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County of Slough

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

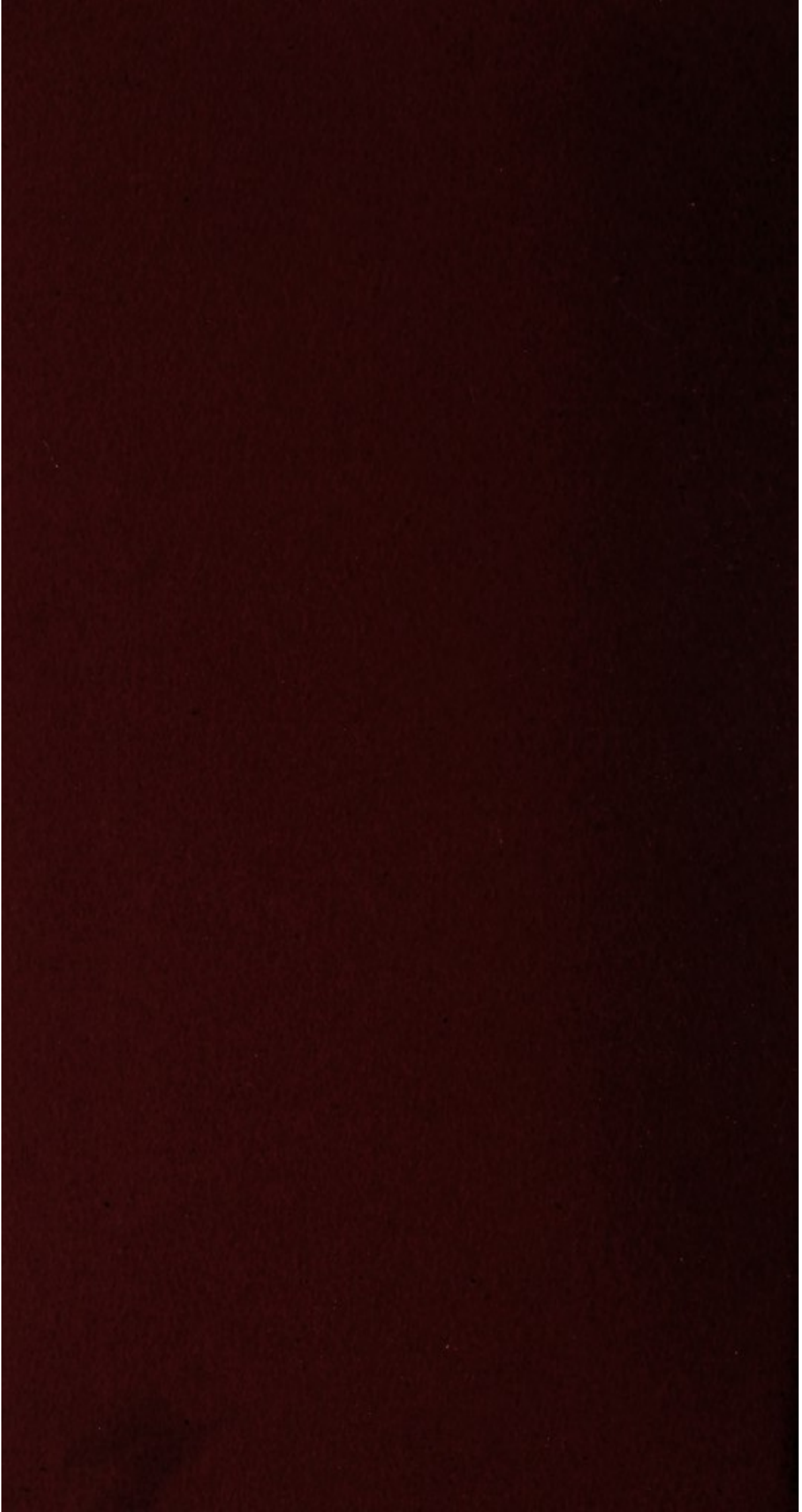
for the Year 1949

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector



pc ask
5/12/49

BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May, 1949.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR W. C. R. SHEARS.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON.

ALDERMAN E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P.	COUNCILLOR D. F. BELLAIRS, J.P.
ALDERMAN J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C.	COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.
(Mayor).	COUNCILLOR W. H. JENNINGS.
ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR MRS. M. J. MORGAN.
(Deputy Mayor) (<i>ex-officio</i>).	COUNCILLOR J. H. SMITH.

May to December, 1949.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR W. C. R. SHEARS.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON.

ALDERMAN E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P.	COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.
ALDERMAN J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C.	COUNCILLOR W. H. JENNINGS.
(Mayor) (<i>ex-officio</i>).	COUNCILLOR J. E. LEWIS
ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR P. LIGHTFOOT, J.P.
(Deputy Mayor) (<i>ex-officio</i>).	COUNCILLOR MRS. M. J. MORGAN.
ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.	COUNCILLOR H. OLDING.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

G. M. HOBBIN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(resigned 31st December, 1949)

*Medical Superintendent of Crippenham Isolation Hospital until
31st January, 1949.*

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(from 11th April, 1950).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

LESLIE A. STROUD, D.P.A., F.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1, 3, 4, 5).

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. SAGAR, D.P.A., M.S.I.A. (2, 3, 4, 5).

District Sanitary Inspectors :

F. COLBERT, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. (2, 3, 4).

G. V. JINKS, M.S.I.A. (2, 3). (Resigned 31.1.49.)

J. A. QUIGG, M.S.I.A. (2, 3, 6, 7).

R. J. SPITTLE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3, 4).

B. C. UPTON, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3). (Appointed 21.2.49.)

District Sanitary Inspector (Junior) :

I. D. PRESTON (2).

Public Analyst :

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.,
Stuart House, 1, Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS.

1. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
2. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
3. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
4. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.
5. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works.
6. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Food Hygiene.
7. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
SLOUGH.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Slough.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first annual report—for the year 1949. This report deals, of course, with the administration of the health department and the health circumstances of the Borough during the term of office of my predecessor, Dr. G. M. Hobbin, who resigned on 31st December, 1949. For this reason, the majority of the comments in the report are of a general, rather than of a particular, nature.

The changes in public health administration were not so great in 1949 as they were in 1948, when the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force, and the period has been one of consolidation. The main change during the year as the result of this Act was the closure of the Cippenham Isolation Hospital on 31st January, 1949, and I have taken the opportunity of giving a brief history of this hospital from the time it was taken over by the Eton Joint Hospital Board in 1933. There were, however, one or two additional pieces of legislation which involved altered responsibilities of the health department. Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on 1st October, the registration of dairy farms passed from the local authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the registration of milk pasteurising and sterilising plants became the responsibility of Foods and Drugs Authorities instead of remaining with local authorities. This latter change did not affect the Borough of Slough which is a Food and Drugs Authority. The Slough Corporation Act, 1949, passed through all its stages during the year and included in this Act are a number of provisions affecting health. A brief resume of some of the more important clauses is given in the body of the report.

The vital statistics which are set out in considerable detail in the report show that, apart from tuberculosis, a satisfactory standard of health has been maintained. It will be seen that 82 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1949; of these 71 were pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary. There has been a very considerable increase in new cases notified during the past two years and although some of the increase is, no doubt, due to better notification the situation needs to be watched with especial care.

The live birth rate showed a further slight decrease but it is still above the national rate, and it is very pleasing to record that the stillbirth rate and the death rate of infants under one year of age reached new low levels.

Apart from the termination of a measles epidemic which had reached its peak in December, 1948, the incidence of infectious diseases was very low and the number of cases of scarlet fever and meningococcal infection have never been fewer.

The principal causes of death were heart diseases, cancer, intra-cranial vascular lesions, bronchitis and tuberculosis.

510 families were re-housed during the year, and, since the war, 657 permanent and 400 pre-fabricated houses have been completed. There were 3,500 applicants awaiting re-housing at the end of 1949 compared with 5,200 on 31st December, 1948. Although this figure may not present a true picture of housing requirements, it is a sufficient indication that housing is still very much to the forefront as a major problem affecting health.

The Sanitary Inspectors have continued to keep a constant watch on the quality of foods and drugs offered for sale and samples have been taken regularly for examination. Many samples of ice-cream and milk have been examined at the Town Hall Laboratory. There is no doubt that constant supervision keeps tradesmen impressed with the need for great care in the marketing of goods for human consumption.

I should like to record my appreciation of the encouragement and support I have received from all quarters since my recent arrival in Slough, and also to thank the members of the Staff who have not only given great support to Dr. Hobbin and to me but who have also maintained the services at such a high level during the interval between the resignation of my predecessor and my arrival in April, 1950.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

JUNE, 1950.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	6,276 acres
Population : Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1949	
Civilian	66,320
Total	66,610
Number of dwelling houses including flats at 31st March, 1950 (according to Rate books)	16,800 approx.
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1950	£586,510
Estimated product of Penny Rate 1950/51	£2,370

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949.

(All calculations are based on the civilian population.)

Live Births :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	596	514	1,110
Illegitimate	35	31	66
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	631	545	1,176
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 population—17.74.

Still Births :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	8	11	19
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	10	12	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births)—18.36

Still-births per 1,000 population — 0.33

Deaths :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	298	235	533

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) —8.04

Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age)—9.81

(Comparability figure—1.22)

National Death Rate—11.7

Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate—0.84

Number of women dying in or as a consequence of childbirth :

(a) From sepsis Nil.

(b) From other causes Nil.

Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

Deaths :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	17	11	28
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	18	12	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births—25.51.

Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—25.23.

Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—30.31.

Death rates per 1,000 population :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.33
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.33
Cancer	1.52

Other Deaths :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cancer	65	36	101
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	13	9	22
—non-pulmonary	—	—	—

I. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There has been little change in the conditions of the district during the year and the period might, in many ways, be described as the period of consolidation needed before the next stage when building will again be rapid and the influx of population, mainly through the London County Council Housing Estates, will again cause the town to take on its pre-war characteristics of rapid expansion.

During 1949, although the population grew a little owing to a natural increase, there was a slight balance of emigrants; unemployment was scarcely known; rates of building were not as high as desired by the Council due to a variety of causes. There were, no doubt, some changes in the number and types of factories, but these changes were only comparatively slight and did not materially affect the social conditions of the area.

The summer produced the hottest and driest weather for many years but there was no water shortage in the Borough, the supply from boreholes in the Datchet area being constant in quantity as well as in quality.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 1,176 live births in 1949: 631 were males and 545 were females.

Of these, 66 were illegitimate (35 males and 31 females). This number is 5.61 per cent. of the total live births, a fall of 0.39 per cent. on the figures for 1948.

The birth rate for 1949 was 17.74 per 1,000 of the population, which is slightly less than for 1948 (18.0). The table below gives birth rates and percentages of illegitimate births to total births for the years 1938 to 1949 inclusive. From this table it will be seen that the increase in the birth rate from 1943 onwards, relatively slight in Slough, is probably only a passing post-war phase although it is, as yet, too early to forecast whether the level will drop to that of the inter-war years. Slough has a young and vigorous population and it is probable that the birth rate will remain above that of the country as a whole, particularly as a population with a high proportion of immigrants tends to be younger than one which is stable.

The high percentage of illegitimate births, always a concomitant of war, is settling slowly, but apparently surely, towards its pre-war level. The ten-year average (1928-1937) showed that the percentage of illegitimate births to total births was 4.87.

BIRTH RATES.

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales	15.1	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.7
Slough	19.6	19.3	18.95	16.6	18.4	19.6	20.5	18.9	20.9	21.8	18.9
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	5.0	4.4	4.4	5.5	5.9	6.4	6.7	8.8	6.7	6.1	6.0

STILLBIRTHS.

The registered number of stillbirths was 22 (10 males and 12 females) of which three were illegitimate. This figure gives a still-birth rate of 18.36 per 1,000 total births or 0.33 per 1,000 population, as compared with 23 and 0.42 for 1948.

The National stillbirths rate is 0.39 per 1,000 population, and Slough has been consistently below the country as a whole. The low rate reached this year is far below that ever experienced before.

DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths, the net total assigned to the Borough was 533 (298 males, and 235 females), a fall of six on the total for 1948.

The tables on pages 9 and 10 show the sex and age distribution and causes of death in 1949. Of the total deaths 254 (47.74%) occurred in persons aged 70 or over. Persons over the age of 65 are now regarded officially as being 'old' and there were 312 deaths (58.64%) in this group.

The crude death rate was 8.04 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population as compared with 7.97 for the previous year. The corrected death rate, that is one which takes the age and sex of the population into account, was 9.81. This is obtained, in the absence of local figures, by multiplying the crude death rate by the Comparability Figure of 1.22. This figure is supplied by the Registrar-General and allows comparison between the National Rate (11.7) and the corrected death rate in any other area of the country.

DEATH RATES.

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.9
Crude D.R., Slough	8.3	8.94	9.89	8.8	7.2	8.2	9.9	8.4	8.3	9.12	7.9

The following tables show the causes of death, and the sex and age distribution of deaths :—

Causes of Death						1949	
						Males	Females
All causes		Total : 533				298	235
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers					—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever					—	—
3.	Scarlet fever					—	—
4.	Whooping Cough					—	—
5.	Diphtheria					—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system					13	9
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis					—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases					2	3
9.	Influenza					1	1
10.	Measles					—	—
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis					—	—
12.	Acute infective encephalitis					—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)					5	—
	Cancer of uterus (F)					—	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum					12	10
15.	Cancer of breast					1	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites					47	19
17.	Diabetes					2	3
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions					21	38
19.	Heart disease					83	74
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system					11	9
21.	Bronchitis					18	6
22.	Pneumonia					9	8
23.	Other respiratory diseases					4	3
23.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum					3	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years					—	1
26.	Appendicitis					1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases					8	5
28.	Nephritis					7	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis					—	—
30.	Other maternal causes					—	—
31.	Premature births					6	4
32.	Congenital malformations ; births injuries ; infantile diseases					13	7
33.	Suicide					6	6
34.	Road traffic accidents					9	1
35.	Other violent causes					3	3
36.	All other causes					13	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year : Total						18	12
Legitimate						17	11
Illegitimate						1	1

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1949.

Ages at Death in Years.	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	18	12	30
1	1	3	4
10	7	4	11
25	31	25	56
45	76	44	120
65	30	28	58
	— 163	— 116	— 279
70	42	34	76
75	50	34	84
80	25	28	53
85	15	15	30
90	3	3	6
95 and over	—	5	5
	— 135	— 119	— 254
	298	235	533

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy or child bearing during the year under review.

INFANT MORTALITY.

After correction for inward and outward transfers, there were 30 deaths (18 males and 12 females) of infants under one year of age.

From the table below it will be seen that there has been a steady decline in the infant mortality rate during the past ten years and the rate of 25.51 per 1,000 live births is by far the lowest figure ever recorded in Slough. When it is remembered that the medical officer of health, reporting in 1929 said that the rate of just under 50 which then existed was almost as low as possible, it will be seen that great strides in infant care have been made. The infant mortality rate is often taken as an indication of the general health of the community, and it is pleasing to be able to record that the Infant Mortality Rate for Slough has nearly always been below that for the country as a whole.

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales	53	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	39
Slough	44.3	47.3	46.8	47.9	40.4	40.2	37.3	32.5	31.1	30.9	25.5

The table below divides the deaths of infants under one year of age into causes and into periods of less than one year. It shows deaths in varying periods up to 28 days, known as the neo-natal period, and also in further varying periods up to 1 year. It is very interesting to note that of the 30 deaths in infants under the age of 1 year, 24 (or 80%) died in the first month of life, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 20.4 per thousand live births.

Causes of Death of all Infants under one year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1-2 days	2-5 days	5-7 days	Total under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Maternal causes	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pyloric stenosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation	1	2	—	—	3	—	2	5	2	1	—	—	8
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	8	3	2	—	13	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	13
Rhesus incompatibility	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Total	12	8	2	—	22	—	2	24	5	1	—	—	30

Of 30 deaths in infants under the age of 1 year, 24(or 80%) died in the first month of life, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 20.4 per 1,000 live births.

INQUESTS.

30 Inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1949, and the causes of death as recorded by the Registrar of Births and Deaths are set out in the following table.

Causes of Death.	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural causes	1	1	2
Accidents—			
Falls	1	3	4
By motor vehicles	8	1	9
By railway locomotives	2	—	2
By burning	1	—	1
Suicide—			
Cut throat	—	1	1
Drowning	1	1	2
Hanging	2	—	2
Crushing by railway locomotive	—	1	1
Poisoning—Coal gas	2	2	4
—Barbiturates	1	1	2
	19	11	30

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1949 credited the Borough with a civilian population of 66,320 and a total population of 66,610, an increase of 550 on the previous year. The table below gives the annual number of residents since 1929, when the population was 18,500. It will be seen that the population increased very rapidly between 1930 and 1942, the main additions occurring between 1930 and 1932 during the rapid expansion of the Slough Trading Estate, and again between 1939 and 1941 when the early war evacuation of London took place. Following a decrease from 1943 to 1945 the population has again increased, but the recent rate of expansion has been much slower and no great expansion can be expected until the building of new houses is again in full swing.

1929	18,500	1940	60,670
1930	26,010	1941	65,350
1932	33,430	1942	64,420
1932	35,210	1943	62,960
1933	36,900	1944	61,250
1934	38,810	1945	60,220
1935	41,100	1946	63,040
1936	44,040	1947	64,240
1937	48,300	1948	66,060
1938	50,620	1949	66,610
1939	53,890		

During this period the natural increase, that is, births minus deaths, was 12,003 and the net immigrants were, therefore, 39,307.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The general health services of the Borough did not undergo such great changes in 1949 as they did in 1948, when on 5th July, the National Health Service Act became operative, but there were nevertheless some alterations resulting from the implementation of some clauses of that Act which were delayed until the year under review. The closure of the Cippenham Isolation Hospital is referred to later in the report but the matter of the Cleansing Station is dealt with in this section, along with other matters which cannot be dealt with appropriately elsewhere.

Cleansing Station.

The Cippenham Isolation Hospital was provided with a cleansing station which was available for the cleansing of persons infested with vermin or scabies and this station could also undertake the disinfestation of personal belongings. The use of this station remained until the end of 1948 while the Corporation acted as an agent of the Regional Hospital Board. It was hoped that these facilities would still be granted by the Board after that date, but the Hospital was closed down on 31st January, 1949, and it was, therefore, necessary to make other arrangements. No other suitable premises could be found for a Cleansing Station and so patients have had to be provided with the necessary treatment in their own homes, while the disinfestation of their bedding and belongings has been carried out in the disinfestor at the Chalvey Pumping Station. The numbers to be treated has been small and no very great difficulty has yet been found. It must be borne in mind, however, that should the number of cases increase, the provision of treatment which, in most instances necessitates a bath, may be extremely difficult especially as a proportion of houses have no bathing facilities.

Disposal of Refuse.

The main part of the refuse is dealt with by a modern mechanised plant which was installed in 1939, and the small residue is disposed of by tipping on low-lying land near the Datchet Road. Two feet of top soil, which has been removed prior to tipping, is replaced following the operation and the level of the land is being raised by about 4 feet. It is hoped, in time, to provide playing fields which will be above flood level. This tipping is, of course, merely a temporary phase and plans are being prepared for the extension of the destructor furnaces at Chalvey.

Before the war trade waste was collected by this Council on a repayment basis but this had to cease for reasons beyond local control. At the present time the factory refuse is removed by contractors and tipped outside the borough boundaries, but it is hoped that facilities will soon be available for tipping in the town and the Council will then be able to resume collections and thus to control, more completely, the disposal of waste materials produced by local manufacturers.

Kitchen Waste.

About two years ago an attempt was made to get rid of the street 'pig bins' which are always a constant source of irritation and nuisance to householders. Houses in a small area of the town were supplied, on request, with individual containers for kitchen waste and this scheme is gradually being extended to other districts. The waste is collected thrice weekly by a contractor and removed to a "digestor" plant approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Disinfestation.

Disinfestation of bedding and clothing is carried out at a steam disinfector plant situated near the Refuse Destructor at Chalvey.

Water.

Water is supplied in the Borough of Slough by three water undertakings. The water to the main part of the town is supplied by the Slough Corporation, the western ward of Burnham is supplied by the Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Water Co., and water for the Trading Estate and a few surrounding houses comes from an independent borehole supply on the Estate.

I propose to deal with these supplies separately.

Slough Corporation Water Supply.

The water supply in the Slough water area, which includes a part of the surrounding rural district, was consistently satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

14,657 houses, with an estimated population of 63,025, are served by a direct supply and 136 houses, with an estimated population of 585, are supplied by standpipes. 12 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis at regular intervals during the year from the pumps at Pockocks Lane Pumping Station, Datchet. Nine of these samples were examined at the Council's laboratory and three were examined by an independent consultant. All were of a high degree of purity, showing no traces of bacteriological contamination. No plumbo-solvent action has ever been noted.

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

The water supplied by this company to 2,602 houses, with a population of over 10,000, was consistently satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Thirty-two bacteriological examinations were made during the year and all samples were free from contamination. In addition to this, six chemical analyses were made and although the water is hard, the hardness is not excessive. The result of a typical chemical analysis is set out below.

(Values are given in parts per million)

Appearance—Clear and bright.	
Reaction	pH 7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	16
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	510
Total solids, dried at 180°C.	340
Chlorine in Chlorides	26
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	220
Hardness : Total	265
Temporary	220
Permanent	45
Nitrogen as Nitrates	4.2
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.00
Metals	Absent

Slough Estates Ltd., Water Supply.

Water is supplied to the Slough Trading Estate and also to a few dwelling houses on the estate. As with the other supplies, the water was consistently satisfactory in quantity and in quality.

Six samples were taken from the various boreholes during the year for chemical and bacteriological analyses, and the following report from the consultant was typical: "This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, very faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals, apart from a trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes." Once again no plumbo-solvent action has ever been recorded.

Swimming Bath Water.

Two swimming baths exist in Slough. One, at the Slough Community Centre, is covered and is in use all the year round, and the other, at Baylis House, is in the open air and is used during the summer months only. 17 samples were taken between January and December for the first-mentioned pool, and 9 samples were taken from the latter between May and September. All samples were examined at the Council's Laboratory and were found to be of a high degree of purity consistent with a public swimming bath supply.

Sewage Disposal.

The main treatment works is situated at Cippenham where the original works, constructed in 1917, is still functioning to a very limited extent in order to supplement the major portion of the plant which was installed in 1936-1938. Connected with these treatment works is a 147-acre farm at Dorney, which is used for the disposal of partially treated sewage by irrigation. The district works at Langley occupies some 25 acres of land where sewage for the eastern part of the town is dealt with by irrigation after preliminary tank and filter treatment. Extensions are now being made to the main works at Cippenham, and when these have been completed full treatment will be undertaken for all sewage in the Borough and the plant will ultimately be capable of dealing with the amounts expected when the town has reached its anticipated maximum population of 110,000.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

This section provides for the removal to a suitable place of persons who are in need of care and attention through age or disease. This step is only taken, of course, in extreme cases where the person concerned is likely to suffer injury to health by remaining in his or her home or where there is serious nuisance to other persons.

Action only had to be taken in one case during the year. An old lady who was living under deplorable conditions was not receiving proper care from other persons. She refused to go into hospital voluntarily and the Council obtained an Order for her removal to Upton Hospital for three months. It was not necessary to have the Order extended but the old lady is still in hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Cippenham Isolation Hospital came under the control of the Eton Joint Hospital Board in July, 1933. The Board was constituted by the Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Eton Joint Hospital District) Act, 1933, and consisted of the following members:

Eton U.D.C.	—	2 elected : 1 ex-officio.
Slough U.D.C.	—	3 elected : 1 ex-officio.
Eton R.D.C.	—	3 elected : 1 ex-officio.

The hospital continued under this arrangement until 5th July, 1948, when it was taken over by the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, but the Slough Corporation carried on under the agency basis until 31st December, 1948, and the Medical Officer of Health continued to act as Medical Superintendent until the hospital was closed on 31st January, 1949.

The hospital had a total of 75 beds, ten of which were in a new cubicle block completed early in 1936. There was a full nursing staff including a matron and sister, and cases were admitted from Slough Urban District (later Slough Borough), Eton Urban District and Eton Rural District, under the care of the Medical Officer of Health for Slough who was appointed Medical Superintendent.

Following the closure of the hospital early in 1949 all cases from the district were admitted to Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.

It is always pleasing to know that the incidence of infectious diseases has fallen to such a low level that the need for many of the smaller isolation hospitals has passed, but the medical officer of health who previously undertook the care of patients in these hospitals cannot view the removal of such units with equanimity as his control of infectious diseases in the district must inevitably be diminished even although he obtains full co-operation from the new hospital authorities.

Infectious diseases do still occur even although with less frequency than before and the medical officer, who is often recognised as the local "consultant" for infectious diseases must, by losing his day-to-day contact with clinical cases, inevitably find that his position is thereby made more difficult.

SLOUGH CORPORATION ACT, 1949.

The Slough Corporation was able, in 1949, to obtain legislative sanction from Parliament for many matters which, it was considered, would be of benefit to the town and among the provisions of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, are a number of clauses directly affecting the health of the people.

Among the clauses, concerning infectious diseases there is one under which the Corporation, acting on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health may close any school or Sunday school or any department thereof, or may exclude children from school or places of public entertainment or assembly for the purpose of preventing the spread of infectious disease.

Probably the most important clause in the prevention of disease is that which allows the Corporation to request a person suffering from infectious tuberculosis to cease employment in the Borough in the cooking, preparation or handling of food intended for persons outside his own household. If such a request is not complied with then the Corporation may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order requiring him to stop his employment.

There are, in addition to these items mentioned above, a number of other clauses affecting health. Some of the clauses enable the Corporation to take effective action concerning filthy or infested houses and to effect remedies for defective drains without the delays entailed under previous general Acts of Parliament; other health clauses are associated with the making of by-laws and these do not, of course, come into operation until a later date. These will be the subject for report in subsequent years.

LABORATORY.

During the year the following specimens were examined:—

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.....	—	214
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci.....	—	87
Swabs for Vincent's Angina.....	—	6
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli.....	7	36
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli.....	—	1
Urine for organisms for Typhoid and Dysentery groups.....	—	1
Pus for Gonococci.....	—	5
Faeces for organisms of Coli-Typhoid group.....	—	21
Faeces for Tubercle Bacilli.....	—	1
Faeces for Occult Blood.....	—	1
Blood samples for Widal reaction.....	1	6
Urine specimens for routine examinations.....	29	
Specimen of cerebro-spinal fluid.....	1	
Blood counts.....	18	
Full Blood counts.....	5	
Miscellaneous specimens.....	21	
Milk samples—	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
(a) Phosphatase test.....	181	—
(b) Methylene blue test.....	211	14
(c) Coliform test.....	76	8
Water samples—		
(a) Drinking water.....	24	4
(b) Swimming pool water.....	26	—
Ice-cream samples.....	121	25

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

72 post-mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough Mortuary during 1949. This compares with 98 in the previous year.

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

This service is now run by the Buckingham County Council with local administration by a Home Helps Organiser working under the Medical Officer of Health as Area Medical Officer for South Bucks. There was a considerable expansion of the service during 1949, and the details of the scheme are set out below.

Number of Home Helps as at 31.12.49:—

- (a) Full-time..... Nil.
- (b) Part-time..... 43

Number of Cases who received help during 1949:—

- (a) Acute Sick..... 38
- (b) Chronic Sick..... 220
- (c) Maternity..... 54

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A measles epidemic which had begun in 1948 had only just passed its peak by the beginning of 1949 and the number of notifications remained high until June. Apart from this disease there were no serious epidemics and the incidence of all the other infectious diseases was well below the ten-year average. So far as acute poliomyelitis was concerned, Slough was indeed fortunate as only three cases were notified even although the notifications for the country as a whole were only second in number to those recorded during the widespread epidemic of 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Notifiable Diseases during 1949.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1949, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths. Also notifications for years 1940-1948.

	Cases Notified 1949	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths 1949	Population in thousands						Total cases notified during					
				60	61	62	63	64	65	66	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
				1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1940	1941	1940
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	33	14	—	66	44	77	113	151	120	63	80	72	—	80	72
Diphtheria	—	—	—	6	7	16	8	30	23	5	38	91	—	38	91
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	7	—	8	12	17	6	10	9	10	13	15	—	13	15
Pneumonia	14	2	17	20	27	22	28	33	34	27	26	34	—	26	34
Erysipelas	15	2	—	14	20	24	9	7	22	5	28	22	—	28	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1	—	1	1
Measles	416	8	—	748	168	859	826	29	995	179	258	998	—	258	998
Whooping Cough	118	7	—	328	171	280	92	146	164	36	224	64	—	224	64
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	4	7	1	6	5	5	8	10	18	—	10	18
Poliomylitis	3	3	—	9	5	—	2	—	—	2	28	2	—	28	2
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.
Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	O. t.	Nov.	Dec.
Measles	160	58	68	56	15	44	12	2	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	30	30	12	10	16	8	—	3	9	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :												
Pulmonary	4	3	8	5	5	14	11	1	4	5	4	7
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	1	6	1	1	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	1	2	4	1	—	1	2	2	—	4	5	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia	2	4	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	1	2	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	3
Meningococcal												
Infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE III.
Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

	Burnham	Central	Chalvey	Farnham	Langley	Stoke	Upton
Measles	47	113	45	90	46	48	27
Whooping Cough	27	30	15	16	10	13	7
Tuberculosis :							
Pulmonary	10	16	4	2	5	11	1
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	2	1	—	5	—
Scarlet Fever	4	8	5	7	6	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	2	6
Pneumonia	—	3	3	2	1	1	4
Erysipelas	—	4	3	5	—	3	—
Meningococcal							
Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

It is possible to report, for the first time since records have been kept, that there were no cases of diphtheria in the Borough during the year. There is no doubt that this result, and the accompanying decrease in the incidence of the disease throughout the country, is largely due to the widespread and continued practice of diphtheria immunisation, which started as a nation-wide campaign beginning in 1941-1942.

The table below shows the changing situation of this disease over the past 30 years.

Year	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Population	Remarks
1920	5	1	16,474	} Immunisation campaign started
1930	77	5	26,010	
1940	91	5	60,670	
1941	38	4	65,350	
1942	5	—	64,420	
1943	23	1	62,960	
1944	30	2	61,250	
1945	8	1	60,220	
1946	16	—	63,040	
1947	7	2	64,240	
1948	6	—	66,060	
1949	NO CASES		66,610	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

It will be remembered that it was reported in the Annual Report for 1948, that responsibility for the immunisation of children of all ages was transferred to the Buckingham County Council from 5th July, 1948. The administrative changes occurring in Slough as the result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, were probably less than in many places of similar size as the County Council was already the Welfare and the Education Authority prior to 1948, but changes of administration must inevitably produce varying reactions, and arguments for and against County Council administration are common occurrences. It must be fully realised, however, that although the responsibility for some of the work may have changed from one authority to another, the work itself continues without interruption and, in many cases, is still being carried out by the same persons. Inoculations against diphtheria are done either by Medical Officers of the Public Health Services or by general practitioners.

During 1949, 805 children received their primary inoculations against diphtheria, and 592 children had renewal doses. The 'renewal' or 'booster' dose of 0.3 cc. is given at school entry age to produce an enhanced immunity at the time when the child comes, probably for the first time in his life, into contact with large numbers of children.

It is pleasing to note that the number of immunisations is remaining high but no complacency must result just because no case of diphtheria has been recorded during the year. Experts estimate that at least 75% of children must be immunised to make the risk of spreading the disease negligible, and the medical officer of health and his staff can never be satisfied until every child has been protected against this dreaded disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

118 cases of whooping cough were notified during 1949 as compared with 328 for 1948. The figure for the current year is below that found for six out of the nine years during which whooping cough has been a notifiable disease. The quarterly distribution is shewn below :

1st quarter	—	72
2nd quarter	—	34
3rd quarter	—	12
4th quarter	—	—

The greater majority of the cases occurred during the first quarter of the year, and this was a continuation of the fairly high rate present in 1948. At no time did the disease reach epidemic proportions and the cases were fairly evenly distributed throughout the various wards of the Borough. No deaths were reported as having been due to this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

It has been the practice to offer to immunise children against Whooping Cough should the parent wish this to be done. The vaccination can be carried out either in conjunction with diphtheria immunisation or as an entirely separate procedure. During 1949, 623 children were immunised with a combined vaccine against diphtheria and whooping cough, and a further 37 had inoculations against whooping cough alone.

Although immunisation against Whooping Cough is believed to be of some value, its efficacy is not proven. Parents are not actively persuaded to have their children immunised against whooping cough because, should the vaccine apparently fail to have any effect then they might draw a parallel with diphtheria immunisation itself, and condemn as useless a practice which has removed one of the greatest scourges of childhood.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only 33 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year under review compared with 66 in 1948: indeed the recorded number of cases of this disease has not been so small since 1928 when 28 were notified. 14 of the cases notified during 1949 were admitted to hospital but no deaths occurred. The fact that the number of cases recorded in 1949 was so small may not be of great significance in itself, but scarlet fever has shown a great decline in virulence during recent years and deaths or severe complications following this disease are now a comparative rarity. Whether this decline is a natural phenomenon or whether it is due to treatment of streptococcal diseases by sulphonamides and penicillin is still a matter for argument.

ERYSIPELAS.

Fourteen cases of this disease were notified during 1949 and two were admitted to hospital. No deaths were recorded.

PNEUMONIA.

14 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year, and of these two were admitted to hospital. These notifications do not include all cases of pneumonia in the Borough, from which there were seventeen deaths, as only Acute Primary Pneumonia and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable. Of the 14 notifications 10 were Acute Primary Pneumonia and 4 were Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases of this disease were notified during the year, two occurring in February and one in September. Two of the cases, both adults, recovered rapidly without any residual paralysis, but the third case, a child of five years, had some paralysis of the legs. Slough was extremely fortunate in having only three cases of this disease during the year as England and Wales as a whole had 5,920 cases compared with 7,671 during the epidemic of 1947. The attack rate for the country as a whole was 0.136 per 1,000, and for Slough was 0.045 per 1,000.

The method of spread of this disease is still not certain and the reason for the low incidence in this town cannot, therefore, be known at present. One can only hope that the good fortune experienced in the Borough over the past few years may be continued.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of typhoid fever was notified during the year. He was a steward on the s.s. Mooltan, and it is probable that he contracted the disease on board ship. He was admitted to Maidenhead Hospital and made a complete recovery. No further cases resulted.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

One case of meningococcal infection was notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING.

Total No. of Outbreaks	No. of Cases	No of Deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible	Foods involved
One	16	Nil.	No definite food poisoning organisms incriminated.	Probably minced beef.

One outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year, at Thomas Gray School, on 28th April, 1949. Meals were supplied by the Baylis Court School Meals Kitchen but the minced meat and canned corned beef which came under suspicion were only sent to the school where the outbreak occurred.

Sixteen persons were affected, 9 pupils and 7 members of the staff. Diarrhoea and vomiting commencing some hours after the meal and lasting until the next day were experienced by all the victims.

No serious contamination was found in scrapings taken from the corned beef tin, but samples of the minced beef and also of the minced beef and corned beef mixed with gravy were found to be heavily contaminated. Although the organisms isolated were not of the type usually associated with food poisoning it was the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health that such gross contamination would account for an attack of gastro-enteritis.

It would appear, therefore, that the organisms had multiplied rapidly in meat which had been cooked the previous day and reheated just before the meal was served. Although the standard of hygiene in the kitchen was high and no criticism is implied, this outbreak seems to emphasise, once again, the dangers of reheating, in communal kitchens, meat which has been cooked the previous day. Food, especially meat and milk products, which is allowed to stand overnight in this way allows the germs, which may have been very few in number to start with, to multiply at an enormous rate and so to cause food poisoning symptoms the next day.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During 1949, 148 persons were vaccinated against Smallpox and 41 persons were re-vaccinated.

This number is very small and there is no doubt that the proportion of the population in Slough immunised against this disease has fallen very considerably since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which repealed compulsory vaccination previously enforced under the Vaccination Acts, 1867 to 1907. This trend seems to be general throughout the whole country.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table showing age-distribution of Primary Notifications.

Age in years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 -	—	—	—	—
1 -	—	2	1	1
5 -	4	2	—	1
15 -	5	14	1	2
25 -	14	12	1	2
35 -	7	3	—	1
45 -	3	1	1	—
55 -	3	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—
Total	37	34	4	7

There were twenty-two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year (13 males and 9 females), giving a mortality rate of 0.33 per 1,000 of the population.

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Notification Register on 31st December, 1949 :

<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
240	183	423	39	38	77

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The sites of the new cases entered in the Notification Register during the year were as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Abdomen	2	—
Knee	—	1
Epididymis	1	—
Glands	—	3
Spine	1	1
Skin	—	1
Kidney	—	1
	4	7
	—	—

IV. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

Centre	Location	Sessions	Sessions with Medical Officer
Cippenham.....	Central Hall, Bower Way.	Fridays, 2 p.m.	All sessions.
Langley	Women's Institute Hall, Elmhurst Road.	2nd and 4th Fridays, 2 p.m.	4th Friday.
Slough Health Centre	Burlington Road.	Mondays, 2 p.m. Thursdays, 2 p.m.	All sessions. 1st Thursday.
St. Michael's	Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road.	Mondays, 2 p.m.	All sessions.
Wexham Road	Wexham Road, Community Centre	Fridays, 2 p.m.	All sessions.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

<i>Centre.</i>	<i>Sessions.</i>
Cippenham	1st Thursday, 10.30 a.m.
Langley	3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Slough Health Centre	Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.
St. Michael's	1st Monday, 2 p.m.
Wexham Road	2nd Friday, 2 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Location.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Post-Natal Clinic.
Upton Hospital	Thursdays, 1.30 p.m.	Mondays, 10.30 a.m.
Slough Community Centre. (Conducted by the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital).	Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. (First bookings).	Fridays, 11.30 a.m.

In addition to these clinics there is a Midwives' Ante-Natal clinic held at the Health Centre in Burlington Road for those cases whose confinements are to take place at home. In these cases, post-natal care is undertaken by the family doctor.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

These clinics are part of the School Health Service and are available to all children of school age and also to those attending Nursery Schools. All clinics are held at the Burlington Road Health Centre. A Minor Ailments Clinic is held every morning by Health Visitors and a doctor is in attendance on Thursday mornings. Appointments with the Dentists or Eye Specialists are arranged by appointment.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held on Thursday mornings.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Chest Clinic is situated in Upton Hospital, Albert Street, and all arrangements are under the control of the Chest Physician.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The nearest treatment centres are :—

King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.
Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC.

Community Centre, Farnham Road Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.
(Entrance—Buckingham Avenue)
Health Centre, Burlington Road Fridays, 2.30—4 p.m.

DAY AND SHORT-STAY NURSERIES.

The following Nurseries, administered by the County Council, are situated in the Borough.

(a) *Day Nurseries for children from 0—3 years.*

- (i) Baylis Court, Oatlands Drive, Slough.
- (ii) Manor Park, Penn Road, Slough.

Applications for admission should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Town Hall, Slough.

(b) *Short-stay Residential Nursery.*

“Brookside,” Salt Hill, Slough.

Applications for admission should be made to the Children's Officer, 22, Silver Street, Aylesbury.

HOSPITALS.

The Borough of Slough is served by the following hospitals and maternity homes, the majority of which are situated outside the Borough.

General Hospitals.

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.

Sanatorium.

All admissions arranged by the Chest Physician, The Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, Slough.

Maternity Accommodation.

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.
Colinswood Nursing Home, Farnham Common.
Applications for admission are dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, County Offices, Aylesbury.

Part III Accommodation (Aged Persons Non-Sick).

Upton Hospital, with annexe at Upton Towers.

Registered Nursing Homes.

There are two registered nursing homes in Slough for the aged and infirm :—

Heathfield Nursing Home, 10, Uxbridge Road, Slough.
Parkside Nursing Home, Upton Court Road, Slough.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Section A—General Administration.
Section B—Housing
Section C—Supervision of Food Supplies
Section D—Factories, Workplaces and Shops, etc.
Section E—General Sanitation
Section F—Pest Infestation Control
Section G—Miscellaneous

SECTION A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE NO. 1.

Summary.

Total Inspections									16,574
Complaints Received and Investigated									1,259
Preliminary Notices Served									587
Secondary Notices Served									27
Statutory Notices Served									32
Letters Received									3,920
Letters Despatched									1,937
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders									900

TABLE NO. 2.

Analysis of Inspection Work Performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

Housing									3,114
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods									731
Premises at which Food is Prepared, Stored and Sold									3,479
Dairies									188
Factories and Workplaces									650
Shops									557
General Sanitation									4,556
Pest Infestation Control									1,212
Building Licensing									425
Miscellaneous									1,662

TABLE NO. 3.

Premises at which Improvements were Effected.

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)									238
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food									76
Factories and Workplaces									41
Shops									10
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.)									382
Portable Dustbins Provided									99

SLOUGH CORPORATION ACT, 1949.

This Act, which received Royal Assent on 30th July, 1949, authorises the Corporation to supply heat by means of hot water or steam, to make further provision in reference to lands and the improvement of health, local government and finances of the Borough.

Some forty sections of the Act to be administered by this Department, bring to the Corporation up-to-date powers, covering a wide field of matters which will prove to be of considerable value in the administration of the Environmental Health Services.

STAFF.

The following changes among technical staff took place during the year.

Mr. I. D. Preston, of Slough, was appointed District Sanitary Inspector (Junior) to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. K. Auty on 28th October, 1948, and he commenced duties on 1st January, 1949.

Mr. B. C. Upton, of Reading, was appointed and commenced duties on 21st February, 1949, following the resignation on 31st January, 1949, of Mr. G. V. Jinks, who was appointed Health Officer to the Ethiopian Government.

My thanks are due to my Deputy, all Sanitary Officers and the Clerical Staff for their loyal support and hard work throughout the year.

SECTION B.

HOUSING.

Undertakings by Owners in lieu of Demolition of Unfit Houses. (Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.)

Although there are some 350 unfit and obsolescent houses within the Borough to be dealt with by Clearance or Demolition Order procedure at such time as it may be possible to provide alternative accommodation for displaced persons, owing to extensive dilapidations the under-mentioned houses were considered by the Council and in each case an undertaking was accepted that the houses would not be used for human habitation :—

53, Albert Street.
248, High Street.
250, High Street.

Repair of Unfit Houses.

842 dwelling-houses were surveyed and 1,594 re-inspections were made, resulting in 238 houses being rendered habitable, under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. In addition, urgent first-aid repairs were effected at several properties not capable of being repaired at reasonable expense and awaiting action by the Council.

During the year 425 complaints were received of defective structural and insanitary conditions of dwelling-houses.

Generally, Preliminary Notices requiring the execution of repairs were complied with promptly and only in 26 cases was it necessary to resort to statutory action and default was exceptional.

Repairs to Property in Owner's Default.

The following works were carried out by the Corporation upon the failure of property owners to comply with Statutory Notices :—

<i>Property.</i>	<i>Work Executed.</i>	<i>Cost.</i>		
		£	s.	d.
61, Grays Place, Slough.	Repairs required under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.	13	14	0
61a, Grays Place, Slough.	—ditto—	8	9	0

Overcrowding.

During the year 148 investigations into cases of overcrowding were made, but owing to the limited alternative accommodation available it was only possible to rehouse the more serious cases.

As previously mentioned, it would be difficult to assess the actual degree of overcrowding of dwelling-houses within the Borough without carrying out a special survey, but there can be no doubt that there is a high degree of overcrowding in some areas of the Borough.

There were no applications received for licences to permit temporary overcrowding.

Several enquiries were received from owners and agents for particulars as to the "permitted numbers" of dwelling-houses and although in many cases such information was obtainable from office records, it was necessary to survey several houses for that purpose. "Permitted numbers" were also supplied in respect of all newly completed Council houses.

Allocation of Council Houses.

Many requests were received for support of applications for the tenancy of Council houses, ex-military camp huts and requisitioned properties, both within the Borough and in the areas of other local authorities, resulting in 101 investigations of housing conditions being carried out and appropriate recommendations being made in each case.

Rent Restrictions Certificates.

No applications were received under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts 1920-1939 for certificates as to the state of repair of dwelling-houses.

Information re Local Land Charges.

Requests for information as to statutory action were received and dealt with in respect of 1,123 properties.

Verminous Disinfestation of Dwelling-Houses.

During the year 89 complaints of verminous infestation were received and 240 dwelling-houses were examined, resulting in treatment being carried out by the Department at 71 houses, of which 25 were Council properties. In addition, the homes of several tenants of Council houses, provisionally selected for transfer, were examined.

SECTION C.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Hygiene of Food Premises.

Considerable attention, particularly in an advisory capacity has been given to the cleanliness of food shops and other premises and of food handlers to ensure that all foodstuffs intended for human consumption are stored and handled and delivered to the consumer under satisfactory hygienic conditions.

Several improvements of premises and methods have been effected, particularly at restaurant and cafe kitchens and recommendations made to improve the personal hygiene of food handlers.

During the year 3,479 visits were made to premises at which food is prepared, stored and sold.

The Borough Council have had under consideration the adoption of Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale in the open air. Such Byelaws will be a definite step forward.

Milk and Dairies.

Since the last Annual Report, the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, after considerable postponement, has come into operation, resulting in the transference of the supervision of the production of milk from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The supervision of the distribution of milk, however, still remains a function of the local authority. The law relating to Milk and Dairies has also been subjected to considerable revision and new legislation became operative on 1st October, 1949.

There are 33 persons on the Corporation register of Distributors of Milk, and 12 Dairies are also registered.

The following 30 licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	3
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	7
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	2
Dealer's Sterilised Milk Licences	13
Supplementary Licences	5

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

To ascertain the bacteriological quality of milk subjected to heat-treatment and sold within the Borough, 230 samples of milk were procured for examination at the Town Hall Laboratory and gave the following results : 8.3% of the samples were certified to be unsatisfactory, as compared with 9.6% in 1948, and of designated milks, 10.4% of the samples were unsatisfactory as compared with 8.4% in 1948. The results are summarised by the following table :—

TABLE NO. 4.

Samples Procured.	Results.
65—Pasteurised Milk	62 complied with prescribed conditions.
54—Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	49 " " " "
5—Tuberculin-Tested (Certified) Milk	3 " " " "
20—Tuberculin-Tested Milk	15 " " " "
69—Heat-treated Milk	67 were satisfactory
17—Non-Designated Milk.	15 " "

Heat Treatment of Milk.

Defence Regulation 55G relating to the restriction on the sale of raw milk ceased to operate from 1st October and was replaced by the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949. At the request of the Ministry of Food, Milk Division, samples are regularly procured from three approved pasteurisation plants within the Borough which treat some 8,000 gallons of milk daily. During the year, 105 samples were procured for examination, both bacteriologically and as to efficiency of heat treatment ; only 3 samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream.

Thirteen premises are registered by the Corporation, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of ice-cream and 124 premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream. Particular attention was given to maintaining registered premises at a satisfactory hygienic standard and in the administration of the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations. Two hundred and seventy visits were made to registered premises and improvements were effected at 15 premises.

During the year, 144 samples of ice-cream were taken by the District Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Town Hall Laboratory for examination, as compared with 82 samples in 1948 and 40 samples in 1947.

There is, as yet, no statutory standard for either the bacteriological purity or chemical constituents of ice-cream and the samples were classified under the following bacteriological provisional categories, the result showing that 80.6% samples satisfied the test as compared with 59.9% in 1948.

TABLE NO. 5.

Provisional Grade	Samples Examined.		No. of Samples Satisfactory.
	Methylene Blue Test.	Faecal Coli Present.	
1	78	—	78
2	41	3	38
3	14	—	—
4	11	3	—

Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food.

There are 54 premises within the Borough used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale for human consumption, registered by the Corporation pursuant to Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, including 18 fish friers premises. All premises have been regularly inspected, 159 visits having been made for that purpose and improvements effected at 32 premises.

An application for the registration of premises proposed to be used for the boiling of shell fish was refused and upon appeal to the Slough Magistrates Court, the Appeal was dismissed.

Bakehouses.

Number on Register	16
Inspections	39
Notices served in respect of contraventions	10

Itinerant Vendors of Food.

Careful observation is constantly kept upon street food vendors and their storage premises to ensure that as far as is possible foodstuffs sold in that manner are stored and sold under satisfactory conditions. During the year 146 such observations and visits were made.

It is anticipated that Section 115 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, which provides for the registration of hawkers of food and their premises, will be brought into operation in the near future.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

Four hundred and fifty-five samples of foods and drugs were procured for analysis, representing 6.9 samples per thousand of the estimated population as compared with 4.66 samples per thousand in 1948. Of these samples, 214 were submitted to the Public Analyst and 227 milk samples and 14 spirit samples were informally tested by the Sampling Officers. Table No. 6 shows the articles sampled, of which the Public Analyst reported

adversely upon 17 samples, i.e., 9.8% of the samples submitted to him as compared with 5.52% in 1948 and 11.45% in 1947; or 3.8% of all samples procured.

In no case was it found necessary to institute summary proceedings, but warnings were given in 2 cases and 2 cases were referred to the Ministry of Food for consideration. In the remaining cases advisory action was taken.

The average quality of the milk samples examined was Fat 4.14% and Solids-not-fat 8.63% as compared with the minimum presumptive standard prescribed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, of Fat 3% and Solids-not-fat 8.5%.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter in Food.

One hundred samples of food were examined by the Public Analyst, of which 98 samples were found to be free of excessive permitted preservatives and of prohibited preservatives and colouring matters. One sample of sausage meat and one sample of pork sausages were found to contain undeclared sulphur-dioxide.

Labelling of Food.

No offences under the Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order 1944 were detected during the year.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

No offences were detected.

Merchandise Marks Acts.

No action was found necessary.

TABLE NO. 6.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS :				
Arrowroot	1			
Baking Powder	2			
Barley Flakes	1			
Butter	4			
Butterscotch, Devon	1			
Cake decorations, edible	1			
Catsup tomato	1			
Chocolate almond square	1			
Chocolate wafers	1			
Chocolate spread	1			
Chicken broth, concentrated	1			
Cherries, glace	1			
Cocoa	2			
Cocoa, pure	1			
Coffee	2			
Coffee, pure ground	2			
Coffee, pure	2			
Coffee, French	1		1	
Coffee, superior French	1			
Coffee and chicory essence	3			
Coffee and chicory essence, sweetened	1			
Coffee and chicory mixture	3			
Coffee and chicory cubes	1			
Cordial, Ginger	1			
Cordial, Lime Juice	1			
Crisps, potato	1			
Custard powder	3			
Custard powder, vanilla flavour	1			
Dot mixture	1			
Easter Eggs, solid chocolate	1			
Easter Eggs, chocolate		1		1
Essence for making junket, fruit flavoured	1			
Fat, sweetened	2			
Fish Spread	1			
Fizzy fountains	1			
Fruit Pectin	1			
Fruit rocks	1			
Frying oil, finest	1			
Gelatine	1			
Gelatine powder	1			
Gelatine, dessert, strawberry flavour	1			
Gelatine, lime flavoured dessert (unsweetened)	1			
Ginger wine flavour, concentrated green	1			
Ginger wine, non alcoholic, fruit flavoured (cherry flavour)	1			

TABLE NO. 6.—continued.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.					

TABLE NO. 6.—continued.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS :				
Sausage meat, pork	1			
Sausages, beef	10			
Sausages, pork	4		1	
Sausages, beef, chipolata	1			
Sausages	1			
Sausage meat	1		1	
Sausages, savoury	1			
Semolina	1			
Soup, vegetable with spaghetti	1			
Spice, mixed	2			
Suet, shredded beef	1			
Suet, beef	1			
Suckers, sherbert	1			
Sweets		1		
Tartar, cream of	1			
Tea, china	1			
Vinegar, malt (pure)	2			
Vinegar, malt	9			
Vinegar, non-brewed	5			
Vinegar, virgin	1			
Vinegar, pure malt draught	1			
SPIRITS :				
Whisky	5			
DRUGS :				
Bicarbonate of Soda	2			
Borax B.P.	1			
Bronchial mixture	1			
Castor oil B.P.	1			
Capsules of Halibut Liver Oil (N.W.F.)	1			
Herbal tablets	1			
Iodine, tincture of	1			
Iodine, tincture of (Liq. Iodi. Mitis) B.P.	1			
Laxative, chocolate		1		
Liquid Paraffin, B.P. purified	1			
Liquid Paraffin, B.P. refined	1			
Little liver pills	1			
Mint tablets, digestive	1			
Soothing powders	1			
Syrup of figs, compound	1			
Syrup of figs, californian	1			
TOTALS	210	4	19	2

In addition to the above samples, 21 formal and 206 informal samples of milk and 14 informal samples of spirits were rested by the Sampling Officers ; 43 milk samples were found to be sub-standard.

TABLE NO. 7.

Foodstuffs examined for Preservatives and Colouring Matters.

Butter							4
Coffee and chicory essence							3
Chicken broth (concentrated)							1
Fruit flavoured wine (non-alcoholic)							1
Fish Spread							1
Gravy browning							1
Glaced cherries							1
Gelatine							3
Ginger cordial							1
Ginger crystallised							1
Ginger Beer							1
Ginger wine flavour (green)							1
Jam, pineapple							1
Jam, strawberry							1
Jam, damson							1
Jelly crystals							1
Lollies, ice							1
Lime juice cordial							1
Lemon and barley							1
Lemon barley water							1
Marmalade							1
Marmalade grapefruit							1
Margarine							2
Milk							17
Pies, pork							1
Pectin, fruit							1
Pickle, sweet							1
Rennet							2
Rolls, sausage							2
Sauce							1
Sauce, tomato							5
Sauce, fruit							1
Squash, orange							4
Salad cream							1
Salad dressing							1
Sausages, beef							11
Sausages, pork							3
Sausages							1
Sausage meat, pork							1
Sausage meat, beef							5
Sausage liver							2
Sausage meat							1
Savoury sausage							1
Soup, vegetable, with spaghetti							1
Suet, beef							1
Tomato catsup							1
Tomato ketchup							4
TOTAL							100

TABLE NO. 8.

Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine.			
Sample No.	Food.	Adulteration.	Action taken.
C.85 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat.	Producer notified of the deficiencies.
C.87 "	"	No added water.	
C.88 "	"		
C.90 "	"		
C.91 "	"		
C.120 (formal)	Sausage Meat	Contained 185 parts per million of undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative.	Vendor cautioned.
C.121 (informal)	Chocolate Easter Egg.	Fat contained 18.09 per cent. of mineral oil.	Formal sample unobtainable. Referred to Ministry of Food.
C.299 (formal)	French Coffee	Deficient in coffee 11.7%.	Vendor and manufacturer warned—remaining stock withdrawn from sale.
C.177 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.178 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.179 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in fat 8.3%.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.180 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in fat 16.6%.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.181 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in fat 10%.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.183 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.186 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer notified of the deficiency.
C.335 (informal)	Salad Dressing	Contaminated with iron.	Sample submitted upon request of retailer. Entire consignment withdrawn.
C.339 (formal)	Pork Sausages	Contained undeclared preservative.	Vendor cautioned.
C.352 (formal)	Tomato Sauce	Excessive amount of copper (103 p.p.m. on dry matter)	Vendor and manufacturer warned Stock withdrawn from sale.
C.405 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer informed of the deficiency.
C.406 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer informed of the deficiency.
C.422 (formal)	Tablets containing Saccharin	Did not comply with the requirements of the Saccharin Order, 1949.	Referred to Ministry of Food for appropriate action.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Ten slaughtermen's licences were granted during the year. The provisions of the Act relating to the slaughtering of animals have been well observed.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The year 1949 was the tenth year of centralised slaughtering under the Government scheme of control. During that year there were 9,492 animals slaughtered for food at the Ministry of Food requisitioned slaughterhouse at Cippenham Court Farm, and in accordance with the general practice of the Department 100% examination of the carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered was carried out by officers, all of whom are qualified as Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods. For this purpose 577 visits were made and some 30 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption. (Details are given in Tables 9 and 10).

In addition, some 8 tons of foods (other than meat) at foodshops, warehouses and factories were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, 154 visits being made for that purpose. (See Table 11.)

TABLE NO. 9.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.					
	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	1,647	752	5,224	899	970
Disease except tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	21	20	24	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	562	226	62	87	5
% of No. inspected af- fected with disease other than tuberculosis	34.7%	32.8%	1.6%	12.3%	1.0%
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	17	49	—	7	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	226	280	—	4	1
% of No. inspected af- fected with tuberculosis	14.7%	43.7%	—	1.2%	0.2%

TABLE NO. 10.

WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT.						
	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases and parts of carcases	234	2	20	80	3	18
Organs	153	3	0	133	1	17
TOTALS:—	388	1	20	214	1	7
TOTAL WEIGHT: 30 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 27 lbs.						

TABLE NO. 11.

WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. (lbs.)					
Canned Food	Preserves	Fish	Bacon	Imported Meat	Vegetables
11,338	147	1917	37	4,160	—
Fruit	Cereals	Eggs (No.)	Cheese	Misc.	
—	62	13	252	1,364	
TOTAL WEIGHT: 8 tons 12 cwts. 26 lbs.					

SECTION D.
FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, SHOP, ETC.

TABLE NO. 12.
Inspection of Factories.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.....	64	229	10	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	511	280	18	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	Nil	12	Nil	Nil

TABLE NO. 13.
Improvements Effected at Factories.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Fnd. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	13	8	1	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) insufficient	1	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	25	23	1	6	—
(c) not separable for sexes	—	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	6	4	9	1	—
TOTAL :—	50	41	11	8	Nil

Outworkers.

Lists received in February and August from employers returned 194 homeworkers, in specified occupations, whose homes were visited at least twice during the year to ascertain that the work was carried out under hygienic conditions. Forty-five lists of particulars of outworkers were sent to other local authorities and eleven lists were received from various authorities.

Retail Shops.

During the year a survey was made by the Department of the distribution of retail shops within the Borough which gave the following statistics.

TABLE NO. 14.

RETAIL SHOPS (Classification A.)					
Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
Bakers (Bread, Cakes and Pastry)	32	Electrical Equipment .	27	Petrol Stations	20
Bicycle Dealers	23	Fishmongers	22	Photographers	6
Boots and Shoes (New Footwear) .	48	Florists	17	Sanitary	
Bookshops	6	Fried Fish Dealers	20	Engineers	20
Butchers	45	Fruit & Greengrocers	57	Sports Stores	5
Cafes (open to General Public)	44	Furniture Dealers	27	Stationers and	
Car & Motorcycle Dealers	20	Hairdressers : Men's	23	Newsagents	45
Chemists :—		Women	34	Tailors	13
Dispensing	20	Health & Food Stores	3	Tobacconists	83
Druggists	9	Herbalists	2	Toy Shops	19
China & Glassware	15	Ironmongers	27	Wallpaper & Paints .	9
Coal	33	Jewellers	9	Watch and Clock	
Corn & Seed Stores.	8	Launderers	21	Dealers	11
Confectioners (chocolates, sweets)	95	Licensed Premises :—		Wireless Dealers	18
Dairies	13	Full License	59	Small General Stores	
Drapers	25	Off License	15	(not exceeding	
Grocers	105	Milk Bars	1	Rateable Value of	
		Music Shops	2	£20)	47
		Outfitters :—			
		Men's	27		
		Women's	38		

RETAIL SHOPS (Classification B.)	
Type	No.
Single Trade Shops	506
Multi-Trade Shops	366
Department Stores	8
Co-operative Stores and Branches	27
Total Shops in the Town	907

Shops Acts, 1912-1938.

Inspections re Sanitary Conditions	331
" " Hours of Closing	122
" " Sunday Trading	23
" " Employment of Young Persons	81

Improvements Effected at Shops.

Provision of additional sanitary accommodation	3
Provision of washing facilities	2
Lighting or heating improved	4
Facilities provided for taking meals	1
Contraventions re hours of closing remedied	Nil
" " employment of young persons remedied	Nil

Places of Entertainment.

Fourteen visits were made during the year.

SECTION E.

GENERAL SANITATION.

House Drainage and Sanitation.

There were 198 complaints of defective drains and sanitary fittings and a total of 1,039 visits were made in supervising the reconstruction and repair of the drainage systems of dwelling houses and other buildings.

Drainage systems were reconstructed at 15 premises, other sanitary improvements were carried out at 206 premises and 21 hydraulic and smoke tests were applied.

Two cesspools were abolished and in one case the drains of a house were connected to the public sewer and in the other case, where a sewer was not available, a new cesspool was constructed for four houses.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

Although there were only 12 complaints received of smoke and grit emission, the prevention of atmospheric pollution received the usual close attention of the Department, 62 observations being made of chimneys of steam-raising plant and trade processes, revealing smoke nuisances in 29 cases: 118 special visits were also made by the Sanitary Officers for the purpose of interviewing works managers and engineers and for advising upon the best practicable means of abating nuisances.

During the year, the service of a statutory "Abatement Notice" in respect of grit emission from the chimney of steam-raising plant became necessary and the nuisance was successfully abated by the installation of mechanically operated grit arresting plant.

In many instances difficulty was again experienced in the use of fuels of unsuitable quality which are frequently supplied to industry, but thanks to the use of electricity in Slough's light and varied industries, nuisance arising from the use of fuel of inferior quality is considerably less than it would otherwise have been.

The Borough Council are constituent members of both the National Smoke Abatement Society and also the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council. Three officers of the Department hold the specialised qualification of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Smoke Inspectors.

Statistics as to the extent of atmospheric pollution within the Borough of Slough are not available at the present time, but the provision of recording apparatus for that purpose is under consideration by the Health and Sanitation Committee.

Offensive Trades.

Two offensive trades operating under annual consent of the Borough Council, namely, a soap boiler and a rag and bone dealer, continued to operate satisfactorily. Such premises are, of course, subject to frequent supervision.

Moveable Dwellings.

I am pleased to record that during the year no outstanding problems arose from illicit camping by moveable dwellings as was experienced in recent years and neither were summary proceedings found necessary.

There is one licensed camping site to accommodate five moveable dwellings within the Borough and new licences were issued by the Borough Council in respect of 5 dwellings and renewal licences for 11 dwellings. Two hundred and seven visits of inspection were made.

It is necessary for persons desirous of stationing a moveable dwelling in the Borough to obtain both a licence under the Public Health Act, 1936, and consent under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1937. I would express appreciation of the co-operation of the Area Planning Officer in the consideration of such matters.

Water Sampling.

Forty-six samples of water were procured for examination and 161 visits were made in connection with water supplies, water sampling and pollution of streams, viz:—

Domestic water supply samples	2
Food Premises water supply samples	15
Swimming Baths „ „ „	26
Stream water samples	3
(These figures exclude routine analysis of Public Supplies.)	

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

No samples of rag flock were taken during the year.

SECTION F.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

Rodent Control.

The work of the Pest Infestation Control Section has continued to become intensified as the Corporation service has become better known to members of the Public, the demand having increased beyond expectation. I am pleased to observe that in recent years there has been a gradual increase in the exercise of public duty in the notification of infestation to the Department and there can be little doubt that this has been fostered by the policy by the Borough Council in the provision of a free service for private dwellings, and the introduction of the annual agreement scheme for industrial and business premises.

With this extension of service the time is approaching when consideration should be given to the appointment of a Pest Infestation Assistant to enable an adequate and efficient service to be maintained, which is the primary condition upon which the Government grant is made.

During the year 257 notifications of rodent infestation were received and 1,212 investigations were made by the Sanitary Officers in addition to the work of the four rodent operators, which is summarised in Table No. 15.

Two surveys of the Borough sewers were carried out during 1949 in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and appropriate maintenance treatment followed in infested sections.

I would acknowledge the co-operation of the Divisional Officers of the Ministry's Infestation Control Division, who have continually expressed interest and satisfaction in the work achieved by the Department.

Annual Agreement Scheme, 1949/50.

The Annual Agreement Scheme, which has become very popular in Slough, was first introduced in April, 1949, to meet the requirements of industrial and business firms particularly where food is handled, as it is so essential not only to carry out disinfestation treatment with thoroughness but by periodical visits to ensure that premises remain free of infestation. The scheme has done much to reduce both the common rat and "ship rat" population.

During the year 55 agreements were entered into on an annual basis for a total sum of £753. 12s. 0d.

Other Pests.

As occasion has demanded, the Public have received the assistance of the Department in the extermination of pests such as beetles, wasps, ants, etc.

TABLE NO. 15
Rodent Infestation Control (Rodent Operators)

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Annual Agreement Scheme	Sewer Treatment (Manholes)	Refuse Destructor and Dumps	Hedges, Ditches, Parks, etc.	TOTALS
1. Premises at which investigation was made	583	883	703	203	—	—	2,372
2. Premises at which rodent infestation was found	514	332	200	24	—	—	1,070
3. Premises treated by the Corporation	391	268	447	24	—	—	1,130
4. Poison baits laid	1,575	3,386	2,150	24	221	370	7,726
5. Poison baits taken	971	1,164	587	24	92	203	3,041
Total Estimated Kill :—15,205 Rats.							

SECTION G.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Building Licensing.

Licences permitting the execution of Housing work (other than the erection of new houses) were granted to the value of £15,268, the monetary ceiling for licences for the Borough having been fixed at £24,800 by the Ministry of Works.

The following work was carried out under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector who is appointed Licensing Officer for that purpose :—

1. Applications for Building Licences received and investigated	70
2. Applications granted	42
3. Applications refused	11
4. Applications referred to the Ministry of Works	17
5. Visits of investigation made	194
6. Interviews with Owners and Builders	231

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928-1936, and Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929.

Licences issued to store petroleum spirit	141
" " " " carbide of calcium	4
Visits of inspection made by the District Sanitary Inspectors	435

