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Borough of Slough

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

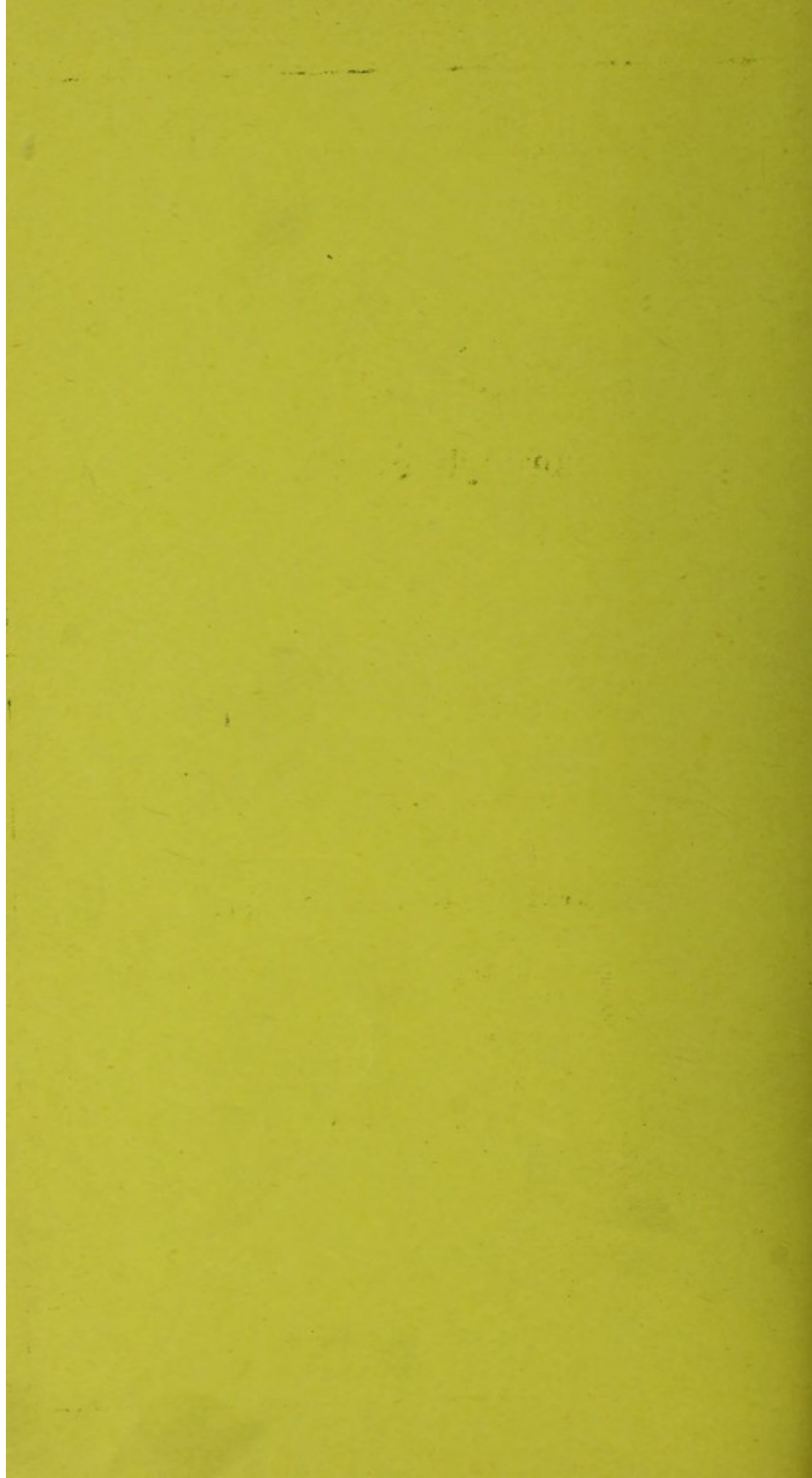
For the Year 1955

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector



BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May, 1955.

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A.H. BOND, J.P.

ALDERMAN J. MANNING

(Mayor)(ex-officio)

ALDERMAN MRS.M.J. MORGAN

ALDERMAN A.E. WARD, C.A.

ALDERMAN F. WARWICK

COUNCILLOR F.C. BOWYER

COUNCILLOR R.T. CRAWSHAW

COUNCILLOR MRS.J.M.B. GIBSON.

COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON.

COUNCILLOR J.H. SMITH.

COUNCILLOR T.A. WATSON.

(Deputy Mayor)(ex-officio)

COUNCILLOR W.C. WEST.

May to December, 1955.

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

ALDERMAN P.LIGHTFOOT, J.P.

(Deputy Mayor)(ex-officio)

ALDERMAN MRS.M.J. MORGAN

ALDERMAN A.W.J. PUSEY J.P.

(Mayor) (ex-officio)

ALDERMAN A.E. WARD, C.A.

COUNCILLOR A.H. BOND, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS.J.M.B. GIBSON.

COUNCILLOR MRS.P.J. MARGREE.

COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON.

COUNCILLOR J.H. SMITH.

COUNCILLOR W.C. WEST.

COUNCILLOR R.A. CAIL.

Public Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

A.E.R. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

LESLIE A. STROUD, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., 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., M.R.I.P.H.H. (2.3.)

D.A. OWEN, (2.3.)

I.D. PRESTON, M.S.I.A. (2.3.)

R.I. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. (2.3.6.7.)

R.B.C. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)

B.C. UPTON, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)

Laboratory Technician/Mortuary Assistant:

C.G. WOOD.

Pest Control Officer:

J.H. HYATT.

Rodent Operators - 6.

CLERICAL STAFF: MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SECTION - 3

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SECTION - 4

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 Society of Health as Sanitary Inspector.
2. Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
3. Certificate of Royal Society of Health as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
4. Certificate of Royal Society of Health as Smoke Inspector.
5. Certificate of Royal Society of Health in Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works.
6. Final examination of the Institute of Housing.
7. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

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 seventh Annual Report for the year 1955.

Although the material of the report has no startling innovations, its presentation has been entirely changed as the printing has been carried out by the Printing Section of the Town Clerk's Department. This is the first major report which this section has undertaken and it does show some of the flexibility which can be obtained by the equipment purchased by the Council. Even greater innovations can be obtained and it is hoped that in future years the presentation of the report can be made even more attractive.

The following letter is a short commentary upon a few of the items contained in the remainder of the report but it makes no pretence of being a comprehensive precis of the material on the following pages.

Last year I reported that the major difficulties causing restriction in building had been overcome and that erection of new buildings was commencing on a considerable scale. 1955 showed an intensification of activity and many major building schemes sponsored by the Slough Borough Council, the London County Council and by private enterprise were well under way, either in the form of dwelling houses, new shops or factories. Not all of this building, it is true is taking place within the town. The Borough Council's own main new housing estate is, for instance, being erected just beyond the Borough boundary, but the town is the natural centre for shopping and work for the vast majority of the inhabitants of these estates and demands upon all facilities available in the town have increased considerably. A small pamphlet on 'Slough Health Services' was produced in conjunction with the Bucks. County Council and apart from being available to anyone on request a copy is given to each tenant coming on to the new L.C.C. Estate at Langley. Indeed one of the features of the year has been the efforts made to integrate the people moving from London into all the activities of the town.

So far as the vital statistics for the year are concerned, 1955 had its good as well as its bad points. The Birth Rate was almost exactly the same as in 1954; the Death Rate rose quite sharply but really only in relation to the previous two years which had given rates much lower than usual. The infant mortality and stillbirth rates both showed a slight increase on the previous year but the former was still below the national average. The great proportion of the infant deaths occurred shortly after birth and it is obvious that in order to reduce infant mortality and still-births further more attention will have to be paid to the causes of pre-maturity.

Apart from measles which gave us the usual biennial outbreak and poliomyelitis of which there was a small outbreak just before Christmas, 1955 had little in the way of acute infectious disease. The chronic infectious disease, Tuberculosis, which is always a subject of considerable comment in this report unfortunately gave us the highest

figure yet for new cases; the recognition of these cases may have been partly due to the activities of the Mass X-ray Unit which surveyed over 15,000 persons in various organised groups, but the high figure is very disappointing, particularly as the National trend is for fewer new cases to be reported.

Heart disease caused by far the greatest number of deaths during 1955 but Cancer too showed an increase on the previous year. There was no important change in the most common causes of death but accidents rose from sixth to fifth place, there being no less than 26 deaths due to accidents of various types.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors towards the improvement of standards in food premises continued with added emphasis towards the end of the year in the knowledge that new Food Hygiene Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 would come into operation on the 1st. January, 1956. Although the Health Department strives strenuously towards improving conditions in food premises, obtaining in many cases by negotiation and persuasion conditions much better than those required by law. I make no apology for stressing once again that the general public have, to a great extent, the answer to the problem of bad conditions in hotels, shops, cafes and restaurants, in their own hands; refusal to put up with bad service, untidiness and dirt and refusal to patronise such premises would cause much more rapid improvement than can be obtained by any other method.

1955 was, I think, quite a reasonably satisfactory year but with the continuous expansion taking place in the area the Department always seemed at full stretch to cope with ever-increasing demands upon Health Services. That the demands were fulfilled reflects credit upon all the members of the Department's staff and I would like to record here my appreciation for the loyal support which was extended throughout the year. In 1954 the Borough and County Councils agreed that one of the Assistant Medical Officers should also be appointed as Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Borough and with Dr. A.E.R. Scott's arrival in January not only was the Council able to call upon the services of another Medical Officer but my task was eased by having a doctor who could act for me in my absence.

To the Health and Sanitation Committee and to the Council I would like to express my appreciation for the support and assistance which they gave to the Department and to Public Health throughout the year. To Councillor F.S.G. Room, J.P., C.C., the Chairman of the Health Committee, a special word of thanks is due for his continued and very active interest in all aspects of preventive medicine.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1956.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1955

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1955	...	...	...	...	...	67,940
Number of dwelling houses, including flats, at 31st March, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	19,200
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1956						£671,224
						from 1st April, 1956 £1,362,785
Estimated Product of Penny Rate, 1956/57						£5,475

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Live Births:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	456	477	933
Illegitimate	...	...	...	32	21	53
Total				488	498	986

Crude Birth Rate(per 1000 population)-		14.51
Corrected Birth Rate(allowing for sex and age of the population)	-	13.35
(Comparability Figure - 0.92)		
National Birth Rate	-	15.0
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate	-	0.89 : 1

Still Births:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	19	7	26
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Total				19	7	26

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	25.69
Still-birth rate per 1,000 population	-	0.38

Deaths:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
				297	289	586
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...		8.625	
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)-				10.60		
(Comparability figure-1.23)						
National Death Rate, per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.7		
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate	...	...	...		0.91 : 1	

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

Deaths:				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	17	7	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Total				17	7	24

Rate for all infants per 1,000

live births - 24.34

National Rate per 1,000 live

births - 24.9

Ratio of Local Rate to National

Rate - 0.98 : 1

Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age):

Deaths:				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	15	6	21
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Total				15	6	21

Rate for all infants under 4

weeks of age per 1,000 live

births - 21.30

Death rates per 1,000 Population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... - 0.12

All forms of Tuberculosis - 0.13

Cancer - 1.71

Other Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer	59	57	116
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Tuberculosis-Pulmonary ...	5	3	8
-Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 986 live births in 1955. 488 were males and 498 females.

The crude birth rate, at 14.51 per 1,000 of the population, was 0.02 less than in 1954 (14.53). By multiplying the crude birth rate by the comparability figure of 0.92 we obtain the corrected birth rate of 13.35. The birth rate of England and Wales as a whole dropped from 15.2 in 1954 to 15.0 in 1955 and the ratio of the Slough rate to the National rate thus increased from 0.88:1 to 0.89:1.

The table below gives comparisons between the National and local rates since 1949 and from this it is seen that the ratio between them has remained fairly constant over the past few years. As the population of Slough is younger than that in the country as a whole it would be expected that the ratio would be greater than 1.0. If the low birth rate is partly due to the housing shortage, then the birth rate for 1956 should show an increase, enough new houses having been occupied for sufficient length of time to affect the number of births, and the rate should continue to increase until it is somewhat above that for the country as a whole.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough	Birth Rate England & Wales	Ratio	
			Slough :	England & 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
1953	12.64	15.5	0.81 :	1
1954	13.37	15.2	0.88 :	1
1955	13.35	15.0	0.89 :	1

ILLEGITIMACY.

The total number of illegitimate births (live births and still-births) showed a slight rise on the previous year; 53 compared with 47 in 1954. This means that 5.24% of all births were illegitimate compared with 4.7% in 1954.

This percentage is almost exactly the same as the average for the past eight years, but as small numbers are used in the calculations there have been quite wide variations from year to year.

STILL-BIRTHS.

26 Still-births were registered during the year and all were legitimate. This number, which gives a rate of 25.7 per 1,000 total births, or 0.38 per 1,000 of the population, is slightly higher than for 1954 (25.0 and 0.37). The provisional National Rate for 1955 was 23.2 per 1,000 total births.

Once again a thorough investigation was made into each case. There was no indication that any of these still-births could have been avoided. Full medical facilities were available and appeared to be used at the appropriate time and to the greatest effect.

DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths the number assigned to the Borough by the Registrar General was 586 (297 males and 289 females). This was quite a sharp increase on the figure of 510 in 1954 and gives a crude death rate of 8.625 per 1,000 of the population in 1955 compared with 7.60 in 1954. After multiplying by the comparability figure (1.23) the corrected rate was found to be 10.6 compared with the National Rate of 11.7. The corrected rate for Slough in 1954 was 9.35.

From these figures it would seem as if there had been a very considerable rise in the death rate in 1955; as the table below shows, however, the rates for 1953 and 1954 were exceptionally low, the rate for 1955 approximating more nearly to the average.

Death Rate - Slough.		
Year	Crude Death Rate	Corrected Death Rate
1949	8.04	9.81
1950	8.71	10.54
1951	8.87	10.73
1952	8.56	10.35
1953	7.68	9.29
1954	7.60	9.35
1955	8.625	10.60

The eight main causes of death during 1955, in numerical order, were:-

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	189
Cancer	...	...	...	...	116
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	74
Pneumonia and bronchitis	...	...	...	...	53

Accidents, all types	...	...	...	...	26
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	18
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	9

With the increased total number of deaths recorded it is not surprising that deaths from the main causes are higher than in the previous year - heart diseases rose by 18 and cancer by 20. The next two causes, however, although maintaining their places in the table were responsible for fewer deaths. Other diseases of the circulatory system dropped from fifth to sixth place, being replaced by accidents which caused twice as many deaths in 1955 as in 1954. Ulcers of the stomach and duodenum tied for seventh place with tuberculosis.

During the past few months considerable publicity has been given to research on the relationship between lung cancer and cigarette smoking and the number of deaths from neoplasms of the lung since 1950, the first year when the Registrar General gave separate figures for this cause, is given in the table below.

Year	Males	Females
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5

Apart from pointing out the obvious difference between the sexes I feel that no comment is warranted at this stage.

Attention should, however, be drawn to the increase in the number of accidents. The causes were varied but note should be made that nine were due to motor vehicle accidents, an increase of four on the previous year. Local death returns only show eight motor vehicle accidents during the year as compared with nine given by the Registrar General and the difference is no doubt due to the fact that the Registrar General cannot hold over returns into the following year. Three of the deaths occurred to pedestrians, all over 65 years of age; with the exception of one young man of 21 who was on a motor cycle, the remainder of the victims were in the middle or old age group.

Surprise may be caused in the inclusion of one death under operations of war. This was a man who died from chronic bronchitis and emphysema caused by Poison Gas during the First World War.

CAUSES OF DEATH				1954		1955	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	5	2	5	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	2	-	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	-	-	-	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			3	-	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	6	6	9	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	19	2	20	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	5	-	12
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	5	-	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			30	23	30	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	4	4	1	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system			25	46	28	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	41	40	49	28
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	8	4	8	8
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	32	46	36	60
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	7	12	9	9
22.	Influenza	...	...	1	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	12	5	9	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	17	8	25	8
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system			4	1	4	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	3	3	6	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea			1	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	4	4	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-	8	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	3	2	5
32.	Other define and ill-defined diseases			21	26	28	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	4	1	6	3
34.	All other accidents	...	...	5	3	6	11
35.	Suicide	...	...	3	2	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-	1	1
	All causes	...	...	257	253	297	289

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1955.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1955 by local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually occurred during 1955 even although, in some cases, notification of their occurrence may not have been received well on into 1956.

Ages at Death, in Years:					Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	...	16	7	23
1	-	...	...	...	4	4	8
10	-	...	...	...	5	3	8
25	-	...	...	...	14	14	28
45	-	...	...	...	95	64	159
65	-	...	...	...	28	28	56
70	-	...	...	...	— 162	— 120	— 282
75	-	...	...	...	38	33	71
80	-	...	...	...	57	41	98
85	-	...	...	...	25	46	71
90	-	...	...	...	16	30	46
95	-	...	...	...	3	14	17
95 and over	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
					— 139	— 165	— 304
Total ...					301	385	586

From this table it will be seen that 304 (51.88%) of all deaths were in persons over the age of 70 years and 360 (61.43%) occurred in persons over the normal retiring age of 65 years.

I have once again analysed the causes of death to see which diseases caused the greatest disturbance to the economic life of the family by removing the breadwinner. This was done by finding out the number of useful working years of life lost by each cause, assuming that normal working life ended at 65 years. Deaths under 10 years of age were omitted because the effect of neo-natal and infant deaths would obscure the picture. Males only are included in this table.

The seven diseases, or groups of diseases, causing the greatest disturbance were:-

Cause	No. of cases	Loss of working years	Average loss of working years per case
1. Heart Disease	39	457	11.7
2. Cancer	23	288	12.5
3. Accidents, all types	6	178	29.7
4. Tuberculosis	3	85	28.3
5. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	78	26.0
6. Bronchitis and Pneumonia	12	68	5.7
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	67	13.4

There is relatively little difference between this table and the table giving the main causes of death in numerical order. This table does, however, emphasise the diseases which, although comparatively rare, can cause greivous hardship to

families by the loss of their sources of income at an early age. Nephritis and Nephrosis are diseases which have not entered this table before and may very well not do so again but Tuberculosis and Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System although not very common do often cause deaths at an early age with consequent great hardship.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy, child-birth or abortion during 1955. The record has been a good one over the past few years, no deaths having been attributed to these causes since 1951.

INFANT MORTALITY

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 24 deaths (17 males and 7 females) of infants under one year of age. This number is four greater than in 1954 and gives a rate of 24.34 per 1,000 live births, an increase of 3.83 over the previous year.

With calculations being based on such small numbers fluctuation must inevitably occur but, nevertheless, increases in a rate which is often looked upon as an index of health in the community are unfortunate and warrant investigation.

The table below shows the trend of infant mortality during the past 10 years.

1946	...	31.1	1951	...	23.4
1947	...	39.9	1952	...	24.93
1948	...	31.09	1953	...	23.13
1949	...	25.51	1954	...	20.51
1950	...	28.4	1955	...	24.34

The investigation into the circumstances of each infant death continued throughout 1955 and in no case did it seem as if lack of medical care and/or delay in instituting care and attention was a contributing cause. Once again, illegitimacy has not appeared as a factor in infant mortality.

The table divides the deaths of infants under one year of age into causes and periods of less than one year. It shows deaths in varying periods up to 1 year. It will be noted that the number of deaths recorded in the table is actually one fewer than the official record given by the Registrar General. Slight differences are bound to occur from time to time as delays in notification can be taken into account locally whereas the Registrar General must keep to within a very narrow margin of the calendar year. In 1954 the local table showed one more death than that recorded by the Registrar General.

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

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	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year
Atelectasis ...	1	2	2	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Asphyxia Neonatorum	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormalities ...	2	1	-	-	3	-	1	4	-	1	-	-	5
Erythroblastosis Foetalis ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prematurity...	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6

The number of children dying within the neo-natal period is nearly always a high percentage of deaths throughout the whole of the first year. The neo-natal proportion in 1955 was exceptionally high, no less than 20 out of 23 deaths occurring in the first month of life.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Out of the 23 infant deaths recorded in the table (page No. 13) no less than 20 (86.9%) died during the first month of life and all but one of them died during the first week, 13 (56.5%) not surviving for more than a day. This is equivalent to a neo-natal mortality rate of 21.30. In 1954 the neo-natal rate was much lower, being only 10.26 but in that year an unusually high number of infants (45%) died after the age of one month; the difference in the rate between 1954 and 1955 by the end of the first year of life was only 3.83 per 1,000 live births.

From these figures it is obvious that in order to produce any significant effect upon the infant mortality rate much more research is needed into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations. The standard of infant care has continued to rise steadily and most of the causes of death later in the first year have been reduced to a very low level. A few countries have produced infant mortality rates much lower than those found here and it is to be hoped that our rates will be reduced still further over the next few years.

INQUESTS.

Twenty-three inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1955; one more than in 1954 but five fewer than in 1953 and thirteen less than in 1952. 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	...	...	...	2	-	2
Accidents:						
Falls	...	...	...	1	3	4
Carbon monoxide poisoning	...			-	1	1
Road accidents	...	...		6	2	8
Burns-electric fire	...	...		-	1	1
-Conflagration	...	...		1	1	2
Drowning	...	...	...	1	-	1
Compression due to falling material	...	...	...	1	-	1
Suicide:						
Coal gas poisoning	...	...		1	1	2
Open Verdict:						
Exposure	...	...	...	-	1	1
Chronic bronchitis and emphysema caused by Poison Gas in World War I	1			-	-	1
				14	10	24

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the end of June 1955, was 67,940, a net gain of 850 over the estimated population a year earlier.

The natural increase (births less deaths) was 400 and from this it will be seen that there was a net immigration into the town during the year of 450.

The table below gives the population of the Borough each year since 1945.

1945 ... 60,220	1950 ... 66,340
1946 ... 63,040	1951 ... 66,439 (Census)
1947 ... 64,240	1952 ... 66,730
1948 ... 66,060	1953 ... 66,950
1949 ... 66,610	1954 ... 67,090

1955 ... 67,940

For the first time since 1948 there has been a net immigration. From 1949 to 1954 the population did, in fact,

continue to rise, although very slowly, but in each of these years the natural increase was larger than the gain in population leading to the conclusion that there was, in fact, a net emigration.

The whole impression gained during the past two or three years is that there has been a large influx of population and that the town is rapidly gaining in population and general busyness. This is, no doubt, largely due to the erection of the Langley L.C.C. and Wexham Court Farm Estates. The latter is, however, in the Eton Rural District and has taken away existing population from the Borough. The population within the boundary of the Borough, mainly from the L.C.C. Langley Estate, has increased little but the demands on shopping, transport, industrial facilities etc. have increased quite considerably.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Cleansing and Disinfestation.

The steam disinfestor at the Chalvey Pumping Station continued to be used but the number of occasions when it was needed remained small.

Disposal of Refuse.

No changes occurred in the system of refuse disposal during 1955 about half the refuse being dealt with at the destructor at Chalvey, the remainder being tipped in low-lying land near the Datchet Road.

Kitchen Waste.

Contractors continued to operate the scheme for collecting kitchen waste on behalf of the Borough Council. Although 1955 was no less satisfactory in obtaining adequate collection there are always difficulties behind the scenes as the contractors find it extremely difficult to obtain suitable and sufficient labour for this purpose.

Sewage Disposal.

1955 saw the virtual completion of the building of the new Sewage Works at Cippenham and the installation of a new plant there. This, with the new sewers, allowed building to take place in the town on a much larger scale than had previously been possible, the only restrictions necessary being in the area of the Trading Estate.

Water.

No adverse reports were made upon water supplies taken during the year from any of the undertakings which supply the Borough.

Slough Corporation Water Supply.

The water supplied by the Corporation continued to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality, 1,129 additional houses were supplied during the year.

Weekly bacteriological analyses were continued in the Town Hall laboratory and quarterly samples were referred to an independent analyst for examination. All the 56 samples analysed were free from contamination and confirmed that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

A copy of the analyst's report given on 7th July, 1955 of water taken from the Corporation's supply is as follows:-

(Chemical values are given in parts per million)

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction	...	...	...	...	pH 7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	24
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	660
Total Solids...	...	...	...	...	465
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	235
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	320
Temporary	...	...	...	...	235
Permanent	...	...	...	...	85
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	2.6
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.242
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.50
Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent
Fluorine	...	...	...	...	0.7

The report of the analyst on this water was:-

"The sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these remarks are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

The chemical analysis showed the continued presence of fluorine at 0.7 parts per million. This amount approximates the ideal quantity for the prevention of dental caries and research by the Dental Branch of the Medical Research Council has shown the beneficial effect upon the teeth of children living in the area of the Corporation's supply.

The following extract from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for 1954 will probably be of interest to the citizens of the town.

'Some pilot studies were commenced during the year with the dental and physical condition of children in low and extremely high fluoride areas. The dental examinations were carried out by Miss J.R. Forrest, L.D.S. a dental officer of this department. In Slough a cross section of girls and boys attending a large secondary modern school aged 11-15 years plus were examined. It was found that of the children born and reared in the Borough no less than 30 per cent were completely free from dental decay. By comparison, amongst the children who were not born in this area and had become resident there after the age of one year or more, only 12 per cent were free from dental caries. The caries-free rate in children born and brought up in an area where the fluoride content is negligible is as low as 4 per cent or expressed conversely 96 per cent of the children have dental decay.'

The report goes on to point out that 'mottling' of the teeth is also caused but that in the proportion in which fluorine occurs in Slough white flecks which would be noticed by the average intelligent parent occurred in not more than 1 per cent of the children.

Slough Estates Ltd., Water Supply.

This company supplies water to about 70 dwelling houses in addition to the factories and canteens on the Slough Trading Estate. This water is fairly soft, coming as it does from deep boreholes. Analyses made during the year showed the same freedom from contamination as did that from other undertakings.

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

41 samples were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical and bacteriological analyses and no trace of contamination was discovered.

117 additional houses were supplied directly during the year.

Swimming Bath Water.

Samples of water were taken from the Community Centre indoor swimming bath which is in use all the year round and from the outdoor baths at Baylis House, St. Bernard's Convent School and the Licensed Victuallers School which are used only during the summer months.

All samples were satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

All pet shops in the Borough, of which there are now five were inspected regularly by the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough Council for that purpose.

No adverse criticism could be made of any premises by the Veterinary Surgeon at his inspections.

The proprietor of one Pet Shop, however, was convicted of an offence of cruelty to an animal and the Council, although granting a licence for the following year, did make it clear to the person concerned that, should he be convicted of any similar offence in the future, such matters would be taken into consideration when dealing with any application from him for renewal in the future.

National Assistance Act, 1948-Section 47..

No action was necessary under this Section during 1955.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Although Staff Medical examinations have been carried out by Medical Officers of this Department for a considerable time, little publicity has been given to this side of the work, possibly because the work has been considered to be of a routine nature or perhaps because the number to be examined has seemed to be relatively small. Most of the applicants for entry into the Superannuation Schemes of the Borough Council or County Council are in good health but cases of doubt do sometimes arise and the amount of time which has then to be spent on the examination may be well in excess of the normal half-hour taken.

Those examined include all new officers entering permanent employment with the Slough Borough Council and the local services of the Bucks County Council, each entrant to a Teachers' Training College and every teacher teaching in a County School for the first time. Servants of the Slough Borough Council are also given an opportunity, at certain specified times, of entering the Council's Superannuation Scheme. Chest x-rays are arranged for those who will come into close contact with children.

During 1955 the number of examinations rose to 161, representing between 80 and 90 hours of a medical officer's time.

	1955	1954	1953
Slough Borough Council ...	40	24	30
Bucks. County Council ...	67	53	60
Teachers' Training College	21	24	17
Teaching for the first time	9	12	9
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>22</u>
Total	<u>161</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>138</u>

LABORATORY.

During the year 1,280 examinations were undertaken in the Laboratory, a decrease of 77 upon the previous year.

A detailed analysis of the examinations is shown below:-

		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ...	...	-	15
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	...	-	18
Swabs for Vincent's Angina ...	...	-	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	...	3	13
Urine for routine examination ...	...	121	
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	6		223
Blood Counts ...	...	58	

		Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Milk Samples:-			
(a) Phosphatase test ...	...	120	-
(b) Methylene blue test ...	...	136	-
(c) Coliform test ...	...	15	-
(d) Turbidity test... ..	...	11	-
(e) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water ...	...	288	-
Water Samples:-			
(a) Drinking water ...	...	32	2
(b) Swimming bath water ...	...	51	1
Ice-Cream:-			
(a) Chemical tests ...	...	77	-
(b) Bacteriological tests			
Grade I ...	...	76	
Grade II ...	...	1	
Grade III ...	...	9	
Grade IV ...	...	3	

After the outstandingly good results of 1954 the results of analyses of ice-cream samples during 1955 were disappointing. Two firms were, in fact, responsible for the samples which fell into Grades III and IV but by constant supervision and follow-up their products could again be placed in Grade I. It is usually impossible to locate the exact source of trouble but there is no doubt that very warm weather such as that experienced during the summer of 1955 makes it much more difficult to keep all processes at a sufficiently low temperature to prevent the multiplication of bacteria. Added to this there is, of course, a greatly increased demand for ice-cream during hot weather and when factories are hard-pushed to increase their output the chances of human error are greater and the tendency to rush cleansing processes rises. It is only due to the continuous supervision of Sanitary Inspectors that any deterioration of standards can be noticed and removed before any danger to the public arises.

	Number of samples taken					Percentage of Samples				
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Grade I	152	103	148	121	76	76.9	83.7	94.9	96.8	85.4
Grade II	21	6	1	Nil	1	10.6	4.9	0.6	Nil	1.1
Grade III	15	7	4	1	10	7.5	5.7	2.6	0.8	11.2
Grade IV	10	7	3	3	2	5.0	5.7	1.9	2.4	2.2

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

Eighty-seven post mortem examinations were carried out during 1955. There were 85 in 1950, 62 in 1951, 91 in 1952, 90 in 1953 and 89 in 1954.

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

The demands upon the Home Help Service showed a slight increase during 1955. This service is provided by the Bucks. County Council and run by a Home Help Organiser under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Area Medical Officer for South Bucks.

Out of all cases assisted no less than 184 (49.2%) were over 70 years of age. In 1954, 145 cases (42.5%) were over the age of 70.

				31.12.54	31.12.55
No. of Home Helps as at:-					
(a) Full-time	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	...	...	...	33	31
No. of cases who received help during:				1954	1955
(a) Acute sick	...	...	...	53	67
(b) Chronic sick...	...	...	...	230	255
(c) Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	6	5
(d) Maternity	...	...	...	52	47
				341	347

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Showing cases notified during 1955. Numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths. Also notifications for years 1944-54.

	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Population in thousands											
	1955	1955	1955	1954	1953	1952	Total cases notified during				1946	1945	1944		
							1951	1950	1949	1948	1947				
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever ...	11	1	-	70	215	117	33	54	33	66	44	77	16	113	
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7	17	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	21	18	-	25	24	26	6	5	9	8	12	22	17	6	
Pneumonia ...	41	3	-	53	64	33	44	32	14	20	27	22	22	28	
Erysipelas ...	14	2	-	15	17	14	12	14	15	14	20	24	24	9	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Measles ...	1183	2	-	29	526	778	1681	76	416	748	168	859	280	826	
Whooping Cough ...	56	-	-	78	143	101	226	98	118	328	171	7	1	92	
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	5	-	-	6	
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	5	5	-	1	5	11	7	7	3	9	-	1	-	2	
Non-Paralytic	6	6	-	1	2	9	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Encephalitis: Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Dysentery ...	19	7	-	3	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Non-Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Dysentery ...	-	2	7	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas ...	-	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Measles ...	22	138	265	557	104	57	28	7	2	2	1	-
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	13	9	11	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	-	6	-	3	1	2	-	1	-	3	1
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	3	8	4	6	8	8	11	6	11	8	7	11
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	2	-	1	1	3	-	1	-	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	13	7	8	4	4	8	1	1	4	1	-	5

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough,

	Burn- ham North	Burn- ham South	Central North	Central South	Chalvey	Farn- ham North	Farn- ham South	Langley	Stoke North	Stoke South	Upton
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Dysentery ...	7	-	1	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	1
Erysipelas ...	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	2	3	1	1
Measles ...	208	153	120	50	120	127	92	139	62	50	51
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	7	2	1	1	11	3	1	8	-	3	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	5	-	1	-	3	1	4	-	1	3
Scarlet Fever ...	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	12	17	5	3	11	11	8	4	6	10	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	3	1
Whooping Cough ...	6	3	6	2	5	5	4	7	9	4	5

DIPHTHERIA.

For the seventh year in succession no case of Diphtheria was reported.

Diphtheria has been almost eliminated by immunisation but the bacillus is still in existence and its presence is felt from time to time in local outbreaks up and down the country. As little natural immunity can be acquired from contact with cases this disease does depend upon a high level of immunity being produced artificially by injection and it is vital for the proportion of children immunised to be maintained at a high level.

To obtain safety 75% of children should be immunised before their first birthday and this level has not yet been attained. During 1952 an enquiry was made into sickness occurring in all infants during that year and they were followed up again in 1955. Of those remaining in the Borough 79.7% had been immunised against Diphtheria by their third birthday.

The number of children immunised during 1955 was disappointingly low and although this may have been due to some extent to the suppression of immunisation later in the year when a number of cases of poliomyelitis occurred, not enough children were presented for immunisation to ensure freedom from the disease in this area. Although this later picture is not unsatisfactory as shown by the survey figures, unless a greater proportion of children are immunised at an earlier age the chances of a diphtheria outbreak must continue to rise.

Most children are now given the Whooping Cough/Diphtheria vaccine so that immunity against the two diseases may be given by three injections instead of the five which are necessary if the vaccines are given separately.

600 children were given initial protection against Diphtheria in 1955 compared with 867 in 1954 and of these 497 received the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine. 1,198 children also received renewal or 'booster' doses against Diphtheria-this was 207 fewer than in 1954.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Only 56 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during 1955.

This was the lowest number recorded, with the exception of 1942 when only 36 cases were notified, since October 23rd. 1939, when Whooping Cough first became notifiable. No case was admitted to hospital.

The highest incidence of the disease, (13 cases in January) took place during the first half of the year, no less than 44 of the 56 cases occurring before the end of June, but at no time was there the semblance of an epidemic.

As I reported last year the disease appears to have changed considerably over the past few years and for this reason it is probable that a number of cases, being mild, are never even brought to the notice of the family doctor. In addition to this, immunisation against Whooping Cough, although not giving the same degree of protection which Diphtheria Toxoid gives against Diphtheria, does undoubtedly prevent the disease in some children and reduce the severity in others. This means, of course, that unprotected children are potentially in greater danger than before and parents are advised to obtain immunisation for their children against this disease too, and to have the procedure completed as early in life as possible, as Whooping Cough is most dangerous and most likely to leave disabilities if contracted in children under 1 year of age. For this reason it is disappointing to report that only 498 children were given protection against Whooping Cough in 1955 as compared with 691 in 1954. Of these all but one were given the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only 11 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1955. This is by far the lowest number ever recorded in the town. The cases were mild, but one was admitted to hospital. Cases were distributed fairly evenly throughout the year with the exception of the summer months, no case being notified between the end of May and the beginning of October.

There has been a considerable change in the germ causing Scarlet Fever during the past few years and although there are many sore throats quite possibly caused by the same organism, very few rashes occur and the illnesses are therefore not called Scarlet Fever. Although notified cases are followed up to eliminate the probability of spread of the disease among children and those engaged in food handling, the mild nature of streptococcal infection probably means that many cases are undiagnosed. However, no outbreak due to streptococcal food poisoning has occurred for a number of years.

ERYSIPELAS.

As the germ which causes Scarlet Fever also causes Erysipelas it would be expected that the number of cases of the latter condition would fluctuate in the same way as the former. This does not seem to have happened during the

past few years and the 14 cases notified during 1955 is about the usual number. Two cases were admitted to hospital but there were no deaths. No cases occurred during January or February but otherwise a small number of cases occurred during every other month of the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Forty-one cases of Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia were notified during 1954 and 3 were admitted to hospital. All but five of these cases occurred during the first four months of the year, the highest incidence being in January and March.

MEASLES.

The biennial outbreak of measles was rather late in starting this time and, instead of occurring in the later months of 1954, did not really get under way until February 1955, reaching its peak in April and having virtually ceased by July. There were 1183 cases notified during 1955 and about half occurred during March.

On the whole, the cases were mild but the severity varied considerably in individual cases. With the frequent use nowadays of sulphonamides and antibiotics the complications of measles such as pneumonia and otitis media are comparatively rare and it is for this reason alone that measles is less to be feared than formerly; there is little evidence to show that the incidence or severity of the disease itself has altered over the past ten years.

Two cases were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty-one cases were notified in 1955. This is slightly less than in the previous three years, the only years in which comparison can be made since the new regulations making a milder condition notifiable only came into operation in August 1951.

A high proportion of cases occurred in hospital and this is understandable as the majority of infants are now born in hospital.

There were no deaths from this cause.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. (Infantile Paralysis)

The summer of 1955 was, at least from the beginning of July, dry and hot and with a relatively high incidence of poliomyelitis up and down the country it could have been expected that Slough would share in the general rise in notifications. However, the summer passed quietly with one non-paralytic case in May, one paralytic case in August and another non-paralytic case in September and it was reasonably thought that we had had another lucky year.

The situation was not entirely quiet in the surrounding district, however, and poliomyelitis was still in our minds when a small outbreak of five cases occurred in November and December interfering not, as usual, with arrangements for summer holidays, but with Christmas festivities. Four of these cases, three paralytic and two non-paralytic, occurred in a period of five days, two other non-paralytic cases having been notified a week before, and it seemed for a while as if a large outbreak might occur, however, this small 'explosion' proved thankfully, to be the beginning and the end of the trouble.

The cases were admitted to Maidenhead Isolation Hospital which had been able to arrange for virological examination.

The first case on which virological examination was made and, incidentally the first paralytic case of the year, was due to Type III virus, the type which was to cause several cases in the surrounding countryside. The eight remaining cases in which the virus was found were all caused by Type I virus. In one case no virus could be isolated and in the first case of the year, a non-paralytic case occurring in May, no virological examination was made.

	Type I	Type III	Virus not found	Not examined for virus
Paralytic	3	1	-	-
Non-Paralytic	5	-	1	1

Apart from two sisters who were taken ill in December, of whom one had a mild facial paralysis and the other no paralysis, no direct link could be found between any of the cases.

There were, in all eleven cases of poliomyelitis in Slough during 1955 of which 5 were paralytic and 6 non-paralytic. Females showed preponderance over males in the

ratio of 7:4 and eight of the cases (3 males and 5 females) were under the age of 15 years. No case was reported in any one over the age of 35 years.

Ages	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-	1	-	1	2	2	2
5-	-	2	1	1	1	3
15-	-	-	-	1	-	1
25-	1	1	-	-	1	1
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	2	4	4	7

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox again fell slightly as compared with the previous year, 363 against 375 in 1954. 308 of these were in children under the age of one year.

The number of re-vaccinations, however, increased from 55 in 1954 to 193 in 1955. A large proportion of these were probably associated with travel abroad as many countries insist upon immigrants carrying current certificates of vaccination.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) New Cases.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis in 1955 was the highest recorded, ninety-three new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease and eleven new ones of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being discovered during the year. In 1954 there were 69 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 9 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

In the County as a whole there was only a very small rise in the number of new cases of tuberculosis in 1955. The rise was due very largely to the increase in Slough and, to some extent in the Eton Rural District; over the remainder of the County a considerable decrease in tuberculosis occurred. Although reason for the continuation of high figures is difficult to assess the Mass Radiography Unit attached to the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board was working among selected organised groups in the town during the year and the 24 cases of active tuberculosis found by them out of 15,862 persons examined may have some influence upon the incidence of notifications.

Although some concern must be felt about the apparent continued spread of tuberculosis in the area it is perhaps more gratifying to know that cases now more often fall into the ranks with early or minimal disease, the outlook for whom is good.

Age in years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	1	4	1	1
5-	6	4	-	-
15-	12	15	-	2
25-	9	4	1	2
35-	2	6	-	-
45-	10	4	-	3
55-	6	1	-	-
65 and over ...	7	2	-	1
Total...	53	40	2	9

(b) Notification Register.

The number of cases remaining on the Notification Register on 31st December, 1955, was as follows:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
463	350	813	47	59	106

The number on the register has increased quite considerably this year, by 115 pulmonary cases and 4 non-pulmonary cases. There are a considerable number of persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis being re-housed on the Langley L.C.C. estate and these, of course, are added to the register.

They are not added to the newly diagnosed cases of course and, in fact, only one new case has arisen on the estate. The increase represents the balance of new cases plus 'transfers-in' against 'transfers out.'

Year	...	...	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population	...	...	63,040	64,240	66,060	66,610	66,340	66,439	66,730	66,950	67,090	67,940
			P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.	P. N.P.
Cases Notified	...	...	46	58	76	71	79	88	71	55	69	93
Notification per 1,000 of population			0.73	0.90	1.15	1.07	1.19	1.32	1.06	0.82	1.03	1.36
			0.39	0.08	0.25	0.17	0.24	0.19	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.16

(c) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1955 and the table below gives further details of these cases.

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Abdomen	...	...	...	...	-	1
Bowel	...	...	...	...	-	1
Shoulder	...	...	...	...	-	1
Knee ...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Spine	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cervical glands	...	...	...	...	-	3
Kidney	...	...	...	...	-	1
Meninges	...	...	...	...	-	1
Total ...					2	9

(d) B. C. G. Vaccination.

1955 was the first year in which B.C.G. vaccination was offered to all children of approximately 14 years of age attending County Schools. The tests and inculations were carried out by doctors of the Bucks County Council School Health Service.

The parents of all children who had reached their 13th. birthday by the 1st. January, 1955, were invited to take the opportunity of having their children immunised against tuberculosis where this seemed desirable. The children whose parents consented were first given a Heaf Skin Test, to see whether they had obtained any previous experience of tuberculosis. The doctor returned to the school a week later to read the tests and those children who showed no reaction, and therefore, no previous experience of tuberculosis, were given 0.1 c.c. B.C.G. vaccine into the skin of the upper arm.

About 700 parents gave consent for their children to be tested and immunised. Out of 670 tests performed, 116 (17.3%) were positive and no further action was required. The remainder, excluding those who were absent on the days when tests were read, were inoculated.

(e) Deaths from Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis in 1955 was 9, the same as in 1954. Eight deaths (5 males and 3 females) were from the pulmonary form of the disease and one death (one female) was from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Year	Population	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary Death rate per 1,000 population.
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1940	60,670	11	15	2	3	0.43
1941	63,350	14	18	4	6	0.49
1942	64,420	11	13	3	2	0.37
1943	62,960	19	13	1	-	0.51
1944	61,250	18	14	4	1	0.52
1945	60,220	14	12	5	1	0.43
1946	63,040	16	17	2	1	0.52
1947	64,240	17	10	2	4	0.42
1948	66,060	17	12	2	2	0.44
1949	66,610	13	9	-	-	0.33
1950	66,340	10	3	1	2	0.19
1951	66,439	10	6	1	-	0.24
1952	66,730	11	3	1	1	0.21
1953	66,950	5	1	-	-	0.09
1954	67,090	5	2	-	2	0.13
1955	67,940	5	3	-	1	0.12

Location	Ante-Natal Clinic	
	Post-Natal Clinic	Ante-Natal Clinic
Upton	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Friday, 2.30 p.m.	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Friday, 2.30 p.m.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Thursday, 2.0 p.m.	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Thursday, 2.0 p.m.
Our Father's Day (The Medical Department, Centre, Parkman Road)	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Thursday, 2.0 p.m.	Monday, 10.30 a.m. Thursday, 2.0 p.m.

IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Owing to the increase in population in the Borough it was found necessary to increase the number of Welfare Centres. An additional Centre was, therefore, opened in the Congregational Church Hall, Lent Rise, in September 1955, particularly to help mothers in the area of the Priory Estate and a further Centre was opened at 173 Trelawney Avenue at the end of October 1955 to serve the additional population coming on to the L.C.C. Estate from London.

The first of these Centres is held twice a month but owing to the rather small premises at Langley the Trelawney Avenue Centre is open each week.

In addition to these, the other five Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough - at the Health Centre, Burlington Road; Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road; Central Hall, Bower Way, Cippenham; Wexham Road Community Centre and at the Women's Institute Hall, Elmhurst Road, Langley, continued to function. Each of these Centres is held weekly with the exception of the one at Burlington Road which is held twice weekly.

Toddlers Clinics at which mothers have an opportunity to discuss their older children with the doctor have continued to be popular at four of the Centres. Attendance is deliberately made small and specific times are made for the mother to see the doctor with their older children who do not, as a rule, usually attend Welfare Centres with any great regularity.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Location	Ante-Natal Clinic	Post-Natal Clinic
Upton	Mondays, 10.30 a.m. (first bookings) Mondays, 2.0 p.m. Thursdays, 2.0 p.m.	Fridays, 2.30 p.m.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital Out-Patients Dept. (Hut behind Community Centre, Farnham Road).	Mondays, 10.0. a.m. (first bookings)	Thursdays, 9.0. a.m.

In addition to these clinics there is a Midwives' Ante-Natal Clinic held at the Health Centre, Burlington Road, for those 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 Ailment 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.

The work of the Child Guidance Clinic, which has now been working for more than three years, continued to grow during 1955. With the increased demand for its services it was found necessary to increase the staff, which now consists of a Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist, Psychiatric Social Worker and two Psychotherapists.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC.

Community Centre, Farnham Road	Wednesdays, 2-4p.m.
(Entrance-Buckingham Avenue)	
Health Centre, Burlington Road	Fridays, 2.30-4p.m.
	and 5.30-7p.m.

DAY NURSERY.

Children from 0-3 years are cared for daily at the Manor Park Day Nursery run by the Health Department of the Bucks. County Council.

The Nursery is situated at:-
Penn Road, Manor Park, Slough.

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

RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

The Children's Committee of the Bucks. County Council is responsible for residential children's homes and although there are other homes situated throughout the county, the only home in Slough is at 'Brookside,' Salt Hill.

Applications for admission to a children's home should be made to the Children's Officer, 18, Walton Street, Aylesbury. Accommodation is restricted and although every effort is made to admit urgent cases there can be no guarantee that a child can be admitted to any particular nursery.

V. HOSPITAL SERVICE.

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 are arranged by the Chest Physician Chest Clinic, Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor.

Maternity Accommodation.

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.
Colinswood Maternity 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, but 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.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
(Leslie A. Stroud, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.)

For the year 1955.

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

S E C T I O N A.
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE No. 1.

Summary:

Total inspections	...	...	...	...	18,524
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	1,242
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	337
Secondary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	155
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	31
Letters Received	...	...	...	...	4,636
Letters Despatched	...	...	...	...	1,643
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	1,104

TABLE No. 2.

**Analysis of Inspection Work Performed by the District
Sanitary Inspectors:**

Housing	...	...	...	...	4,383
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	923
Premises at which Food is Prepared, Stored or Sold	...	...	...	...	1,713
Dairies	...	...	...	...	93
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	645
Shops	...	...	...	...	604
General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	4,618
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	...	...	...	...	4,804
Miscellaneous Matters	...	...	...	...	741

TABLE No. 3.

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)	141
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	131
Factories and Workplaces	24
Shops	50
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.)	264
Portable dustbins provided... ..	22
Miscellaneous Premises	23

Staff:

There were no changes among my technical staff but several changes in clerical staff took place during 1955. Miss B. Horgan was appointed as my secretary as from July, 1955.

I would express thanks to my Deputy and to my staff generally for their loyal support and hard work throughout the year.

New Legislation:

Apart from amendment of details contained in Orders and Regulations concerning the slaughter of animals, the labelling of food and food standards, no legislation of importance affecting the Sanitary Inspector's work was introduced during the year except the Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order 1955.

This Order provides (1) that the Ministry of Health shall be the central Department primarily concerned with:-

- (a) Matters relating to food hygiene,
- (b) the Food Hygiene Advisory Council;
- (c) the registration of premises;
- (d) the licensing of street traders;
- (e) unsound food;
- (f) confirmation of byelaws.

(2) that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall be the central Department primarily concerned with:-

- (a) Matters relating to the composition and labelling of food.
- (b) Matters relating to the hygiene of milk production and distribution.
- (c) Matters relating to slaughterhouses, and meat inspection in slaughterhouses, etc.

S E C T I O N B .

HOUSING.

Programme of Housing Slum Clearance.

During the past few years mention has been made of those dwelling-houses in the Borough which have become dilapidated over the years, and to which demolition or clearance is the only solution. Unfortunately these properties are still in use, but a step in the right direction was reached during the year when, at the request of the Minister of Housing and Local Government a draft programme of Slum Clearance was submitted. This followed a joint report by the Medical Officer of Health and myself giving a provisional list of houses which the Council hoped to clear within 5 years.

A total of 368 houses are involved in the form of 45 clearance areas and an additional 14 houses proposed to be dealt with as individual unfit houses.

Towards the end of the year the preparatory work necessary for the scheduling of these areas was commenced, and it is anticipated that by the time the Council is in a position to provide alternative accommodation the first few Slum Clearance areas can be dealt with.

Individual Unfit Houses. Closing Orders.

During the year Closing Orders under the provisions of the local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Section 10, were made in respect of the following four houses, it being considered inexpedient to make Demolition Orders, having regard to the effect of the demolition of the houses upon adjoining houses:-

- 108, High Street, Chalvey.
- 207, High Street, Langley.
- 112, High Street, Chalvey.
- 30, Church Street, Chalvey.

Demolition Orders.

(a) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

A Demolition Order was made in respect of the following house:-

Lower Lodge, Upton Park, Slough.

(b) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936. Sections 11 and 23.

A Demolition Order was made in respect of the following dwelling:

Caravan, Churchland Works, Langley Road, Langley.

Housing Improvement Grants.

Although by virtue of the Housing Act, 1949, (now amended) the Council has been operating the provisions relating to improvement grants since 1949, the response from owners has been disappointing, only 16 applications having been approved for grants to the end of 1955. It is furthermore significant to reflect that of this number 15 were in respect of owner/occupied dwellings.

Under this scheme owners of dwelling houses, in approved cases, may secure up to 50% grant towards improving their houses. In this case the term 'improvement' does not cover the repair and maintenance of property but is intended for providing some amenity which the property hitherto lacked, e.g. bathroom, domestic hot water supply, smokeless fire-grates, etc.

Numerous enquiries appertaining to the scheme have been received during the year and grants were approved in respect of nine applications, the cost of works amounting in the aggregate to £4 589 and the improvement grants to £2,236. Two hundred and thirty five visits were made in respect of enquiries and works in progress together with periodic inspections to ascertain that the conditions under which grants have been made were being complied with.

Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling Houses.

Due to the ever increasing scope of environmental hygiene and the widening of sanitary inspectors' duties it is no longer possible to carry out periodic routine housing inspections. A systematic 5 yearly inspection of all dwelling houses must be regarded as a 'theoretical ideal' of which time and allocation of duties does not permit. Nevertheless the repair and maintenance of dwelling houses to a satisfactory standard of fitness for human habitation is one of the more important duties of the sanitary inspectors.

During 1955 the district inspectors examined some 1,229 houses for this purpose and a total of 2,751 visits was made in connection with supervising works in progress, securing compliance with notices served and miscellaneous matters. One hundred and forty one houses were rendered habitable.

In relation to the housing activities of the district sanitary inspectors 492 written and verbal notices, and 31 statutory notices were served in pursuance of the Housing and Public Health Acts requiring works of repair and maintenance.

Members of the public made 243 complaints concerning defective housing accommodation.

Repair of Properties in Default of Owners.

During the year default action was necessary in 4 instances as a result of the failure of property owners to comply with the requirements of statutory notices. The total cost of this work amounted to £151. 14s. 6d. which is recoverable, and the necessary repairs were carried out by various building contractors on behalf of the Corporation as follows:-

Property:	Works Executed:	Cost:		
		£.	s.	d.
46, York Avenue.	Public Health Act, 1936. Section 75.	1.	13.	0.
22, York Avenue	" " " "	1.	13.	0.
8, Castle St.	Housing Act, 1936. Section 9.	80.	0.	0.
7, King's Terrace, Sutton Lane.	" " " "	68.	8.	6.

Overcrowding.

The building of council and privately owned houses during the last few years has undoubtedly contributed to the alleviation of overcrowding within the Borough. It is 20 years since the overcrowding survey under the Housing Act, 1936, was undertaken, and therefore, it is impossible to know the extent of statutory overcrowding, which it will be recalled is based on the number and size of 'rooms' rather than 'bedrooms.'

During the year under review 2 complaints were received and 15 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

Enquiries from owners and agents as to 'permitted numbers' of dwellinghouses were dealt with, and similar particulars were supplied in respect of all newly completed council houses.

No applications for licences under Section 61 of the Housing Act, 1936, to permit temporary overcrowding were received during the year.

Council Housing Estates.

(a) *Housing Allocation*

Two hundred and four applications for council houses were investigated by my staff in accordance with the Council's Housing Points Scheme, for the purpose of recommending to the Tenancy and Arrears Committee the appropriate award of points in respect of insanitary or sub-standard conditions of the housing accommodation of the applicants. The co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of other local authorities in obtaining the requisite information in respect of applicants residing in their respective areas is appreciated.

(b) Council Housing Estates

Inspections of houses at the various Council estates were carried out for the following purposes:-

(i) Exchanges and tenancy transfers	...	...	2
(ii) Overcrowding of houses	...	...	3
(iii) Keeping of poultry	...	...	1
(iv) Infestation by vermin	...	...	27
(v) Rodent Infestation (officers)	...	...	203
	(rodent operators)	...	345
(vi) Infestation by wasps, flies, ants, etc.			
	(officers)	...	31
	(operators)	...	51
(vii) Follow-up and miscellaneous visits	...		116

Moveable Dwellings.

The section of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with moveable dwellings refers to tents, vans and sheds. Almost without exception, however, the present day moveable dwelling is "the caravan," and usually it is of the trailer type, modern in design and construction, and in general it is well cared for by the occupant.

Due to the shortage of housing accommodation the manufacture of caravans has increased at a phenomenal rate since the end of the war, and it is now as easy to get a caravan as it is difficult to acquire a site upon which to station it. The intending caravan dweller must not only have a licence under the Public Health Act, 1936, but must also obtain the consent of the Town Planning Authority. Such dual control, each intended to deal with its own particular aspect without being complementary to the other, makes for a good deal of misunderstanding for all concerned, but particularly for the proposed caravan dweller.

However, modern and well designed, the caravan in the vast majority of instances, can be no more than a temporary substitute for our traditional type of housing accommodation.

During the year 54 moveable dwellings were licenced by the Council and of these 44 were renewals of licences previously issued. The district sanitary inspectors made 772 visits in connection with moveable dwellings.

Reference was made in the 1954 report to the situation which had arisen at Foxborough Farm, London Road, Langley, where the owner had allowed some 63 caravans to be stationed on this land without previously having sought either Town Planning consent or Public Health Licence. The owner subsequently appealed against the refusal of Town Planning consent, and following a local enquiry the Minister in August 1955, allowed the appeal, giving the owner consent to station 63 caravans upon this land for a period of 5 years from August 1955.

There still remained no Public Health licence in respect of this site, and towards the end of the year negotiations with the owner were in hand on the provision of facilities such as would qualify for a licence under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Certificates of Disrepair.

From the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, (August, 1954) until the end of 1955, only 20 applications have been made by tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. Apropos my reference to this subject in the report for 1954, one of the provisions of this Act entitles a landlord, in certain circumstances to raise the rent of his property, to be known as the 'repairs increase.' The landlord must serve upon his tenant in prescribed form the 'notice of increase in rent.' If the tenant considers that the property in question is not in good repair, he or she, in turn may apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair. On such application the property is subjected to a detailed inspection, and if warranted the Council is advised to issue the certificate, which legally entitles the tenant to withhold the 'repairs increase' until the necessary repairs have been carried out, the certificate remaining in force until it is revoked by the Council following the application by the landlord after completion of the repairs.

During 1955, 14 Certificates of Disrepair were granted and 5 were revoked.

I am inclined to the view that this part of the Housing Act has already failed in its intended purpose. It will be recalled that prior to the passing of this Act, a great deal of argument was advanced, and with considerable

justification, that a landlord's return from the letting of his property was insufficient to provide for reasonable expenditure on repairs and maintenance. This part of the Act was intended to provide for this, but with the ever increasing cost of repairs it is evident that landlords generally have been loathe to take advantage of the Act in raising the rents of their properties.

Information re Local Land Charges, etc.

In all cases in which mortgages were being arranged by the Legal Section of the Town Clerk's Department under the Housing Act, 1949, in respect of the purchase of small dwellings, the department supplied relevant information following inspection of the properties.

Upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register, 1939, properties were inspected and information supplied as to non-complied-with notices requiring works of repairs, and statutory orders made in respect of such dwelling houses.

Disinfestation of Verminous Premises.

During the year some 37 complaints were received concerning dirty or verminous houses, and as a result 59 inspections were carried out.

S E C T I O N C.

SAFEGUARDING OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

That my staff are alert to their responsibilities in the safeguarding of food which is produced, manufactured or sold within the Borough, is most valuable to me in making every effort possible, having regard to the means available, to secure a reasonably high standard of supervision in ensuring that meat, milk and other foods reaching the consumer, from a hygiene point of view, are beyond reproach, and that the public are safeguarded from misrepresentation of quality by unscrupulous food vendors.

I regard this particular section of my work as being as important as any which the Sanitary Inspector is called upon to perform.

This section of the Report deals in outline with the various activities of food administration which have contributed to the security of which the public may be assured.

Hygiene of Food Premises and Food Handling and Transport.

In continuing the campaign for 'Clean Food,' which I have made a particular point of pursuing as an advisory service, I feel that with so much groundwork having been laid in past years, and with steady improvements, a point has now been reached from which we are able to proceed in greater detail to secure premises which are suitable for the preparation, handling and sale of food, and to confirm with greater emphasis to the food handler, the principles so often explained to him in the past.

The standard of cleanliness of premises within the Borough, used for food manufacture, preparation and sale, in most instances was found to be satisfactory. One feels however, that there are still far too many instances of the unnecessary handling of unwrapped food by shop assistants. It was not found necessary in any instance of default to institute summary proceedings, and the warnings given from time to time were duly heeded.

Observation showed that infringement of recognised food hygiene standards so often arose from the shortage of staff in the food trades and also the frequent changes of personnel which tend to upset the persistent work carried out by my staff, and as a consequence, frequent inspection of all food premises is essential.

The transport of both meat and fish are matters to which much attention was given during the year.

Some 1,700 visits were made to food premises during the year, for food hygiene purposes.

Another interesting feature of the Food Hygiene Campaign is that both my Deputy and I have been requested by various societies and other bodies in the Borough, to give talks upon this important aspect of Public Health work. The interest shown by persons attending these meetings provides much encouragement.

Milk and Dairies.

There are two pasteurising establishments licensed by the Borough Council and these produce a large part of the milk supply for Slough and district. The high-temperature short-time process is used for the pasteurisation of milk, which after heat-treatment is stored in refrigerated rooms to await delivery on the following morning. In these dairies it is necessary for the District Sanitary Inspector to have regard to the recorded temperatures and also the bottle filling and washing plants.

The disappearance of the small dairy continues to be a noticeable trend of the milk trade which has now become concentrated in firms who operate on a large scale.

With Slough being a 'Specified Area,' only heat-treated or tuberculin tested milk can be sold. There are a number of small general stores at which milk is sold under the designation 'Sterilised.'

Fifty-three persons are registered as Distributors of Milk and eight premises as Dairies. Apart from one instance, milk is delivered by firms having premises within the Borough. Ninety-three visits of dairies were made by the district inspectors, and the conditions were found to be satisfactory. Complaints received from members of the public concerning the Borough milk supply, including complaints of foreign bodies in milk and lack of cleanliness of milk bottles, were negligible.

A recent development in the dairy trade in this district, is the bottling and sale of orange and other fruit juices which are diluted from a concentrate and bottled at dairy premises. Steps are taken to ensure that the process is kept quite separate from milk processing and bottling.

Sixty-six licences were granted permitting the use of a special designation in relation to the sale of milk; they were as follows:-

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	2
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences...	9
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences...	9
Dealer's Sterilised Milk Licences	42
Supplementary Licences	4

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The sampling of milk for bacteriological examination, and efficiency of heat-treatment resulted in a total of 147 samples, of which one sample was adversely reported upon. This result is particularly gratifying especially following the results of 1954 when all samples proved to be satisfactory. The following samples were procured:-

TABLE No. 4.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Classification	Number of Samples Tested	Number of Samples	
		Passed	Failed
Pasteurised Milk	82	82	-
Tuberculin-Tested(Pasteurised)Milk	32	32	-
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	21	20	1
Sterilised Milk	12	12	-
Non-designated, Raw Milk	-	-	-

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream.

There are now only seven premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream but one hundred and sixty-two premises are registered for the sale of this commodity. Eight new applications for the registration of retailers premises were granted during the year.

As ice-cream is now so popular a commodity and its sale is widespread, much careful attention is given, not only to its manufacture but also to the retail premises of various kinds and vehicles.

The pre-packing of ice-cream in cartons and paper wrappings is becoming an increasing practice especially by the larger manufacturing firms who to a considerable extent, appear to have a monopoly of this trade.

Supervision was exercised by frequent inspection of premises, the manufacturing process, and the sampling of ice-cream for bacteriological and chemical examination. It was found that the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.,) Regulations 1947-1952 and the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order 1953, together with other relevant legislation were well observed.

Eighty-eight samples of ice-cream were submitted for examination for bacteriological cleanliness and graded according to the provisional standards prescribed by the Ministry of Health. Twelve samples, which included a number of follow-up samples, were adversely reported upon and appropriate action was taken.

Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

There are forty-six premises registered in pursuance of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which are used for the manufacture of sausages and potted, pressed and pickled or preserved foods, and include nineteen fish-friers premises. The premises were regularly inspected and found to be generally maintained at a satisfactory hygienic standard.

Bakehouses.

Premises on the Register	11
Inspections by the District Inspectors...	31

Foreign Bodies in Foodstuffs.

Several complaints of the presence of extraneous matter in foodstuffs were investigated during the year. Although in most cases the available evidence was of a scanty

character, and insufficient to justify summary proceedings, it is evident that increasingly the public now expect food-stuffs of a high standard of cleanliness and they are public-spirited and ready to avail themselves of our services. Following investigations letters of warning were issued in many instances.

Food and Drugs (Compositional Standard and Quality).

The Slough Borough Council have been a 'Food and Drugs Authority' for some years past, and by virtue of this statutory position they are responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, designed for preventing and detecting the adulteration of foods and drugs intended for sale for human consumption.

During the year under review, your officers procured some 596 formal and informal samples of foods and drugs, equivalent to 8.8 samples per 1,000 of the estimated population of the Borough. Two hundred samples were examined by the Public Analyst, Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., of London, and particulars of these samples are contained in Table No. 5. Adverse reports were given in respect of 12 samples or 6% of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst, as compared with 8.5% in 1954.

The remaining 396 samples were tested by the sampling officers or at the Department laboratory, viz: -

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	288 Samples
Spirits	...	...	...	...	...	31 "
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	77 "

Sixty-two of these samples of milk were found to be sub-standard, but repeated check samples showed that they were genuine, although of poor quality, and the presence of added water was not confirmed. The average chemical quality of the milk samples examined, was fat 3.88%, and solids-not-fat 8.69%, which is above the prescribed minimum presumed standard. All the samples of ice-cream and spirits were satisfactory.

The sampling of milk from retailers in the course of delivery, is very much a thing of the past, and the sampling officers find that their work is, to a great extent, concentrated in the dairy where supplies arrive direct from the producer.

The practice of the sampling officers examining a large number of informal samples of milk, is one which I favour, for it has the effect, not only of considerably reducing the costs of analysis, but also possesses the advantages of saving time, so valuable in the following up of samples of

milk suspected of adulteration. Furthermore it permits of a much wider field of sampling.

The selection of the articles of foods and drugs sampled, was a procedure to which particularly careful forethought was given so that not only were the everyday range of articles adequately examined, but also emphasis was put upon those articles, most likely to be found substandard, together with certain articles appearing on the market for the first time. This, however, was only a part of the scheme, for advertisements and labels calculated falsely to describe the nature, substance and quality of foodstuffs, including their nutritional and dietary value, was a matter for which a sharp look-out was kept.

We live in an age of pre-packed foods, a practice which is found in almost every section of the food-trade. In recent years a large proportion of the food manufactured in the United Kingdom has been pre-packed and distributed by large firms of repute. Such foods reach a high standard of quality, all relevant statutory provisions as to composition and labelling being rigidly observed, and therefore infringement of the Food and Drugs Act and its many accompanying Orders are now found much less often than was the case a few years ago.

In the course of sampling, attention was given to the commodities manufactured at food factories within the Borough, and it is gratifying to record that all the samples taken of these foods were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine, and in accordance with labels attached hereto.

The fact that it was not found necessary to institute proceedings is, I feel, an assurance that the work of past years both nationally and locally, is giving a good return in the generally high quality of foods and drugs offered for sale.

Particulars of administrative action upon samples which were the subject of adverse reports from the Public Analyst are set out in Table No. 6.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

Seventy-four samples of food examined for the presence of prohibited preservatives and harmful colouring matter were all certified to be satisfactory.

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TABLE No. 5.

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

	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:				
Almonds, ground		3		
Arrowroot		2		
Baking powder	1	2		
Beef Suet, shredded	1			
Beverages	1	1		
Bread		1		1
Butter	3	1		
Cake and Pudding powders ...	8			
Coffee		3		
Coffee and Chicory	1			
Coffee spread		1		
Cranberry Sauce	1			
Cream		1		
Cream of Tartar		1		
Doughnut		1		1
Dripping	1	1		1
Fat, cooking	1			
Fish dressing		1		
Fruit Juices	6	1		
Gelatin		1		
Honey		1		
Jelly, table		1		
Junket Powder	1			
Lard	2	2		
Lemonade Powders... ..	3	1		
Margarine	4			
Milk		6		6
Mincemeat	1			
Pepper, white	3	1		
Preserves		5		
Rhubarb, tinned		1		1
Rice, ground	1			
Sausages, beef	11			
Sausages, pork	16			
Soft drinks	13	2		1
Soups	1	1		
Spices	3	8		
Spirits		17		
Sugar		1		1
Sugar Confectionery	8	17		
Tea	2			
Vinegar	7	2		

TABLE No. 5 (contd.)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst				
	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
DRUGS:				
Antibiotic Lozenges		2		
Aspirin tablets		2		
Bi-carbonate of soda B.P.		2		
Cold Capsules		1		
Glucose tablets... ..		1		
Halibut Liver Oil		1		
Licquorice & Menthol Pellets... ..		1		
Lung Syrup		1		
Nerve Tonic Syrup		1		
Vitamin Tablets... ..		1		
TOTAL FOODS :	100	87	-	12
TOTAL DRUGS :	-	13	-	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS :	: 100	100	-	12

TABLE No. 6.

Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine			
Sample No.	Food	Adulteration	Action taken
189	Milk	Deficient in fat (10%))	The presence of added water was not confirmed in any of these samples. Follow-up samples were satisfactory.
		and solids-not-fat(8.4%))	
190	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.48%))	
191	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.40%))	
313	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.47%))	
314	Milk	Deficient in fat (3.3%))	
		and solids-not-fat(8.18%))	
315	Milk	Deficient in fat (5%))	
328	Orange Squash	Not fit for human consumption owing to soapy taste.	The manufacturer was informed and investigation followed at the factory. Precautions instituted to prevent a recurrence.
360	Dripping	Water content too high.	Retailer was informed and he subsequently changed the designation under which this commodity is sold.
367	Brown bread	Sample contained hemp string.)	The manufacturers were warned.
368	Doughnut	Contained Rodent droppings) unfit for human consumption)	
374	Rhubarb	Contaminated by tin and lead.	The retailer voluntarily surrendered remainder of the stock.
531	Sugar	Contaminated by 1.33% of salt.	No evidence to show this salt was introduced before the packet was opened by the complainant.

Public Slaughterhouse.

The slaughtering of animals for food within the Borough is centralised at the Public Slaughterhouse at Cippenham, which premises were leased to the Borough Council upon cessation of the control of meat and slaughtering of live-stock in 1954.

Considerable advantage has been experienced by having premises maintained by, and under the control of the Corporation with myself appointed as Manager, and for all animals to be slaughtered by a contractor appointed by the Borough Council.

The premises are opened for slaughtering from Monday to Saturday weekly, and this appears to meet the needs of the Borough and adjoining areas. Casualty animals are, of course, taken in for slaughter at all times.

During the year the erection of a new building to form a slaughter-hall and hanging-room for pigs, was commenced, together with the provision of a centralised steam and hot-water supply for the whole of the premises. The new section will provide additional facilities for slaughtering 100 pigs or other small animals daily. Internal improvements were also carried out to the lairages, by the re-arrangement of the pens for cattle and small animals. Electrical stunning apparatus for small animals has also been installed.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1956, tolls for the use of the slaughterhouse, amounted to £1,725.0.0d., and fees under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for pigs amounted to £60. 0. 0d.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Some 12,500 animals slaughtered at the Slough Public Slaughterhouse, were examined by the district sanitary inspectors, all of whom are qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

In addition to the examination of meat in the course of preparation, to ensure its freedom from disease, care is also taken to protect it from contamination and, as far as is possible, to provide reasonably hygienic conditions for dressing and subsequent cooling of carcasses.

A system of Meat Marking is in operation whereby an approved mark, which includes the identity of the examining officer, is stamped upon carcasses of animals inspected and found to be satisfactory. The official marking of meat in this way is restricted to properly qualified persons,

each of whom are approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Particulars of the animals examined are set out in Table No. 7. Over 16 tons of meat found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned (See Table No. 8.). The Slaughtering Contractor is authorised to dispose of condemned meat at the Public Slaughterhouse, by sale for purposes, and to destinations of which from time to time, I have approved.

Your officers also act on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as certifying officers under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for pigs.

In addition to meat inspections, 267 visits were made to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods, when 37 tons of unfit foods were voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation for destruction.

Hygiene of Meat Transport.

From previous reports it will be seen that the hygiene of meat handling and transport has received attention for some years past. All vehicles used in the Borough for the delivery of meat to retail butchers' shops, are kept under frequent observation, and inspection has revealed little cause for complaint so far as cleanliness is concerned. Attention was also given to the protective clothing of personnel engaged in the carrying of meat, and this has been found to be maintained in a reasonable condition.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

Fourteen licences were granted by the Borough Council to persons engaged in slaughterhouses in the slaughtering of animals for food.

With the installation of the electrical stunning apparatus, to which reference has already been made, adequate provision for the stunning of small animals by this means is available. The captive-bolt type of humane killer is still used for the stunning of larger animals. No infringements of the Acts were observed during the year.

TABLE No. 7.

Slough Public Slaughterhouse.					
Summary of Carcases Inspected and Condemned.					
	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected ...	1,400	640	3,721	5,662	1,073
Disease except tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	6	32	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	390	75	179	352	1
% of No. Inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	27.92	12.18	4.97	6.78	0.65
Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	6	7	-	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	97	102	-	59	-
% of No. Inspected affected with tuberculosis...	7.35	17.03	-	1.11	-

TABLE No. 8.

Weights of Condemned Meat.						
	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcasses ...	67	-	22	60	-	8
Parts of Carcases or Organs ...	88	1	11	108	3	5
TOTALS ...	155	2	5	168	3	13
TOTAL WEIGHT: 16 tons. 4 cwts. 1 qr. 18 lbs.						

TABLE No. 9.

Weights of Canned and Other Foods Condemned as unfit for Human Consumption lbs.			
Canned Food	Confectionery	Fish	Bacon
11,171	68,344	256	14
Imported Meat	Cheese	Manufactured Meats.	Miscellaneous
2,643	103	427	7
TOTAL WEIGHTS: 37 tons. - cwts. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.			

S E C T I O N D.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS.

Factories.

Slough is a 'mixed' type of town possessing both residential and industrial areas. There are some 556 factories on the register of the Corporation, which include both large establishments and premises at which only a few persons are employed.

The tables Nos. 10 and 11 (below) contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and indicate the work of the district sanitary inspectors in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority (with the exception of means of escape in case of fire).

Not only were factories visited to ensure compliance with the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, but also in the case of food manufacturies and factory canteens, to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

From time to time both 'public health' and 'noise' nuisances are the subjects of investigations, including smoke nuisances from industrial plant (see Section E.).

During the year all plans relating to factories which were submitted to the Borough Council for approval under Planning and Building Byelaws, were examined by my Deputy,

and my views upon proposed development, and new processes were requested by the Planning Officer. In this way close liaison is maintained between the Departments which are interested in the various aspects of the industrial character and development of the Borough, which is a matter of vital importance to so many of its inhabitants.

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.	35	13	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	521	475	16	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	nil	nil	nil	nil
TOTAL:	556	488	16	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)	-	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) insufficient ...	3	1	2	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	25	22	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworker)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	28	24	2	1	nil

Homework.

The usual lists of persons engaged in their homes in carrying out work for factories, were returned during February and August, and showed that 100 outworkers were employed at premises within the Borough in specified occupations, principally relating to the making and altering of wearing apparel. The homes of these outworkers were regularly visited by the district sanitary inspectors and were found to be satisfactory.

Fourteen lists in respect of 67 outworkers were sent to other local authorities in various parts of the country, and six lists were received from local authorities.

Drinking Water.

One certificate of approval of drinking water supply was granted in pursuance of Section 4 of the Factories Act, 1937, in respect of a factory supplied from a deep well.

Shops Act, 1950, and Young Persons Employment Act, 1938.

The provisions of these Acts were found to be well observed and very few contraventions were found. The following inspections were made and improvements effected:-

(a) *Inspections:*

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	393
Conditions of employment	73
Hours of employment of Young Persons	31
Hours of closing	37
Sunday trading... ..	70

(b) *Improvements Effected at Shops:*

Improved Sanitary Accommodation	17
Improved washing facilities	20
Improved lighting or heating	3
Improved facilities for taking meals	1
Notices displayed	4

Survey of Shops.

A survey of shops within the Borough revealed 817 shops in the following classified trades:-

Bakers and flour confectioners	16	Grocers, General and Multiple	
Boot and Shoe repairers ...	20	Stores	152
Builders merchants & decorators	12	Hairdressers	41
Butchers	46	Ironmongers and hardware	
Caterers	31	merchants	22
Chemists and surgical		Jewellers	11
appliances	23	Licensed premises ...	66
Cinema shops	5	Motor-car and cycle	
Drapers, milliners and		dealers	33
outfitters	67	Opticians... ..	5
Dry cleaners & laundries ...	17	Radio and electrical	
Fishmongers (wet & fried) ...	22	equipment	21
Footwear stores	17	Secondhand furniture	
Furniture dealers	15	dealers	5
Greengrocers, fruiterers and		Sub-Post offices ...	9
florists	42	Tailors	4
		Tobacconists, confectioners	
		newsagents and stationers	72
		Miscellaneous... ..	43

Workplaces (including offices).

Inspection was made of workplaces, other than registered factories and shops, as opportunity was afforded. Public health officers await more definite legislation for dealing with places of non-industrial employment, in relation to the health and welfare of the employees.

Places of Entertainment.

Twelve visits were made of buildings used for the purpose of public entertainment.

S E C T I O N E.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

Although in the main, electric power is used for the Borough's industry, there are numerous steam-raising plants in use. Many of these are equipped with appliances for indicating and preventing the emission of smoke, and in such instances little or no nuisance is created.

The older types of boiler installations which are not provided with modern appliances, including some hand-fired plants, do from time to time give rise to excessive smoke emissions, and during the year these cases have received considerable attention. In some instances more modern appliances have been ordered, but such equipment is subject to long periods of delay in delivery. The firms in question are protected by the 'best practical means' clause in Section 103 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby it is a good defence, in the case of an offending installation, to prove that the best practical means have been taken for preventing the emission of smoke and that the installation has been carefully attended.

Another real obstacle in the fight against industrial smoke emission, is undoubtedly the difficulty some firms have in obtaining the correct grade and size of coal, which their particular installation was designed to consume.

Eight complaints were received during 1955, concerning smoke and associated problems, and as a result, 109 smoke observations were made, and in addition 120 special visits were paid to factory premises for the purpose of investigation, and discussions with management and engineers.

Under the Council's scheme of 'Prior Approval,' in accordance with the provisions of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, the implementation of which was referred to in my last report, the following fuel consuming plant was approved during the year, making a total of 11 installations since the beginning of the scheme:-

March	Messrs. W. J. Meddings Ltd., 535/541, Ipswich Road.	Oil-fired steam-raising plant.
"	Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Wexham Road.	Gas-fired steam-raising plant.
"	Messrs. Starch Products Ltd., Middle Green Road.	Oil-fired steam-raising plant.
September	Messrs. Hughes Brushes Ltd., 240/242, Bath Road	Oil-fired steam-raising plant.
October	Messrs. Johnson & Johnson (G.B.) Ltd., Bath Road.	Two heating boilers.
November	Messrs. High Duty Alloys Ltd., 196, Berkshire Avenue.	Oil-fired boiler.
December	Messrs. British & General Tube Co. Ltd., Leigh Road.	Oil-fired boiler.

As in the previous year, in each of these cases, the Council had the assistance of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, who examined the proposals and gave technical advice, and accordingly I wish to record my appreciation to the Area Engineer of N.I.F.E.S. for his ready co-operation.

In each of the above instances, the firm in question made application for 'prior approval' at my invitation, the proposals having come to my knowledge by way of inspection of plans submitted to the Borough Engineer. By arrangement with the Borough Engineer, my Deputy sees all plans submitted to the Council for byelaw approval, and town planning consent, and in this way much valuable information comes to light at an early stage, before proposals are implemented. This inter-departmental liaison is most valuable in relation to the numerous activities of the Department e.g. food shops, factories etc.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and myself, represent the Corporation on the National Smoke Abatement Society, and the Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Committee, and a member of the Committee and my Deputy, attended the Society's Annual Conference at Bourne-mouth in 1955.

Following the final report in 1954, of the Committee on Air Pollution (Beaver Committee), which I referred to last year, the Clean Air Bill was presented to Parliament during 1955, and before the close of the year, received its second reading.

The Bill was based on the recommendations of the Beaver Committee, and it represented a big step forward in combating the scourge of air pollution, the evils of which are now so widely recognised. It is confidently expected, that the Clean Air Bill will be placed upon the Statute Book during 1956, and this should furnish Local Authorities with an effective weapon in their campaign for clean air.

Offensive Trades.

The annual consent of the Corporation to establish offensive trades, scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936, was granted during the year, in respect of one soap boiler, and two rag and bone dealers. Throughout the year upon inspection, these premises were found to be operating satisfactorily and without nuisance.

House Drainage.

Complaints to the Department by householders concerning defective drains and sanitary fittings numbered 122, and for the purpose of investigation and testing, and eventually supervising remedial works in progress, the district inspectors made 973 visits of inspection. At 20 premises drainage systems were re-constructed, and other sanitary improvements were effected at 216 premises. At 2 premises cesspools were abolished, and the drainage systems connected to the public sewer.

Water Supply.

At the end of 1955, there were only three dwelling-houses within the Borough, at which the public water supply had not been installed, and the well-water supplies to these premises are regularly examined as to fitness for human consumption. Sixty-five visits were made by your officers, in connection with water supplies, and the following samples of domestic and swimming bath waters were procured: -

Domestic water samples ...	...	...	8
Swimming bath water samples ...	...	...	52

S E C T I O N F.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION.

Pest Control is administered as a section of the Department. A separate Officer who is responsible to me, and who works in close liaison with the District Sanitary Inspectors, organises the day-to-day routine of the section. This arrangement has been in operation since 1951, when the Pest Control Officer was appointed, and on reflection has proved to be very successful. Not only has it made for uniformity, but has also relieved the District Inspectors of much of the routine enquiries and investigation, to the advantage of their other numerous duties.

During the year five Rodent Operators were employed. These men are appointed, more or less as temporary staff as occasion demands, and although referred to as Rodent Operators they do carry out treatment in connection with all pests, disinfestation and ancillary duties. Each man is trained for his duties in the Department and in turn attends refresher courses which are frequently organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

By law the responsibility for ensuring that premises are kept free of vermin and other pests rests upon occupiers. This point is not always appreciated by occupiers. Pests do not respect boundaries, and with modern methods of treatment, it is desirable that the work of pest destruction should be left to trained personnel. In all instances the Department is equipped and able to carry out the necessary treatment. In the case of dwelling-houses, such work is carried out without payment, but in all other cases the cost of time and materials is charged to the occupier.

Annual Agreement Scheme.

Since 1949 the Department has operated an Annual Agreement Scheme for the regular servicing of business premises, in order that they shall remain free of infestation. The Scheme has proved to be popular, and continues to increase. During the year 1955-56, 219 premises were serviced for a figure of £1,827, as against 77 premises for £754 in the year 1949-50.

Treatment of Sewers.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Department carried out systematic treatment of sewers twice during the year. (See Table No. 14). Again it was found that very little rodent infestation occurs in the

Borough's public sewers. A very careful watch is kept on the relationship between infestation in sewers and buildings.

Workable Area Committee.

The South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee on which the Council was represented by the Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and your Chief Sanitary Inspector, met twice during the year. These joint discussions with the several neighbouring Local Authorities are well worthwhile.

Rodent Control.

In rodent destruction work, early notification of infestation is of the utmost importance, and I am pleased to be able to report that this point is realised by the public. During the year 558 notifications of rat infestations and 113 notifications of mice infestations were received. In investigating these complaints and in ascertaining the effectiveness of treatment carried out by the Rodent Operators, the District Sanitary Inspectors and Pest Control Officer made 4,804 visits.

Supervision of the rat proofing of 101 dwelling-houses, and 121 business premises was undertaken during the year.

Table 14 summarises the work of the Rodent Operators.

Other Pests.

In connection with Pests other than Rodents, complaints were received, and treatment was carried out in the following cases:-

Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	5
Squirrels	...	...	...	...	...	4
Moles	...	...	...	...	...	8
Beetles	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	23
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Pests	...	...	...	...	...	28

Disinfestation of Verminous Premises and Disinfection.

Steam disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and other articles is carried out at the disinfecting station, which is situated at the Chalvey Pumping Station, the steam being obtained from the adjoining refuse destructor plant. During the year the Pest Control Officer supervised the following work:-

Premises disinfected	20
Bedding and other articles disinfected by steam	24
Premises disinfected of vermin	15
Articles disinfected by steam	15

Following the general view of the Board of Health, the officers continued to give to the public the same attention since it demands, having regard to the fact that 537 visits being made.

During the year under review, the Southern Electricity Board, acting on behalf of the Borough Council, continued to supply the public with electricity. The Board has been notified by the Licensing Committee that the public supply of electricity is to be continued. The Board will have a further meeting on the 11th inst. to consider the matter.

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Three persons were registered for this purpose. The Board has been notified by the Licensing Committee that the public supply of electricity is to be continued. The Board will have a further meeting on the 11th inst. to consider the matter.

The Act and Regulations are now in force.

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
		Annual Agreement Scheme	Short Term Action					
1. Premises at which investigation was made ...	1,644	280	118	431	4	12	16	2,505
2. Premises treated by the Corporation ...	1,039	196	118	431	4	12	5	1,805
3. Pre-Baits Laid ...	12,515	25,156	1,032	84	771	381	156	40,095
4. Poison Baits ...	8,849	33,384	513	17	502	225	143	44,677
5. Poison Baits Taken ...	7,886	5,167	493	11	421	205	130	14,313
6. No. of visits Made ...	6,045	8,182	400	151	339	277	289	15,683

S E C T I O N G.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

Following the general view of the administration of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, within the Borough, your officers continued to give to this matter the considerable attention which it demands, having regard to the fire-risk involved, some 537 visits being made.

During the year under review, the Southern Electricity Board, acting on behalf of the Borough Council, examined the associated electrical equipment of all petrol service pumps within the Borough, and firms have since been notified of remedial measures required to make their installations comply with the licensing conditions adopted by the Borough Council. In due course, the Board will make a re-inspection of amended installations, which will become a strict condition of licensing.

I would again record my appreciation of the help so readily given by the Buckinghamshire Fire Service, Fire Prevention Dept; upon problems which arose from time to time.

During 1955, 160 premises were licensed for the storage of 578,759 gallons of petroleum spirit and mixtures, and 3 premises for the storage of 9,884 lbs. of carbide of calcium. Twenty-three contraventions were observed and remedied.

Registration of Female Domestic Servants.

There were four persons conducting domestic servant agencies who had registered with the Corporation. The Byelaws relating to this matter were well kept, and no contraventions were observed. Advice was given to each registered keeper, on methods of recording the relevant particulars required by the Byelaws.

Registration of Dealers in old Metal and Marine Stores.

Three persons were registered for this purpose. No contraventions were observed, but difficulties of administration are frequently met with in relation to door to door collectors of scrap metal.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

The Act and Regulations are well complied with.

A careful watch is kept upon both new heating appliances offered for sale, and also those sold in second-hand shops. It has been found that new articles have been carefully designed, so as to comply with the regulations.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

Twelve licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game were issued during the year.

Hackney Carriages.

Thirty hackney carriages were licensed to ply for hire, 18 transfers were effected and 45 drivers licences granted. Thirty-four hackney carriages were officially examined by the consulting engineers appointed by the Borough Council. Officers of the Department made 181 visits in administering this service. The Byelaws were generally found to be well observed. In a number of instances, complaints relating to overcharging were investigated, but insufficient evidence was available to justify further action.