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Borough of Slough



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May, 1952.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ALDERMAN D. R. GOODCHILD. | COUNCILLOR H. OLDING. |
| ALDERMAN P. LIGHTFOOT, J.P.
(Mayor) (ex-officio). | COUNCILLOR F. S. G. ROOM, J.P., C.C. |
| ALDERMAN E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P. | COUNCILLOR H. G. SHORT, J.P.
(Deputy Mayor) (ex-officio). |
| ALDERMAN MRS. M. J. MORGAN. | COUNCILLOR W. S. STOVES. |
| ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN. | COUNCILLOR F. WARWICK. |
| COUNCILLOR MRS. D. M. MITCHELL. | |

May to December, 1952.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR F. S. G. ROOM, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR F. WARWICK.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ALDERMAN P. LIGHTFOOT, J.P.
(Deputy Mayor) (ex-officio). | COUNCILLOR W. H. JENNINGS, J.P.
(Mayor) (ex-officio). |
| ALDERMAN MRS. M. J. MORGAN. | COUNCILLOR MRS. D. M. MITCHELL. |
| COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER. | COUNCILLOR H. OLDING. |
| COUNCILLOR L. R. CHAMBERS. | COUNCILLOR J. G. RICHARDS
(4th December, 1952). |
| COUNCILLOR E. L. CLARKE. | COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON. |
| COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON. | COUNCILLOR W. S. STOVES. |

Public Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

LESLIE A. STROUD, D.P.A., F.R.SAN.I., F.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 :

L. HAGUE, M.S.I.A. (2, 3).

I. D. PRESTON, A.R.SAN.I. (2, 3).

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

R. B. C. SMITH, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3).

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

District Sanitary Inspector (Junior) :

T. P. JARRETT (2).

Pest Control Officer :

J. H. HYATT.

Secretary/Senior Clerk :

Miss M. L. LEWIS.

Laboratory Technician/Mortuary Assistant :

C. G. WOOD.

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,
"GLENHARTIE,"
15, BATH ROAD,
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 fourth Annual Report—
for the year 1952.

This year has again shown little change in the population or activities in the town although it became obvious, towards the end of the year, that changes were afoot. From the physical point of view preparation for the new L.C.C. Estate at Langley was seen and the works on extensions and enlargement of sewers were taking place in addition, of course, to the construction at the Sewage Disposal Works which has been in progress for some time. In other spheres increasing activity of various organisations was noted, the aim of all these being to ensure that full facilities will be available to the newcomers from London.

It was hoped, when a halt in the declining birth rate occurred for the first time for some years in 1951, that there would be no further fall, but the rate did again decline by a small amount in 1952. The death rate showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, but it was disappointing that the record low rate for infant mortality was not equalled in 1952 although the still-birth rate was the lowest ever found in this town. Once again the great proportion (60%) of infant deaths occurred within four weeks of birth and the greater proportion of these (36% of the total) did not survive more than 24 hours.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was higher than it had been for seven years, but fortunately the cases were mainly mild and the same was largely true of measles, the biennial epidemic of which reached its peak in November. There was a welcome drop in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, which is probably the infectious disease now mostly to be feared apart from poliomyelitis. This latter disease occurred in 20 persons during the year, and all but four of the cases were taken ill in a short explosive outbreak in July and August.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified showed a welcome drop—from 88 in 1951 to 71 in 1952—and the death rate also fell. As mentioned in the body of my report, the decrease in notifications, although greatly to be welcomed, should not be the cause of too much optimism, and it is unlikely that a true picture of the situation will become obvious for some years owing to the expected influx of persons on to the new L.C.C. Estates, among whom are expected to be a proportion of sufferers from tuberculosis considerably higher than that found in a normal static population.

Heart diseases and cancer were still the first and second causes of death, although the latter caused considerably fewer fatalities than in 1951. Vascular lesions of the nervous system took third place, while pneumonia and bronchitis were fourth. Tuberculosis, accidents and other diseases of the circulatory system all shared fifth place as causes of death.

New legislation coming into operation during the year and affecting the Health Department included the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

In addition to the usual reports on the careful watch kept upon the quality of foods and drugs offered for sale and the satisfaction of being able to report that nearly 84% of ice cream samples were in Grade I, a new feature will be seen in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of the report. This concerns the clean food campaign which started during the previous year. There are a number of ways in which the improvement of hygiene in food premises can be attempted, and although some are much more spectacular than the method adopted here, it is considered that the system which is being used is the most satisfactory for our town. Spectacular methods often have merits and achievements outweighing those chosen for Slough during the early stages of the campaign, but there are real dangers that the high hopes and the apparent successes of the widely publicised schemes fall far below expectations in later years, and it must always be remembered that permanent improvement is the aim of all "clean food campaigns." Our method is admittedly unspectacular, but with persistent and continuous inspections, together with the co-operation of the various trades, which is in the main readily forthcoming, real and steady improvement in the standard of hygiene of all branches of the food trade can be confidently expected.

I would like to thank the Council, and the Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee in particular, for their encouragement and support during the year. To Councillor Mrs. J. M. B. Gibson, Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee until May, 1953, and to Councillor F. S. G. Room, J.P., C.C., Chairman of the Committee from May onwards I would wish to add a special word of appreciation.

Finally, I must record my thanks to all members of the staff of the Health Department for the loyal support which they have continued to give me during the year, and there is no doubt that the new offices which were occupied in March, 1952, have assisted in producing the increase in efficiency which must result from closer contact.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health

JULY, 1953.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	6,276 acres
Population : Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1952	66,730
Number of dwelling houses, including flats, at 31st March, 1953 (according to rate books)	17,575
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1953	£613,705
Estimated product of Penny Rate, 1953/1954	£2,490

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Live Births :			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	514	445	959
Illegitimate	17	27	44
Total	531	472	1,003

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) = 15.03

Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) = 13.38
(Comparability factor—0.89)

Still-Births :			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	11	5	16
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	12	6	18

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births = 17.63

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population = 0.27

Deaths :			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	303	268	571
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	= 8.56		
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)	= 10.35		
(Comparability figure = 1.21)			
National Death Rate = 11.3 per 1,000 population.			
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate = 0.92			

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

Deaths :			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	15	9	24
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	15	10	25

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births = 24.93

National rate per 1,000 live births = 27.6

Neo-natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age).

Deaths :	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	11	6	17
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	11	7	18

Rate for all infants under 28 days of age per 1,000 live births=17.95

Death Rates per 1,000 population :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.21
All form of tuberculosis	0.24
Cancer	1.72

Other Deaths :

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer	60	55	115
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	11	3	14
—Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2

I. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The weather during the year was not, on the whole, very favourable. The first three months were mild but wet, and the summer was cool and wet apart from a dry spell in May and June and a heat wave during the latter part of June. Early July and the last quarter of the year were exceptionally cold. From December 5th to December 9th occurred five days of unbroken fog. This was general over a considerable part of the country. Fortunately there was comparatively little associated smoke and soot in this town and there was little indication of a rise of sickness or death. This comment is made as the fog in London at the same time caused hundreds of deaths.

The story of 1952 is very similar to that of 1951. Major contracting works in connection with new sewers and extensions to the sewage works continued during the year and, on the whole, made satisfactory progress. Difficulties were experienced in the supply of vital materials from time to time but Government assistance assured continual progress of this essential work. When difficulties of such a magnitude are causing the rate of building to be slow there is bound to be dissatisfaction among those members of the community who need rehousing in view of the length of time that applicants must remain on the waiting list, but, unless unforeseen events delay works, it appears that rehousing on an increasing scale will be possible from the spring or summer of 1954.

In the meantime the Borough Council have applied themselves very assiduously to the task of ensuring that those persons most in need obtain the tenancy of those few houses which are being completed, and after an enormous amount of work and discussion a new Housing Points Scheme was introduced in September, 1952. In an attempt to allay the dissatisfaction often associated with lack of knowledge, the Council took the unusual, although not entirely novel step of making public, not only the points scheme itself, but also the manner in which individual points were awarded.

The number of houses completed in 1952 was 183 as compared with 172 in 1951 and 114 in 1950.

The Slough Borough Council, the Buckinghamshire County Council, the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee, the Slough Council of Social Service and many other organisations have been applying themselves to the task of preparing for the problems which will arise with the influx of people from London, commencing in 1954. These organisations are attempting not only to make sure that their statutory obligations are fulfilled but that the social and economic difficulties associated with the many new inhabitants of this town may be foreseen and that steps be taken to integrate the newcomers into the industry and life of the community to the greatest possible extent with the least possible friction.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 1,003 live births in 1952: 514 were males and 489 females.

The crude birth rate was 15.03 per 1,000 of the population and this was 0.41 per 1,000 lower than that for 1951 (15.44). When the crude death

rate has been multiplied by the comparability figure of 0.89 the corrected rate of 13.38 is obtained. This figure allows for the sex and age distribution of the local population and the rate can be compared with the National rate or with any local rate with which the appropriate comparability figure has been used. The corrected birth rate of Slough (13.38) when compared with that for England and Wales as a whole (15.53) gives a ratio of 0.88 : 1 and in the tables below is given the birth rates and ratio to the National average since 1949.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough.	Birth Rate, England & Wales.	Ratio England & Slough : Wales.
1949	15.84	16.9	0.94 : 1
1950	13.79	15.9	0.87 : 1
1951	13.62	15.5	0.88 : 1
1952	13.38	15.3	0.88 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births showed a decrease this year : 44 compared with 56 in 1951. This means that 4.39 per cent. of births were illegitimate as compared with 5.46 per cent. in 1951. With the exception of 1951, the gradual but steady decrease in the proportion of illegitimate births has continued since the end of the war.

STILL-BIRTHS.

The registered number of still-births was 18 (12 males and 6 females) 2 still-births were illegitimate. This figure gives a still-birth rate of 17.63 per 1,000 total births or 0.27 per 1,000 of the population; in 1951 the figures were 20.06 and 0.32 respectively. The still-birth rate has been gradually declining over the past few years although there have been fluctuations owing to the small number involved in the statistical calculations. This year's rate of 17.63 is the lowest ever recorded in this Borough and compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales, which is 22.6.

DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths, the number assigned to the Registrar-General to the Borough was 571 (303 males and 268 females) a decrease of 18 on the total for 1951 (589).

The tables on pages 9 and 10 show the sex and age distribution and causes of death during the year; 266 (47%) of deaths were in persons aged over 70 years and 328 (57.9%) occurred in persons over the age of 65.

The crude death rate was 8.56 per 1,000 of the population compared with 8.86 for 1951. After multiplying by 1.21, the Comparability Figure to get the rate corrected for age and sex of the population the figure was 10.36 compared with the National Average of 11.3 and the corrected rate for Slough in 1951 of 10.73. The death rate for the 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) was 12.1 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from cancer had suddenly increased in 1951 and it is encouraging to note that there was a decrease in 1952 of 19 over the previous year, the rate of 1.72 per 1,000 of the population is the second highest ever discovered in this town.

The main causes of death during 1951, in numerical order, were :—

Heart diseases	171
Cancer	115
Vascular lesions of nervous system	75
Pneumonia and bronchitis	57
Tuberculosis, all forms	}
Accidents, all types	
Other diseases of circulatory system		16

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1951		1952	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	10	6	11	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	3	1	2	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	1	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	19	6	9	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	25	5	19	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	16	—	10
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	14	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	19	27	30	31
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	—	2	1
16. Diabetes	1	3	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	25	41	30	45
18. Coronary disease, angina	38	11	46	32
19. Hypertension with heart disease	9	12	3	4
20. Other heart disease	31	54	43	43
21. Other circulatory disease	6	9	5	11
22. Influenza	4	4	—	—
23. Pneumonia	13	10	6	16
24. Bronchitis	35	8	27	8
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	3	6	1
26. Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	2	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	3	4	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	28	34	26	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	—	5	—
34. All other accidents	6	6	9	2
35. Suicide	8	4	3	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	2	1
All causes	305	284	330	268

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1952

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to this Borough by Registrars for the year 1952.

The figures given here include all deaths attributed to the Borough which actually occurred during 1952 even although notification of their

occurrence was not in some instances received until well into 1953. The numbers vary somewhat, therefore, from the figures given in the tables above which are based upon data supplied by the Registrar-General, as his figures are based upon returns received by him during the period under review and do not allow for later information. It is found impracticable for the Registrar-General to carry statistical data into the following year, and the local figures are therefore more accurate but the difference is not sufficiently great to make any real statistical difference.

Ages at Death, in Years.	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	15	10	25
1—	5	5	10
10—	5	5	10
25—	30	21	51
45—	91	51	142
65—	34	28	62
	— 180	— 120	— 300
70—	36	27	63
75—	50	48	98
80—	22	33	55
85—	13	27	40
90—	2	4	6
95 and over	-	4	4
	— 123	— 143	— 266
	<u>303</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>566</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy or childbearing during 1952.

INFANT MORTALITY.

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 25 deaths (15 males and 10 females) of infants under the age of 1 year. This number is one more than in 1951, and the rate of 24.93 per 1,000 which this represents is 1.53 higher than in the previous year (23.4).

It is disappointing to have to record an increase in the number of infant deaths, but it must be remembered that 1951 gave the lowest infant death rate which has ever been recorded in this town and the rate for this year is the next lowest. When dealing with relatively small numbers some fluctuation must be expected.

The table overleaf divides the deaths of infants under one year of age into causes and periods of less than one year. It shows deaths in varying period up to 28 days (neo-natal period) and also in further varying periods up to 1 year.

In conjunction with an infant morbidity survey which is being carried out on all babies born in 1952, a thorough investigation is also being made into the causes of deaths of infants for the years 1951, 1952 and 1953. So far as 1952 is concerned there was only one case in which medical attention might have been sought too late and the remainder must be considered, in the light of present knowledge, as having been inevitable.

The distribution of dates of death was almost the same as in 1951, but during the first week 9 deaths occurred within 24 hours as compared with 6 in 1951.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Of the 25 infants who died in the first year of life, 18 (or 72%) died in the neo-natal period, which gives a neo-natal mortality rate of 17.95 per 1,000 live births. In 1951 the rate was 16.57 and 70.8% of deaths in the first year of life, occurred before babies had reached the age of 28 days.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 day	1-2 days	3-5 days	6-7 days	Total under 1 week	1-2 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 months	3-5 months	6-8 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	6	1	—	—	7	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Kernicterus and Erythroblastosis	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Congenital abnormalities	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital malformation of heart	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Perforation of intestine	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Blood disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Birth injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Total	9	4	2	—	15	2	1	18	1	3	2	1	25

INQUESTS.

Thirty-six inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1952, two more than in 1951. The causes of death, as recorded by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, are set out in the following table.

Causes of Death :	Males	Females	Total
Natural causes	4	4	8
Accidents :—			
Falls	1	3	4
By motor vehicle	6	-	6
Drowning	2	-	2
Carbon monoxide poisoning	1	-	1
Obstruction of trachea after swallow- ing fruit stone	1	-	1
Falling girder	1	-	1
Bicycle	1	-	1
Pickaxe	1	-	1
Suffocation in cot	1	-	1
Suicide :—			
Coal gas poisoning	2	1	3
Drowning	2	1	3
Open Verdict :—			
Drowning	-	1	1
Homicide	1	1	2
Judicial Hanging	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	25	11	36
	—	—	—

The number of accidental deaths were seven higher than in 1952. This increase was due to a variety of causes, but it is disturbing to notice that motor vehicle accidents caused no less than six deaths and that three of them were of young men on motor bicycles. Although it is true, of course, that not all motor cycle accidents would be non-fatal if crash helmets were worn, it is true that many lives would be saved if this safety device was used more frequently, and it is heartening to see that the new light-weight helmet is gaining popularity. The Armed Forces saved many lives by this method during the war and it is encouraging to notice that Post Office employees are now so equipped. The greatest encouragement and publicity to the use of crash helmets should be given, and it must be remembered that this advice applies with equal, or even greater force, to pillion riders.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of this town at the end of June, 1952, was 66,730, a net gain of 300 over the estimated population on June 30th, 1951. The natural increase (births less deaths) was 432 and it will therefore be seen that there was a net emigration from the town of 132.

From the table below it will be seen that the population has remained very constant since 1948, and as the erection of new houses is not yet proceeding at any great pace there is likely to be little change in 1953.

1943	62,960	1948	66,060
1944	61,250	1949	66,610
1945	60,220	1950	66,340
1946	63,040	1951	66,430 (Census)
1947	64,240	1952	66,730

It is not expected that there will be a great increase by mid-1954 as new housing projects by the Slough Borough Council and the London County Council will have only just begun, but from that time onwards, for some years, the population is expected to increase rapidly owing to the influx of population from London into the new L.C.C. Estate at Langley.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Cleansing and Disinfestation.

Disinfestation of bedding and personal effects have continued at the disinfectant supplied by steam from the Chalvey Pumping Station, and the number of operations has continued to be small.

No cleansing station yet exists and it has not been found necessary, in view of the small number of cases needing cleansing, to recommend the installation of such a centre. The Borough Council propose, however, to erect a small number of public slipper baths, and these will be so arranged that cleansing facilities will be available.

Disposal of Refuse.

A small amount of controlled tipping has continued on low-lying land near Datchet Road to supplement the destructor at Chalvey, which is of insufficient capacity to deal with all refuse. The land which has been used for tipping for some years is now, however, nearly all used, and the Council has acquired other suitable sites, which will be sufficient for some time. The necessity for increasing the capacity of the destructor has not, however, been overlooked and investigations are being made as to its possible use by adjacent authorities in order to secure the most economical method of working.

The principle of salvaging as much useful material as possible has continued, and a considerable income has resulted from the sale of metal, rags, waste paper, etc.

Kitchen Waste.

The Borough Council contractor, approved by the Minister of Food, has extended the collection of waste food to other areas of the Borough which were not included in previous years.

It appears, however, that unauthorised collectors are still canvassing some streets. Not only is this undesirable, as revenue which helps to defray the rate is lost, but many unauthorised collectors are not capable of sterilising the waste food properly, and outbreaks of swine fever, fowl pest and foot and mouth disease may easily occur with incompletely sterilised food.

Water.

The Slough Corporation, the Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd., and the Slough Estates Ltd. have continued to provide satisfactory water supplies for their respective parts of the Borough.

Slough Corporation Water Supply.

Samples of the water supplied by the Corporation are tested weekly at the Town Hall Laboratory and samples are sent to an independent analyst each quarter. All samples were satisfactory.

There were no extensions to new estates during the year and 14,894 houses, with an estimated population of 59,576 within and outside the Borough were served.

Slough Estates Ltd. Water Supply.

Slough Estates Ltd. supply the necessary water for factories and canteens on the Slough Trading Estate and also give a piped water supply to about 70 dwelling houses. The water which comes from deep boreholes has continued to be entirely satisfactory and is, in addition, the only supply of soft water in the district.

Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

This Company has continued to supply water to the western part of the Borough, and the analyses carried out during the year have continued to be satisfactory. No change in treatment has occurred, but a Chlorine Residual Recorder, maintaining the residual chlorine at 0.15 p.p.m., was installed during the year.

The result of a typical chemical analysis is given below:—

(Values are given in parts per million)

Appearance	.....	Bright with very few mineral particles.	
Reaction	.....	pH	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....		16
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	.....		550
Total solids, dried at 108°C.	.....		370
Chlorine as Chlorides	.....		22
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.....		230
Hardness: Total	.....		305
Temporary	.....		230
Permanent	.....		75
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.....		6.0
Nitrogen as Nitrites	.....	less than	0.01
Free Ammonia	.....		0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....		0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	.....		0.00
Metals	.....	Absent.	

Swimming Bath Water.

Regular samples of water were taken from the Baylis House and Community Centre swimming pools at the times when they were open for use and examined bacteriologically at the Town Hall Laboratory. All samples were satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

Work proceeded steadily on the extensions to the main sewage works and it is hoped that it will have proceeded far enough by the early months of 1954 to allow additional loads to be taken so that building may proceed in other parts of the Borough besides the Cippenham area. Extension to the sewers themselves is also being carried on simultaneously to the works on the treatment works as the problem of sewage disposal depends not only upon the ability to treat but also on the ability to allow the flow of sewage to the place where it can be treated.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was necessary to apply to the Court once during the year for an Order under this Section.

An old lady of about 87 years of age was living in one room of a house and had no connection with the remainder of the household. Not only was she unable to look after herself and to keep herself clean but she was also a danger to the remainder of the occupants owing to her misuse of paraffin.

The Order was granted and she was admitted to Upton Hospital.

Clean Food Campaign.

In October, 1951, the Minister of Food issued a circular to local authorities suggesting that proprietors and managers of food shops, restaurants, etc., should be asked to co-operate in keeping dogs out of their premises.

The Slough Borough Council agreed to support the Minister's request, and suitable notices were prepared for display in the appropriate places.

Further co-operation was forthcoming from the various organisations and individuals concerned, and the great majority of food premises in the town display the notices provided by the Council.

Considerable attention was paid during the year to the improvement of conditions in establishments dealing with food. Food premises are dealt with trade by trade and, following an initial inspection, premises are placed into one of three grades, A, B or C. Follow-up inspections are carried out at selected times and regradings are made if appropriate. It is felt that by such means the most satisfactory results will be obtained and fuller details of the work carried out during 1952 are contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's portion of the report.

It is the practice in some places to inaugurate Clean Food Guilds in which the trades themselves play a predominant part and in other towns certificates are issued to premises which have attained a sufficiently high standard. It has been found, however, that although the initial response to Clean Food Guilds may be extremely encouraging there is a tendency for later inertia as the Guilds are largely run by traders themselves; this means that the Health Department may have lost a considerable part of their control, particularly where certificates are issued; this scheme has not been approved by the Borough Council. The issuing of certificates to suitable premises has much to recommend it but apart from the fact that some premises, doing very good work but not having certain facilities, are debarred from obtaining certificates, it is difficult to remove or refuse to renew certificates where the standard has fallen below the ideal required.

It is considered, therefore, that the present scheme of inspection and friendly persuasion, together with a departmental classification, is the one most suited to this town.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act, to regulate the sale of pet animals, was passed in June, 1951, and came into operation on 1st April, 1952.

Its purpose is to ensure that animals for sale are kept under reasonable conditions, to prevent the sale of animals at too early an age and to prohibit the selling of animals to children under the age of 12 years.

The responsibility for the administration of this Act was placed with the Health Department, and a veterinary surgeon was appointed to carry out periodic inspection of pet shops, of which there are, at present, four within the Borough.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

This Act was passed in August, 1952, and its main purpose is to prohibit the sale or letting of unguarded electric fires, gas fires or oil heaters so that these can be used at home without the likelihood of injury by burning.

I am sure that no one will disagree with the value of such an Act, and I think it is generally recognised that the research work carried out by a nearby resident, Dr. Leonard Colebrook, of Farnham Royal, had much to do with the successful passage of this Act, which should do much to prevent the many tragedies from burning which occur particularly in childhood and old age.

Time obviously has to be allowed for the manufacture of suitable guards and this Act does not, in fact, come into operation until 1st October, 1953.

LABORATORY.

During the year the following specimens were examined. The total number of examinations, 1,299, represents an increase of 251 on the previous year.

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.....	—	77
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci.....	12	55
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli.....	—	21
Urine for routine examination.....		71
Faeces for organisms of Coli-Typhoid Group.....	—	24
Blood Counts.....		47
		Un-
	Satisfactory	satisfactory
Milk samples :—		
(a) Phosphatase test.....	193	16
(b) Methylene blue test.....	221	—
(c) Coliform test.....	75	33
(d) Turbidity test.....	8	—
(e) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water.....	210	26
Water samples :—		
(a) Drinking water.....	33	8
(b) Swimming pool water.....	46	—
Ice cream samples :—		
Grade I.....	103	
Grade II.....	6	
Grade III.....	7	
Grade IV.....	7	

The samples of ice cream are graded according to the length of time needed to decolorise a solution of methylene blue under certain specific conditions. While no manufacturer or distributor should be satisfied with anything but Grade I, Grades I and II are considered satisfactory while Grades III and IV are unsatisfactory. In all cases where unsatisfactory samples have been obtained, the premises are visited by Sanitary Inspector, the problems discussed with the manufacturer or distributor and frequent sampling carried out until a high standard has again been reached.

From the table below it will be seen that the number of satisfactory samples rose slightly in comparison with the previous year but it is much more satisfying to record that nearly 84% of samples came within Grade

	Number of samples			Percentage of samples		
	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952
Grade I.....	55	153	103	43.7	76.9	83.7
Grade II.....	50	21	6	39.7	10.6	4.9
Grade III.....	14	15	7	11.1	7.5	5.7
Grade IV.....	7	10	7	5.5	5.0	5.7

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

Certain improvements to the equipment were carried out during the year, and the pathologists who have to undertake examinations there expressed themselves as being satisfied with the arrangements. There has been much criticism recently levelled at the mortuaries under the control of many authorities because of the poor standard of the buildings and equipment supplied, but the Mortuary under the control of this Council can be considered satisfactory. A close watch is always kept upon the premises and not only is the building maintained in a good condition but improvements in equipment are made in accordance with the requirements of more modern methods of examination.

Ninety-one post-mortem examinations were carried out during 1952 as compared with 62 in 1951 and 85 in 1950.

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

The Home Helps Service which is run by a Home Help Organiser of the Bucks County Council, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health as Area Medical Officer for South Bucks, continued its work during 1952. Facilities are provided as fully as possible for cases in need but considerable care has to be taken, of course, to prevent abuse of the service. There was a slight reduction in the number of cases assisted in 1952 as compared with the previous year, as shown by the table below.

No. of Home Helps as at :	31.12.52.	31.12.51.
(a) Full-time	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	34	42
No. of Cases who received help during :	1952.	1951.
(a) Acute sick	74	71
(b) Chronic sick	237	281
(c) Tuberculous	22	18
(d) Maternity	40	50
Total	373	420

TABLE II.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Measles	—	—	6	3	14	51	75	50	14	112	287	166
Whooping Cough	10	3	5	30	12	8	3	3	10	2	4	11
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	6	5	11	6	8	5	6	8	3	6	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	—	2	—	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	6	8	3	6	11	4	4	4	22	23	16
Erysipelas	3	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	2	2	2
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	5	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	5	3	2	—	3	1	—	—	2	3	5	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	2	—	2	2	3	2	2	4	1	2
Sonne Dysentery	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis : Post-Infectious	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Benign Tertian)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

	Burnham North	Burnham South	Central North	Central South	Chalvey	Farnham North	Farnham South	Langley	Stoke North	Stoke South	Upton
Measles	103	242	61	38	60	52	56	25	50	44	47
Whooping Cough	2	16	13	2	16	14	4	14	11	5	4
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	1	8	8	3	14	11	5	6	1	6	8
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	8	23	36	6	18	5	1	4	8	4	4
Erysipelas	—	1	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	4	3
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	—	3	1	1	1	—	3	—	1	—	1
Non-Paralytic	1	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	6	1	1	4	3	3	2	6	2	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	21
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Acute Encephalitis : Post-Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria (Benign Tertian)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of diphtheria has occurred in the Borough since 1948, and this is a record of which we can feel justly proud.

Memory is, however, short and in the same way that the horrors of war fade into the subconscious mind so do the memories of such a dread disease as diphtheria. That the disease is still lurking in our midst is shown by the outbreaks which occurred in one or two towns during the year, and it is only by continuous efforts at immunisation that the disease is kept at bay.

That fear of the disease is decreasing is shown by the fact that the percentage of children immunised throughout the country has tended to fall, and we are fortunate that the latest vaccine which protects against Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria has come at a time when the dread of Diphtheria has lessened but the fear of Whooping Cough still remains.

The great majority of children who were immunised against Diphtheria were also immunised against Whooping Cough at the same time. Out of 762 children who were protected against Diphtheria for the first time, 585 had the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine; 1,160 children also received renewal or "booster" doses against Diphtheria which are given at school entry and again at the age of 10 years.

These figures do, however, show a decrease of 93 primary inoculations and 96 "renewals" as compared with 1951. This reduction may be due in some part to the suspension of immunisation which occurred for two months while poliomyelitis was present.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping Cough was with us during the whole of the year, but although the highest incidence occurred in April there were no signs of a real outbreak and the total number of cases in the year was 101. There have only been three occasions during the past 12 years when the number of cases has been fewer.

There were no indications to show that the disease tended to be severe and, indeed, the disease has become much more difficult to diagnose during the past few years on account of its mildness.

Whether the mildness is due to some change in the organism responsible or whether immunisation which has been carried on in this area for some years has had a part to play in this decrease of severity is difficult to say, but experiments which have been carried out by the Medical Research Council since 1946 have shown statistically that Whooping Cough is less severe in immunised children and that the incidence is lowered in these children. It is not yet certain for how long the protection given by the vaccine lasts, but as complications and death have been most frequent in the first year or so of life, any protection which can be given to this age group is well worthwhile and most welcome.

The increasing popularity of protection against Whooping Cough can be seen from the figures of immunisation against this disease in 1952. Whereas the total number of children protected against diphtheria fell from 55 in 1951 to 762 in 1952, the number immunised against Whooping Cough rose from 508 in 1951 to 585 in 1952. This is due entirely to the greater popularity of the combined vaccine.

SCARLET FEVER.

117 cases were notified during the year and 20 of these were admitted to hospital. This number is higher than usual and, in fact, the numbers have only been exceeded twice since 1941, in 1943 and 1944.

No outbreak of epidemic proportion was found at any time during the year, but the highest number of notifications were recorded in October (22) and November (23).

During the course of the past few years a very considerable change has occurred in the severity of this disease, probably due in part to the introduction of new methods of treatment such as sulphonamides and antibiotics and probably partly due to a decrease in the virulence of the streptococcus itself.

Of the diseases caused by the haemolytic streptococcus, only scarlet fever and erysipelas are notifiable so that the true incidence of diseases caused by this germ is not known but it is probably true to say that the incidence of tonsillitis and sore throats which are often caused by this organism has also been high.

With the decrease in severity of scarlet fever there has been a tendency to relax precautions against contacts. This is probably wise, because, although the problem has not been solved from a public health point of view it is illogical and wasteful in terms of loss of work to isolate those people who may be contacts and possibly harbouring the germ when as much as 10% of the population may be carriers during a time when the incidence of streptococcal diseases is high.

The strongest precautions are, however, still taken where contacts are in occupations where there is a great risk of conveying the disease to others, e.g. nurses, midwives and those handling foods, etc.

ERYSIPELAS.

14 cases of erysipelas were notified during 1952 and one was admitted to hospital.

PNEUMONIA.

33 cases of Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during the year. 11 cases occurred during the first three months of the year and 17 in the last three months. The December incidence was the highest, but there was little indication that the great fog which lasted from December 5th to December 9th was the cause of increased deaths. This is probably because Slough, which experienced the fog in the same way that many other areas were affected, did not have the high degree of irritant atmospheric pollution associated with the fog in the metropolis.

MEASLES.

The incidence of measles was again high, the biennial epidemic occurring mainly in the later months of the year and the early months of 1953.

There was an unusual feature in the time distribution of the case however. In June, July and August there was a small outbreak with the peak in July, and after a recession in September there was the true epidemic with its peak in November and a second subsidiary peak in February, 1953.

All wards were affected in both outbreaks, but on the whole those wards which suffered most heavily in the earlier outbreak tended to be more lightly affected in the later one.

One death was reported from this disease, a child of 5 months old. The measles was complicated by toxic absorption from infantile eczema however, so that although the death must be recorded as being due to measles and it must have been a strong contributing factor, it was not the sole cause.

The pneumonias and running ears which used to be so common in cases of measles and which were often the cause of death or "crippling" handicap have largely been eliminated by the use of sulphonamides and antibiotics, but these new drugs do not appear to affect the disease itself although there does seem to have been a slight decrease in the virulence of the virus.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty-six cases of puerperal pyrexia occurred during 1952, and 21 of these patients were in hospital.

This number is greater than recorded in previous years, and was largely due to the new Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations which came into force in August, 1951, and had, therefore, only been in force for a full year for the first time in 1952. The new regulations call for notification of any temperature of 100.4°F. or more occurring within fourteen days after child-birth instead of the recurring or prolonged temperatures required by earlier regulations.

There is no reason to believe that there has, in fact, been any real change in the situation and the cases are spread fairly evenly throughout the year.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis).

There was an increase of cases in Slough from 14 to 20 as compared with 1951, and of these 11 were paralytic and 9 non-paralytic.

The outbreak in 1952 was explosive in nature, eleven of the cases occurring in August and only two outside the three months, June, July and August.

It is interesting to see the apparent changes in sex and age distribution of the cases from year to year, and also the time distribution of paralytic and non-paralytic cases.

In 1950 the first five cases were non-paralytic and six of the last nine cases were paralytic, whereas in 1951 and 1952 no apparent increase in severity was found as time progressed.

So far as sex is concerned, 1950 and 1952 showed a fairly even sex distribution, whereas in 1951 there were 10 male cases to 4 female cases.

In 1950 there was an even distribution over the different age ranges, in 1951 there was a greater preponderance of cases occurring between 15 and 35, while in 1952 no less than 70% occurred in children under the age of 5.

With such small numbers there is no real statistical meaning to the figures, but it is interesting to note the apparent changes which occur in the disease from year to year.

The table below gives the age and sex incidence of the cases occurring in Slough during 1952.

Ages.	Paralytic.		Non-Paralytic.		Total.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	4	3	—	1	4	4
5—	1	—	1	4	2	4
15—	—	—	—	2	—	2
25—	1	—	1	—	2	—
35—	1	1	—	—	1	1
45—50	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	4	2	7	9	11

FOOD POISONING.

Total No. of Outbreaks.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Organisms or other agents responsible.	Food involved.
One.	51	Nil.	Unknown.	Unknown.

One outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year at a factory canteen. 35 employees were taken ill on 1st October, 1952, and another 15 cases occurred during the next 24 hours with one case a week later. All had recovered within two or three days.

Investigations began immediately on the assumption that this was an outbreak of food poisoning caused, in view of lack of evidence of similar occurrences elsewhere, by some food or drink taken from the canteen at the firm. It was not possible to obtain samples of vomit but faeces were collected from those most seriously ill and samples of meat, cheese and cream buns were submitted for bacteriological analysis—in no case was this analysis of any assistance.

No canteen worker was affected in the main outbreak, but one who was concerned with the serving of "snacks" was off sick a few days previously with gastro-enteritis; one other member of her family was affected and this is the only case recorded where other members of the family not working at the factory were attacked.

It was only possible to obtain full details from 24 of those affected, and the main meal (lunch) was soon excluded as only a small proportion of those affected had eaten the full meal. Out of 24 taking other items, 18 had butter or margarine in sandwiches or rolls, 15 had cheese and 21 had tea. No particular food or drink was common to all but all 24 in fact took items from the "snack" counter. Some suspicion fell upon the tea, an unusual cause of trouble, as some persons complained of a peculiar taste. Enquiries showed that demerara sugar had been used on the days in question, but none was left for sampling.

The results of the investigation were, therefore, disappointing, and although it is possible to theorise on the causation of the outbreak no useful purpose would be served by doing so. The general methods used and the cleanliness of the kitchen were satisfactory, but one or two recommendations were made for improvement and the necessity for the immediate suspension from work of all canteen workers suffering from gastro-enteritis was pointed out to the management.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox rose from 34 in 1951 to 460 in 1952, and of these 320 were carried out in children under the age of 1 year. The number of revaccinations fell from 205 to 171.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases fell for the first time since 1947. 71 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and 9 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 88 and 13 respectively in 1951.

The table below shows the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified as occurring each year since 1946, and also indicates the rate

notification per thousand of the population. The word "notification" is used deliberately because, although I am convinced that notifications in this town have attained a high level of accuracy, tuberculosis is a chronic illness of insidious onset and there must be cases who are unaware of the existence of the disease. That this is true can be shown by the results of Mass X-Ray Units, one of which, incidentally, is due to visit the Borough again in 1953 and which will be fully reported on in the Annual Report for that year.

Year.	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
Population	63,040		64,240		66,060		66,320		66,340		66,439		66,730	
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
Cases notified	46	25	58	5	76	10	71	11	79	16	88	13	71	9
Notification per 1,000 of population	0.73	0.39	0.90	0.08	1.15	0.25	1.07	0.17	1.19	0.24	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13

It is indeed pleasing to find a reduction in the number of cases reported. I would hesitate to say, however, that there had been a change in the trend of notification, as it must be remembered that a Mass X-Ray Unit visited the town in 1951 and there is little doubt that some cases which would have remained unsuspected were found during that survey.

Should 1953, which is a year for a Mass X-Ray Unit visit, again show a decrease in notification there will indeed be some cause for optimism.

The situation will, however, become confused again from 1954 onwards. During that year the London County Council are expected to start their new housing estates, and it is expected that some 10% of families will have at least one case of pulmonary tuberculosis. This means that some 500 cases will be imported into the town over a period of years, and when this is compared with the 709 which were on our register at the end of 1952 it will be seen that a problem of some magnitude will exist.

The present Chest Clinic, in Windsor, is working to full capacity, and in view of the expected migration representations have already been made to the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee for extended facilities for the treatment of this disease. These representations have been passed to the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board who determine policy, but details of any plans for the extension of chest clinic facilities are not yet available.

The next table shows the sex and age incidence of primary notifications received in 1952. It is worthy of note that the chief incidence of pulmonary disease in males lies between the ages of 15 and 55, whereas that in females is between 5 and 25.

Age in years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	1	—	—
5—	—	9	1	1
15—	9	13	2	2
25—	8	4	—	1
35—	9	3	1	—
45—	7	2	1	—
55—	4	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—
Total	38	33	5	4

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Notification Register on 31st December, 1952.

Males	Pulmonary		Total	Males	Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Females	Total			Females	Total	
341	271	612	46	51	97		

It will be realised that this is the total number of cases on the register at the end of 1952, and includes also those who have come to live in Slough from elsewhere. Conversely, some cases who were originally notified in Slough have gone to live elsewhere.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

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

	Males	Females
Buttock	1	—
Glands	—	4
Kidney	1	—
Meninges	1	—
Spine	2	—
	—	—
	5	4
	—	—

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1952.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, came into operation on 1st May, 1952, and revoked previous regulations made in 1933. Under the new regulations, notification of cases of tuberculosis by medical practitioners to medical officers of health are still required, but medical officers of health are no longer required, by statute, to maintain a tuberculosis register.

This register is very valuable to Medical Officers of Health and although they are no longer obliged to keep such registers it is probably true to say that these are now being maintained in the same manner as before.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

The deaths from tuberculosis during 1952 totalled 16, and of these 14 were due to the pulmonary form of the disease and 2 to other forms of tuberculosis. This gives death rates per thousand of the population of 0.21 for pulmonary tuberculosis and 0.03 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis show little change over the past years, but deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis show a steady decline and the rate of 0.21 for 1952 shows a continuation of this trend; in fact, apart from the extremely low rate of 0.19 in 1950, which was little more than half of any previous rate, the rate for 1952 is the lowest so far occurring.

Year.	Population.	Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary Death rate per 1,000 population.
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1940	60,670	2	3	11	15	0.43
1941	65,350	4	6	14	18	0.49
1942	64,420	3	2	11	13	0.37
1943	62,960	1	—	19	13	0.51
1944	61,250	4	1	18	14	0.52
1945	60,220	5	1	14	12	0.43
1946	63,040	2	1	16	17	0.52
1947	64,240	2	4	17	10	0.42
1948	66,060	2	2	17	12	0.44
1949	66,320	-	-	13	9	0.33
1950	66,340	1	2	10	3	0.19
1951	66,439	1	—	10	6	0.24
1952	66,730	1	1	11	3	0.21

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

The Medical Research Council's trials to discover the value of B.C.G. vaccination in the prevention of tuberculosis were continued in Slough and various other selected places throughout the country during 1952. B.C.G. vaccination is offered to school leavers and follow-up examinations are continued for two years, during which time, of course, the children have left school and passed into industry, shops, offices, etc. The doctor in charge of the trials has reported that those who are taking part have responded extremely well in attending the follow-up examinations. The final results of the trials should be available in 1954 or 1955.

IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. INFANT MORBIDITY SURVEY.

Although much is known about the causes of death in children under the age of 1 year, little is known about the illnesses which occur during this period. For this reason some research has been instituted by Professor Grundy, of the Department of Preventive Medicine of Cardiff University, to the illnesses occurring during the first twelve months of life of babies born in 1952.

The Bucks County Council agreed that Slough Borough be one of the thirteen areas throughout the country included in this survey, which entails regular visiting to the families concerned. The compilation of information will be analysed by the Chief Statistician in the Department of Preventive Medicine of Cardiff University.

It will be appreciated that visits will have to be continued until the end of 1953 in order to give a year's details about children born in December, 1952, and it is not expected that details of the survey can be published until well on in 1954.

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.

As stated in my report for 1951, "toddlers" clinics were started at the Farnham Royal and St. Michael's clinics on a quarterly basis. These were commenced because it was usually found that children over the age of eighteen months or two years rarely attended Welfare Clinics and that many defects were discovered when children were examined as entrants to school.

These clinics proved very successful and have been extended to the Burlington Road, Cippenham, and Wexham Road clinics during 1952. To make sure that adequate time is given for the doctor to make a comprehensive survey of the child in conjunction with the mother, an appointment system was instituted and it has also been found that this system evokes a greater response from parents than does the mere existence of a clinic. Appointments or invitations are normally issued by Health Visitors, but any mother living in the area served by these clinics may ask the Health Visitor for an appointment.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Sessions.</i>
Cippenham	1st Thursday, 10.30 a.m.
Langley	3rd Tuesday, 11.0 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	Mondays, 10 a.m. (first bookings). Mondays, 2 p.m. Thursdays, 2 p.m.	Mondays, 11 a.m.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital Out-Patient Dept. (Hut behind Community Centre, Farnham Road.)	Mondays, 10 a.m. (first bookings). Thursdays, 10 a.m.	Mondays, 11 a.m.

In addition to these clinics there is a Midwives' Ante-Natal clinic held at the Health Centre, 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.

ANTE-NATAL BLOOD TESTS.

Routine examinations of the blood of expectant mothers has continued with the kind assistance of the Pathologist at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow. The incompatibility which sometimes arises owing to differences in the Rhesus factor of the father's and mother's blood cannot be altered but steps can be taken to minimise this effect and the success of these measures has been shown by the great reduction in infant deaths from this cause.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

These clinics are part of the School Health Service and are available to all children of school age attending County schools 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. Visits to the Dentists or Eye Specialists are arranged by appointment.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held on Thursday mornings at 9.30 a.m.

A Child Guidance Clinic was opened in Slough during the year, and though there have been difficulties in obtaining a complete staff for a child guidance team the clinic has already carried out extremely useful work. Appointments for children to be seen by the child guidance team are made through the Divisional School Medical Officer.

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 Nursery for children from 0—3 years :
Manor Park, Penn Road, Slough.

Applications for admission should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Glenhartie," 15, Bath Road, Slough.

- (b) Short-Stay Residential Nursery,
"Brookside," Salt Hill, Slough.

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

V. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

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.
Iver, Denham and Langley Cottage Hospital, Iver.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.
St. John's Hospital, Uxbridge.

Venereal Diseases.

The nearest treatment centres are :—

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

Tuberculosis.

(i) *Chest Clinic.* The Chest Clinic is at the Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor, with a subsidiary clinic at Upton Hospital, Slough. All arrangements are made by the Chest Physician who is available at the Windsor Clinic. (Tel. No. Windsor 2033.)

(ii) *Sanatorium.* All admissions arranged by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic, Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor.

Maternity Accommodation.

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.
Colinswood Nursing Home, Farnham Common.
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor.
Princess Christian Maternity Home, Windsor.

If the patient's own doctor thinks that admission should be made on medical grounds, the patient is referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, and if admission is sought on domiciliary or social grounds application is made through the Area Medical Officer, who makes his recommendations to the Hospital Management Committee following a report on home circumstances by a Health Visitor.

Part III Accommodation.

Aged persons	—	Sick	.....	.....	Upton Hospital.
		Non-Sick	.....	.....	Upton Towers.

Registered Nursing Home.

There is one registered nursing home in Slough for the aged infirm :—

Parkside Nursing Home, Upton Court Road, Slough.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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

SECTION A.
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE No. 1.

Summary :

Total Inspections	17,525
Complaints received and investigated	1,204
Preliminary Notices Served	607
Secondary Notices Served	106
Statutory Notices Served	54
Letters Received	3,427
Letters Despatched	2,916
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	1,756

TABLE No. 2.

Analysis of Inspection Work performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

Housing	3,151
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	871
Premises at which Food is Prepared, Stored and Sold	2,055
Dairies	149
Factories and Workplaces	720
Shops	1,407
General Sanitation	6,315
Pest Infestation Control	2,665
Building Licensing	192

TABLE No. 3.

Premises at which Improvements were effected.

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)	279
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	78
Factories and Workplaces	53
Shops	38
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.)	278
Portable dustbins provided	34

New Legislation.

The only new relevant legislation which came into operation during 1952 were Orders fixing statutory standards for coffee mixtures, ice-cream and suet.

SECTION B.

HOUSES.

Obsolescent Houses.

As I have mentioned in previous annual reports, the amount of obsolescent housing accommodation in use within the Borough has gradually increased over the past fourteen years, during which it has not been possible to proceed with clearance or demolition of these sub-standard houses which have outlived their useful life. One hopes, however, that the time is not far distant when attention can be concentrated on a programme for dealing with the problem which will involve the provision of alternative accommodation for displaced families.

Undertaking by Owner in lieu of Demolition

(Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as amended.)

The under-mentioned property, which was occupied as a dwelling but wholly unsuited for that purpose, was considered under the Demolition Order provisions of the Housing Acts, and the Corporation decided to accept an undertaking from the Owners not to re-let the premises for the purpose of human habitation:—

Building situated at the rear of No. 5, Central Buildings, High Street, Slough.

Repair and Improvement of Dwelling-houses.

During 1952, some nine hundred and thirty dwelling-houses were the subject of survey and examination by officers of the Department. As a result 2,220 re-inspections were made for the purpose of securing compliance with the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts dealing with the repair or reconditioning of dwelling-houses and thereby rendering 275 dwellings habitable. Complaints relating to unfit housing accommodation were received in respect of 248 houses.

It was found necessary to serve 381 preliminary written and verbal notices for the repair of dwelling-houses, and in 52 cases where difficulty was experienced in securing the execution of the requisite works, it was necessary to obtain the authorisation of the Borough Council for the service of statutory notices.

There were no applications received for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, although several enquiries were received.

Repair of Properties in Default of Owners.

In five instances it was found necessary for the Corporation to carry out works in default, upon the failure of owners of property to execute such works, in accordance with the requirements of statutory notices. The cost of the work, which is recoverable, amounted to £175. 15s. 3d. as follows:—

Property.	Works Executed.	Cost.	
		£	s.
14, Stoke Road.	Housing Act, 1936. Section 9.	25	9
34, Aldborough Spur.	” ” ” ” ”	23	15
61, Grays Place.	” ” ” ” ”	25	17
18, Stoke Road.	” ” ” ” ”	99	17
136, Meadfield Road.	Public Health Act, 1936. ” 75.		16

A comprehensive survey of all Catering Establishments and Retail Butchers Shops was undertaken. The survey included not only a detailed inspection of premises and equipment, but also of methods and habits in food handling and discussions with proprietors, managements and their staffs.

In making this detailed survey, it has to be remembered that the law governing food hygiene lays down certain standards and conditions which, although of a somewhat elastic character, are considered by most sanitarians to be inadequate. Accordingly it has been found necessary in our efforts to raise prevailing standards of food hygiene, to endeavour to set a code of practice with standards above those which may be required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the local Byelaws, on the lines recommended by the Catering Trade Working Party. To accomplish this, it has been necessary to deal with the matter on an advisory basis, seeking the co-operation not only of proprietors and managements but also of the food-handlers themselves.

In stressing the importance of the subject, matters such as the objectionable habit of smoking whilst preparing and serving food, the desirability of the wearing of head coverings by female staff and the essentiality of using those detergents which are also sterilising agents in the cleansing of crockery and equipment are dealt with; but the law provides no direct assistance in obtaining these objects. It has, however, been found from experience gained so far that much can be accomplished by way of encouragement and friendly discussion.

As the survey of each particular trade is completed, the premises are classified into categories A, B and C as follows :—

- A. Those establishments at which the premises, methods practised and the personnel are found to be well above the minimum statutory and byelaw requirements, and where encouragement to maintain or even to improve upon the present standard can be given to advantage.
- B. Establishments at which the hygienic conditions only comply with the minimum statutory and byelaw requirements, but with efforts on an advisory basis a higher standard will no doubt be obtained.
- C. Those premises at which conditions are found to leave much to be desired and to fall below statutory and byelaw requirements. In these cases considerable effort and continual attention by the district sanitary inspectors will be necessary for some time to come.

Having regard to the above-mentioned formula, the 68 catering establishments and 47 Butchers Shops were classified at December, 1952, as follows :—

Category.	Catering Establishments.	Butchers Shops.
A	27	12
B	33	28
C	8	7
Total	68	47

(a) **Catering Establishments.** The size and character of the premises have varied. They have included all establishments ranging from hotels to coffee stalls where food and drink is prepared and consumed on the premises. In general it was found that the larger the concern, the better the construction of the premises, the facilities and equipment provided and the methods practised.

Special attention was given to the supply of hot-water, the provision of protective clothing and the use of suitable detergents in the cleansing of equipment.

(b) **Butchers Shops.** Attention was paid to wrapping paper. In a few cases brown wrapping paper was found to be used as an outer covering for meat prior to handing to the customer, but in the majority of cases clean newspaper is used. As a first covering of meat, white greaseproof paper is used in every instance, although the sizes of pieces varied considerably. Greaseproof paper is undoubtedly very costly and although the use of newspaper is undesirable, I am satisfied at the moment there can be no complaint in respect of the use of clean newspapers as an outer wrapping.

It would appear that the position with regard to the delivery of meat to the butchers shops is improving. This is largely dependent on the type and construction of vehicles used in transporting the meat. The only satisfactory type of vehicle is the one which is so constructed as to allow of the handing of all carcasses and offals. At the moment there are only three such vehicles in a fleet of thirteen used in this area, but it is understood that more of this type of vehicle are being brought into use.

Efforts were made to secure more frequent changes of protective clothing of the men engaged in transporting carcasses and offals to the shops.

On completion of the survey of a particular trade, the all-important follow-up work is commenced. Written or verbal notices have been given in every case where defects have been found or where conditions were found to be below either legal and/or desirable standards. Interviews and discussions have taken place between executives, architects, builders and members of your staff, and the degree of co-operation from managements has been found to be good, and much improvement has already been accomplished. There are, however, the usual handicaps, not the least of which are shortage of suitable and reliable staffs, frequent changes of personnel and inability of proprietors to make extensions to their premises.

It is, of course, the aim to maintain those premises now placed in Category 'A' at a high standard and to improve all other premises so that they also qualify for this class. This can only be brought about by frequent visiting by the district sanitary inspectors and by the co-operation of managements and their staffs.

Milk and Dairies.

Forty-three persons are registered by the Corporation as Distributors of Milk and eleven premises as Dairies. One hundred and forty-nine inspections were made of dairies, and these were found to be maintained in a satisfactory hygienic condition.

The supply of milk for the Borough of Slough and the surrounding area is now largely centralised at three pasteurising plants in respect of which the Corporation have granted licences, one being the H.T.S.T. process and two the "Holder" method. The average daily amount of milk treated by these plants is in the region of 8,400 gallons, of which 700 gallons are sold under the special designation, "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk" and some 400 gallons of "Channel Islands Pasteurised Milk." In addition a small quantity of sterilised milk is distributed and

the only raw milk sold by retail is under the designation "Tuberculin Tested" and this is bottled at the farms of production. It is with satisfaction that I record that all milk retailed within the Borough is bottled and that several small distributors now obtain their supplies of milk ready bottled by the wholesale dairies.

Fifty-nine licences were issued in pursuance of the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1949, as follows:—

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	3
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	9
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	13
Dealer's Sterilised Milk Licences	26
Supplementary Licences	4

Very few complaints of dirty milk bottles or foreign bodies found in milk were received during the year. Every precaution is taken by the Department to secure a milk supply of the highest hygienic quality, and with the co-operation of milk-traders this standard has been generally achieved.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The routine examination of milk continued throughout the year, 229 samples being submitted to the laboratory of the Department to ascertain heat-treatment efficiency and bacteriological quality. Of these samples, 94.3% were found to be satisfactory as compared with 98.2% in the previous year. Two hundred and fifteen samples satisfied the phosphatase test which is an indication of efficient heat-treatment.

All adverse reports were carefully investigated and followed-up. The results are tabulated in Table No. 4.

Returns upon the quality of milks produced by the three license pasteurising plants under your officers' supervision continued to be made to the Ministry of Food, Milk Division.

TABLE No. 4.
Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Classification.	Number of Samples Tested	Number of Samples.	
		Passed.	Failed.
Pasteurised Milk	105	102	3
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	107	98	9
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	5	4	1
Sterilised Milk	8	8	—
Non-designated, heat treated Milk	4	4	—
Non-designated, raw Milk	—	—	—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream.

There are seven premises used for the manufacture of ice-cream, only one of which is the 'complete cold-mix' method carried out, and 12 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. Seventeen applications for registration were approved by the Borough Council during the year.

Careful attention has been given to the conditions under which ice cream has been manufactured, stored and sold, 159 visits of inspection having been made to registered premises by the district sanitary inspector.

A total of 123 samples of ice-cream were procured for bacteriological examination, 87.8% being satisfactorily reported upon under provisional standards.

During the year the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, was amended owing to shortages of milk powder and fats, the Amending Order providing for the following minimum percentages of ingredients from July, 1952 :—Fat 4%, sugar 10% and milk-solids other than fat 5%. Although it was found necessary to reduce the above-mentioned ingredients, a statutory chemical standard for ice-cream is welcomed by Food and Drugs Authorities and the trade generally.

Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

Premises may only be used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, if registered by the Corporation for that purpose. The preparation of meat or fish by any process of cooking is deemed to be the preservation thereof.

There are 52 premises in this category registered in pursuance of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, including 20 fish friers premises. The district sanitary inspectors carried out some 309 inspections of these premises, which in most cases were found to be maintained in a satisfactory hygienic condition.

Bakehouses.

Premises on Register	14
Basement Bakehouses	Nil
Inspections by District Sanitary Inspectors	31
Notices served re Contraventions	Nil

Food and Drugs.

The Slough Corporation has been a "Food and Drugs Authority" since 1945 and is responsible for administering those parts of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which relate to the compositional standard and quality of foods and drugs. In pursuance of this statutory duty, 487 samples of food and drugs, representing 7.3 samples per thousand of the population, were procured by the Corporation sampling officers for analysis, as compared with 484 samples during the previous year. Of these samples 209 were submitted to the Public Analyst and 266 informal samples of milk and 12 samples of spirits were informally tested at the Laboratory of the Department. As in previous years, samples of milk were procured periodically upon delivery at various institutions within the Borough.

The selection of articles to be sampled is a matter which requires thoughtful attention and is carried out according to a carefully devised plan intended to cover adequately the wide range of foodstuffs which are marketed, as will be seen from Table No. 5, and also to give particular attention to those articles most likely to be sub-standard or adulterated. Careful attention has also been given to the products of local food manufacturing factories.

The articles of food and drugs examined by the Public Analyst are given in Table No. 5. Of these the Public Analyst reported adversely upon 10 samples, i.e., 4.3% of the samples submitted to him as compared with 3.6% in 1951; 2.4% in 1950; 9.8% in 1949 and 5.5% in 1948.

Only in one instance was it found necessary to institute summary proceedings. The action taken in respect of those samples which were the subject of adverse analytical report is set out in Table No. 6. The average quality of the milk samples examined during the year was fat 3.88% and solids-not-fat 8.73%, which is well above the minimum presumptive standard prescribed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

TABLE No. 5

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS :	1			
Almonds, ground		1		
Apricots in syrup	2			
Barley, pearl		1		
Beans in tomato sauce	2			
Black pudding	1			
Brawn, pork	1			
Bread crumbs, toasted	1			
Cake, flour	1			
Cake and pudding mixture	1			
Cake mixture, butter flavour	2			
Cherries, glacé	1			
Chicken paste	1			
Cloves	2			
Coconut, desiccated	1			
Coffee	1			
Coffee and chicory	1			
Coffee, essence of pure		1		
Compound cooking fat		1		
Cordials, lime juice and orange flavour	1			
Cornflour	2			
Curry powder	1			
Custard powder	2			
Easter eggs, chocolate cream	1		1	
Essence, orange flavour culinary	1			
Fish cakes	1			
Frying oil	1			
Ginger, crystallised	1			
Ginger beer	1			
Glucose with Vitamin D.	1			
Gravy powder		1		
Heatherdown spread	1			
Herbs, mixed.....		1		
Honey		14		
Jam	1			
Jelly Creams	2			
Jelly Crystals	5			
Jellies, table	1			
Juice of real lemons	2			
Juice, orange	1			
Lemon barley water	1			
Lemonade crystals		1		
Lemon cheese		1		
Lemon curd	1			
Lentils.....		2		
Margarine, cake				

TABLE No. 5. (contd.)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Marmalade		2		
Marshmallow Creme	1			
Meringue powder	1			
Milk	6	3	4	3
Milk, condensed machine skimmed		1		1
Mineral waters and squashes	4	2		
Olive oil	1			
Parsley	1			
Pasties	1			
Peel, candied and mixed	3			
Pepper, white	4			
Pork pie	1			
Rabbit with mixed veg. casserole		1		
Rice, flaked and ground	5		1	
Sago creamola	1			
Salad cream	1			
Sauce	1			
Sausages, beef and pork				
Sausage meat, beef and pork	19			
Shortbread Mix, sugar sweetened	7			
Soup, chicken noodle	1			
Spice, mixed	1			
Sponge mixture	3			
Sweets	1			
Tapioca dessert	3	9		
Tapioca, seed pearl	1			
Tapioca, wafer flake	1			
Tea	1			
Veal and Ham Loaf	3			
Veal and Ham paste	1			
Vinegar, malt	1			
	2			
SPIRITS :				
Brandy	1	2		
Gin	1	2		
Rum	1	2		
Whisky	4	6		
DRUGS :				
Antipain tablets	1			
Boracic crystals	1			
Bicarbonate of soda	1			
Castorets	1			
Cherry coughs	1			
Chronic catarrh syrup	1			
Cold and influenza mixture	1			

TABLE No. 5 (cont.)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
DRUGS :				
Concentrated medicinal essence of cinnamon	1			
Cough pastilles	1			
Eucalyptus oil	1			
Glycerine of borax	1			
Hacks	1			
Herbal tablets	1			
Iron tonic tablets	1			
Karsote lozenges	1			
Laxative, vegetable	1			
Liquid paraffin	1			
Mentho-lyptus tablets	1			
Pastilles	1			
Parmint linctus	1			
Quinine bisulphate	1			
Tincture of iodine	1			
Tonic syrup	1			
Vitamin K tablets	1			
Total Foods :	131	54	6	4
Total Drugs :	24	—	—	—
Total Food and Drugs :	155	54	6	4

In addition to the above-mentioned samples, 12 unofficial samples of spirit and 266 unofficial samples of milk were tested informally, of which 43 samples of milk were found to be sub-standard.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

Ninety-three samples of foods were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of prohibited preservatives and colouring matters. No adverse reports were made.

Labelling of Food.

No offences under the Labelling of Food Order, 1950, were reported. All food manufactories within the Borough were visited during the year when samples of most manufactured products, together with copies of labels to be attached to such foods for retail sale, were submitted to the Public Analyst. All samples were reported to be genuine and all labels correctly described the products and were in accordance with the Order. This result is certainly to the credit of the Borough.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

No contraventions were observed.

Merchandise Marks Acts.

No action was found necessary.

TABLE No. 6.

Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine.			
Sample No.	Food.	Adulteration.	Action Taken.
39 (Formal)	Milk.	Contained at least 15.6% of added water.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor convicted and fined £8 plus £5. 5s. 0d. costs.
40 (Formal) 47 (Formal) 49 (Formal)	Milk.	{ Deficient in solids-not-fat. Presence of added water (not confirmed).	—
97 (Informal)	Milk.	Deficient in solids-not-fat. Presence of added water not confirmed.	—
98 (Informal)	Milk.	Deficient in solids-not-fat. Presence of added water not confirmed.	—
99 (Informal)	Milk.	Deficient in solids-not-fat. Presence of added water not confirmed.	—
7 (Formal)	Flaked Rice.	Sample was infested with tyroglyphid mites.	The sample was taken at the request of the vendor, who subsequently voluntarily surrendered the remainder of the stock.
2 (Informal)	Condensed machine skimmed milk.	Sample contained two pellets of mould hyphae and spores. In the opinion of the public analyst it was not likely to cause illness if consumed.	—
3 (Formal)	Orange flavour culinary essence.	Sample was decomposed and not fit for consumption.	Vendor, who was cautioned, withdrew all old stock from sale.

Foreign Bodies in Foodstuffs.

Several complaints were again received concerning foods sold by retail and subsequently found to contain extraneous matters such as pieces of metal, stone and other more objectionable substances, which is evidence that still more care is required in the manufacturing process of certain foods.

It also proves that there is a public awareness that such incidents should be reported to the Department.

All complaints were carefully investigated, but in no instance were proceedings instituted, either because the available evidence was insufficient or by reason of the circumstances not justifying such a course.

There appears to be a growing alertness among food manufacturers as to the need for ensuring that their products are free of foreign bodies, and generally the prohibition of smoking is strictly enforced. At some food factories in Slough, an electrical device has been installed for the purpose of detecting particles of metal which may be present in the product.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The Ministry of Food slaughterhouse situated at Cippenham Court Farm has continued to be used for centralised slaughtering in this district for the thirteenth year in succession. As an adapted building it has many drawbacks for slaughtering on a substantial scale, but the extensive improvements recently carried out by the Ministry of Food have provided improved facilities for increased slaughtering, hanging of meat, storage of condemned meat and for cleansing. The slaughterhouse was re-opened in February, 1952.

No horses are slaughtered for food within the Borough, but horseflesh for human consumption is sold by retail at one premises.

Early in the year a further conference took place between officers of the Ministry of Food and the Corporation, concerning the provision of a Municipal Abattoir for Slough. This matter has since been held in abeyance until the findings are known of the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Food appointed to draw up a national siting plan for slaughterhouses.

TABLE No. 7.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.					
	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	1,963	528	4,363	614	967
Disease except tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	7	7	38	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	590	145	238	27	3
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	30.0	28.8	5.6	10.6	0.4
Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	5	18	—	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	152	94	—	14	1
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.0	21.2	—	3.4	0.1

TABLE No. 8.

Weights of Condemned Meat.						
	Tuberculosis.			Other Diseases.		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases	128	3	10	67	0	3
Parts of Carcasses or Organs	87	2	16	112	2	22
TOTALS	216	1	26	179	2	25

TOTAL WEIGHT :—19 tons 16 cwts. 0 qrs. 23 lbs.

TABLE No. 9.

Weights of Canned and Other Foods Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption lbs.					
Canned Food	Preserves	Fish	Bacon	Imported Meat	Vegetables
13,136	67	496	10	66	—
Fruit	Cereals	(Eggs No.)	Cheese	Misc.	
304	299	13	92	716	

TOTAL WEIGHT : 6 tons 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 23 lbs.

Some 8,435 animals were slaughtered for food, all of which were examined by officers of the Department, 518 visits being made for that purpose. Over 19 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption (see Tables Nos. 7 and 8). All condemned meat is stained by means of a green vegetable dye before removal from the slaughterhouse by the contractors appointed by the Ministry of Food, so as to render it saleable for human consumption.

In the course of 353 visits for the examination of foods other than butcher's meat, at retail shops, warehouses and factories, some 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of foodstuffs were condemned (see Table No. 9).

Nine hundred and forty-nine condemnation certificates were issued in connection with unsound meat and other foods.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

The provisions of the above-mentioned Acts were framed for the purpose of preventing cruel practices in slaughter-houses and knackers' yards and subject to certain provisos, require :—(a) the stunning of animals by means of a mechanically-operated instrument, (b) the licensing by the local authority of slaughtermen, and (c) the observance of certain rules relating to slaughter-houses and slaughtering, including the watering and tending of animals awaiting slaughter.

Licences to enable the holders to slaughter animals, and which are subject to annual renewal, were granted by the Corporation to 12 slaughtermen.

The provisions of the Acts were well observed.

SECTION D.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS.

Factories.

The duty of administering the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, are divided between H.M. Inspectors of Factories and District Councils. Those provisions which are the concern of the Corporation are the responsibility of the Health Department, with the exception of matters relating to means of escape in case of fire.

At factories at which mechanical power is not employed, the above mentioned duties cover many of the general provisions relating to health which are contained in Part I of the Act of 1937, but unfortunately the powers of the local authority are considerably curtailed in relation to other factories. On the other hand, local authorities administer all the relevant provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at factories at which foodstuffs are manufactured or prepared, irrespective of their size.

Factory premises are inspected both for the enforcement of the relevant provisions of the Factories Acts and the Food and Drugs Act, and also for the detection of public health nuisances. During the year a number of complaints relating to noise nuisances arising from industrial processes were investigated in pursuance of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, but having regard to the restricted powers of the Act, in no instance did statutory action appear to be justified.

Tables 10 and 11 have been prepared in accordance with Section 17 of the Factories Act, 1937, and show the work accomplished by your officers during 1952.

TABLE No. 10.

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 the Local Authority.	36	170	10	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	506	369	15	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE No. 11.
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)	6	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	5	3	1	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	24	46	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	1	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	38	53	2	5	Nil

These figures include contraventions carried forward from previous reports.

Homework.

In pursuance of the Factories Act, 1937, lists of outworkers were received during the months of February and August from occupiers of factories from which these outworkers are engaged in certain classes of work, chiefly the making and altering of wearing apparel, as specified by a special Order. Lists of outworkers resident outside the Borough were sent to twenty-five local authorities and lists were received from ten authorities.

The sixty-six premises within the Borough at which homework is carried out, are periodically visited by the district sanitary inspectors to ensure that the work is being done under satisfactory conditions, and for each purpose one hundred and forty-nine inspections were made.

SHOPS ACT, 1950, AND YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938

The provisions of the above-mentioned Acts were found to be generally observed. The following inspections were made, improvements effected and special observations taken as to the temperature of shops:—

(i) Inspections:

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	672
Conditions of employment	377
Hours of employment of young persons	80
Hours of closing	113
Sunday trading	165

(b) *Improvements Effected at Shops:*

Provision of additional sanitary accommodation	4
Provision of washing facilities	23
Means of lighting or heating improved.....	5
Facilities provided for taking meals	1
Notices displayed	1
Contraventions remedied — Employment of Young Persons	4

(c) *Special Observations as to the Temperature of Shops:*
 Under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers, it is provided that in every part of the shop in which persons are employed, suitable and sufficient means shall be provided to maintain a reasonable temperature. During the cold spell of weather towards the end of November and in December, sixty shops of various trades were visited by the district sanitary inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining the temperature maintained at these premises and at thirty-nine shops inadequate temperatures were recorded in contravention of the Act as shown in the under-mentioned tabulation. Following informal action improved means of heating was installed at several premises.

Description of Shop.	Shops Inspected.	Satisfactory Temperature Recorded.	Unsatisfactory Temperature Recorded.
Boots and Shoes	3	2	1
Ladies' Outfitters	7	3	4
Gents' Outfitters	13	7	6
Ladies' Hairdressers.....	3	2	1
Furniture	5	—	5
Cycle and Electrical	5	—	5
Grocers	5	1	4
Butchers	3	—	3
Greengrocers & Florists	3	—	3
Other Foods	2	1	1
Miscellaneous.....	11	5	6
	60	21	39

Workplaces.
 Sixty-three inspections were made of workplaces including offices but excluding shops.

Places of Entertainment.
 Forty-three inspections were made of buildings used for the purpose of public entertainment.

SECTION E. GENERAL SANITATION.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.
 The preservation of a clean atmosphere calls for continuous vigilance and in Slough has received the closest attention by dealing with excessive emissions of smoke immediately they occur. We are fortunate in that

ly are our main industries concentrated in one corner of the town, but also many of the larger factories are of recent construction organised on modern lines and for the most part make extensive use of electricity in lieu of steam. At several factories steam-raising plant is equipped with appliances for indicating and preventing the emission of smoke.

Statistics of the year under review show that thirteen complaints of alleged smoke or grit nuisances were received from members of the public. Observations of chimneys of steam-raising and other industrial plant were taken by the district sanitary inspectors on one hundred and twelve occasions and forty-six interviews with works engineers, etc., took place. Both your Chief and Deputy Chief Officers are qualified Smoke Inspectors and personally attend to special problems of smoke emission which arise from time to time.

It is now being realised that smoke abatement and fuel efficiency are one and the same thing—no longer is the emission of black smoke from a factory chimney considered to be a symbol of industrial prosperity—on the contrary it demonstrates a waste of valuable fuel. In those cases, where the problem is that of low-grade fuel only being available the assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power is sought.

One cannot leave this subject without reference to the contribution made by the chimneys of private dwellings to the pollution of the atmosphere. Improved domestic fuel appliances are taking their place and a more plentiful supply of "smokeless" solid-fuel is becoming available, but more publicity is needed to make the public conscious of the evil of the open domestic fire which burns bituminous coal.

The probable relation between the high death-rate and periods of dense fog in the areas of London and adjoining counties towards the end of 1952 has focussed attention on the whole subject of Atmospheric Pollution, and the Government have decided to set up a Committee of Inquiry into the problem.

The Corporation have for some years shown their interest as constituent members of the National Smoke Abatement Society, and the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council. Your Vice-Chairman and my Deputy attended the Annual Conference, 1952, of the former body which was held at Southsea. Your Chief Sanitary Inspector continued as a member of the Executive Committees of both organisations.

Moveable Dwellings.

Constant observation was necessary to ensure that no unauthorised dwellings were used by moveable dwellings. The continued housing shortage encouraged the occupation of caravans which have a tendency to become means of permanent habitation. Unlike the position in the surrounding rural areas, however, the situation within the Borough cannot be said to have reached the problem stage.

The provision of a municipal caravan site was fully investigated during the year by the General Purposes Committee, when your Chief Sanitary Inspector submitted his observations. After careful consideration it was decided not to proceed further with the matter.

During the year one site licence for four dwellings and sixty-seven moveable dwelling licences were authorised by the Health and Sanitation Committee for caravans stationed in various parts of the Borough. Your officers made one thousand one hundred and twenty-five visits of inspection under the supervision of these dwellings.

Summary proceedings were instituted against the occupiers of six caravans stationed within the Borough, but in respect of which licences had not been granted by the Corporation. The defendants were all convicted, when fines of £2 each were imposed and a continuing daily penalty of 10s. 0d. was fixed by the Justices. The site was vacated.

Offensive Trades.

In pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1936, annual consent of the Corporation was renewed in respect of two premises, being the only offensive trades carried on within the Borough—namely, a soap boiler and a rag and bone dealer. Forty-seven visits of inspection were made during the year. No complaints were received and no nuisance occurred at either premises.

House Drainage.

There were one hundred and forty-five complaints by members of the public concerning defective drains and sanitary fittings, and a total of eight hundred and eight visits were made in investigating these complaints and supervising work in progress.

Drainage systems were reconstructed at nineteen premises and other sanitary improvements were carried out at two hundred and fifty-nine premises. Thirty hydraulic and smoke tests were applied to drains. The cesspools of two houses were abolished and the drainage systems connected to the public sewer.

Water Supply.

There are only seven dwelling-houses within the Borough where the water supply is not obtained from the town water-mains. At three of these houses the supply is derived from shallow wells and four houses situated in an isolated area are served by a piped-supply of spring water. Negotiations are in progress with regard to the provision of a water service from the public supply to these four dwellings.

During the year three houses supplied with water from shallow wells were connected to the public water supply.

Sixty-six samples of water were procured for examination and 70 visits were made in connection with water supplies and sampling as follows:—

Domestic water supply	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Swimming baths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

In pursuance of the above Act, the Council are required to register premises where rag flock and other filling materials are used and to license each year premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored. No rag flock is manufactured within the Borough, although one licence was granted in respect of storage of rag flock. There are six premises on the Council register in respect of the use of rag flock.

It was not found necessary to take samples during the year.

SECTION F.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

In accordance with the requirements of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Pest Infestation Section of the Health Department, with the personnel of a pest control officer and five rodent operators, has continued to carry out pest infestation control work under the following headings:—

- (a) Private dwellings—(free service).
- (b) Industrial and business premises—(short-term treatment—re-chargeable).
- (c) Industrial and business premises—(Annual Agreement Scheme).
- (d) Sewer treatment.
- (e) Local authority premises.
- (f) Destruction of pests other than rodents—(re-chargeable).

A Government grant-in-aid of 50 per cent. of approved expenditure upon rodent control is made in respect of the treatment of private dwellings, sewers and local authority properties, subject to an efficient control service being maintained by the local authority.

Rodent Control.

Three hundred and sixty notifications of infestation by rats and seventy by mice received attention during the year. This is a considerable increase from sixty-eight, eight years ago, from which it is evident that the public have an appreciation as to the value of notification. These notifications and other work of investigation resulted in 2,615 visits being made by the district sanitary inspectors and the pest control officer in addition to the work of the rodent operators, summarised in Table No. 14.

No "reservoir" or "major" infestations are known to exist within the Borough and in certain areas there appears to be somewhat of a decrease in infestation, but, of course, the utmost vigilance is necessary to maintain and improve upon this position.

Methods of treatment are in the main those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and have included the use of Zinc phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, "Warfarin," "Antu" and occasional gassing."

Advantage has been taken of the Refresher Courses arranged from time to time by the Ministry to enable rodent officers and operators to keep abreast of modern technique.

No formal action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, was necessary during the year.

Treatment of Sewers.

In accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the treatment of sewers was carried out twice during the year.

South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee for Rodent Control.

The Council is a constituent member of the above committee, which comprises the districts of the Boroughs of Slough, Maidenhead and New Windsor, the urban districts of Beaconsfield, Eton and Chesham and the rural districts of Easthampstead, Windsor and Amersham.

This committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor F. S. G. Room, J.P., C.C., of Slough, will, no doubt, prove to be a useful medium for discussing rodent control problems, and ensuring co-operation between local authorities.

Annual Agreement Scheme.

This scheme was first introduced in April, 1949, and has since become very popular in Slough as it meets the requirements of industrial and business firms, particularly where food is handled, manufactured or stored, including industrial canteens. In rodent control work it is essential not only to carry out disinfection treatment with thoroughness but also by periodic visits to ensure that premises remain free of infestation.

The scheme provides for continuous preventive measures by periodic servicing, and is particularly valuable at premises where infestation is likely to recur. Treatment of business premises is entirely re-chargeable work and this scheme is self-supporting.

The following table shows the increasing popularity of the annual agreement scheme during the four years in which it has been in operation.

TABLE No. 13.

Annual Agreement Scheme.			
Year.	No. of Agreements.	No. of separate Premises involved.	Total Sum.
1949/50	55	77	£ 754
1950/51	92	131	1,054
1951/52	120	151	1,463
1952/53	130	163	1,488

Other Pests.

Treatment for the eradication of pests and insects other than rodents was also carried out as follows :—

Wasps nests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Beetles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Flies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Other insects	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18

Infestations of Bed Bugs are now few and far between. This is largely due to the use of more effective control measures, notably the use of D.D.T. preparations.

TABLE No. 14.

RODENT INFESTATION CONTROL (RODENT OPERATORS).

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises		Sewer Treatment (Manholes)	Refuse Destructor, Tips, Dumps, etc.	Parks, Hedges, Ditches, etc.	Other Council Properties	TOTALS
		Agreement Annual Scheme	Short Term Action					
1. Premises at which investigation was made	1,178	163	52	565	4	12	16	1,990
2. Premises treated by the Corporation	1,114	135	52	565	4	7	7	1,884
3. Pre-Baits Laid	7,933	23,178	740	565	788	1,181	1,037	35,422
4. Poison Baits Laid	4,270	10,739	739	37	577	670	817	17,849
5. Poison Baits Taken	2,985	5,398	455	12	345	517	550	10,262
6. No. of Visits Made	5,749	5,758	215	872	156	162	322	14,434

SECTION G.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Building Licensing.

Building licences for the execution of work appertaining to Housing (other than the erection of new houses) and exceeding the "free-limit" were granted to the value of £12,661, the monetary ceiling for such licensing for the Borough having been fixed at £20,000 for the year under review by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The work carried out in connection with Building Licensing was as follows :—

(i) Applications for Building Licences received and investigated	45
(ii) Applications granted	44
(iii) Applications refused	1
(iv) Visits of investigation	130
(v) Interviews with Owners and Building Contractors	162

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

With the co-operation of the Fire Prevention Department of the Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade, a survey was made of all premises at which liquids coming within the definition of "Petroleum Spirit" were stored under licence issued by the Corporation. In view of the fire risk involved in many instances, recommendations upon matters outside the scope of conditions of licensing were made and have been well received.

During the year, 162 licences to store some 520,000 gallons of petroleum spirit, and three licences to store 10,800 lbs. of carbide of calcium, were issued and 967 inspections were carried out by the district sanitary inspectors who observed 128 contraventions of the Acts.

Registries of Female Domestic Servants.

Routine visits were made to registries for female domestic servants in pursuance of Byelaws made by the Corporation under Section 85 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. No contraventions were observed.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.

Upon application by the Borough Council, the Secretary of State made an Order declaring Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, to be in force in the Borough. The administration is being carried out by this Department and four premises have been registered.