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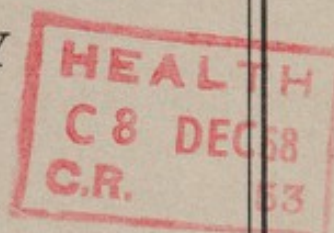
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BOROUGH OF RUGBY



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

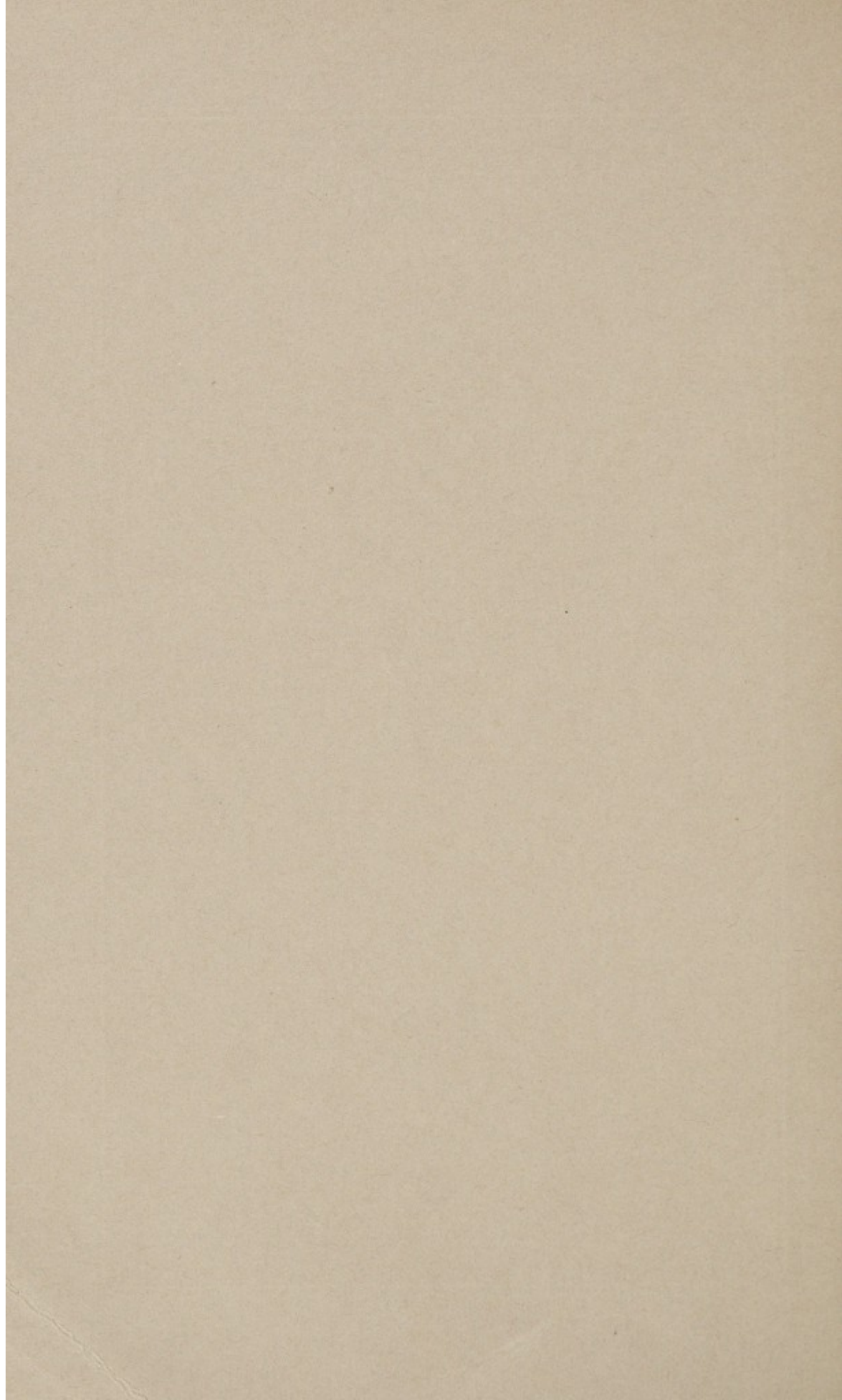
Medical Officer of Health

for the


Year 1957



David J. Jones







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BOROUGH OF RUGBY



# ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1957



David J. Jones



## To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Rugby

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present the Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants, and the vital statistics relating to the Borough for the year 1957.

The vital statistics reveal some interesting features. The population showed an increase of 970, greater than one expected bearing in mind the re-organisation in some industries in the town. The natural increase, i.e. excess of births registered over deaths registered was 281. This increase in population was much greater than has been experienced during the past five years.

In the table for causes of death it will be seen that 15 deaths were caused from cancer of the lung and bronchus, 4 of the 15 deaths being females. Extensive propaganda on a national scale against smoking and atmospheric pollution has not had any noticeable effect on the lung cancer death-rate, but confirmed addiction to smoking will not easily be broken by such means. Health education among the senior school population would seem to be the best avenue of approach, even though it is stated and written in some quarters that smoking amongst senior school children is carried on to some extent. Discussion groups, talks etc., among the senior school children of all categories would be my approach to the problem, and one which I shall pursue. During the course of an ordinary day one encounters heavy smoking amongst 'teenagers' to whom advice on the dangers of excessive smoking would go unheeded—at least in a large percentage of such young adults. On the other side of the picture, one does notice many more mature persons, who have heeded the advice on the dangers of addiction to cigarette smoking.

Atmospheric pollution is considered <sup>an</sup> ~~our~~ added danger to health (and the lungs especially) although one does not consider Rugby unduly affected by this hazard. The domestic chimney remains the chief culprit regarding air pollution, but it is also obvious that diesel oil fumes and smoke from passenger and freight road transport is considerable, and contributes considerably to the pollution of the air in our town. Technical experts on Diesel engines tell us that faulty maintenance is the primary cause—surely preventive action could be taken against this menace. Prosecutions have already taken place against offenders of the Anti-litter Act for dropping cigarette ends in the highway—in my view similar action should be expedited in relation to emission of offensive fumes from road vehicles.

No major epidemic of infectious disease occurred during the year apart from measles, which was mild in its effects. But the Christmas period brought with it a tragic case of food poisoning, the report of which I have had reprinted in this Annual Report as a record and reminder of the care that is constantly necessary to maintain food at its wholesome best. Extensive laboratory investigations were carried out by the late Dr. Ewart Jones, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for all the help he always afforded the Health Department.

Housing difficulties still appear almost as a daily routine. The slum



clearance programme has now commenced—and some of the houses have already been demolished. It is hoped that this work will be expedited—although its speed is to some degree governed by the progress of new building. Many of the older properties in the town cannot remain much longer as habitable dwellings, unless extensive reconstruction and repair works are carried out.

The housing of aged persons in suitable dwellings has received and is receiving due attention from the Council. The projected old People's Home belonging to the County Council, adjacent to the Borough Council's Old People's Bungalows on the Abbott's Farm Estate is a forerunner, I hope, of similar schemes in other parts of the town. Utilising, as it were, common "club" facilities, and served by a permanent warden, emergencies of all descriptions should be expeditiously dealt with, by day or night.

With reference to housing old people, the almshouses in Church Street come to mind. Correspondence regarding these houses has from time to time appeared in local newspapers, mainly stressing their architectural features. As modern and convenient dwellings for aged people, there is not a great deal to be said in their favour. The proximity to the centre of business and town activity, the shops, etc., is an advantage to the old people, but I am sure that much more comfortable, one storey buildings would be far better for the occupants—in fact at least one of the occupants has to have his bed downstairs from time to time.

One important addition to the welfare of the aged during the year under review, was the provision of "meals on wheels". With the magnificent financial aid from the Council, the willing co-operation of the Hamilton House Committee (Hoskyn Cripples' Fund) and the untiring efforts of the Women's Voluntary Service, and all the associated women's organisations, over 100 meals per week are delivered to persons who have difficulty in shopping and preparing meals for themselves, due mainly to medical unfitness. All persons receiving meals do so on recommendations from the Health Department. Originally 40 meals on each of two days per week was envisaged, but this demand was soon exceeded and additional cooking facilities will be necessary. The service is much appreciated and is serving a very real need. Other aspects of the Old People's Welfare still need attention, but not being a "welfare" authority there is a limit to the Borough's powers.

The water supply continued to expand, and half the work at Stanford reservoir of deepening the bays was almost complete. The amount of water supplied again increased, and its quality and standard continued to be of the highest, thanks to the diligence of all concerned in its maintenance. The demand for water has increased each year, but due to the foresight of the Committee these demands have all been met.

Dealing with sewage and sewage disposal, the extensive alterations and modernisation of the main sewage works have given admirable results, in that the effluent passing to the River Avon is constantly of a good standard. This is well shown by the much improved condition of the River Avon between Rugby and Bretford. On the other hand, the Hillmorton sewage works are greatly overloaded, and cannot produce a satisfactory effluent. The condition of the stream into which it is discharged leaves much to be desired, and work should be carried out to improve this, preferably by conveying all the sewage to the main works.



Finally, in the prevention of disease, one must mention the anti-polio campaign which, in 1957, extended its age range. The response has been most gratifying, and at the time of compiling this report, over 7,900 children and 181 adults in priority groups in the Borough, have been given two injections. This is a County Health function, but its interest to the Council warrants special mention.

In conclusion, I would thank all members of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation during the year, especially Mr. Bartlett, Chief Public Health Inspector, and the Chief Clerk of the Department, Mr. Newitt. I would acknowledge, too, the contribution of the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Fox and the Housing Officer, Mr. Smedley for statistics relating to the water undertaking and housing. Finally my thanks to the Committee and Council for their combined interest and support in all matters affecting or likely to affect the health of the inhabitants of the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID J. JONES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

ALBERT HOUSE,  
ALBERT STREET,  
RUGBY.

*August, 1958.*

## BOROUGH OF RUGBY

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*Mayor:* ALDERMAN L. B. FOX.

*Deputy Mayor:* ALDERMAN A. P. BROOME.

*Members of the Public Health Committee:*

ALDERMAN E. T. HOBLEY (Chairman); COUNCILLORS W. L. BARBER,  
P. A. BATT, P. BROWNLOW, F. W. GIBSON, C. J. MITCHELL, J. H.  
RICHMOND, J. L. SKELHORN.

The Mayor is an *ex-officio* member of the Public Health Committee.

*Public Health Officers of the Authority:*

*Medical Officer of Health:*

DAVID J. JONES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

*Also holds appointments of:*

Medical Officer of Health—Rugby Rural District Council.

Area Medical Officer—Warwickshire County Council.

Divisional School Medical Officer—Warwickshire County  
Council.

*Chief Public Health Inspector:*

T. BARTLETT, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:*

A. J. MASI, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

*District Public Health Inspectors:*

F. G. PERRY, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

S. J. GARROD, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

A. N. ROSS, M.S.I.A.

*Clerical Staff:*

A. J. NEWITT, Chief Clerk.

MRS. G. BATCHELOR.

H. CARLESS, Pupil Public Health Inspector/Clerk.

D. B. LOWER, Pupil Public Health Inspector.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS, 1957

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	7,010
Population (estimated mid-1957)	..	..	..	..	..	48,080
Rateable value (1st April, 1957)	..	..	..	..	..	£634,199
Product of a penny rate (1957/58)		..	..	..	..	£2,560

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

<b>Live Births</b>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population</i>
Legitimate	.. ..	379	344	723	
Illegitimate	.. ..	15	12	27	
		394	356	750	<b>15.58</b>

Adjusted birth-rate	.. ..	..	..	..	<b>15.42</b>
---------------------	-------	----	----	----	--------------

<b>Still Births</b>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 0.37</i>
Legitimate	.. ..	9	8	17	
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	1	1	
		9	9	18	<b>23.44</b>

<b>Deaths</b>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population</i>
All causes	.. ..	249	220	469	<b>9.75</b>
Adjusted death-rate	.. ..	..	..	..	<b>10.63</b>

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	.. ..	..	..	..	<b>2</b>
------------------------------	-------	----	----	----	----------

<b>Infant Mortality</b>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</i>
Legitimate	.. ..	5	6	11	<b>14.67</b>
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	1	1	<b>1.33</b>
		5	7	12	<b>16.00</b>



<b>Deaths from</b>	Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	90
"	"	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	1
"	"	Measles	..	..	..	<i>Nil</i>
"	"	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	<i>Nil</i>

Comparability factors for births and deaths are supplied by the Registrar-General to each district in order that a more accurate comparison of the birth and death rates in different areas may be made. These factors are applied to the local figures to give the adjusted birth and death rates shown opposite and below.

### Population

The mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 48,080, an increase of 970 over the previous year. The natural increase, i.e. the excess of births over deaths was 281.

### Births

The number of live births again increased from 698 in 1956 to 750 in 1957. There were 27 illegitimate live births, six less than the previous year. Comparative birth rates for the years 1953-57 are given below:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Rugby .. ..	15.15	14.22	14.26	14.67	15.42
Warwickshire ..	16.3	15.79	16.13	16.43	

### Still Births

Eighteen still births were recorded during the year, seven more than in 1956, and giving a still birth rate of 23.44 per 1,000 total births. The rates for the past five years have been as follows:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Rugby .. ..	23.61	31.84	25.86	15.51	23.44
Warwickshire ..	19.77	22.28	20.74	21.68	

### Deaths

The number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 469, forty less than the previous year. This gave a crude death rate of 9.57 per 1,000 of the population, but after applying the comparability factor of 1.09, the adjusted rate was 10.63. The number of deaths and comparative rates for the years 1953-57 are given below:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Rugby M.B. ..	10.01	9.35	10.13	11.88	10.63
(No. of deaths) ..	(442)	(427)	(465)	(509)	(469)
Warwickshire ..	10.67	10.51	11.08	11.19	

### Maternal Mortality

Two maternal deaths were reported during the year.

### Infant Mortality

The number of infant deaths was 12, again a new low record. The infant death rate was 16.00 per 1,000 live births compared with 18.62 in the previous year. The rate for the years 1953-57 have been as follows:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Rugby .. ..	28.45	26.91	25.07	18.62	16.00
Warwickshire ..	24.35	23.25	24.39	19.38	

### Neo Natal Deaths

Of the 12 infants mentioned above, 9 died within 28 days of birth giving a death rate of 12.00 per 1,000 live births.

## CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Age in Weeks</i>					<i>Total</i>
	1	2	3	4	5-52	
1. Congenital malformations ..	—	—	—	—	3	3
2. <i>Diseases of early infancy:</i>						
(a) Birth injury .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Immaturity .. ..	6	—	—	—	—	6
(c) Other .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
3. Pneumonia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Tuberculous diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Gastro-enteritis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. All other causes .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	2
<i>Totals</i> ..	8	—	—	—	4	12



# DEATHS DURING 1957 in the BOROUGH OF RUGBY

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	2	1	3
2. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	1	1
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	—	1	1
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	6	2	8
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	11	4	15
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	—	14	14
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	—	6	6
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	26	21	47
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	2	—	2
10. Diabetes .. .. .	2	4	6
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	28	30	58
12. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	53	26	79
13. Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	5	9	14
14. Other heart disease .. .. .	29	39	68
15. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	2	8	10
16. Influenza .. .. .	1	2	3
17. Pneumonia .. .. .	14	12	26
18. Bronchitis .. .. .	16	4	20
19. Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	3	2	5
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	7	—	7
21. Gastritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	—	1	1
22. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	3	3	6
23. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	6	—	6
24. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	2	2
25. Congenital malformations .. .. .	5	2	7
26. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	16	16	32
27. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	2	—	2
28. All other accidents .. .. .	5	7	12
29. Suicide .. .. .	5	3	8
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	249	220	469



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### Laboratory Facilities

Full advantage was again taken of the facilities offered by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, for the examination of food, ice cream and milk samples, specimens taken in connection with cases of notifiable diseases and the bacteriological examination of water supplies. The chemical analyses of water and sewage samples taken by the Borough Surveyor are undertaken by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London.

#### Local Health Authority Services

The services provided by the Warwickshire County Council under the National Health Service Acts, with the exception of ambulance and mental health services, are administered locally on a day-to-day basis. In the Eastern area, of which the Borough is a part, the services functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. There was a continued demand for domestic helps. 282 cases were given assistance during the year, and of this number, 193 required long term help for periods exceeding three months. The average number of domestic helps employed was 51 and a total of 48,087 hours were worked.

A list of the various clinics in the town is given below.

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>When held</i>
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	Temple Street Clinic	Alternate Wednesday afternoons
CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:		
Bilton .. ..	Church House, Bilton	First and third Wednesday afternoon each month
Hillmorton ..	Dorothy Fenwick Memorial Hall	Every Monday afternoon
New Bilton ..	Methodist Hall, Lawford Road	Every Wednesday afternoon
Newbold ..	Church Hall, Newbold	First and third Friday afternoon in each month
Rokeby .. ..	Rokeby County Primary School	First and third Saturday morning in each month
Temple Street Dental .. ..	Temple Street Clinic The Bungalow, Temple Street	Every Tuesday and Friday afternoon Daily (Emergency treatment only 9.00 a.m. —10.00 a.m. At other times by appointment)
Minor Ailments ..	Temple Street Clinic	Every Monday morning
Ophthalmic .. ..	Temple Street Clinic	Every Wednesday and Friday morning, and first and third Wednesday afternoon each month (by appointment)
Speech Therapy ..	Temple Street Clinic	Thursdays (by appointment)

The treatment of scabies and pediculosis is also carried out at the Temple Street Clinic when necessary.

The Clinics and Welfare Centres are staffed by medical officers, specialists and nurses employed by the County Council, and voluntary workers assist at the Child Welfare Centres.

Owing to the development of the Abbots Farm Estate, the attendances at the Hillmorton Centre increased considerably. In view of this, arrangements have been made for this centre to be open weekly instead of fortnightly.

#### **National Assistance Act, 1948**

No action was necessary under this Act during 1957.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply

The total quantities obtained from the several sources of supply during the year ended 31st March, 1958, were as follows:—

River Avon—Stanford Reservoir	..	..	382,760,000 gallons
River Avon—Brownsover	..	..	619,570,000 gallons
River Swift—Cosford Feeder	..	..	120,520,000 gallons
			<hr/> 1,122,850,000 gallons <hr/>

Water is only taken from the Cosford feeder during the summer months. Although hard in character, the raw water supplies are of reasonable quality and no difficulty is experienced in treating the water for public supply purposes.

The total quantity of water supplied, 1,082,850,000 gallons, was 64,850,000 gallons more than in the previous year. The quantity of water obtained exceeded the amount supplied by 40,000,000 gallons, this amount being used for washing filters, etc., during purification treatment.

The whole of the Borough, with the exception of 15 houses, is supplied with water from the public mains, with 47 houses taking a supply from standpipes.

The resident attendant at Stanford Reservoir makes regular inspections of the whole of the catchment area, and permission to enter the Reservoir grounds is restricted.

The extensions to the filtration plant, new raw water pumps and new switchgear have been completed.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses have been made at regular intervals during the year to determine the quality of the supply and to ensure that the standard is maintained.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The main sewage disposal works is situated at Newbold, where the dry weather flow is estimated to be 2,100,000 gallons. At the second works in Hillmorton, the flow is 300,000 gallons. Treatment at both works consists of settling tanks, percolating filters, followed by humus tanks with some land irrigation. Practically the whole of the Borough is drained to the public sewerage system, and in most cases the foul and surface water systems are separate or partially separate.

Samples were taken at various stages of treatment from both works at intervals throughout the year. As a result of the new extensions to the works, now completed, the analyses of the final effluent gave results within the Royal Commission's standard and were satisfactory.



**BOROUGH OF RUGBY—WATER UNDERTAKING.  
GENERAL SUMMARY OF WATER SUPPLIED.**

Year ended 31st March	Total quantity supplied for the year				Average quantity per day				Estimated popula- tion in Borough	Average quantity per head per day Borough		
	To Borough		To Rural Districts	Total	To Borough		To Rural Districts	Total		Domes- tic	Trade	Total
	Domestic	Trade			Domestic	Trade						
1945	380,963,026	292,757,258	107,419,716	781,140,000	1,043,734	802,074	294,300	43,930	23.76	18.26	42.02	
1946	343,949,868	274,768,532	115,791,600	734,510,000	942,328	752,791	317,237	42,820	22.00	17.58	39.58	
1947	356,903,458	251,524,956	113,341,586	721,770,000	977,818	689,109	310,525	43,410	22.29	15.87	38.16	
1948	396,289,760	266,988,240	128,832,000	792,110,000	1,082,759	729,476	352,000	44,090	24.55	16.54	41.09	
1949	363,768,250	265,983,450	122,048,300	751,800,000	996,625	728,722	334,379	44,420	22.43	16.40	38.83	
1950	363,230,460	276,703,940	132,895,600	772,830,000	992,412	758,093	364,098	45,860	21.64	16.53	38.17	
1951	395,498,360	286,112,140	126,942,500	808,553,000	1,084,166	783,047	347,787	46,780	23.17	16.73	39.90	
1952	402,373,650	289,634,350	132,682,000	824,690,000	1,099,381	791,350	362,519	45,418	24.20	17.42	41.62	
1953	462,127,210	300,379,590	139,837,200	902,344,000	1,266,102	822,961	383,113	46,200	27.42	17.86	45.28	
1954	477,564,960	302,907,040	151,308,000	931,780,000	1,308,399	829,881	414,542	46,400	28.20	17.88	46.08	
1955	495,330,200	318,559,800	147,540,000	961,430,000	1,357,069	872,767	404,219	46,590	29.14	18.73	47.87	
1956	524,855,000	357,580,000	158,845,000	1,041,280,000	1,434,000	977,000	434,000	46,790	30.65	20.88	51.53	
1957	529,442,000	326,680,000	161,878,000	1,018,000,000	1,451,000	895,000	443,000	47,110	30.80	19.00	49.80	
1958	566,156,000	347,389,000	169,305,000	1,082,850,000	1,551,000	952,000	464,000	48,080	32.24	19.80	52.04	



## **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The system of refuse collection and disposal comes under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. Collections are made approximately every seven days, and disposal is by means of controlled tipping at two points on the outskirts of the Borough. The use of Gammexane dust spread over the tipping face has achieved control over fly breeding and crickets.

## **Scavenging**

Two mechanical sweepers are used for all carriageways in the built-up portion of the Borough, and 21 street scavengers are employed to deal with footpaths and the general cleanliness of the streets.

Street gullies are cleansed mechanically, and the vehicle is used both for the flushing of sewers and gulley cleansing.

## **Swimming Pools**

The indoor swimming pool at the Regent Street Baths has a capacity of approximately 85,000 gallons. The water is filtered by a Royles filtration plant, and chlorinated before entering the pool. Samples of water submitted for examination at intervals throughout the year were all reported to be suitable for swimming bath purposes.

At the open air pool in Newbold Road, where the capacity is 250,000 gallons, the water is filtered and chlorinated by a Paterson plant. Analyses of the water showed it to be of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

## **Rodent Control**

It is noted that an increase in the number of complaints has taken place as compared with last year viz: from 186 to 217. It is not possible to say whether this is of significance since, in any case, the increase is not considerable. There is however a general feeling that there have been more rats about during the latter part of the year, and although this cannot be established by observation, it may be that the early cold spell caused a more considerable migration from the open country outside the Borough to winter quarters within, it also may be that with the reappearance of rabbits in the area the foxes are killing less rats.

**SEWERS.** The increase of complaints in general is not reflected in a corresponding increase in takes in the sewers. In fact, one 10% test baiting took place throughout the Borough and no takes whatever were recorded. If, however, the impression mentioned above is substantially founded, particular care will be necessary to prevent a re-establishment of the sewer infestations.

**DWELLING HOUSES.** As is usual, of the complaints received the majority are in respect of dwelling house infestations. Again the seasonal rise with the advance of winter was noticeable which of course is to be expected in a built up area in a rural setting. All infestations were of a minor character and no costs were recovered in respect of treatments carried out.

**BUSINESS PREMISES.** During the year 53 treatments were carried out and costs recovered.

**CORPORATION PREMISES.** Routine surveys and treatments have been carried out. Fifteen treatments were necessary in respect of rats and 4 in respect of mice. This is considered to be highly satisfactory having regard to the attractive nature of refuse tips and sewage works.

### **Verminous Premises**

A slight increase in activity would seem to be indicated in respect of wood borers and other insect pests with the exception of bugs and fleas.

The pests dealt with by the Sanitary Assistant and the 269 visits necessary are shown in the table given below:—

4 in respect of fleas and bugs.

89 in respect of wood borers.

176 in respect of other insect pests.

Barrier treatment is still being continued in new Council houses, 95 being treated during the year before occupation.

### **Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948**

Details of action taken are tabulated below:—

#### **PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 FOR THE YEAR 1957**

##### **PART I OF THE ACT**

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

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	246	—	—
(2) Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—		9	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-works' premises)	141		—	—
<i>Total</i>	175	246	9	—



## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	16	17	—	7	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	19	20	—	8	—

The position generally is satisfactory, further progress has been made, and as will be seen, some outstanding requirements have been met.

Though bakehouses are generally well maintained some difficulty has been experienced, particularly in one where some slackness has developed. Persuasion has been tried and if no greater success results, in the very near future a more vigorous line will be necessary.

### Smoke Abatement

During the year 101 observations were made on various chimneys in the Borough.

No statutory nuisances were observed, and it is pleasing to report that there was a marked improvement in the emissions from the chimney stack of the grain drier. It was of course a better harvest time than last year in regard to the weather and presumably in regard to the moisture content of the grain. The plant appeared to be working within its capacity.

There has been an improvement too in regard to the chimney at one of the hospitals in the town, but the other at times leaves much to be desired.

Members will recall that part of the Clean Air Act 1956 came into operation on 31st December 1956.

### Canal Boats

There were no inspections during the year.

### Shops Act, 1950

Although a considerable number of visits have been made to shops for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act, the number specifically for Shops Act purposes has increased to 344. Eight notices were served, one of which was complied with by the end of the year.

## Petroleum Acts

One hundred and seventy-nine visits of inspection to installations were made during the year, some of which were for the purpose of completing tests of underground tanks installed before 1940, but the majority of which were routine visits.

During the year new conditions of licensing and new codes of principles of construction were made to come into operation from the commencement of the 1958 licensing period. These were based on the Model Code issued by the Home Office.

## General

An analysis of complaints received will be found in the table which follows:—

<i>Cause of Complaint</i>	<i>Number Received</i>
Housing Defects .. .. .	77
Defective Dustbins .. .. .	7
Drainage Defects, etc. .. .. .	143
Animals, Birds, etc. improperly kept .. .. .	—
Conditions in Factories .. .. .	8
Offensive Accumulations .. .. .	2
Overcrowding .. .. .	5
Rats and Mice .. .. .	217
Filthy and/or Verminous Premises .. .. .	8
Smell Nuisances .. .. .	25
Insect Pests .. .. .	29
Miscellaneous .. .. .	16
Smoke Nuisances .. .. .	11
<i>Total</i> ..	548

# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1957

	<i>Visits</i>
Dwelling Houses .. .. .	1,635
Overcrowding .. .. .	19
Verminous .. .. .	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	23
Houses let in Lodgings .. .. .	4
Accumulations .. .. .	41
Animals and Birds .. .. .	15
Cesspools .. .. .	14
Drainage .. .. .	485
Drain Tests .. .. .	41
Entertainment Houses .. .. .	2
Factories Act .. .. .	246
Interviews .. .. .	660
Knackers' Yards .. .. .	4
Pail Closets .. .. .	2
Public Conveniences .. .. .	5
Rats and Mice .. .. .	39
Refuse Collection and Disposal .. .. .	74
Rivers and streams .. .. .	48
Schools .. .. .	21
Sewers, etc. .. .. .	463
Shops Act .. .. .	344
Smoke Observations .. .. .	101
Water Closets .. .. .	46
Water Supply .. .. .	8
Slaughterhouse .. .. .	1,026
General Food .. .. .	558
Meat Shops .. .. .	485
Food Preparation .. .. .	174
Ice Cream .. .. .	56
Bakehouses .. .. .	66
Markets .. .. .	85
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	290
Food and Drugs Sampling .. .. .	213
Bacteriological Sampling .. .. .	304
Biological Sampling .. .. .	36
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	263
Licensed Premises .. .. .	80
Petroleum Acts .. .. .	179
Pet Shops .. .. .	2
Miscellaneous .. .. .	97
Noise Nuisances .. .. .	31
Rent Act .. .. .	95
<i>Total</i> ..	8,388



# SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1957

	<i>Served</i>		<i>Complied with</i>	
	<i>Preliminary</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Preliminary</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Acts .. ..	62	31	79	23
Factories Acts .. ..	9	—	10	—
Rugby Corporation Acts ..	7	1	5	1
Shops Act .. ..	4	—	1	—
Food and Drugs Act .. ..	9	—	5	—
Petroleum Acts .. ..	1	—	—	—
Rugby Urban District Council Act .. ..	—	4	—	3
Food Hygiene Regulations ..	25	—	5	—
<i>Total</i> ..	117	36	105	27

During the year the Sanitary Assistant made 2,690 visits as follows:—

Miscellaneous .. ..	2,066
Rats and Mice etc. ..	29
Condemned Food Collections	70
Disinfestation and Treatment ..	364
Drainage .. ..	145
Disinfections .. ..	16
<i>Total</i> ..	2,690

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

The total number of houses owned by the Corporation prior to the War was 728 of which number 116 were erected by the Rural District Council prior to the extension of the Borough Boundary.

Since the War, to the end of 1957, the number of houses erected in the town is as follows:—

*Corporation:—*

Parkfield	..	60	Temporary Arcon 2 bedroom bungalows.
Station	..	54	Temporary Tarran 2 bedroom bungalows.
Millfields	..	12	3 bedroom houses.
Overslade	..	44	2 bedroom bungalows.
Overslade	..	272	3 bedroom houses.
Overslade	..	550	3 bedroom B.I.S.F. houses.
Overslade	..	12	1 bedroom flats.
Overslade	..	12	2 bedroom flats.
Newbold			
(Glebe Estate)		60	2 bedroom flats.
Newbold			
(Glebe Estate)		44	2 bedroom bungalows.
Newbold			
(Glebe Estate)		256	3 bedroom houses.
Lawford Lane		30	3 bedroom houses.
Rokeby Estate		8	1 bedroom flats.
Rokeby Estate		60	2 bedroom houses.
Rokeby Estate		61	3 bedroom houses.
Rokeby Estate		8	4 bedroom houses.
Parkfield Road		22	3 bedroom houses.
Abbotts Farm			
Estate	..	179	(69) 3 bedroom houses.
Abbotts Farm			
Estate	..	1	4 bedroom house.
Abbotts Farm			
Estate	..	49	(25) 2 bedroom houses.
Abbotts Farm			
Estate	..	2	2 bedroom flats.
Bilton Road			
(Maisonettes over shops)		6	(6) 3 bedroom flats.
Private	..	1,243	(481)
Rebuilding			
(War-destroyed)		7	
Kingsway Housing Association	..	367	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,419</b>	

NOTE.—Figures inside brackets denote housing accommodation completed during 1957.

The following table gives details of the numbers and types of houses let by the Corporation during 1957.

Col. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Month 1957	Pre-War Houses						New Accommodation							Post-War Accommodation re-Lets							Sub- Total Cols. 1/20	(a) Exchanges (b) Transfers (a)	Total No. of Tenancies Allocated		
	N.P.		P.		B.	Houses		Flats		Bunga- lows	Houses		B.I.S.F. Houses	Flats		Pre- fabs.	Bunga- lows								
	2	3	4	3	4	2	3	4				2	3	4		1	2								
Jan.		2				1	1	3						1	5		2	2	4	1	1	18	5	2	25
Feb.							1	7							2		3	4				18	9	2	29
March							1	7				6			1	2	4	2				24	3		27
April				2		1	4	4							1			2			1	15	9	8	32
May							2	2							3		3	2		2		12	1		13
June						1	4	4							4		2					15	5	5	25
July							7	8						3	1		2	1		1		23	10		33
August															2		1	4			1	10	6		16
Sept.							8							2	2		2	3		2		20	6		26
October						1	8							1	4		4			1		16	11	5	32
Nov.							6	6						1	1		5	2				17	12	1	30
Dec.				1	1		6	12							5		7	2		1		35	6	4	45
Total	—	2	—	3	1	4	25	69	—	—	—	6	—	9	32	2	35	5	17	10	3	223	83	27	333
	10						100						113												

Number of houses let: 223

Number of persons (including children) rehoused: 781

NOTE.—N.P.2 — Non-Parlour 2 bedroom type.  
N.P.3 — Non-Parlour 3 bedroom type.  
N.P.4 — Non-Parlour 4 bedroom type.  
P.3 — Parlour 3 bedroom type.  
P.4 — Parlour 4 bedroom type.  
B. — Bungalow.



## **Housing Conditions**

The number of complaints arising from housing conditions declined even more sharply than they rose last year. As indicated, that increase was believed to be partly due to the commencement of inspections preparatory to the clearance of unfit houses. Now the programme is well under way, that stimulation has to some extent subsided. In addition the effect of the Rent Act 1957 was felt from the middle of the year and undoubtedly a considerable amount of work has been done in the second half of the year which otherwise would have given rise to complaint.

During the year 5 Clearance Orders involving 37 houses and Demolition Orders involving 14 houses were made, Closing Orders were made or undertakings accepting not to use houses as habitations in respect of 7 houses, a total of 58 houses.

Under the Rent Act, 1957, 37 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received up to the end of the year, of which two had been returned to the applicants as invalid, and two had been withdrawn. 5 Certificates of Disrepair had been issued, 8 undertakings received by the Local Authority following the issue of 28 notices of intention to issue certificates. No applications had been refused.

During the year 62 preliminary and 31 statutory notices were served and 79 preliminary and 23 statutory notices complied with, a further indication of the easing of the situation so far as housing repairs are concerned.

## **SECTION E.**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

#### **Meat Inspection**

Slaughtering arrangements at the Public Abattoir have remained as indicated in last year's report. A contractor, who is also a wholesale butcher, carries out the slaughtering of food animals for himself or other persons but facilities exist for any person to slaughter. All charges are collected by the Corporation and payment is made to the contractor on a headage basis, in accordance with an approved scale, for all animals he has slaughtered.

The following tables will show that the through put of the Abattoir has increased by roughly 17% during the year, and by about 30% over 1955 which was the first full year following decontrol. The arrangement outlined in the first paragraph is working well and there seems every prospect of maintaining the higher rate of flow. It is pleasing to report that the need for cold room storage facilities has been recognised and that approval to the expenditure is hoped for in time to complete the installation before the summer of 1958 commences.

It will again be seen that all animals slaughtered are inspected. Although there has been an increase of about 17% in the through put of animals the increase in the total weight of meat condemned has increased by 58%. It is true that the two figures are not and cannot be strictly related, but an analysis shows the greatest increase to be in cows, where the number slaughtered increased by approximately 30% while the number condemned increased by 200% and the weight increased by 500%. Again there is an increase of 500% in the total of cow carcasses condemned because of tuberculosis, but an overall decrease of nearly 47% of cow carcasses affected with tuberculosis. Undoubtedly the explanation of the greater part of the increase has been the greater number of casualty animals brought to the Abattoir during the year, rather than any marked change in the general condition of stock received for slaughtering.

Although there has been a slight overall percentage rise in the number of animals condemned compared with the number slaughtered, the difference is quite insignificant. Perhaps the striking feature is that out of 1099 calves slaughtered none was found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

#### CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number Killed ... ..	2,099	233	8,807	5,927	1,099	—	18,165
Number Inspected ... ..	2,099	233	8,807	5,927	1,099	—	18,165
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci —</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	8	10	112	11	47	—	188
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	200	47	120	164	18	—	549
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	9.91	24.46	2.63	2.95	5.91	—	4.06
<i>Tuberculosis only —</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	3	5	—	6	—	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	156	33	—	116	—	—	305
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	7.57	16.31	—	2.06	—	—	1.76
<i>Cysticercosis —</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	8	1	—	—	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticercosis ... ..	0.39	0.43	—	—	—	—	0.05



### MEAT CONDEMNED

<i>Animals</i>	<i>Whole Carcases</i>		<i>Part Carcases</i>		<i>Offals</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Beasts .. ..	11	4,938	18	1,358	357	8,844
Cows .. ..	15	8,883	18	1,512	63	2,332
Sheep .. ..	122	5,049	36	347	84	398
Pigs .. ..	17	3,061	135	2,504	155	1,046
Calves .. ..	47	2,308	9	77	9	67
<i>Total</i> .. ..	202	24,239	216	5,798	668	12,687

GRAND TOTAL 19 tons, 1 cwt., 1 qr., 24 lbs.

### Food Inspection

Foods condemned, other than meat at the abattoir, are shown in the table that follows:—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Tins or Packets</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Bacon .. ..	—	312½
Cheese .. ..	—	198½
Fish .. ..	93	380
Flour Confectionery .. ..	—	29½
Fruit .. ..	396	9
Meat .. ..	236	309½
Milk .. ..	45	29
Poultry .. ..	1	44
Preserves .. ..	4	3
Sausages .. ..	—	117
Sauce .. ..	3	—
Soup .. ..	26	—
Sugar Confectionery .. ..	—	8
Vegetables .. ..	422	—
<i>Total</i> .. ..	1,223	1,440 lbs.

The majority of these condemnations arise from food stuffs being submitted to the Department for examination. It should be pointed out that the weights shown are not totals for all food condemned. Quantities have been expressed in packets, tins etc., or in pounds weight. The figures shown should be taken together though not added together.



## Food and Drugs

Two hundred and twelve samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and the table given below summarises the results obtained and the action taken:—

Article	Formal		Informal		Action Taken
	Genuine	Adulterated	Genuine	Adulterated	
Ammoniated Quinine & Cinnamon .. ..	1	—	—	1	Unsatisfactory informal Sample No. 75. Deficient of 2.5% ammonia. Formal Sample No. 112 taken—genuine.
Aspirin Tablets .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Asthma Tablets .. ..	—	—	1	1	Unsatisfactory Sample No. 91. Contained an excess of 22% Ephedrine Hydrochloride. Further Sample No. 132 taken—genuine.
Baking Powder .. ..	1	—	—	—	
Beef Dripping .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Bronchial Balsam .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Butter .. ..	15	—	—	—	
Cheddar Cheese .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Cheese Spread .. ..	—	—	7	—	
Chicken Broth .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Chicken Fillets .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Coffee & Chicory Essence .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Coffee without Caffeine .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Cold & Influenza Mixture .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup .. ..	—	1	—	1	Unsatisfactory Sample No. 3. Deficient of 34.3 of butter fat. Unsatisfactory Formal Sample No. 42. Deficient of 21.5% total fat. Manufacturer warned.
Crab .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Cream .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Cream of Chicken Soup .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Custard Powder .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Drinking Chocolate .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Dripping .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Flaked Rice .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Flour .. ..	2	—	—	—	
Flour (Self raising) .. ..	—	—	3	—	
Full Cream Milk Food .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Gin .. ..	1	—	—	—	
Glycerin, Lemon & Honey .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Golden Favourites .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Ground Almonds .. ..	2	—	1	—	
Ground Rice .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Jam .. ..	—	—	7	—	
Jelly Crystals .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Jiffi-Jelli with Port Wine .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Lard .. ..	2	—	1	—	
Lemon Curd .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Licorice & Menthol Pellets .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Luncheon Meat .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Malt Vinegar .. ..	3	—	4	—	
Mentholated Balsam .. ..	1	—	—	—	
Milk .. ..	59	—	—	—	
Minced Chicken .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Minced Chicken in Jelly .. ..	1	—	—	—	
Mixed Turkey in Jelly .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Mincemeat .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Mixed Cut Peel .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Mycil Ointment .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Oil of Eucalyptus .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Onion Powder .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Orange Drink .. ..	2	—	2	—	
Parmesan Cheese .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Piccalilli .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Pork Luncheon Meat .. ..	—	—	2	—	
Potage Oxtail Soupmix .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Potatoes .. ..	—	—	9	—	
Potted Salmon .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Rum .. ..	1	—	—	—	
Salad Cream .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Sauce .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Sausage Beef .. ..	5	—	—	—	
Sausage Pork .. ..	7	—	—	—	
Sedative Tablets .. ..	—	—	1	—	

Article	Formal		Informal		Action Taken
	Gen-uine	Adult-erated	Gen-uine	Adult-erated	
Senna Laxative Tablets ..	—	—	1	—	
Sherry ..	1	—	—	—	
Shredded Beef Suet ..	—	—	1	—	
Soya Flour ..	—	—	1	—	
Spirit Dressing ..	—	—	1	—	
Spirit of Sal Volatile ..	—	—	1	—	
Strawberry Conserve ..	—	—	1	—	
Tapioca ..	—	—	1	—	
Tea ..	—	—	1	—	
Tincture of Iodine ..	—	—	1	—	
Tomato Ketchup ..	—	—	2	—	
Tongue Paste ..	—	—	1	—	
Tongue Spread ..	—	—	1	—	
Vinegar flavoured with Chillies ..	—	—	1	—	
Vitamin Tablets ..	—	—	1	—	
Whisky ..	5	—	—	—	
White Pepper ..	1	—	—	—	
Worcester Sauce ..	—	—	1	—	
<i>Total</i> ..	110	1	98	3	

The number of samples taken was in excess of the 4 per 1,000 of population standard.

### Milk and Dairies

There are registered within the Borough 30 distributors of milk, 5 dairy premises and 11 shops, 2 of which sell sterilized milk only. Of the distributors 4 have premises outside the Borough and 1 is a dairy farmer.

Licences have been issued to use the designations as shown in respect of the milk sold, and where shown, to process the milk, as follows:—

5 to bottle and deal in tuberculin tested milk;

5 to pasteurise and deal in pasteurised milk;

17 to deal in pasteurised milk;

1 to sterilize and deal in sterilized milk;

3 to deal in sterilized milk.

In addition one producer from outside the Borough, holding a licence to produce and retail tuberculin tested milk, retails such milk within the Borough.

The following table shows the number of samples of milk examined:—

Type of Test	Pasteur-ised		Tuberculin Tested Pas-teurised		Tuberculin Tested		Sterilised		Ungraded		Total	
	Sat.	N.S.	Sat.	N.S.	Sat.	N.S.	Sat.	N.S.	Sat.	N.S.	Sat.	N.S.
T.B. Inoculation ..	19	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	1	—	33	—
B. Abortus Inoculation ..	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	1	—	14	—
Methylene Blue, etc.	153	11	50	5	—	—	21	—	—	—	224	16
Chemical ..	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	53	—
<i>Total</i> ..	221	11	50	5	26	—	21	—	6	—	324	16

In addition to the above results, 3 T.B. inoculation tests and 3 B. Abortus inoculation tests were void and 5 Channel Island milks were reported as chemically satisfactory.

During the year 22 methylene blue tests were declared void on account of atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°F.

From the 1st of April 1957 Rugby Borough became a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1957, which applied the provisions of Section 37 (1) of the Food and Drugs



Act 1955. Under these provisions no milk may now be sold in the Borough unless it is designated Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. As immediately before the area became specified over 98% of the milk sold in the Borough was so designated, no trouble appeared to be experienced in complying with the conditions laid down.

Pasteurising plants in the Borough are frequently visited, but the Table above shows too many failures to satisfy the prescribed standards. A total of 16 unsatisfactory to 224 satisfactory results does not seem at first glance too high a proportion of failures, but most of them would appear to be the result of human fallibility rather than mechanical breakdown. Three plants have been concerned in these failures out of a total of five plants operating, and the question will sooner or later be posed, as to whether small plants such as these, worked intermittently, can have a satisfactory overall efficiency or be economical to run.

### Food Premises

There has been a drop in visits made to food premises compared with 1956, but as this was inevitably a peak year, consequent upon the operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, the year's total of 1,714 would appear to be satisfactory. Considerable improvement has been achieved and although generally speaking co-operation has been complete, some further improvement is desirable and will undoubtedly be accomplished. It is still true that attention needs to be continuous and persistent, but there is no doubt that the general standard of hygiene has improved.

### Ice Cream

Owing to the summer being unusually cool, sales were low and stocks sold slowly. In spite of this 100% of samples were graded I or II which was altogether satisfactory.

There are 6 manufacturers of ice cream registered in the Borough of whom 4 are using the complete cold mix method of preparation. The number of dealers has gone up to 153, of whom 147 sell ice cream pre-packed and 6 loose. The majority obtain their supplies from large manufacturers outside the town. There are 9 vendors from neighbouring towns, all of whom, with one exception, sell pre-packed ice cream in the Borough.

A total of 41 samples of ice creams were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry, for examination and provisional grading, the results of which are shown in the following table:—

	<i>Grades</i>	1	2	3	4	<i>Total</i>
Hot Mix	Loose	1	1	—	—	2
	Pre-packed	25	1	—	—	26
Cold Mix	Loose	4	—	—	—	4
	Pre-packed	7	2	—	—	9
	Total	37	4	—	—	41
	%	90	10	—	—	—



## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Apart from a fairly large number of measles cases which occurred mainly during February and March, there was no serious outbreak of disease during the year.

The only incident of note was an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in one household over the Christmas holiday period, and which resulted in the death of one of the patients. A full report on the outbreak is given below.

#### History of the Outbreak

**24.12.57**

Assembled in a house in Rugby for the Christmas holidays were the following persons:—

Mr. H. (age 39)	}	Ordinarily resident.
Mrs. H. (age 37)		
C. H. (age 11)		
J. H. (age 8)		
Mr. C. G. (age 47)	}	normally resident outside London.
Mrs. D. M. G. (age 45)		
Mr. H. (Senior) (age 71) —normally resident in Cardiff.		

Mr. and Mrs. G. arrived in the town on Christmas Eve around 4 p.m. bringing with them a turkey (weight 14 lbs.) which Mr. G. had purchased from a butcher friend who had supplied poultry to him for a number of years previously. The turkey was plucked and drawn after 8 p.m. on 23rd December, 1957 (after the butcher friend had finished work), it having been hanging in the larder for 2–3 days at atmospheric temperature. Since the major part of the investigation it has become known that the bird was purchased at Smithfield Market on 19th December, 1957. It would be a conservative estimate to state that the turkey had been killed at least seven days before being dressed. On reaching Rugby the turkey was placed in the refrigerator at its lowest setting in order to keep ice-cream (which was purchased on 24th December, 1957) as solid as possible!

Mr. H (Senior) was conveyed to Rugby by car by his son, Mr. H.

All persons in the household were perfectly well.

The meals consumed on Christmas Eve were a light snack (tea and Dundee cake) and a high tea at 6.30–7 p.m. of boiled ham, sauces, chutney, sponge cake, bread and butter.

**25.12.57**

All occupants were perfectly well in the morning and consumed a light breakfast of toast, marmalade and dates.

#### Christmas Dinner Preparation

Mrs. G. (chief cook) and Mrs. H. (assistant) prepared the meal which consisted of:—

Turkey—stuffed with seasoning and sausage meat.

Potatoes—roast and boiled.

Christmas pudding with ice-cream (proprietary pre-packed).



Preparation commenced at 10 a.m. when the turkey was taken from the refrigerator. It was frozen hard and in order to soften the tissues it was held for a while under the hot water tap. The seasoning or stuffing was prepared by Mrs. G. (from parsley, thyme, sage, onion, suet and bread)—the sausage meat was purchased from a local butcher, but pre-packed by a well-known firm in the Midlands. The turkey was placed in the oven at 11 a.m., cooked until near 1.30 p.m. and carved by Mrs. G. Christmas dinner was taken at 1.30 p.m.

**Table of Food Consumed at the Christmas Dinner**

	<i>Turkey</i>	<i>Potatoes</i>	<i>Stuffing</i>	<i>Sausage Meat</i>	<i>Christmas Pudding</i>	<i>Ice Cream</i>
Mr. H	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mrs. H	+	+	+	+	+	+
Master H	+	+	+	+	+	+
Miss H	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mr. C. G	+	+	very little	+	+	—
Mrs. D. M. G	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mr. H (senior)	+	+	+	+	+	+

Evidence by Mrs. H. was to the effect that all felt the turkey could have "done with some more cooking".

High tea or early supper was taken about 7 p.m. and consisted of cold ham, turkey, sauces and chutney, trifle (made from jelly, sponge cake, cream).

Later in the evening Master H. complained of some stomach ache, which, perfectly naturally in the festive season, was ascribed to over-indulgence!

#### **26.12.57**

Between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Boxing Day, Mrs. D. M. G. complained of nausea and although she rose for breakfast, ate little and returned to bed at 11 a.m. She later vomited and complained of abdominal pain and later diarrhoea. Mr. C. G. obtained some medicine from a chemist for Mrs. G.'s symptoms.

By the evening of Boxing Day every member of the household (except Mr. C. G. and Mrs. H.) had sickness and all (except Mr. C. G.) had diarrhoea. These symptoms continued throughout the night with varying degrees of severity, but by the following morning (Friday) it was obvious to Mr. C. G. that his wife was very seriously affected by some ailment, and similarly, but in varying degrees, all other occupants of the household with the exception of himself.

#### **27.12.57**

Medical attention was sought that morning (about 8.45 a.m.). All the patients were seen, medicine and tablets prescribed and administered. It was the medical practitioner's opinion, stated at the inquest, that food poisoning might have been the cause of the trouble. The symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting continued in all patients throughout the day. Mrs. G.'s condition deteriorated and the doctor called again at 9 p.m. when the patient was moribund and, in spite of all efforts, died at about 9.30 p.m.

During the course of the night Mr. H. and the boy were admitted to the local hospital, Mr. H. in a collapsed condition.



**28.12.57**

Early on Saturday the 28th December, 1957, Miss J.H. was admitted to the same hospital. Mrs. H. was certainly not well, but continued with Mr. C. G. to look after Mr. H. (Senior).

**30.12.57**

On Monday, 30th December, 1957, Mr. H. (senior) was admitted to the area's Isolation Hospital, having had increasingly severe diarrhoea on Sunday night and Monday morning.

### **Investigation by the Health Department**

Notification of the probability of a food poisoning incident with one fatal case was received by telephone in the Health Department at 11 a.m. on 28th December, 1957. Investigations were commenced immediately and the history related above ascertained. All food left from the Christmas Day meals had been assembled on one large table and the following taken for examination at the Public Health Laboratory:—

1. All that remained of the turkey on its dish.
2. The neck of the turkey and its offal and the stock prepared therefrom.
3. Remains of ice-cream in its package.
4. Trifle (sponge cake, jelly, cream).
5. Cream.
6. Fresh parsley.
7. Suet.

The laboratory investigation was commenced immediately on Saturday afternoon the 28th December, 1957. Preliminary reports on Monday morning from the Director of the Laboratory gave positive results for *Salmonella* (later identified as *Salmonella enteritidis*) from samples of turkey flesh, from the carcase, from the stuffing and sausage meat and from the turkey stock. Growths of the organism were profuse and suggested that the turkey was the infected agent. The report also stated that the turkey meat, especially in its deeper portions appeared bloody and undercooked.

A specimen of faeces from Mrs. H. submitted on 30th December, 1957, gave a positive result for *Salmonella enteritidis* the following evening and one from Mr. C. G., taken on 31st December, 1957, returned positive on Thursday morning the 2nd January, 1958.

Faeces examinations on Mr. H., Miss J.H., and Master C. H. were negative until Saturday, 4th January, 1958, when positive specimens were reported and specimens from Mr. H (senior) were negative until the same date.

The evidence of the Pathologist at the inquest was to the effect that the victim had suffered from a severe form of gastro-enteritis with massive fluid loss. Bacteriological examination of specimens of intestinal and gastric contents and the spleen gave profuse growths of *Salmonella enteritidis*.



**Summary of Bacteriological Findings** (extract from report of Medical Director, Public Health Laboratory, Coventry).

**"Food**

**TURKEY AND STUFFING.**

From the flesh and from stuffing, an organism of the *Salmonella* group was isolated quite readily and proved to be *Salmonella enteritidis*. The number of viable bacteria per gram in the meat was 2 million and in the herbal stuffing 28 million. From some sausage meat also stuffing the bird *Salmonella enteritidis* has been isolated and this had a viable bacterial count of 8 million per gram. The significance of the variation in numbers cannot be assessed, as you will readily understand the constituents were grossly intermingled by the time they reached the laboratory.

**GRAVY STOCK.**

This had a viable bacterial count of something approaching 20 million per gram and *Salmonella enteritidis* was isolated in culture without difficulty.

**OTHER FOOD.**

Samples of ham, ice-cream, cream and trifle have also been examined, but in no case was any finding of interest encountered.

**"Post Mortem Samples Submitted by Pathologist**

You will have heard that from the infection which terminated fatally we isolated *Salmonella enteritidis* from post mortem samples submitted by Dr. Barrowcliffe. These were from the spleen and various parts of the intestinal tract."

**"Faeces**

From the faecal samples submitted from the remaining six members of the family *Salmonella enteritidis* has been isolated in each case on at least one occasion. Through the courtesy of the Pathologist at the local hospital we have been able to confirm his findings on the three patients treated in that hospital."

**DISCUSSION**

The onset, almost simultaneously, of abdominal pain, accompanied with vomiting and diarrhoea (the latter the most severe symptom in this outbreak) among the members of a household who had consumed the same food, was sufficient evidence to warrant an immediate investigation of that food.

All the persons (with the exception of Mr. C. G.) were affected between 18 and 24 hours after eating Christmas dinner. Master H. did complain of abdominal pain during the late evening of Christmas Day, but his more severe symptoms occurred during the course of the night. This led to the suspicion that *Salmonella* rather than *Staphylococci* or chemicals was the infecting agent. When Mr. C. G. was seen on 28th December, 1957, he had no symptoms and his positive specimen taken on 31st December, 1957 may be explained by a minimal infection, or that he was a secondary case from one of the persons taken ill in the initial stages of the outbreak.



The infecting organism, *Salmonella enteritidis*, is well known to infect birds and poultry, cows, pigs and rodents. Where poultry are concerned the usual vectors are the eggs or egg powders made from such eggs.

In this case the carcase meat and stuffing and sausage meat within were heavily infected with *Salmonella enteritidis*. Also heavily infected was the stock, prepared from the neck and offal of the turkey by simmering for a period over a low flame. This stock as far as could be ascertained did not come in contact with the stuffing or sausage meat. (This matter was very carefully investigated).

The proposition advanced to explain the condition was:—

1. The turkey was infected before killing.
2. After killing it was stored for the best part of a week at atmospheric temperature without being dressed. This would permit of considerable multiplication of the bacteria and penetration of the tissues.
3. Possible further dissemination when being dressed, especially when drawing the abdominal contents.
4. Refrigeration of the bird with inadequate thawing out.
5. Insufficient time of cooking to overcome the effects of refrigeration to cook the turkey completely. It is possible that the period of cooking produced optimum conditions for the multiplication of the bacteria.
6. The result being the ingestion of the turkey meat heavily infected with *Salmonella enteritidis*.
7. It is a possibility that the victim of the outbreak, who carved the turkey, might possibly have carved her own portion of meat last and nearest to the centre of the bird where the infection was greatest.
8. The infection of the meat from a carrier, if so infected, must theoretically have been from the man who dressed the bird. Is such a high degree of infection feasible from the night of 23rd December, 1957 to 25th December, 1957, with eighteen hours deep refrigeration in that time?

Bacterial counts (estimated) showed that the stuffing was the most heavily infected (note Mr. C. G. gave a positive stool last of all and had little if any stuffing!).

Suggests infection of stuffing from without (note table of bacteriological examination of foodstuffs).

### SUMMARY

An outbreak of food poisoning, confined to one household, due to the consumption of turkey heavily infected with *Salmonella enteritidis* and insufficiently cooked after low temperature refrigeration. One person died from the effects of the bacteria and its toxin.

The incident underlines previous experience in happenings of this kind, particularly in the following directions:—

1. Poultry generally are known to be reservoirs of *Salmonella* organisms. That being so, thorough cooking of all poultry is essential.



2. If refrigeration of poultry is adopted, adequate time must be permitted for the bird to thaw, or alternatively additional time allowed in the cooking process to overcome the effect of freezing.
3. Salmonellae under certain conditions can invade the tissue of the bird. This turkey was infected throughout.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis), 1952-1957

(FINAL FIGURES AFTER CORRECTION)

<i>Disease</i>	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever .. ..	22	68	66	36	45	26
Whooping Cough .. ..	110	106	68	78	140	35
Poliomyelitis: Paralytic ..	—	3	2	3	—	—
Non-paralytic .. ..	—	7	—	1	—	1
Measles .. ..	225	353	43	1,428	171	776
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	28	39	55	39	37	44
Dysentery .. ..	4	11	19	5	354	32
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	12	12	5	6	5	3
Meningococcal infection ..	2	1	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	1	4	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	2	4	2	1	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	9	2	20	2	5	9

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

<i>Number of children who completed full course of immunisation during 1957</i>			<i>Number of children given reinforcing injection</i>
<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>	
429	27	456	289

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AT ANY TIME  
UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1957**

<i>Age at 31.12.57 Born in</i>	<i>Under 1 year 1957</i>	<i>1-4 years 1953-1956</i>	<i>5-14 years 1943-1952</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number immunised	107	1,923	4,811	6,841

**WHOOPIING COUGH IMMUNISATION**

<i>Number immunised during 1957</i>		
<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
427	25	452

**VACCINATION**

	<i>Number of persons vaccinated during the year</i>					
<i>Age at date of vaccination</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2-4 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>15 years or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary vaccination	434	21	20	23	61	559
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	39	176	215

**TUBERCULOSIS**

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Cases</i>			<i>Deaths</i>		
	<i>Respi- ratory</i>	<i>Non- Respi- ratory</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Respi- ratory</i>	<i>Non- Respi- ratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
1949	52	7	59	12	3	15
1950	62	6	68	10	2	12
1951	63	8	71	11	4	15
1952	74	4	78	11	1	12
1953	76	13	89	7	1	8
1954	76	16	92	4	1	5
1955	71	6	77	4	2	6
1956	51	7	58	3	—	3
1957	33	3	36	3	—	3



The 418 cases on the Register at the end of the year were classified as follows:—

<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
229	154	18	17	247	171

The following table gives details of the age incidence of the new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during the year:—

**AGE INCIDENCE OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS  
FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1957**

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
—35	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
—45	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
<i>Total</i>	23	10	2	1	2	1	—	—

**AGE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1957  
(FINAL FIGURES AFTER CORRECTION)**

<i>Disease</i>	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	<i>Age Un-known</i>	<i>All Ages</i>
Scarlet Fever .. ..	5	19	2	—	—	—	26
Whooping Cough .. ..	25	9	—	—	—	1	35
Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles .. ..	399	352	24	1	—	—	776
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	—	6	11	9	16	2	44
Dysentery .. ..	7	14	5	3	—	3	32
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Meningococcal Infection .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	—	4	3	1	1	—	9
Malaria (contracted abroad) .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

**MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**  
**(Other than Tuberculosis), 1957**  
**(FINAL FIGURES AFTER CORRECTION)**

<i>Disease</i>	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	—	4	5	—	4	4	4	4	1	—	—	—	26
Whooping Cough .. .. .	14	9	4	—	1	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	35
Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles .. .. .	77	206	320	118	22	19	7	1	4	1	—	1	776
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	3	6	—	1	3	—	—	1	23	1	5	44
Dysentery .. .. .	6	17	4	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	32
Smallpox .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	9
Malaria (contracted abroad) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Totals</i> .. .. .	98	239	341	118	31	26	17	9	10	24	2	12	927



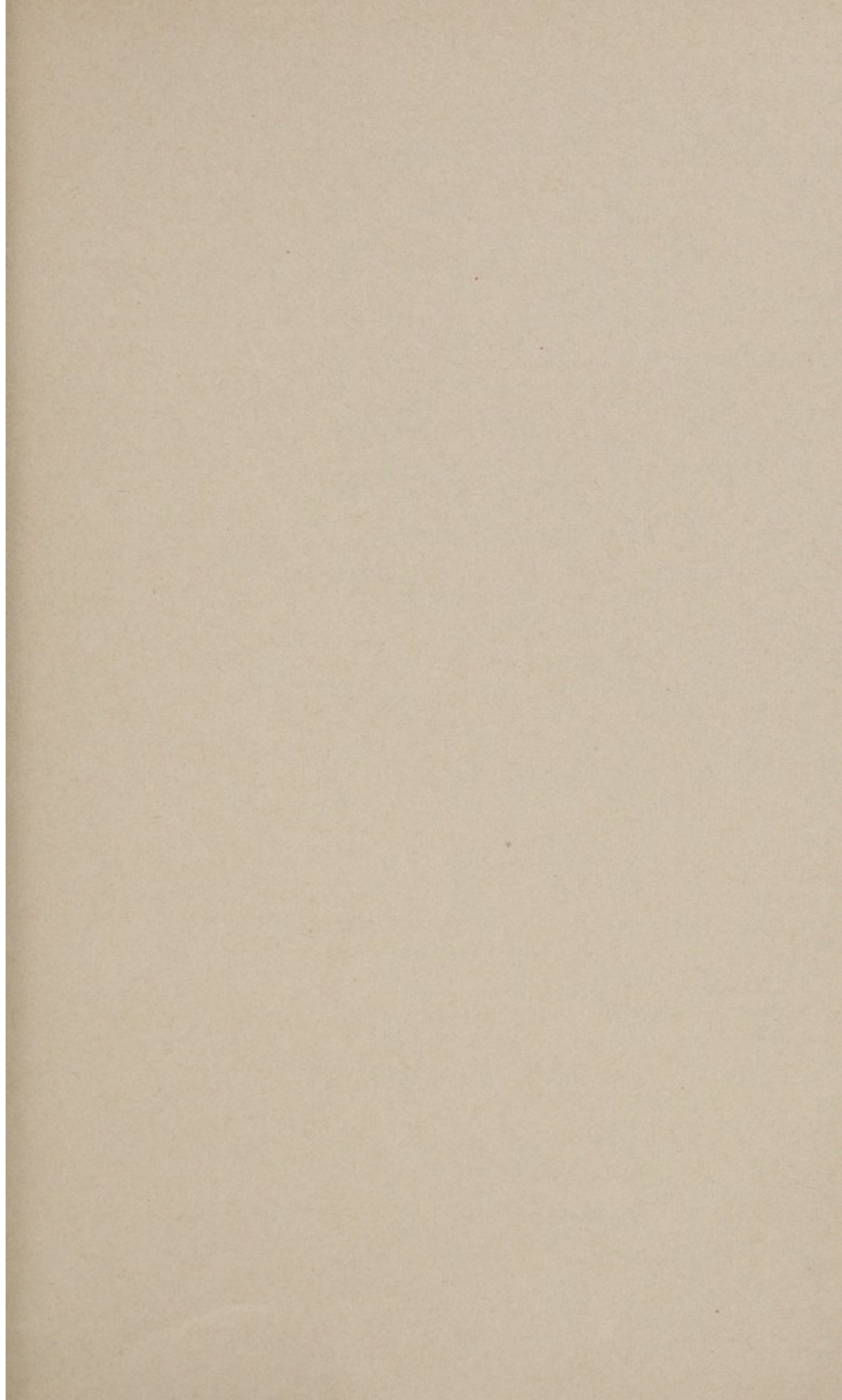
# VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated Mid-Year Population	No. of Live Births	Birth Rate (adjusted)	Total No. of Deaths	Death Rate (adjusted)	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Tuberculosis Deaths	Tuberculosis Death Rate
1929	24,350	334	13.7	289	11.9	16	48	19	0.78
1930	24,350	311	12.8	239	9.8	13	42	16	0.62
1931	24,310	256	10.5	272	11.2	16	62	25	1.03
1932	*34,433	400	12.3	356	11.0	25	62	22	1.08
1933	35,070	379	10.8	392	11.2	17	45	24	0.68
1934	35,140	443	12.6	367	10.4	20	45	25	0.71
1935	35,680	400	11.2	406	11.4	11	28	31	0.87
1936	36,080	436	12.1	412	11.5	22	50	22	0.61
1937	37,260	498	13.4	420	11.3	20	40	22	0.59
1938	38,130	544	14.6	410	10.7	21	39	22	0.58
1939	39,190	534	14.0	459	11.6	19	36	30	0.77
1940	41,670	578	13.9	508	12.2	28	47	30	0.72
1941	44,180	690	15.6	487	11.0	31	44	22	0.50
1942	43,770	705	17.1	419	9.6	22	31	24	0.55
1943	43,540	856	19.6	462	10.6	33	39	19	0.44
1944	43,930	885	20.0	406	9.3	30	34	28	0.64
1945	42,820	823	19.2	429	10.0	38	46	31	0.71
1946	43,410	858	19.7	438	10.1	27	31	25	0.58
1947	43,780	865	19.8	482	11.0	31	36	29	0.66
1948	45,180	782	17.31	445	9.85	18	23.02	37	0.82
1949	45,860	797	17.38	505	11.56	21	26.35	15	0.33
1950	46,780	723	15.46	482	10.82	14	19.36	12	0.26
1951	45,850	694	15.14	532	12.18	18	25.94	15	0.33
1952	46,200	720	15.58	447	10.16	16	22.22	12	0.27
1953	46,400	703	15.15	442	10.01	20	28.45	8	0.17
1954	46,590	669	14.22	427	9.35	18	26.91	5	0.11
1955	46,790	678	14.26	465	10.13	17	25.07	6	0.13
1956	47,110	698	14.67	509	11.88	13	18.34	3	0.06
1957	48,080	750	15.42	469	10.63	12	16.00	3	0.06

\* As constituted on the 1st April, 1932.







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