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# REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959


SHREWSBURY  
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1875

Borough of Shrewsbury



**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE YEAR  
**1959**



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# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| COUNCILLOR H. JELlicoe-WALL (Chairman) |                                  |
| ALDERMAN R. H. URWICK, M.D.            | COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS      |
| ALDERMAN J. M. WEST                    | COUNCILLOR F. G. A. FULWELL      |
| COUNCILLOR H. R. BECKETT               | COUNCILLOR E. F. HALL            |
| COUNCILLOR J. F. BURGESS               | COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL            |
| COUNCILLOR G. A. COOPER                | (Mayor)                          |
| COUNCILLOR MRS. G. I. DYAS             | COUNCILLOR L. McDONALD           |
|  | COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E. THICKPENNY |

## 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. INNES, Cert. R.S.A.S.

\*H. ROBERTS, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (resigned 17th July, 1959)

¶\*D. J. HAMER, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (commenced 28th September, 1959)

### Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS

### Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector

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

### Assistant Meat Inspectors

\*P. BRADWELL, Cert. R.S.I. (commenced 1st March, 1959)

\*W. T. BARTON, Cert. R.S.I. (commenced 1st May, 1959)

## 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.

HEALTH CENTRE,  
MURIVANCE,  
SHREWSBURY.

July, 1960.

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 1959.

The General Statistics show a population increase of 870, a slightly increased birth rate and a slightly reduced death rate. The infant mortality rate continued to be low, although slightly higher than in 1958.

Infectious disease notifications, apart from measles were few. The general practitioners reported that they were busy during the early months of the year, also that the long dry summer, although it brought its own crop of illnesses, was followed by a quiet autumn and early winter. Evidently during the hot dry weather, asthma, hay fever and chills were frequent.

Suitable housing accommodation is still in short supply and although figures on this subject are difficult to collect and even more difficult to interpret, I have frequently had the information from general practitioners that the number of times they see a family seems to decrease if that family moves from an unfit into a fit house. The general good health of the elderly residents in the Council's bungalows, including those in the Moston Green Grouped dwellings seems to confirm this opinion.

The high cost of buying and owning a house and the difficulty of finding rented accommodation, the expense of daily travel and the traffic congestion in the town centre at the times when most people go to or leave work, 7 a.m.-10 a.m., and 5 p.m.-6.30 p.m., appears to me to indicate a need to build living accommodation on the sites available in the centre of, and to the north of, the Borough.

Every effort should also be made to make fit by repairs and improvements, and keep fit, the many houses which, although soundly built, are lacking in modern amenities and often damp. These generally Victorian or early 20th century terraced houses, with small gardens, are let at rents too small for landlords to do extensive repairs or alterations. The amount of increased rent allowed by the Rent Acts, even when taken in conjunction with the Improvement Grants, has not encouraged landlords to do sufficient to make



and keep these houses up to date. Many of these houses are fortunately situated, near the shopping centre and also near the main centres of employment in the Harlescott and Monkmoor areas. It is hoped that they will not be allowed to become the clearance areas of the not too distant future.

Clean water has been available to the inhabitants of the Borough for some years and progress is being made in the achievement of making "clean food" and "clean air" equally available and, more important, equally expected.

As regards food hygiene, progress has generally been made by personal contact between inspector and purveyor. Occasionally modern equipment has been requested and willingly provided.

The Clean Air Act 1956 has given more power to inspectors, but much was achieved in the Harlescott area by persuasion to lessen the amount of smoke from industrial chimneys. A smoke control area, including the Council's Harlescott Grange Estate, was recommended to Council by the Health Committee and approved.

I have the honour of serving on the Borough's Old People's Welfare Committee and must thank the Secretary of that Committee for notes on the Committee's activities.

The co-operation given by the Staff and received from other departments has been greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer for the efficient way in which certain services which are of the utmost importance to the health of the town have been provided. I refer to water supply, sewerage and refuse disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1959

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Rateable Value of the Borough ... ..  | £677,656       |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..  | £2,750         |
| Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...  | 8,034          |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1959)   | 48,640         |
| Persons per acre calculated on above population ...   | 6.0            |
| Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1959) ... ..   | 14,826         |
| Live Births   |                |
| { Legitimate  | MALE 395       |
| { Illegitimate  | FEMALE 384     |
| {                      15   | 12 } Total ... |
| {                      }  | 806            |
| BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population ... ..  | 16.6           |
| Stillbirths :   |                |
| Number ... ..   | 20             |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ... ..  | 24.2           |
| Total Live and Stillbirths ... ..   | 826            |
| Deaths ... ..   | 528            |
| DEATH RATE per 1,000 population ... ..  | 10.8           |
| Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) ... ..  | 14             |
| INFANT MORTALITY RATES  |                |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...   | 17.4           |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..  | 14.1           |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..  | 74.1           |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ... ..                                  | 16.1           |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) ... ..                             | 14.9           |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ... .. | 38.7           |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)  |                |
| Number of deaths ... ..   | Nil            |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ... ..  | Nil            |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..  | 97             |
| ,, Measles (all ages) ... ..  | Nil            |
| ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..   | Nil            |
| ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..  | Nil            |

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past thirty 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 1959 may be summarised as follows :—

**Rainfall.**—The total rainfall was 23.23 inches, compared with 33.93, 25.85 and 23.44 in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 30 years was 25.89 inches.

**Sunshine.**—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,542.5 hours, compared with 1,203.1, 1,359.7 and 1,327.3 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 30 years was 1,356.7 hours.

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

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), August 20th, 84°.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), August 24th, 64°.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 14th and 15th, 29°.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), January 16th, 13°.



**Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1959**

| 1959<br>Month | Mean<br>Barometric<br>Pressure<br>in Inches | AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F |                                |                 |                               | SUNSHINE IN HOURS    |                                |                | RAINFALL IN INCHES |                      |                             |                   |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
|               |   | Mean<br>Maximum             | Highest<br>Maximum<br>and Date | Mean<br>Minimum | Lowest<br>Minimum<br>and Date | Mean<br>Temperatures | Most<br>Sunshine<br>in one Day | Daily<br>Means | Total<br>Hours     | No. of<br>Rainy Days | Greatest Fall<br>in one Day | Total<br>Rainfall |
| Jan. ...      | 29.917                                      | 40.2                        | 51° on 18th<br>and 19th        | 29.1            | 13° on 16th                   | 34.6                 | 7.0 on 24th                    | 2.52           | 79.1               | 18                   | .78 on 6th                  | 3.71              |
| Feb. ...      | 30.507                                      | 47.4                        | 60° on 28th                    | 35.7            | 27° on 2nd                    | 41.5                 | 7.7 on 18th                    | 1.96           | 54.5               | 5                    | .08 on 14th                 | 0.20              |
| Mar. ...      | 29.914                                      | 51.1                        | 57° on 2nd<br>27th and 31st    | 40.1            | 31° on 13th                   | 45.6                 | 10.3 on 28th                   | 2.76           | 85.6               | 17                   | 0.22 on 14th                | 1.63              |
| April ...     | 29.815                                      | 56.6                        | 65° on 14th                    | 41.9            | 33° on 19th                   | 49.2                 | 12.9 on 30th                   | 4.46           | 133.9              | 18                   | 1.22 on 16th                | 2.92              |
| May ...       | 30.185                                      | 64.9                        | 74° on 13th                    | 45.5            | 32° on 6th                    | 55.2                 | 13.2 on 24th                   | 6.65           | 206.0              | 12                   | .49 on 21st                 | 1.42              |
| June ...      | 30.127                                      | 67.8                        | 77° on 24th                    | 50.2            | 39° on 19th                   | 59.0                 | 14.5 on 2nd<br>and 14th        | 7.20           | 216.0              | 16                   | .35 on 22nd<br>and 25th     | 2.00              |
| July ...      | 30.030                                      | 71.5                        | 82° on 4th,<br>7th and 25th    | 53.8            | 42° on 15th                   | 62.6                 | 14.4 on 6th                    | 6.45           | 200.1              | 15                   | .49 on 26th                 | 1.56              |
| Aug. ...      | 30.126                                      | 72.5                        | 84° on 20th                    | 53.9            | 42° on 29th,<br>and 30th      | 63.2                 | 13.1 on 17th<br>and 18th       | 6.33           | 196.4              | 6                    | .36 on 10th                 | 0.70              |
| Sept. ...     | 30.237                                      | 69.7                        | 81° on 11th                    | 46.8            | 32° on 27th<br>and 28th       | 58.2                 | 10.3 on 9th                    | 5.45           | 163.6              | 2                    | .15 on 21st                 | 0.16              |
| Oct. ...      | 29.964                                      | 60.3                        | 77° on 3rd                     | 46.0            | 31° on 29th                   | 53.1                 | 8.8 on 22nd                    | 3.67           | 113.9              | 16                   | .46 on 26th                 | 2.17              |
| Nov. ...      | 29.744                                      | 49.7                        | 59° on 1st<br>and 2nd          | 38.7            | 22° on 12th                   | 44.2                 | 7.2 on 11th                    | 1.66           | 49.9               | 18                   | .40 on 2nd                  | 2.57              |
| Dec. ...      | 29.493                                      | 47.8                        | 55° on 19th                    | 37.8            | 30° on 13th                   | 42.8                 | 4.4 on 17th                    | 1.40           | 43.5               | 28                   | .74 on 8th                  | 4.19              |
|               |   |                             |                                |                 |                               |                      |                                |                | 1542.5             |                      |                             | 23.23             |



VITAL STATISTICS  
1959 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

| Year     | Population<br>(estimated)<br>each year<br>by Registrar<br>General | Births |                                 | Under 1 Year of Age |   | Deaths |       | At all Ages |  |
|----------|---|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------|-------|-------------|--|
|          |   | Number | Rate<br>per 1,000<br>Population | Number              | Infant Mortality Rate<br>per 1,000 Births | Number | Rate  |             |  |
|          |   |        |                                 |                     |   |        | Crude | Adjusted    |  |
| 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        |  |
| 1959 ... | 48,640  | 806    | 16.6                            | 14                  | 17  | 528    | 10.8  | 10.7        |  |

## POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1959, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 48,640, compared with 47,770 in the previous year.

### BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1959 was 806, compared with 769, 735 and 715 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 16.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.1, 15.5 and 15.3 in the previous years respectively. Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 16.2.

The 806 births may be analysed as follows :—

|        |        | Legitimate | Illegitimate |       |
|--------|--------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Male   | ... .. | 395        | 15           | } 806 |
| Female | ... .. | 384        | 12           |       |

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 | ... .. | 16.5                      |
| Shrewsbury        | ... .. | 16.2                      |

### **Illegitimate Births**

There were 27 illegitimate births, compared with 39, 26 and 35 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.55 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 3.3 of the total live births.

### **Stillbirths**

There were 20 stillbirths, compared with 12, 17 and 16 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.41 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 2.4 of the total births.

**DEATHS**

The number of deaths during the year was 528, compared with 548, 567 and 498 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 528 deaths, 264 were males and 264 females.

The crude death rate was 10.8, but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 10.7.

Of the 528 deaths, 381 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 430 of the 528 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

|  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Heart disease  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 179 |
| (2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System, including Vascular lesions of Nervous System | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
| (3) Cancer (all sites)   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 97  |
| (4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51  |

There were 5 deaths from suicide and 4 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 14 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 6 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<br>1,000 Population |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 11.6                               |
| Shrewsbury        | ... | ... | ... | 10.7                               |





### INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 14 compared with 12, 18 and 21 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 17 per 1,000 live births, compared with 16, 24 and 29 in the previous years respectively.

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 ... .. | ...                   | ... | ... | 22 |
| Shrewsbury ... ..        | ...                   | ... | ... | 17 |

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

| CAUSES OF DEATH                     | Per 1,000 live births |              |           |           |           |                     |                            |                             |                             |                              |                           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                     | 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... ..                   | —                     | 2            | —         | —         | —         | 2                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 2                         |
| Congenital Malformations ... ..     | 2                     | 3            | —         | —         | —         | 5                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 5                         |
| Birth Injury... ..                  | 2                     | —            | —         | —         | —         | 2                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 2                         |
| Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn   | 1                     | —            | —         | —         | —         | 1                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 1                         |
| Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn | —                     | 1            | —         | —         | —         | 1                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 1                         |
| Pneumonia ... ..                    | —                     | 1            | 1         | —         | —         | 2                   | —                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 2                         |
| Staphylococcal Septicaemia ... ..   | —                     | —            | —         | —         | —         | —                   | 1                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 1                         |
| Totals ... ..                       | 5                     | 7            | 1         | —         | —         | 13                  | 1                          | —                           | —                           | —                            | 14                        |



## 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 2,333,480 gallons, which was equivalent to 48.63 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 2,817,000 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 fifty-one 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 has continued to rise, which is in keeping with the national trend, and at times of peak demand the output from the works is in excess of the safe yield. Application has been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an Order under the Water Act, 1945, for authority to proceed with the necessary large-scale extensions both to the Headworks and the Distribution System and it is hoped to commence some of the work in the present year.

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

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1959 is as follows.

|   |     |     |        |
|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Total number of houses...                                       | ... | ... | 14,826 |
| Total number of houses with a Corporation piped water supply... | ... | ... | 14,800 |
| Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply | ... | ... | 26     |



**SHELTON WATER SUPPLY**  
**Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1959**

| 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. ...                             | 3,312                 | 36      | 198                                     | Nil     | 153                       | Nil     | Nil                                      | Nil     |
| Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...                             | 6,400                 | 54      | 171                                     | Nil     | 81                        | Nil     | Nil                                      | Nil     |
| Colour (Hazenscale) ...                                       | 140                   | 12      | 22                                      | Nil     | 15                        | Nil     | Nil                                      | Nil     |
| pH ...  | 8.8                   | 6.4     | 7.1                                     | 5.6     | 9.3                       | 7.1     | 8.6                                      | 7.1     |
| Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...                           | 140.0                 | 17.0    | 126.0                                   | 6.0     | 130.0                     | 22.0    | 134.0                                    | 16.0    |
| Chloride (Cl) ...   | 59.0                  | 15.0    | 59.0                                    | 15.0    | 59.0                      | 17.0    | 60.0                                     | 17.0    |
| Free and Saline Ammonia                                       | 0.594                 | Nil     | —                                       | —       | —                         | —       | 0.049                                    | Nil     |
| Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C.)                             | 21.60                 | 0.56    | 2.44                                    | Nil     | 1.96                      | Nil     | 1.12                                     | Nil     |
| Permanent Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...                   | 67.0                  | Nil     | 70.0                                    | 13.0    | 73.0                      | 4.0     | 69.0                                     | 24.0    |
| Total Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...                       | 194.0                 | 29.0    | 176.0                                   | 35.0    | 190.0                     | 66.0    | 180.0                                    | 60.0    |
| Free Residual Chlorine ...                                    | —                     | —       | 2.80                                    | 0.10    | 2.75                      | Nil     | 0.35                                     | 0.05    |
| Total Residual Chlorine ...                                   | —                     | —       | 2.95                                    | 0.40    | 2.90                      | 0.15    | 0.40                                     | 0.20    |

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Chemical Analysis expressed in parts per Million

### Swimming Baths

There are two public indoor swimming baths available in the Borough. They are filled with water from the town mains. Treatment is by a process of alum precipitation, filtration and chlorination, with a complete turnover of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hours.

During the year the water in the swimming baths was examined bacteriologically on 19 occasions. Of these, 4 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.—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of existing houses connected to sewers...                          | Nil |
| Number of new houses erected without connection to sewerage system ... .. | Nil |

Extensions or alterations.—A sewage pumping station was constructed in the London Road area with appurtenant sewers and rising main to cater for an area which previously did not have drainage facilities. A further stage of the programme of replacing the old brick barrel sewers in the town centre by pipes was carried out in Mardol Head.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—The only alteration during the year was the method of carrying the refuse bin to the vehicle by a rubber tyred sack truck instead of emptying the bin into a kype and carrying the kype to the vehicle. Under the present system two members of the refuse gang start work half an hour earlier than the other members of the gang and wheel the bins out to the front of the premises and then the refuse gang and vehicle follow up and empty the bins directly into the refuse collecting vehicle and replace the bins at the rear of the houses.”

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1959 is as follows:—

|   |        |          |
|---|--------|----------|
| Total number of houses in the Borough ... ..  |        | 14,826   |
| Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers ... ..   | 14,492 | } 14,727 |
| Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks ... .. | 235    |          |
| 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 staff was augmented by the appointment of a Temporary Technical Assistant, for the preparation of plans, etc., in connection with slum clearance. A Pupil Public Health Inspector was appointed in accordance with the recommendations laid down in the national training scheme.

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Housing progress continued steadily—keeping pace with the slum clearance proposals which were approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in December, 1955.

Four areas, comprising 50 houses in all, were declared to be Clearance Areas ; and 44 individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

Some 164 unfit houses were demolished, and 22 similar dwellings were closed.

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The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into operation in June and enabled local authorities to make standard grants where dwellings are improved by the provision of (a) a fixed bath or shower in the bathroom, (b) a wash-hand basin, (c) a hot-water supply, (d) a water-closet in or contiguous to the dwelling and (e) satisfactory facilities for the storing of food. Where a dwelling is already provided with some of these amenities a reduced grant is payable for providing those which it lacks.

This scheme for the provision of better amenities could be regarded as the initial move in raising fitness standards ; for it must be borne in mind that, subject to certain conditions being satisfied, local authorities are obliged to approve applications for standard grants. One important condition is that the house, after improvement, will be fit for habitation for a period of at least fifteen years.

During 1959 there were 20 applications, covering as many houses, received for standard grants. All were approved.

There were 25 applications made for discretionary grants, and 23 of these were approved in respect of 24 dwellings. This latter grant is made at the discretion of the local authority, and up to half of the cost of the approved expenditure on improvement may be paid. The approved cost per dwelling must be at least £100 and any cost exceeding £800 does not normally attract a grant. The discretionary grant has been in operation since 1949 ; during which time certain amendments have been made with a view to making the terms more attractive to house-owners.

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There were four applications for Certificates of Disrepair, and undertakings to carry out the necessary repairs were accepted in three of these cases. The remaining house was inspected and found to be unfit for human habitation, and a Demolition Order was made.



That other aspect of housing—the caravan site—remained very much the same, as far as Shrewsbury was concerned. There was room for considerable improvement on some of these sites, but they fulfilled a useful purpose and no serious nuisances arose during the year.

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It will be remembered that the summer was warm and dry. Nevertheless, the few remaining householders depending on well-water for their domestic supplies did not complain. Neither was there an undue number of representations regarding insect pests. Wasps, ants and mosquitoes constituted most of the latter, and these were dealt with speedily. Nuisances from other sources were much less than anticipated under such climatic conditions.

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Milk supplies were, on the whole, satisfactory. Methylene blue tests indicated that keeping quality gave no cause for alarm. The average fat content on samples examined was 4.78% in the case of Channel Island Milk, where the legal standard is 4%. Other milks showed a fat content average of 3.28%, where the presumptive standard is 3%.

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Under the provisions of the Tuberculosis (Wales and Southern England Attested Area) Order, 1959, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food included the Borough of Shrewsbury as an Eradication Area from the 1st March, 1959. On the 1st October the town and county were declared to be an Attested Area for the purposes connected with the control of bovine tuberculosis. In effect the eradication of tuberculosis became a compulsory legal measure and no longer a voluntary scheme. This long-awaited action gives much satisfaction to all interested in tubercle-free milk and meat.

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Most food-traders co-operated readily with our staff in an effort to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations, where there is a constantly changing pattern of food-handling. The number of self-service stores increased and the slot machine is becoming popular in the fight for trade. Seven slot-machines, dispensing milk and other drinks, were in operation at the end of the year. These two modes of service necessitate the use of more pre-packed foodstuffs which, taking everything into consideration, is a step in the right direction.

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One shop-keeper was successfully prosecuted for infringing the Sunday trading provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

It was discovered that a child under the age of sixteen years was employed about the business of two different shops for a period exceeding that stipulated. One employer, unaware of the time worked by his employee in the other employer's business, quickly rectified matters on hearing the facts.

Sanitary accommodation in shops and factories was, with a few exceptions, good. This tends to spotlight the condition of one or two public conveniences which, due to certain considerations, have not yet been replaced with modern hygienic structures.

All facets of the Public Health Inspector's duties received the attention due. Once more, a word of thanks and appreciation to my colleagues, and to those in other departments.

Details of the work are to be found in the following statistics."

### Complaints received during the Year

There were 599 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

| Nature of Complaint                            | Number Received |
|--|-----------------|
| Housing Defects ... ..                         | 84              |
| Defective Dustbins ... ..                      | 4               |
| Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers ... ..  | 108             |
| Accumulations of Offensive Matter ... ..       | 8               |
| Relative to Unsound Food ... ..                | 101             |
| Verminous Premises :—                          |                 |
| (a) Bugs and Fleas ... ..                      | 3               |
| (b) Rats and Mice Infestations ... ..          | 153             |
| (c) Beetles, Crickets and other Insects ... .. | 47              |
| Keeping of Animals and Poultry ... ..          | 4               |
| Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies ... ..            | 1               |
| Emission of Smoke ... ..                       | 5               |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                           | 81              |
| Total ... ..                                   | 599             |



**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 ... ..       | 1,223            |
| Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts ... ..             | 2,106            |
| Infected Dwelling-houses :—                           |                  |
| (a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ... | 88               |
| (b) Contacts ... ..                                   | 23               |
| (c) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations ... ..         | 10               |
| Business Premises, including Offices ... ..           | 111              |
| Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls ... ..           | 3                |
| Factories Act, 1937 :—                                |                  |
| Factories with mechanical power ... ..                | 310              |
| Factories without mechanical power ... ..             | 37               |
| Works of building construction ... ..                 | 41               |
| Outworkers' premises ... ..                           | 11               |
| Offensive Trade Premises... ..                        | 9                |
| Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals ... ..         | 25               |
| Houses let in Lodgings ... ..                         | 14               |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..                          | 320              |
| Drainage :—   |                  |
| Inspection and Examination ... ..                     | 293              |
| Testing ... ..  | 162              |
| Public Sewers... ..                                   | 327              |
| Smoke Nuisances ... ..                                | 42               |
| Smoke Observations ... ..                             | 42               |
| Watercourses and Ditches ... ..                       | 77               |
| Land and Tips ... ..                                  | 75               |
| Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals... ..                | 85               |
| Water Supplies ... ..                                 | 6                |
| Verminous Premises :—                                 |                  |
| (a) Rats and Mice ... ..                              | 323              |
| (b) Bug Infestations ... ..                           | 35               |
| (c) Beetles ... ..                                    | 14               |
| (d) Other Vermin ... ..                               | 54               |
| (e) Disinfestations ... ..                            | 68               |



| Nature of Inspection  | Number of Visits |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—</b>           |                  |
| Unfit Meat and Other Foods ... ..   | 345              |
| Market Stalls ... ..  | 596              |
| Butchers' Shops ... ..  | 144              |
| Bakehouses ... ..   | 52               |
| Factory Canteens ... ..   | 16               |
| Restaurant Kitchens, etc. ... ..  | 173              |
| Licensed Premises ... ..  | 137              |
| School Kitchens ... ..  | 25               |
| Hospital Kitchens ... ..  | 1                |
| Other Premises ... ..   | 842              |
| <b>Section 16 Premises :—</b>   |                  |
| Sausage Manufacturers, etc. ... ..  | 50               |
| Fish Frying Premises ... ..   | 72               |
| Ice Cream Premises ... ..   | 294              |
| <b>Milk Sampling :—</b>   |                  |
| (a) Methylene Blue, etc. ... ..   | 111              |
| (b) Chemical ... ..   | 214              |
| Milk Shops and Dairies ... ..   | 193              |
| Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than Milk) for Chemical Analysis ... .. | 64               |
| Food Vehicles ... ..  | 17               |
| Food Poisoning Investigations ... ..                                      | 3                |
| Shops Act, 1950 ... ..  | 749              |
| Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..  | 65               |
| Welfare of Aged Persons ... ..  | 5                |
| Visits not Inspections ... ..   | 1,018            |
| Miscellaneous Visits ... ..   | 302              |
| <b>Total Visits by Public Health Inspectors ... ..</b>                    | <b>11,422</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 ... ..                          | 60                 | —                      | 26                      | 9                   | —          |
| Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..                   | 66                 | —                      | 35                      | 3                   | —          |
| Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... ..  | 18                 | —                      | 15                      | 7                   | —          |
| Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..                         | 20                 | —                      | —                       | —                   | —          |
| Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..                  | 30                 | —                      | —                       | —                   | —          |
| Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... .. | 3                  | —                      | —                       | —                   | —          |
| Number of Prosecutions ...  | 2                  | —                      | —                       | —                   | 1          |

**Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of  
Statutory and Informal Notices Issued**  
(Number of premises, 78)

|   | Number<br>Complied<br>with |
|---|----------------------------|
| Defective drains ... ..                           | 4                          |
| Choked drains ... ..                              | 2                          |
| Insufficient closet accommodation ... ..          | —                          |
| Absence of proper sink ... ..                     | —                          |
| Defective water closets ... ..                    | 16                         |
| Defective gullies ... ..                          | 3                          |
| Defective sink ... ..                             | 2                          |
| Defective sink waste pipes ... ..                 | 2                          |
| Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings ... ..       | 5                          |
| Burst water pipes ... ..                          | —                          |
| Insufficient water supply... ..                   | 1                          |
| Defective soil pipes ... ..                       | —                          |
| Dampness arising from :—                          |                            |
| Defective roofs ... ..                            | 23                         |
| Defective eaves-gutters ... ..                    | 8                          |
| Defective down-spouts ... ..                      | 10                         |
| Defective brickwork and pointing ... ..           | 6                          |
| Defective damp-proof courses ... ..               | —                          |
| Defective yard paving ... ..                      | —                          |
| Defective chimney flues ... ..                    | 1                          |
| Galvanized metal dustbins provided ... ..         | 3                          |
| Defective window-frames and sash-cords ... ..     | 4                          |
| Defective floors ... ..                           | 7                          |
| Defective stairs ... ..                           | 2                          |
| Defective plaster to walls and ceilings ... ..    | 13                         |
| Defective doors ... ..                            | 3                          |
| Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges ... ..    | —                          |
| Defective wash-boilers ... ..                     | —                          |
| Defective and dangerous chimney stacks. ... ..    | 1                          |
| Defective and bulging external walls ... ..       | —                          |
| Defective and bulging party walls ... ..          | —                          |
| Filthy condition of premises ... ..               | 2                          |
| Accumulation of manure or offensive matter ... .. | 1                          |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                              | 6                          |

**Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations**

| Nature of Inspection                     | No. of<br>Premises | Structural<br>Defects | Dirty<br>Conditions |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts) ... | 43                 | 38                    | 5                   |
| Restaurant Kitchens ... ..               | 16                 | 4                     | 12                  |
| Bakehouses ... ..                        | 19                 | 1                     | 18                  |
| Other Food Preparation Premises ... ..   | 26                 | 6                     | 20                  |
| Butchers' Shops ... ..                   | 47                 | 1                     | 46                  |
| Hotel Bars ... ..                        | 6                  | 3                     | 3                   |
| Business Premises... ..                  | 10                 | 10                    | —                   |
| Factories (Factories Act, 1937) ... ..   | 6                  | 3                     | 3                   |
| Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.)... ..     | 1                  | 1                     | —                   |
| Shops (Shops Act) ... ..                 | 2                  | 1                     | 1                   |
| Dairies ... ..                           | —                  | —                     | —                   |
| Smoke Nuisances ... ..                   | 5                  | 5                     | —                   |
| Caravans ... ..                          | 3                  | 1                     | 2                   |



### 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...                         | 26                 | 37          | 1               | —                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...                        | 188                | 310         | 7               | —                    |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... .. | 18                 | 41          | 1               | —                    |
| Total ... ..  | 232                | 388         | 9               | —                    |

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) ... ..  | 5   | 4         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..   | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...  | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...  | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...  | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—  |   |           |                            |                   |   |
| (a) Insufficient ... ..   | 1   | —         | —                          | 2                 | —   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ...   | 10  | 6         | —                          | 1                 | —   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ... ..   | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... .. | —   | —         | —                          | —                 | —   |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..   | <b>16</b>                                   | <b>10</b> | <b>—</b>                   | <b>3</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. ... | 9   | —   | —   | —  | —              | —            |



## HOUSING

### Building Progress during 1959

|                                      |     |   |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Houses erected by Local Authority    | 237 | } | 386 |
| Houses erected by Private Enterprise | 149 |   |     |

### Housing Statistics

|   |       |  |  |
|---|-------|--|--|
| <b>1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year</b>  |       |  |  |
| Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...   | 1,675 |  |  |
| Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..   | 94    |  |  |
| 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...              | 63    |  |  |
| <b>2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Services of Formal Notices</b>  |       |  |  |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices ... ..   | 94    |  |  |
| <b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year</b>   |       |  |  |
| Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—   |       |  |  |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..  | 17    |  |  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—   |       |  |  |
| (a) By Owners ... ..  | 27    |  |  |
| (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... ..   | 13    |  |  |
| (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 ... .. | 7     |  |  |

The Borough Council as a housing authority has an obligation to re-house the occupants of houses which are demolished in clearance areas as unfit for habitation (Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 25), and of individual unfit houses or parts of houses (Sec. 11 and 12 of the same Act). The Housing Manager's returns showed 147 families awaiting re-housing at the end of the year from unfit properties. There is also



a housing waiting list of those who have applied to the Council for the tenancy of Council property, flat, house or bungalow.

These two categories added together give the formidable total of 2,051 at the end of 1958 and an increased total of 2,280 at the end of 1959.

The Housing Manager's returns show that over 400 families were housed from the waiting list, and it appears that 600 applicants were added to the list during the year.

### Outstanding applications for Corporation Houses, Bungalows or Flats

31st December, 1959. Position on 31st December, 1958, in brackets

|  | ROOMS |       | TENANTS |        | OWNERS |       | TOTAL |        |
|--|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Childless Couples under 60 ...           | 437   | (363) | 287     | (283)  | 30     | (26)  | 760   | (672)  |
| Applicants of retiring age or over... .. | 79    | (57)  | 220     | (163)  | 36     | (28)  | 341   | (248)  |
| Families with 1 child ...                | 219   | (231) | 333     | (321)  | 26     | (23)  | 585   | (575)  |
| Families with 2 or 3 children            | 114   | (116) | 361     | (329)  | 29     | (23)  | 505   | (468)  |
| Families with 4 or more children ... ..  | 22    | (17)  | 80      | (65)   | 7      | (6)   | 110   | (88)   |
| Totals ...                               | 871   | (784) | 1281    | (1161) | 128    | (106) | 2280  | (2051) |

The above analysis of outstanding applications in family unit form, which includes the families in houses which have been represented as unfit, shows the housing needs of the Borough in a more reasonable light. A large proportion of the 1,281 tenants and 128 owners are probably adequately housed and may want, but not need a council house. Also only about 60% of the applications which are approved by the Housing Tenancies Committee as qualified to be housed by the Corporation, accept the accommodation offered by the Housing Manager.

Re-housing of the occupants of houses represented as unfit in clearance areas or as individual houses must be in "suitable alternative accommodation." Twenty-one families from these properties were re-housed in new council bungalows, flats or houses, 62 went into older, generally pre-war council houses, with lower rents, and many found private accommodation.

The Housing Manager arranged numerous transfers of tenancies during the year. The most useful of these, from the point of economic use of housing, were the transfer from 3, 4 or 5 bedroomed pre-war houses to modern flats or bungalows of elderly couples, widows or widowers, whose families have grown up and left home. Persuasion; always gentle, was the only method used.



Progress with slum clearance by the representation of unfit houses in clearance areas or as individual unfit houses has continued steadily and accommodation for those removed from future clearance areas, as well as for some of the waiting list, is planned near the centre of the town, on the sites of previous clearance areas. It is easy in theory, but not so easy in practise, to clear a site of slum property and build suitable dwellings on that site for the occupants of a neighbouring clearance area to occupy, when that clearance area order is confirmed. This co-operation is being attempted in the Frankwell area of the Borough. During 1959 most of the Corporation house building was on the outskirts of the town, Monkmoor estate being completed and Harlescott Grange estate was commenced. This estate will, when completed, contain approximately 800 houses.

It is considered that "filling in" of clearance areas, of spaces available on Council estates, and of small areas of land nearer the Borough centre, should be the next step in the Corporation's housing plan.

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. E. A. Andrews, has provided the following report for the year 1959 :—

|                           |     |     |     |       |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| "Number of Beds           | ... | ... | ... | 41    |
| Men paying weekly charge  | ... | ... | ... | 2,072 |
| Men paying nightly charge | ... | ... | ... | 316   |
| Daily average             | ... | ... | ... | 39    |

**Employment.**—Men engaged on the extension of an airfield at Shawbury and on the construction of railway sidings at Hook-a-gate account for about half the accommodation available. The remainder of the men, as in previous years, are engaged in a variety of employment.

**Television Set.**—Permission was granted for the men to rent a television set. The management of the set and control of viewing is in the hands of a small committee formed by the lodgers themselves. The committee is also responsible for the collection of the voluntary subscriptions which average about twenty men paying 1/- per week. No charge is made to retired men.

**Retirement Age.**—There are nine men of 65 years of age or over, three of whom continues in full time employment, three in part-time work, and the other three in complete retirement.

**Illness.**—Three lodgers were removed to hospital during the year."

Visits to the hostel have shown that a good standard of cleanliness is maintained in the building. Facilities are available for the men to do their own cooking, washing and ironing. Each man has a fly-proof food locker in the kitchen and a utensil locker for his crockery, and cooking utensils in the pantry. Hot and cold water is available. The cubicles are adequate in size, 9' × 5', with single beds,



chair and hanging space for clothes. Clothes drying facilities are available. Clean sheets are provided when a man signs in and sheets are changed once a week. The Superintendent closes the door at 11 p.m., but men can sign in and get a bed, if one is available, up to that time.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

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

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Dairies ... ..                  | 12 |
| Retail purveyors of milk ... .. | 49 |

#### Examination for Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on 3 samples—all of which were negative.

#### Turbidity Test

The 11 samples proved satisfactory. (This is the official test applied to sterilised milk).

#### Phosphatase Test

The 35 samples proved satisfactory.

#### Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and thirty-two samples were subjected to the Methylene blue test. Subsequent sampling in the case of eighteen adverse reports gave satisfactory results. One sample was declared void due to the high atmospheric temperature in the laboratory at the time of the test.

#### Ice Cream

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Premises registered for sale and manufacture ... | 1   |
| Premises registered for sale only ... ..         | 179 |
| Premises registered for store only ... ..        | 2   |

Twenty-four 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 |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 24             | 22      | 1        | 1         | —        |

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The 106 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 11 milk samples (all formal), 77 foods other than milk (2 formal and 75 informal), and 18 drugs (all informal).

Some 94 were returned as genuine and 12 as not genuine, of which 4 were milk and 8 food.

An additional 228 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. Twelve of these showed a fat content deficiency. Follow-up samples in the case of ten proved satisfactory, and further samples will be taken from the producer of the other two unsatisfactory samples.

The following tabulated statements give particulars of the articles sampled.

**(A) MILK**

|                           |     |     |    |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Number of milk samples... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Number found genuine ...  | ... | ... | 7  |
| Number found not genuine  | ... | ... | 4  |

Remarks on samples returned as not genuine:—

1. Fat 2.65%. Solids not fat 8.75%. Deficient of 12% of fat. ("Appeal to Cow" samples showed that cows were giving milk below the standard for fat. Referred to County Milk Production Officer.) Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
2. Fat 2.8%. Solids not fat 8.7%. Deficient of 7% of fat. ("Appeal to cow" samples showed that cows were giving milk below the standard for fat. Referred to County Milk Production Officer). Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
3. Fat 2.75%. Solids not fat 8.7%. Deficient of 8% of fat. ("Appeal to cow" samples showed that cows were giving milk above the standard for fat. Warning letter sent to retailer). Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
4. Fat 2.7%. Solids not fat 8.45%. Deficient of 10% of fat. No added water. Confirmed by freezing point test. ("Appeal to cow" sample showed that cows were giving milk in accordance with the standard for fat. Warning letter sent to producer/retailer).

**(B) FOOD**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of food samples (other than milk) | 77 |
| Number found genuine ...                 | 69 |
| Number found not genuine                 | 8  |

| Name and Number of Articles sampled | Informal |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Almond Essence ...                  | 1        |
| Almond Marzipan ...                 | 2        |
| Asparagus Soup ...                  | 1        |
| Beef and Kidney Pie ...             | 1        |
| Buttered Rum Truffles ...           | 1        |
| Butter-Scotch ...                   | 1        |
| Casserole Steak ...                 | 1        |



| Name and Number of articles sampled  | Informal |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Chocolate Marzipan ... ..            | 1        |
| Christmas Pudding ... ..             | 1        |
| Clotted Cream ... ..                 | 1        |
| Coffee ... ..                        | 1        |
| Coconut Spread ... ..                | 1        |
| Concentrated Peppermint ... ..       | 1        |
| Condensed Milk ... ..                | 1        |
| Cottage Cheese ... ..                | 1        |
| Curry Powder ... ..                  | 1        |
| Dietary Custard Powder ... ..        | 1        |
| Double Cream ... ..                  | 2        |
| Double Devon Cream ... ..            | 1        |
| Dried Peas ... ..                    | 6        |
| Evaporated Full Cream Milk ... ..    | 1        |
| Farm Butter ... ..                   | 2        |
| Fruit Lollies ... ..                 | 1        |
| Ginger Marmalade ... ..              | 1        |
| Glace Cherries ... ..                | 1        |
| Grapefruit... ..                     | 1        |
| Gravy Browning ... ..                | 1        |
| Hamburgers with Gravy ... ..         | 1        |
| Honey ... ..                         | 1        |
| Honey (Welsh) ... ..                 | 1        |
| Ice Cream ... ..                     | 5        |
| Indian Veal Curry ... ..             | 1        |
| Italian Peeled Tomatoes ... ..       | 1        |
| Jellied Eels ... ..                  | 1        |
| Lemon Pie Filling ... ..             | 1        |
| Malt Vinegar ... ..                  | 3        |
| Mandarine Oranges ... ..             | 1        |
| Margarine ... ..                     | 2        |
| Marmade (Prepared Oranges) ... ..    | 1        |
| Maxade (Lemon Drink Crystals) ... .. | 1        |
| Minced Beef ... ..                   | 1        |
| Minced Steak ... ..                  | 1        |
| Mint in Vinegar ... ..               | 1        |
| Mixed Pickles ... ..                 | 1        |
| Parsley Sauce ... ..                 | 1        |
| Peeled Tomatoes ... ..               | 1        |
| Pickled Beetroot ... ..              | 1        |
| Pineapple Chunks ... ..              | 1        |
| Pork and Beef Luncheon Meat ... ..   | 1        |
| Pork Sausage ... ..                  | 4        |
| Pure Lard ... ..                     | 1        |
| Rice ... ..                          | 1        |
| Sage and Onion Stuffing ... ..       | 1        |

| Name and Number of articles sampled      |     |     |     | Informal      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Sherbert Suckers                         | ... | ... | ... | 1             |
| Sliced Peaches                           | ... | ... | ... | 1             |
| Sterilised Cream                         | ... | ... | ... | 1             |
| Sweetened Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk | ... | ... | ... | 1             |
|  |     |     |     | <b>Formal</b> |
| Farm Butter                              | ... | ... | ... | 1             |
| Gin...                                   | ... | ... | ... | 1             |

#### Remarks on Samples returned as not genuine

1. Dried Peas. Contained 5 pellets of rat excreta.  
(Informal)
  2. Do. Contained 3 pellets of rat excreta.
  3. Do. Contained 3 pellets of rat excreta.
  4. Do. Contained 5 pellets of rat excreta.
  5. Do. Contained 6 pellets of rat excreta.
  6. Do. Contained 5 pellets of rat excreta.
- (Prosecution taken by Stoke-on-Trent City Council against the suppliers of the peas, who pleaded guilty, and were fined £30 and ordered to pay three guineas costs.)
7. Farm Butter. Water 25%. The standard for butter is that it shall not contain more than 16% of water. This sample contained 9% of water in excess of the standard. Warning letter sent to retailer.  
(Informal)
  8. Curry Powder. Package had been in contact with water. Rust on bottom of package, and some rust was mixed with the curry.  
(Informal)  
(Retailer withdrew from sale remainder of stock.)

#### (C) DRUGS

|                          |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of drug samples   | ... | ... | 18  |
| Number found genuine     | ... | ... | 18  |
| Number found not genuine | ... | ... | Nil |

| Name and number of articles sampled |     |     |     | Informal |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine      | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Aspirin Tablets                     | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Biskoids                            | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Bismuthated Magnesia                | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Calmo Rheumatic Tablets             | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Codeine Tablets                     | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Compound Syrup of Figs              | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Cough Mixture                       | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Cough Syrup                         | ... | ... | ... | 1        |
| Friars Balsam                       | ... | ... | ... | 2        |



| Name and number of articles sampled | Informal |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Indian Brandee ... ..               | 1        |
| Iron and Yeast Tonic Tablets ... .. | 1        |
| Nemakol ... ..                      | 1        |
| Painex Tablets ... ..               | 1        |
| Quinine and Cinnamon ... ..         | 1        |
| Seidlitz Powder ... ..              | 1        |
| Teething Jelly ... ..               | 1        |

### PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The abattoir in Roushill, which is owned and managed by the Corporation, and which is the only premises licensed as a slaughterhouse in the Borough, was built in 1912 and now deals with a throughput far in excess of that for which it was planned.

By modern standards it is badly sited, being practically in the centre of the town in an area which is subject to flooding.

The buildings are becoming dilapidated and are not designed for present day slaughtering procedure. The lairage, hanging space and storage facilities are inadequate. Welfare facilities for the staff employed are not considered to be up to present day standards.

In spite of these disadvantages 100% meat inspection is maintained and the standard of carcass dressing is considered high by the customers.

Plans are being prepared for the building of a new abattoir on a suitable site adjacent to the new live stock market near the northern boundary of the Borough.

This abattoir will be up to the standard set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for licensed slaughterhouses.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

|  | Cattle<br>exclud-<br>ing Cows | Cows  | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs   | Horses |
|--|-------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Number killed ... ..   | 11,488                        | 1,444 | 1,361  | 69,688                | 26,004 | —      |
| Number inspected ... ..  | 11,488                        | 1,444 | 1,361  | 69,688                | 26,004 | —      |
| <b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis<br/>and Cysticercel:</b>                                 |                               |       |        |                       |        |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned ...  | 4                             | 3     | 62     | 252                   | 84     | —      |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned ...                                   | 1,930                         | 205   | 18     | 2,751                 | 1,232  | —      |
| Percentage of the number in-<br>spected affected with disease<br>other than tuberculosis ... | 16.83                         | 14.40 | 5.88   | 4.31                  | 5.06   | —      |
| <b>Tuberculosis only:</b>  |                               |       |        |                       |        |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned ...  | 2                             | 2     | —      | —                     | 7      | —      |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned ...                                   | 324                           | 101   | —      | —                     | 254    | —      |
| Percentage of the number in-<br>spected affected with tuber-<br>culosis ... ..               | 2.84                          | 7.13  | —      | —                     | 1.00   | —      |
| <b>Cysticercosis:</b>  |                               |       |        |                       |        |        |
| Carcasses of which some part or<br>organ was condemned ...                                   | 22                            | —     | —      | —                     | —      | —      |
| Carcasses submitted for treat-<br>ment by refrigeration ...                                  | 22                            | —     | —      | —                     | —      | —      |
| Generalised and totally con-<br>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 52 tons 16 cwts., 71 lbs., given in the following table :—

## CARCASSES AND PARTS

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Beef ... ..            | 9,491 lbs.  |
| Veal ... ..            | 2,511 lbs.  |
| Mutton and Lamb ... .. | 11,236 lbs. |
| Pork ... ..            | 17,974 lbs. |
| OFFAL ... ..           | 77,131 lbs. |



There has been a steady decline in the amount of Tuberculosis found in carcasses inspected. The percentage affected for the last five years in cattle, excluding cows, had dropped from 10.56 in 1954, to 5.94 in 1958. The percentage of cows affected has also dropped from 22 to 8.34. The figures for pigs show a similar decline from 1.58 in 1954 to 1.06 in 1958.

As will be seen from the table above, the figures for 1959 show a continuation of this decline. The area in which most of the animals are produced became a tuberculosis eradication area on 1st March, 1959, and an attested area on 1st October, 1959. It is confidently expected that the amount of tuberculosis found in meat inspected at the abattoir in future will be very small.

### Unsound Food

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

|                    |     |     |                        |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Fish               | ... | ... | 457 lbs.               |
| Bacon and Ham      | ... | ... | 223 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. |
| Preserved Goods    | ... | ... | 2,180 tins and jars    |
| Cheese             | ... | ... | 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. |
| Sausage            | ... | ... | 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.  |
| Corned Beef        | ... | ... | 1,358 lbs.             |
| Meat               | ... | ... | 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.  |
| Potatoes           | ... | ... | 2,016 lbs.             |
| Dried Peas         | ... | ... | 658 lbs.               |
| Apples             | ... | ... | 600 lbs.               |
| Rice               | ... | ... | 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.  |
| Self Raising Flour | ... | ... | 24 lbs.                |
| Capsicum           | ... | ... | 23 lbs.                |
| Currants           | ... | ... | 23 lbs.                |
| Fruit              | ... | ... | 70 lbs.                |
| Sweets             | ... | ... | 5 lbs.                 |
| Sweet Cigarettes   | ... | ... | 72 packets             |
| Chickens           | ... | ... | 21                     |
| Ducks              | ... | ... | 3                      |
| Pork Pies          | ... | ... | 18                     |

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

It will be seen from the accompanying tables that 1959 was a measles year. The epidemic which started gradually in November, 1958, gained momentum early in 1959 and did not subside until early summer. There were no deaths attributed to measles during the year and only 2 out of 710 cases were admitted to hospital. The disease, according to the general practitioners, was unpleasant and of moderate severity, but most cases cleared satisfactorily without



recourse to antibiotics or sulphonamides. Complications and relapses were few.

Cases of scarlet fever and erysipelas continue to be notified in small numbers throughout the year. Investigation generally failed to show any closer link between cases than school contact of some member of the family. The cases of scarlet fever have been very mild and in children the patient occasionally answers the door to the inspector when he has come to make the routine enquiries. Possible sources of infection are still sought for and the prevention of spread of infection is still attempted. In this the medical officer and health inspectors are greatly helped by the general practitioner who has usually stopped contacts of this and other infectious diseases from work where this course is desirable, as is the case with food handlers, nurses, etc.

Cases of whooping cough were few, mostly occurring in the first quarter of the year. Two out of the 15 cases were under one year of age. The number of babies immunised against whooping cough is still too low, and immunisation at 3 months of age or even younger is recommended on the grounds that the disease may affect very young babies and is generally more dangerous in the infant than in the older child.

Cases of dysentery and food poisoning were not present in any numbers, although general practitioners reported quite a lot of "gastric flu" during the long hot summer. Laboratory reports on these cases were persistently negative for dysentery and food poisoning organisms, although the same laboratory gave positive reports on cases from a nearby borough.

Anterior poliomyelitis was virtually absent from the town. The one case notified arrived in the town suffering from poliomyelitis acquired elsewhere and no contact cases were found. The family, caravan dwellers, had not been immunised, but agreed to, and received, immunisation while still in the area. It is difficult to assess the proportion of inhabitants of the Borough immunised against "polio", but the response in the 15-25 age group was only fair. A large proportion of the children of the Borough are immunised, but it is not considered that the disease has been finally overcome. As with diphtheria it will require years of vigilance and a high immunisation rate finally to eradicate the disease.

Generally speaking the year, as far as the infectious diseases is concerned, was a satisfactory year. The amount of other illness in the town appeared to be considerable in the early months of the year, average in the summer and below average in the autumn and early winter.

Attention is drawn to the very satisfactory response to the offer of B.C.G. prevention vaccination and to the increased numbers of diphtheria immunisations. Unfortunately the number of smallpox vaccinations performed is still at approximately 55%.



**Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1959**  
(excluding Tuberculosis)

| MONTH         | Erysipelas | Scarlet<br>Fever | Acute<br>Pneumonia |            | Acute<br>Polio-myelitis<br>Paralytic | Measles | Whooping<br>Cough | Dysentery | Food Poi-soning | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia | Ophthalmia<br>Neonatorum |
|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|               |            |                  | Primary            | Influenzal |                                      |         |                   |           |                 |                      |                          |
| January ...   | 2          | 6                | 1                  | —          | —                                    | 14      | 4                 | —         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| February ...  | 1          | 4                | 3                  | 4          | —                                    | 208     | 2                 | 6         | —               | 1                    | 1                        |
| March ...     | —          | 2                | 5                  | 5          | —                                    | 198     | 3                 | 2         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| April ...     | 2          | 6                | 1                  | —          | —                                    | 188     | —                 | 1         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| May ...       | —          | 8                | —                  | —          | —                                    | 50      | —                 | 1         | —               | 2                    | —                        |
| June ...      | 1          | 7                | —                  | —          | —                                    | 32      | 2                 | —         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| July ...      | —          | 5                | —                  | —          | —                                    | 18      | —                 | —         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| August ...    | —          | 2                | —                  | 1          | —                                    | 1       | 1                 | 1         | —               | 1                    | —                        |
| September ... | —          | —                | —                  | —          | —                                    | —       | —                 | —         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| October ...   | —          | 6                | —                  | —          | 1                                    | 1       | 2                 | —         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| November ...  | 2          | 3                | —                  | 3          | —                                    | —       | 1                 | 1         | 2               | 1                    | —                        |
| December ...  | 1          | 4                | 2                  | —          | —                                    | —       | —                 | 2         | —               | —                    | —                        |
| Totals ...    | 9          | 53               | 12                 | 13         | 1                                    | 710     | 15                | 14        | 2               | 5                    | 1                        |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE  
YEAR, 1959

| 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 ... ..              | 9                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | 1        | 5        | 3            | —                               |
| Scarlet Fever... ..            | 53                       | —             | 1      | 5      | 34     | 13       | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Typhus Fever ... ..            | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Enteric Fever ... ..           | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..       | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..       | 5                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | 1        | 4        | —        | —            | 2                               |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..   | 1                        | 1             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | 1                               |
| Acute Poliomyelitis—           |                          |               |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |              |                                 |
| Paralytic ... ..               | 1                        | —             | —      | —      | 1      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | 1                               |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..           | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Pneumonia—                     |                          |               |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |              |                                 |
| Acute Primary ... ..           | 12                       | —             | —      | —      | 1      | 1        | —        | 1        | 3        | 6            | —                               |
| Acute Influenzal ... ..        | 13                       | —             | —      | 1      | —      | —        | 2        | 4        | 4        | 2            | 1                               |
| Meningococcal Infection ... .. | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Acute Encephalitis—            |                          |               |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |              |                                 |
| Infective ... ..               | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Post-infectious ... ..         | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Malaria ... ..                 | —                        | —             | —      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Dysentery ... ..               | 14                       | 2             | 2      | 4      | 1      | —        | 2        | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1                               |
| Measles ... ..                 | 710                      | 9             | 125    | 165    | 360    | 9        | 40       | 1        | 1        | —            | 2                               |
| Whooping Cough ... ..          | 15                       | 2             | 6      | 1      | 5      | —        | —        | 1        | —        | —            | 1                               |
| Food Poisoning ... ..          | 2                        | —             | 2      | —      | —      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —            | —                               |
| Totals ... ..                  | 835                      | 14            | 136    | 176    | 402    | 23       | 45       | 13       | 14       | 12           | 9                               |

**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           | 2  | —               | —  | —           | —  | —               | —  |
| 15—24 ... ..          | —           | 1  | —               | —  | —           | —  | —               | —  |
| 25—34 ... ..          | 2           | 1  | —               | —  | 1           | —  | —               | —  |
| 35—44 ... ..          | 5           | 2  | —               | —  | —           | —  | —               | —  |
| 45—54 ... ..          | 1           | 1  | —               | 1  | 1           | 1  | —               | —  |
| 55—64 ... ..          | 2           | —  | —               | —  | —           | —  | —               | —  |
| 65 and upwards ... .. | 2           | —  | —               | —  | 1           | —  | —               | —  |
| Totals ... ..         | 13          | 7  | —               | 1  | 3           | 1  | —               | —  |



The four deaths from Tuberculosis were of notified cases.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate for the year was 0.08 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.04 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 1959.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination

|  |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of children in age group selected | ... | ... | 1,425 |
| Number accepting vaccination             | ... | ... | 1,356 |
| Number found positive                    | ... | ... | 194   |
| Number found negative                    | ... | ... | 1,053 |
| Number vaccinated with B.C.G.            | ... | ... | 1,043 |
| Number converted to positive             | ... | ... | 1,067 |

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

|                       |                          |     | Immunisations |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Pre-School Children : | At Clinic                | ... | 352           |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | 228           |
| School Children :     | At Clinic                | ... | 9             |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | 15            |
| Total                 |                          |     | <u>604</u>    |

|       |                          |     |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
|       |                          |     | Reinforcing<br>Injection |
|       | At Clinic                | ... | 128                      |
|       | By General Practitioners | ... | 63                       |
| Total |                          |     | <u>191</u>               |

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation

|                       |                          |     |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|------------|
| Pre-School Children : | At Clinic                | ... | 326        |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | 189        |
| School Children :     | At Clinic                | ... | —          |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | 9          |
| Total                 |                          |     | <u>524</u> |

**Tetanus**

|                       |                          |     |     |     |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Pre-School Children : | At Clinic                | ... | ... | ... | 2          |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | ... | ... | 73         |
| School Children :     | At Clinic                | ... | ... | ... | 4          |
|                       | By General Practitioners | ... | ... | ... | 22         |
|                       | Total                    | ... | ... | ... | <u>101</u> |

**Vaccination (Smallpox)**

|                  |                                   |                             |     |     |            |     |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| Primary          | Children under<br>1 year of age : | At Clinic                   | ... | ... | ...        | 259 |
|                  |                                   | By General Practitioners... | ... | ... | ...        | 176 |
|                  | Others :                          | At Clinic                   | ... | ... | ...        | 17  |
|                  |                                   | By General Practitioners... | ... | ... | ...        | 55  |
|                  | Total                             | ...                         | ... | ... | <u>507</u> |     |
| Re-Vaccination : | At Clinic                         | ...                         | ... | ... | 11         |     |
|                  | By General Practitioners...       | ...                         | ... | ... | 136        |     |
|                  | Total                             | ...                         | ... | ... | <u>147</u> |     |

**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 ... .. 121

Disinfection carried out after Tuberculosis ... 2

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

The type of infestation was as undermentioned :—

Bugs ... .. 6 houses

Fleas ... .. 1 house

**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 ... .. 54

Private dwelling-houses ... .. 4

No major infestation was discovered.

The Rodent operative made 1,458 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.

## SHREWSBURY OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

Notes on the activities of the Committee.

### Friendly Visiting Service

It is difficult to be sure that all old people in need of social contact have been discovered, but the fact that fewer and fewer old people are found to be without friends, suggests that the public relations work carried out by the Committee has been successful. It is proposed to revise the lists compiled three years ago, at the time of the original Survey. Broadly speaking, the object of the Committee's publicity is to revise or re-establish a spirit of neighbourliness towards the aged. In this endeavour, efforts have been made to awaken public concern, to recruit friendly visitors and to seek out the lonely. The age at which admission to Old People's Homes is sought has risen during the past few years; moreover those who seek admission are less able than they used to be. Old people are getting out more. Clubs are flourishing and many Outings are being organised, both for those who are active and for those who are not. The Friendly Visiting Service remains the most difficult of the Committee's activities, but there is no doubt that it is having an impact, and as it grows, it will be of immeasurable value.

### Courses for Voluntary Workers

A second course under the auspices of the King George VI Social Service Scheme was held in Shrewsbury in November/December, 1959. This was well attended and much enjoyed.

### Old People's Holidays

Shropshire Old People's Welfare Committee again arranged holidays for old people at Llandudno, Weston-Super-Mare and Blackpool. Once again, many Shrewsbury old people took advantage of these facilities. Unfortunately, the charges made by Hoteliers are now very much higher than they were when the first schemes were started; but on the other hand, many Clubs and Organisations have "Holiday Clubs" which not only help the old people to save the money required, but also provide an additional "interest" all the year round. There is no doubt that these holidays are greatly enjoyed and are of immense benefit.



### **Chiropody Scheme**

The number of old people who benefit from the scheme varies from time to time, but is between 250 and 300. Of these, about 5% are treated by the Chiropodists in their own homes. In some cases, patients who have been treated at home, recover sufficiently to be transported by the Red Cross and finally, in one or two cases, are able to make their way to the Chiropodist with a friend. There can be no doubt that this scheme has proved of inestimable value.

### **Boarding Out Scheme**

The three-year experimental period, financed by the Nuffield Trust, has now come to an end. A small balance remained which, with the assistance of a grant from the Welfare Committee, has made it possible to continue with the scheme for another year. Many enquiries pass through the hands of the Boarding Out Officer and although she has not always been able to help, her advice and suggestions have been of great comfort to old people in difficulties about accommodation.

Accommodation still seems to lie at the root of most of the old people's troubles. Either they live in houses too big for them, too expensive or with too much garden ; or they are faced with repairs and renovations which they cannot afford to pay for. Families and friends disperse and they have no one to whom they can turn. Some find that they cannot do what they used to do and they become "worried" and "sorry for themselves." If the helping hand were there, to fetch coals, hang curtains or tidy the garden, they could continue to live independently.

The Old People's Welfare Committee hopes to organise a "Handyman Scheme" in the near future, so that some of these jobs can be tackled. Indeed several worth-while tasks have already been done, and the Committee hopes to add gradually to its force of helpers prepared to go the "extra mile."

### **Workshop Scheme**

In December, 1959, it was possible to open an experimental workshop in Priory House. Although Priory House is scheduled for demolition in the near future, the Estates Department agreed to allow the Committee to rent a basement flat for the time being ; it was felt that this would give an opportunity to test the demand for, and progress of such an enterprise in Shrewsbury.

A grant of £100 was promised by the County Welfare Committee if the Borough Council was also approached.

Since the workshop was opened, eight old people have enrolled, two men and six women, and have attended regularly on the two days on which the workshop was open. There is no doubt that they have improved in spirits and in health and that they look forward eagerly to Tuesdays and Fridays.



A variety of work has been done. Envelopes have been addressed for the Flower Show literature. Repairs and alterations to clothing have been carried out. Local business houses have sent curtains to be made, and have expressed themselves as pleased with the finished product.

So far, the men's activities have been restricted to woodwork.

We have been fortunate in securing the services of a voluntary worker as Supervisor and this lady would no doubt be prepared to make the Workshop Scheme a full time job if circumstances warranted this.

In Shrewsbury, it would seem that there is plenty of work available and many welcome gifts have been received. The Committee hoped therefore, that the old folks themselves will see the value of the scheme and give it their full support.

### **Shropshire Old People's "Week" and Festival**

The Old People's "Week" organised by Shropshire Old People's Welfare Committee has now become an Annual Event. The Vicar of St. Chad's agreed to organise a special afternoon Service for old people and their friends. This was well attended and much appreciated. The British Red Cross Society provided tea and biscuits for old people who attended from outside the Borough, or who came from some distance from the Church.

Shrewsbury is deeply involved in the "three-day Festival" which takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the "Week" in the Music Hall.

The Festival was attended by many thousands of people and served as a meeting place for old people from all parts of the County.

Old People's "Week" and the Festival are unique in providing both an opportunity and a demonstration of the value of co-operative effort in dealing with the "Problem of Old Age."

## INDEX

|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Abattoir, Public ... ..                   | 33   |
| Area of Borough ... ..                    | 6    |
| Births ... ..                             | 10   |
| Closet Accommodation ... ..               | 16   |
| Complaints received ... ..                | 19   |
| Deaths ... ..                             | 11   |
| Deaths, Causes of ... ..                  | 12   |
| Deaths, Infant ... ..                     | 13   |
| Diphtheria Immunisation ... ..            | 39   |
| Disinfection and Disinfestation... ..     | 40   |
| Drainage ... ..                           | 16   |
| Factory Acts ... ..                       | 24   |
| Food and Drugs Acts ... ..                | 29   |
| Housing ... ..                            | 26   |
| Housing, Corporation Estates ... ..       | 27   |
| Ice Cream ... ..                          | 29   |
| Inspection and Supervision of Food ... .. | 29   |
| Infectious and Other Diseases ... ..      | 35   |
| Milk Supply ... ..                        | 29   |
| Municipal Hostel ... ..                   | 28   |
| National Assistance Acts ... ..           | 41   |
| Old People's Welfare Committee ... ..     | 41   |
| Pest Destruction ... ..                   | 40   |
| Population ... ..                         | 10   |
| Public Cleansing ... ..                   | 16   |
| Rateable Value ... ..                     | 6    |
| Sanitary Circumstances of Area ... ..     | 14   |
| Sanitary Inspection ... ..                | 17   |
| Sewerage ... ..                           | 16   |
| Staff ... ..                              | 3    |
| Statistics, General ... ..                | 6    |
| Statistics, Vital ... ..                  | 9    |
| Stillbirths ... ..                        | 10   |
| Swimming Baths ... ..                     | 16   |
| Tuberculosis ... ..                       | 38   |
| Water Supply ... ..                       | 15   |
| Weather Conditions ... ..                 | 7    |
| Whooping Cough Immunisation ... ..        | 39   |
| Vaccination ... ..                        | 39   |



