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Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. COCK, T.D., J.P. (Chairman)	
ALDERMAN A. BENNETT, J.P.	COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS (Vice-Chairman)
ALDERMAN L. J. TILLING	
ALDERMAN R. H. URWICK, M.D.	COUNCILLOR F. ELLIS
ALDERMAN J. M. WEST, T.D., D.L.	COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL
	COUNCILLOR J. S. McNAMARA
COUNCILLOR H. R. BECKETT	COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E. THICKPENNY
COUNCILLOR F. W. C. BILL (deceased)	COUNCILLOR L. H. YATES

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

† A. C. MACKENZIE, M.D., D.P.H. (*Commenced 1st May, 1955*).

Senior Sanitary Inspector

¶†* C. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

†* W. M. LAMBERTON, Cert. R.S.I. (*Resigned 31st March, 1955*).

¶†* W. E. QUALTROUGH, Cert. R.S.I.

†* J. B. JONES, Cert. R.S.I. (*Resigned 31st May, 1955*).

†* J. B. BOWDEN (*Commenced 15th August, 1955*).

†* J. INNES (*Commenced 1st August, 1955*).

Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS

Assistant Clerk

H. SUMNER

Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector

* S. R. REED, Cert. R.S.I.

Assistant Meat Inspectors

* N. EDGE, Cert. R.S.I.

D. CAMERON (*Commenced 1st November, 1955*).

PART-TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer

R. GRAY

Public Analyst

HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

- Qualified Meat Inspectors.
- ¶ Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- † Contribution towards salary made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer grants.

HEALTH CENTRE,

MURIVANCE,

SHREWSBURY,

July, 1956

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

MADAM MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1955. This report follows the pattern of those of previous years in order to maintain continuity and to facilitate reference.

The routine work of the department was carried through satisfactorily although the staff was depleted for a time.

Attention is drawn to the high incidence of Measles during the year and to the report on the explosive outbreak of food poisoning. It is not often that a Medical Officer of Health is fortunate enough to be able to report so fully on the origin, course and termination of such an outbreak.

The building of Council houses continued during the year, but there was a considerable drop in the number of houses completed; 416 in 1953, 254 in 1954, and 166 in 1955. The number of houses erected by private enterprise in 1954 was 134, which rose in 1955 to 142.

As usual the Staff have given willing and loyal co-operation throughout the year, as have officers of the other departments of the Borough.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1955

Rateable Value of the Borough	£373,531
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,497
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1955)	46,800
Persons per acre calculated on above population ...	5.8
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1955)	13,522
	MALE FEMALE
Live Births { Legitimate 359 306 } Total ...	696
{ Illegitimate 17 14 }	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.9
Stillbirths	15
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births	21.1
Deaths	516
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	11.0
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
" " Other Puerperal causes	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)	Nil
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	25.8
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.5
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	64.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	85
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past twenty-six years, daily readings and weather recordings have been continued at Monkmoor Hospital, where a Climatological Station, approved by the Air Ministry, is situated.

The particulars regarding 1955 may be summarised as follows :—

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 23.35 inches, compared with 30.66, 22.04 and 22.61 inches in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 26 years was 25.78 inches.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,589 hours, compared with 1,232.7, 1,443.8 and 1,439.3 hours in the previous years respectively. This figure is the second highest recorded since this station was set up twenty-six years ago. July and August were exceptionally fine months.

The average sunshine over the last 26 years was 1,356.8 hours.

Temperatures.—Extremes of temperatures during the year were :—

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), August 23rd, 84°.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 8th and September 2nd, 63°.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 14th, 29°.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), February 27th, 14°.

The hottest days in the sun were on June 26th and August 2nd, with 120°.

Weather Statistics. Shrewsbury, 1955.

1955 Month	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F				Hottest Day in Sun	SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES		
	Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date		Mean Temperatures	Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest fall in one Day	Total Rainfall
Jan. ...	41.3	54° on 30th	31.8	18° on 20th	83° on 30th	6.7 on 19th	1.23	38.2	17	.48 on 10th	2.31
Feb. ...	39.4	55° on 7th	28.4	14° on 27th	87° on 8th	7.3 on 19th	2.94	82.4	17	.34 on 23rd	1.09
Mar. ...	44.5	54° on 16th and 24th	30.7	22° on 20th, 22nd & 31st	94° on 16th	10.3 on 31st	4.59	142.4	7	1.17 on 25th	2.57
April ...	57.2	65° on 20th	41.7	27° on 1st	107° on 30th	11.9 on 24th	5.17	155.1	12	.27 on 28th	1.19
May ...	57.0	68° on 30th and 31st	42.4	32° on 11th	110° on 23rd	14.6 on 30th and 31st	6.06	188.0	20	.65 on 17th	3.95
June ...	64.7	73° on 6th	49.8	36° on 10th	120° on 26th	13.4 on 18th	4.28	128.4	15	.59 on 3rd	2.38
July ...	74.6	82° on 12th and 13th	52.7	45° on 5th	119° on 14th	14.2 on 6th	9.13	283.8	6	.88 on 17th	1.31
Aug. ...	74.1	84° on 23rd	54.3	41° on 8th	120° on 2nd	12.6 on 5th	6.16	191.1	7	.61 on 9th	1.46
Sept. ...	64.2	73° on 7th	49.7	40° on 19th	112° on 3rd	9.6 on 20th	5.14	154.2	13	.65 on 13th	1.67
Oct. ...	56.9	67° on 10th	40.8	23° on 31st	101° on 3rd	9.5 on 3rd	4.23	131.1	13	.22 on 18th	1.24
Nov. ...	49.8	60° on 4th	37.6	22° on 1st	90° on 4th	7.0 on 4th	1.71	51.3	10	.28 on 10th	1.38
Dec. ...	48.2	57° on 7th, 27th & 28th	36.6	19° on 19th	79° on 3rd	6.0 on 30th	1.39	43.0	25	.35 on 19th	2.20
								1589.0			23.35

VITAL STATISTICS
1955 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Under 1 Year of Age			Deaths		
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number	At all Ages		Number	Crude Rate	Adjusted
					Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births			
1945 ...	42,820	769	17.9	37	48	481	11.2	—	
1946 ...	44,070	792	17.9	38	48	542	12.3	—	
1947 ...	44,110	797	18.1	26	33	483	10.9	—	
1948 ...	45,090	777	17.2	25	32	444	9.8	—	
1949 ...	45,360	688	15.2	24	35	524	11.5	11.8	
1950 ...	45,820	665	14.5	12	18	488	10.6	10.9	
1951 ...	45,460	661	14.5	13	20	602	13.2	13.5	
1952 ...	45,910	663	14.4	21	32	475	10.3	10.5	
1953 ...	46,230	710	15.3	21	30	512	11.1	11.3	
1954 ...	47,020	695	14.8	20	29	572	12.2	11.9	
1955 ...	46,800	696	14.9	17	26	516	11.0	10.8	

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1955, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 46,800, compared with 47,020 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1955 was 696, compared with 695, 710 and 663 in the previous years respectively.

The birth rate was 14.9 per 1,000 population, compared with 14.8, 15.3, and 14.4 in the previous years respectively.

The 696 live births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male ...	...	359	17	} 696
Female ...	...	306	14	

Illegitimate Births

There were 31 illegitimate births, compared with 48, 31 and 26 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.66 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 4.4 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 15 stillbirths, compared with 20, 21 and 16 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.32 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 2.1 of the total births.

A comparison of the adjusted birth rate between Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

				Rate per 1,000 Population Live birth
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.0
SHREWSBURY	...	...	...	14.4

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 516, compared with 572, 512 and 475 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 516 deaths, 272 were males and 244 females.

The crude death rate was 11.0, but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 10.8.

Of the 516 deaths, 325 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 403 of the 516 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

(1) Heart disease	...	...	...	...	169
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System, including Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	91
(3) Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	85
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	58

There were 2 deaths from suicide and 8 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 17 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 4 deaths of children 1 to 15 years of age.

A comparison between the adjusted death rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

	...	...	...	...	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7
SHREWSBURY	...	...	...	...	10.8

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 17, compared with 20, 21 and 21 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 26 per 1,000 live births, compared with 29, 30 and 31 in the previous years respectively.

These deaths are analysed by causes and duration of life in the accompanying table.

Infant Mortality, 1955

Net deaths from stated causes under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
	Prematurity	3	4	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Influenzal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Suffocation (accidental) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	5	6	2	—	—	13	1	2	—	1	17

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Water Engineer, Mr. J. H. Sabido, has kindly supplied the following information on the water supply of the town, accompanied by statistics of laboratory examinations carried out at Shelton Waterworks.

" During the year under review Shelton Head Works have supplied the whole of the Undertaking's water requirements free of all restrictions, although during the prolonged dry period of the summer of 1955 the plant was stretched to maximum capacity and appeals had to be made for economy in the use of water. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 2,078,120 gallons, which was equivalent to 44.4 gallons per head per day.

" Routine daily Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water at the separate stages of treatment. The maximum and minimum results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

" During the year the practice of making routine bacteriological examination of drinking water samples drawn from householders at random was maintained. Eighty such examinations were carried out during the year and all samples were found to be sterile. This number was considerably less than previous years due to the prolonged absence of the Chemist due to illness. The water supplied to the Authorised Area has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for public water supplies in this country.

" Investigations are proceeding regarding the possibility of the redevelopment of Conduit Head as a secondary source of supply. When this site was previously in operation, a shallow well tapped the upper sands and gravels which were eventually found to be contaminated. The present investigations envisage obtaining a greater supply than heretofore from the bottom sands and gravels and this should be relatively pure.

" The length of new mains laid within the Water Area during the year was 2.24 miles."

The water supply position of dwelling-houses in the town as computed in the year 1955 may be summarised as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	14,199
Total number of houses with a Corporation piped supply	...	...	...	14,157
Houses without a piped supply, <i>i.e.</i> , from wells or streams	...	...	...	42

SHELTON WATER SUPPLY
Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1955

ITEM	RIVER WATER UNTREATED		WATER AFTER STORAGE AND PRECHLORINATION		WATER AFTER SEDIMENTATION		WATER AFTER FILTRATION AND STERILISATION	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Probable number of coliform bacteria present per 100 mls. ...	25 +	25 +	5 +	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 37°C. ...	19,250	2	34	Nil	24	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	24,740	1	48	Nil	24	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour (Hazenscale) ...	125	8	18	Nil	18	Nil	12	Nil
pH ...	7.7	6.5	7.2	5.2	8.7	6.4	8.6	6.8
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) ...	166.6	18.0	120.0	5.0	127.0	14.0	118.0	24.0
Chloride (Cl) ...	54.0	12.0	54.0	16.0	55.0	18.0	58.0	18.0
Free and Saline Ammonia (NH ₃)	9.760	Nil	—	—	—	—	0.008	Nil
Ammonia (Albuminoid) (NH ₃) ...	0.807	0.073	—	—	—	—	0.292	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C.)	7.36	0.32	—	—	—	—	1.00	Nil
Permanent Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	56.0	Nil	—	—	—	—	65.0	32.0
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	182.0	38.0	—	—	—	—	176.0	64.0
Free Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	1.97	Nil	1.16	Nil	0.34	Nil
Total Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	1.97	0.02	1.16	0.02	0.37	0.02

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Chemical Analysis expressed in parts per Million

Swimming Baths

During the year the water in the swimming baths was examined bacteriologically on 21 occasions. Of these, 8 samples were not considered satisfactory.

Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. A. T. Morris, has kindly supplied the following information :—

“ **Main Drainage.**—Four existing houses were connected to the sewers during the year. Of the 308 new houses built in 1955, 307 were connected to the public sewer and 1 was drained to a cesspit. No main drainage extensions or alterations were carried out during the year.

“ **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—A new tip has been opened at Woodfield Road to level the land to be used for the Copthorne School playing fields. It is proving very satisfactory and no complaints regarding its operation have been received.”

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1955 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough		14,199
Number of houses connected to Corporation Sewers	13,830	} 14,064
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, <i>e.g.</i> , cesspits, septic tanks	234	
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets			135

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. Stanley, submits the following report :—

“ The unavoidable delay experienced in replacing two members of the Inspectorial Staff, leaving to take up appointments elsewhere, did affect slightly the work of the Department. There was a consequent reduction in the number of inspections made, as compared with the figure returned for the previous year.

Housing problems, as usual, demanded priority. It was estimated that the number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Sections 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, was 794. The Council's Housing Programme would include the demolition of these dwellings within the next six years.

The proposals for the period ending on the 1st September, 1956, entailed the consideration of 136 houses ; consisting of 122 houses which could be covered in eleven Clearance Areas, and 14 individual unfit houses.

Unfortunately, these proposed Clearance Areas were, with one exception, unsuitable for housing redevelopment.

The acquisition of the Spring Gardens site, Ditherington, saw the commencement of vacation and subsequent demolition of some sixteen " back-to-back " houses which have been regarded as unfit for human habitation for so many years.

The occupants of ten properties known as Cadran Place, Castlefields, were rehoused and the building demolished.

One unfit dwelling was closed, and the same procedure was enforced in connection with a caravan found to be in a similar state.

One case of deliberate overcrowding was discovered. Eventually, the occupier abated the overcrowded conditions without resort to legal proceedings.

There was decrease in the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair. A certificate was granted in each of eleven cases. Five certificates were revoked when the owners had completed the works of repair in a satisfactory manner.

A ministerial circular pointed that the renewal of slum clearance necessitated action being taken to ensure that prospective house purchasers did not, in ignorance of a Council's intentions, buy houses likely to be included in Clearance Areas or property which might be subject to Demolition Orders in the near future. This matter did concern, especially, persons purchasing houses for their own occupation, including sitting tenants. Due publicity was given to this matter.

It was expected that the hot summer would be accompanied by an increase in the number of insect nuisances. Complaints of this type were not unduly numerous ; but infestations of flies, ants, wasps, etc., received prompt attention. Frequent inspection of the more rural areas, where pail-closets and cesspools are the mode, and where cattle and pigs are kept, assisted in keeping the outbreak of nuisances to a minimum.

Well water supplies proved sufficient, in most instances, to tide over the dry spell. One well was found to be polluted, and arrangements were made to provide a piped supply for the five houses concerned.

It is interesting to note that the number of houses using well water for domestic purposes has decreased by over 100 per cent since 1948.

The gradual improvement in food hygiene standards throughout the country was reflected in local premises, where both employer and employee are becoming more conscious of the public demand.

Sanitary accommodation was improved in several of the licensed premises ; but there remain a few such places where, due to the general layout and congestion of buildings, improvement can be effected only by complete rebuilding. Under the circumstances, however, those in charge endeavoured to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

The usual quota of Food and Drugs samples were taken. A vendor who supplied non-brewed condiment, when asked for vinegar, was prosecuted and a conviction obtained.

There was an increase in the number of inspections made under the Shops Act, 1950. This enactment deals with the health and comfort of Shop Workers in matters relating to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, etc. No serious infringements were found.

The Act regulates closing hours and observance of weekly half-day ; and these matters come within the purview of the Health Department, as far as Shrewsbury is concerned. Here, it was found that confusion exists in the minds of many traders as to their obligations. Several shopkeepers were warned of contraventions appertaining to Sunday trading, and advice was given on the various aspects of the Act.

There are those who would welcome a revision and consequent clarification of this rather complicated piece of legislation ; and that view is shared by some who administer the Act.

There was a reduction in the number of premises under contract for rodent destruction. This may be a sign of the times, for modern exterminants are taking their toll of the rat and mice population in no uncertain manner. Can we hope for the complete elimination of these dangerous and destructive animals within the next few years ?

All routine work, including the investigation of food poisoning cases, infectious disease enquiries, inspection of factories, smoke observations, etc., had attention due.

Thanks are accorded to those from outside the Department who so willingly gave help and advice when required ; thus assisting the Inspectors in no small measure.

A summary of the Sanitary Inspectors' work, with additional comments where necessary, is included in the following pages."

Complaints Received during the Year

There were 607 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

TABLE I

Nature of Complaint	Number Received.
Housing Defects	92
Defective Dustbins	2
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers... ..	130
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	18
Relative to Unsound Food	108
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs and Fleas	15
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations	126
(c) Beetles, Crickets, and Other Insects	22
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	10
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	1
Miscellaneous	83
Total	607

Premises Inspected

The following summary indicates the number of inspections of various premises carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Dwelling-houses under Public Health Acts	1,631
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts	1,065
Infected Dwelling-houses :—	
(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ...	95
(b) Contacts	36
(c) Fumigations after infectious diseases	6
(d) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations	23
Elementary Schools and Church Halls	7
Business Premises	275
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls	19
Fairgrounds	3
Factories Acts :—	
Factories, with mechanical power	371
Factories, without mechanical power	81
Works of Engineering and building construction... ..	24
Outworkers' premises	85
Smoke observations	55
Offensive Trade Premises	23
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals	73
Houses let in Lodgings	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	250
Drainage : Testing by	
Smoke	—
Water	14
Coloured Water	162
Breaking down	8
re Public Sewers	515
Drainage Work in Progress	86
Means of Escape in case of Fire (S.60, Public Health Act, 1936)	2
Watercourses and Ditches	124
Land and Tips	123
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals... ..	88
Water Supplies	10
Miscellaneous Visits	593
Visits, not Inspections	668

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Rats and Mice (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)	293
(b) Bug Infestations	22
(c) Beetles	4
(d) Other Vermin	48
Inspections <i>re</i> Supervision of Food :—	
Unfit Foodstuffs other than Meat	214
Slaughterhouses	21
Markets	299
Food Vehicles... ..	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 13) :—	
Bakehouses	82
Butchers' Shops	248
Factory Canteens	15
Restaurant Kitchens, etc.	198
Hotel and Beerhouse Bars and Cellars :—	
Day Inspections	222
Night Inspections	—
Other Premises	676
Section 14 :—	
Sausage Manufacturers	74
Preserved Meat Preparation Premises	32
Fish Friers' Premises	70
Ice Cream Premises	297
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54 :—	
Milk Sampling for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test for Tuberculosis	167
Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Regulations	3
Dairies at Farms	10
Milkshops and other Dairies	130
Cowsheds	7
Shops Act, 1950, and Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938	521
Food & Drugs Act, 1938—Sampling	170
Pet Animals Act, 1951	50
Total Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	10,392

Notices Served

Administrative action was taken during the year to secure abatement of nuisances and to enforce the appropriate statutory enactments as follows :—

Subject of Notice	Public Health Acts	Milk and Dairies Regs.	Food and Drugs Act 1938	Factories Act, 1937	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served	97	—	3	—	—
Number of Informal Notices complied with	90	—	5	1	—
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	25	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices served	72	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	69	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	16	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	—	1	—	1

Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of Statutory and Informal Notices Issued

(Number of premises, 126)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains	4
Choked drains	12
Insufficient closet accommodation	—
Absence of proper sink	—
Defective water closets	9
Defective gullies	2
Defective sink	—
Defective sink waste pipes	8
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	8
Burst water pipes	—
Insufficient water supply... ..	1
Defective soil pipes	1
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs	37
Defective eaves-gutters	16
Defective down-spouts	9
Defective brickwork and pointing	18
Defective damp-proof courses	3
Defective yard paving	5
Defective chimney flues	2
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	11
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	26
Defective floors	9
Defective stairs	4
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	27
Defective doors	9
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges	5
Defective wash-boilers	—
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	3
Defective and bulging external walls	—
Defective and bulging party walls	1
Filthy condition of premises	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	2
Miscellaneous	5

Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Conditions
Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts) ...	29	22	7
Restaurant Kitchens	3	2	1
Bakehouses	5	—	5
Other Food Preparation Premises	6	3	3
Butchers Shops	3	—	3
Hotel Bars	1	1	—
Business Premises... ..	10	9	1
Factories (Factories Act, 1937)	9	7	2
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.)	2	—	2
Shops (Shops' Acts)	2	2	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Public Houses)... ..	3	3	—
Drains	1	1	—

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following statistics, required under the provisions of this legislation, are appended :—

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	33	81	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	208	371	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	17	24	—	—
Total	258	476	—	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found

Particulars	Number 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 (S.1)	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	—	—	—
Total	14	14	—	5	—

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-making, etc. ...	42	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Building Progress during 1955

Houses erected by Local Authority ...	166	}	308
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	142		

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	836
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	33
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	96

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	96
---	----

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	37
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	2

Corporation Housing Estates

The Housing Manager, Mr. E. Woodhead, has provided the following report concerning the work of the Housing Department :—

“ **Applications.**—At December 31st, 1954, the number of applications outstanding show a figure of 1,988. In August, 1955, a review of the whole of the applications file was made, with the result that the figure at December 31st, 1955, fell to 1,471. An

increased number of applications would otherwise have been found. The following is an analysis of the outstanding applications at the end of the year.

Analysis of outstanding Applications in Family Unit Form

	In Rooms		Tenants		Owners		Total	
Childless Couples ...	(490)	305	(265)	266	(17)	21	(772)	592
One Child ...	(239)	190	(334)	230	(22)	17	(595)	437
Two Children ...	(66)	65	(290)	181	(20)	9	(376)	255
Three Children ...	(13)	22	(111)	84	(10)	7	(134)	113
Four Children ...	(8)	10	(46)	33	(7)	2	(61)	45
Five & Over Children	(5)	3	(41)	25	(4)	1	(50)	29
Totals ...	(821)	595	(1087)	819	(80)	57	(1988)	1471

Numbers in brackets denote totals as at December, 1954.

From the above analysis, whilst comparison of any changes could not be reasonably made, it does show that the Childless Couples in rooms predominate and, therefore, emphasizes the need by this type of application. The man, wife and one child in lodgings is also of some importance. From these figures also, emerges the interesting point that of our applications, three of every five have already got a home of their own, but this, of course, does not cover the point as to whether the house is sub-standard or otherwise.

“ **Allocations.**—During the year the number of family type houses allocated was exactly the same number as that of 1954, that is 254. We did, however, allocate an additional 10 bungalows.

During the year two Clearance Areas were dealt with and redevelopment of the cleared sites planned. The first area to be dealt with was Cadran Place, covering ten families, after which followed the Spring Gardens Clearance Area of sixteen families. Whilst the whole of the Spring Gardens was not completed within the year, eight were rehoused in 1955. In both instances it is envisaged that a higher number of dwellings will be erected than were demolished by the erection of flats on these sites.

“ **Repairs and Inspections.**—During the year orders for repairs were as follows :—

(1) Chargeable to housing revenue account :					
(a) Direct Labour ...	...	...	...	2,048	} 2,220
(b) Private Contract ...	...	...	...	172	
(2) Rechargeable (method <i>a</i> or <i>b</i>) ...	...	...	...	278	
Total ...	...	...	...	2,498	

This is a slight increase on the previous year.”

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. E. A. Andrews, has provided the following report for the year 1955 :—

“ Number of beds available for use	...	...	41
Total number of men paying weekly charge			1,974
Total number of men paying daily charge	...		481
Daily average	...	...	39

“ In order to meet increased costs the charges were raised in October from 21s. to 24s. per week, and from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per night.

“ Old Age Pensioners who have no income other than that derived from government sources still pay the reduced charge of 17s. 6d. per week.

“ With the exception of one or two of the older men, all the lodgers are in steady employment ; the new charge, therefore, may also be said to reflect the stability of the type of lodger now using the Hostel.

“ A once frequent caller—the old style tramp—is now a rare visitor. This leisured philosopher, reeking with the smoke of the wood fire, has perhaps gone for ever. The old ‘spike’ or casual ward has long since been replaced by the reception centre and the stages between the centres are too long for casual progress. Further, the insistent benevolence of present day welfare must leave him reluctant to follow his old way of life, and in a world of D.D.T. and detergents where he finds himself divorced from his ‘ closest companions,’ it is small wonder that he should adapt himself to the comforts of a settled home.”

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

At the close of the year there were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Dairies	...	...	...	15
Retail purveyors of milk			...	41

Examination for Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on 21 samples—all of which were negative.

Turbidity Test

The seven samples proved satisfactory.

Phosphatase Test

The thirty-two samples proved satisfactory.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and thirty-three samples were subjected to the methylene blue test. Subsequent sampling, in the case of twenty-six adverse reports, gave satisfactory results.

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	3
Premises registered for sale only	136

Thirty-eight samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below :—

No. of Samples	No. of I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Grade Void
38	27	4	2	2	3

Three samples were declared void due to the high atmospheric temperature in the laboratory at the time of the test.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-40

A total of 184 samples of food and drugs were taken and forwarded to the Public Analyst for analysis, comprising 80 milk samples (55 formal and 25 informal), 93 foods other than milk (3 formal and 90 informal), and 11 drugs (all informal).

Of the samples taken 172 were returned as genuine and 12 as not genuine, of which 10 were milk and 2 food.

The following tabulated statements give particulars of the articles sampled.

(A) MILK

Number of Milk samples	...	...	80
Number found genuine	...	...	70
Number found not genuine	...	...	10

Remarks on samples returned as not genuine.

1. Fat 2.85%. Solids not fat 8.6%. Deficient of 5% fat. This was one of two samples constituting one consignment. Averaged with the other sample the result was 3.26% fat.
2. Fat 3.8%. Solids not fat 8.9%. Deficient of 5% fat. (On "Channel Island" standard). This was one of three samples constituting one consignment. Averaged with the other two samples the result was 4.27% fat.
3. Fat 3.9%. Solids not fat 9.0%. Deficient of 2½% fat. (On "Channel Island" standard). This was one of three samples constituting one consignment. Averaged with the other two samples the result was 4.34% fat.

4. Fat 2.65%. Solids not fat 8.6%. Deficient of 12% fat. Appeal-to-cow samples showed that cows were giving milk below the standard for fat. Referred to the Milk Advisory Service of the S.A.E.C. A subsequent sample proved satisfactory.
5. Fat 2.75%. Solids not fat 8.70%. Deficient of 8% fat. Appeal-to-cow samples showed that cows were giving milk below the standard for fat. A subsequent sample proved satisfactory.
6. Fat 3.85%. Solids not fat 8.9%. Deficient of 4% fat. (On "Channel Island" standard.) Vendor was informed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
7. Fat 3.9%. Solids not fat 8.95%. Deficient of 2.5% fat. (On "Channel Island" standard.) Vendor was informed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
8. Fat 2.9%. Solids not fat 8.5%. Deficient of 3% fat. This was one of three samples constituting one consignment. The average for the three samples was satisfactory.
9. Fat 3.8%. Solids not fat 8.85%. Deficient of 5% fat. (On "Channel Island" standard.) Producer was informed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
10. Fat 2.9%. Solids not fat 8.5%. Deficient of 3% fat. Producer/vendor was informed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

(B) FOOD

Number of food samples (other than milk)...	93
Number found genuine	91
Number found not genuine	2

Name and Number of Articles Sampled.	Informal
Almond Essence	1
Almond Oil	1
Apples	1
Arrowroot	1
Butter	1
Chewing Gum	1
Chicklette	1
Chocolate	1
Chocolate Easter Egg	1
Christmas Pudding	1
Cider	1
Cinnamon	1
Citric Acid	1
Clotted Cream	2
Cockles	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2

Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	1
Cream of Mushroom Soup	...	...	...	...	1
Curry	...	...	...	...	1
Dressed Crab	...	...	...	...	1
Dried Apricots	...	...	...	...	1
Dried Herbs	...	...	...	...	1
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	1
Glace Cherries	...	...	...	...	1
Gravy Browning	...	...	...	...	2
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	1
Home Made Sweets	...	...	...	...	1
Horseradish Relish	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	19
Lard	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon Crystals	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon	...	...	...	...	1
Loganberries	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	2
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	1
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	1
Mixed Pudding Spice	...	...	...	...	1
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	1
Olive Oil	...	...	...	...	1
Oranges	...	...	...	...	2
Orange Segments	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Pie	...	...	...	...	1
Processed Peas...	...	...	...	...	1
Rhubarb in Syrup	...	...	...	...	1
Sardines	...	...	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	...	...	6
Self Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	1
Sherbet Lollie	...	...	...	...	1
Sparkling Grape Fruit	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	1
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	1
Treacle	...	...	...	...	1
Unblanched Almonds	...	...	...	...	1
Vegetarian Margarine	...	...	...	...	1
White Pepper	...	...	...	...	1

Remarks on sample returned as not genuine

Orange Segments Tin 664 parts per million. The amount of tin in this sample is excessive. The tin was not lacquered. Tin should not exceed 250 parts per million in tinned fruit. The fruit was in sound

condition. (All of consignment surrendered voluntarily to Inspector.)

							Formal
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Remarks on sample returned as not genuine

Vinegar Non brewed condiment 100%. (Vendor prosecuted and a conviction was obtained.)

(C) DRUGS

Number of drug samples	...	...	...	11
Number found genuine	...	...	...	11
Number found not genuine	...	...	...	Nil

Name and number of articles sampled	Informal
Aspirin Tablets	1
Compound Syrup of Figs	1
Cream of Tartar	2
Juniper Backache Pills	1
Phenasprin	1
Saccharine Tablets	1
Smokers Cough Pastilles	1
Snuff	1
Tonic Elixir	1
Zinc Ointment	1

Public Abattoir

The accompanying table classifies the work carried out by the Superintendent, Mr. S. R. Reed, and his assistants :—

Public Abattoir

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	10,575	1,456	2,497	41,947	27,788	—
Number inspected	10,575	1,456	2,497	41,947	27,788	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	27	64	112	64	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,422	286	97	729	1,319	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	13.51	21.49	6.44	2.00	4.97	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	36	3	—	36	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	718	306	—	—	594	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	6.86	23.48	0.12	—	2.26	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 72 tons 8 cwts. 96 lbs. given in the following table.

CARCASSES AND PARTS

Beef	47,447 lbs.
Veal	3,528 lbs.
Mutton and Lamb	5,546 lbs.
Pork	21,592 lbs.
OFFAL	84,047 lbs.

Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs, being unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—

Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	6 doz.
Fish	...	...	...	...	585 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	526 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Preserved Goods	...	...	...	...	2,813 tins and jars
Cheese	...	...	...	...	222 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	91 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	400 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	122 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	1,338 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fowl	...	...	...	...	4

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Poliomyelitis. During the year 5 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified. Of the 5 cases notified, 1 is still severely affected, while the other 4 cases have practically recovered from their paralysis.

The Borough has been fortunate over the last decade in having a low attack rate, but it does not follow that this good fortune will continue ; it would seem likely that a high incidence of the disease will occur sometime within the next few years.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria has been notified in the Borough during the last 5 years.

Scarlet Fever. Fifteen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. The disease was mild in each case and no close contact between cases could be traced. It was not necessary to admit any case to hospital.

Measles. The year 1955 was expected to be a " Measles Year " and the number of notifications received indicated that the regular cycle of incidence continues. The number of cases seems to be the highest on record for the Borough, but in spite of that no death was attributed to the disease. Only 9 cases had to be admitted to hospital. It seems that this disease is less serious in type than formerly, but, in my opinion, the decrease in the mortality rate and in the hospitalisation required are indications of a better standard of living with, probably, an increased resistance to infection. Modern therapy and more prompt summoning of medical attention have also played a part.

Whooping Cough. The incidence of whooping cough has been high over the last 6 years, 92 cases were notified during the year, but many practitioners have told me that they saw numerous doubtful

cases (? pertussis modified by immunisation, ? para-pertussis). Of the 92 cases notified, 5 were admitted to hospital. No deaths were recorded.

Dysentery. The incidence of dysentery was exceptionally low during the year, only 3 cases being reported.

Food Poisoning. Forty-four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, 33 of these cases occurred in one outbreak, the remainder being sporadic cases scattered throughout the town.

This outbreak occurred on September 3rd and 4th in Shrewsbury and the adjoining Rural District, affecting 45 known people, 33 of whom were notified.

The outbreak was found to be due to poisoning by *Staphylococcus aureus* growing in pork pies.

The symptoms and signs were characteristic of Staphylococcal poisoning, consisting of vomiting, diarrhoea and prostration of varying severity. The onset of symptoms occurred between 2 and 5 hours after consumption of the pies in most cases, but in one family sickness occurred within half an hour, while in one case the onset of symptoms was delayed for 12 hours. Recovery was rapid in all but 3 cases.

It is probable that other cases occurred, but were not reported.

It was also found that some who ate infected pies were not taken ill.

Preparation. The premises concerned were considered to be old fashioned and rather cramped, but the cooking utensils, oven and pastry mixer were satisfactory. Adequate washing facilities were available and the standard of cleanliness was fair.

Large and small pork pies were made. Baking is done twice weekly in summer and about 500 pies were baked in a batch.

The pies were cooked in ovens at a temperature of 400° F. for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour and 450° F. for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. After cooling for some 10 minutes a stock gravy, previously boiled for 10 minutes, was run into the pies to form a jelly. This stock gravy was prepared in a large pan and poured from a small $\frac{1}{4}$ -pint jug into the pies through a hole in the top made by a wooden skewer. The jug and skewer were said to be sterilised with boiling water before the filling was started.

The son of the proprietor usually does the filling, but during the week ending September 3rd, a woman assistant filled the small pork pies and the son filled the large pies.

After cooking and jelling the pies are put on a tiled slab in the shop window. No mark was made on the small pies to indicate the day of baking, although the larger pies had a distinguishing mark on the pastry.

Of the 45 people affected, 12 bought pies between 24 and 48 hours after baking. The remaining pies were thought to have been baked more than 48 hours before purchase.

Bacteriological Findings. Samples of faeces and vomit from patients were examined by the Shrewsbury Public Health Laboratory and were found to contain *Staphylococcus aureus* (coagulase positive) Type E.

Samples of the pork pies known to have caused illness were taken in two cases and cultures showed organisms as above, but no organisms of the Enteric, Dysentery or *Salmonella* groups were isolated.

Two small pork pies taken from the premises at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 3rd September, were examined with the following results: Cultures made directly from these pies gave a scanty growth of Streptococci and no Staphylococci. *Staphylococcus aureus* was, however, isolated from them by the use of enrichment media.

On Monday, 5th September, swabs were taken from the staff of the shop concerned with the following results:

	<i>Nose</i>	<i>Hand</i>	<i>Throat</i>
Proprietor	Nil	Nil	
Brother	Heavy growth of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Nil	
Son	Nil	Nil	
Boy	Nil	Nil	
Woman assistant	Moderate growth of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Nil	Nil

Subsequent report indicated that the Staphylococci grown from the woman assistant's nasal swab was similar to those grown from the excreta of the patients and from the infected pies, being of Phage Type 6/47/53/77/42D/42E. Those grown from the brother's nasal swab belonged to a different phage type.

Recommendations. The method of manufacture of the pies drew suspicion on to the stock gravy as the most likely ingredient to be infected, as the oven temperatures were considered to be sufficient to kill off any staphylococci affecting the meat. It was, therefore, recommended that the gravy should be run into the pies with a ladle rather than a jug so that the assistant's fingers would be very unlikely to contaminate the pan or its contents. Also the assistant was to wear a face mask while filling pies. After the pies were filled they were to be covered with a sheet of clean greaseproof paper until sold.

The proprietor was warned most strongly that, especially during hot weather, he should not keep pies more than 36 hours in his shop and he was also asked to mark all pies to indicate the date of baking.

Sequelae. No further cases were reported and the examination of pies sampled on the 6th and 9th September, after 24 hours and 48 hours storage at room temperature, showed no growth on culture.

Nose and throat swabs of the woman assistant, taken on the 14th September, showed the following result: *Staphylococcus aureus* not isolated.

The incidence of other infectious diseases during the year was low.

The Public Health Service Laboratory in Shrewsbury has continued to provide a most satisfactory service for the bacteriological examination of water, milks, ice cream, etc.

The willing assistance of the Director of the Laboratory (Dr. A. C. Jones) in co-operating in field epidemiology is very much appreciated.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1955
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Acute Pneumonia		Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis Paralytic	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
			Primary	Influenzal						
January	—	—	—	—	2	12	—	1	1	—
February	1	1	1	—	27	11	—	—	—	1
March	1	—	1	3	161	29	—	—	—	—
April ...	—	1	1	—	224	14	—	—	—	—
May ...	—	1	—	1	158	6	—	2	1	—
June ...	1	1	1	1	62	4	—	1	—	—
July ...	—	4	—	—	51	6	—	6	—	4
August	—	1	—	—	17	4	1	1	1	1
September	1	1	—	—	3	2	3	—	—	33
October	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	5
November	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
December	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	15	5	6	708	92	5	12	3	44

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE
YEAR, 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & upwards	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—	3	11	1	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	—	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	5
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	1
Acute Influenzal	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
Measles	708	11	163	160	348	19	4	3	—	—	9
Whooping Cough	92	7	26	23	33	1	—	2	—	—	5
Food Poisoning	44	—	3	4	—	1	6	19	6	5	11
Totals	894	18	192	190	394	23	17	36	15	9	46

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	4	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	3	1	2	—	1	2	—	1
55—64	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	10	2	4	3	2	—	1

Of the 6 deaths from Tuberculosis, 2 were not notified before death.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate for the year was 0.11 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.29 in the previous year.

The Wolverhampton Mass Radiography Unit visited Shrewsbury during the year and the result of the survey is as follows :—

	Number X-rayed		Tuberculosis				Other Conditions*	
	M.	F.	Active		Inactive		M.	F.
General Public	3,175	2,771	7	1	24	12	41	27
School Children	789	550	—	—	2	1	—	1
Total	3,964	3,321	7	1	26	13	41	28
Grand Total	7,285		8		39		69	

* Congenital and acquired abnormalities of bony thorax, pneumonic condition, pleural thickening, abnormality of diaphragm, acquired heart disease, chronic bronchitis, enlarged thyroid gland, etc.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, are now responsible for work in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation, Immunisation against Whooping Cough and Vaccination.

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly provided the following figures relating to the work done in Shrewsbury during 1955.

Diphtheria Immunisation		Immunisations
Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	212
	By General Practitioners	215
School Children :	At Clinic	49
	By General Practitioners	25
Total		501

						Reinforcing Injection
At Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	734
By General Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	200
				Total	...	934

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	221
	By General Practitioners				199	
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	12
	By General Practitioners				6	
				Total	...	438

Vaccination

Primary	Children under 1 year of age :	At Clinic	...	...	...	149
		By General Practitioners				224
	Others :	At Clinic	...	...	...	21
		By General Practitioners				61
				Total	...	455
	Re-Vaccination :	At Clinic	...	...	...	11
		By General Practitioners				117
				Total	...	128

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

A summary of work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with infectious disease, disinfection and disinfestation is as follows :—

Visits made in connection with infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	160
Disinfection carried out after Tuberculosis	...					6

Thirteen houses were disinfested by Corporation employees working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The type of infestation was as undermentioned :—

Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	9 houses
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	4 houses

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

At the end of the year, the number of premises under contract with the Corporation for disinfection was as follows :—

Business premises	...	...	...	49
Private dwelling-houses	...	...	...	4

No major infestation was discovered.

The Rodent Operative made 1,545 visits to premises in the course of his duties during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

It was found necessary in the case of one old person who was bedridden, living alone and unable to obtain the necessary care and attention to apply for an Order for her removal to hospital.

Five other old persons were kept under periodic observation.

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