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Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1967

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Borough of Shrewsbury



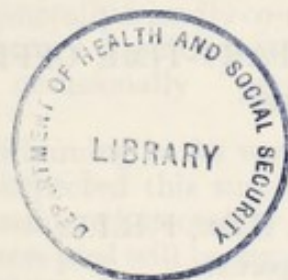
REPORT

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BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN H. R. BECKETT (Chairman)

ALDERMAN P. A. BATEMAN	COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS
ALDERMAN J. F. BURGESS	COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL
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COUNCILLOR MRS. G. I. DYAS	

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.

R. R. ROBSON, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (Resigned January, 1967)

*D. C. JOYCE, Cert. R.S.I. (Appointed 1st February, 1967)

Technical Assistant

L. WOODCOCK

Chief Clerk

F. R. WOOTTON

Clerk

C. D. JONES

Abattoir Superintendent

*A. G. HUNTER, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Assistant Meat Inspectors

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

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

PART-TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer

A. S. MUMFORD

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.

June, 1968.

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 1967.

The steady growth of the town and planning for future developments continues.

About this time of year many sheets of graph paper must be covered by Health Department staffs assessing the state of health of the inhabitants of their areas. Infant mortality, notifications of infectious disease, age of death, incidence of lung cancer, can all be shown on graphs. The bigger the graph and the further back in time the better, if progress is to be shown. By this method a good overall picture is obtained, and it is possible to estimate the value of various relevant measures while the effect of other incidents and changes in other spheres may be found to link up in unlikely places. The virtual disappearance of the domestic servant since the early 1940's may eventually be linked up with a decline in the death rate from chronic bronchitis. Fewer domestic servants being available has influenced the upper and upper middle classes to abandon coal fires and coal fired domestic boilers and to turn to cleaner and more economic methods of heating. This has led, with or without Clean Air Act powers, to less atmospheric pollution, and the incidence of chronic bronchitis should eventually decline. (It may well be that "the Town of Flowers" will be even more attractive in a few years, when a wider variety of plants and flowers will flourish, when light suits can be worn with impunity and a white shirt will stay clean for three or even four days).

The year 1967 was a year of steady progress in the implementation of the standards of the Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, and the clean food regulations. The statistics provided by Mr. C. Stanley, Chief Public Health Inspector, on page 23 only tell part of the story in that a column might have been inserted between "number of visits" and "unsatisfactory conditions remedied by verbal cautions" with such a heading as "advice given and willingly followed". Owing to the generally friendly co-operation between staff and public most unsatisfactory conditions are remedied by merely being pointed out with occasionally "persuasion" rather than "cautions".

The building of new swimming baths was commenced in March 1967, and completion is expected this summer. Whether the new swimming baths were considered necessary from amenity or the public health aspect, the new pool will be very welcome. One feature of the new pool is that bathers will have to pass through a cleansing

area between cubicle and pool, and no unauthorised person will be allowed on the edges of the pool, whilst spectators reach their seats without crossing the sides of the pool. Routine sampling of the swimming bath water will continue, and more satisfactory results than are being obtained at present are expected.

During the latter part of 1967 great interest was shown by the Public Health Committee on the possible extension of use of the powers of the Clean Air Act 1956, and your Medical Officer of Health was asked to prepare a scheme whereby smoke control areas would eventually cover the whole of the Borough.

Considerable progress has been made throughout the years in slum clearance, and the amount of hardship to householders from flooding has been greatly reduced. It is hoped that if a notable flood (15 feet or more) should ever occur again that no householder will have to move his or her belongings out of the living room and take refuge upstairs "for the duration".

Housing continues to take up a lot of time and is of great importance to health. During the year a new procedure was initiated—that of "Housing Improvement Area"—and next year's annual report should show evidence of the advantages and/or disadvantages of this procedure.

Control of industrial noise and noise nuisances have been partially delegated to Public Health Committee, and Committee showed foresight by sending the Chief Public Health Inspector on a course on Noise Abatement.

Quite a lot of publicity is given to matters which are deemed to affect this Department, but which it is difficult to say are detrimental to the health of the inhabitants of the Borough. Such matters may be of great concern one way or another to a proportion of the inhabitants without being likely to cause any widespread illness. The messy habits of pigeons and dogs are probably not considered to be linked together in the minds of pigeon-lovers and dog-owners! The antics of certain sections of the community may cause local concern without being directly dangerous to health. Where "health" and "civic amenity" join could be a no-man's land. Fortunately the Borough staff work together as a team to alleviate as far as is possible any dangers to the health and safety of the inhabitants of the Borough.

Good housing, clean air, clean water, clean food, freedom from excess noise and a pride in the Borough, are all factors affecting the health of the inhabitants. There are many more factors, but these are of particular importance.

As usual, other departments of the Corporation have been most helpful, and close co-operation is maintained between departments as it is between the hospital staffs, general medical practitioners and the Public Health Laboratory.

The policy of mixed appointments for Medical Officers of non-County Boroughs, Urban and Rural Districts, which is operative in

Shropshire, whereby your Medical Officer of Health is also a member of the County Health Department staff, has enabled a close liaison to be maintained with the County Medical Officer of Health and other officials of the County Council.

I have to thank the clerical staff of the department for their hard work during the year, particularly for the efficient manner in which their increased duties have been absorbed.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1967

Rateable Value of the Borough	£2,732,891
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£11,015
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...	9,317
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1967)	53,870
Persons per acre calculated on above population ...	5.8
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1967)	17,518
MALE FEMALE	
Live Births { Legitimate 442 432 } Total ...	947
{ Illegitimate 39 34 }	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	17.6
Stillbirths :	
Number	11
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	11.5
Total Live and Stillbirths	958
Deaths	573
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	10.7
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	24
INFANT MORTALITY RATES	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	25.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	14.1
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	13.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	23.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	107
" Measles (all ages)	Nil
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

(As a result of alterations to the Shrewsbury Borough boundary during 1967, the statistics for births and deaths represent the events assigned to the area within the boundaries as they existed at the date of registration of each event, and to allow calculation of valid birth and death rates an Estimated Mid-Year Population of 53,660 has been used. This represents the weighted average of the mid-year population of the area as constituted before and after boundary changes. This population figure is calculated only for the purpose described above and does not agree with the official population figure published in the Registrar General's Annual Estimates of the Population of England and Wales of Local Authority Areas, 1967.)

WEATHER CONDITIONS

On the 18th January, 1967, the Climatological Station, approved by the Air Ministry, was transferred to Monkmoor Sewage Works after thirty-seven years at Monkmoor Hospital.

Daily readings and weather recordings have been continued as before, and the particulars regarding 1967 may be summarised as follows :—

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 24.19 inches, compared with 32.17, 30.63 and 18.81 in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 38 years was 26.00 inches.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,439.7 hours, compared with 1,214.2, 1,298.9 and 1,291.5 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 38 years was 1,348.2 hours.

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

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), July 17th, 81°F.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 27th and August 1st, 62°F.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), December 8th, 27°F.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), December 9th and 11th, 17°F.

Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1967

1967 Month	Mean Barometric Pressure in Inches	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. ...	30.051	44.9	56° on 19th	35.6	20° on 9th	40.3	6.3 on 3rd	1.80	55.9	14	.25 on 6th	.97
Feb. ...	29.936	46.8	55° on 1st	36.2	27° on 8th and 11th	41.5	8.0 on 4th	2.45	68.5	15	.93 on 27th	2.84
Mar. ...	29.985	50.9	61° on 21st	39.7	32° on 30th and 31st	45.3	10.0 on 29th	5.21	161.6	14	.42 on 8th	1.39
April ...	30.140	52.6	65° on 29th	40.2	25° on 1st	46.4	11.3 on 18th	3.45	103.6	11	.16 on 24th	.59
May ...	29.777	58.0	70° on 11th	43.2	28° on 3rd	50.6	13.9 on 31st	4.82	144.5	26	.91 on 14th	4.63
June ...	30.198	67.8	74° on 18th	49.0	39° on 9th	58.4	13.9 on 13th	7.76	232.8	7	.75 on 24th	1.21
July ...	30.059	71.2	81° on 17th	53.4	45° on 9th and 22nd	62.3	14.7 on 10th	6.54	189.7	14	.37 on 27th	1.21
Aug. ...	29.966	68.9	75° on 9th, 22nd, 27th	52.9	43° on 5th	60.9	11.4 on 21st	3.05	154.6	14	.31 on 13th	1.10
Sept. ...	29.854	63.6	68° on 9th	49.7	39° on 8th	56.7	9.8 on 5th	4.15	124.4	20	.63 on 11th	3.09
Oct. ...	29.723	57.1	64° on 1st and 8th	46.5	38° on 18th and 22nd	51.8	8.8 on 2nd	3.10	89.9	22	1.09 on 16th	3.39
Nov. ...	29.972	47.3	58° on 11th	34.8	20° on 18th	41.1	6.0 on 15th	2.01	60.5	16	.57 on 5th	1.48
Dec. ...	30.103	44.7	55° on 22nd	34.2	17° on 9th and 11th	39.5	6.6 on 5th	1.73	53.7	18	.43 on 18th	2.29
									1439.7			24.19

VITAL STATISTICS
1967 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) 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	Rate Crude Adjusted
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
1965 ...	51,670	949	18.4	23	24	591	11.4 11.3
1966 ...	52,450	898	17.1	12	13	641	12.2 12.2
1967 ...	53,870	947	17.6	24	25	573	10.7 10.6

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1967, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 53,870 compared with 52,450 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1967 was 947, compared with 898 949 and 962 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 17.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.1, 18.4 and 18.8 in the previous years respectively.

Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 16.9.

The 947 births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male	...	442	39	} 947
Female	...	432	34	

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	...	...	...	17.2
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	16.9

Illegitimate Births

There were 71 illegitimate births, compared with 62, 76 and 63 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 1.32 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 7.5 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 11 stillbirths, compared with 15, 19 and 12 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.20 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 1.1 of the total births.

[illegible]

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 573, compared with 641, 591 and 579 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 573 deaths, 281 were males and 292 females.

The crude death rate was 10.7 but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 10.6.

Of the 573 deaths, 407 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 473 of the 573 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	110
(3) Cancer (including Leukaemia)	109
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respira- tory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	75

There were 5 deaths from suicide and 7 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 24 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 6 deaths of children one to fourteen years of age.

Causes of death are analysed in the table on page 11.

The figures shown in the above table are not, in themselves, of great significance, as small numbers and a small population give rates which vary widely from year to year.

However, comparison of the average mortality over 5 years for a disease or group of diseases or an age group with similar figures for 40 years, or even 20 years ago indicates that, even with small populations, statistics do show the results of various activities.

Infant mortality and stillbirth rates are now combined as the perinatal mortality rate, and looking at the statistics available (see table below) it is obvious that a higher proportion of pregnancies result in children which survived their first 15 years of life.

	Stillbirth Rate (A)	Infant Mortality (B)	Perinatal Mortality (C)	1-15 Years Deaths per 1,000 pop.
1923-27	38	60	55	28
1943-47	23	38	35	13
1963-67	16	19	25	5
1967	11.5	25	23	6

(A) Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

(B) Total deaths under 1 year per 1,000 total live births.

(C) Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

It is not easy to be dogmatic as to what particular factors account for this improvement, which is nation-wide, and most would claim that the efforts of their particular vocation were of the greatest importance. However, most improvements—ante-natal care, housing, nutrition, the virtual elimination of the infectious diseases as killers—are part of the picture of a better standard of living, just as are refrigerators, central heating, the telephone and even television.

Causes of death in the 15–65 years age group are, from the economic aspect, whether nationally or at family level, of great interest. There were 47 deaths only between 15–55 and 80 deaths between 55–65. In the first mentioned age group the main cause of death, vascular lesions of the nervous system and coronary disease (16) was followed by cancer (13) and a close third, accidents and suicide, which could be labelled preventable. Medical science may reduce the likelihood of death from cardio vascular disease and from cancer in the not too distant future. It might not be considered to be the province of medical science but of community care to reduce the deaths from accidents and suicide.

In the age group 55–65, pre-retirement, diseases of the circulatory system, including stroke and coronary disease, are the big killers. Whether or not release from managerial responsibility at an earlier age than is the practice at present would lower this figure, is an interesting question.

Two-thirds of the total deaths were in the over 65 group and 45% of all deaths in the year were people over 75. The ideal situation would be, of course, for most people to reach this age in an active state physically and mentally and then die peacefully after a short illness or even without any illness.

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	...	...	...	11.2
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	10.6

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 24, compared with 12, 23 and 17 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 25 per 1,000 live births, compared with 13, 24 and 18 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	...	...	...	18.3
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	25.3

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 ...	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malforma- tions ...	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	6
Congenital Heart Disease ...	—	2	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	5
Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intracranial Haemor- rhage ...	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	4
Accidental ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningitis (Acute Bacterial) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	5	6	—	2	—	13	6	5	—	—	24

Perinatal Mortality Rate

The perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week of age combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) was 23.0 compared with 25.4 for England and Wales.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles

The epidemic of measles, which started in the autumn of 1966, lasted until mid-summer and over 400 cases were notified. A few cases may not have been notified. The value of the notification of measles may be evident in the next few years, when a reasonably accurate picture will be obtained of the results of the immunisation procedures which are being used to attempt to cut down the incidence of or even eliminate this disease. Out of the 400 or so children who suffered from measles, and the parents know full well that "suffered" is not over-stressing the situation, only 5 were admitted to hospital, but complications such as running ears, earache and pneumonia were not uncommon.

It is not unlikely that this will be the last or the last but one such outbreak affecting the younger inhabitants of the Borough. This depends on the availability, efficiency and acceptance by the public of the vaccine.

The vaccine which is being offered through the Health Authority (Salop County Council) is a single dose vaccine which is expected to give a long lasting immunity, as does the disease, to a very high percentage of those vaccinated, if over one year of age, with occasional relatively mild side effects. Children vaccinated under one year of age will not necessarily be immune for a long period but will require a further vaccination when over one year of age. The vaccine has been found "safe" in many trials.

At present the vaccine is being offered to children aged 4 to 7 years who have not had the disease, but it is expected that sufficient vaccine will soon be available to vaccinate the 1 to 4 age group. So far the acceptance rate of the vaccine offered by the County Health Department through schools, clinics and by the General Practitioners has been high.

As at least half the population of the country have had measles, and in 25 or 30 years a generation of young adults will be available of which a very small percentage will have had measles, it will be interesting to see if the incidence of bronchitis and otitis are markedly lowered, just as the incidence of paralysed arms and legs has been lowered in the population since the decline in diphtheria and poliomyelitis. Measles has always affected far bigger numbers than these diseases so that the non-occurrence of its complications should be more obvious.

Tuberculosis

Although this disease has become less of a threat to the health of the community since the introduction of modern drug therapy plus vaccination, plus a greatly improved standard of general nutrition, it is not likely that the nil return of deaths due to tuberculosis noted for 1967 will become commonplace in the remaining years of the 20th century. Indeed, there is evidence of a pool of infection, probably in those over 50 years of age.

This year 13 notifications of new cases—10 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory—were received. Three of these were school children and in 2 the infection appears to be attributable to family contacts. In the third, a low grade and not very serious type of infection, no close contact with a case of "open" tuberculosis was established. One of the 3 school children was an "open" case and might have caused infection, but examination of the staff and immediate contacts did not find any further infections.

It is interesting to note that rehousing was not urgently required for any of the new cases to prevent spread to other members of the family.

General

The incidence of other notifiable infectious diseases was low, but the small increase in the notification of whooping cough plus the frequent occurrence of coughs, difficult to differentiate from whooping cough, in immunised children and not notified as such, has caused a long hard look to be given at the efficacy of the whooping cough vaccine.

The incidence of dysentery and food poisoning was again low, but general practitioners reported many cases of gastro-enteritis and similar illnesses which were thought to be due to virus infections.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1967
(excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid Fever	Meningococcal Infection
January	—	147	—	5	—	—	—
February	3	125	—	—	—	—	—
March	2	54	—	2	—	—	—
April	—	6	—	1	—	—	—
May	—	11	—	1	—	—	—
June	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	34	5	—	1	—	—
August	1	3	2	—	3	—	—
September	—	—	7	—	—	1	1
October	—	3	11	—	—	—	—
November	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	431	25	9	4	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1967

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	6	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	9	—	2	1	—	2	2	—	2	—	3
Measles	431	12	106	130	179	3	—	1	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	25	1	3	5	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1
Totals	477	14	112	137	199	5	3	5	2	—	10

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-44 „	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55-64 „	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65-74 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	4	—	3	—	—	—	—

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) death rate for the year was Nil. per 1,000 population, compared with 0.06 in the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951

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

It was found necessary in the case of one old person to apply for an Order for her compulsory removal to hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Engineer to the West Shropshire Water Board, 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.

The Board's Shelton Headworks have supplied the whole of the Borough's requirements, free of all restrictions, during the year 1967. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 2,561,329 gallons, which was equivalent to 47.60 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 3,127,370 gallons on the 18th May, 1967.

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, 272 chemical and 364 bacteriological examinations were made from 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 continued on the large-scale extensions to the Headworks authorised under the Shrewsbury Water Order, 1962, and during the period under review, the main Contractors for the Civil Engineering works completed the construction of the alumina saturator tanks, new settling tanks, clear water well, and the filters. Work has commenced on installation of the chemical treatment plant and the pumping equipment, and building works have started for the Low Lift Pumphouse and the Link Block. The work of reconditioning the external surfaces and internal lining of the water tower has been completed.

A number of mains extensions and renewals were carried out comprising :—

88 yards	...	...	...	2 in. diameter
3,370	„	...	...	3 in. „
1,316	„	...	...	4 in. „
894	„	...	...	6 in. „

Total 5,668 yards—i.e. approximately 3.2 miles.

The following number of communication pipes were connected to the Borough mains :—

395 No.	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter
29 No.	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{8}$ in. „
16 No.	...	...	...	1 in. „
1 No.	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{4}$ in. „
1 No.	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ in. „
1 No.	...	...	...	2 in. „

Total 443 No.

SHELTON WATER SUPPLY
Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1967

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
BACTERIOLOGICAL								
Probable number of coliform Aerogenes Organisms per 100 mls.	18+	18+	8	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Probable Number of Bact. Coli Type I per 100 mls. ...	18+	18+	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 37°C. ...	7,652	96	5	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	7,600	640	2	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour (Hazenscale) ...	210	10	40	Nil	30	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH ...	8.80	6.30	7.80	5.10	9.70	6.60	8.39	6.46
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) ...	112	10	102	2	180	12	106	16
Chloride (Cl) ...	58	10	58	12	60	13	58	13
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.525	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	12.24	1.08	3.04	0.12	2.88	0.20	0.080	Nil
Permanent Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	60	Nil	71	9	76	8	76	10
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃) ...	140	26	142	35	160	40	78	44
Free Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	0.82	0.13	0.62	0.05	0.15	0.03
Total Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	0.94	0.20	0.80	0.10	0.20	0.06
Chemical Analysis expressed in Milligrams per Litre								

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 National Research Council”.

Fluoride

The fluoride content of the town's water supply is estimated to be 0.02 parts per million.

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1967 is as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	17,918
Total number of houses with Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	17,902
Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	16

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 13 occasions. Of these, three were unsatisfactory.

Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. R. W. Gibb, has kindly supplied the following information.

“MAIN DRAINAGE

Number of existing houses connected to sewers	...	2
Number of new houses erected without connection to main sewerage system	...	1

Extensions or alterations : During the course of the year, the Rad Valley Sewer and the Port Hill Intercepting Sewer were completed.

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1967 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough	...	17,918
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers	...	17,630
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks	...	204
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets	...	84

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

No alteration has been made in the collection of refuse beyond the alterations necessary to cope with the extension of new housing development. Agreement has been reached with Atcham Rural District Council to share their tip at Weeping Cross”.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

Complaints received during the Year

There were 595 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Housing Defects	52
Defective Dustbins	—
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers	78
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	23
Relative to Unsound Food	45
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs	—
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations	282
(c) Insects	66
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	8
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	3
Clean Air Act	5
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	1
Miscellaneous	28
Total	595

Premises Inspected

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

Nature of Inspection	Number of visits	Unsatisfactory conditions remedied by verbal cautions
Dwelling-house, under the Public Health Act	617	2
Business premises under the Public Health Act	71	1
Dwelling-houses under the Housing Acts ...	1,375	—
Houses in Multiple Occupation	24	—
Caravans, Control of Development Act, 1960	161	—
Factories Act, 1961 :		
Factories with mechanical power ...	145	2
Factories without mechanical power ...	32	—
Works of building construction	8	—
Outworkers' premises	—	—
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 :		
Registered Premises	1,203	23
Non-Registered Premises	291	—
Shops Acts 1950 to 1965	415	—
Food & Drugs Act/Food Hygiene Regs.:		
Bakehouses	45	—
Butchers' Shops	220	—
Hospital Kitchens	7	—
Restaurant Kitchens	350	2
School Kitchens	72	—
Staff Canteens	11	—
Licensed premises	264	—
Market Stalls	307	—
Food Vehicles	90	—
Other Premises	806	—
Section 16 Premises :		
Sausage manufacturers	47	—
Fish Frying Premises	43	—
Ice Cream Premises	91	1
Unfit meat and other foods	120	—
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than milk)	106	—
Milk Sampling : Bacteriological	120	—
Chemical	46	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	30	—
Clean Air Acts	568	—

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits	Unsatisfactory conditions remedied by Verbal cautions
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	18	—
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	77	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951	38	—
Drainage : Inspection and Examination ...	344	—
Public Sewers	103	—
Septic Tanks and Cesspools ...	107	—
Watercourses and Ditches	48	—
Land and Tips	99	—
Water Supplies	46	—
Swimming Bath Water Sampling	3	—
Offensive Trades Premises	18	—
Verminous Premises : Rats and Mice ...	875	—
Insects, etc.	134	—
Infectious Disease	21	—
National Assistance Acts	21	—
Agriculture Safety, Health and Welfare Regs.	—	—
Miscellaneous	756	—
Totals	10,393	31

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	21	121	44	9	11
Number of Informal Notices complied with	32	220	62	14	46
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	12	112	18	4	22
Number of Statutory Notices served	17	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	22	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	1	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	1	3	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

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	24	264	117
Retail Shops	34	417	63
Wholesale Shops, ware- houses	3	24	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	4	80	5
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—
Totals	65	785	186

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

Total ... 1,203

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

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	2,653
Retail Shops	2,845
Wholesale departments, warehouses	256
Catering establishments open to the public	718
Canteens	47
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	6,519
Total Males	2,566
Total Females	3,953

Section 6 of the Act refers to the maintenance of a reasonable temperature in every workroom. In the case of non-compliance, difficulty has been experienced in enforcing this section as, whilst allowing a reasonable time for the fitting of additional heaters, etc., the required statutory temperature has been obtained by more favourable weather conditions arising. Consequently, a check on the improved heating arrangements has, in some cases, to be delayed until the return of severe weather. From a practical viewpoint—this can result in a period of twelve months elapsing from the time of complaint until a satisfactory remedy has been found.

Happily, most other infringements are rectified more quickly, and there was a decided improvement in this respect during 1967. A pleasing feature of the year's working was the co-operation with so many employers of labour. The help of the Public Health Department was increasingly sought and many difficulties ironed out by discussion and mutual agreement.

A considerable amount of time was spent on the examinations of plans for new buildings and extensions to existing premises. This, eventually, proves most beneficial to all concerned.

Analysis of Unsatisfactory Conditions

	NUMBER FOUND	NUMBER REMEDIED
Lack of cleanliness	73	134
Overcrowding	2	14
Absence of thermometer or heating facilities	37	103
Inadequate ventilation	23	88
Unsatisfactory lighting	16	59
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences	75	250
Inadequate or unsatisfactory washing facilities	71	170
Absence of drinking water	4	7
Inadequate clothing accommodation	4	24
Unsuitable or inadequate seating facilities	6	8
Seats for sedentary work	—	6
Inadequate eating facilities... ..	4	5
Defective floors and staircases	85	258
Inadequately fenced machinery	6	10
Infringements regarding regulations on health and safety	—	—
Infringements regarding regulations on noise and vibration	—	—
Dangerous conditions and practices	33	86
Absence of adequate first aid facilities	34	69
Failure to notify accidents	—	—
Failure to notify fact of employment of persons... ..	16	13
Absence of abstract of the Act	42	98
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED	121	
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES COMPLETED	220	

Although factory legislation contained provision for the prevention of accidents, there was no comparable enactment applying to those in non-industrial employment until the Offices, Shops and

Railway Premises Act, 1963, was passed. The accident figures contained in the Minister of Labour's report for 1966 have confirmed the need for action in this respect.

National statistics revealed the notification of over 18,000 accidents in offices, shops and similar premises during that year. Nearly 40% of these accidents were due to falls. Females were found to be more prone to this type of accident rather than were males.

As far as Shrewsbury was concerned—some seventeen notifiable accidents were reported, and detailed investigations were conducted where necessary. Informal advice was given and acted upon.

In many cases, employees were not quick to appreciate dangerous conditions on their premises. Several said 'Oh, it has been like this for many years and there have been no accidents'. The answer is that our Inspector arrived at the premises in time!

The types of accident reported were as follows:—

Causes of Accident					Number of Cases
Power-driven machinery or relevant part in motion	...	...	...	...	1
Vehicle in motion not moved by power...	...	...	...	...	1
Hand tools	...	...	...	...	1
Fall on or from fixed stairs	...	...	...	...	4
Falls on or from ladders or stepladders	...	...	...	...	2
Falls on the same level	...	...	...	...	1
Handling goods	...	...	...	...	3
Struck by falling object	...	...	...	...	2
Unspecified in official code	...	...	...	...	2

It is felt that many accidents go unreported, and employers' attention is drawn to the fact that such reports are compulsory.

One longstanding infringement—relating to the supply of running hot-water to washing facilities—was taken before the Magistrates. This was the first occasion on which the Council had taken a case under the Act.

The washing facilities could have been provided with hot-water by means of a coin-operated electricity meter. During several visits to the premises it was noted that hot-water was not available. This was due to the fact that no coins had been inserted into the meter.

The Chairman of the Bench said that there appeared to have been a misunderstanding and, because of this and because it was the first case of its kind, the Magistrates would not impose a fine. The defendants were ordered to pay four shillings costs.

There were no complaints, or summary applications, under the provisions of Section 22, and no interim orders were granted.

A further extension of exemption relating to conveniently accessible sanitary conveniences and running water for washing facilities, was made in respect of an isolated building. Another application for extension of exemption, on similar grounds, was refused. Satisfactory accommodation was provided subsequently in the latter instance.

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

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

Destruction of Rats and Mice

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

Business premises	61
Private dwelling-houses	5

The Rodent Operative made 1,555 visits to premises in the course of his duties during the year.

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	32	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	236	145	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	23	8	—	—
Total	269	185	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)	—	—	—	—	—
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 ...	14	12	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	14	12	—	2	—

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
Packing hair pins ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Building Progress during 1967

Houses erected by Local Authority	151	} 512
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	361	

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) ...	888
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
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...	17

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	34
---	----

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... ..	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

Official representations were made in respect of six individual unfit houses, one part of a dwelling, and one caravan.

Some 106 unfit houses were demolished during the year, and three individual unfit houses and one part of a building were closed for human habitation.

It is interesting to discover that the average size of a family rehoused from condemned houses during the year was 2.6 persons.

With over one thousand unfit houses dealt with since 1955, Shrewsbury has not lagged behind towns of similar size and character in this respect. There remain, however, a number of unfit houses which need attention of one kind or another and, as government policy now favours the improvement of sub-standard houses, it may well be that some of the properties in question will be included in improvement areas.

Recent legislation has placed on the Council the additional responsibility for the conditions obtaining in houses let in multiple occupation. How many such premises exist in Shrewsbury? Only a general survey of all the houses in the Borough will provide the answer to this query. It would, also, furnish data regarding the condition of dwellinghouses and afford much assistance in tackling the problem of property deteriorating through lack of attention.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

Charges.—41/- per week or 7/6 per night.

Number of beds available	...	...	41
Men paying weekly charge	...	...	2,044
Men paying nightly charge	...	...	223
Daily average	...	...	40

These figures show a slight increase in weekly bookings, and a large drop in nightly bookings. This is a very good sign; more men are coming as residents, if only for a short period, and there is a decline in the casual wanderer, here today and gone tomorrow.

In fact, as has been the case for some years now, the demand for beds exceeds the supply, and many men have to be turned away. It is very unfortunate that financial stringency makes any extension unlikely, as there is a real need for this type of accommodation.

However, mention must be made of the Corporation's efforts to improve the existing facilities—the provision of new food lockers being an outstanding example.

Residents.—There are about 35 more or less permanent residents and about 6 casual men. Of these, 16 are working men, mostly in regular employment, 12 are pensioners, and the rest mostly unemployed, due in most cases to age or sickness, both physical and mental. In fact, one of the unusual features of this Hostel is its comparative freedom from the absolute "lay-about" type of non-worker, so often found in such hostels, there very rarely being more than four such men at any one time.

General.—To sum up, the Hostel continues to play a useful role in the life of the Town, and its existence is much appreciated by many organisations from the Ministry of Social Security to the local hospitals.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 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	95

Turbidity Test (applicable to sterilised milks)

The 11 samples proved satisfactory.

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

The 45 samples proved satisfactory.

Examination for Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on 13 samples—12 of which were negative and 1 was void.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and thirty-two samples were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test (an indicator of keeping quality), of which 20 were found to be unsatisfactory and 5 were declared void.

Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined	11
Number of positive samples found ...	1

(The positive sample was from a herd outside the Shrewsbury Borough boundary and was subsequently investigated by the Salop County Council.)

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale only	199

Twenty-three 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
23	19	4	—	—	—

Food and Drugs Sampling

The 105 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 97 foods (12 formal and 85 informal) and 8 drugs (all informal).

Some 99 were returned as genuine, and 6 (all foods) as not genuine.

An additional 47 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. One of these showed a fat content deficiency.

Remarks on Samples returned as Not Genuine

1. Cheese, English Rindless (Informal)
The description on the label did not conform to the requirements of the Cheese Regulations, 1965. (Vendors notified.)
2. Cheese, Processed (Informal)
The description on the label did not conform to the requirements of the Cheese Regulations, 1965. (Vendors notified.)
3. Sausage Meat, Pork (Informal)
This was a sample of pork sausage meat containing an excess of sulphur dioxide. In addition, notice of the presence of preservative was not displayed. (Vendor notified and verbal warning issued.)
4. Cream Buns (Informal)
The buns contained a filler resembling cream which was not cream. (Verbal warning given to vendor.)
5. Cheese, Blue Vein (Informal)
The description on the label did not conform to the requirements of the Cheese Regulations, 1965. (Vendor notified and verbal warning issued.)
6. Cheese, Port Salut (Informal)
The description on the label did not conform to the requirements of the Cheese Regulations, 1965. (Vendor notified and verbal warning issued.)

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 Applies	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Bakehouses	6	6	6	6
Butchers' Shops	46	46	46	46
Bread and Confectionery	12	12	12	12
Fish Frying Premises ...	15	15	15	15
Grocers	107	107	107	107
Greengrocers	17	17	17	17
Hospital Kitchens ...	7	7	7	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises ...	111	107	111	111
Restaurant Kitchens ...	42	41	42	42
Warehouses	8	8	8	8
School Canteens	28	28	28	28
Staff Canteens	12	12	12	12
Sweet Confectionery, etc.	47	47	17	17
Wet Fish	11	11	11	11

Section 16 refers to the provision of suitable and sufficient wash-hand basins, an adequate supply of hot and cold water, soap, nail-brushes and drying facilities for the use of all persons engaged in the handling of food.

Section 19 relates to the provision of suitable and sufficient sinks, or other facilities, for washing food and equipment. The appropriate water supply must be provided in each instance.

Poultry Inspection

Number of poultry processing premises within the

district 2

Number of visits to these premises 65

Type of Birds Processed	Number Processed	Percentage Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption	Weight Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption
Turkeys	896	1.45	Approximately 22 lbs.
Ducks	370	—	—
Hens	6,499	1.03	Approximately 150 lbs.
Broilers	12,442	.47	Approximately 121 lbs.
Geese	55	—	—
Guinea Fowl	59	—	—

The inspection of these premises is carried out under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. There is also, a Code of Practice which outlines the structural requirements and hygienic standards recommended in this type of business. In addition the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, applies to the examination of poultry.

The amount of unsound poultry was found to be relatively small. The co-operation of the respective proprietors was much appreciated.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district—Nil.

Unsound Food

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

Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	244 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	171 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	243 lbs.
Other Meat	...	...	...	649 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Fish...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Preserved Goods	...	...	...	3,000 tins, jars or packets
Other Foods	...	...	...	81 lbs.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Superintendent, Mr. A. G. Hunter, has provided facts and figures for the report of the year's working :—

"The increase in throughput at the Abattoir continues to rise. In similar circumstances to last year, 1966, our throughput continues to rise and outruns our holding capacity, leaving us, despite last year's warning, still trying to put a 'quart into a pint pot'.

If we are to maintain a high rate of throughput we must also realise it has to be hung in a manner and in the conditions laid down in the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, which specifically holds the occupiers (the Corporation in this instance) to provide suitable and sufficient hanging space for carcasses in order that the air may circulate freely around them.

I can visualise this next winter that in order not to be inundated and have to pack carcasses too tightly in far too limited a space, I will be forced to ration our throughput according to our holding capacity.

Foot and mouth disease which broke out in October, involving hardship to the farming people of Shropshire and beyond, caused a great deal of extra work in the form of a seven-day week and long hours among abattoir staff.

The impact of this dreaded disease has been that of a terrible nightmare, when under duress, pressure of work, and sheer weight of numbers, we have been required to maintain our high standard of cleanliness throughout the Abattoir, particularly the lairages, where cleansing, scrubbing and disinfection, and cleansing, scrubbing and disinfection again, went on unceasingly.

During this period I had to approve of every licence before the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would issue it, and at the same time ensure the slaughter of all stock within twelve hours. In this situation I had to have a new emergency telephone installed and the instrument was seldom on its hook from one weekend to the next.

We also found ourselves having to order transport and arrange for loading for places as far away as St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, because if we had not we would have been brought to a standstill for lack of hanging space, and this we could not afford to do.

Because of this pressure I was forced to buy £1,000 worth of overhead rollers and other equipment to maintain the throughput. This was surplus to our normal estimates for the year and one which I feel we have justified ourselves.

Very little complaint has been received during this year as regards the banning of wiping cloths and the use of water sprays only, for the washing of carcasses. The minor complaints we do get are in the washing of sheep carcasses, particularly during the very wet months in the winter, when sheep come into the Abattoir caked with mud acquired when eating roots in ploughed fields.

I feel there is a pressing need to eliminate this type of thing in this day and age, and that animals should be delivered to the Abattoir in a reasonable state of cleanliness. I hope regulations will soon be forthcoming, because wholesalers want sheep slaughtering and dressing immediately they come into the Abattoir, and one has to see the state of them to believe they could be so filthy. The slaughtermen are caked in mud to the elbows within minutes of handling them.

Exports are down this year principally because of the foot and mouth outbreak, the European Economic Community having banned exports from this Country as a result.

During the year I have visited several abattoirs up and down the country with a view to getting some experience and information about mechanical line dressing systems, so that I have some authority on them upon which I can avail myself when our own is installed.

During our visit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food about our proposed alterations and extensions, we felt that there was a general enthusiasm amongst the Ministry officials regarding the bringing of our Abattoir up to the latest European Economic Community standard. This, of course, is shared by our own wholesalers, because this is necessary before we can export to the above-mentioned community.

Disease encountered during the year has only varied slightly and one may, with the help of the table below, be assisted in estimating that change, bearing in mind the much-increased additional throughput to last year.

The meat inspection staff have been very much under pressure during the latter part of the year, in which all concerned worked very hard under difficult circumstances, involving long hours, often for seven days a week.

Our water supply was very sparse on occasion. I appreciate that we were using much more water because of constant cleansing down during the epidemic, but when one realises that we have tanks of the 20,000 gallon variety and a three-inch main supplying it, one wonders where the fault lies. I suspect the pressure may well be much reduced, particularly on Mondays, thus leading to a diminished supply.

During the year our Student Meat Inspector passed his final examination and thus became qualified in meat inspection. Unfortunately, his certificate will not be forthcoming until his 21st birthday, and so he is unable to hold a qualified post until then.

A second student is to be trained by us thereby ensuring ourselves of qualified staff instead of having to compete with other authorities and offer inducements in the way of housing, etc., to attract them".

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

(Figures in Brackets are for 1966)

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	17,377 (13,412)	2,068 (1,774)	1,779 (1,080)	91,427 (82,620)	34,414 (32,670)	— (—)
Number inspected	17,377 (13,412)	2,068 (1,774)	1,779 (1,080)	91,427 (82,620)	34,414 (32,670)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercel:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2 (4)	14 (8)	88 (101)	130 (108)	86 (90)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3,209 (613)	734 (310)	107 (106)	2,357 (522)	1,206 (821)	— (—)
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	18.47 (4.57)	36.17 (17.47)	10.95 (9.81)	2.50 (0.63)	3.75 (2.51)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	233 (266)	— (—)
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	0.68 (0.81)	— (—)
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10 (7)	2 (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	8 (2)	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
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 64 tons, 3 cwts., 70 lbs., details as follows :—

Carcasses and Parts	...	...	19 tons 16 cwts. 97 lbs. (19 tons 5 cwts. 29 lbs.)
Offal	...	...	44 tons 6 cwts. 85 lbs. (16 tons 2 cwts. 77 lbs.)

