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1

Borough of Shrewsbury



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REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

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Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS (Chairman)

ALDERMAN H. R. BECKETT	COUNCILLOR F. G. A. FULLWELL
ALDERMAN MISS E. BEDDARD	COUNCILLOR E. F. HALL
ALDERMAN J. F. BURGESS	COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL
COUNCILLOR E. T. DAWSON	COUNCILLOR H. JELICOE-WALL
COUNCILLOR MRS. G. I. DYAS	COUNCILLOR G. T. I. MARSTON
COUNCILLOR W. R. G. FARR	COUNCILLOR L. McDONALD

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

*J. INNES, Cert. R.S.A.S.

*J. B. JONES, Cert. R.S.I.

*B. N. HEATON, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (commenced 1st May, 1964)

Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS

Clerk

F. R. WOOTTON

Abattoir Superintendent

*W. G. HUNTER, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (commenced 27th June, 1964)

Assistant Meat Inspectors

*J. T. GRIFFITHS, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

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

PART-TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer

R. GRAY

Public Analyst

J. G. SHERRATT, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

* Qualified Meat Inspectors.

¶ Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH CENTRE,
MURIVANCE,
SHREWSBURY.

July, 1965.

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 1964.

The population of the Borough has continued to increase and was estimated at 51,130, with a population density of 6.3 persons per acre. It is noted that this year the excess of births over deaths accounts for most of the increase of population.

During the year the department was fully staffed except during short periods between members of staff leaving and their replacements arriving.

Early in the year Mr. Edge, the Superintendent of the Abattoir, an old and trusted servant of the Corporation was advised, on medical grounds, to resign his appointment. He asked to continue to work for the Corporation as meat inspector. The Committee agreed that this was a wise decision. Mr. W. G. Hunter was appointed to the vacant post of abattoir superintendent.

The official opening of the abattoir took place in April and was shortly followed by that of the redesigned sewage works.

A boundary commission was held by the Salop County Council during the year and this report may be the last written about the mediaeval town of Shrewsbury as defined by the 1933 commission.

In his annual report for 1934, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. D. Symons, wrote: "As this is the last Health report that will be written concerning the Borough of Shrewsbury as defined by the boundaries which have remained unaltered for 100 years, I have thought that at the close of this chapter in Shrewsbury's history we might glance back at the past to see what was and what is now, and so be encouraged to go on improving the condition of things for the welfare of the community which has now been increased by the extension of our boundaries".

I feel it is of interest to mention some of the events which were considered to be landmarks then, add one or two more, and comment from a medical-social angle on some differences between 1933-1964.

The year 1910 will always be marked down as a great year in Shrewsbury's health history, as in that year Bell's pressure filters having been installed in the waterworks in 1909, the cases of typhoid fever which had averaged nine per annum, with an average of two deaths over the previous ten years, fell to an average of less than one case per annum, with only one death in the next ten years.

In 1933 no case of diphtheria occurred in Shrewsbury. This was an unprecedented event not repeated until 1948. The last notified case occurred in 1950, but immunisation against diphtheria is still considered to be essential. Scarlet fever, a killer of 79 in 1877, although still present in a modified form, has not the virulence to which those in practise before 1939 were accustomed.

The figures for infant mortality show, not only the efficiency of maternal and ante-natal care, but also the healthiness of the inhabitants. In 1910 this figure fell below 100 for the first time and only twice afterwards was that figure exceeded (1911 and 1914). In 1922, fifty was "broken" for the first time, in 1933 the figure was forty-four and the teens were entered in 1950, when eighteen deaths per 1,000 was achieved. The present lowest rate was thirteen in 1963, and it is hoped that single figures will soon be the order of the day.

In the field of social legislation, 1937 saw the passing of the Factories Act. This Act consolidated several previous regulations and made regulations for the medical supervision of persons working in factories. It laid down special provisions for the health, safety and welfare of workers in all factories. The obvious sequel to this Act, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, became law in 1964.

In 1933 the Medical Officer of Health mentioned that Shrewsbury was classified by virtue of the acceptance of our daily meteorological readings by the leading London papers as a "Health Resort". Dr. Symons asked why she should not at some future time claim recognition as a spa by virtue of the well known mineral spring at Sutton Spa.

This year a new attractions and publicity campaign has started with a summer show in the Quarry which may become as well known as the flower show.

* * *

The work of the department has continued in its rather unspectacular way as shown by the tables of visits made by the health inspectors. Results from this work are generally not as obvious as the results of the activities of some other departments, but the standard of food hygiene throughout the town has improved over the years and "slum property" is, more or less, a thing of the past. Much credit is due to the patient, often unexciting, work of the health inspectorate.

Co-operation has once again been excellent from other departments. The Public Health Laboratory Service has always been ready to help where bacteriological or virological problems have had to be solved and the hospital service has been most co-operative. Once again, as your Medical Officer I have been fortunate in not having to deal with any serious outbreaks. It is impossible to claim any credit for this, but one can only hope that by persevering with methods known to be effective, by constant watchfulness, and here I have the good will of the General Medical Practitioners of the

borough to thank, by health education and by maintaining a high level of immunity and good resistance among the population that such infection as does occur will not be unduly serious.

I have to thank the staff of the Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,
A. C. MACKENZIE.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1964

Rateable Value of the Borough	...	...	...	...	£2,370,560
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£9,610
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres	...	...	...	...	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1964)	...	...	...	...	51,130
Persons per acre calculated on above population	...	...	...	...	6.3
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1964)	...	...	...	...	16,091
		MALE	FEMALE		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	470	429	} Total	...
	{ Illegitimate	35	28		
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	18.8
Stillbirths :					
Number	...	...	...	...	12
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	12.3
Total Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	974
Deaths	...	...	...	...	579
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.3
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	17
INFANT MORTALITY RATES					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	17.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	16.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	31.7
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	14.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	11.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	23.6
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)					
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	89
,, Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past thirty-five 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 1964 may be summarised as follows :—

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 18.81 inches, compared with 20.84, 23.46 and 23.27 in the previous years respectively. This was the lowest rainfall recorded during the existence of the present Climatological Station.

The average rainfall over the last 35 years was 25.76 inches.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,291.5 hours, compared with 1,320.0, 1,320.4 and 1,342.2 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 35 years was 1,350.8 hours.

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

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), August 26th, 80°F.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 31st, September 11th, 61°F.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), December 18th, 30° F.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), December 29th, 16° F.

Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1964

1964 Month	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F				SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES			
	Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date	Mean Temperatures	Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest Fall in one Day	Total Rainfall
Jan. ...	42.7	53° on 31st	33.5	22° on 14th and 17th	38.1	6.5 on 24th	1.61	50.0	12	.09 on 27th	.49
Feb. ...	45.1	56° on 27th	35.4	21° on 6th	40.2	7.9 on 5th	1.90	55.2	14	.31 on 23rd	.91
Mar. ...	44.6	54° on 20th	34.7	23° on 8th	39.6	9.9 on 26th	1.98	61.3	18	.60 on 24th	2.26
April ...	54.9	67° on 27th	41.1	29° on 7th	48.0	10.3 on 5th	4.10	123.0	17	.31 on 20th	1.32
May ...	64.9	74° on 26th and 27th	47.7	37° on 15th	56.3	13.2 on 14th	6.14	190.4	14	.29 on 31st	1.58
June ...	64.1	77° on 26th	50.0	40° on 20th	57.0	11.4 on 20th	4.17	125.1	16	.44 on 1st	1.60
July ...	68.6	75° on 16th and 24th	53.3	39° on 6th	60.9	10.7 on 1st	4.59	142.3	11	.34 on 20th	1.64
Aug. ...	68.6	80° on 26th	51.2	34° on 31st	59.9	12.7 on 26th	5.52	171.0	12	.37 on 18th	1.34
Sept. ...	66.6	73° on 2nd, 4th and 23rd	47.6	36° on 21st	57.1	10.8 on 1st	5.13	153.9	8	.32 on 15th	.96
Oct. ...	55.5	64° on 3rd and 4th	39.3	28° on 13th	47.4	8.8 on 1st	3.47	107.6	17	.66 on 5th	2.29
Nov. ...	50.7	59° on 17th and 19th	40.2	24° on 30th	45.4	6.7 on 15th	1.82	54.5	13	.37 on 30th	1.46
Dec. ...	44.0	58° on 12th	31.6	16° on 29th	37.8	5.8 on 25th	1.84	57.2	23	.90 on 12th	2.96
								1291.5			18.81

VITAL STATISTICS
1964 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths				
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages		
				Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Crude Rate	Adjusted
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
1960 ...	49,250	786	15.9	13	16	513	10.4	10.3
1961 ...	49,810	877	17.6	26	30	590	11.8	11.9
1962 ...	50,120	869	17.3	23	26	602	12.0	12.6
1963 ...	50,710	902	17.8	12	13	627	12.3	12.8
1964 ...	51,130	962	18.8	17	18	579	11.3	11.7

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1964, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 51,130 compared with 50,710 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1964 was 962, compared with 902, 869 and 877 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 18.8 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.8, 17.3 and 17.6 in the previous years respectively.

Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 18.0.

The 962 births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male	...	470	35	} 962
Female	...	429	28	

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 Births
England and Wales	...	...	...	18.4
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	18.0

Illegitimate Births

There were 63 illegitimate births, compared with 38, 44 and 34 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 1.23 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 6.5 of the total live births.

This percentage for England and Wales for 1964 was 7.2 compared with an average of 6 for the preceding five years, so that the increased rate for Shrewsbury is part of a general increase throughout England and Wales.

Stillbirths

There were 12 stillbirths, compared with 17, 23 and 20 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.2 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 1.2 of the total births.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1964

CAUSES OF DEATH	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT												
	Male	Female	under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
	303	276	14	3	3	3	6	10	12	36	104	168	220
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	9	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	25	27	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	14	19	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes	6	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous System... ..	48	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	11	34	42
Coronary Disease, Angina	79	44	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	11	26	39	45
Hypertension with Ht. Disease	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Other Heart Disease	18	39	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	5	12	36
Other Circulatory Disease	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	6
Influenza	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	14	33	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	9	31
Bronchitis	22	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	9	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	5	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	24	34	12	2	—	—	1	—	3	6	3	15	16
M.T. Vehicle Accidents	4	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1
All other Accidents	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Suicide	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	5	—	—
Homicide and operations of War... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 579, compared with 627, 602 and 590 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 579 deaths, 303 were males and 276 females.

The crude death rate was 11.3 but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 11.7.

Of the 579 deaths, 388 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 469 of the 579 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

(1) Heart disease... ..	188
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System including Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	106
(3) Cancer (including Leukaemia)	89
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respira- tory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis	86

There were 9 deaths from suicide and 7 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 17 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 6 deaths of children one to fourteen years of age.

It is noted that there is a lower number of deaths attributed to cancer, although of these malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus show a slight increase.

It is noted that the proportion of deaths in which 65 has been reached or exceeded is less than last year, being 67% against 70%.

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

	Death rate per 1,000 population
England and Wales	11.3
Shrewsbury	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 17, compared with 12, 23 and 26 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 18 per 1,000 live births, compared with 13, 27 and 30 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	...	...	20.0
Shrewsbury	...	...	17.7

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

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity... ..	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury... ..	1	4	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Causes	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals	4	7	3	—	—	14	1	2	—	—	17

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

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

"At the commencement of the year under review, the Order forming the West Shropshire Water Board came into operation. The appointed day for its formal constitution being the 1st February, 1964, and the day of transfer the 1st April, 1964. The Constituent Authorities are the Municipal Boroughs of Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bishop's Castle ; the Urban District Councils of Church Stretton, Ellesmere ; and the Rural District Councils of Clun, Oswestry, Atcham and Ellesmere.

The Shelton Head Works supply, which is still related to the Shrewsbury Area with small additional areas immediately outside the Borough Boundary, have supplied the whole of the Borough's water requirements, free of all restrictions during the year 1964. The average daily quantity supplied (average for 366 days) amounted to 2,752,480 gallons, which was equivalent to 53.64 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 3,939,000 gallons on the 26th May, 1964.

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

During the year the practice of making routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from household supplies was maintained, 190 chemical and 320 bacteriological examinations were made of such samples, and all were found to be sterile. The water supply in general has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for water supplies in this country.

Progress was made in the planning of the large scale extensions to the Head Works authorised under the Shrewsbury Water Order 1962, whilst certain of the electrical installation works in connection therewith were commenced, also the Distribution Works, which comprised the construction of a 21" diameter prestressed concrete trunk main along the A.5 by-pass from the Main Works, was completed and brought into use. This, together with the completion of the 21" diameter prestressed concrete pumping main from the intake station to the Main Works towards the latter part of the year, greatly assisted the efficiencies of the supply.

Monitoring for the estimation of radio activity in the air, river water and final water, was continued during the year. The results obtained to date are within the accepted standards as laid down by the Medical Research Council."

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1964 is as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	16,091
Total number of houses with Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	16,073
Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	18

SHELTON WATER SUPPLY
Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1964

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 Aerogenes Organisms per 100 mls.	180+	180+	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Probable Number of Bact. Coli Type I per 100 mls. ...	180+	180+	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 37°C. ...	7,288	45	4	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	9,072	28	4	Nil	4	Nil	1	Nil
Colour (Hazenscale) ...	1,200	16	2	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH ...	8.4	6.54	6.9	6.15	8.4	7.1	8.3	7.0
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) ...	128	38	98	18	110	48	110	32
Chloride (Cl) ...	54	15	40	18	56	18	54	16
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.625	0.065	—	—	—	—	0.045	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	9.20	0.96	2.10	0.52	1.08	Nil	0.88	Nil
Permanent Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	68	2.0	62	22	60	18	52	20
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	152	50	140	58	138	84	128	66
Free Residual Chlorine ...	Nil	Nil	0.80	0.10	0.65	0.05	0.35	0.01
Total Residual Chlorine ...	Nil	Nil	1.25	0.15	0.90	0.10	0.45	0.08

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Chemical Analysis expressed in Milligrams per Litre

Swimming Baths

There are two 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 24 occasions. Of these, five were unsatisfactory. Occasionally excess chlorine was found in the water and a few complaints were received.

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 main sewerage system	... ..	2

Extensions or alterations: The main drainage extensions consist of those required to service land being developed including, Heath Farm Estate, Glenburn Gardens, Crowmere redevelopment of temporary bungalow sites, and the laying of a sewer alongside the Severn Valley Railway to connect Sutton Farm Estate to the south-eastern outfall sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—There have been no major changes in refuse collection and disposal. Sites for future tipping are being explored”.

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1964 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough	... ..	16,091
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers	... ..	15,801
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks...	... ..	206
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets	... ..	84

The original sewage works constructed in 1900 consisted of six rectangular settling tanks, the effluent from which was treated by land filtration over approximately 70 acres of land before discharge into the Severn. This works dealt with a population of 20,000.

Detritus channels and a chlorinating plant were subsequently added, but with the growth of the borough population it has long been realised that the plant was inadequate.

In 1957 plans for the construction of a new sewage works were approved in outline by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Work on a new plant commenced in March 1962, and the new plant was officially opened on 29th June, 1964.

The new works have been designed for a contributing population of 61,000 and a flow of 2,750,000 gallons a day, and a further 50% increase of flow can be accommodated by making use of the ample space in the layout for additional settling tanks, filters, etc.

The sewage is first screened through a mechanically raked screen. Screenings are washed into a disintegrator and discharged after maceration back into the main channel down stream.

Flows in excess of six times the dry weather flow (6D.W.F.) discharge over a weir and pass into the River Severn. The rate of flow is decreased in the detritor which consists of a 24 ft. diameter flat bottomed tank where road grit and other heavy inorganic material settles and is scraped off the bottom by rotating scrapers.

In order that the sedimentation tanks and filters should not be overloaded, flows in excess of 3 D.W.F. are discharged over a weir into storm water tanks and held there until the flow is more normal when the contents are released into the main channel.

The main channel leads to sedimentation tanks and the rate of flow is again slowed. The deposit, mostly organic material in these tanks, or sludge, is scraped mechanically into a central conical hopper and removed hydrostatically to the sludge pumping station. The effluent from the sedimentation tanks next flows to the percolating filters.

Eight percolating filters are provided, each 150 feet 0 inches in diameter fed by filter distributors which are driven by water turbines.

The filtering media consists of a 2 foot 0 inches layer of 2 inches nominal blast furnace slag on a 1 foot 11 inches layer of 2 inches nominal basalt which in turn is on an average 1 foot 3 inches thick layer of 3 inches-5 inches grade basalt. In the course of time the surface of the filtering media is covered with a slimy layer of algae, etc., by which the organic impurities in the sewage are broken down and oxidised to serve as a source of food for the biological life. After passing over the filtering media the effluent now with most of its organic impurities broken down and oxygenated, settles again in humus tanks, where the remaining solids are deposited. The effluent then passes to the point of discharge into the Severn, except that if the flow is still past $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the D.W.F. some is recirculated through the percolating filters for further oxidisation.

The sludge is subjected to drying in sludge consolidation tanks and then gradually digested by heating. The methane gas given off in this process is used to provide fuel for the sludge heaters and for the central heating of the administration block. The digested sludge is then pumped onto the land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. C. Stanley, reports as follows :—

Complaints received during the Year

There were 638 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Housing Defects	52
Defective Dustbins	1
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers	159
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	20
Relative to Unsound Food	77
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs and Fleas	—
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations	188
(c) Beetles, Crickets and other Insects	48
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	2
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	5
Emission of Smoke	9
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	5
Miscellaneous	72
Total	638

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	546
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts	1,471
Infected Dwelling-houses :—	
(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ...	33
(b) Contacts	11
(c) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations	—
Business Premises, including Offices	50
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls	5
Factories Act, 1961 :—	
Factories with mechanical power	111
Factories without mechanical power	12
Works of building construction	4
Outworkers' premises	5
Offensive Trade Premises... ..	4
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals	56
Houses let in Lodgings	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds	161
Drainage :—	
Inspection and Examination	465
Testing	61
Public Sewers... ..	341
Smoke Nuisances	35
Smoke Observations	160
Smoke Control Area	28
Watercourses and Ditches	81
Land and Tips	81
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals... ..	26
Water Supplies	18

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Rats and Mice	326
(b) Bug Infestations	—
(c) Beetles	—
(d) Other Vermin	48
(e) Disinfestations	15
Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—	
Unfit Meat and Other Foods	414
Market Stalls	140
Butchers' Shops	94
Bakehouses	35
Factory Canteens	24
Restaurant Kitchens, etc.	196
Licensed Premises	94
School Kitchens	23
Hospital Kitchens	12
Other Premises	534
Section 16 Premises :—	
Sausage Manufacturers, etc.	22
Fish Frying Premises	17
Ice Cream Premises	145
Milk Sampling :—	
(a) Methylene Blue, etc.	165
(b) Chemical	24
Milk Shops and Dairies	96
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than Milk) for Chemical Analysis	79
Food Vehicles	16
Food Poisoning Investigations	1
Shops Act, 1950	581
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	2,089
Pet Animals Act, 1951	59
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	38
Sanitary Accommodation at Farms	—
Welfare of Aged Persons	2
Visits not Inspections	766
Miscellaneous Visits	284
Total Visits by Public Health Inspectors	10,109

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	Offices etc Act.	Food and Drugs Act 1955	Factories Act, 1961	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served	29	42	17	5	2
Number of Informal Notices complied with	22	—	13	3	1
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	23	42	12	3	3
Number of Statutory Notices served	24	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	13	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	18	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	—	1	—	—

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, came into operation during the year.

Registration of premises, under the provision of Section 49, began on the 1st May. Anyone employing persons on that date, in premises covered by the Act, was required to register by the 31st July, 1964.

A street-by-street survey of premises likely to come within the scope of the Act was instituted. Much interesting data concerning various aspects of public health work was obtained in the process.

There was a flood of applications for registration assisted, no doubt, by a certain amount of publicity given to this new legislation.

The following statistics give an indication of the work carried out from the 1st May until the end of the year.

Table A—Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection
Offices	311	303	50
Retail Shops	426	417	11
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	38	39	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	82	81	Nil
Fuel storage depots ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	857	840	64

Table B—Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

Total ... 191

Table C—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	2,882
Retail Shops	2,959
Wholesale departments, warehouses	393
Catering establishments open to the public	708
Canteens	60
Fuel storage depots	1
Total	7,003
Total Males	2,792
Total Females	4,211

Number of visits made in street-by-street survey ... 1,898

Analysis of Unsatisfactory Conditions Found

Lack of cleanliness	69
Overcrowding	6
Absence of thermometer or unsatisfactory heating facilities	36
Inadequate ventilation...	15
Unsatisfactory lighting	30
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences ...	19
Inadequate or unsatisfactory washing facilities	38
Absence of drinking water	2
Inadequate clothing accommodation	11
Inadequate eating facilities	2
Inadequately fenced machinery	5
Defective floors and staircases	101
Infringements regarding regulations on health and safety...	9
Dangerous conditions and practices	70
Absence of adequate first-aid facilities	30
Number of informal notices served	42

All four Public Health Inspectors, and one Technical Assistant, were appointed to enforce the Act. One other member of the staff was engaged for the majority of his time on work relative to this statute.

**Sanitary Improvements Effectuated at Dwelling-houses as a Result of
Statutory and Informal Notices Issued**
(Number of premises, 26)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains	1
Choked drains	2
Insufficient closet accommodation	—
Absence of proper sink	—
Defective water closets	6
Defective gullies	1
Defective sink	—
Defective sink waste pipes	—
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	2
Burst water pipes	—
Insufficient water supply... ..	1
Defective soil pipes	2
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs	7
Defective eaves-gutters	2
Defective down-spouts	1
Defective brickwork and pointing	4
Defective damp-proof courses	—
Defective yard paving	—
Defective chimney flues	—
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	1
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	5
Defective floors	1
Defective stairs	1
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	8
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	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	1
Miscellaneous	4

Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Conditions
Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts) ...	11	8	3
Restaurant Kitchens	6	4	2
Bakehouses	—	—	—
Other Food Preparation Premises ...	2	1	1
Butchers' Shops	3	1	2
Hotel Bars	2	1	1
Business Premises... ..	1	1	—
Factories (Factories Act, 1961) ...	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.)... ..	—	—	—
Shops (Shops Act)	—	—	—
Dairies	1	—	1
Smoke Nuisances	8	7	1
Caravans	—	—	—
Rat Infestation	—	—	—

FACTORY ACT, 1961

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...	10	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	234	111	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	19	4	—	—
Total	263	127	5	—

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

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (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. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Packing plastic hair curlers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING**Building Progress during 1964**

Houses erected by Local Authority	152	} 405
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	253	

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

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1,014
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	53
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...	26

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

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices	27
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Representations were made in respect of two Clearance Areas, involving some thirty-five houses.

Eighteen individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost. A similar procedure was followed regarding six council-owned dwellings.

One hundred and six unfit houses were demolished during the year, and five houses coming within the same category were closed.

The Council approved thirty discretionary grants and eighteen standard grants.

Standard Grant

A standard grant is made to an owner for providing :—

- (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom ;
- (b) a wash-hand basin ;
- (c) a water closet, in or contiguous to and, if possible, entered from within the dwelling ;
- (d) a hot water supply at a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, at a wash-hand basin and at a sink ; and
- (e) a food store ;

or such of these items as are not already in the property.

The Corporation cannot refuse to make a standard grant if the applicant owns the freehold or has a leasehold interest with at least fifteen years to run and the dwelling will be fit to live in for fifteen years after the work has been done, and will be used as housing accommodation for that period. If the dwelling is let, it is the owner's responsibility to obtain the tenant's agreement in writing to the proposed improvement, but it is the Corporation's duty to ensure that the applicant is the owner or lessee as the case may be. The grant an owner can expect to receive is half the cost of providing such of those items listed in (a) to (e) above as are lacking subject to an upper limit in respect of each item (e.g. a maximum of £155 if all items are lacking—a maximum of £40 if a water closet is lacking).

Discretionary Grant

For an owner to obtain a discretionary grant, again he must own the freehold or have a leasehold interest with at least fifteen years to run, and the dwelling, when improved, must have a useful life of thirty years (but as low as fifteen years if, having regard to all the circumstances, it is considered expedient), and must be kept for housing accommodation during that period. Before the Council may make a discretionary grant they must also be satisfied that the dwelling, after improvement, will comply with what is known as "the twelve point standard," i.e. it must :—

- (1) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp ;
- (2) have each room properly lighted and ventilated ;
- (3) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on in the dwelling ;
- (4) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes ;
- (5) have an internal water closet if practicable, otherwise a readily accessible outside water closet ;

- (6) have a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom ;
- (7) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water ;
- (8) have a proper drainage system ;
- (9) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available) ;
- (10) be provided with adequate facilities for heating ;
- (11) have suitable facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food ;
- (12) have proper provision for storing fuel (where required).

As their name implies, discretionary grants are payable at the absolute discretion of the Council. Each grant shall not exceed half of the estimated cost of the work approved on behalf of the Council, subject to a maximum for each dwelling of £400.

It was hoped that progress to better housing, aided by these measures, would be apparent, but owners have been slow in making use of these facilities, and it was realised that when one house of a block was improved and the remainder left in their original condition, the one house might have to be included in a clearance area if the adjoining houses became sufficiently sub-standard to warrant extreme measures. The sensible thing, therefore, was to improve all the houses in a block.

Circular 42/62, issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, gave guidance to local authorities on the measures which the Minister considered should be used to improve the condition of all the well-built houses throughout the country which are in reasonably good repair but lacking in amenity.

It is hoped that more houses are being brought up to the twelve point standard than are shown by the numbers of successful applications for grants.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. J. F. McCabe, has provided the following report for the year 1964 :—

“Charges.—36/- per week or 6/- per night.

Number of beds available	41
Men paying weekly charge...	1,960
Men paying nightly charge	394
Daily average	38

These figures show a continuation of the trend of the previous two years, i.e. an increase in the number of weekly bookings and a decrease in the number of nightly bookings.

Residents.—There are approximately thirty semi-permanent residents in the hostel, of whom, eighteen have been in residence for periods of between five and fifteen years. There are seven pensioners, two permanently disabled men, and the remainder are employed locally.

The hostel continues to perform a useful service by providing temporary accommodation for discharged prisoners, men on probation who have been disowned by their families, and occasionally, men who have been discharged from mental hospital. Accommodation for men in these categories is usually requested in advance by a Probation Officer or D.P.A. After-Care Officer.

Illness.—One man was admitted to hospital where he later died. Doctors visited a total of four men suffering from minor ailments, who were subsequently confined to bed for periods of several days.

One O.A.P. who was evicted from his previous lodging because of his inability to fend for himself was admitted to the hostel in a confused condition, and detained in bed until arrangements were made for his admission to a welfare home. He later made a complete recovery, and returned to live in the hostel."

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

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

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Retail purveyors of milk...	...	...	...	...	...	85

Turbidity Test (applicable to sterilised milks)

The 11 samples proved satisfactory.

Phosphatase Test (a test applied to verify the efficiency of pasteurisation)

The 47 samples proved satisfactory.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and thirty-eight samples were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test (an indicator of keeping quality), of which 16 were given unsatisfactory reports. Two samples were declared void due to the high atmospheric temperature in the laboratory at the time of the tests.

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale only	... .. 198
Premises registered for store only	... .. 1

Seventeen 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	Void
17	13	2	2	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The 113 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 104 foods (6 formal and 98 informal) and 9 drugs (all informal).

Some 108 were returned as genuine, and five, all foods, as not genuine.

An additional 71 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. Two of these showed a fat content deficiency.

The following tabulated statements give particulars of the articles sampled :—

Food						
Number of food samples	...	...	...	...	...	104
Number found genuine	...	...	...	...	...	99
Number found not genuine	...	...	...	...	...	5
Name and Number of Articles Sampled						
						Informal
Antipasto	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apples...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bamya	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bean Sprout	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Stock Cube	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Steak Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Best of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bitter Lemon	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butter...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chicken Fritters	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chili Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chocolate Drops Cake Mix	...	...	...	...	...	1
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cod Roe	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coconut Chips	...	...	...	...	...	1
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream of Chicken Soup	...	...	...	...	...	2
Currants	...	...	...	...	...	1
Curry Powder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy Cream Buns	...	...	...	...	...	1
Desicated Coconut	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dried Thyme	...	...	...	...	...	1
Edam Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit Pie	...	...	...	...	...	1
Honey...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jam (Apple and Strawberry)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jam (Damson)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jam (Raspberry)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jam (Strawberry)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lemon Pie Filling	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lolly Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	2
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk Shake Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	1

						Informal
Mincemeat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mincemeat with Brandy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minced Meat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mixed Pickles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Olive Oil ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Oranges ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paprica Stuffed with Rice ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peach Pie Filling ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peeled Tomatoes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Piccaili ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plain Flour ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plum Pudding ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Luncheon Meat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Pate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Potato Crisps ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pure Malt Vinegar ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rum Fudge ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sauce Melba ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sago ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage (Beef) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sausage (Mixed Meat) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage (Pork) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sausage Meat (Beef)... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sardines ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saveloys ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Separated Milk Powder ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sparkling Lemonade ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stewed Steak... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stewed Steak with Gravy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Steak and Kidney Pie ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sugar Tinted Crystals ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweetened Lemonade Powder ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
						Formal
Beer (Bitter) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer (Mild) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whisky ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2

Remarks on Samples returned as not Genuine

1. Pork Sausage (Informal)

Meat Content 67%. Sulphur Dioxide 290 p.p.m. Notice of the presence of preservative should be given. (Vendor notified.)

2. Pork Sausage (Informal)

This was a sample of four whole uncooked sausages, a small piece of cooked sausage and two small pieces resembling glass, which were wrapped together with the cooked sausage. The Analyst reported that the two small pieces resembling glass were, in fact, glass. No glass was detected in the whole uncooked sausages. (Reported to Public Health Committee and Vendor and Manufacturer notified.)

3. Potato Crisps (Informal)

This was a sample of Potato Crisps in which the fat was rancid. (Remainder of stock withdrawn from sale.)

4. Rum Fudge (Informal)

This was a sample of sugar confectionery virtually devoid of alcohol. The term "Rum Fudge" implies the presence of rum and, although rum may have been used in the manufacture, the alcohol that is essential to rum was no longer present. A more accurate description for this confection would be "Rum Flavoured Fudge". (Manufacturer notified.)

5. Separated Milk Powder (Informal)

This was a sample of Separated Milk Powder containing acidity, as lactic acid of 3.2%. This was an excess of acidity which, on heating, would lead to clotting. (Consignment of 56 lbs. condemned.)

Drugs

Number of drug samples	...	...	...	...	9
Number found genuine	...	...	...	...	9
Number found not genuine	...	...	...	...	Nil

Name and Number of Articles Sampled

					Informal
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	...	...	...	...	1
Choledyl Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Fergon Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Gelusil Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Halibut Liver Oil	...	...	...	...	1
Hexopal Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Panadol Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Paynocil Tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Zactin Tablets	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Supplies—Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined	...	129
Number of positive samples found	...	Nil

The Liquid (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district Nil

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Superintendent, Mr. W. G. Hunter, has provided the following report for the year 1964 :—

“Comments on the transfer of the abattoir from the town centre to Battlefield must take a certain amount of precedence in this year’s annual report. Naturally the majority of comments are in praise and approval of this transfer, but of course, one has always to mention the more unhappy side of the piece as well.

The not so happy aspect can be seen by looking at the table where it shows the number of animals killed during the year. This number is down rather considerably and it is amazing that this should coincide exactly with the first year at Battlefield. The reasons for this dramatic fall are as follows.

(a) The sudden world shortage of beef which, as well as making it dear to buy, has the effect of drying up former sources of livestock for slaughter.

(b) Stock which used to come into this country in considerable quantity from Ireland is now being slaughtered in Ireland and exported in carcase form.

(c) The continental countries like Germany, France and Holland have, like the rest of us, a shortage of beef cattle and also sheep and at the same time this commodity in consequence is much dearer there than in this country, therefore they buy our cattle on the hoof, ship them to the continent for slaughter and the result, of course, being we lose the revenue.

Naturally when one has a new building in place of an old one, one is apt to be carried away with its immense aesthetic qualities and its novelty, but of course the serious work of running such a place must be taken soberly against this background.

During the year, certain flaws, understandably I suppose in new buildings, appeared in the general structure and machinery of the new abattoir and of course as they appeared or became evident they were reported to the Borough Surveyor.

It is anticipated that the cost of keeping the new and up to date abattoir in its fresh and hygienic state will be much greater than for the old one, bearing in mind its complexity and abundance of machinery and moving parts, as well as the constant replacement of ceramic tiles and similar breakable fittings, not forgetting the constant job of cleaning and washing down the walls, floors and fittings, as well as keeping the precincts tidy and in good repair and the lawns neat.

Having broadly dealt with the gloomier side of the new abattoir let me now pay tribute to its designers by saying how nice it is to work in pleasant and congenial surroundings. This has not gone unnoticed among visitors, who are equally and generously given to praising the abattoir and its situation.

Whilst our main concern is and must always be the service and the facilities of slaughtering food animals in a humane and hygienic method for the community, as well as putting on an efficient meat inspection service so that the consumers can buy meat which has been carefully examined for disease before being released, we must try and use the abattoir to its capacity and attract trade from the outside so that it may, if possible, be self supporting.

Great trouble has been taken in writing and contacting wholesalers and exporters, trying to get them to come to Shrewsbury and slaughter and whilst great interest has been shown by these people particularly to the fine job we do in good surroundings, we must appreciate there is now a situation where all abattoirs are begging for work as a result of the shortage of livestock in this country.

One bright spot is the slight increase in the amount of pigs slaughtered, which shows that whilst beef and lamb is in short supply pigs are not.

Casualties in the form of cattle, sheep and pigs make up a fair proportion of our detailed examinations and usually these result in our rejection of the entire carcass as unfit for human consumption. The day-to-day routine examinations of apparently healthy stock sometimes results in further detailed examination and possible rejection in total or part as unfit for human consumption.

Tuberculosis is now almost totally absent in bovines as a result of the fine field work done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in conjunction with local services, but unfortunately we still find tuberculosis, particularly in the submaxillary lymph node of the pig in surprising quantity, and this remains a problem both to the Ministry and ourselves. A problem which I hope will soon be solved.

Cysticercus Bovis, a parasite found in bovines which, if consumed by humans results in a tape worm in the consumer's intestines, is still on the decrease. We found only two bovines harbouring the parasite. On freezing for 21 days at not more than 20° F., these cysts are killed and the carcass and offal are then released for human consumption. This process of course causes a marked reduction in the quality of the fresh meat, but is the alternative to complete rejection.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	13,701	1,558	879	52,359	26,585	—
Number inspected	13,701	1,558	879	52,359	26,585	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercii:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	16	77	89	78	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	596	324	79	524	702	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.36	21.82	17.75	1.15	2.93	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	258	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	0.98	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 35 tons, 4 cwts. 44 lbs., details as follows :—

Carcasses and Parts	...	...	16 tons 12 cwts. 37 lbs.
Offal	...	...	18 tons 12 cwts. 7 lbs.

Unsound Food

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

Imported Mutton	70½ lbs.
Bacon and Ham	1,030 lbs.
Fish... ..	127 lbs.
Frozen Foods	1,020 lbs.
Chickens	281 lbs.
Corned Beef	467 lbs.
Brussels Sprouts	450 lbs.
Mushrooms	42 lbs.
Dried Peas	65 lbs.
Gammon	43 lbs.
Turkey	20 lbs.
Separated Milk	56 lbs.
Preserved Goods	3,362 tins and jars
Pork Pies	198
Lettuces	1,320
Cabbage	33 cases
Parsley and Onion Sauce	21 packets
Stuffing	31 packets
Other Foods	87 lbs.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The outbreak of measles which started early in 1963 hung about the town during most of 1964, sporadic cases being notified up to November. The usual pattern of a relatively brief epidemic followed by complete absence of the disease appears to be changing and measles may in a few years, like the poor, be always with us.

Work on a vaccine against measles is progressing and a safe sure vaccine may be found, but with a disease so widespread and relatively mild, the vaccine must be 100% safe with production of a long-lasting immunity before its use would be justified. Measles notifications are thought by many to be useless as no preventive measures or apparent activity follows the reception of a notification. However, although the records of attacks are probably not 100% accurate, the measurement of success of a vaccination campaign should such be waged, will be made considerably more effective by the information available from these records. Whether notification with the clerical work thereof, the paying of fees and the time consumed in various offices producing these statistics should be limited to certain areas where vaccine trials are to be run, is a matter possibly worthy of consideration.

One hundred and two cases of measles were notified during the year and one case was admitted to hospital.

The number of whooping cough cases notified (10), shows a continuous decline. All ten cases were over one year of age, and one case was admitted to hospital.

As can be seen from the figures for immunisation, whooping cough vaccine, which is given with diphtheria and tetanus vaccines as a triple or with poliomyelitis vaccine as a quadruple vaccine, is becoming a routine procedure and the repeated low notification rate justifies the procedure.

Once again poliomyelitis has been absent and here again the returns for immunisation are satisfactory. Smallpox also was kept at bay.

The town has once again been free of enteric fever. Every year one or two contacts of cases of enteric fever have to be supervised and this year was no exception. Publicity was afforded one such, a girl who had, during the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak, reached as far north as Dundee was taken off a train at Shrewsbury and kept under surveillance for three days, having developed abdominal pain on her journey south.

Two cases of food poisoning and eight of dysentery served as a reminder of the possibility, in spite of pre-packed foods of all kinds being on the market, of the spread of such infections. Indeed throughout the whole year general practitioners told me of the frequency with which their patients were suffering from gastrointestinal upsets, the source of most of which was not apparent, and which were generally labelled virus-spread on the grounds that the infection spread through the households over three or four days and were often associated with other catarrhal conditions. Some were associated with jaundice, but apart from these the illness was mild.

Cases of scarlet fever were few, mild and sporadic. No source was found. This follows the pattern of the last few years.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1964
(excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Encephalitis Post-Infectious	Food Poisoning
January	1	—	12	2	—	—	1	—	—
February	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	1	—
March	1	2	15	4	1	—	—	—	—
April	1	—	27	1	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	5	2	5	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	2
August	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
October	—	2	9	—	—	—	2	—	—
November	—	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	—
December	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	4	11	102	10	8	1	3	1	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE
YEAR, 1964

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & upwards	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	11	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	8	—	—	1	2	1	—	3	—	1	2
Measles	102	7	22	25	46	1	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	10	—	3	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals	142	7	25	29	61	5	2	4	3	6	4

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—54	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—64	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	4	—	2	2	—	—	—

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) death rate for the year was 0.04 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.08 in the previous year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly provided the following figures relating to immunisations given during 1964 in Shrewsbury.

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number accepting vaccination	...	...	...	878
Number of refusals	...	...	...	50
Number tested	...	...	...	821
Number found positive	...	...	...	65
Number found negative	...	...	...	734
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	...	727

Diphtheria Immunisation

				Immunisations
Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	537
	By General Practitioners	...	...	310
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	32
	By General Practitioners	...	...	6
	Total	...	...	885
				Reinforcing Injection
	At Clinic	...	...	1137
	By General Practitioners	...	...	134
	Total	...	...	1271

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	445
	By General Practitioners	...	...	305
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	5
	By General Practitioners	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	759

Tetanus

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	568
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	312
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	650
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	138
	Total	...	...	...	<u>1,668</u>

Vaccination (Smallpox)

Primary	{ Children under 1 year of age :	At Clinic	...	...	...	67
		By General Practitioners	...	...	...	—
	{ Others :	At Clinic	...	...	...	334
		By General Practitioners	...	...	...	223
	Total	...	...	...	<u>624</u>	
Re-Vaccination :	At Clinic	...	...	...	89	
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	85	
	Total	...	...	...	<u>174</u>	

Poliomyelitis**Third injections of Salk or doses of Oral :**

					Fourth dose or injections
Pre-school children :	At Clinic	...	...	627	4
	By General Practitioners	...	...	204	6
Other Children :	At Clinic	...	...	119	355
	By General Practitioners...	...	...	67	30
Young Persons : (born 1949/43)	At Clinic	...	...	3	1
	By General Practitioners...	...	...	2	1
Young Persons : (born 1942/33)	At Clinic	...	...	60	5
	By General Practitioners...	...	...	1	—
Others :	At Clinic	...	...	36	6
	By General Practitioners...	...	...	3	—
	Total	...	...	<u>1,122</u>	<u>408</u>

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH CENTRES

Particulars are given below of the health services provided by the County Council under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the Borough.

Area	Premises	Services Provided and Day and Time Clinics Held
Harlescott	Church Hall, Meadow Farm Drive	Child Welfare Clinic, Tuesday, 1.30 to 5 p.m.
Monkmoor	Tankerville Hall, Monkmoor Road	Child Welfare Clinic, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month, 1.30 to 5 p.m.
Ditherington	White House Clinic Whitchurch Road	Child Welfare Clinic, Thursday and Friday, 1.30 to 5 p.m. Ante and Post-natal Clinic 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in each month, 2.30 p.m.
Town Centre	Health Centre, Murivance	Child Welfare Clinic, Friday, 1.30 to 5 p.m. Ante and Post-natal Clinic 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month, 2.30 p.m.
Meole Brace	Memorial Hall	Child Welfare Clinic, 1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month, 2.45 to 4.30 p.m.
Springfield	Church Hall	Child Welfare Clinic, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, in each month, 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Attendances during the year are given below :—

	Harles- cott	Monk- moor	Muri- vance	White House	Meole Brace	Spring- field
Children						
Born in 1964 ...	1,407	523	1,022	1,566	361	274
Born in 1963 ...	1,852	654	733	1,454	422	316
Born in 1959-1962 ...	889	340	315	795	215	135
Total attendances ...	4,148	1,517	2,070	3,815	998	725
No. of Children attending ...	489	202	390	547	174	95
Expectant Mothers						
Cases ...	—	—	171	163	—	—
Attendances ...	—	—	282	266	—	—

The Family Planning Association, Shrewsbury Branch, provide a weekly clinic for advice and instruction on family planning. This clinic is held at Murivance Health Centre on Mondays, from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

Dental Care

The County Council provide full dental care, including the provision of dentures where necessary, and orthodontic treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, children under school age and children attending the Education Authority schools.

The Dental Clinic at 5 Belmont has its own X-ray apparatus and full technical and professional staff.

Orthopaedic Treatment

Orthopaedic surgeons from the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, hold regular sessions in St. Chad's Church Hall, and children can be referred there from child welfare and school clinics.

Hospital Facilities

In-patient and out-patient hospital facilities are available as follows :—

Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat conditions :

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Murivance.

General Medical and Surgical treatment :

Royal Salop Infirmary.

Copthorne Hospital.

Monkmoor Hospital.

Infectious Diseases :

Copthorne Hospital, Isolation Ward.

Mental Illness :

Shelton Hospital.

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 44

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	...	...	...	...	49
Private dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	1

The Rodent Operative made 1,557 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.

	INDEX	PAGE
Abattoir, Public	36
Area of Borough	7
Births	11
Closet Accommodation	18
Complaints received	20
Deaths	13
Deaths, Causes of	12
Deaths, Infant	14
Diphtheria Immunisation	43
Disinfection and Disinfestation...	46
Drainage	18
Factory Acts	27
Food and Drugs Acts	33
Health Services	45
Housing	29
Ice Cream	32
Inspection and Supervision of Food	32
Infectious and Other Diseases	41
Milk Supply	35
Municipal Hostel	31
National Assistance Acts	47
Pest Destruction	47
Population	11
Public Cleansing	18
Rateable Value	7
Sanitary Circumstances of Area	15
Sanitary Inspection	20
Sewerage	18
Staff	3
Statistics, General	7
Statistics, Vital	10
Stillbirths	11
Swimming Baths	18
Tuberculosis	42
Water Supply	17
Weather Conditions	8
Whooping Cough Immunisation	43
Vaccination	43

