbourne Works	Raw Water	4	4
Pangbourne Works	Final Water, chlorinated	5	—
	Totals	19	12

B. *By the Water Department Laboratory*

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples		
		Full Bact.	Full Chem.	Partial Chem.
Fobney Works ...	Raw river water	21	12	9
	Individual filtrates, unchlorinated ...	22	—	22
	Bulked filtrate, unchlorinated ...	49	12	37
	Final water, chlorinated	79	12	67
Southcote Works ...	Final water, chlorinated	68	12	56
Pangbourne Works	Raw water	67	46	21
	Final water, chlorinated	81	12	69
Bath Road Reservoir	As distributed	52	12	40
Tilehurst Water Tower	As distributed	14	—	14
Hill Reservoirs ...	As distributed	22	—	22
Parfitt Reservoirs ...	As distributed	12	—	12
Emmer Green Reservoir	As distributed	13	—	13
Emmer G'n W't'r T'wer	As distributed	10	—	10
Tap Samples ...	As distributed	31	—	31
	Totals	541	118	423

In addition to the 1,113 samples shown in the above tables, miscellaneous samples were taken for analysis, including waters for identification and samples from new mains after chlorination.

The following are submitted as typical of reports made on the raw and final waters from the two sources of supply.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, requires only chlorination in the way of treatment while the river source is greatly affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, and requires at all times carefully controlled treatment by filtration and chlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water	Final Water
Appearance	Fairly clear, with a little suspended matter and a trace of colour, and a small deposit of mineral and organic debris, with some diatoms and algal threads present	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered : 7	Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	10	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil
pH.	8.0	7.7
Chlorides	14.0	15.0
Hardness : Total as CaCO ₃	250	245
" Carbonate (temporary)	220	215
" Non-Carbonate (permanent)	30	30
Nitrates (N)	2.9	3.0
Nitrites (N)	0.01	Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.030	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.155	0.055
Iron	0.10	Less than 0.02
Other metals	Absent	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace	4
Total Solids, dried at 180° C.	285	280
Alkalinity	220	215
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	1.40	0.50
Residual Chlorine	—	0.4
Fluoride	—	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>		
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in :—		
1 day at 37° C.	6500	17
2 days at 37° C.	10,000	22
3 days at 22° C.	16,000	22
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>		
Present in	0.01 mls.	—
Absent from	0.001 mls.	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	11,000	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>		
Present in	0.1 mls.	—
Absent from	0.01 mls.	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	350	0

PANGBOURNE WELL SOURCE

	Raw Water	Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Faint, chlorinous
pH.	7.0	7.0
Chlorides	13.0	13.0
Hardness: Total as CaCO ₃	285	285
Carbonate (temporary)	255	255
Non-Carbonate (permanent)	30	30
Nitrates (N)	4.9	4.9
Nitrites (N)	Absent	Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.005	0.000
Iron	Less than 0.02	Nil
Other metals	Absent	Absent
Free carbon dioxide	36	35
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	345	345
Alkalinity	255	255
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.05	0.00
Residual Chlorine	—	0.3
Fluoride	—	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>		
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—		
1 day at 37°C.	0	0
2 days at 37°C.	1	1
3 days at 22°C.	1	1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>		
Present in	—	—
Absent from	100 mls.	100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>		
Present in	—	—
Absent from	100 mls.	100 mls.

5. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are required in this respect.

6. The estimated population supplied from the Corporation's mains in the whole area of supply was 129,968 as at December 31st, 1959. During the year the quantity of water supplied for all purposes amounted to 2,574,629,000 gallons.

The number of dwellinghouses, together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied was 39,041 at March 31st, 1959, of this total 39,023 are supplied direct and the remaining 18 from standpipes. My records show that 16 houses within the Borough are supplied from private wells and take no supply from the Corporation's mains.

7. The Reading and Berkshire Water, etc., Act 1959 received the Royal Assent during the year. The Act constitutes a new authority—the Thames Valley Water Board—to supply water in parts of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire, and the Corporation's undertaking will be integrated with the Board with effect from April 1st 1960.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

Although it is not possible to report the progress one would like, some headway was made in various branches of the work of the Department during the year.

The target for slum clearance was duly completed. We are now approaching the end of the first 5-year programme and no doubt it will be necessary, in due course, to inform the appropriate Ministry of future slum clearance commitments. As far as circumstances permitted, the survey of housing conditions in the area generally was continued.

Formal action has been commenced in respect of Houses Let-in-Lodgings; a great deal of work will arise in this field. There will be problems too, due partly to the acute housing shortage in the area, but it is an aspect of our housing responsibilities which needs attention no less than that of slum clearance.

Whilst the repair provisions of the Rent Act, 1957, have enabled a certain amount of work to be done by way of maintenance, there seems to be a general absence of reasonably large schemes of substantial works of improvement for rented houses. It is not possible, of course, with existing resources to introduce routine house-to-house inspections, a duty which does need some attention.

Throughput at the Abattoirs has shown a considerable increase during the year, mainly due to the glut of lambs and sheep. The decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis over the last few years is again strikingly evident in the figures for 1959 and is no doubt some measure of the success of the Ministry's Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme.

The pattern of work associated with the Clean Air Act is taking shape and it is pleasing to report the favourable reactions of both industry and the householder to the steps being taken.

Whilst it has not been possible to spare as much time for this work as one would like, food hygiene duties were continued during the year and the standard of food premises is steadily being improved.

The Report would not be complete without saying how indebted I am to all members of the staff who, by their loyal and helpful co-operation throughout the year, contributed so well to the year's work.

1. HOUSING

Slum Clearance. The present 5-year Slum Clearance programme of 499 houses was commenced in 1956, which means that 1959 was the fourth year of the programme. Representations were made in respect of 59 houses during 1959 and at the end of the year, the total number of houses dealt with by means of Clearance, Individual Closure and Demolition, Certification or voluntary action since the commencement of the programme, was 374, thus leaving a balance of 125 houses to be dealt with during next year if the programme is to be completed within the five years.

The smaller number of representations during this year made it possible for some time to be devoted to the consideration of slum clearance proposals likely to follow the current programme and preliminary investigations indicate that, despite the advantages recently made available to owners of properties by the Rent Act, 1957, and the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, the houses in certain parts of the town have continued to deteriorate and the number which will have to be dealt with in the next Slum Clearance programme, will, in all probability, be greater than that of the current programme.

Clearance Areas. The following representations were made during the year by the Medical Officer of Health:—

Clearance Area No. 1/59 (Soho Street)—comprising 6 houses

Clearance Area No. 2/59 (Southampton Street)—comprising 10 houses

Clearance Area No. 3/59 (Lavender Street and Soho Street)—comprising 7 houses

Clearance Area No. 4/59 (Lavender Street and Hope Street)—comprising 6 houses

Clearance Area No. 5/59 (Hosier Street)—comprising 3 houses

A Clearance Order was made in respect of the Southampton Street Area and, there being no objections, the Order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and towards the end of the year, rehousing of the occupants was commenced.

Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in respect of the remaining areas, none of which have yet been confirmed.

Objections were lodged against the Clearance Order made in respect of Clearance Area No. 3/58 (York Terrace) and a Hearing was arranged. The objections were, however, withdrawn prior to the Hearing and the Clearance Order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister. The Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1958 in respect of Clearance Area No. 4/58 (Hope Street North) was also confirmed during the year by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The following were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 22/36 Rose Hill Cottages—as result of a Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1957.

No. 34 Hosier Street—the remaining house forming part of a Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1956, most of which houses were demolished during 1958.

Nos. 2/24 Finch Court, 2 Hope Street North, and 2/8 Soho Street—areas of houses owned by the Local Authority and Certified Unfit during 1958.

Individual Unfit Houses. The undermentioned houses were represented during the year by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense:—

89 Castle Street; 1 Coley Kiln Cottages; 81 Field Road; 18 Kennet Side; Caravan, 46 Kentwood Hill; 2 Lower Henley Road; 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 Mount Pleasant Grove; 19 Norwood Road; 21 and 23 Sun Street; 40 Watlington Street.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of the houses in Mount Pleasant Grove, and in respect of No. 19 Norwood Road which was vacated and demolished before the end of the year. The Caravan at No. 46 Kentwood Hill was vacated and demolished immediately following representation. Closing Orders were made in respect of the remainder of the houses with the exception of No. 81 Field Road where the owner intimated his intention to make an offer of works.

The following houses, formally closed in earlier years, were demolished during 1959:—

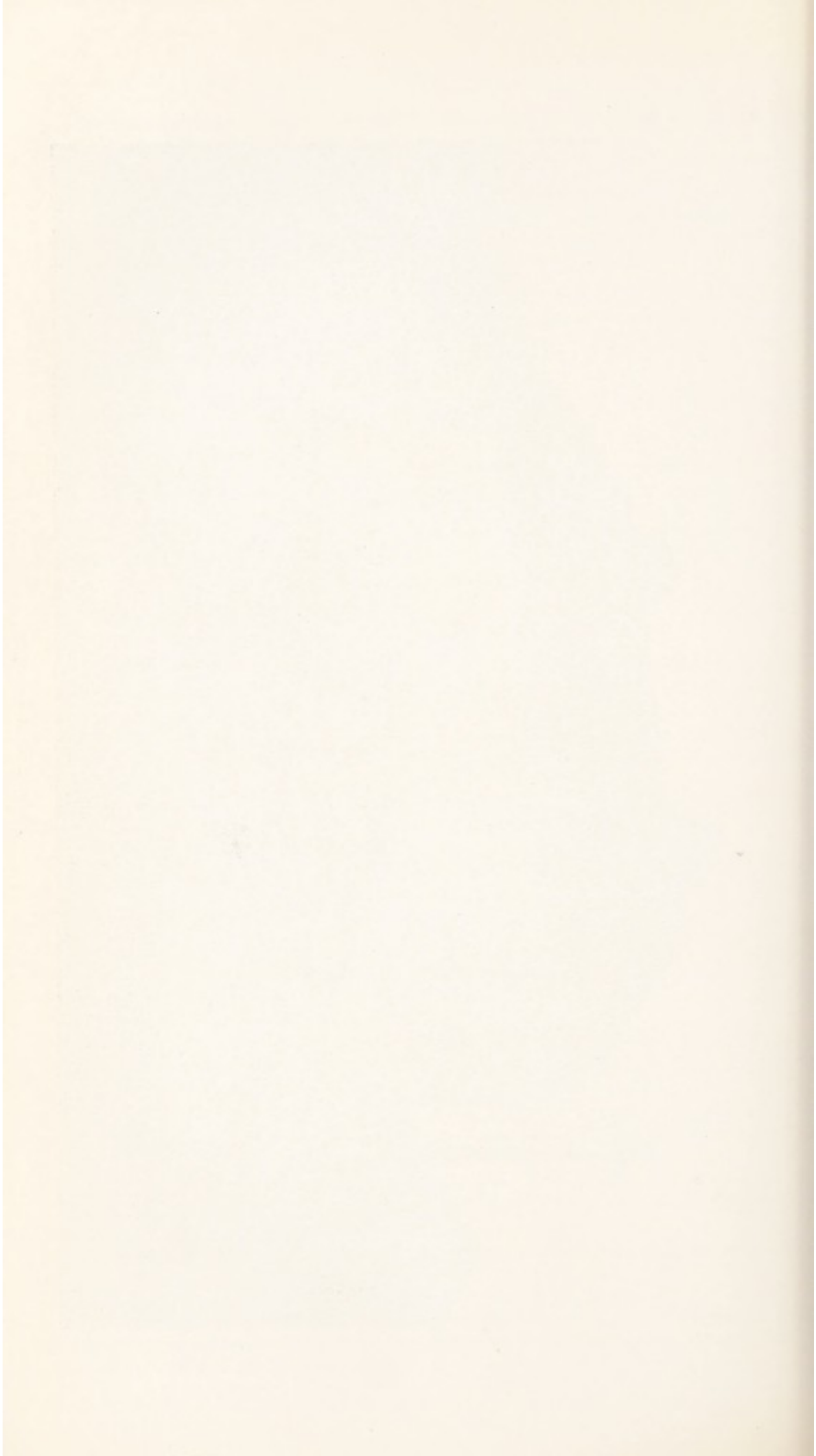
12 Hosier Street (1952); 14a Hosier Street (1957); 17 Merchants Place (1958); and 11 Southampton Street (1956).

The undermentioned houses, included in the Slum Clearance programme and vacant for some years, were voluntarily demolished by the owners during 1959:—

10, 14, 16 and 18 Hosier Street.



Reconditioned Cottages



The Closing Order made in respect of No. 15 City Road during 1958 and the Demolition Orders made in respect of Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 New Lane Hill during 1958, were revoked this year as the houses were made fit for human habitation following the execution of extensive works by the owners.

Closure of Parts of Buildings. The following parts of buildings were found to be unfit for human habitation. Representations were made by the Medical Officer of Health under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, and in each case a Closing Order was made:—

2, 8, 9 and 10 Beaconsfield Buildings; Basement Flat, 127 Castle Hill; and Basement Flat, 205 King's Road.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings. The "houses let-in-lodgings" survey which was commenced towards the end of last year, was continued during 1959. As a result, it was found possible to cover a small area of the town on a house-to-house inspection basis which revealed a fair number of houses occupied by members of more than one family.

From the information obtained at this stage, it was apparent that in many instances conditions were far from satisfactory both as regards the numbers of persons accommodated in these premises and the provision of basic facilities.

A preliminary report on the subject was submitted to the Housing Committee, together with details of a few typical cases, and it was decided that the matter should be pursued with a view to abating overcrowding and securing adequate facilities for the individual lettings within all such houses.

It was obvious that in order to achieve these aims, many problems would have to be solved. The best method of enforcement would have to be decided upon, standards would have to be fixed in respect of overcrowding and the provision of facilities, and consideration would have to be given to the displacement of families which would inevitably follow any formal action and the responsibility for rehousing, bearing in mind that whilst some families would already be registered and eligible for rehousing by the Council, there would be many families not registered or eligible, including persons originating from outside the town and coloured immigrants from the Colonies.

After some thought, it was decided that the abatement of overcrowding should be enforced by the service of notices under Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1957, which would specify the maximum number of persons permitted to use the several rooms in the premises for sleeping purposes, the standard to be fixed according to the particular circumstances of each letting, and that this should be followed by the service of notices under Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957, which would require the provision of a separate water supply and suitable facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water in the case of each letting and at least one water closet to every two lettings. It was also agreed that all applications for rehousing arising from this action should be considered on their individual merits.

In the case of the first few houses let-in-lodgings dealt with in this way towards the end of the year, the majority of the lettings consisted of only one room, used for living and sleeping purposes. Most of these rooms were comparatively small and many were occupied by families with children. The facilities were for the most part provided on a communal basis and were quite inadequate in relation to the numbers of lettings in each house. In view of the fact that these single-room lettings were being used for a variety of purposes, it was considered necessary to depart from the normal overcrowding standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1957, which would have permitted two persons per room and to restrict the permitted number to one person per room in every case unless the room was of exceptional size. Considering

the houses as a whole, it appeared that they would be far more suitable for occupation by several families if let in the form of flatlets, or if each letting were to consist of at least a living room and a bedroom. When Section 90 notices were served upon the owner, it was therefore suggested that the permitted numbers specified might be varied if a rearrangement of the lettings took place. As a result of discussions with the owner following the service of notices, rearrangement was in fact agreed upon and the permitted numbers were subsequently revised so as to allow for the occupation of each house by a few small families.

This is a fairly brief account of the commencement of positive action in respect of houses let-in-lodgings. It is intended that this action shall continue, but it will undoubtedly be a lengthy procedure as each case must be considered individually and there are many problems likely to arise for which it will be difficult to find a satisfactory solution. In addition to any action taken under the Housing Act, this subject is one which does, of course, involve the Town Planning Officer and it may well be that some control may be exercised under the Planning Acts in future cases, particularly those whose existence is considered to be detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood.

The housing problem has many facets of which people living in houses let-in-lodgings is one. Due to the housing shortage and other contributing factors, the tendency in the last one or two years has been for this type of letting to increase. Although the more economic use of the larger of type house is to be encouraged, the situation needs to be kept under some measure of control so as to ensure that the accommodation is put to proper use and in such a way as to avoid creating unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Certificates of Disrepair. It seems that the Rent Act, 1957, has achieved a far greater improvement in the general condition in privately owned houses than would otherwise appear from the number of cases coming to the notice of the Local Authority. This is particularly noticeable in the better type of dwellinghouse built some 60-70 years ago. It was evident, with the large number of undertakings given by Landlords during 1957 and 1958, that all the repairs specified therein were not completed within the required six-monthly period, and that some delays were inevitable as the local builders were unable to cope with all the work in time. However, it does seem that agreement was reached between the Landlords and Tenants in the majority of cases, and the repairs were largely completed during 1959.

Unfortunately, conditions do not seem to have improved as much in the older type of property; the Tenants do not appear to be taking advantage of the provisions of the Rent Act, in spite of the fact that the Landlords have increased the rent.

The effects of the work already carried out are probably borne out in the reduction in the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of housing conditions, and it may also be one reason why there was a marked reduction in the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair compared with 1958. It is, of course, possible that Tenants do not realise that they are able to make subsequent applications whenever the need arises.

During 1959, 42 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received compared with 137 during 1958. Of these applications, 1 was not granted and the remainder were approved for the issue of Certificates, 9 in respect of all the defects specified by the Tenants and 32 in respect of some of the defects.

Following the Local Authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair in these cases, undertakings were received from Landlords in 23 instances, and in 3 instances from houses inspected in 1958 and the Certificates were not therefore issued. Nine applications were received for the cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957, and 1 issued under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. In all cases, the defects had been satisfactorily remedied, and the Certificates were cancelled.

Eight applications were received for Certificates as to the remedying of defects undertaken to be remedied by the Landlord, 2 from Tenants and 6 from Landlords. All the applications were granted.

Repair of Houses. Many of the complaints received by the Department were in respect of housing defects although the coming into effect of the Rent Act, 1957, has necessarily affected both complaints and the service of notices regarding housing defects. In connection with complaints, 331 dwellinghouses were inspected during the year and 150 preliminary notices served. There were 1,792 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally securing compliance with the notices served. Property owners responded well to informal notices, although it was necessary to serve statutory notices in 42 cases. One hundred and fifty-two houses were made fit during the year by owners.

Information re Local Land Charges, etc. Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and their position with respect to slum clearance was supplied in many cases; upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register—some 2,657 forms were dealt with during the year. Details of properties were also supplied in connection with mortgages being arranged under the Housing Act, 1949, with respect to the purchase of small dwellings.

Overcrowding. Many complaints were investigated, particularly from people on the housing list, concerning conditions of overcrowding. Cases of statutory overcrowding were comparatively small and the trend of gradual improvement in connection with this particular matter, is continuing. Numerous reports on housing conditions were submitted to the Housing Department.

A Summary of Housing repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of inspections for the purpose of the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Number of general inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,160
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by									
Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Number of Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152

2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Details of the work of the department in respect of food administration have been dealt with under the usual sub-headings, as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) *SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT*

There was no change in the number of establishments used for slaughtering during the year, the four places in use being the Public Abattoir and three private slaughterhouses, one connected with the bacon factory, one attached to a small pork and bacon establishment and the small slaughterhouse at Tilehurst where a few small animals were killed. Although Reading is, for the time being, an unrestricted area in the light of the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, with regard to the building of new slaughterhouses, no applications for licences for new premises were received during the year. Of course, the facilities available in the town far exceed the slaughtering requirements of the district and no additional facilities are necessary.

Work is proceeding in connection with the preparation of the report that the Minister requires under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and a certain amount of discussion has taken place between the department and the persons concerned with the various slaughterhouses. Although the standard of premises in Reading has been fairly good, the new Construction Regulations which are intended to put the premises into a state of high order, do mean that a fair amount of work will have to be done. The standards about to be laid down for existing slaughterhouses have been wanted by Health Authorities for over a hundred years, and should at last put all such establishments throughout the country in a satisfactory state. The main provisions require a high standard of lighting and construction, adequate facilities for meat inspection and hygienic operation, adequate welfare facilities for those engaged in the operation of slaughtering, and a modern standard of hygienic practice in the slaughterhouse.

A start was made in one or two of the slaughterhouses on the improvements that are necessary to make the premises comply with the new Regulations, and of course, a considerable amount of general maintenance work was carried out during the year. The new water main laid to the Abattoir last year, has shown considerable improvement to the supply. For economy reasons, work was commenced on the sinking of a Well there, and the uses for which the water will be available, will depend to some extent on the quality. It is expected that the Well will be completed some time next year.

Meat for Export. Although the business was quieter than last year, the export of meat from Reading Abattoirs continued during 1959. It would seem that this was started due to an acute shortage of cattle on the Continent during 1957, and while there is a demand for certain types of meat from this country, the needs appear to be diminishing. This export trade has enlivened an interest in the type of animal and meat needed for the butchery trade here. For instance, the Continental demands lean meat with the least possible amount of fat. This is the American idea too. While there is a trend towards a greater demand for lean meat in this country, there is no great change in the attitude of breeders and fat cattle are still favoured on that side of the business. It may be some time before we see a material change from the conventional marbled and fat-encased weekend joint, but the suggestions are that a change will come.

A number of carcasses of beef and hindquarters of beef, were exported to the Continent from the Abattoirs during the year 1959.

With regard to the export trade, it speaks well for modern meat handling and transportation when consignments can be delivered many hundreds of miles by road and air and arrive in prime condition. Refrigerated road transport is becoming more and more essential for long journeys, and the hanging of meat whilst being transported, is an essential to the better class trade. All the meat distributing vehicles operating from the Abattoirs carry meat in the hanging position, and one vehicle, probably the largest of its kind in the country, is capable of carrying 80 sides of beef in the hanging position.

Something like 70% of the meat produced at the Abattoirs is exported beyond the Reading and District area. The premises, of course, are more than sufficient for the needs of the town and if its economic future is to be assured, it will be necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to keep such places as Reading in mind when applications for new slaughterhouses within easy reach of these export centres are being considered.

Casualty Animals. There was the usual proportion of animals sent in for slaughter because of injury or illness during the year. The recommendations laid down in Memo 3 (Meat) issued by the Ministry of Food, were followed in these cases. Veterinary Certificates or written declarations by owners were required according to the type of animals sent in and the particular circumstances. It is the casualty animal which could be a source of trouble in a slaughterhouse if proper precautions were not taken, but this fact seems to be much better realised by owners of animals and little difficulty has been experienced in connection with our requirements.

I would like once again to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the advice the Corporation received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, particularly from Mr. R. M. Loosmore, the Veterinary Investigation Officer, and his staff who have been most helpful in the examination of specimens we have submitted from time to time.

The position with regard to casualty animals inspected during the year, is as follows:—

Cows	Heifers and Steers	Bulls	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Deer
121	2	2	87	5	185	1

The figure for sheep and for cows is somewhat greater than last year, but there does not appear to be any reason why this should be so.

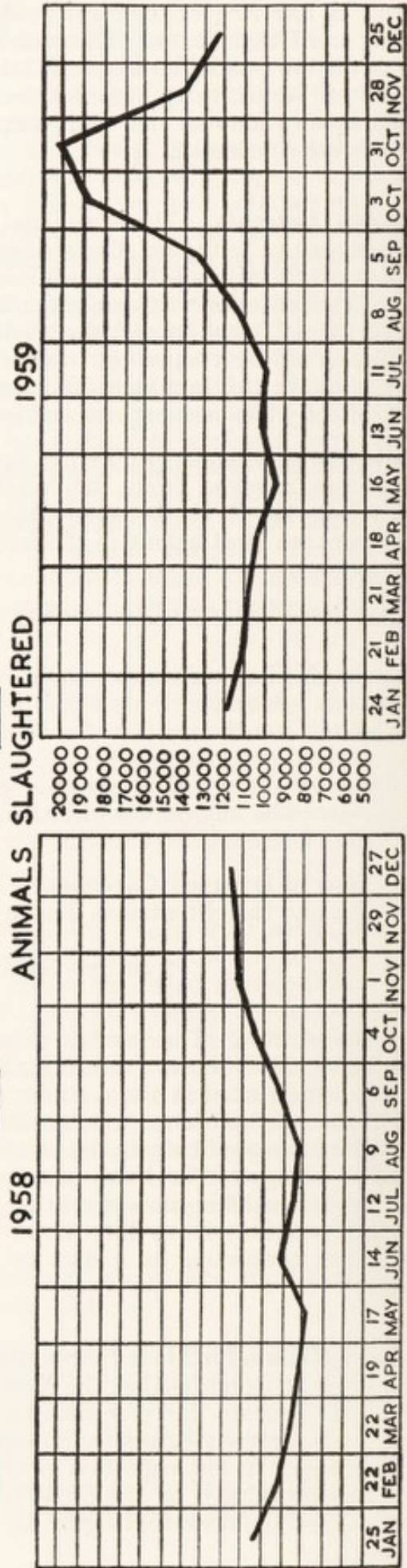
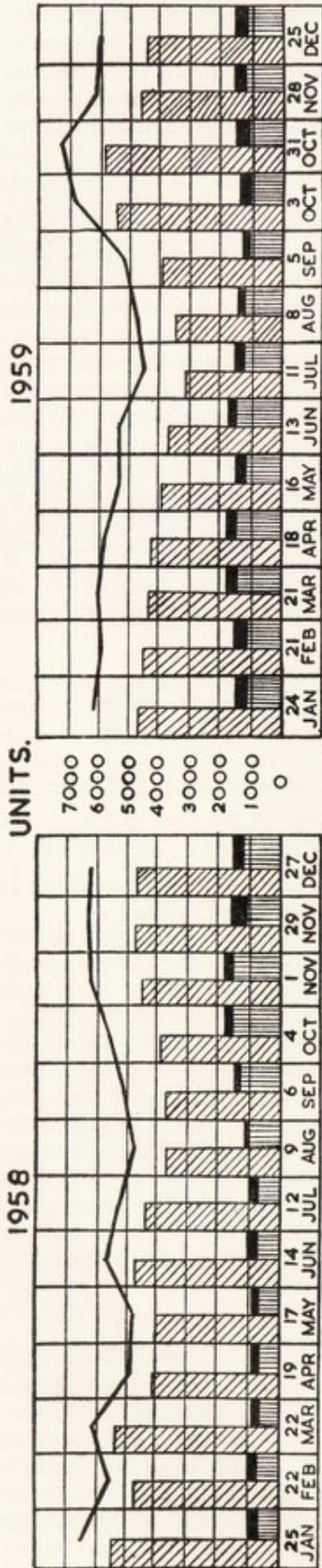
Inspection of Dressed Carcases. The numbers of dressed carcases received at the Abattoir and slaughterhouses during the year, were as follows:—

2 cattle; 5 calves; 2 sheep

Meat Inspection. The number of animals and units inspected by the meat inspectors during 1959, shows a record figure. This is partly due to the considerable cut of sheep experienced in the Autumn of the year. Figures for pigs and calves were up, but the number of cows was considerably down. The meat inspection details are dealt with more specifically in the succeeding paragraphs and the amount of meat slaughtered and inspected is shown in graphical form on Page 86. Generally, meat inspection worked a little more smoothly than was the case last year, due to the improved staff position; it is a duty, however, which makes considerable demands on the department, continuing as it does on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year.

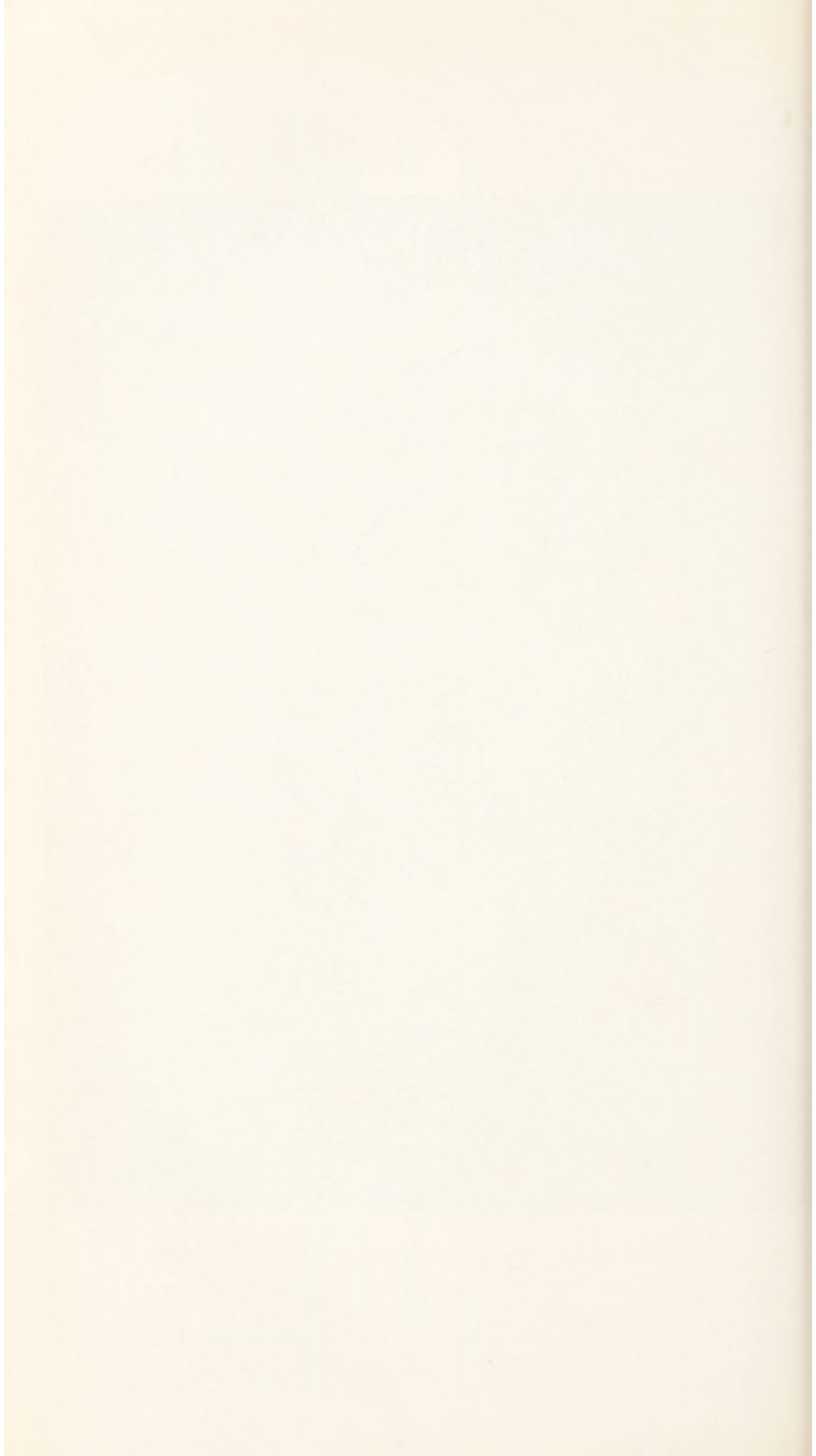
Ministry Grants for Meat Inspection. Mention has already been made of the proportion of meat slaughtered at the Abattoir, which is exported beyond the district boundaries. This means that considerably more work is done in this field than is the case where a town merely caters for its own needs. In order to relieve those Local Authorities engaged in the inspection of export meat of this kind, a scheme of reimbursement was introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food a year or two ago. The reimbursement figure for Reading for the financial year 1958/1959, was £1,760.

MEAT INSPECTION.





Interior of Refrigerated Hygienic Meat Transport Vehicle



Tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme had, in February, 1959, been in operation a matter of two years. The effect of this measure on the incidence of Tuberculosis in cows, is very strikingly apparent in the Table below, which shows the incidence of this disease found in the animals slaughtered in Reading since 1948. This is truly a remarkable reduction, bearing in mind that a proportion of the animals slaughtered are from outside the eradication area. It would appear that we are reaching a position very quickly when Tuberculosis in cattle will be of historic interest rather than immediate public health concern. The position at the present time in connection with such cases of Tuberculosis as may be found in the Abattoirs, is that the Divisional Veterinary Officer is notified and he arranges for an investigation to be made at the place of origin. It will be noted that Tuberculosis in pigs has also declined and is now at an almost insignificant level. This is undoubtedly due to the information services that are available and the more enlightened attitude of pig breeders to such measures as the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Orders.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1953	23,733	5.52	2,969	23.95	7,586	—	38,949	1.16
1954	22,398	6.47	3,231	18.67	11,185	0.0045	50,180	1.31
1955	9,300	4.45	11,857	15.74	16,396	0.24	69,499	0.72
1956	12,873	3.58	18,350	20.39	23,736	0.06	57,885	0.76
1957	15,936	3.28	17,864	18.04	20,659	0.009	57,316	0.51
1958	11,284	3.34	23,971	10.92	13,253	0.015	57,452	0.33
1959	12,271	0.44	13,316	2.64	14,863	0.013	65,797	0.170

The reduction shown is undoubtedly due to the reduced incidence of Tuberculosis and indicates the direct economic return to the farmer and butcher of anti-tuberculosis measures.

Cysticercus Bovis. There was an increase in the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* occurring at the Abattoirs during the year, there being 24 in 1959 compared with 3 in 1958. There were no generalised cases. In 8 cases, the carcasses were refrigerated as recommended in Memo 3 (Meat) before being passed as fit for human consumption.

In addition to the instances of *Cysticercus Bovis* found locally, a number of infected carcasses were sent in from Local Authorities outside for refrigeration for the prescribed period. We are notified by the Public Health Inspector of the appropriate authority, of the time and place at which the carcass will be treated and we arrange for surveillance of the carcass and the issue of a clearance certificate when the treatment is complete.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1950. The Inspectors who are qualified in meat inspection are authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises. One case of swine fever was notified during the year, which was confirmed. It involved three pigs at the Abattoirs. Disinfection of the premises was carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector and the infected carcasses were disposed of at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food's premises at Coley Park. We appreciate very much the use of the Ministry's incinerator.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954. A total of 43 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Act were issued during the year. Both the captive bolt pistol and the electric lethaler are used at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses, and no infringements of the Acts were reported. The new provision

whereby a slaughterman trainee can have a qualified licence with a condition that he works under the supervision of the experienced slaughterman, is working satisfactorily and is undoubtedly a good measure.

Condemned Meat. Condemned meat is disposed of in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health. A proportion is used for pharmaceutical purposes and some for mink farm feeding. A quantity of non-infected material was sent to an animal food establishment, whilst the remainder was disposed of to processors for conversion into fertilizer, feeding stuffs and industrial fats, etc.

Some 103 tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected together with the details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	12,271	13,316	14,863	58,250	65,797	Nil
Number inspected	12,271	13,316	14,863	58,250	65,797	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses con- demned	6	135	66	125	88	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,166	7,881	23	1,844	9,642	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	17.700	60.198	0.598	3.380	14.788	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	23	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54	329	Nil	Nil	112	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0.440	2.643	0.013	Nil	0.710	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Diseased Meat and Offals. The following tables give details of the meat and offals found during the year to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption:

Part Carcasses

Disease	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
berculosis	8	29	—	—	—	—
thritis	—	—	—	—	21	—
uising and Injuries	1	5	—	—	6	2
uising and Abscess	—	—	—	—	3	—
dema	—	1	—	—	—	—
dema and Emaciation	—	2	—	—	—	—
	9	37	—	—	30	2

Whole Carcasses

Disease	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
berculosis	—	23	—	2	—	—
sscess	—	—	—	—	1	—
ute Peritonitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
ute Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
ute Urticaria	—	—	—	—	1	—
uising and Injuries	—	3	—	—	2	7
uising and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—
ad in Lairage	—	—	—	2	5	—
ad on arrival	—	—	—	1	1	—
maciation	—	5	—	3	1	2
vered	—	4	—	3	—	—
vered and moribund	—	1	—	—	—	—
erus	—	—	—	1	2	—
bled	—	—	—	4	—	—
mmaturity	—	—	—	3	1	1
mmaturity and Oedema and Emaciation	—	—	—	6	—	—
nt-ill	—	—	—	4	—	—
ribund	—	1	—	8	6	1
dema	3	7	—	11	1	32
dema and Emaciation	1	97	—	9	4	75
aphalphibitis	—	—	—	—	—	1
eritonitis	—	—	—	—	1	—
ryarthrititis	—	—	—	—	3	—
ryarthrititis and Emaciation	—	—	—	—	2	—
raemia	—	—	—	1	22	1
raemia and Moribund	—	—	—	—	1	—
raemia and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	6	—
rexia	—	2	—	6	14	—
sticaemia	—	—	—	1	—	1
tic Fracture	—	1	—	—	—	—
tic Mastitis	—	3	—	—	—	—
tic Mitritis	—	1	—	—	—	—
tic Pericarditis	1	3	—	1	—	—
tic Peritonitis	—	1	—	—	6	1
tic Pleurisy	—	1	—	—	—	—
tic Pneumonia	—	1	—	2	4	3
tic Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
ne Fever	—	—	—	—	3	—
raemia	—	—	1	—	—	—
umatic Pericarditis	—	1	—	—	—	—
	5	158	1	68	88	125

Organs, etc.

<i>Heads and Tongues</i>				<i>Stomachs</i>			
Tuberculosis	...	...	190	Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Abscess	...	...	94	Abscess	...	...	1
Actinomycosis	...	...	45	Inflammation	...	...	161
Cysticercus Bovis	...	...	24				
<i>Lungs</i>				<i>Hearts</i>			
Tuberculosis	...	...	287	Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Abscess	...	...	79	Cysticercus Bovis	...	...	3
Congestion	...	...	855	Pericarditis	...	...	1,715
Cysts	...	...	46				
Distomatosis	...	...	15	<i>Spleens</i>			
Emphysema	...	...	1	Abscess	...	...	2
Parasites	...	...	1				
Pleurisy	...	...	1,780	<i>Kidneys</i>			
Pneumonia	...	...	1,842	Abscess	...	...	1
				Cysts	...	...	793
				Nephritis	...	...	974
<i>Livers</i>				<i>Intestines</i>			
Tuberculosis	...	...	56	Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Abscess	...	...	252	Congestion	...	...	1
Angioma	...	...	1,101	Johnes Disease	...	...	8
Cirrhosis	...	...	1,387	Peritonitis	...	...	164
Cysts	...	...	21				
Degeneration	...	...	71	<i>Part Livers</i>			
Distomatosis	...	...	9,145	Distomatosis	...	...	894
Milkspot	...	...	1,601				

Transport of Meat. Improved standards in the transportation of meat is much a matter of education as in any other aspect of our work. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and the Ministry of Health issued during the year Code of Practice showing the essential and desirable points to be observed in connection with the handling and transportation of meat. Copies of the booklets were sent to people concerned with the work.

Knacker's Yard. There is one Knacker's Yard in the Borough which is subject to annual licensing by the Council. These premises were reconstructed during 1958 and are of a good standard. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 111 bovine, 23 equine cases and 1 elephant were dealt with on the premises during the year. No complaints were received in respect of the establishment and it was carried on satisfactorily during the year. The Public Health Inspectors made 46 visits to the premises during 1959.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

Some 437 visits were made to food establishments during the year for the purpose of condemning foodstuffs unfit for human consumption. Approximately 11½ tons of food were condemned and 1,591 certificates issued to the traders concerned. The trouble for cooked ham, bacon and gammon is considerable again this year. The main trouble was decomposition arising from improper storage. It is still not fully appreciated that certain kinds of ham require to be stored around refrigeration temperature.

because the methods of processing and canning do not sufficiently protect the contents of the tin against decomposition. Details of the food condemned are given below:—

Apricot Pulp	25 lb.
Biscuits	5 lb.
Cheese	109 lb.
Corned Beef	56 lb.
Dried Fruit	210 lb.
Dried and Split Peas	132 lb.
Eggs	30 doz.
Egg, whole	39 lb.
Fish	721½ lb.
Flour	70 lb.
Gammon, Ham and Bacon	2,616¾ lb.
Hamburgers	20 lb.
Ham and Tongue Roll	868 lb.
Jam and Marmalade	258½ lb.
Jellied Veal	66 lb.
Luncheon Sausage	101½ lb.
Meat	852 lb.
Meat and Onion Roll	38 lb.
Milk Powder	343 lb.
Mincemeat	8 lb.
Offal	968 lb.
Pearl Barley	5½ lb.
Pickled Gherkins	22½ lb.
Pork Roll and Brawn	32 lb.
Poultry	72¾ lb.
Prunes	31 lb.
Rolled Oats	72 lb.
Sausages	1,022 lb.
Savoury Roll	169 lb.
Steak and Pork Pies	13 lb.
Suet	11 lb.
Sugar	131 lb.
Tea	25 lb.
Tins, various	6,356 Tins
Tomato Concentrate	131¼ lb.

(c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Regular visits were paid during the year to the dairy establishments in the town for the purpose of sampling milk at the time of delivery of farm supplies and also for general inspection. The dairies were reasonably well operated throughout the year and the one which suffers from restricted accommodation, continued its efforts to find more suitable premises. The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, is as follows:—

Plant licences for milk pasteurisation ... 4

Dealers' licences for sale of:—

Pasteurised Milk	67
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested Milk	20
Tuberculin Tested Milk	25 and 14 vending machines
Sterilised Milk	83

The number of retailers who sold bottled milk as received from the dairies is much the same as last year, and there was little change in the types of milk sold. However, during 1959 there was an increase in the use of vending machines which are now utilised for selling milk in cartons. The cartons are filled and sealed in registered premises and there is a regular delivery for replenishing supplies to the machines. The machines are refrigerated so that the milk as received by the consumer is at a low temperature, a condition which makes it popular, especially during the warmer months of the year. Considerable attention is being given by the machine operators to the question of stock rotation as it is found that where the machine has a number of delivery points, there seems a preference on the part of the consumer for certain positions on the machine.

The use of a non-returnable carton, of course, has been under consideration by the milk trade for many years and it would seem that it is merely cost which prevents it from becoming more widely used. If it could become a more normal practice in the retail trade, it would eliminate the regular complaints we receive concerning dirty milk bottles. Here again, it is an instance of consumer demand and no doubt, if the public are prepared to meet the extra cost of cartoning, the firms will bring it into wider use.

The number of supplementary licences issued to firms outside the Borough who are distributing milk in the town, is also much the same as last year. Details of the supplementary licences issued are as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	5
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	3

Of the 4 milk processing plants, 3 are of the high-temperature-short-time pattern and one is of the Holder type. These plants were regularly inspected and checked from time to time.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) and (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949. The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are shown below:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	288	Phosphatase	287	1	—
		Methylene Blue	273	—	15
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	262	Phosphatase	261	1	—
		Methylene Blue	250	—	12
Tuberculin Tested	66	Methylene Blue	54	12	—
Sterilised	45	Turbidity	45	—	—

Some 661 samples of various types of designated milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the prescribed tests; 616 samples of milk were examined by the Methylene Blue test which indicates keeping quality and to some extent, the conditions under which milk is produced, handled and transported. 27 samples submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue test were declared void.

this being probably due to the very warm Summer. 12 Raw T.T. milk samples failed satisfy the Methylene Blue test, whilst all the Pasteurised milk was satisfactory.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food was informed of the results relating to raw milk and appropriate action was taken by them at the places of production. Appropriate action was taken in connection with the two samples of milk which failed the Phosphatase test.

School Milk Supply. The milk supplied to all Council schools is pasteurised and samples have been taken regularly for examination. All the results were satisfactory. Visits were paid on occasions to check early morning deliveries, but there was no cause for complaint.

Ice Cream. The number of dealers registered in connection with the storage and sale of ice cream shows an increase on last year, there being 546 on the register on December 31st. There was no change in the number of ice cream manufacturers in the town. Regular and frequent inspections were made throughout the year to all ice cream establishments and conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory. Most of the ice cream in the town is sold pre-wrapped or in containers and the hygiene standards of retailers are generally satisfactory. The indications are that where the provisions of the ice cream regulations are observed, there is no reason why ice cream should not meet the standards required. Some 121 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue test. The results are as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1 ...	...	...	...	98
Provisional Grade 2 ...	...	...	...	13
Provisional Grade 3 ...	...	...	...	9
Provisional Grade 4 ...	...	...	...	1

Particular attention was given to the means of control and sterilisation at one ice cream manufacturing premises during the year. Advice was given and as a result, there has been a marked improvement in the supplies from this source. 9 samples of ice lollies were submitted for examination during the year and apart from one being incorrectly labelled, reference to which is made elsewhere, results were satisfactory.

There was an amendment to the legislation during the year by the introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, which enlarged on existing provisions relating to the methods of heat treatment. Under the new Regulations, Ice Cream may be either pasteurised by one of three methods, or sterilised by raising the mixture to a temperature of 300°F. and holding it for at least two seconds. There was no change in the method of pasteurisation at any of the establishments in the town.

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc. Vehicles operating in the town were inspected periodically, there being no reports of unsatisfactory conditions. Almost without exception, wrapped ice cream only is served. The vehicles were found to be generally satisfactory from the point of view of cleanliness and were of a good standard. Stalls erected in the parks and playing fields were also regularly inspected during the season of use.

(d) FOOD HANDLING

Although the gradual changing food habits are easing the housewife's burden by the introduction of wider varieties of new products and such things as pre-packed foods, quick freezing and prepared mixes, there is constant need for the supervision of the preparation, storage and handling of food. During the year, the Public Health Inspectors paid 3,843 visits to the many food premises in the town and, at the same time, gave a great deal of advice relating to the premises themselves and on the manner in which food handling can be improved. The standard of food premises in the town continues to improve and there is no doubt that the highly competitive element that

is more apparent in the food trades, is also encouraging traders to further improve their standards of service. Whilst the numbers of firms who, on their own initiative, are providing amenities and standards beyond those required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, has increased, there is still a fair proportion who need to be constantly reminded of their obligations and to whom regular and fairly frequent visits require to be made.

Whilst the number of visits to cafés and restaurants leaves something to be desired, as much time as possible was given to this aspect of the work. The standard of hygiene in this type of food business continues to be reasonably satisfactory. An innovation during the year, was the opening of the Chinese type of restaurant. These appear to be becoming more popular generally and if there is to be anything like an increase in the number of restaurants serving meals in the late evening, a greater number of evening visits will be required.

Food Hygiene. The Department has continued during the year with its efforts in the interests of improved food handling through the medium of various forms of education. Lectures and film shows have been given to food handlers whenever possible and here again is an aspect of the work which requires more attention. Discussions have taken place with the Hospital and University Authorities with a view to giving courses of instruction to the food handlers engaged in these establishments, and it is likely that suitable arrangements will be made for this to be done next year.

Whilst enforcement of food laws and the giving of lectures and film shows by the Department is undoubtedly doing a great deal of good, I do not think it is generally appreciated by the public the part they themselves can play in improving standards. In many cases, it is true to say that the customer gets what he demands and where he is prepared to accept merely what he is offered, this is all he will sometimes get. We often get general and unspecific complaints of misdemeanours or unsatisfactory practice on the part of food handlers; much more good would result if, at the time such incidents arise, the customer himself were to voice his complaint and suggest that, in future, he will take his custom elsewhere. Smoking by food handlers in food shops is prohibited by the Regulations and it is often pointed out at meetings with traders that it would be a good thing if this prohibition extended to customers also. There is no doubt that if the general public could be persuaded to refrain from smoking in food establishments, it would give a great deal of encouragement and incentive to the food handlers themselves to improve still further their present standards. It is pleasing to note that at least one large firm in the town now exhibits in the store notices requesting customers to refrain from smoking. This is to be highly commended and it is hoped that many others will follow their example.

The Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of food premises are steadily being enforced and traders have shown a good response to such requests that have been made. There was no occasion to institute proceedings in respect of food hygiene matters during the year.

In addition to visits to retail shops and food factories, there were visits to school kitchens and many interviews following complaints.

Food Premises. In addition to ice cream premises, there are other establishments registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:—

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	42
Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	101
Pressed Meat Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	52
Jam Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	2
Pickle Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	1
Potato Crisp Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine Wholesale Stores	...	...	...	...	4

In addition to the previous table, there are 897 other food premises recorded to which 1,992 visits were paid. The number of premises arranged in the various classes, is as follows:—

Bakers Shops	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	93
Cafés	...	...	...	...	68
Cake Shops	...	...	...	...	45
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	13
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	34
Greengrocers Shops	...	...	...	...	101
Grocers Shops	...	...	...	...	355
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	132
Wholesale Food Factories	...	...	...	...	31
					—
					897
					—

School Kitchens. Liaison with the School Meals Service continued throughout the year, both in regard to food hygiene and the quality of food supplies. Numerous visits were paid to these establishments, both on request and as a matter of routine. The standard of premises and of food handling, is good.

Extraneous Matter in Food. A number of complaints were received during the year in respect of extraneous matter found in food. Several cases were reported to the Health (General Services) Sub-Committee but warnings were considered sufficient and legal proceedings were not instituted.

(e) *SAMPLING, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955*

416 samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination during the year, compared with 444 last year. In 1959, 5 (1.73%) were reported to be not up to standard compared with 10 (2.25%) in 1958. Details of the samples procured and those found to be not up to standard, are shown in the Table. Of the samples obtained, 127 were of milk, and of these, 29 (22.83%) were below the prescribed standard. This compares with 10 (6.6%) out of a total of 151 samples of milk obtained last year. Of the 29 deficient milk samples, 20 were stated to be genuine but of poor quality. Special mention was made of poor quality milk in the Annual Report two years ago when it was also stated that steps were being taken by the Milk Marketing Board and by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food by way of advice to farmers, but the progress made does not appear to have been very substantial. With the better milk supply position, however, the Milk Marketing Board should be able to make its views more strongly felt if economic sanctions were applied to those people who persistently failed to reach a reasonable standard. For years now, of course, there has been, on the production side, a policy of breeding for quantity rather than quality and this is bound to take some time to overcome.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almonds, Ground	2	2	-
Arrowroot	1	1	-
Baking Powder	1	1	-
Beef, minced	1	1	-
Beetroot, pickled	1	1	-
Bemax	1	1	-
Bi-carbonate of Soda	1	1	-
Butter	4	4	-
Buttered Cheese Spread	1	1	-
Cake Decorations	1	1	-
Cake, large	5	5	-
Cake Mix	1	1	-
Cashew Nut Cream	1	1	-
Celery Powder	1	1	-
Cheese, Caerphilly	1	1	-
Cheese, Cottage	1	1	-
Cheese 'N' Tomato Spread	1	1	-
Chicklettes	1	1	-
Choc-Ice	1	1	-
Chocolate Drink	1	1	-
Chocolate, Milk	2	2	-
Chocolate Mould	1	1	-
Christmas Pudding	2	2	-
Cocoa	3	3	-
Coffee	5	5	-
Coffee & Chicory Essence	1	1	-
Cornflour	1	1	-
Cream	9	9	-
Cream, Double	1	1	-
Cream, Sterilised	2	2	-
Curd, Banana flavour	1	1	-
Curd, Lemon	2	2	-
Curry Powder	1	1	-
Decorating Jelly	1	1	-
Essence, Lemon flavour	1	1	-
Fish cakes	1	1	-
Flour, Self-raising	4	3	1
Flour, Soya	1	1	-
Flour, Wholemeal	1	1	-
Frizets Mixture	1	1	-
Fruit, Dried	5	5	-
Fruit, Tinned	3	3	-
Fruit Juices, Squashes and Cordials... ..	15	15	-
Garlic Pearles	1	1	-
Garlic Tablets	1	1	-
Glace Cherries	1	1	-
Honey	3	3	-
Ice Cream	29	29	-
Ice Lolly	7	6	1
Instant Potato	1	1	-
Jams and Sweetspreads	4	4	-
Jellies, Table	2	2	-
Lard	6	6	-
Lemon Pie Filling	1	1	-
Lemonade Powder	2	2	-
Liver Sausage	1	1	-
Margarine	3	3	-
Marmalade	1	1	-
Marzipan	2	2	-
Meat Pie	1	1	-
Meringue Powder	1	1	-
Mild Beer	3	3	-
Milk	127	119	8

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Milk, condensed	3	3	-
Milk, Evaporated	5	5	-
Minced Beef Loaf	1	1	-
Minced Turkey... ..	1	1	-
Mincemeat	6	6	-
Mineral Drink (7-up)	1	1	-
Mousse, Lemon	1	1	-
Nut Savouries	1	1	-
Pancake Mixture	2	2	-
Pastes, Meat and Fish	9	9	-
Pepper (white)	2	2	-
Pickles, Sauces and Spices	14	14	-
Plum Pudding	1	1	-
Postum. Instant	1	1	-
Rhubarb in heavy syrup	1	1	-
Rum	1	1	-
Sage and Onion Stuffing	2	2	-
Salad Cream	1	1	-
Sausages, Beef	4	4	-
Sausages, Pork	6	4	2
Sausage Meat, Pork	1	1	-
Sherry	1	1	-
Soda Water	1	-	1
Soups	3	3	-
Spaghetti Bolognese	1	1	-
Spreads	2	2	-
Steak, Stewed	3	3	-
Steak and Kidney Pie	5	5	-
Steak and Kidney Pudding	1	1	-
Suenut (Vegetarian Suet)	1	1	-
Suet, Beef	1	1	-
Sugar, Brown and Icing	2	2	-
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	12	12	-
Swiss Rolls	5	5	-
Tartar. Cream of	1	1	-
Tea	8	8	-
Tomato Juice	1	1	-
Vegetables, Tinned	7	7	-
Vegetable Juices	1	1	-
Vinegar	6	6	-
Yogurt, Banana Flavour	1	1	-
	416	403	13

**ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED
AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD**

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
75	Egg Self-raising Flour	Informal	Misleading label. Deficient in egg	Stocks withdrawn from sale Manufacturers ceased production.
136	Pork Sausage	Informal	20% deficient in meat	Follow-up sample genuine
164	Pork sausage meat	Informal	Contained only 52% meat	Follow-up sample genuine
248	Ice cream centre Lolly	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
366	Soda water	Informal	Contained 0.3% of proof spirit equivalent to approx. 0.45% of whiskey	Methods of cleansing and production taken up with manufacturers
122	Milk	Informal	1.8% deficient in solids-not-fat 7% added water	Follow-up sample genuine
128	Milk	Informal	0.6% deficient in solids-not-fat 2% added water	Follow-up sample genuine
146	Milk	Formal	10% deficient in fat	Sample from dairy in cattle market. Advice given on milking techniques
179	Milk	Informal	11.7% deficient in fat. 2.4% deficient in solids-not-fat. 2% added water	Follow-up sample genuine
183	Milk	Formal	2.9% deficient in solids-not-fat 2% added water	Follow-up sample genuine
184	Milk	Formal	11.7% deficient in fat	Follow-up sample genuine
211	Milk	Informal	Contained trace of Chlorate	} Follow-up sample genuine. Matter taken up with producer.
212	Milk	Informal	Contained trace of Chlorate	

The following samples of Milk were found to be genuine but of poor quality:—

Number of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Result of Analysis	
28	Milk (Channel Island)	Formal	Fat 4.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
43	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
99	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.80%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
119	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.20%	Solids-not-fat 8.35%
125	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.20%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
126	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
129	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.15%
130	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.40%	Solids-not-fat 8.30%
133	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.65%
180	Milk	Informal	Fat 3.60%	Solids-not-fat 8.35%
182	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
186	Milk	Informal	Fat 3.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
190	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.35%
191	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
193	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.90%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
195	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.15%
213	Milk	Formal	—	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
221	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.80%	—
282	Milk	Formal	—	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
285	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.70%	—
407	Milk	Formal	—	Solids-not-fat 8.30%

Ice Cream. During 1959, there was introduced in respect of Ice Cream, new Labelling of Food Regulations and Food Standards Regulations. These were mainly directed towards the use of dairy products in the manufacture of Ice Cream and laid down certain standards, the prohibition of the use of any artificial sweetener and labelling matters. Some 29 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination during the year and all proved to be satisfactory. One of the problems that has been considered by the Food Standards Committee, is the question of overrun in Ice Cream. By the simple expedient of incorporating air during the freezing process, Ice Cream mix can be increased in bulk by over 100% when preparing it into the finished product. This has led to some difficulty in laying down a reasonable standard as to say the fat, milk solids-non-fat and sugar content of Ice Cream as it will be readily seen that where overrun is excessive, there is a corresponding reduction in the actual amount of those products purchased. The trade argue that overrun is necessary to give a good texture and improve palatability of Ice Cream and that the amount introduced is a matter of individual preference. In the interests of the public, it would be a good thing if a suitable standard, allowing for these considerations, could be introduced.

Milk Receptacles. A series of bottle and churn rinses from the three pasteurising plants in the Borough were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The results indicated a satisfactory bacteriological standard associated with bottle washing and churn sterilising plants, colony counts being well within the provisional classified range.

Labelling of Food, etc. The labelling requirements under the Labelling of Food Orders and other legislation, have generally been well observed. The attention of one manufacturer was drawn to infringements, and subsequently the product was withdrawn from sale.

Merchandise Marks Act. The marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale was checked whenever food premises were inspected, and in this connection, verbal warnings were given as to labelling requirements in one or two instances.

Legislation consolidated and amended during the year, included the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and the Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.

The Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations re-enacted with amendments the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The principal changes are:—

The registration of distributors is effected only with the Local Authority in whose area the premises from which the milk is distributed, are situated.

Provision is made for the Local Authority to pay compensation to a person who sustains damage or loss through being debarred from certain employment connected with cows or with milk because he is suffering, or has been in contact with a person suffering from a disease liable to cause infection of milk.

3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Clean Air Act has now been fully in operation a matter of eighteen months and it is pleasing to record the co-operation that has been received from all concerned. Industry has taken its obligations most seriously and the extent to which the Act has been complied with, will be noted from the following paragraphs.

During the year, there was a slight modification to the Act by the introduction of the Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order, 1959, which requires that

all mechanical stokers installed on or after December 31st, 1956, shall be entitled to exemption under Smoke Control Orders as they should be capable of operating continuously without emitting smoke when burning fuel of a type for which the furnace was designed.

Contact with industry has been maintained. Some 210 routine visits were made to boiler houses for the purpose of investigating the details of fuel burning plant and the records of both old and new installations are taking shape. An interesting development of the work is that we have found, in many cases, firms have allocated the responsibility for the observance of the Act on some senior member of the staff, and this has resulted in a high degree of compliance. It has also enabled much to be achieved on an informal basis over and above that which can legally be required under the Act itself.

Installation of New Furnaces and Chimney Heights. Thirty-three formal notifications of intention to install furnaces were received during the year, and in 5 cases, plans and specifications were submitted for approval. However, the fact that plans and specifications may not be submitted, does not relieve the department of the responsibility of ensuring that furnaces being installed are efficient, and it is necessary in all these cases to investigate the circumstances as soon as plant is known to be installed and to carry out observations for a period afterwards. All the furnaces submitted for approval were oil-fired and included heating, steam raising and direct fired air heating. All the installations were formally approved. So far as industry in Reading is concerned, it would appear that the requirement to notify intention to install a new furnace is being conscientiously observed. It should be pointed out, however, that domestic installations of a capacity of 55,000 B.Th.U.s. and over, also require notification; the attention of Builders' Merchants and others has been drawn to this point.

One of the duties of the department is to examine plans of buildings submitted to the authority for by-law approval. In 22 cases it was found that new chimneys were being constructed; the heights of these, therefore, had to be assessed. Whilst, with very large installations, certain technical formulæ are available to assist in the determining of chimney height, the majority of developments here comprise small installations and the heights had to be fixed having regard to local circumstances such as the relative height of adjoining buildings, the size of plant, type of fuel and so on. It has been interesting to see the result of past recommendations now that certain new chimneys have been in operation for some little time, and to note that where an increase in height has been insisted upon, it appears to have been fully justified. There was one case of particular difficulty where a chimney to the required height would have been both incongruous and uneconomic, where, on the department's recommendations, heating by electricity was substituted for the original suggestion of oil fuel.

Several new factories were constructed on the Cardiff Road Estate, where the recommendation of a minimum height of 30 ft. was applied. The more one considers this question of concentrated low-level discharge, the more one comes to the conclusion that a minimum height is absolutely necessary.

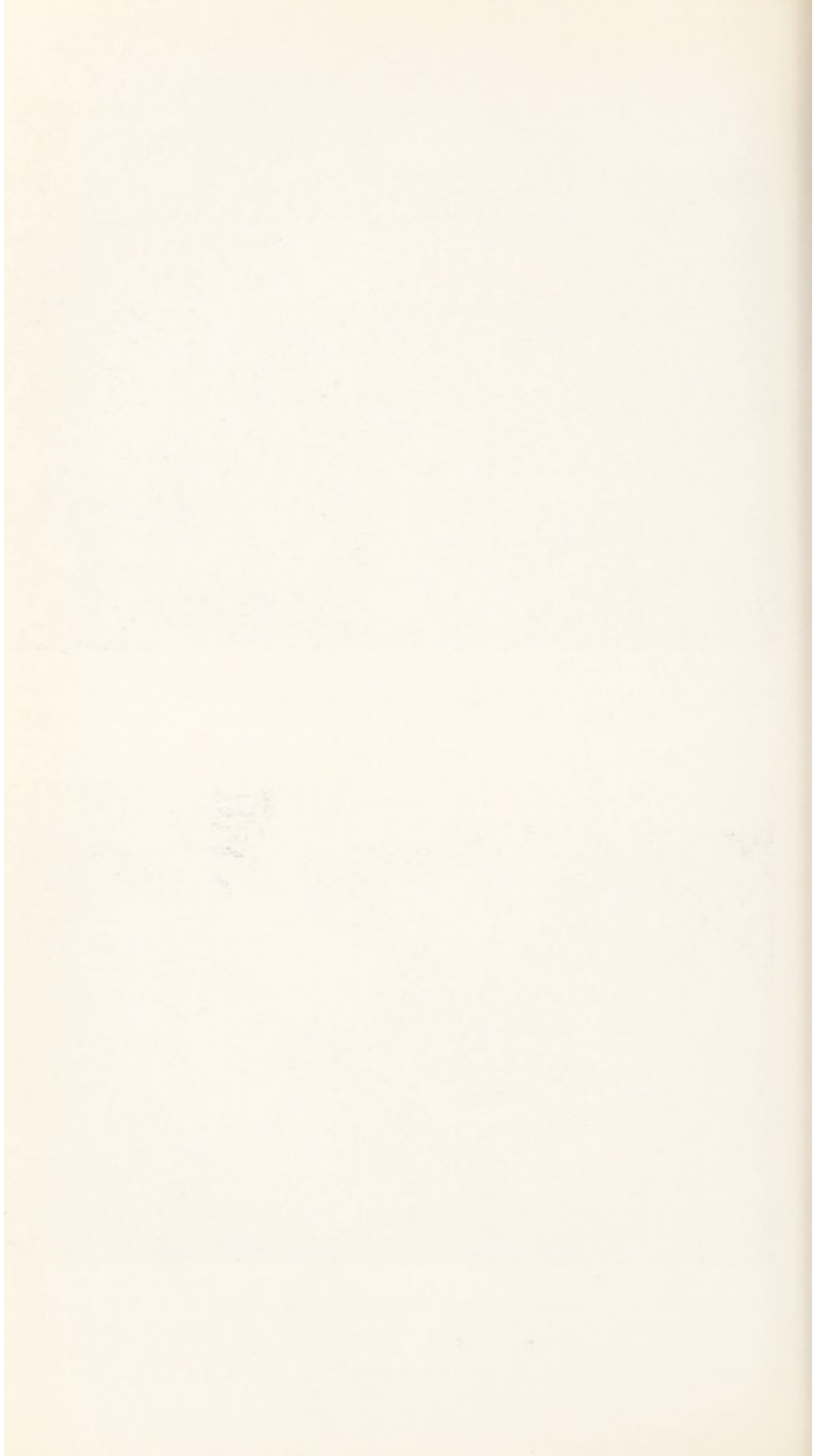
Complaints and Observations. Seventeen complaints were received during the year concerning the discharge of smoke, smuts, grit, fumes, etc., and in all, as a result of complaints and as a matter of routine, 181 observations on chimneys were carried out. It is pleasing to report that only 6 contraventions of Section 1 were noted, one of which was due to the recovery of scrap metal. All these cases were successfully dealt with informally. It is understood that the scrap metal establishment is to close down sometime in the near future. Nuisances from smoke, other than those due to dark smoke, are dealt with under Section 16 of the Act. These cover trouble arising from bonfires, the burning of rubbish and trade waste in the open, and where smoke



Domestic Smoke (Southcote)



Part of the Coley Park Smoke Control Area



though persistently a nuisance, is not dark smoke within the meaning of the Act. Nine cases were dealt with under this particular section, and again informal steps were all that was required to abate the nuisance. A number of enquiries were received concerning garden bonfires, and it would perhaps be helpful to say that bonfires as such are not prohibited, but where a bonfire is necessary, it should be so sited and operated as to be of no inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area.

Several visits were paid by the Alkali Works Inspector to scheduled processes in the area during the year. Although it is evident that they have a great deal of work to do, liaison between the two departments has been very satisfactory and there has been a certain amount of improvement in the premises covered by the Alkali Works Regulations.

Education and Publicity. The success of any worthwhile scheme depends, to a large extent, upon the public and the individual being fully informed of its merit. It has always been the policy, since the introduction of the Clean Air Act, to inform all the people concerned of their obligations and the advantages that can be gained from the Clean Air Act. This has been reflected in the general attitude of industry reflected and the public, and it is pleasing to think that the principles of clean air are not only being readily accepted, but are appreciated also.

It was mentioned in the Report last year that a Clean Air Exhibition would be a useful way of providing information, and now that the Act had been operating for twelve months or so, it was felt that sometime in 1959 would be a suitable time to hold it. The earliest date the Town Hall was available, was in June—not an ideal time to hold an Exhibition of this kind in view of the general absence of problems arising from smoke, particularly domestic smoke.

The Exhibition was arranged in the large and small Town Halls during the week June 9th—13th, and exhibitors interested in all aspects of clean air were asked to make a contribution.

The centre-piece in the large Town Hall was allotted to representatives of the four main fuels—the Southern Gas Board, the Southern Electricity Board, the Oil Burner Manufacturers Association (representing oil), and the Coal Utilisation Council (representing solid fuel). The sides of the large Town Hall were flanked with twelve stands, six on each side, which were allocated to various exhibitors such as the Central Electricity Generating Board, the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, British Railways, local Heating Contractors, a Builders' Merchant and well-known manufacturers of equipment and smokeless fuels.

The central portion was comprised of stands provided and erected by the four main exhibitors themselves. The side stands presented somewhat of a problem as it was essential to keep the costs of the Exhibition to an absolute minimum. Fortunately, however, we were able, through the good offices of a local firm, Messrs. Gascoigne Limited, to erect a skeleton framework of tubular steel, into which the individual exhibitors built their own stand.

In addition to the stands themselves, there was a number of free-standing models and photographic displays, including material from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and the Air Ministry, the latter's exhibit which depicted a model town complete with smoking chimneys and so fitted with electrical elements that it was possible to reproduce on a small scale the formation of smog and the mechanics of temperature inversion, created a great deal of interest and proved to be most instructive.

The department's stand was laid out in sequence, showing the effects of pollution on health, vegetation and materials; a section was devoted to means of atmospheric pollution investigation including a live volumetric instrument, the results of which were put up daily. Maps of the area were displayed showing potential sources of

pollution and outlining the Council's existing and future Smoke Control Areas. The various ways in which the Clean Air affects different sections of the community were also demonstrated.

The opening ceremony was performed by Arnold Marsh, Esq., O.B.E., Director and Secretary, the National Society for Clean Air. Representatives of surrounding local authorities were also invited.

On Wednesday, June 10th, Dr. Karlish, the Chest Physician at Battle Hospital gave a talk in the small Town Hall on the medical aspects of air pollution, and this created a great deal of interest. During the week, the small Town Hall was also used for the showing of films and for accommodating a number of independent exhibits.

The Exhibition itself was supplemented to some extent by a mobile unit from the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation which visited different parts of the town and gave demonstrations and advice on the efficient operation of domestic grates and, of course, the use of smokeless fuels.

A great deal of attention was given to publicising the effort, the press was extremely helpful and the Advertising Managers of two of the local newspapers undertook to run technical supplements in the appropriate issues of the newspapers, dealing exclusively with various aspects of air pollution. Despite the fact that the preparations for the Exhibition coincided with newspaper publishing difficulties, the contributions by the two newspapers were extremely good and without doubt made a substantial contribution, not only to the success of the Exhibition itself, but to the cause of clean air generally.

Although the attendances during the week which included over 700 school children in organised parties, left something to be desired, it was felt that a great deal had been achieved to foster public relations, give useful information, and to focus attention on clean air. It did a great deal of good, too, in bringing the many interested organisations and concerns together, and also contributed to a much better understanding between the public and the official approach to this problem.

The second year's Course for Smoke Inspectors at the Reading Technical College was successfully concluded.

Smoke Control Areas. Although there is no desire to labour this point, I think it is necessary to repeat that a substantial contribution to the pollution in the air is made by the domestic chimney, and that the most effective way of dealing with pollution from this source, is by the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. The Health Committee has constantly had this aspect of the work in mind, and it was interesting to receive, at the beginning of the year, Circular No. 5/59, in which the Minister commented on the progress being made nationally in dealing with this matter. The Minister stated that, in consultation with the Clean Air Council, he had reviewed the progress made in the country as a whole in establishing Smoke Control Areas. He said that whilst the first response was encouraging, he hoped that faster progress would be made in dealing with this aspect of pollution. Reading, not being in a "black" area, was not required to submit a programme of action, but it was the Minister's view that a systematic approach to domestic smoke problems was needed. He drew particular attention to the desirability of ensuring that new housing estates, whether built by the local authority or private enterprise, should be smoke controlled at the outset. This seems a logical thing to do as it will have the effect at least of preventing any increase in the pollution by smoke from fireplaces in new houses. In the light of the Ministry's Circular, the Health Committee adopted a number of recommendations:—

1. To proceed in the making of Smoke Control Areas.
2. To seek the co-operation of other Committees in pursuing a clean air policy by the installation and maintenance of suitable types of fuel burning appliances and equipment; and

3. To inform the surrounding local authorities of the action being taken with regard to Smoke Control Areas and to ask for information as to the steps they themselves had taken.

The position with regard to the various Smoke Control Orders, is as follows:—

(a) Reading No. 1 (Coley Park) Smoke Control Order. Came into operation June 1st, 1959.

(b) Reading No. 2 (Broad Street/Friar Street) Smoke Control Order. Comes into operation June 1st, 1960.

(c) Reading No. 3 (Coley Park Extension) Smoke Control Order. Submitted to the Minister.

(d) Reading No. 4 (Burghfield Road) Smoke Control Order. Submitted to the Minister.

(e) Reading No.5 (Old Southcote Lodge) Smoke Control Order. Submitted to the Minister.

The total acreage of the areas mentioned is 302 acres, and the approximate number of premises involved is 1,200.

In considering areas to which Smoke Control Orders should be applied, the Health Committee have had several factors in mind. In the first place they have adopted a principle that wherever substantial housing estates are being developed, they should be smoke controlled from the outset, and this was the main purpose behind the first Smoke Control Order. It was also felt that it would be inequitable to apply these conditions solely to people on housing estates. In the case of the second area therefore it was decided to deal with a mixed area comprising a certain amount of industry, commerce, shops and domestic premises. The degree of conversion required has also been borne in mind so that action has been applied in those areas where the greatest advantage can be obtained with the minimum of expense and effort.

With the first area, we have now had the benefit of over six months operation which includes most of the heating season. It is interesting to be able to record that complaints have been virtually non-existent. Indeed, a Questionnaire sent out to residents in this area, asking for their views on numerous points, produced a favourable response.

Generally, however, what is still to be more widely appreciated is that smokeless fuels burnt in a suitable type of grate, will give more usable heat per cwt. of fuel than will bituminous coal and, of course, without the smoke pollution.

In the area to which Order No. 2 applies, there will be a number of conversions necessary; this work is proceeding at the present time.

Air Pollution Investigation. There were no additions to the atmospheric pollution measuring instruments introduced last year. They consist of eight lead peroxide candles which measures active S.O.₂ in the atmosphere and are assessed monthly, and one volumetric pollution instrument sited in Bristol & West House which measures smoke concentration and the amount of active acidity in the air daily.

The information obtained from the various instruments, is detailed in the Tables below:—

1959—MONTHLY ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

STATION	Mg. of SO ₃ /day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO ₂ (louvered cover)											
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Emmer Green Primary School	1.69	1.76	1.02	0.60	0.57	0.39	0.32	0.42	0.70	1.06	1.23	0.88
2. Caversham Sewage Works ...	1.87	1.78	1.04	0.73	0.47	0.39	0.31	0.33	0.48	0.83	1.18	0.98
3. Alfred Sutton Secondary Girls School ...	2.34	1.95	1.22	1.02	0.65	0.76	0.57	0.58	0.59	1.11	1.51	1.54
4. Geoffrey Field School ...	1.66	1.44	0.84	0.71	0.59	0.34	0.35	0.41	0.51	0.77	0.97	0.60
5. Water Dept. Depot, Berkeley Avenue ...	1.81	2.00	1.27	1.01	0.86	0.48	0.47	0.51	0.78	0.98	1.54	1.24
6. Tilehurst Reservoir, Park Lane, Tilehurst ...	1.46	1.31	0.70	0.47	0.44	0.28	0.22	0.32	0.51	0.76	0.81	0.49
7. Battle Hospital, Oxford Road	2.12	2.30	1.35	0.90	0.78	0.57	0.43	0.50	0.82	1.27	1.59	1.15
8. E.P. Collier School ...	2.55	2.76	1.58	1.13	0.69	0.59	*	0.52	0.79	1.56	1.92	1.63
10. Reading University, Dept of Geography ...	1.85	1.71	1.07	0.74	0.51	0.55	0.45	0.42	0.65	0.85	1.21	0.94
11. Reading University, Dreadnought	2.05	1.91	1.23	0.84	0.59	0.71	0.59	0.42	0.67	1.33	1.53	1.40

*No results available

**DAILY ESTIMATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS
STATION 9. BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE**

MONTH	SMOKE Mgms./100 cu. metres		SULPHUR DIOXIDE Parts per 100 million	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
January ...	31.7	12.0	27.4	11.4
February ...	26.4	10.2	27.3	10.1
March	11.0	4.8	19.4	6.4
April	13.9	6.8	10.1	4.8
May	10.4	5.4	9.3	3.9
June	9.1	3.0	5.9	2.8
July	5.8	2.6	5.9	2.6
August ...	9.4	4.0	7.2	3.0
September ...	16.2	6.8	9.1	4.2
October ...	17.0	6.9	14.1	5.2
November ...	31.0	10.9	23.9	8.3
December ...	20.0	7.5	14.1	5.7

In addition to the department's instruments, two have been established by the Geography Department, Reading University, one at the "Dreadnought" and one at the University buildings. The results from all these instruments are furnished monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, but, of course, there is a great deal of interchange of information between the department and the University. Indeed, it would be appropriate at this point to say how grateful we are to the University for the discussions we are able to have on various points, and also to the Borough Surveyor and Sewage Works Manager who undertake to assess the lead peroxide candles.

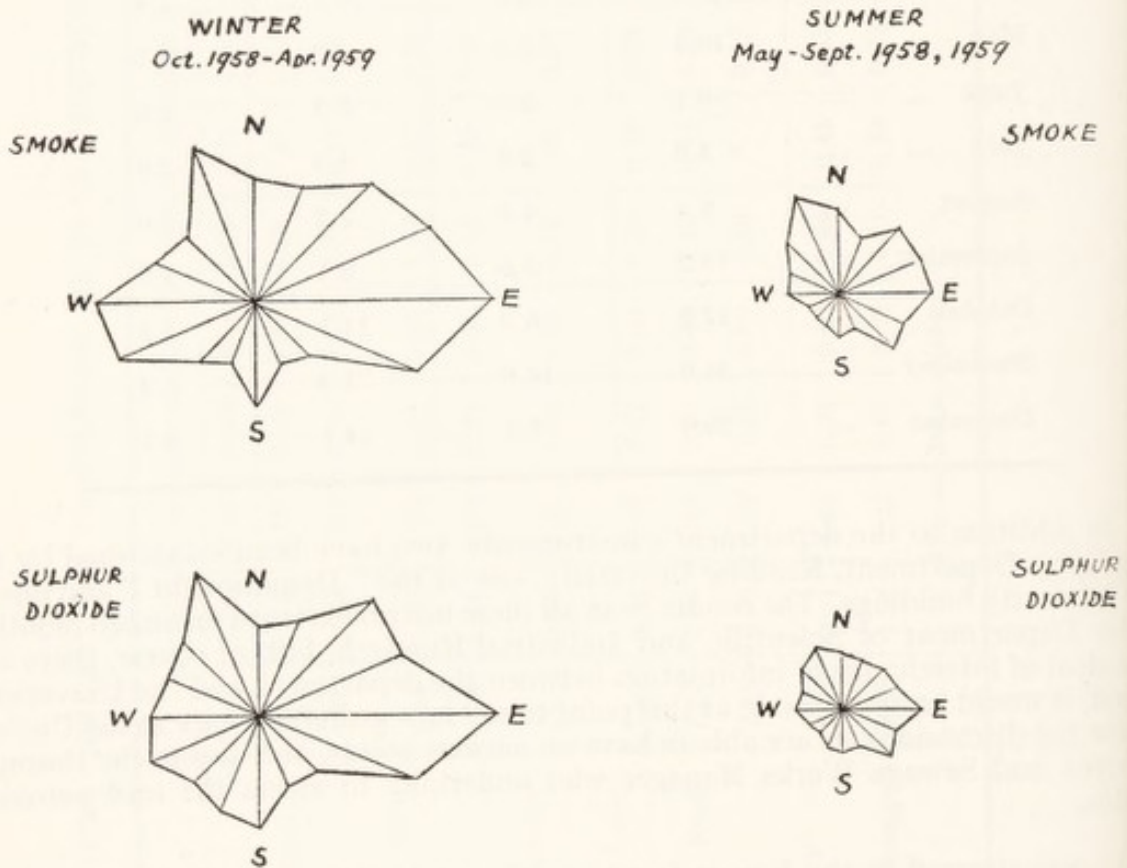
It was stressed in the Report last year, that it is difficult to draw conclusions from results until we have had several years' operation, but apart from general observations, Mr. M. Parry of the Geography Department, Reading University, has very kindly prepared wind polygons, in which are incorporated the mean pollution on each wind direction. A great deal of work has obviously gone into these diagrams, and whilst again a caution is advised in their interpretation, some general conclusions might be drawn. Mr. Parry points out that the analyses are concerned with weekdays only; (Saturday and Sunday are measured together), and the wind observations are once daily at 0900 G.M.T., therefore the diagrams are valid only in so far as the 0900 wind is representative of the mean daily wind. Bearing in mind weekends and also the fact that two Summer seasons are available but only one Winter, so that the Summer diagrams are more reliable, it seems that they are not without meaning.

The Winter graphs (i.e. broadly, the heating season) presumably show both domestic and industrial pollution. The wind polygons show the main pollution from each direction and they clearly demonstrate the spread of the built-up area both to

the East and West, and also, presumably, the Gas Works and Power Stations. The less marked peak to the South perhaps reflects the less densely built-up area in this direction: the North-North-West bearing stands out in all four polygons.

The Summer polygons presumably show industrial pollution only and are much more compact.

It would be interesting to see the effect on the atmospheric pollution figures when British Railways have completely gone over to diesels. We have been in touch with them on this point and we are informed that they are proceeding as quickly as circumstances allow.



4. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Some 531 complaints were received by the Department from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. 1,027 informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, the latter notices being referred to under the section on Housing. Attention to obstructed and affected sewers and drains is a matter of routine but some 230 complaints were dealt with during 1959. It was found necessary to clear 459 drains or sewers and in a number of cases, repairs also were necessary. There were 53 cases where the owners of the properties involved effected the necessary work. The vast majority of drainage jobs are automatically carried out by the Corporation and the cost of the work is apportioned to individual owners according to the extent of use enjoyed by each property. In some cases it was necessary to call out workmen on Saturday afternoons or Sundays to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency and it is appropriate once again that reference should be made to the excellent co-operation given by the staff of the Borough Surveyor's Department who dealt promptly and willingly with those cases, many of which arose at inopportune times. One thousand, nine hundred and fifty-six visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage.

Mention was made in the Report last year of complaints received from residents in the Coley area concerning galvanising fumes discharged from an industrial plant. The treatment of fumes from the process of hot-dip galvanising is accepted as being a difficult problem. The firm concerned, however, put in a great deal of effort in experimentation in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem, special fluxes developed in Germany have been tried, a Pilot treatment plant was installed and operated for about two months, and the Hot-Dip Galvanising Association was approached with a view to finding an answer to the problem. Unfortunately, all the experiments to reduce the nuisance after the fumes had arisen, were not very successful and the firm decided to alter their processing methods with a view to reducing fumes at source. This was only eventually done, however, after lengthy experimentation and not without hazard and expense to themselves. Although the nuisance has been substantially reduced, with an industrial process of this kind it will not be possible to completely eliminate fume discharge, but the firm are taking every possible care.

Attention continued to be given to the grit and dust problem that has concerned us for two or three years in the vicinity of the East Reading School mentioned in the Report last year. With the introduction of better handling methods and system of stock rotation, the improvement reported last year has been maintained. Consideration is being given to a re-siting of the coke stocks which, coupled with the better housekeeping methods at present employed, should show a further substantial improvement. This, together with other problems associated with scheduled processes, was the subject of discussions with the Alkali Works Inspector who has given every assistance.

Installation of Main Drainage. Three premises, 136, 138 and 146 Whitley Wood Lane, were provided with water carriage drainage and water closets and connected to main sewers during the year. The first two properties were connected to the existing Corporation sewer, whilst the drainage to the remaining house was connected to the sewer belonging to the Air Ministry and serving the R.A.F. houses in Whitley Wood Road. Applications for grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were received and contribution of £25 was made in each case.

Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises. The number of verminous persons treated during the year was two, the same as last year. These were dealt with at the School Clinic. A total of 165 complaints relating to verminous

premises was received during the year, in connection with which 204 visits and inspections were made. The number of cases of bed bugs was 83 compared with 42 last year, and fly and ant infestations were somewhat higher than was the case in 1958. The cluster fly—*Musca autumnalis*—was a source of trouble by appearing in small local swarms in certain parts of the town. These insects apparently breed in agricultural areas and appeared without reason on walls of houses and similar places. The only method of treatment is by the direct application of insecticides and the treatment of places likely to be suitable for hibernation. The increase in the number of cases of insect pests is probably due to the very fine and warm Summer we experienced.

A number of insanitary premises were dealt with during the year. These mainly involved old people who, by reason of age or infirmity, were unable to look after themselves and the conditions in which they were living had become most unsatisfactory. One of the difficulties with this type of case, is the inability to impress on the people concerned how much the conditions in the house must have deteriorated over the years. In some cases, however, they have probably not had the opportunity for a long time of visiting other houses and seeing things in contrast, so that they are quite unaware that they are living in an unsatisfactory state. The people are often those who dislike to have help and a great deal of tact and sympathy is necessary. The Domestic Help Service is of very great benefit to those people, many of whom have lost contact with neighbours and relatives.

Common Lodging Houses. The number of common Lodging Houses in the town has now been reduced to one. 5/5a Silver Street was discontinued as a Lodging House when the tenant who had lived there for many years, left to take up residence elsewhere. 23/25 Silver Street became discontinued as a Lodging House also during the year, formal action having been taken under the Housing Acts. The premises are now being demolished.

It is hoped that it will be possible to take similar steps with regard to the London Street Common Lodging House in due course. The progress in providing suitable alternative accommodation, seems to be very slow.

Infectious Diseases. Thirty-five inspections of premises were made during the year following notifications of infectious diseases. Defective conditions in houses were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs were served as necessary. In one or two cases where contacts were connected with the food industry, it was necessary to arrange with the employing firms that contacts should not handle food.

Offensive Trades. The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise 1 blood drier, 1 tripe boiler and dresser, and 1 rag and bone dealer. The three premises were regularly inspected and general conditions associated with the businesses investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Movable Dwellings. At the end of the year, 129 caravans were on the register compared with 139 in 1958. Of these, 86 were stationed on two large caravan sites, one being in Tilehurst and accommodating 66 dwellings, and one in Scours Lane licensed for 20 dwellings. The remaining 43 are on small sites in various parts of the Borough. A proportion of the individual caravans, of course, have been occupied by people on their own sites and building their own houses, so that when the house is completed, the caravan as a dwelling is eliminated. As the number of house building sites are reduced, therefore, a reduction in this type of applicant can be anticipated.

A report on caravan dwellings and their control has now been published. This is the report by the Committee set up some two years ago to look fully into the conditions and circumstances of caravan dwelling. There seems to be a very strong view that closer control is required over this type of development and that future legislation might give more appropriate powers to the Planning Authorities. The dual form of licensing, i.e., under the Town Planning Act and the Public Health Act, has

resulted in the uniform approach that is desired with this problem, and it is expected that legislation will be placed on the Statute Book in due course.

1,359 visits were paid to caravans and caravan sites and movable dwellings visiting the area with travelling fairs and shows.

Swimming Baths. During the year, 41 samples of water were obtained from public swimming baths and 41 from school swimming baths in the town and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All of these proved satisfactory.

Three learner pools, one at Hill Primary, one at Grove School, Emmer Green and one at the No. IX School, appear to be operating satisfactorily and it is anticipated that other pools will be opened during 1960. Advice has been given to the people in control of these baths on the means of sterilisation and the principles to be observed in the use of the pools. The Borough Surveyor has been engaged in bringing about an improvement in the conditions of the pool at Christchurch Meadow. Experiments have been carried out with a view to finding the best means of control.

Drinking Water. Forty-five samples of water were obtained from private wells in the town used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trade purposes. Detailed investigations were necessary in respect of 6 samples and appropriate action was taken. Fourteen samples of Mains water were obtained during the year and examined by the Public Health Laboratory. All proved satisfactory.

5. GENERAL

Factories Acts, 1937-48. There are 650 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose; 649 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests, by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with; 5 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. It was necessary to serve 47 written notices during the year. The list of out-workers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 86 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 15 were referred to other Local Authorities, 71 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

The work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in their inspection of factories is to ensure that the premises comply with the Factories Acts so far as the Local Authority's responsibilities extend, except in so far as means of escape in case of fire are concerned, which is the responsibility of the Fire Brigade. Visits were also made to factories following complaints of nuisance which are dealt with under the Public Health Act.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building By-laws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Acts and Public Health Act and as regards potential nuisance. The Clean Air Act has meant a considerable increase in the amount of work involved in the examination of plans.

Canteens and kitchens, etc., which are now available in many factories, were also submitted to inspection by the District Public Health Inspectors. The standard of hygiene observed in these establishments, together with the structure of kitchens and amenities provided herewith, were matters also under supervision.

The tables shown below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual return to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	105	80	2
Factories with mechanical power ...	545	569	42
Other premises	17	25	3
	667	674	47

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	40	33	—	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1
	44	37	—	5

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951. There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. Twenty-three inspections were made of these premises and 10 samples of filling materials submitted for examination, all of which proved satisfactory.

Canal Boats. Thirty-five visits were made to the wharves of the Thames and Kennet and there was no activity to report.

Places of Entertainment. Five visits were paid to the various places of public entertainments. There were no complaints by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

Shops Act. Visits were paid to all types of shops in the town as a routine duty. A number of inspections were also made on receipt of complaints from the Shops Act Inspector responsible for hours of closing, etc. In 3 cases Certificates of Exemption were granted in respect of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

Pet Animals Act, 1951. Ten licences were issued in 1959 under the above Act.

Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The methods of dealing with rats and mice remain unchanged, and there is no doubt of the effectiveness of Warfarin, and its simplicity in use, together with the fact that there is a low concentration of Warfarin in the bait, makes it possible for it to be used with the minimum of danger in food establishments. There is no doubt that it has been proved to be the outstanding medium for the control of rodent pests. Nevertheless, the rodent operatives have been instructed to be particularly careful when laying the baits around pigsties, etc., as the toxicity of Warfarin is well known, particularly in relation to its effect on pigs.

During 1959, 2,382 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and 152 business premises and 386 private dwellings were found to be infested with either rats or mice. Whenever it was found necessary, proofing measures were recommended to the owners, and the required work was carried out in each instance. Wherever practicable, surface infestations are dealt with on the block system, and altogether 14,728 premises were surveyed. This includes treatment of the sewers and drains in the neighbourhood and baiting at strategic points throughout the infested area in order to eradicate every possible source of the infestation. Altogether the number of infestations which were found to be caused by a defective drain or sewer was 9 compared with 18 in the previous year. In each case, after the drains were satisfactorily repaired, the infestation ceased.

The main sewers were again systematically treated twice during the year in order to reduce the rat population and the results are most encouraging. The details of the treatment are as follows:—

	Manholes Tested	Manholes showed take	Visits
1st Maintenance	297	36	630
2nd Maintenance	422	39	883

Warfarin was again used in the manholes with the addition of para-nitrophenol to keep the baits in good condition in the damp atmosphere of the sewers. The fact that the baits when taken continue to be eaten over a period of several days, does confirm that rats have a greater affinity for Warfarin than for arsenic or zinc phosphide. It was worth noting that the number of manholes where baits have been taken continues to be reduced, and although it would be a little optimistic to expect that the entire rat population of the sewers will be eradicated, it does indicate that the rats are being reduced to controllable numbers. It is already the case that most sections of the town have continued to show untouched baits in the sewers for some years.

Routine inspections are still carried out at the refuse tips, but it is pleasing to note that the sites used for controlled tipping have been sufficiently well managed that they are virtually free from rodent infestation, and routine visits have been reduced to a minimum.

The treatment of domestic premises for rats and mice destruction is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1957-58, the income in respect of this work was £219.

Other Pests. Although the primary importance of this section of the department is in the control of rats and mice, the fine Summer of 1959 brought other problems, one of which was to increase the number of complaints in respect of wasps' nests four-fold compared with previous years. It was fortunate indeed that there was a slight reduction in complaints of rats and mice during the same period, nevertheless it was found to be extremely difficult at times for the rodent operatives to cope with the work, especially as it was not uncommon for as many as 25 wasp's nests to be reported in one day.

Some 484 complaints were received in respect of wasps' nests and in a number of cases it was found, on inspection, two or more nests were present. Payment is required when work is carried out in connection with the destruction of wasps' nests and during the financial year ending March 31st, 1959, the income in respect of this work was £65.

In addition to the work carried out in respect of rat and mice infestations and in connection with complaints of wasps, the section dealt with 38 complaints concerning bees, hornets, pigeons, starlings, badgers, etc. There was a drop in the number of complaints involving pigeons. For several years, it has been the practice to advise the owners to fence off the nesting places on those buildings where pigeons have been known to congregate, in order to discourage these pests from the centre of the town. These measures, together with the trapping of adults and destruction of eggs, appear to be the only practicable means of eliminating the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Corporation Property	Agricultural Property	Total
Complaints ...	410	152	49	4	615
Complaints on Survey, etc. 38					
Re Complaints	1,650	514	205	13	
Others ...	10,061	4,076	660	41	17,220
Premises found clear ...	24	—	—	—	24
Premises found infested ...	399	144	42	6	591
Number of Rats picked up ...	175	44	34	6	259
Estimated kill—Rats ...	342	139	95	28	604
Number of Mice picked up ...	268	133	36	—	437
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	580	432	73	—	1,085

SEWER MAINTENANCE

1st Maintenance:- 297 manholes tested	17 manholes showed take — 630 visits
2nd " " :- 422 " "	39 " " " " — 883 " "

COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. K. H. Thorpe, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

House Refuse Collection. During 1959, the collection of house refuse has continued once weekly, with the exception of cafés, food shops and local hospitals, where additional collections are given. The service is maintained by 15 refuse collecting vehicles and 58 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse collected, with the total mileage vehicles engaged on the collection:—

Quarter ending :	1959		1958	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	9,797	31,586	9,240	28,732
30th June	9,138	31,916	8,872	29,539
30th September	8,508	32,126	8,313	30,838
31st December	10,294	33,538	9,812	29,768
Totals	37,737	129,166	36,237	118,877

Trade Refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

Street Cleansing. The " Beat " system of street Orderlies has been maintained and, with the assistance of 2 Mechanical Sweeper Collectors, has proved satisfactory. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, which are visited by lorries, for the collection of accumulated refuse and conveying same to the disposal tip.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

		1959	1958
Men		46	50
Boys		4	4

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the vehicles (the table includes figures for the 2 Mechanical Sweeper Collectors engaged on street cleansing work.)

Quarter ending :	1959		1958	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	897	4,350	850	4,249
30th June	780	4,120	730	3,948
30th September	690	4,430	660	4,326
31st December	742	4,565	710	4,684
Totals	3,109	17,465	2,950	17,207

Street Gulley Cleansing. Eight thousand, five hundred and ninety-three gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1958-1959:—

Quarter ending :	1959		1958	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	357	2,251	344	2,582
30th June	338	2,310	368	2,415
30th September	296	2,133	324	2,457
31st December	414	3,111	448	2,287
Totals	1,405	9,805	1,484	9,741

Cesspool Emptying. All domestic cesspools are emptied by mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises within the Borough, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

Sewage Disposal. The volume of sewage received and purified during the year showed an increase over previous years, averaging 5,900,000 gallons per day. Treatment of the sewage was complicated by the construction of the new sewage works and several temporary arrangements were necessary to effect adequate treatment.

The sections of the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme brought into operation during the year were the Blake's Lock Pumping station, the 33 in. rising main, the comminutors, detritor, sedimentation tanks and new sludge pumping station. Most of the "teething troubles" have now been overcome and these new sections are operating satisfactorily.

The sedimentation tank effluent was further treated in the existing activated sludge plant and the percolating filters working in parallel, whereas previously these were in series. The degree of purification, although often unsatisfactory, was maintained at the level of the last few years.

The amount of sludge which was dried and lifted from the drying beds was 4,500 cubic yards. This was sold to horticultural and agricultural users.

Sewerage. During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1959, 266 private houses and bungalows and 136 flats and maisonettes were connected to the foul sewerage system. In addition, several new Corporation houses and flats were connected to a separate return in respect of these, I understand, is being given to you by the Borough Architect.

Seven private houses were constructed with cesspool drainage and 11 private houses, previously having cesspool drainage, were connected to the main foul sewer. The total number of houses within the Borough with cesspools is now 491, a reduction of four since last year.

Swimming and Slipper Baths. The swimming bath facilities proved very popular and attendances were well maintained. Attendances were also maintained at the two slipper baths.

The number of persons using the facilities during the year ended December 31st, 1959 was:—

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths—Swimming Pool	120,387
Slipper Baths	12,512
King's Meadow Bath	66,162
Coley Bathing Place	28,127
West Reading Bathing Place	13,288
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	14,723

HOUSING

(These comments should be read in conjunction with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and with my comments under Part III of the National Assistance Act.)

Mr. C. H. A. Willett, L.R.I.B.A., M.R.S.H., Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During the calendar year 1959, 214 dwellings of all types were taken over. This intake of dwellings was lower than 1958 but is part of an annual rhythm as contracts are completed and new ones started. There is likely to be a considerable rise in 1960.

Contracts for 114 dwellings in Burghfield Road and a further 78 at Coley Park were commenced during 1959 as well as other contracts for flats, bed-sitters and 15 storey flats.

In addition to the foregoing, tenders were approved for work to commence early in 1960 on 34 dwellings comprising 16 Aged Persons dwellings and 18 houses in Buckingham Drive, Emmer Green, 5 shops with maisonettes over at Coley Park and 5 shops with maisonettes over together with 4 Aged Persons dwellings at Northumberland Avenue.

Bed-sitting Room Blocks. A feature of special interest in housing development is the new type of Bed-sitting Room accommodation designed by the Borough Architect's department in collaboration with the Medical Officer of Health.

This type of dwelling is believed to be one of the first of its kind since it involves shared sanitary facilities.

Two blocks have been built, one in Coronation Square on the Southcote Estate and one at Coley Park in Shaw Road.

Each contains 26 Bed-Sitting Rooms of generous size, each room having a little kitchen recess well fitted up. There is a wash-basin in a recess in each room, electric underfloor heating as well as an electric fire, and hot water. Television points are provided too.

There is a common room and well fitted utility room in each of the three storeys

The scheme is designed to accommodate single persons, mainly middle aged persons who do not want any more than a comfortable room with modern facilities, at a reasonable price and who do not want the bother of maintaining an individual garden.

The toilet is shared between two persons only, and a bathroom between four people, this is of course an economy in capital expenditure since plumbing and sanitary fittings are the most expensive parts of a dwelling—moreover the constitution of an average family in any ordinary house requires that more than two people share a toilet and commonly four or five share a bath. Hot water is obtained through a coin meter.

Arrangements are being made for a caretaker to be responsible for cleaning the bathrooms and toilets and the common stairs and landings, a small sum is included in the rent for this service and for the maintenance of the ground round the block.

The Housing Committee are of opinion that this recent addition to the wide range of accommodation they already own, will be of especial value to yet another group of persons for whom there has not hitherto been specialised provision of this kind.

There seems a likelihood of more provision of this sort being made throughout the Country now that more ageing people desire a small, cheap, convenient dwelling—free as far as possible from the worries and expense attendant upon a house and garden, and the cleaning and maintenance of parts of a dwelling which is really larger than they need, and the benefit of which they seldom enjoy. The scheme may be beneficial in another way too, in that if it attracts persons already living in premises too big for one person, then those will become available to a family. In fact the first block produced three family houses in the way mentioned. A further 44 Bed-sitting Rooms were commenced in 1959 in Basingstoke Road as part of a block of 54 flats.

Multi-Storey Flats. Good progress has been made with the two blocks of 15-storey flats at Coley Park, while a third was started under a new contract at the end of the year.

These fine blocks are already creating a great deal of public interest, first because they are the tallest buildings of their kind in this region, secondly they have a dramatic quality, soaring up to 135 feet above ground, and though far from finished it is even now possible to discuss their interesting architectural qualities.

For purposes of height comparisons, it may be of interest to note that the new chimney at the Gas Works is 200 ft. high, which is 65 ft. taller than the 15-storey flats.

The planning has been given the most thoughtful consideration and is a result of close collaboration between a small team of Architects of the Borough Architects department and that of George Wimpey & Co. who have between them produced what we hope will prove to be the finest job of its kind so far produced in Reading, and indeed it is hoped that it may be a model which will greatly interest other local authorities.

The Borough Surveyor and his staff also have been concerned in this job, as well as specialists of several kinds in connection with electrical services, fire protection, water and gas services, lifts, refuse disposal, sanitation and so forth.

All access is internal, each group of flats, six to a floor, will have their "front" doors accessible from the lift hall, there will of course be fireproof stairways for emergency use, and each hall has smoke screens, while the whole building is served by a specially installed fire main known as a "dry riser."

It need hardly be said that all the construction is fireproof, including every floor, roof and wall, but in spite of that the precautions are very thorough and complete.

There is no need to give detailed particulars of accommodation and the general fittings and amenities of this latest and greatest venture of the Council, because full publicity will be given when the official opening takes place later this year.

The serious shortage of suitable building land in the Borough is known to all, thus it becomes obvious that a limit has to be set to the building of the ordinary 2-storey dwellings or bungalows; it follows therefore that the Local Authority as well as private building firms have to consider by what alternative means they can meet the housing demand. This problem gives rise to the saying "if we can't go outwards then we've got to go upwards" and so the multi-storey building looms large in the minds of many as the only alternative. In this context, multi-storey is used to mean building of say five storeys upwards and is not confined to so-called skyscrapers.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Part III & IV

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

(a) **General Considerations.** The trend towards placing more work on the shoulders of Local Authorities, to which reference has been made in previous reports, has continued. There has been an increase in the number of cases for which the Geriatrician considers that hospital accommodation is not necessary, but whether or not this is a valid assumption is a different matter. But whatever our views, we are all agreed that some form of institutional accommodation is required. In Reading we have quite good domiciliary services but I am quite sure that there is a limit to the extent to which domiciliary services can be expected to meet the needs of elderly people. Obviously it is impossible to arrange for one domestic help to look after an old person whole time. The result, is I fear, that a number of old people are discharged from hospital and left alone for too long periods at a time. I must admit that I tend to hear of the difficult cases and it is not easy to find out the extent of this problem. In some towns surveys have been carried out by some neutral observer to ascertain how far the needs of elderly people are met by domiciliary services, but such surveys need careful planning and involve expenditure of money, which is not available from statutory sources.

An encouraging feature has been the steady provision by the Housing Committee of dwellings which are suitable for elderly people who are living on their own. Single bedroom flats are available in the blocks of flats, and two blocks of bed-sitters have just been opened. The experiment at 36 Mansfield Road continues to be a success. I feel that all these features will help to prolong the stay of elderly people outside hospital or Part III accommodation and the Housing Committee is to be commended for what it has accomplished. I earnestly hope that this policy will be continued.

Many applicants who seek admission to Part III accommodation are really in need of suitable housing accommodation and this seems to be particularly true of the men. The Council has agreed to build a municipal common lodging house and I hope that this project will not be too long delayed. I have recently closed three common lodging houses in the town on the grounds that they are unfit for habitation and, as a result, we had to admit some of the occupants to one of our homes. Had there been alternative satisfactory accommodation this would not have been necessary.

(b) **Part III Accommodation.** As in 1958, the demand for Part III accommodation still continues to rise, and, in consequence, the waiting list is extremely large. At December 31st, 1959, there were 46 males and 85 females awaiting admission, accommodation being provided at this date for 280 residents in eight Homes.

The appointment of Mrs. George as a Welfare Visitor in connection with applicants for Part III accommodation has enabled a check to be made on the position of people whose names are still on our waiting list. We found that some of these had been admitted to hospital and some had died. We hope that it will now be possible to maintain a more regular review of our waiting list. Fortunately, where there has been a case of an urgent nature we have been able to accommodate the applicant but I must admit that this has been mainly a matter of good luck. Incidentally, applicants will not be admitted in the date order of their application; this, at times, causes a certain amount of discontent but with the present shortage of accommodation I see no alternative.

Last year I referred to the increasing infirmity of the residents in our homes and I make no apology in commenting again on this subject. It is hoped to install a lift in Southern Hill and also in Parkhurst. This should ease the position and enable us to continue to use beds which are situated on the top floor. Members will recall that when we adapted these buildings for Part III accommodation the general policy was that people who became ill or very infirm would be admitted to hospital. This policy has now been changed and has caused us a number of problems, to which I have referred previously.

The following table gives particulars of the admissions for 1959:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admission							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admissions (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	—	1	5	1	7	—	2	2	12
Wychcotes	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Warren House	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	6
Parkhurst	—	1	5	—	3	—	2	—	8	—
Southern Hill	—	—	6	—	17	—	—	—	23	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysons Wood	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	7
Alice Jenkins Home	—	1	—	2	—	14	—	2	—	16
	—	3	12	13	21	30	2	4	33	43
	3		25		51		6		76	

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1959

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					Total
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
			1	2	3	4	5	6
		Not materially Handicapped	aged	M.		93		
	F.		64	53			5	122
	not aged	M.						
		F.						
Blind	aged	M.		5				5
		F.	1	5				6
	not aged	M.					1	1
		F.					3	3
Deaf	aged	M.		2			1	3
		F.	2					2
	not aged	M.						
		F.						
Epileptic	aged	M.					1	1
		F.						
	not aged	M.		1			1	2
		F.					1	1
Others physically Handicapped	aged	M.	8	12			1	12
		F.		27				36
	not aged	M.					2	2
		F.					2	2
Mentally Handicapped	aged	M.		1				1
		F.		3				3
	not aged	M.		1				1
		F.						
Grand Total			75	203			18	296

	Aged	Other
Persons accommodated on behalf of other local authorities (included in Table A above)	2	-
Persons accommodated as residents by other local authorities on behalf of the Council (not included above)	7	-

Temporary Accommodation (This section should be read in conjunction with the report of the Family Caseworker). There has been a decrease in the number of persons whom we have accommodated in temporary accommodation during 1959. It has been noticed that the length of time spent in this accommodation has not been so great as in the previous year, but it is felt that this must be due to the efforts of the Family Caseworker. The following table gives particulars of this accommodation:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	1	38	23	62
Maintenance Days	57	200	379	636
Remaining on Dec. 31st, 1959	—	1	2	3

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased from £6 0s. 9d. to £6 5s. 3d. per head per week as from August 1st, 1959. The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents according to the scale in use during 1959:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands	£6,991	4	7
Wychcotes	1,247	6	0
Warren House	2,339	8	10
Parkhurst	5,441	9	8
Southern Hill	4,813	9	11
Arthur Clark Home	1,947	1	1
Dysons Wood	2,056	14	11
Alice Jenkins Home	4,457	8	8

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

No case under this Section has been referred to the Minister for decision. In all cases where a query has arisen settlement has been reached between the authorities concerned.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Once again, the officers of the Board have been extremely co-operative and helpful in any cases which we have referred to them. Personal contact between the officers has been maintained to the benefit of both departments.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The following table shows the numbers and categories of persons who were resident in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm	—	6
Blind	2	5
Cripples	1	3
Deaf and Dumb	1	—
Epileptic	1	2
Spastic	1	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) **Deafness in Children under the Age of 2 years.** A special Research Audiological Unit has been set up at the Royal Berkshire Hospital under the ægis of the Nuffield Trust and we are collaborating with this Unit in the early detection of deafness in children.

We are now keeping a register of babies in the Borough considered to be potentially "at risk" of having defective hearing. There are many possible factors which may be associated with an increased risk of being deaf. These factors may operate before birth (e.g. a family history of deafness; virus infections of the mother in early pregnancy; hæmorrhage during pregnancy; Rhesus incompatibility; pre-eclamptic toxæmia), during birth (e.g. premature birth; instrumental delivery), or in the neo-natal period (e.g. anoxia; jaundice; cyanotic attacks; encephalitis; the presence of congenital malformation). The information needed to compile this register is obtained mainly from the Midwifery Discharge Reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health by the hospital and domiciliary midwives.

When a child has been placed on the register arrangements are made for an early examination of its hearing at the Audiological Research Unit and for follow-up tests where necessary. During 1959, 417 children were referred under this scheme but so far none of these have been shown to be deaf. Two children under the age of 2 years, who would have been detected through registration, are at present known. One is the son of deaf and dumb parents; the other is a girl whose deafness was associated with maternal rubella. Both are profoundly deaf and they are receiving appropriate treatment. This includes the provision of suitable hearing aids and auditory training in the home under the supervision of the teachers of the deaf. The child belonging to deaf and dumb parents presented a particularly difficult problem as it is not possible for parents who have no speech themselves, to teach a baby to learn to appreciate sounds. This child's deafness was detected at the age of six months and arrangements have been made for him to be attended by an "additional parent" (herself the mother of a deaf child) to overcome this disability in the parents.

It is worth noting that children included in the Risk Register are also potentially at risk for handicaps other than deafness and they will warrant particularly careful observation during their pre-school years by the Health Visitors.

(b) **Deaf and Dumb.** Arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of people on the Register at the end of the year:—

					M.	F.
Children under 16	...	...	...	...	1	—
Persons aged 16-24	...	...	...	...	36	35
Persons aged 65 and over	...	...	...	...	4	5

Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, has given me the following notes on his work:—

Church. Services have been held each Sunday and all have been well attended. Holy Communion Services have been held each month through the kind co-operation of the Clergy of St. John's Church.

The second Anniversary Service of the opening of the new Chapel was held on September 13th, 1959.

The Harvest Festival Service was held on September 26th.

A coach full of members joined in a United Church Rally at Clapham on April 26th, 1959.

New additions to the Chapel:—1 Chalice, 2 Altar frontals and 36 chairs.

Two funeral services were interpreted, also one Baptism which took place in the Chapel.

Mothers' Union Branch. The meetings of the branch are held fortnightly. Our members take part in Church Services and other events organised by the Reading Mothers' Union Deanery. These functions are interpreted. The Branch now has a Banner.

The meetings take the form of Services, sewing and games sessions. The members make articles at home for the yearly Sale of Work.

The members went to the Pantomime at Oxford.

Placement. Employment was found for 7 females and 16 males. Constant visits have to be made to firms employing deaf persons to solve problems and difficulties on both parts.

Social. The Annual Party was held at the Town Hall on January 17th, 1959, when some 160 people were present. This total includes many deaf visitors from outside

The Social Club entered 2 teams in the Reading Borough Tuesday Billiard Leagues, and 3 teams in the Reading and District Table Tennis Leagues.

Football and cricket teams also played friendly matches against Clubs.

Visits were made by coach to Deaf Clubs at Maidenhead, Oxford, Slough and Clapham. Visitors were received from Watford, Southampton and Woolwich Deaf Clubs.

The Club organised outings to Southsea on Whit-Monday, and the Annual Outing took the form of a tour of some of the seaside towns of Sussex.

On June 2nd some of our members visited the Royal Tournament.

Ten of our aged deaf went on one week's holiday to the Isle of Wight, on June 27th - July 4th.

Building Fund Committee. This Committee has been instituted to raise funds to provide a new hall at the rear of the Centre.

Welfare. Interpretation has been provided for the deaf in doctors' surgeries, hospitals, dentists, solicitors' offices.

Interpretation has been provided in Courts of Law and once in the Coroner's Court.

The deaf have been visited in their homes and in hospitals.

(c) **Hard of Hearing.** Our arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association continued as in previous years. The register on December 31st, 1959, was as follows:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16	—	—
Persons aged 16-64	21	26
Persons aged 65 and over	8	30

Mr. W. J. Hammond, Hon. Secretary of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association reports that the Association continues with its good work. Meetings are held every Monday afternoon which take the form of film shows, lip reading practice, whist and beetle drives, and open evenings, for games of various types. Outings to places of interest and to other Hard of Hearing classes are also arranged in addition to the usual Christmas and New Year's Party. The Association also covers a very lively magazine.

(d) **Blind.** The general arrangements for this work continued as previously in close collaboration with the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind.

Miss Lowe, the Blind Welfare Officer, also acts as Secretary for the Association and has supplied the following information:—

On December 31st, 1959 there were 215 Blind people on the register, 85 males and 130 females. The age groups are as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
1-4 years	—	—	—
5-15 „	1	1	2
16-20 „	—	1	1
21-29 „	4	—	4
30-39 „	6	4	10
40-49 „	7	6	13
50-59 „	9	13	22
60-69 „	13	27	40
70-79 „	21	33	54
80 years and over	24	45	69
	85	130	215

Age at which Blindness occurred

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	10	13	23
1-4 years	—	3	3
5-15 „	4	2	6
16-20 „	3	2	5
21-29 „	5	2	7
30-39 „	6	10	16
40-49 „	9	11	20
50-59 „	6	23	29
60-69 „	13	20	33
70-79 „	21	27	48
80 years and over	8	17	25
	85	130	215

During the year there were 17 new registrations, 4 transfers-in, 18 deaths, 8 transfers-out to other areas resulting in a decrease of 5 on the total for 1958.

Of the 17 persons registered blind during the year 11 were over 65 years of age, 3 women were in younger age-groups, 1 of them transferred from the partially-sighted register at 18 years and the remaining 3 were men between 35 and 45 years of age.

Partially-sighted Register. There were 122 persons on this register at the end of the year, 40 males and 82 females.

The age group are as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
5-15 years	4	5	9
16-20 years	2	1	3
21-49 years	3	10	13
50-64 years	5	7	12
65 years and over	26	59	85
	40	82	122

During the year there were 12 additions to the register, 3 transfers-in, 3 deaths and 7 people were removed from the register on being registered as blind persons resulting in an increased total of 5.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind	12
Persons mainly industrially handicapped	12
Persons requiring observation only	88

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially-sighted Persons:—

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—				
(a) No treatment	2	—	—	6
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical)	8	3	—	10
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	3	—	10

Children. The two blind children, a boy and a girl both having additional handicaps, are continuing to make slow progress at their respective schools, Conover Hall and the Sunshine Home at Leamington Spa.

Nine of the 10 partially-sighted children are away at schools the tenth being educated at a local grammar school.

The children enjoyed the annual Christmas Party provided for them by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind. It gives us all an excellent opportunity for getting to know the children on our premises and they like to visit us during their holidays and meet others who are home on holiday, too.

Home Workers. The machine-knitter and piano tuner have remained our only home workers for another year and both have maintained the earnings required to qualify for augmentation.

Rehabilitation and Training. One partially-sighted woman completed a course at Torquay and went on to be trained in Dictaphone typing at the Royal National Institute for the Blind Training Centre in London. She completed her course in December but, so far, has not been placed. Many companies employing Dictaphone typists have turned her down, on account of her age being too high for entry into their pension schemes—she is 47.

Employed Persons. Twenty-six blind and partially-sighted persons are employed as shorthand typists, telephone operators, factory operatives, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc. Three men and 1 woman are unemployed and every effort is being made to place them in open industry. One has been trained but the other 3 have sufficient sight to do repetition work.

Walford House. This house, providing three bed-sitting rooms furnished by the Association has been fully occupied throughout the year. Tenants share the use of the kitchen and in addition each has a gas-ring in her room.

Shop Sales. The amount raised from shop sales totals £255, an increase of £5 on the previous year. Very few of our registered blind people are able to make articles of a saleable standard and those who are good at knitting, etc., are often kept busy making garments for their friends and relatives. In view of the increased competition from other sections of disabled persons it is helpful to have work disposed of privately though this means that the actual amount of work done is not reflected in our sales.

Holiday Fund. Ninety-six people saved up for their holidays and many qualified for the bonus of £3 6s. 8d. given by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind to those who had £6 13s. 4d. in the fund when they withdrew it to go away. The Voluntary Association also gave additional grants to help with the increased cost of holidays and altogether spent a total of £645, augmenting the £100 allowed by the Council. The holiday organised for them at Worthing proved very popular. Twenty-two of our folk were joined by 10 from Berkshire County and all enjoyed a fortnight of delightful weather which did much to improve their health.

Relief. The Committee consider many specific needs of individual blind persons at the monthly meetings and where possible their wants are supplied. The coal supplied by the Voluntary Association at the beginning of the winter is very much appreciated. Those over 70 years of age receive 10 cwt. each and lesser amounts for those who are younger.

The charges for chiropody treatment are paid for all who require this service and many of the blind people are grateful to have a Chiropodist who visits them at home.

Social Activities. The Social calendar goes on all the year round. There are the monthly Socials organised by the Blind people with the help of the Home Teachers. During this year a change has been made and these meetings are now held in the afternoons instead of evenings. As the majority of the members are old people the alteration has proved very beneficial to the Club.

Pastime Classes and games afternoon continue each week.

After the organised holiday in May there were Summer Outings to Bognor and Wallingford in June, followed by the annual Garden Party in the grounds of Parkhurst Hostel.

During July the Social Club organised outings to Swanage and Oxford.

The Christmas Party was again held in Messrs. Wellsteeds' Restaurant and was attended by over 200 blind people and guides. His Worship the Mayor and the Mayoress joined the Party for tea and the Mayor spoke a few words of Seasonal greetings.

We are indebted to a number of people, societies and firms who render service in many and varied ways, all of which help to make life easier and brighter for the blind folk of this town.

(e) REPORT OF CONSULTING OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:—

During 1959, 31 patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Of these 7 had been previously examined.

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially Sighted	Total
Cataract	3	—	2	5
Glaucoma	1	—	2	3
Myopia	2	—	1	3
Retinal conditions	—	—	1	1
Trauma	1	1	3	5
Congenital conditions	2	—	1	3
Infective conditions	2	—	—	2
Degenerative conditions	5	—	3	8
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	1	—	—	1
	17	1	13	31

Ages

Under 20	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
1	3	2	6	12	7

Cataract. The three patients blind from cataract and one of the partially-sighted ones could have operation. The second partially-sighted patient had had a successful operation.

Glaucoma. The blind patient in this category had been seen too late. Of the partially-sighted patients one with chronic glaucoma has been controlled by operation, and the other, a case of acute glaucoma, has also been successfully operated on.

Myopia. One of the blind patients in this section had had a central retinal vein thrombosis in addition to his myopia. The other blind patient, and also the partially-sighted one, had macula degeneration as well as myopia.

Retinal. This patient had had a central retinal vein thrombosis in one eye and had cataract in the other.

Trauma. The one blind patient and the 3 partially-sighted ones had all lost one eye from injury and had cataract in the other. The patient not blind had had a perforating injury in one eye but had excellent vision in the other.

Subarachnoid Haemorrhage. This patient had had a subarachnoid hæmorrhage, causing intraocular hæmorrhage.

Congenital Conditions. One of these blind patients was suffering from optic atrophy due to hydrocephalus and the other from retinal abiotrophy and nystagmus. The partially-sighted patient had had congenital cataracts which had been needed in infancy.

Infective Conditions. One of these patients had optic atrophy following meningitis and the other had chronic iridicyclitis with secondary cataract.

Degenerative Conditions. All the patients in this category were suffering from macula degeneration except one of the partially-sighted ones who had disciform degeneration of the cornea.

(f) OTHER CLASSES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

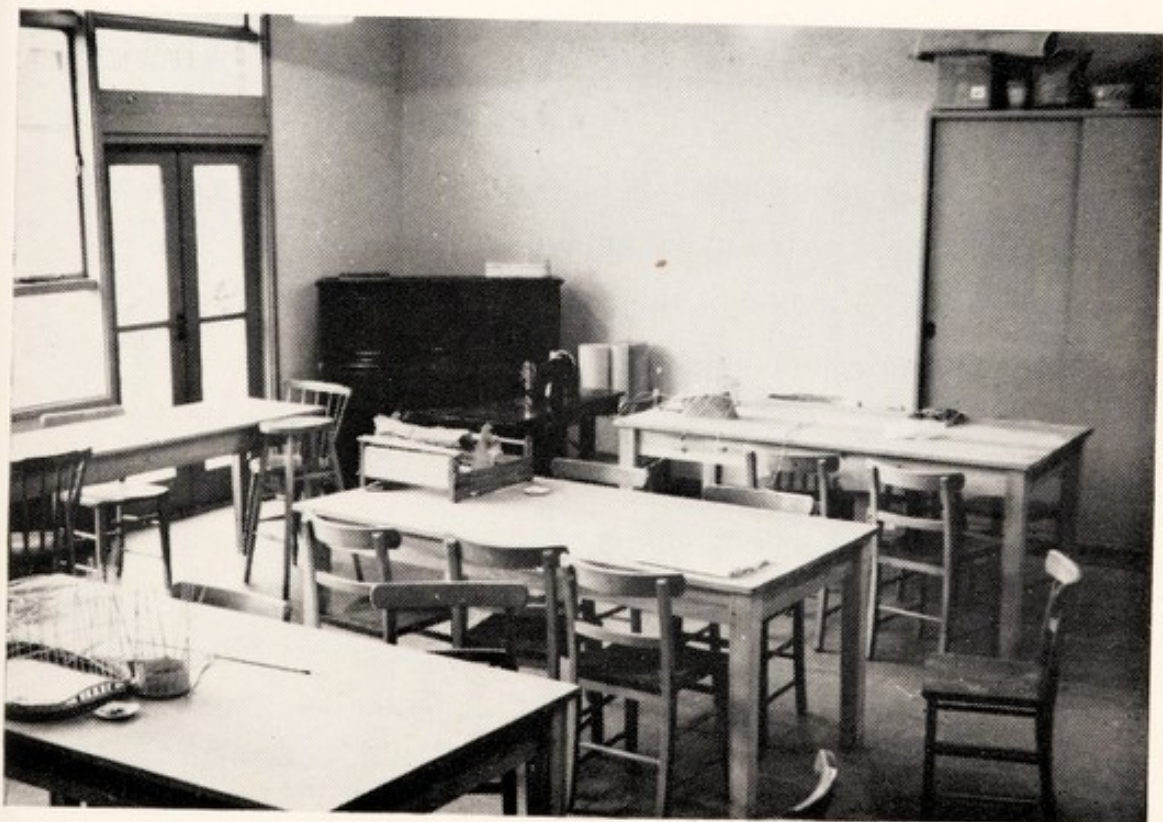
Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer for this particular section of the department has submitted the following report:—

Total number on Register	...	...	...	...	424
Total number assisted during the year	...	...	...	...	346
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Children under 16 years	...	...	...	11	1
Persons aged 16-64 years	...	...	...	99	124
Persons aged 65 and over	...	...	...	42	69
				—	—
				152	194
				<hr/>	
				Total	346
				<hr/>	

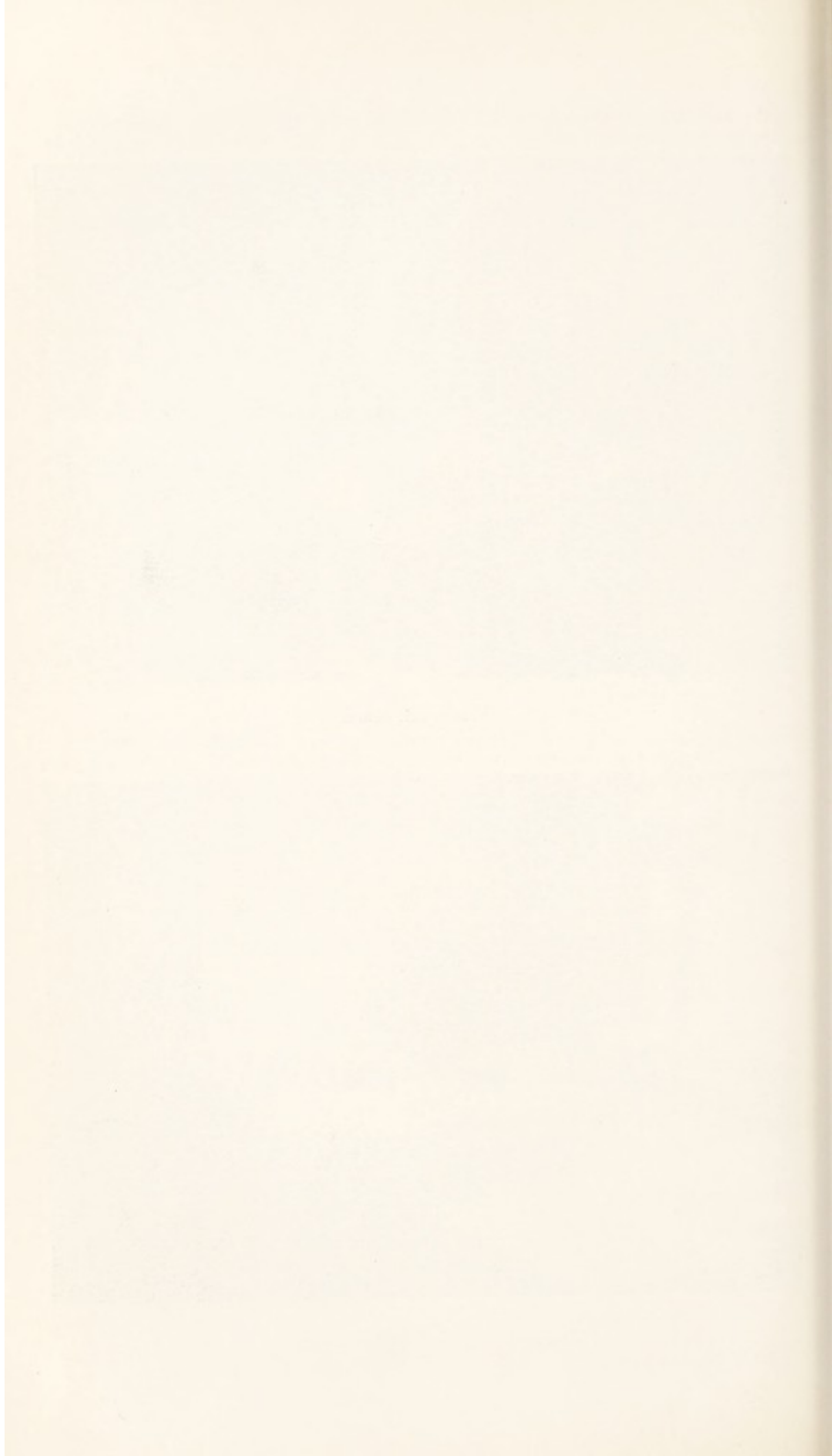
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT



Woodwork Room



Craft Room



*Detail of type of Assistance provided**Number of Cases*

Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment) ...	51
Adaptations to Dwellings	6
Adaptations (outdoor)	16
Employment and Training	6
Accommodation (homes, hostels)	5
Transport	46
Housing investigation	13
Rehoused	3
Referred to Occupational Therapist (work centre)...	39
Referred to Occupational Therapist (domiciliary visits)	19
Welfare Visits (not included in other figures) ...	147
Referred to other agencies (Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Ministry of Health, Red Cross Social Club)	85
Picture Loan Scheme	8
Convalescence	10
Financial Help	12

*Classification of Disabilities**1959 Total on Register*

A/E	22
F	83
G	13
H/L	95
Q/T	67
V	152
U/W	17
X	6
Y	3
Z	12
	—
	470
	—

*Grouping**1959 Total on Register*

A	26
B	35
C	21
D	321
E	21
	—
	424
	—

The key to this classification is as follows:—

- A/E =Amputation
- F =Arthritis and Rheumatism
- G =Congenital Malformations and Deformities
- H/L =Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems: of the heart or circulatory system: of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin
- Q/T =Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine
- V =Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.
- U/W =Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V
- X =Tuberculosis (respiratory)
- Y =Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)
- Z =Diseases and injuries not specified above

Grouping

Persons 16 and upwards

- A =Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions
- B =Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops
- C =Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home
- D =Incapable of or not available for work
- E =Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948

Deceased during 1959—34

Discharged from Register—4

The Register now stands at 424. It is not possible to compare this with previous years because of a change in the method of record keeping. The number of cases assisted during the year under the Council's Scheme amounts to 346 of which 147 were routine supervisory visits.

During the year, we have realised some of our hopes for the more successful administration of this scheme among disabled persons. An outstanding and exciting achievement has been the new Occupational Therapy Centre, specially built and equipped for work with handicapped people. Facilities are available there, with two large work rooms, to undertake technical work under commercial conditions and craft work. Many patients arrive in their own invalid tricycles issued by the Ministry of Health, and work there on four afternoons each week. We are ever looking ahead and plan to extend the number of work sessions—provided we have the increased support of local firms who will offer work contracts.

A large number, who are too disabled and in wheel chairs are brought by a specially adapted ambulance. This vehicle has a hydraulic lift which raises a person in a wheel chair, into the ambulance easily and without discomfort. This vehicle is in daily use and has proved its worth in extending the horizon of persons otherwise homebound.

On the craft side, we have an increased number of articles produced. The main source for their disposal is the Helping Hand Shop. The centrally situated premises are again provided and maintained by this Authority. Sales show a most satisfactory

increase on previous years. This year's sales total £852. The hours of opening have been increased and a rota of voluntary workers serve in the shop. This outlet for articles produced to a commercial standard and at competitive prices by severely handicapped men and women, is an essential part of the scheme.

The Picture Loan Scheme is a very modest venture and the numbers remain small. But to those who receive pictures, people bedridden and seriously ill, great joy and new interest is brought. Unfortunately we are to lose the services of our voluntary worker, Mrs. Andrews, next year. She has brought to a group, whom the busy world has tended to leave behind, a real personal interest and concern for their happiness. We are most grateful to her for her sincere efforts and practical help. We are indebted also to the Museum Curator and his staff for their continued advice and co-operation.

Transport continues to play an essential part in any activities among handicapped people. Again our thanks go out to the Rotary Club whose members, each month, generously give of their time and care to transport people to the various social activities which are now organised. We hope to increase our own transport facilities but we will never be able to achieve all we plan without the continued help of this very public spirited body.

The Social Club started several years ago and organised so successfully by the British Red Cross Society, continues to attract an average attendance of forty handicapped persons at the meeting held once a month. Because of its popularity we are planning in the future to hold a second meeting during each month. It is hoped to interest voluntary societies in this venture and to hold the meeting in the new Occupational Therapy Centre.

Another social activity, which is greatly enjoyed by these people, many of whom are confined to their homes, except on the occasions when these activities are organised, is the regular invitation from the Manager of the Odeon Cinema to attend special morning showings of new films. We are extremely grateful for the continued interest and kindness which is shown by Mr. Wyeth.

Adaptations to homes and their surroundings continue to be undertaken, this service provides an important stage in the rehabilitation of a patient. Our goal should be to assist the handicapped person to a degree of independence compatible with their disability. In this work, we continue to work closely with the Ministry of Health and express thanks for the willing co-operation we receive from their officers.

Aids and gadgets are now universally accepted as a means of increasing independence. A permanent exhibition of the more commonly used gadgets is now available for the assistance of doctors, nurses, etc., and wherever possible, these can be made in our own Occupational Therapy Department.

This year has certainly been one during which many of our hopes have been realised. But with a group, which is ever increasing, of people who recover from serious illness, but are left with a severe, restricting physical disability, there is much still to be done.

(g) **Occupational Therapy.** Miss D. J. Turner, Occupational Therapist, reports as follows:—

The highly improved accommodation now along the Bath Road has benefited patients to a considerable extent, and many come for occupational therapy almost every day if they wish. This is greatly appreciated by some of the more disabled, the standard of work is higher in some cases, and the atmosphere much brighter generally.

Much work has been done by the carpentry section on the furnishing and equipment at the centre, and this is not by any means yet complete. Electrical equipment has also been purchased, resulting in a quicker production of articles. There is unlimited scope here and we look forward to the extension of this side, which is enjoyed particularly by the men.

The basket makers continue to do work for an outside firm, thereby earning a little for themselves. And the same firm is also anxious for us to do some packaging for which a small remuneration will be paid.

Articles sent to the Helping Hand Shop number 210, of which 194 have been sold, at a small profit, which is handed on to the patient. We hope during the coming year to increase our production further.

About two dozen homebound patients have been visited regularly during the year, and supplied with some form of occupation.

In July, a St. John Ambulance took a party of handicapped persons as far as Windsor, going through Henley and Maidenhead, the return journey being made south of the river with a pleasant stay for tea at California.

It was possible this year to hold the Christmas party at our new spacious centre at which the Mayor and Mayoress were present. About 45 patients attended and a small fairy distributed the presents.

SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) **Meals on Wheels.** The following table shows the number of meals supplied by the W.V.S. during the year:—

January	...	...	...	1,038
February	...	...	...	959
March	...	...	...	1,002
April	...	...	...	1,039
May	...	...	...	980
June	...	...	...	1,014
July	...	...	...	1,124
August	...	...	...	849
September	...	...	...	1,025
October	...	...	...	1,068
November	...	...	...	1,024
December	...	...	...	1,217
				12,339

These meals are in addition to those provided by the Home Helps during the normal course of their duties. We estimate that Home Helps provide just under 800 meals per week.

Once again it is my pleasure to record thanks to the W.V.S. for their cheerful and willing help during the year.

(b) **Chiropody Service.** The Council of Social Service continues to provide a chiropody service on Wednesday mornings at Star Lane Clinic for elderly people who could not afford to pay the normal rate for professional treatment.

The premises are lent by the Corporation free of charge, and two qualified chiropodists are employed by the Council to give the treatment.

One hundred and seventy-one people had treatment during 1959 and the charge per treatment has been 3/- since the beginning of April.

Grants towards the cost of providing this Service were given by the Trustees of the Q.V.I. Fund and the Sunday Cinema Committee.

It is likely that the Council will extend this Service by powers which have recently been granted under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act. Any extension will be reported in my Annual Report for 1960.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of the year 9 Homes were registered in Reading as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. These are as follows:—

107 Connaught Road	...	...	...	...	4 places
8 Southcote Road	...	...	...	...	18 "
106 Wokingham Road	...	...	...	...	6 "
51 Tilehurst Road...	...	...	...	...	23 "
Springfield St. Luke	...	...	...	...	28 "
272 Wokingham Road	...	...	...	...	6 "
4 College Road	...	...	...	...	14 "
31 Alexandra Road	...	...	...	...	6 "
62 Kidmore Road	...	...	...	...	3 "

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

One case has been dealt with under this Section during 1959. The application to the Court for removal was successful, and the person concerned was removed to a general hospital. Two other cases occurred in which application to the Court was considered but, after repeated visits, the persons concerned were persuaded to avail themselves of the facilities for their well-being.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

No burials were arranged by the Department during 1959, but 3 cremations (2 male and 1 female) were arranged.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last fifteen years:—

1959	...	...	...	...	1,485
1958	...	...	...	...	1,382
1957	...	...	...	...	1,270
1956	...	...	...	...	1,210
1955	...	...	...	...	992
1954	...	...	...	...	869
1953	...	...	...	...	891
1952	...	...	...	...	675
1951	...	...	...	...	763
1950	...	...	...	...	576
1949	...	...	...	...	524
1948	...	...	...	...	444
1947	...	...	...	...	407
1946	...	...	...	...	344
1945	...	...	...	...	378

571 (38.5%) of those cremated were borough residents and 914 (61.5%) came from outside the borough, 40.8% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

Public Health Laboratory Service. The valuable work of the Public Health Laboratory Service continued throughout the year, and I am very grateful to Dr. Wood, Director of the Reading Laboratory, for his help and co-operation on many occasions. Unfortunately it is not possible to present particulars of examinations which applied only to Reading.

Nursing Homes. At the end of the year 4 nursing homes were registered, providing accommodation for 13 maternity patients and 48 others. All Homes were inspected during the year. The particulars are as follows:—

Dunedin	...	...	...	20 beds
Easterbrook	...	...	...	14 „
Whiteknights	...	...	...	14 „
Chiltern Maternity	...	...	...	13 „

Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948. At the end of the year there were 5 child minders, including 1 day nursery registered in the town in respect of 60 children.

International Certificates. During the year 643 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.

Coroner's Court and Mortuary. During the year 201 post-mortem examinations were carried out, 69 inquests were held, and there were 177 cases of sudden death reported in which no inquest was necessary.