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Borough of Shrewsbury



# REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1958



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# Borough of Shrewsbury



## REPORT

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### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

# 1958

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# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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## THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR H. R. BECKETT (Chairman)

ALDERMAN R. H. URWICK, M.D.	COUNCILLOR F. ELLIS
ALDERMAN A. E. J. WILLIS	COUNCILLOR F. G. A. FULWELL
COUNCILLOR J. F. BURGESS	COUNCILLOR E. F. HALL
COUNCILLOR J. BURKE	COUNCILLOR H. JELlicOE-WALL
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. COCK, T.D., J.P.	COUNCILLOR L. McDONALD
COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS	COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E. THICKPENNY (Mayor)

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Medical Officer of Health

† A. C. MACKENZIE, M.D., D.P.H.

### Senior Public Health Inspector

¶†\* C. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

### Additional Public Health Inspectors

¶†\* W. E. QUALTROUGH, Cert. R.S.I.

†\* J. B. BOWDEN, Cert. R.S.I. (resigned 21st February, 1958)

†\* J. INNES, Cert. R.S.A.S.

† H. ROBERTS (commenced 1st August, 1958)

### Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS

### Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector

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

### Assistant Meat Inspector

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

## 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, 1959.

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

MR. 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 1958.

Statistics have to be included in reports of this nature, but too much significance must not be given to figures when the population involved is relatively small. However, I must mention the infant mortality figure of 16 per thousand live births, which is the lowest so far recorded for the Borough, and well below the national figure.

Vital statistics and notifications of infectious disease have long been the yardstick by which the general health of a community was assessed, but the decline in the frequency and severity of the once dreaded infectious diseases have limited the usefulness of their notification for this purpose. Medical Officers have to look elsewhere when assessing the health and well-being of their communities. Personal contact with the general practitioner seems an obvious means of obtaining information.

It appears that, in spite of statistics, the health of the inhabitants of the Borough was only moderate during 1958. Mental ill-health, especially depression, seems to have been prevalent throughout the year, as have the coughs, colds and "P.U.O's" (pyrexia of unknown origin) usually associated with winter, but when one considers the weather, and here statistics agree with public opinion in indicating that this was the worst summer for years, perhaps this is not surprising. It seems that the pattern of disease is slowly changing and, as the epidemic infectious diseases to which the community is accustomed disappear, new illnesses take their place. So far, fortunately, the new type illnesses seem to be relatively benign.

Housing continues to be one of the important health functions of the authority—during the year there has been steady progress in relieving overcrowding as well as in slum clearance. Mention is made in the report of the success of the Harlescott Moston Green Group Dwelling Scheme, which was opened by the then Mayor, Mrs. C. E. Thickpenny, on 13th January, 1958.



I would like now to mention here a small "Home Safety" campaign, organised as part of a national campaign, in co-operation with the County Fire Service. This campaign was held during November, and stressed the frequency of home accidents and their preventability. It may have just been coincidence, but a check-up on the number of home accidents treated in the district hospitals showed weekly returns of 31 in the week preceding the campaign, 19 during the campaign, and 8 in a pre-selected week after the campaign. Thanks are due to local cinemas, shops and newspapers for co-operation and publicity.

I have, as Medical Officer of Health, the honour of serving on various voluntary committees, and would like to mention in particular the Shrewsbury and District Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Committee, which continued to help sufferers from tuberculosis. Fourteen families were helped in the Borough at a cost to the Committee of £98. The work of the Shrewsbury Old People's Welfare Committee also continues as indicated in the special section at the end of this report.

As usual, good co-operation has been maintained with the County Council Health and Welfare Departments.

Co-operation has also been given by Borough officials in all other departments, and this department's staff have, as ever, been willing and cheerful workers.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1958

Rateable Value of the Borough ... ..	£625,536
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£2,450
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1958)	47,770
Persons per acre calculated on above population ...	5.9
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1958) ... ..	14,609
	MALE      FEMALE
Live Births { Legitimate    383      347 } Total ...	769
{ Illegitimate    15      24 }	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.1
Stillbirths ... ..	12
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births ... ..	15.4
Deaths ... ..	548
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population ... ..	11.5
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil
"    "    other Puerperal causes ... ..	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Total Births (live and still) ... ..	Nil
INFANT MORTALITY RATE ... ..	15.6
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	16.4
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	11.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	92
"    "    Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
"    "    Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past twenty-nine 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 1958 may be summarised as follows :—

**Rainfall.**—The total rainfall was 33.93 inches, compared with 25.85, 23.44 and 23.35 in the previous years respectively. This is the highest recorded rainfall for 28 years.

The average rainfall over the last 29 years was 26 inches.

**Sunshine.**—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,203.1 hours, compared with 1,359.7, 1,327.3 and 1,589 hours in the previous years respectively. This is the lowest recorded sunshine for 21 years.

The average sunshine over the last 29 years was 1,350.5 hours.

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

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), July 8th, 79°.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), September 3rd, 61°.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 23rd, 34°.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), January 24th, 7°.

These figures bear out the general opinion that the summer was the worst for years.



## Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1958

1958 Month	Mean Barometric Pressure in Inches	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F				SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES			
		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. ...	29.834	44.5	56° on 27th	32.8	7° on 24th	38.6	7.5 on 30th	2.11	65.3	20	.47 on 1st	1.72
Feb. ...	29.881	47.1	57° on 14th	35.4	27° on 7th and 8th	41.2	8.8 on 18th	2.36	66.3	19	.77 on 24th	3.16
Mar. ...	29.921	42.0	60° on 30th	33.0	19° on 11th	37.5	8.6 on 17th	3.84	95.6	13	.24 on 25th	.92
April ...	30.134	54.0	70° on 30th	38.0	25° on 12th	46.0	12.1 on 30th	5.16	154.7	8	.32 on 25th	.51
May ...	29.956	60.8	75° on 2nd	45.5	39° on 17th and 28th	53.1	12.5 on 20th	5.65	175.3	20	.24 on 10th	1.92
June ...	29.950	65.2	74° on 15th	48.6	42° on 18th and 24th	56.9	12.5 on 15th	4.22	128.7	19	1.09 on 2nd	4.58
July ...	29.937	68.3	79° on 8th	53.8	41° on 25th	61.0	11.8 on 9th	5.18	160.5	19	.84 on 3rd	4.18
Aug. ...	29.854	68.2	75° on 10th	53.0	43° on 26th	60.6	10.4 on 2nd	4.01	124.4	18	.77 on 12th	3.36
Sept. ...	29.215	65.5	77° on 5th	52.4	44° on 27th	58.9	8.0 on 24th	3.02	90.5	18	1.84 on 14th	6.82
Oct. ...	30.109	57.1	64° on 8th	46.3	35° on 18th	51.7	7.9 on 28th	2.64	81.8	19	.55 on 3rd	2.64
Nov. ...	30.226	48.6	60° on 6th	38.5	26° on 11th	43.5	7.3 on 10th	1.24	37.1	13	.47 on 2nd	1.79
Dec. ...	29.713	44.4	54° on 27th	35.7	27° on 15th	40.0	4.9 on 27th	0.74	22.9	20	.28 on 18th	2.33
									1203.1			33.93



VITAL STATISTICS  
1958 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	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	At all Ages			
						Number	Rate Adjusted		
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	
1956 ...	46,850	715	15.3	21	29	498	10.6	10.4	
1957 ...	47,380	735	15.5	18	24	567	11.9	11.4	
1958 ...	47,770	769	16.1	12	16	548	11.5	11.2	

## POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1958, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 47,770, compared with 47,380 in the previous year.

## BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1958 was 769, compared with 735, 715 and 696 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 16.1 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.5, 15.3 and 14.9 in the previous years respectively. Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 15.8.

The 769 live births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate		
Male	... ..	383	15	}	769
Female	... ..	347	24		

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	... ..	...	16.4
SHREWSBURY	... ..	...	15.8

### Illegitimate Births

There were 39 illegitimate births, compared with 26, 35 and 31 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.82 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 5.1 of the total live births.

### Stillbirths

There were 12 stillbirths, compared with 17, 16 and 15 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.25 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 1.5 of the total births.



## DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 548, compared with 567, 498 and 516 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 548 deaths, 282 were males and 266 females.

The crude death rate was 11.5, but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 11.2.

Of the 548 deaths, 381 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 463 of the 548 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

(1) Heart disease... ..	200
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System, including Vascular lesions of Nervous System ... ..	123
(3) Cancer (all sites) ... ..	92
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	48

There were 3 deaths from suicide and 4 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 12 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 4 deaths of children one to fourteen 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 ... ..	11.2





### INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 12, compared with 18, 21 and 17 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 16 per 1,000 live births, compared with 24, 29 and 26 in the previous years respectively. This is the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded for the Borough.

A comparison between the Infantile Mortality Rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

					Per 1,000 live births
England and Wales...	...	...	...	...	23
SHREWSBURY	...	...	...	...	16

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

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	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	4
Birth Injury... ..	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Asphyxiation : Misadventure... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ... ..	5	4	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	1	12



## 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. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 2,178,780 gallons, which was equivalent to 45.41 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 2,570,000 gallons.

Routine daily chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water at the separate stages of treatment. The maxima and minima results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

During the year the practice of taking routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from householders at random was maintained. One hundred and ninety-six such samples were carried out during the year, and all samples were found to be sterile. The water supplied to the Authorised Area has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for water supplies in this country.

The daily consumption is rising steadily, and from a national standpoint it has been estimated that by 1970 at least twice the amount consumed in the immediate post-war years may be required. The rise is partly a result of the increased population and its rising standard of living, but it is in the industrial field that the most notable increases in consumption have occurred, and the consumption here is likely to continue to rise. For some years past attention has been drawn to the vital need for large-scale extensions, both to the Headworks and Distribution System, and application has recently been made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for Approval in Principle to these schemes.

The length of new mains laid within the Water Area during the year was 3.44 miles.”

The water supply position of dwelling-houses in the town as computed in the year 1958 may be summarised as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	14,609
Total number of houses with a Corporation piped supply	...	...	...	14,571
Houses without a piped supply, i.e. from wells or streams	...	...	...	38



**SHELTON WATER SUPPLY**  
**Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1958**

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+	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 37°C. ...	982	45	292	Nil	26	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	3,260	90	108	Nil	84	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour (Hazenscale) ...	200	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH ...	8.2	6.4	6.9	5.3	9.2	6.3	8.4	6.8
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	112.0	16.0	94.0	14.0	104.0	31.0	112.0	36.0
Chloride (Cl) ...	31.0	11.0	33.0	15.0	37.0	15.0	35.0	15.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.891	0.048	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C.)	11.00	0.28	3.52	Nil	4.68	Nil	1.36	Nil
Permanent Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	62.0	Nil	72.0	24.0	66.0	10.0	64.0	19.0
Total Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	162.0	42.0	154.0	50.0	162.0	72.0	158.0	70.0
Free Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	4.80	Nil	2.00	Nil	0.25	0.15
Total Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	5.20	Nil	2.25	Nil	0.35	0.20

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Chemical Analysis expressed in parts per Million

### Swimming Baths

During the year the water in the swimming baths was examined bacteriologically on 22 occasions. Of these, 6 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.**—Twenty existing houses were connected to the sewer during the year, and two new houses were erected without connection to the sewerage system.

There have been no extensions or alterations to the sewers during the year, except for new sewers on housing estates.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—An alteration in the method of refuse collection was made whereby the bins are wheeled out to the footpath and emptied directly into the refuse vehicle. This speeds up collection.”

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1958 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough ... ..		14,609
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers ... ..	14,275	} 14,498
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks ... ..	223	
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets		

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

“ The transfer of one Public Health Inspector to another local authority left the department understaffed for a period of five months, but basic public health duties were maintained.

Seven areas, comprising 85 houses, were declared to be Clearance Areas. The largest area contained 35 houses, and the smallest consisted of 4 dwellings.

Demolition of properties in Clearance Areas proceeded slowly due, mainly, to the fact that a number of Orders were awaiting confirmation. Only 19 such properties were demolished.

Twenty-one individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 8, and 5 were subject to Closing Orders. Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation were accepted from the respective owners of the remaining 8 houses.



Two dwellings were found to have parts, separately occupied, unfit for human habitation. The unsatisfactory parts were closed.

The owner, in another case, had given an undertaking that the unfit portion of a house would not be used for habitation until it was made fit for that purpose. He submitted a specification and carried out the work required by the Council. The undertaking was then cancelled.

Seven individual unfit houses were demolished.

The increasing number of unoccupied houses causes a deal of concern. Unfortunately, this position arises through the practical difficulties encountered in demolishing individual unfit houses built-in with adjoining ones in better condition.

The Council's sincerity in their effort to improve housing conditions was reflected in their decision to re-house the occupants of 40 Council-owned houses in Crowmere Road. The houses were subsequently demolished.

The publicity given by the Council to the importance of prospective purchasers making full enquiries as to the future of houses before purchasing led to a large number of enquiries and requests for information.

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There were 19 applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Rent Act, 1957. Eleven certificates were issued, whilst undertakings to carry out repairs were given by landlords in the other 8 cases. Five certificates were cancelled on satisfactory completion of work.

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Licences were granted for the siting of 4 individual caravans. Six site licences, covering 39 additional vans, were in operation at the end of the year. There was one case of overcrowding, and the occupants were suitably re-housed.

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Food premises, generally, were up to the required standard. Attention had, in some cases, to be drawn to the inadequacy of personal ablution facilities for food handlers. These matters were speedily rectified.

Exemptions appertaining to Regulation 12 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 (wash-basins and water supply) were given in respect of 3 premises where accommodation was severely restricted.

---

Food and drugs samples covering a wide range were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and report.

The pattern of sampling and the nature and type of the 'non-genuine' sample appears to be changing with the years. The accidental addition of foreign or impure ingredients is not encountered so often as in the pre-war era. It is more usual to find labels carrying misleading statements or descriptions, or the failure to notify the inclusion of a preservative.



Several complaints were received relative to fragments of a glass-like substance found in tinned grapes and certain brands of tinned fish. The substance was not easily dissolved in the mouth and might, justifiably, cause anxiety on the part of the consumer. Samples were forwarded to the Public Analyst who reported that the substances were crystals of harmless salts. The samples were classified as 'genuine.'

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Shrewsbury's milk supplies were, on the whole, satisfactory. There were no cases of adulteration, and milk-fat content showed a reasonable average figure. All Channel Island milks examined reached the legal milk-fat requirement of 4 per cent.

In one case of milk-fat deficiency, it was felt that the producer had been neglectful in not plunging the milk properly before bottling. Subsequent samples complied with the presumptive standard of 3 per cent after this had been mentioned to him.

---

One new dairy was established, and a pasteurising licence granted. This firm, having the only pasteurising plant within the Borough, collects and processes a considerable amount of milk from surrounding country districts. The milk is afterwards retailed over a large area. Bottle-washing tests and check samples were, without exception, satisfactory.

Two applications for the siting of milk vending machines on forecourts were approved. Bacteriological tests verified the efficiency of refrigeration. Litter baskets were provided for used containers, and no nuisance arose in this respect. The dispensing of milk and other products in this manner is achieving nation-wide popularity.

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Preliminary investigations began on the making of a Smoke Control Area, to include the new Harlescott Grange Estate and adjoining privately-owned houses.

Complaints from the residents in the Whitchurch Road area, concerning the emission of smoke and grit from industrial premises, were received about the same time. This unsatisfactory state of affairs was already having attention. Representations secured the provision of additional apparatus at certain premises, and the promise of co-operation from other managements. An improvement in atmospheric conditions was soon obvious in the vicinity.

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There were no serious infringements discovered during inspections under the Factories Act, 1937, and the Shops Act, 1950.

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On reviewing the year's work it seemed clear that, having regard to the difficulties experienced by some local authorities, we were more fortunate than many.

My sincere thanks to the staff and to those from other departments for their able assistance.

The scope of the Inspectors' work can be assessed from the following figures and observations."



### Complaints received during the Year

There were 571 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Housing Defects . . . . .	110
Defective Dustbins . . . . .	2
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers . . . . .	117
Accumulations of Offensive Matter . . . . .	3
Relative to Unsound Food . . . . .	106
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs and Fleas . . . . .	6
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations . . . . .	126
(c) Beetles, Crickets and other Insects . . . . .	31
Keeping of Animals and Poultry . . . . .	3
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies . . . . .	1
Emission of Smoke . . . . .	7
Miscellaneous . . . . .	59
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>571</b>

**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 ... ..	1,577
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts ... ..	2,015
Infected Dwelling-houses :—	
(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ...	96
(b) Contacts ... ..	16
(c) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations ... ..	15
Business Premises, including Offices ... ..	132
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls ... ..	7
Factories Act, 1937 :—	
Factories with mechanical power ... ..	238
Factories without mechanical power ... ..	18
Works of building construction ... ..	16
Outworkers' premises ... ..	11
Offensive Trade Premises... ..	8
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals ... ..	37
Houses let in Lodgings ... ..	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	334
Drainage :—	
Inspection and Examination ... ..	288
Testing ... ..	62
Public Sewers... ..	410
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	101
Smoke Observations ... ..	75
Watercourses and Ditches ... ..	67
Land and Tips ... ..	96
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals... ..	95
Water Supplies ... ..	—
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Rats and Mice ... ..	327
(b) Bug Infestations ... ..	35
(c) Beetles ... ..	29
(d) Other Vermin ... ..	113
(e) Disinfestations ... ..	43



Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—	
Unfit Meat and Other Foods ... ..	241
Market Stalls ... ..	565
Butchers' Shops ... ..	167
Bakehouses ... ..	44
Factory Canteens ... ..	15
Restaurant Kitchens, etc. ... ..	166
Licensed Premises ... ..	146
School Kitchens ... ..	11
Hospital Kitchens ... ..	5
Other Premises ... ..	846
Section 16 Premises :—	
Sausage Manufacturers, etc. ... ..	56
Fish Frying Premises ... ..	61
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	280
Milk Sampling :—	
(a) Methylene Blue, etc. ... ..	128
(b) Chemical ... ..	133
Milk Shops and Dairies ... ..	225
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than Milk) for Chemical Analysis ... ..	119
Food Vehicles ... ..	23
Food Poisoning Investigations ... ..	5
Shops Act, 1950 ... ..	558
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	53
Welfare of Aged Persons ... ..	3
Visits not Inspections ... ..	1,462
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	282
<b>Total Visits by Public Health Inspectors ... ..</b>	<b>11,858</b>

### 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 1955	Factories Act, 1937	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	65	—	30	1	—
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	60	—	24	4	—
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... ..	24	—	25	1	—
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	46	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	83	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... ..	13	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	3	—	—	—	—



**Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of  
Statutory and Informal Notices Issued**  
(Number of premises, 87)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains ... ..	4
Choked drains ... ..	1
Insufficient closet accommodation ... ..	19
Absence of proper sink ... ..	—
Defective water closets ... ..	14
Defective gullies ... ..	—
Defective sink ... ..	1
Defective sink waste pipes ... ..	5
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings ... ..	6
Burst water pipes ... ..	1
Insufficient water supply... ..	—
Defective soil pipes ... ..	2
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs ... ..	23
Defective eaves-gutters ... ..	7
Defective down-spouts ... ..	3
Defective brickwork and pointing ... ..	5
Defective damp-proof courses ... ..	1
Defective yard paving ... ..	1
Defective chimney flues ... ..	2
Galvanized metal dustbins provided ... ..	1
Defective window-frames and sash-cords ... ..	10
Defective floors ... ..	6
Defective stairs ... ..	2
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings ... ..	7
Defective doors ... ..	10
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges ... ..	7
Defective wash-boilers ... ..	1
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks ... ..	—
Defective and bulging external walls ... ..	—
Defective and bulging party walls ... ..	—
Filthy condition of premises ... ..	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter ... ..	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	8

**Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations**

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Conditions
Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts) ...	55	50	5
Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	3	—	3
Bakehouses ... ..	4	—	4
Other Food Preparation Premises ...	14	8	6
Butchers' Shops ... ..	2	1	1
Hotel Bars ... ..	4	3	1
Business Premises... ..	7	5	2
Factories (Factories Act, 1937) ... ..	1	1	—
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.)... ..	—	—	—
Shops (Shops Act) ... ..	1	1	—
Dairies ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	6	6	—
Caravans ... ..	—	—	—

### 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 Public Health 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...	15	18	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	199	238	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	15	16	—	—
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>229</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



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	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**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. ...	5	—	—	—	—	—

**HOUSING****Building Progress during 1958**

Houses erected by Local Authority	191	} 365
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	174	

**Housing Statistics****1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year**

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1,924
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	109
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 ...	88

**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 offices ... ..	89
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**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year**

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	38
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	53
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Acts 1936 and 1937 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..	8
(2) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 16 (4) Housing Act 1957 ... ..	8

**Corporation Housing Estates**

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

“ **Applications.**—At 31st December, 1958, the number of applications outstanding was 2,051, as against 1,523 on the 31st December, 1957. This is a very sharp increase of 528.



From the following figures it will be seen that the cases increase in all classes. It is not confined to any particular section.

#### Analysis of outstanding Applications in Family Unit Form

	In Rooms		Tenants		Owners		Total	
Childless Couples ...	(254)	363	(199)	283	(19)	26	(472)	672
Bungalow Cases (Old People) ...	(31)	57	(117)	163	(20)	28	(168)	248
One Child ...	(181)	231	(266)	321	(23)	23	(470)	575
Two Children ...	(58)	92	(173)	219	(13)	18	(244)	329
Three Children ...	(15)	24	(85)	110	(3)	5	(103)	139
Four Children ...	(4)	10	(25)	30	(4)	4	(33)	44
Five Children & over	(3)	7	(28)	35	(2)	2	(33)	44
Totals ...	(546)	784	(893)	1,161	(84)	106	(1,523)	2,051

Numbers in brackets denote totals as at December, 1957.

This indicates that many of those cases who did not re-apply in September, 1957, are now finding their way back on to the list. I feel that this increase is very relevant and such that should not be disposed of as being an inflated figure. I feel that the renewals of the applications file in Shrewsbury are being so frequent that dead wood has little or no opportunity of accumulating, and of the analysis one may extract the relevant figures with reasonable confidence. For example, the 784 rooms cases are reasonably reliable.

**Allocations.**—During the year 1958 there have been 191 houses completed, which were required to meet the need of the applications and the slum clearance programme. The two principal areas were, of course, Maddox Buildings and Ditherington Village, making a total of 116 together. In moving the occupiers from these clearance areas, they were not necessarily put on to the new estates, but every endeavour was made to house them as nearly as possible to their general satisfaction, that is, near to their work, and an appropriate type of dwelling at a rental they could reasonably afford. It is not within the capability of any Housing Manager to give complete satisfaction to every person, but whilst every effort is made regardless of the difficulty present, it is reasonable to presume that the best possible is done for the most people.

Also during 1958, there were 62 bungalows completed and the same number of elderly people housed. The bungalow tenants were drawn from existing Council houses, where they were in the family type house, or from slum clearance, or from the applications file. Our difficulty in the old people's dwellings still exists, as regards gardens, as indicated on page 45 of the Medical Officer of Health's 1957 report. Whilst one may not be able to comment at length at this stage, it is a circumstance which is constantly with us, and which must not be neglected. Beyond this I would not go at the present time."



### GROUPED DWELLINGS FOR THE ELDERLY

The Moston Green Grouped Dwellings and Community Centre were formally opened on January 30th, 1958.

The scheme was promulgated by the County and Borough Councils, and the initial cost of the 16 bungalows plus community centre and warden's quarters was £24,125, of which £4,596 was for the community centre and warden's quarters. The cost of the bungalows was £1,220 each.

The dwellings are all one-bedroom bungalows 486 sq. ft. super. The front door opens into a small hall and thence into the living room. This room is 14 ft. × 12 ft., is lighted by a large window, and heated by a convector type open fire, the back boiler of which supplies hot water. This room is used as a sitting room and dining room. A door from this room leads to a back lobby, and thence to bathroom, kitchen, bedroom and back door. There is a fuel store with space for a dust bin opening off the back lobby and the back porch is protected by a roof.

The kitchen measures 8 ft. by 7 ft., and has a ventilated larder, wash boiler, gas or electric cooker, sink with draining board and ample cupboard space. The bathroom, 9 ft. × 7 ft., has standard fittings, except that a handrail is provided for the bath. The bedroom is of ample size, 15 ft. × 11 ft., and is heated from the living room fire by a convection outlet. The linen cupboard which houses the hot water cylinder opens into the bedroom. All the bungalows front on to an open space, and have their own back and front gardens. A bell in the bedroom connects each bungalow to the warden's house, and it is made clear to tenants that this bell is to be used to summon the warden in emergencies.

The common room, 21 ft. × 16 ft., is comfortably furnished, and supplied with television, card tables and other equipment. Members pay 3d. per week for television and arrange whist drives weekly. The warden has a two-bedroomed house, and is responsible for the care of the centre, and the two bedrooms over the common room, which were intended for relatives or friends visiting the old people. A survey was made after the scheme had been in operation for a year, and showed that while the warden and centre are used and greatly appreciated by most, the bedrooms have not been required.

The warden, who is employed by the County Council as an ambulance driver, and his wife, a former nurse, have been called on for services by all but three of the occupants during the year. The occupants find it a great comfort to know that a ring on the bell in time of trouble will bring help.

Other information obtained indicated that the size of the bungalow and of its various rooms was just about right, that most liked their meals in the living room rather than the kitchen, that practically all were quite decided that an open fire is a "must" in the living room, although the restrictor throat gave some trouble. It seems that no complicated equipment should be put in old



people's houses. Most of the old people wanted a very small front garden, while only the fitter elderly men wanted any back garden.

The rent, 18s. 2d., and rates, 5s. 6d., did not seem to cause any hardship, but some complained of the expense of getting the bus into town, 5½d. each way.

As regards the warden service, it appeared that a man and wife is the ideal, but with 16 dwellings, the man's work is only part-time, although there are a lot of ways in which he can help: furniture moving, shaving, wheel chair manipulation, dustbin removal, all services which are looked on by the tenants as favours, not routine. The calls on the warden's wife are mostly made because of illness, and quite a lot of home nursing has to be given. Where necessary, other help is obtained from district nurses, meals on wheels, old people's welfare visiting schemes, etc., but most of the occupants are surprisingly self-reliant.

A great measure of the success of a grouped dwelling scheme seems to rest on the personality of the warden and his wife.

At the end of the year, the bungalows were occupied by eight married couples, six single women, one single man, and two sisters. The occupants came in order from the Housing Manager's list of old people (men of 65 or over, and women of 60 or over), eight were from slum clearance properties, four from the general list, and four were under-occupying three-bedroom houses. Despite the fact that the bungalows' tenants were not chosen on medical grounds, 9 out of the 16 were quite convinced that a visit from the medical officer or a certificate from their family doctor was responsible for their move to this scheme. This seems to bear out the contention that any old person or old couple applying for a Council house can find or be found some "medical" grounds for rehousing.

The most striking things found by the survey were the improved health and morale of most of the tenants, their obvious pride in their homes, and their contentment.

The provision of suitable housing with an outlay on warden's quarters, community room and a relatively small annual cost (£550 per annum) appears to be an economic proposition if it succeeds in keeping old people out of institutions and living happily in the community.

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. E. A. Andrews, has provided the following report for the year 1958:—

"There are 41 beds available for use, and the daily average number of beds occupied was 40.

The number of men paying the nightly charge was 491, whereas 1,926 men paid the weekly charge.

Throughout the past years the composition and type of lodger has shewn a gradual but noticeable change. Only one or two men



over the age of 65 now use the hostel compared with a dozen or so of five or six years ago. Men of the "tramp" type have completely disappeared, and along with them may be included the once usual group of 'very occasional workers.' Gone also are the seasonal workers—men employed on the land—potato picking, hoeing, harvesting, etc.

Well over half the accommodation available is used by permanent lodgers : men in regular work on the railway, in engineering or other industrial concerns. Quite a few of these men have lived in the hostel for ten years or over.

The remaining ten or fifteen beds are used generally by men employed by Public Works contractors. They are engaged on demolition, rebuilding, road making or pipe laying, etc. These men will stay in the hostel as long as the job lasts, a matter of weeks or a month or two.

The majority of the men avail themselves of the amenities of the hostel in preparing and cooking their own meals, although one or two will buy their meals outside."

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk Supply

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

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	14
Retail purveyors of milk				...	...	46

### Turbidity Test

The 14 samples proved satisfactory. (This is the official test applied to sterilised milk.)

### Phosphatase Test

The 51 samples proved satisfactory.

### Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and twenty-eight samples were subjected to the methylene blue test. Subsequent sampling, in the case of 23 adverse reports, gave satisfactory results. Six samples were declared void.

### Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture...	1
Premises registered for sale only	162
Premises registered for store only	2

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

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
35	23	9	2	1



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The 98 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 4 milk samples (all formal), 80 foods other than milk (1 formal and 79 informal), and 14 drugs (all informal).

Some 95 were returned as genuine and 3 as not genuine, of which one was milk, one food, and one drug.

An additional 151 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. Four of these showed a fat content deficiency. Follow-up samples in the case of two proved satisfactory, and the producer of the other two unsatisfactory samples discontinued producing.

The following tabulated statements give particulars of the articles sampled.

### (A) MILK

Number of milk samples	...	...	4
Number found genuine	...	...	3
Number found not genuine	...	...	1

Remarks on sample returned as not genuine :—

1. Fat 2.85%. Solids not fat 8.7%. Deficient of 5% of fat. ("Appeal to Cow" sample gave 3.35% of fat and Solids not fat 8.5%. Cows giving milk above the standard for fat. Warning letter sent to vendor.)

### (B) FOOD

Number of food samples (other than milk)	...	...	80
Number found genuine	...	...	79
Number found not genuine	...	...	1

Name and Number of Articles sampled	Informal
Apple Tart	2
Baking Powder	1
Beef Sausage	2
Beer	1
Butter	3
Buttered Gingers...	1
Candied Peel	1
Canned Apples	1
Canned Grapes	1
Caramelle	1
Cashew Nuts	1
Christmas Pudding	1

Name and Number of Articles sampled	Informal
Clotted Cream ... ..	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence ... ..	1
Curry Powder ... ..	1
Double Cream ... ..	1
Dressed Crab ... ..	1
Evaporated Milk ... ..	1
Gelatine ... ..	1
Glace Cherries ... ..	1
Gooseberries in Syrup ... ..	1
Ground Almonds ... ..	1
Ice Cream ... ..	7
Lemonade... ..	1
Liver Sausage ... ..	1
Meat and Potato Pie ... ..	1
Minced Beef ... ..	2
Orange Squash ... ..	1
Peas ... ..	1
Pepper ... ..	1
Pheasant Savoury ... ..	1
Pickled Onions ... ..	1
Pickled Red Cabbage ... ..	1
Pork and Beef Sausage ... ..	1
Pork Sausage ... ..	10
Potatoes ... ..	16
Raspberry Health Drink ... ..	1
Red Salmon ... ..	1
Rice ... ..	1
Sauce ... ..	1
Sparkling Orange ... ..	1
Tea ... ..	1
Vegetable Salad—Dry ... ..	1
Vinegar ... ..	1
	<b>Formal</b>
Gin... ..	1

#### Remarks on Sample returned as not genuine

1. Apple Tarts: Copper 32 parts per million. No other metallic contamination present. The recommended maximum for copper in food is 20 parts per million. (Investigation made, but unable to account for excess copper in this sample. Subsequent samples satisfactory).

#### (C) DRUGS

Number of drug samples ... ..	14
Number found genuine ... ..	13
Number not genuine ... ..	1



**Name and number of articles sampled      Informal**

Balsam of Glycerine, Honey and Lemon	1
Borax ... ..	1
Colgard Emergency Essence ... ..	1
Glycerine ... ..	1
Indigestion Mixture ... ..	1
Kilkof ... ..	1
Mercurial Ointment ... ..	1
Milk of Magnesia ... ..	1
Rheumatic Tablets ... ..	1
Rosehip Tablets ... ..	1
Sal Volatile ... ..	1
Sweet Spirit of Nitre ... ..	1
Tincture of Rhubarb ... ..	1
Uricure Tablets ... ..	1

**Remarks on sample returned as not genuine**

1. Colgard Emergency Essence : Sample agreed with formula as far as could be ascertained. Borough Analyst suggested that claim on label was misleading. (Correspondence with the manufacturer resulted in information on the label being amended.)

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	12,026	1,893	1,905	45,066	27,294	—
Number inspected ... ..	12,026	1,893	1,905	45,066	27,294	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	17	65	116	92	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,564	308	41	1,301	1,462	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	13.04	17.17	5.56	3.14	5.69	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	15	13	—	1	13	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	699	145	—	—	278	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	5.94	8.34	—	0.002	1.06	—
<b>Cysticercosis:</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	46	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	46	—	—	—	—	—
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 57 tons 8 cwts. 89 lb., given in the following table :—

## CARCASSES AND PARTS

Beef ... ..	29,026 lbs.
Veal ... ..	3,136 lbs.
Mutton and Lamb ... ..	5,375 lbs.
Pork ... ..	19,409 lbs.
OFFAL ... ..	71,719 lbs.



### Unsound Food

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

Fish ... ..	614 lbs.
Bacon and Ham ... ..	712½ lbs.
Preserved Goods ... ..	2,201 tins and jars
Cheese ... ..	520½ lbs.
Sausage ... ..	97 lbs.
Beef ... ..	47½ lbs.
Corned Beef ... ..	835 lbs.
Other Foods ... ..	703½ lbs.
Other Meat ... ..	175½ lbs.
Potatoes ... ..	2,184 lbs.
Savoy Cabbages ... ..	1,920 lbs.
Carrots ... ..	560 lbs.
Peas ... ..	400 lbs.
Cauliflowers ... ..	17½ lbs.
Onions ... ..	16 bags
Apples ... ..	18 lbs.
Apricot Pulp ... ..	18 lbs.
Chickens ... ..	5
Ducks ... ..	18

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

### Influenza

Cases of Asian or Type A influenza continued to appear during the early months of the year. Many of these were second attacks. A further outbreak of influenza, not Type A, occurred in November and December. This outbreak, although not so extensive, affected middle aged and old people more than children. The illness was more severe. This outbreak coincided with an increase in the amount of general illness, particularly streptococcal infection, which continued throughout the winter. The winter was, according to the General Practitioners, the worst for many years. Many expressed the view that it was only to be expected after such a bad summer.

### Scarlet Fever

Notifications of this type of streptococcal infection increased, although the illness was generally very mild. In most cases the patient was up and about within a week. Complications seem to be very infrequent.

Other non-notifiable infections with hæmolytic streptococci were common in the autumn and winter, often being severe, but generally susceptible to penicillin or other antibiotics.

### **Anterior Poliomyelitis**

Much significance cannot be claimed for this year's absence of cases. A "Nil" return would not have caused much comment in the pre-immunisation period (before Salk) as there was a similar return in 1944 and 1956, and only 43 notified cases in the Borough in the last fifteen years. However, the low incidence of poliomyelitis infection in the county and in the country for 1958 (Year 5 After Salk) may be an indication that the Immunisation Campaign is being successful. It would not, however, appear that the percentage immunised is yet sufficient to prevent outbreaks of the disease. It must be stressed that full protection is not acquired immediately after immunisation, and it may be too late to wait until you hear of a case nearby before being immunised.

It is thought that with a high proportion of the populace immunised and efficient prevention of case to case spread of infection, the disease will be controlled.

### **Diphtheria**

No case of diphtheria has been notified in the Borough for the last eight years. Immunisation figures are given.

### **Measles**

As foreseen, 1958 was a quiet year for measles : 32 cases were notified and one was admitted to hospital. A small outbreak of atypical measles occurred in November and December, confined to a small area of the town. This outbreak was unusual not only in the severity of the case, but in the slowness of spread from case to case.

### **Whooping Cough**

This disease caused no deaths, and out of the 34 notified cases, only one was under one year.

### **Dysentery**

Only 6 cases of dysentery, all of the Sonn  type, were notified. One explanation that can be offered for the absence of widespread Sonn  dysentery is that teaching of personal cleanliness, especially by school staffs, is being effective. Three of the 6 cases notified were young school children, and it would not have been surprising if they had spread infection via the school toilets.

### **Food Poisoning**

There were 2 cases of food poisoning notified. No definite source of infection was proved in either case.



**Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1958**  
(excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
January ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
February ...	—	7	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
March ...	1	6	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ...	—	15	2	2	1	—	2	—	1	—
May ...	—	8	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
June ...	—	9	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
July ...	1	1	1	—	8	—	—	—	1	—
August ...	—	3	1	1	9	—	—	1	1	—
September ...	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	—	8	—	2	4	1	—	1	2	—
November ...	—	12	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	1
December ...	2	8	2	12	6	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	5	77	14	32	34	2	6	2	8	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE  
YEAR, 1958

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 ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	77	1	7	14	50	2	2	1	—	—	2
Typhus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary ... ..	14	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	5	2	—
Acute Influenzal ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	6	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	32	1	9	9	13	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	34	1	12	6	13	1	—	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Totals ... ..	181	6	28	31	82	4	9	12	7	2	14

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 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ... ..	2	3	1	3	—	—	—	—
25—34 ... ..	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44 ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ... ..	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ... ..	14	6	2	4	1	1	—	—



The two deaths from Tuberculosis were not notified before death.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate for the year was 0.04 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.06 in the previous year.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly provided the following figures relating to the work done in Shrewsbury during 1958.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination

Number of children in age group selected	...	...	162
Number accepting vaccination	...	...	141
Number found positive	...	...	20
Number found negative	...	...	95
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	95
Number converted to positive	...	...	86
Number not re-tested	...	...	9

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

			Immunisations
Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	218
	By General Practitioners	...	268
School Children :	At Clinic	...	—
	By General Practitioners	...	7
Total			493
			<hr/>
			Reinforcing Injection
	At Clinic	...	71
	By General Practitioners	...	47
Total			118
			<hr/>

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	268
	By General Practitioners	...	223
School Children :	At Clinic	...	2
	By General Practitioners	...	4
Total			497
			<hr/>

**Tetanus**

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	25
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	80
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	—
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	...	109

**Poliomyelitis**

The percentage of children inoculated was approximately 70 per cent.

**Vaccination (Smallpox)**

Primary	Children under :—	1 year of age :	At Clinic	...	...	...	208
			By General Practitioners	...	...	...	239
	Others :	At Clinic	...	...	...	18	
		By General Practitioners	...	...	...	65	
		Total	...	...	...	530	
Re-Vaccination :	At Clinic	...	...	...	6		
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	109		
	Total	...	...	...	115		

**DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION**

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

Visits made in connection with infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	127
Disinfection carried out after Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	6

Fourteen houses were disinfested by Corporation employees working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The type of infestation was as undermentioned :—

Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	12 houses
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	2 houses

**DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE**

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

Business premises	...	...	...	...	48
Private dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	5

No major infestation was discovered.

The Rodent operative made 1,380 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 not found necessary to make any application for compulsory removal to hospital.

### OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The Shrewsbury Old People's Welfare Committee has continued to function during 1958, and I am indebted to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary for permission to include these observations on the different aspects of the work of this Committee.

#### Friendly Visiting Service

Organised groups of friendly visitors now exist in all but two areas of the town. Emphasis continues to be laid, nationally as well as locally, on the need for helping older people to keep in the stream of life as long as possible, and the visitors keep this object in mind. Through the Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, many needs can be met, and the increased volume of requests received through the Visiting Service is in itself an indication of the value of the work done. Visitors draw attention to loneliness experienced by old people who have been moved as a result of slum clearance to an area which is foreign to them, and efforts are made to put such cases in touch with the appropriate Visitors' Group. Much more is expected of voluntary workers nowadays than was formerly the case, and this explains, perhaps, the difficulty of enrolling enough people to operate the ideal service. Visitors are expected to know about all facilities available for the aged, and to have at least a working knowledge of the kind of problems they are likely to meet. This calls for a real interest in Social Development generally, and for a certain amount of time given to study as well as to the actual visiting.

#### Courses for Voluntary Workers

The King George VI Social Service Scheme finances courses of study designed to fit voluntary workers for old people's welfare work. One such course has been arranged in Shrewsbury. This course was very well attended, chiefly by Friendly Visitors, and the students expressed themselves very satisfied with the knowledge they gained, and with the sense of "community" experienced.

#### Old People's Holiday

Once again, many Shrewsbury people availed themselves of facilities arranged by the County Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee. Holidays were arranged in Weston-super-Mare, Llandudno and Blackpool. The Shropshire Committee has a small



Holiday Fund out of which subsidies can be paid in necessitous cases, and it is very interesting to note that several donations to this fund have been collected and sent by the residents at Bromley House, a community of old people in the town.

### **Chiropody Scheme**

A fourth Chiropodist has now joined the panel. Fortunately, he is able to do more domiciliary visiting than has been possible so far, and this branch of the service has increased greatly. The future of the Chiropody Service is a little uncertain at the moment, but it seems clear that it will be linked in some way with the National Health Service. The Voluntary Committee will continue to operate with the help of the British Red Cross Society and the Shrewsbury Dispensary Fund for the time being, however, and new patients are coming in every week.

### **Boarding Out Scheme**

Since 1957 the Shropshire Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee has been operating a Boarding Out Scheme for old people, which is financed by the National Corporation for the Care of Old People (The Nuffield Trust). The object of this scheme is to help old people who have been left alone, to find accommodation as part of someone else's household, or to find someone to share their own homes. A number of old people in Shrewsbury have consulted the Boarding Out Officer, and although in many cases she has been unable to solve their problems, her advice and encouragement has been of great value, and her work, generally, has been helpful in filling out the picture. Accommodation does, indeed, appear to be one of the greatest difficulties of the later years.

### **Clubs**

A weekly club for old people was opened during the year, bringing the total up to nine, of which six are organised by the Women's Voluntary Services. These clubs do excellent work in bringing the old people together, and as they are distributed throughout the town, they make a great contribution to the happiness of all. There is also one daily club, for men only.

### **Wireless Scheme**

The Wireless Scheme is expanding quietly and slowly. The Committee has now agreed to purchase up to five portable sets of modern design, so that old people living in houses without electricity can be accommodated. In practice, it was found that the old-fashioned types of battery sets are too complicated in operation for most old people. The Air Training Corps has been very useful in testing some of the sets offered by members of the public and in



making small repairs and adjustments. This is a particularly welcome development, in that it has brought young people into the service and enabled them to make their own contribution to it.

### **Workshop Scheme**

The search for suitable premises in which to start this scheme continued during the year. Local firms were contacted and encouraged to keep the elderly in employment as long as possible. However, many firms contacted did not have any work suitable for elderly people.

### **General Report**

Many invitations have been received from a variety of groups for speakers on the subject of Old People's Welfare, and it seems evident that there is greater understanding of the purpose of the work we are trying to do. As indicated before, it is less easy to enrol voluntary workers, but those volunteers who do come forward are very enthusiastic and they do stay the course. There is no lack of general public support, to judge from the financial returns of the Committee's flag days, and from the donations which come in spontaneously from various bodies.

Much criticism is levelled at old people's families in these days ; but it has been the Committee's experience that most families do as much as they can reasonably be expected to do for their elderly relatives ; many of them do much more than this ; and all very much appreciate the help which is offered through the Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee.

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