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Borough of Shrewsbury

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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PART-TIME OFFICERS

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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.

July, 1969.

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 1968.

This opening sentence has only been changed, in that the Report was 'submitted' instead of 'presented', for the last sixty-odd years. The first Report of the Sanitary Authority's Medical Officer is dated 1875. The last Report of the Medical Officer of this local sanitary authority may now be within sight.

The value of the Annual Reports from the Medical Officers of Health to the smaller authorities is that they each give a small slice of history. Individually, the Reports are of value to various Ministries, other smaller authorities, educational bodies and students of the various social sciences. To the staff of the Department the Reports give an opportunity for a long hard look at their activities of the past years, sometimes showing missed opportunities and sometimes even neglect—more often than not due to shortage of staff.

On the credit side, it is seen that there is progress. A review of almost any facet of public health over the years shows improvements which may be rather slow but which are better than lack of progress or deterioration. Many of the improvements cannot be measured directly but the indications are there. Some may have been dependent on the outlook of the viewer and may be considered a matter of taste. On the debit side, there are still many problems to be tackled and new dangers to Public Health to be sought out and overcome.

Mention was made in last year's Report of the building of a new swimming pool which, together with the modernisation of the existing pools, will give one of the most up-to-date swimming complexes in the Midlands. The main pool was opened in December, 1968, and is a credit to the planners and the builders. Although the health statistics of the Town may not be altered by the improvement of the swimming facilities available, the pleasure given to thousands is bound to have a good effect on the health of the inhabitants of the Borough.

The correlation between improved housing and improved health has long been accepted and in the Castlefields development scheme—New Life for Old District—it is hoped that not only improved housing but improved amenities will bring improved health to the occupants of the area, which houses approximately one-thirtieth of the inhabitants of the Town. This ambitious scheme is still in the course of preparation but should be a winner all the way. It would be a logical procedure if time (Lord Redcliffe-Maud), staff and money permitted, to plan similarly for all areas of the Town over the years. By doing this, the need to demolish houses which have deteriorated more rapidly than necessary from lack of maintenance or which have become unfit simply because they have not been brought up-to-date, should disappear, and clearance only of blocks of out-of-date houses should enable better planning in the areas in which they were built.

In parallel with, but not necessarily coinciding with improvement areas, smoke control areas should be established, so that eventually the whole Town is smoke controlled and this, with improved methods of vehicular pollution control, should lead to minimal air pollution. A pure water supply is already provided and river pollution is being reduced.

The year 1968 was a year of steady progress in the implementation of the standards of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, and the clean food regulations. Owing to the generally friendly co-operation between the staff and the public, most unsatisfactory conditions are remedied by merely being pointed out with occasionally "persuasion" rather than "cautions".

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".

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 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.

During 1968 the staff of the department remained unchanged, but the alterations to the Abattoir and the promised increased throughput made the appointment of two Authorised Inspectors essential, and the appointment of a Veterinary Surgeon had to be given serious consideration.

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, 1968

Rateable Value of the Borough			£2,878,053
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			£11,365
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...			9,317
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1968)			53,760
Persons per acre calculated on above population ...			5.8
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1968)			18,064
	MALE	FEMALE	
Live Births { Legitimate	431	437 } Total ...	949
Illegitimate	46	35 }	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population			17.7
Stillbirths :			
Number			17
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			17.6
Total Live and Stillbirths			966
Deaths			692
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population			12.9
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)			20
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...			21.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			18.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			49.4
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)			29.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			120
,, ,, Measles (all ages)			Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			Nil

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past thirty-nine years, daily readings and weather recordings have been continued at the Climatological Station, which is approved by the Air Ministry and situated at Monkmoor Sewage Works.

The particulars regarding 1968 may be summarised as follows :

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 27.57 inches, compared with 24.19, 32.17 and 30.63 in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 39 years was 26.57 inches.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,237.8 hours, compared with 1,439.7, 1,214.2 and 1,298.9 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 39 years was 1,345.3 hours.

Temperatures.—Extremes of temperatures during the year were :

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), June 30th, August 22nd and 23rd, 80°F.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 1st, 20th and August 24th, 60°F.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), March 8th, 24°F.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), January 10th, 10°F.

Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1968

1968 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. ...	30.037	45.6	55° on 14th and 15th	34.5	10° on 10th	40.1	5.5 on 7th and 28th	1.15	35.7	15	.59 on 8th	2.28
Feb. ...	29.948	40.3	45° on 1st and 18th	29.2	21° on 24th	34.8	7.8 on 3rd	2.30	68.0	7	.27 on 5th	.80
Mar. ...	29.999	50.0	66° on 28th	36.0	24° on 8th	43.0	9.6 on 28th	3.62	112.2	15	.28 on 24th	1.18
April ...	29.998	54.6	69° on 21st	36.6	23° on 8th	45.6	11.0 on 6th	4.89	146.8	16	.57 on 18th	1.79
May ...	30.008	57.3	72° on 28th	41.1	31° on 4th	49.2	12.2 on 5th	4.63	143.7	15	.85 on 25th	2.93
June ...	29.991	66.8	80° on 30th	49.0	38° on 9th	57.9	14.9 on 13th	6.47	192.2	14	.81 on 28th	2.54
July ...	30.164	65.9	74° on 22nd	50.9	40° on 7th	58.4	14.0 on 6th	4.99	154.6	10	1.70 on 1st	4.85
Aug. ...	30.046	67.9	80° on 22nd and 23rd	52.3	45° on 12th 15th and 19th	60.1	12.8 on 22nd	4.64	144.0	15	.44 on 23rd	1.90
Sept. ...	29.845	62.9	72° on 9th	50.1	41° on 18th	56.5	9.5 on 9th	3.60	107.9	18	1.10 on 14th	3.74
Oct. ...	29.973	59.8	67° on 3rd and 21st	49.3	41° on 9th and 15th	54.6	8.0 on 10th	1.99	61.6	17	.45 on 28th	1.83
Nov. ...	29.970	47.9	60° on 1st	38.8	25° on 9th	43.4	7.0 on 24th	1.33	39.8	15	.52 on 1st	1.78
Dec. ...	29.884	41.2	52° on 21st and 22nd	33.5	21° on 26th	37.4	6.0 on 28th	1.01	31.3	13	.70 on 24th	1.95
									1,237.8			27.57

VITAL STATISTICS

1968 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths				
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages		
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Rate Crude	Rate Adjusted
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
1968	53,760	949	17.7	20	21	692	12.9	12.9

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1968, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 53,760 compared with 53,870 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1968 was 949, compared with 947 898 and 949 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 17.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.6, 17.1 and 18.4 in the previous years respectively.

Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 17.0.

The 949 births may be analysed as follows :—

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male ...	431	46	949
Female ...	437	35	

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	16.9
Shrewsbury	17.0

Illegitimate Births

There were 81 illegitimate births, compared with 73, 62 and 76 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 1.50 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 8.5 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 17 stillbirths, compared with 11, 15 and 19 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.32 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 1.8 of the total births.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1968

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
	314	378	13	7	5	2	6	8	11	38	103	201	298
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	19	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	10	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	5	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Leukaemia	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ...	26	39	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	6	12	28	15
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anaemias	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mental Disorders ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
Meningitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hypertensive Disease ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	97	77	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	7	33	53	78
Other Forms of Heart Disease	15	15	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	7	19
Cerebrovascular Disease	41	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	17	29	56
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	10	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	18
Influenza	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	27	44	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	16	45
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	6	10	1
Asthma	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	2
Peptic Ulcer	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5
Congenital Anomalies ...	4	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
All Other Accidents ...	4	30	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	1	15	13
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—
All Other External Causes	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 692, compared with 641, 591 and 579 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 692 deaths, 314 were males and 378 females.

The crude death rate was 12.9 and, by applying the comparability factor of 1.00 provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate was also 12.9.

Of the 692 deaths, 499 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 569 of the 692 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :

(1) Heart disease	213
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System including Vascular Lesions of Nervous System... ...	129
(3) Cancer (including Leukaemia)	123
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	104

There were 5 deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries and 7 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 20 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 7 deaths of children one to fourteen years of age.

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

Looking at the table "Causes of and Ages at Death" one sees that the inhabitants now are dying at an older age than was the case in former years and for interest the percentage dying at 65 years of age or over for the periods during which records are available are shown compared with the percentage of deaths under 1 year of age and between 1 and 15 years of age.

	% of deaths under 1 year	% of deaths 1 to 15 years	% of deaths over 65 years
1900 to 1909	19.3	10.3	34.6
1910 to 1919	12.2	10.5	36.0
1920 to 1929	9.6	6.7	45.8
1930 to 1939	5.0	3.6	54.0
1940 to 1949	5.8	2.6	60.8
1950 to 1959	1.3	1.1	66.5
1960 to 1967	2.9	.9	67.0
1968	2.8	.9	72.0

It is also seen that the percentage of deaths occurring under 15 years of age has reduced at approximately the same rate as those over 65 years of age have increased. The percentage of deaths of those in the working years—15 to 65 years of age—has been steady for practically all this period, until the last years, when it shows a slight reduction.

Put another way, people born before 1900 had less than a 70% chance of reaching 15 years of age and only a 30–35% chance of reaching 65 years of age, whilst people born after 1930 had up to a 90% chance of reaching 15 and have a 50–70% chance of reaching 65 years of age. The increased expectation of life, even when coupled with some decrease in the annual birth rate of 27 births per thousand living in 1901 to 1910 which gradually reduced to 15.5 in the 1950's, but has increased again to 18 in the 1960's, does not indicate an early cessation of the present trend towards a higher proportion of the population being in the over 65 age groups.

Social Services will have to be geared to maintaining this group, and every effort must of course be made to retain fitness and independance in the elderly rather than providing more and more hospital and welfare accommodation. Suitable housing will, of course, be one of the factors.

Cardio-vascular disease, arthritis and pneumonia figure largely as the causes of death in the 75 years of age and over group, and it must be recognised that with heart disease and arthritis, a person has probably suffered from degenerative disease for many years. Pneumonia may also, of course, be merely a terminal factor where other diseases or old age has weakened the body to such an extent that the pneumonia could not be overcome even by modern therapeutics. In the under 65 years of age group, malignant disease (51) and cardio vascular disease (63) predominate as the causes of death.

Medical research and health education may provide cures or methods of prevention of these diseases in due course.

(The heading "All other Accidents", males 4 deaths, females 30 deaths, reflects the fatalities occurring as a result of the fire at Shelton Hospital in February, on which enough has already been written.)

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	11.9
Shrewsbury	12.9

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 20, compared with 12, 23 and 17 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 21 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	18.0
Shrewsbury	21.1

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

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity ...	3	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Malformations	1	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Atelectasis	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	—	—	7
Haemorrhage due to stab wounds ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	8	3	—	1	1	13	2	5	—	—	20

Perinatal Mortality Rate

The perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week of age combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) was 29.0 compared with 25.0 for England and Wales.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles

The notifications in June, July and August of cases of measles came as a surprise and a disappointment. The surprise being caused by the short time interval of one year between the last and the present outbreak—the normal interval being one and a half years to two years—and the disappointment being that what looked like the beginning of an outbreak of the usual proportions should occur soon after an intensive effort by the County Council Health Department to achieve a high rate of immunity among the child population. However, the outbreak tailed off and the number of cases was only about one-third of the average number of cases in the last four outbreaks. Like most immunisation campaigns, that against measles has had a stormy start, but there does not seem to be any indication that it will not be successful. In a couple of generations it may be that bronchitis and otitis have become much less common as a result of the disappearance of measles as a major cause of illness.

Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis notification rate dropped this year to six—all male pulmonary adult cases—with again a nil return for deaths attributable to the disease.

Infective Jaundice

This disease became notifiable during the year and it will be of interest to see what sort of a pattern emerges, as hitherto very little has been known of the ordinary passage, incidence and severity of this disease. Various outbreaks of jaundice have been studied and means of spread have been found. The notifications in the Borough on investigation fell into two rough categories. Those where the infection could be traced to a school or through children to families, play-groups or "visiting" neighbours, and the isolated case whose contact with the disease was not obvious. It seems that this disease may well follow the same pattern as poliomyelitis in that the tip of the iceberg only shows and many sub-clinical cases occur for every clinical case of the disease and many people receive and pass on the virus without any ill-effects.

Scabies

This disease is becoming more prominent and several families have been offered treatment facilities, including "stoving" of bedding.

General

The undoubted success of the various schemes of immunisation against infectious diseases should not cause undue complacency on the part of Medical Officers of Health and it is well to remember that

other diseases have become much less frequent and serious in spite of there being no immunisation programmes to which to give the credit. This may be due to a decreasing virulence on the part of the organism or may be due to increased population resistance or to improved environmental hygiene. In case the first changes to an increased virulence it is as well to look to the second and third factors. In addition, a watch has to be kept on new diseases and new types of old infections. For example, the incidence of Sonne dysentery as reported has been very low during the year 1968, but there has been a lot of disease of a similar symptomatology (probably viral) in the town and this disease may be masking some Sonne infections. As the incidence of viral infections declines Sonne dysentery and other diseases of that group may re-appear. Tonsillitis may give way to scarlet fever or erysipelas may re-appear. Cases of acute nephritis occur occasionally following staphylococcal tonsillitis.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1968

(excluding Tuberculosis)

Month	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Infective Jaundice	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Meningococcal Infection
January	—	2	1	—	—	—
February	—	1	2	—	—	1
March	—	2	1	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	1	—	—	—	—
June	—	8	—	6	—	—
July	—	129	3	8	—	—
August	—	37	—	7	—	—
September	—	4	—	2	—	—
October	—	5	—	1	1	—
November	2	23	—	1	—	—
December	2	5	—	1	—	—
Totals	4	217	7	26	1	1

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year, 1968

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...	4	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis— ...											
Infective	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	217	7	48	56	74	13	17	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	7	1	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	26	—	—	—	8	4	6	4	3	1	1
Totals	256	9	49	58	88	17	24	6	4	1	2

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 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10–14 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15–19 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–24 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25–34 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35–44 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45–54 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55–64 ,, ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65–74 ,, ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 not found necessary to make any application for 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 1968, with the exception of the restriction in the use of hosepipes for the watering of private gardens and car washing for the period from the 17th to 29th September, which was necessary in order to reduce the demand whilst the Storage Reservoir was out of commission to enable the works of re-lining and roof covering, referred to later in this report, to proceed. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 3,102,952 gallons, which was equivalent to 57.8 gallons per head per day and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 4,246,000 gallons on the 16th October, 1968.

Routine chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water before and after 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, 92 chemical and 121 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 Head works authorised under the Shrewsbury Water Order, 1962, and during the period under review work has been completed on the building of the low lift pumphouse and the link block.

Work commenced on the change-over of the existing 4 million gallon raw water reservoir to the storage of potable water by the renovation of the surfaces and the construction of a new roof, which is now practically complete.

Work continued on the installation of the chemical treatment plant and pumping equipment, and installation of the large diameter inter-connecting pipework.

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

169	yards	2″ diameter
1,062	,, ...	3″ ,,
834	,, ...	4″ ,,
488	,, ...	6″ ,,
282	,, ...	8″ ,,
2,564	,, ...	9″ ,,
830	,, ...	12″ ,,
Total 6,229	yards—i.e. approximately 3.54 miles.	

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

360	No.	½″ diameter
30	No.	¾″ ,,
24	No.	1″ ,,
1	No.	1¼″ ,,
2	No.	1½″ ,,
2	No.	2″ ,,
Total 419	No.	

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.

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1968 is as follows :

Total number of houses	18,432
Total number of houses with Corporation piped water supply	18,412
Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply	20

Fluoride

The fluoride content of the town's Water Supply is estimated to be less than 0.02 parts per million.

Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1968.

	ITEM	RIVER WATER UNTREATED		WATER AFTER FILTRATION AND STERILISATION	
		Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
BACTERIOLOGICAL	Probable number of coliform Aerogenes Organisms per 100 mls. ...	18+	18+	Nil	Nil
	Probable Number of Bact. Coli Type I per 100 mls.	18+	18+	Nil	Nil
	Colony count per ml. at 37°C.	9,000	36	Nil	Nil
Chemical Anaysis expressed in Milligrams per Litre	Colour (Hazenscale) ...	560	5	Nil	Nil
	pH	8.42	6.35	8.31	6.40
	Alkalinity ($CaCO_3$) ...	130	36	116	22
	Chloride (Cl)	40	10	42	12
	Free and Saline Ammonia	0.37	Nil	0.14	Nil
	Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	14.12	7.48	2.14	Nil
	Permanent Hardness ($CaCO_3$)	48	Nil	94	15
	Total Hardness ($CaCO_3$)	146	44	146	51
	Free Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.3	0.03
	Total Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.4	0.08

Public 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 63 occasions. Of these, ten were unsatisfactory.

The Swimming Baths were opened at Whitsun in 1893 and consisted of two swimming pools together with private baths. These latter formed in the early days the major function of the establishment since many fewer private houses contained this facility. In the early days on Fridays and Saturdays queues formed of people wanting to take advantage of this facility.

Changing for swimming took place in cubicles on the surrounds of the two pools. Filtration was effected by a steam pump and the circulation was not nearly as frequent as is considered desirable today. Similarly the chemical treatment of the water was, by today's standards, somewhat haphazard.

Some eight or nine years ago the need to add to the swimming facilities became uppermost in the Committee's mind. The teaching of schoolchildren during school hours had reached the stage where, except during holidays, the public were denied swimming facilities for considerable periods during the week. Despite this concentration the County Council felt that more teaching of young people was desirable. Consequently a decision was taken to build an additional pool of international size and to reconstruct the two existing pools, a teaching pool being added where the entrance used to be between the two original pools.

The new large pool measures $33\frac{1}{3}$ metres $\times$ 12.8 metres and is equipped with a 1 metre springboard, 3 metre springboard and a 5 metre firm diving platform with a diving area of 3.5 metre depth. The changing accommodation consists of cubicles and open areas and the pool cannot be approached from the changing areas without going through a foot bath. Showering before entering the water is essential and showers are positioned on the changing accommodation side of the foot baths. The water in the main pool is treated by filtration and break-point chlorination, circulation being once every three hours, the processes being mechanically controlled. The ventilation is by a plenum system which allows three air changes per hour in the pool and six changes per hour in the dressing rooms. The lighting in the pool is excellent, being supplied by fluorescent lighting from the roof and by daylight through the very large glass areas on the south and west sides of the pool. Successful efforts have been made to reduce the noise level. The staff are smartly turned-out in white with gym shoes, and have been trained in rescue and resuscitation. Spectators are well catered for in a raised area on the north side of the pool, where there is seating with an uninterrupted view of the pool for 300. A Buffet serves swimmers, spectators and the outside public with light refreshments.

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...	Nil
Number of new houses erected without connection to main sewerage system	Nil
Extensions and alterations...	Nil

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1968 is as follows :

Total number of houses in the Borough	18,432
Number of houses connected to Corporation Sewers	18,166
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks	208
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets	58

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. The Borough continued to use the tip at Weeping Cross under an agreement with Atcham Rural District Council".

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

Complaints received during the Year

There were 482 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Housing Defects	39
Defective Dustbins	1
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers	68
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	14
Relative to Unsound Food	61
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs	3
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations	218
(c) Insects	22
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	2
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	8
Clean Air Act	12
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	7
Miscellaneous	23
Total	482

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-houses, under the Public Health Act	550	7
Business premises under the Public Health Act	76	2
Dwelling-houses under the Housing Acts ...	1,343	—
Houses in Multiple Occupation	49	1
Caravans, Control of Development Act, 1960	291	4
Factories Act, 1961 :		
Factories with mechanical power ...	174	3
Factories without mechanical power ...	21	2
Works of building construction	25	—
Outworkers' premises	—	—
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 :		
Registered Premises	1,271	30
Non-Registered Premises	150	—
Shops Acts 1950 to 1965	374	3
Food & Drugs Act/Food Hygiene Regs.:		
Bakehouses	48	6
Butchers' Shops	218	29
Hospital Kitchens	15	8
Restaurant Kitchens	367	44
School Kitchens	93	—
Staff Canteens	30	—
Licensed premises	220	9
Market Stalls	172	20
Food Vehicles	40	3
Other Premises	664	56
Section 16 Premises :		
Sausage manufacturers	59	4
Fish Frying Premises	49	3
Ice Cream Premises	101	3
Unfit meat and other foods	242	—
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than milk	114	—
Milk Sampling : Bacteriological	101	—
Chemical	10	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	22	—
Clean Air Acts	1,922	18

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits	Unsatisfactory conditions remedied by Verbal cautions
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	28	1
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	2	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951	33	—
Drainage : Inspection and Examination ...	551	1
Public Sewers	160	10
Septic Tanks and Cesspools ...	228	—
Watercourses and Ditches	70	—
Land and Tips	112	—
Water Supplies	32	—
Swimming Bath Water Sampling	70	—
Offensive Trades Premises	26	—
Verminous Premises : Rats and Mice ...	573	82
Insects, etc.	115	3
Infectious Disease	20	—
National Assistance Acts	—	—
Agriculture Safety, Health and Welfare Regs.	1	—
Miscellaneous	436	—
Totals	11,268	352

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	51	100	25	15	7
Number of Informal Notices complied with	43	130	28	9	24
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	20	82	15	10	5
Number of Statutory Notices served	38	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	30	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	9	—	—	—	—
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	25	284	38
Retail Shops	35	438	100
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	1	24	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	4	82	40
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—
Totals	65	828	181

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

Total ... 1,281

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

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	2,774
Retail Shops	2,882
Wholesale departments, warehouses	243
Catering establishments open to the public	726
Canteens	48
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	6,673
Total Males	2,666
Total Females	4,007

The most satisfactory relationship which we have enjoyed with the majority of employers and employees was strengthened over the year. It was rewarding to find that, in so many instances, preliminary discussions before the establishment of a business had resulted in a better understanding as to the requirements laid down in the Act.

Generally, there was no undue delay in rectifying unsatisfactory conditions when these were pointed out to the person concerned.

Analysis of Unsatisfactory Conditions

	NUMBER FOUND	NUMBER REMEDIED
Lack of cleanliness	102	78
Overcrowding	7	12
Absence of thermometer or heating facilities	45	47
Inadequate ventilation	20	44
Unsatisfactory lighting	36	34
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences	135	96
Inadequate or unsatisfactory washing facilities	73	94
Absence of drinking water	—	6
Inadequate clothing accommodation	17	21
Unsuitable or inadequate seating facilities	2	3
Seats for sedentary work	3	1
Inadequate eating facilities	2	1
Defective floors and staircases	68	87
Inadequately fenced machinery	7	9
Dangerous conditions and practices	40	38
Absence of adequate first aid facilities	24	32
Failure to notify fact of employment of persons	8	9
Absence of abstract of the Act	23	47
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED	100	
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES COMPLETED	130	

The 1967 Annual Report of the Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity makes very interesting reading. Devoting a chapter to accident statistics, the Secretary of State observes that many employers seem unaware of their obligation to notify accidents to the enforcing authority. It points out that it is in the best interests of both employer and employed that the legal obligation to notify accidents should be strictly observed.

The report goes on to describe the most common causes of accidents—such as worn stairs, lack of handrails to staircases, defective floor coverings, unguarded openings and poor lighting.

The national accident statistics for the year under review (1967) show that the pattern resembles closely that of the previous year as regards sex, age groups and type of workplace. Falls, handling of goods, slicing and mixing machines, claimed their usual quota of victims.

There were eighteen notifiable accidents reported in Shrewsbury during the year 1968. (An accident becomes notifiable if an employee is fatally injured, or is disabled from doing his usual work for more than three days.)

The types of accident reported were as follows:

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

An interesting case, concerning a large store in the town, is worth recording.

Two stockroom workers entered an empty lift at the ground floor to proceed to the first floor staffroom. On closing both lift-gates, and operating the lift press-button, the lift moved upwards. The lift stopped at two-thirds of the way up against the ground floor gate due to another employee attempting to open the lift from outside.

The outer gate opened for an inch or so, and one of the lift inmates sat on the floor and put his leg outside the cage to shut the outer gate. On the latter closing, the cage moved upwards—trapping the man's foot between the shaft wall and the cage floor.

The injured man was fortunate to escape with only lacerations and a broken bone—a careless action which might have had more serious consequences. Machinery must be treated with respect.

One prosecution was taken during 1968. It concerned failure to maintain temperature in a workroom, no supply of running hot water and dirty sanitary conveniences. The case was proved and the Magistrates imposed a fine of £12.

The provisions of the Act do not apply to premises where persons are self-employed or where the persons employed are immediate relatives of the employer. Contraventions at a certain shop were not remedied as, subsequently, the employer married his sole employee and placed himself beyond the scope of the Act!

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

One exemption, in respect of sanitary conveniences and running hot water, was in operation during the year.

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

(Number of premises, 42)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains	—
Choked drains	2
Insufficient closet accommodation	—
Absence of proper sink	—
Defective water closets	10
Defective gullies	1
Defective sink	—
Defective sink waste pipes	—
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	1
Burst water pipes	—
Insufficient water supply	—
Defective soil pipes	1
Dampness arising from :—	—
Defective roofs	11
Defective eaves-gutters	11
Defective down-spouts	—
Defective brickwork and pointing	5
Defective damp-proof courses	3
Defective yard paving	—
Defective chimney flues	—
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	1
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	7
Defective floors	9
Defective stairs	3
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	7
Defective doors	5
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges	—
Defective wash-boilers	—
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks.	2
Defective and bulging external walls	1
Defective and bulging party walls	—
Filthy condition of premises	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	—
Miscellaneous	5

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	57
Private dwelling-houses	3

The Rodent Operative made 1,453 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	21	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	233	174	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	25	—	—
Total	255	220	15	—

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

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
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 ...	15	7	—	8	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	7	—	8	—

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 1968

Houses erected by Local Authority	292	630
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	338	

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) ...	1,234
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
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...	58

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	37

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... ...	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	8

Sixty-three houses, in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year. Five individual unfit houses, considered incapable of repair at reasonable cost, were subject to similar treatment. Five other dwellings were closed on account of their unfitness.

Closing Orders were revoked in respect of two dwelling-houses made fit for human habitation.

Commencement was made on a detailed survey of some eight hundred houses in the Castlefields district with a view to improvement of the area, ultimately. This operation was carried out in co-operation with members of the Borough Surveyor's staff, and subsequent findings should prove interesting.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. B. Gilham, has provided the following report for the year 1968 :

"**Charges.**—48/- per week or 8/9 per night.

Number of beds available	41
Men paying weekly charge ...	1,967
Men paying nightly charge ...	511
Daily average	39

These figures show a drop in weekly bookings and a rise in nightly bookings, which is the usual trend after a price increase in almost any hostel.

Demand for beds has been heavy for most of the year and, during the winter months, it would have needed a hostel twice the size to have any chance of meeting the demand. The sad part is turning away elderly men.

During the year I have had several old-age pensioners—at least three over 70 years of age—come to the hostel with nowhere to go and often willing to sleep on a chair or even on a mattress on the floor just to get in.

Residents.—At the present moment, of the 41 men in residence, 23 are working, mainly on building and civil engineering, 13 are old-age pensioners, and the rest are unemployed, due in nearly every case to disability or chronic sickness.

During the year 7 men were admitted to hospital and one to a welfare home. Of these, 4 have returned from hospital and the 1 from the welfare home. Unfortunately, one resident who had been here for many years—William Tomkins—died in hospital and another collapsed and died in the hostel.

General.—Once again the Corporation has continued to improve the hostel. A great deal of repainting has been done, the whole of the hostel rewired, locks fitted to all doors and a new stove provided. Tribute must also be paid to Dr. Mackenzie for his interest in the hostel, and the staff of the Housing Maintenance Department who have carried out numerous repairs and minor improvements. As a result of all this the Hostel has continued, as far as limitations of space permit, to play its part in service to the Borough of Shrewsbury.

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	6
Retail Purveyors of Milk	88

Turbidity Test (applicable to sterilised milk)

The 8 samples proved satisfactory.

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

The 37 samples proved satisfactory.

Examination for Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on 8 samples—all of which were negative.

Methylene Blue Test

Ninety-seven samples were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test (an indicator of keeping quality), of which 16 were found to be unsatisfactory and 12 were declared void.

Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined	24
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	201

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

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Void
55	36	6	11	2	—

Food and Drugs Sampling

The 106 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 91 foods (8 formal and 83 informal) and 15 drugs (all informal).

Some 100 were returned as genuine, and 6 (5 foods and 1 drug) as not genuine.

An additional 20 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. All were found to be satisfactory.

Remarks on Samples returned as Not Genuine

1. Pickled Red Cabbage (Informal)

   This was a sample of Pickled Red Cabbage with the cabbage in an unusually soft condition. (Stock withdrawn and returned to wholesaler.)

2. Pickled Red Cabbage (Informal)

   This was a sample of Pickled Red Cabbage with the cabbage in an unusually soft condition. (Stock withdrawn and returned to wholesaler).

3. Nerve Sedative (Informal)

   This sample was deficient in Potassium Iodide to the extent of 50% of the amount declared. (Manufacturer notified. This sample was well over two years old, and samples will now be kept on test for a minimum of three years at room temperature to ascertain if the iodide content changes on storage.)

4. Fruit Flip (Informal)

   This sample was not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. (Manufacturer notified.)

5. Suet (Shredded Beef) (Informal)

   This was a sample, submitted as a result of a complaint from a member of the public, which showed evidence of incipient rancidity. (Vendor and Manufacturer notified and stock withdrawn from sale.)

6. Diabetic Biscuits (Informal)

   This was a sample of biscuits with an incorrect declaration of weight. The weight per biscuit was 3.53 grams and was declared to be 4.75 grams. (Manufacturer warned. Vendor seen, when it was found that remaining stock had been disposed of.)

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	106	106	106	106
Greengrocers	17	17	17	17
Hospital Kitchens ...	7	7	7	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises ...	111	109	111	111
Restaurant Kitchens ...	43	42	43	43
Warehouses ...	7	7	7	7
School Canteens ...	28	27	28	27
Staff Canteens	12	12	12	12
Sweet Confectionery, etc.	47	47	17	17
Wet Fish	12	12	12	12

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 69

Type of Birds Processed	Number Processed	Percentage Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption	Weight Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption
Turkeys	976	—	—
Ducks	168	—	—
Capons	526	—	—
Hens	6,579	1.54	189 lbs.
Broilers	10,079	.02	3 lbs.
Geese	41	—	—
Guinea Fowl	57	—	—

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	1,061 lbs.
Corned Beef	158 lbs.
Meat and Offal	676 lbs.
Preserved Goods	3,109 tins, jars or packets
Frozen Food	5,707 packets
Ice Cream	14 gallons
Fish...	385 lbs.
Chickens	139
Tomatoes	520 lbs.
Other Foods	19 lbs.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

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

"During the early part of the year, contrary to our hopes, Foot and Mouth Disease was still very much in evidence, and it was not until well into the spring before it finally abated.

During this time bulldozers had cleared away and levelled the north paddock so that the bricklayers and steel erectors could start work on the vast new meat processing plant for Moss Waltham & Co. Ltd., who expected to be in production by the autumn of the year, thus providing us with a substantially increased throughput and extra jobs for local inhabitants.

Unfortunately, the production date was very belated indeed, not taking place in the current year at all, thus, although being a blessing in one direction, caused severe financial strain by loss of throughput.

Inside the abattoir work in connection with the extensive alteration to accommodate the increased kill had started in the early summer and quite possibly, if I had known earlier of the almost impossible task to be undertaken by Messrs. Iwell Engineers in having to work whilst we were still in production, I would never have agreed on the work being started.

The conditions prevailing, particularly between late summer and Christmas were such that had any of the abattoir employees, the engineers or the builders gone on strike, I would not have blamed them.

I should like to say how much I appreciate the way the entire staff at the abattoir worked and behaved under these very difficult and trying conditions, knowing especially that they were working harder for less remuneration than a year ago when we were able to do more under better conditions.

Having lost one third of our cooling hall space to the development of the slaughterhall we suffered, and we are still suffering, from lack of hanging space, thus causing great inconvenience to ourselves and the wholesalers who, at times, suffered from restricted production due to the alterations. Unless and until we have adequate hanging and refrigeration accommodation, compatible with modern practice in the trade, we shall be stifling our expansion on our existing trade as the public now want a much better and more professional service from the meat trade. Those who don't or won't comply will fall by the wayside.

To this end, the Meat and Livestock Commission started to take a levy on all livestock slaughtered throughout the country and we, being the operators in our own abattoir, now collect and deliver this levy as from October, 1968.

The meat trade in general is not at all happy at this levy imposed by the Meat and Livestock Commission as they feel it is more likely to interfere with instead of help the trade technically.

In order to try and make the change-over from manual-on-the-floor dressing with modern aids such as flaymasters instead of knives, we all paid some visits to Birmingham Abattoir where this type of dressing is done, and to which end the visits were well worthwhile, since we took to this type of dressing with a minimum of fault.

Both sheep and beef lines are now mechanised, thus making for less expended energy on the part of the slaughtermen, and for a better and more hygienic finish to the carcase.

The meat inspection technique is also having to be re-organised since before an inspector could stand in one position and see the entire carcase being dressed he now is part of a team wherein he examines a certain part of every carcase on the moving line as does all the other inspectors, and in the end the entire carcase and its offal are systematically examined, and passed or detained as the case may be.

The ban on wiping carcases and their associated offals with a wiping cloth came into operation during the latter part of the year and, although the moral instruction is clear in that spraying with wholesome water is now the only operation acceptable, some places use paper towels as wipers in the sense that the regulation does not mention paper towels but cloths.

We, in common with all other abattoirs, do experience the grave difficulty that sheep coming straight into the abattoir for immediate slaughter, particularly in a wet and dirty condition, cannot be washed clean to a suitable standard and here I am sure the lack of a wiping cloth is very pronounced and missed.

The number of livestock carcases and offal inspected and passed as fit or rejected as unfit for human consumption is presented at the bottom of this report.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

(Figures in Brackets are for 1967)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	18,784 (17,377)	2,651 (2,068)	1,714 (1,779)	84,952 (91,427)	41,296 (34,414)	— (—)
Number inspected	18,784 (17,377)	2,651 (2,068)	1,714 (1,779)	84,952 (91,427)	41,296 (34,414)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcases condemned ...	3 (2)	18 (14)	66 (88)	108 (130)	69 (86)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3,324 (3,209)	1,001 (734)	86 (107)	3,178 (2,357)	1,326 (1,206)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	17.71 (18.47)	38.44 (36.17)	8.87 (10.95)	3.86 (2.50)	3.38 (3.75)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	8 (—)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	218 (233)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	0.54 (0.68)	— (—)
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	24 (10)	2 (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...	16 (8)	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcases and offal of 73 tons, 17 cwts., 67 lbs., details as follows:—

Carcases and Parts ... ... 20 tons 3 cwts. 88 lbs. (19 tons 16 cwts. 97 lbs.)

Offal ... ... 53tons 13 cwts. 91 lbs. (44 tons 6 cwts. 85 lbs.)

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

Tinned Ham...	32 lbs.
Tinned Corned Beef	6 lbs.
Frozen Chicken	7 lbs. 10 ozs.
Frozen Pigs Liver	200 lbs.
Frozen Ox Liver	370 lbs.
Frozen Sheep Kidney	283 lbs.

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