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Borough of Slough

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

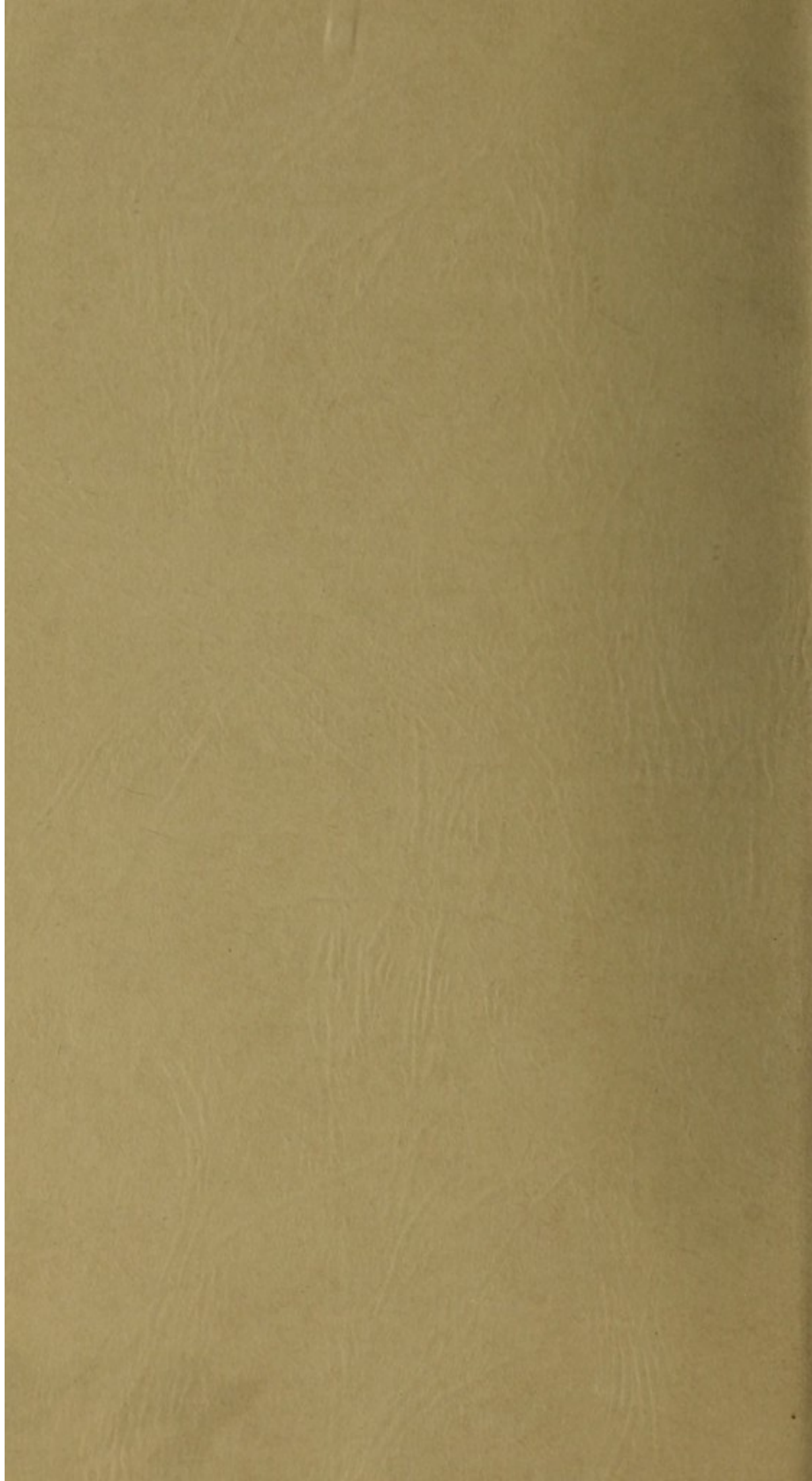
For the Year 1956

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector



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BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May 1956

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

ALDERMAN P. LIGHTFOOT, J.P.	COUNCILLOR R. A. CAIL
(Deputy Mayor)(ex-officio)	COUNCILLOR MRS. J.M.B. GIBSON
ALDERMAN MRS. M.J. MORGAN	COUNCILLOR MRS. P.J. MARGREE
ALDERMAN A.W.J. PUSEY, J.P.	COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON
(Mayor) (ex-officio)	COUNCILLOR J.H. SMITH
ALDERMAN A.E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR W.C. WEST
COUNCILLOR A.H. BOND, J.P.	

May to December 1956

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

ALDERMAN J. MANNING	COUNCILLOR R.T. CRAWSHAW
ALDERMAN MRS. M.J. MORGAN	COUNCILLOR MRS. J.M.B. GIBSON
ALDERMAN R. TAYLOR	COUNCILLOR R. GREEN
(Mayor) (ex-officio)	COUNCILLOR W. PARNHAM
ALDERMAN A.E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR M.J. SHEEHY
(Deputy Mayor)	COUNCILLOR L.S. WILLIS
COUNCILLOR R.A. CAIL	

Public Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

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

Assistant Medical Officer (Bucks. C.C.).

JOAN GRAY, M.B., Ch.B.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

LESLIE A. STROUD, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., (1.3.4.5).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. SAGAR, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I. (2.3.4.5).

District Public Health Inspectors:

G.F. DOWNING, M.A.P.H.I. (1.2.3.5.7.8) (appt. 26.11.56)

L. HAGUE, M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. (2.3.) (res. 8.6.56)

A.M. O'HANLON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (2.3) (appt. 2.7.56)

D.A. OWEN, (2.3.)

I.D. PRESTON, M.A.P.H.I. (2.3.)

B.G. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I. (2.3.) (appt. 4.6.56).

R.I. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. (2.3.6.7.)
(res. 7.4.56)

R.B.C. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (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:

Miss G. A. Jones

R. S. Preston

Miss A.E.A. Dixon

Miss S. Jeffrey (appt. 3.9.56).

Miss M. Clements (res. 31.8.56).

Clerical Staff: Chief Public Health Inspector's Section:

Miss B. Horgan

Miss D.C. Bowyer

Miss J.E. Kimber

Miss A.D. West

Home Help Organiser

MRS. V.M. MOLLAND

Asst. Home Help Organiser

MRS. E.M. RIDGWAY

Home Helps - 42.

County Almoner

MRS. A.V. PARRY

Public Analyst

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.

Veterinary Surgeon

J.E. GARLAND, M.R.C.V.S.

KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS.

1. Certificate of Royal Society of Health as Public Health Inspector.
2. Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors' Joint Board as Public Health 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.
8. Certificate of Institute of Public Health Engineers.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"GLENHARTIE",
15, BATH ROAD,
SLOUGH.

*To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Slough.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my eighth Annual Report - for the year 1956.

The Annual Report of a Medical Officer of Health is a statutory document which must include many statistics as well as other subjects detailed each year by the Minister of Health. Statistical tables tend to cause the production of dull reports and for this reason some Medical Officers relegate them to appendices at the back of the report; others leave the tables in their context and rely upon an extensive letter at the beginning of the report to emphasise subjects which have had a particular significance in the year under review. In the past my introduction to the report has taken this latter form but it tends, unfortunately, to lead the reader to begin and end his perusal of the report in the first page or two so that the remainder of the report, while retaining its historical significance, loses much of its educational value.

This year, therefore, my comments and those of the Chief Public Health Inspector in his section of the Report have, under appropriate headings, been somewhat amplified and I hope that those who obtain a copy of this report will be stimulated to read more than perhaps they may have done in the past.

The Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, changed the title of these officers to Public Health Inspectors from 2nd August, 1956.

I wish to express my appreciation to all members of the staff for their support during the year. The reputation of any Department depends upon all its members and not upon any one individual or group. The specialists and more senior members are always included by name in reports, but others, including the clerical staff are either ignored or merely indicated by a numerical figure. It is often forgotten that the most junior member is the one to greet the public when they call and upon her personality and efficiency the whole of the department is often judged.

All those working at 'Glenhartie,' whether employed by the Slough Corporation, the Bucks. County Council, or both, are engaged on duties to further the health of the people of this town and for this reason all are included in the list of staff on the previous page.

Many changes are taking place in preventive medicine and without the keen interest of the members of the Council the department would soon cease to keep abreast of changes in theory and practice and the citizens of the town would be deprived of the services which are their due. May I, therefore, express my appreciation to the members of the Health and Sanitation Committee and particularly to the Chairman, Councillor F.S.G. Room, J.P., C.C., for the support and encouragement which they have given to the department throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1957.

Births		Deaths	
Male	Female	Male	Female
12	10	22	24
2	2	8	4
14	12	30	28
Total		Total	
26		58	
Births rate per 1,000 population		Deaths rate per 1,000 population	
25.38		11.1	
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)		Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)	
25.38		11.1	
National Birth Rate		National Death Rate per 1,000 population	
20.82		11.7	
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Birth Rate		Ratio of local Death Rate to National Death Rate	
1.22		0.95	

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1956	69,190
Number of dwelling houses, including flats at 31st March, 1957	20,238
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1957	£1,452,432
from 1st April, 1957	£1,351,799
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1957/58	£5,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Live Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	513	457	970
Illegitimate	28	18	46
Total	541	475	1016

Crude Birth Rate(per 1,000 population) - 14.68

Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) - 13.51
(Comparability Figure - 0.92)

National Birth Rate - 15.7

Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate - 0.86 : 1

Still Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	13	10	23
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	15	12	27

Still-births rate per 1,000 total births 25.89

Still-births rate per 1,000 population 0.39

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
	322	264	586
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.47		
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability figure 1.31)	11.1		
National Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.7		
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National rate	0.95 : 1		

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	11	7	18
Illegitimate	3	-	3

Total	14	7	21
-------	----	---	----

Rate for all infants per 1,000

live births 20.67

National Rate per 1,000 live births 23.8

Ratio of Local Rate to National rate 0.87 : 1

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate... ..	10	6	16
Illegitimate	2	-	2

Total	12	6	18
-------	----	---	----

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks

of age per 1,000 live births 17.72

Death rates per 1,000 population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 0.12

All forms of Tuberculosis - 0.13

Cancer 1.68

Other Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer	69	47	116

Whooping Cough	1	-	1
-----------------------	---	---	---

Measles	-	-	-
----------------	---	---	---

Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	7	1	8
--------------------------	---	---	---

Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1
---------------	---	---	---

Year	Rate, England & Wales	Rate, Scotland	Rate, Ireland
1949	15.84	16.9	0.94
1950	13.79	15.2	0.72
1951	13.82	15.5	0.82
1952	13.28	15.3	0.83
1953	12.84	15.2	0.81
1954	13.37	15.2	0.83
1955	13.25	15.0	0.80
1956	13.61	15.7	0.82
1953	9.20	7.69	7.69
1954	9.83	7.69	7.69
1955	10.00	8.625	8.625
1956	11.1	8.47	8.47

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 1,016 live births in 1956. 541 were males and 475 females.

The crude birth rate, at 14.68 per 1,000 of the population was 0.17 greater than in 1955(14.51). By multiplying the crude birth rate by the comparability figure of 0.92 we obtain the corrected birth rate of 13.51. The birth rate of England and Wales as a whole, which had dropped from 15.2 in 1954 to 15.0 in 1955 had risen to 15.7 in 1956 and so although the birth rate in Slough showed a slight increase over the previous year the ratio to the National Rate actually fell from 0.89:1 to 0.86:1.

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. As the population of Slough is younger than that in the country as a whole shown by the fact that the comparability figure for births is less than unity, it would be expected that the ratio would be greater than 1.0. No obvious cause for the low birth rate has been discovered but it was thought that the chronic housing shortage might be having a depressing effect upon the local birth rate. In my report for 1955 I said I thought that if housing shortages were connected with a low birth rate there should be an increase in the rate during 1956 as enough new houses had been completed for sufficient length of time to allow families to increase. The birth rate in 1956 was in fact slightly higher but the National rate was increased even more and so there is little evidence yet that housing has an obvious effect upon the birth rate.

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
1956	13.51	15.7	0.86 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY.

The total number of illegitimate births (live births and still-births) was three down on the previous year; 50 in 1956 compared with 53 in 1955; 4.79% of all births were illegitimate compared with 5.24 in 1955.

This percentage is somewhat below the average for the past nine years but the use of such small numbers in the calculations each year means that there have been quite wide but statistically insignificant variations from time to time.

STILL-BIRTHS.

27 still-births were registered during the year; of these 23 were legitimate and four were illegitimate. This number, which gives a rate of 25.89 per 1,000 total births, or 0.39 per 1,000 of the population is slightly higher than that for 1955 (25.7 and 0.38). The provisional National Rate for 1956 was 23.0 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.

After correction for inward and outward transfers the number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was exactly the same as in 1955 - five-hundred-and-eighty-six. Owing to an increase in the population however, this figure represents a crude death rate of 8.47 compared with 8.625 in 1955. Also, whereas in 1955 the number of deaths of men were about the same as women, in 1956 far fewer women died than men - 264 women compared with 322 men.

After multiplying by the comparability figure of 1.31 the corrected death rate was 11.1, a figure much nearer the National Rate of 11.7 than is usually the case.

The table below gives the crude and corrected death rates in this town since 1949. The corrected death rate for 1956 was the highest in this period.

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
1956	8.47	11.1

The seven main causes of death during 1956, in numerical order, were:-

Heart disease	178
Cancer	116
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	64
Pneumonia and bronchitis	55
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	25
Accidents, all types... ..	22
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	14

There are a few changes in this table compared with the previous year. 'Other diseases of the circulatory system' and 'Accidents, all types' change places and Tuberculosis fails to appear, not because there has been a decrease in the number of deaths from that disease but because there is a greater number of deaths from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum.

During 1956 additional evidence was being produced to strengthen the belief of a strong relationship between the use of tobacco and lung cancer, and the main focus of attention was upon cigarette smoking. The evidence produced leaves little doubt, in my view, that a strong relationship exists and it is my duty to warn all persons of the dangers of smoking and particularly of the use of cigarettes. During 1956 there were 18,000 deaths from cancer of the lung in England and Wales and a death rate in 1955 of 388 per million from this cause compared with 188 million only ten years earlier. It is probable that many who have been smoking for a long time will continue to do so, and I believe it would be wrong to attempt enforced prohibition which would only lead to black market activity and its attendant crime. Now that the community has been shown that there is such a strong relationship between smoking and lung cancer, serious steps should be taken to persuade the younger members never to start smoking. Education will, no doubt, produce results but late middle age when cancer tends to strike seems a very long way off to the adolescent boy and our lessons are hardly likely to be heeded if we ourselves continue to perform the very deeds which we condemn. I would appeal, therefore, in all seriousness to smokers not only to persuade youngsters not to smoke but also to set them a good example.

Separate figures of deaths from cancer of the lung have only been available since 1950. They are set out below as a table.

1956	11.1	10.60	9.35	8.30
1955	8.47	8.825	7.80	7.88
1954				
1953				
1952				
1951				
1950				

Year	Males	Females
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1

Cancer is popularly supposed to be a disease of the aged. This is not so - it is mainly a disease of late middle life. The average age of the men who died in 1956 was 62.

The 22 deaths from accidents in 1956 was three less than in 1955; of these seven were due to motor vehicles compared with nine in 1955.

1956 was the second year of the Slough experiment which tried to find out whether road casualties could be reduced by measures of various kinds. The campaign began by attempts to improve the behaviour of road users by propaganda, and training schemes; later these were supplemented by alterations to roads and road junctions, by pedestrian-actuated lights in the High Street and by linked traffic lights over a three-mile stretch of the Bath Road. In his report on the experiment, Mr. E.S. Wilson, the Road Safety Officer, makes the following statement:-

'Comparative figures for the period April 1955 - November 1956, after which traffic began to be reduced owing to the Middle East crisis, followed by petrol rationing, show in comparison with the period April 1953 - November 1954, a reduction of 9% in fatal and serious casualties in Slough, compared with an increase of 11% over the country as a whole.'

'Something like 6½ million vehicles passed along Slough High Street during the year 1956.'

CAUSES OF DEATH		1955		1956	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	5	3	7	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	...	-	1	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease ...	...	-	-	1	-
4. Diphtheria ...	...	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough ...	...	-	-	1	-
6. Meningococcal infection ...	...	-	1	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	-	-	-	-
8. Measles ...	...	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases		1	-	2	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	9	10	12	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		20	5	25	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast		-	12	-	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...		6		3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		30	24	32	29
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	1	3	5	-
16. Diabetes ...	...	-	1	-	6
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system		28	46	24	40
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	...	49	28	39	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	8	8	3	6
20. Other heart diseases ...	...	36	60	44	53
21. Other circulatory disease ...	...	9	9	14	11
22. Influenza ...	...	1	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia ...	...	9	11	13	12
24. Bronchitis ...	...	25	8	23	7
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system		4	3	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	6	3	12	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		-	-	-	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	4	3	4	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	8		3	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			-		-
31. Congenital malformations ...	...	2	5	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases		28	22	36	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	6	3	5	2
34. All other accidents ...	...	6	11	8	7
35. Suicide ...	...	1	1	3	2
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	...	1	1	1	-
All causes...		297	289	322	264

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1956.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1956 by local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually occurred during 1956 even although, in some cases, notification of their occurrence may not have been received until well on into 1957. The Registrar-General, however, uses many machines geared to a strict timetable and he is, therefore

unable to take into consideration those deaths which are not recorded, for one reason or another, for some time after their occurrence and there is this difference between the figures given in this table and those given by the Registrar-General.

Ages at Death, in Years:				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	15	7	22
1 -	...	...	...	2	2	4
10 -	...	...	...	6	3	9
25 -	...	...	...	15	5	20
45 -	...	...	...	101	52	153
65 -	...	...	...	42	32	74
				181	101	282
70 -	...	...	...	43	41	84
75 -	...	...	...	42	42	84
80 -	...	...	...	35	36	71
85 -	...	...	...	17	23	40
90 -	...	...	...	1	15	16
95 and over	...	...	...	1	1	2
				139	158	297
				320	259	579

From this table it will be seen that 297 (51.3%) of all deaths were in persons over the age of 70 years and 371 (64.1%) occurred in persons over the normal retiring age of 65 years.

The seven diseases, or groups of diseases, causing the greatest disturbance of family life by killing men during the years when they would normally be expected to work were:-

Cause	No. of cases	Loss of working years.	Average loss of working years per case	Average age at death.
1. Cancer ...	31	342	11.0	54
2. Accidents, all types	9	309	34.3	31
3. Heart disease...	19	193	10.2	55
4. Tuberculosis ...	6	115	19.2	46
5. Pneumonia and Bronchitis ...	13	87	6.7	58
6. Suicide...	5	82	16.4	49
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	72	9.0	56

I have assumed that normal working life ends at 65 years. Deaths under 10 years of age have been omitted because the effect of infant deaths would obscure the picture. Males only are included in this table.

Once again accidents and tuberculosis show a greater loss of working years than would be expected from their number; this year too, the relatively small number of suicides enters into the table for the first time.

In the usual table which merely shows the number of deaths caused by various diseases, those illnesses of old age will inevitably come near to the top - this table highlights the diseases of young or middle age - accidents, tuberculosis, suicide and cancer with the average age of death in the early fifties.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy, child-birth or abortion during 1956. The record has been outstandingly good over the past few years and no death has been attributed to these causes since 1951 and during the period 1952 - 1956, 5043 births have occurred.

INFANT MORTALITY.

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 21 deaths (14 males and 7 females) of infants under one year of age. This number is three less than in 1955 and gives a rate of 20.67 per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 3.67 over the previous year.

During the post-war period the downward trend of infant mortality has continued and the table below shows the figures since 1946. It will be noted that, with slight fluctuations, the decrease in infant mortality has continued. The rate for 1956 was only very slightly above the lowest which has ever been recorded - 20.51 in 1954.

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
		1956	...	20.67	

Once again a full investigation was made into the cause of each infant death.

The next table divides the deaths of infants under one year of age into causes and periods of less than one year. It will be noted that the number of deaths recorded in the table is one greater than the official number given by the Registrar General. As was stated in the paragraph dealing with deaths 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 1955 the local table showed one fewer than that given by the Registrar General. All calculations of death rates have been made upon the official figures.

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
Prematurity	3	1	2	-	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Atelectasis	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Atelectasis & Prematurity	-	2	1	-	3	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Birth Injury	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital Abnormalities	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Haemorrhagic disease of the newborn	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	8	5	4	-	17	1	-	18	3	1	-	-	22

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Out of the twenty-two infant deaths recorded in the table (page No.16) no less than 18 (81.8%) died during the first month of life and all but one of them died during the first week (77.3%). These eighteen deaths are equivalent to a neo-natal mortality rate of 17.7.

In 1954 the neo-natal mortality rate was 10.26, in 1955 it was 21.3 and, as has already been stated, it was 17.7 in 1956. The fact that death occurs so frequently so early in life means that there is often a very fine balance between live birth and still birth. In order to make any significant effect upon infant mortality rates therefore, much more research is now needed into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations. To some extent an element of chance must help to decide whether a very small or deformed child is born alive or dead, and we should probably obtain a fuller significance of our progress in maternal and child care if we looked at still-births and peri-natal deaths as a whole. If in one year we congratulate ourselves upon a low peri-natal mortality rate perhaps we should also show great anxiety when a high stillbirth rate occurs and yet again we might be unduly disconsolate with a high death rate just after birth when we had, in fact, advanced our knowledge sufficiently to allow the children to be born alive at all.

If for 1956 we take the deaths in the first week of life - 17 - and add them to the still-births - 27 - we obtain a total of 44 out of 1,043 total live and still-births, a rate of 42.19 per 1,000 total births. In 1955 the rate was 47.43.

INQUESTS.

Twenty-four inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1956, the same number as in 1955. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths are set out in the following table:-

Causes of Death:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural Causes	2	-	2
Accidents:-			
Falls	2	3	5
Road Accidents	4	2	6
Burns -			
ether	1	-	1
clothing	1	1	2
Inhalation of gas	1	-	1
Suicide:-			
Carbon monoxide poisoning...	1	1	2
Cyanide poisoning	1	-	1
Self-inflicted wounds	1	1	2
Open Verdict:-			
Drowning	1	-	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning...	1	-	1
Total	16	8	24

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the end of June 1956 was 69,190, a net gain of 1,250 over the estimated population a year earlier.

The natural increase (births less deaths) was 430 and from this it will be seen that there was a net immigration into the town during the year of 820. Thus for the second year running there has been a net immigration.

Building continued at a great pace not only in the town itself, mainly on the Langley L.C.C. estate and private land, but also in the immediate surrounding countryside. The most obvious developments just outside the town are the Wexham Court Estate which is being developed by the Slough Corporation as a contribution towards its housing problem and the new L.C.C. estate lying mainly just beyond the north-west boundaries of the Borough - this estate was originally known as the Farnham Royal Estate but has now been re-named the Britwell Estate. The increase in the population of the Borough has, to some extent, been kept down by the towns-people spilling over into the neighbouring Eton Rural District.

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	
	1956 ...	69,190	

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 change occurred in the system of refuse disposal during 1956, about half the refuse being dealt with at the Chalvey destructor with the remainder being tipped on low lying land near the Datchet Road. When new refuse vehicles are required, the Borough Council is adopting the policy of providing vehicles which can be loaded with as little scattering of dust as possible; the latest vehicle to be purchased actually takes the bins and empties them automatically into the interior of the vehicle without any escape of dust at all.

Kitchen Waste.

Contractors continued to operate the scheme for the collection of kitchen waste on behalf of the Council. The service was maintained but the difficulties of the contractors in carrying out their obligations owing to labour shortages was not diminished in any way.

Sewage Disposal.

The last stage in the completion of the Sewage Works - the official opening - took place on 5th May, 1956.

So ends a story begun before the war and one which had, until sufficient means of sewage disposal was available, caused severe restrictions upon building in this town. There are now, of course, no such restrictions.

Water.

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

Slough Corporation Water Supply.

The water supplied by the Corporation continued to be satisfactory both in quantity and in quality. 1,235 additional houses were connected up to the supply during the year.

Weekly bacteriological analyses were continued in the Town Hall laboratory and quarterly samples were sent to an Independent Analyst. All 56 samples so analysed were free from contamination and confirmed the purity and wholesomeness of the supply.

Continual increased demands for water from both domestic and commercial users means that methods for increasing the supply have always to be under consideration. Owing largely to additional industrial requirements over 49 gallons of water per head of the population per day is produced by the water works, and the demand is still rising quite quickly. If industrial requirements continue to expand at an ever increasing rate, difficulty in meeting the additional needs will become not only a local but also a national problem.

Some anxiety was expressed by a few individual householders on the new Langley L.C.C. estate when they noticed the presence of a light green fur in their kettles. Samples were sent for independent analysis and the material was confirmed as consisting mainly of calcium carbonate with a trace of copper compound (0.6% as Cu.). This colouration is quite harmless although often found when new copper pipes are laid in an area with a hard water supply; the degree of colouration declines with time although the intervals may be lengthy.

Slough Estates., Water Supply.

This Company has continued to supply water to a small number of houses situated on the Trading Estate in addition to the factories and their canteens on the estate itself. Analyses were made during the year and, as before, showed freedom from contamination.

A typical chemical analysis, taken from No.6 Borehole at the wellhead on 3rd, September, 1956 is given as follows:-

(Chemical values are given in parts per million).

Appearance	Bright with a few mineral particles.
Reaction	pH 7.9
Free Carbon Di-oxide	4
Electric Conductivity	560
Total Solids	355
Chlorine as chlorides	43
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	210
Hardness: Total	75
Temporary	75
Permanent	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.14
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.10
Metals: Iron	0.18
Other metals	Nil

The analyst's remarks were as follows:-

'This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

49 Samples were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses during the year and no trace of contamination was discovered.

16 additional houses were supplied direct.

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, of course, only in use during the summer months.

All samples were satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Inspection of all Pet Shops in the Borough continued at

regular intervals throughout the year by Mr. J.E. Garland, the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough Council for that purpose.

Conditions at the shops were found to be satisfactory on all occasions.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action was necessary under this Section during 1956.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Once again the number of staff examinations showed an increase upon the previous year, no less than 183 examinations being performed. All new officers entering permanent employment with the Slough Borough Council or with the local services of the Bucks. County Council, all entrants to Teachers' Training Colleges and all teachers teaching for the first time are given a full medical examination. In addition to this, the servants of the Slough Corporation are given an opportunity, at certain specified times, of entering the Council's Superannuation Scheme and these, too, are subject to full medical examination. X-ray examinations of chests are performed for all those whose duties bring them into close contact with children.

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Slough Borough Council	30	24	40	36
Bucks. County Council	60	53	67	89
Teachers' Training Colleges	17	24	21	30
Teaching for the first time	9	12	9	18
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	22	28	24	10
Total	138	141	161	183

Medical problems among a large staff also exist and medical officers are called upon to examine members of the staff in relation to long absence due to illness and fitness for further employment. Every effort is made to continue in employment those who become less able to stand up to the rigours of manual outdoor employment than they were in their younger days. Unfortunately however, the Council has relatively few jobs of a light nature and so sometimes men who have a number of years of useful working life in front of them are forced, owing to diminished physical efficiency, to leave the Council's employ.

LABORATORY.

During the year 1,178 examinations were undertaken in the Laboratory, a decrease of 102 upon the previous year.

A detailed analysis of the examinations is shown below:-

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	-	9
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	-	9
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	-	2
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	-	33
Urine for routine examination	162	
Blood Counts	64	
		Un
	Satisfactory	satisfactory
Milk Samples:-		
(a) Phosphatase test	154	-
(b) Methylene Blue test	181	-
(c) Turbidity test	11	-
(d) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water	275	-
Water Samples:-		
(a) Drinking water	35	3
(b) Swimming bath water	57	-
Ice-Cream:-		
(a) Chemical tests	84	-
(b) Bacteriological tests		
Grade I	75	) Satisfactory
Grade II	12	
Grade III	6	) Unsatisfactory
Grade IV	6	

The proportion of satisfactory results of analyses of ice-cream samples (Grades I and II) showed an improvement on 1955 but the number of unsatisfactory results was disappointing especially as 6 samples fell into Grade IV. A better result might have been expected as the summer was a poor one and high atmospheric temperatures were rare but one sample falling into Grade IV quite often produces one or two others. This is because an error, usually very slight, has crept into the method of sterilising the manufacturing machinery and once a bad sample has been obtained further samples are taken throughout the whole machinery until the error has been discovered and rectified.

It can, I think, be claimed that continuous sampling keeps the manufacturers and vendors of ice-cream on their toes; perhaps the finding of occasional poor results helps

to keep those responsible for taking and analysing the samples really awake and on their toes. In none of the bad samples mentioned above was there any suspicion that the product was dangerous but the results of the unsatisfactory samples did give a warning that the possibility of serious contamination could arise.

	Number of samples taken					Percentage of Samples				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Grade I	103	148	121	76	75	83.7	94.9	96.8	85.4	75
Grade II	6	1	Nil	1	12	4.9	0.6	Nil	1.1	12
Grade III	7	4	1	10	6	5.7	2.6	0.8	11.2	6
Grade IV	7	3	3	2	6	5.7	1.9	2.4	2.2	6

BOROUGH MORTUARY:

The number of sudden deaths requiring post-mortem examination fell in comparison with the previous three years. The number of examinations carried out were as follows:-

1953 - 90	1955 - 87
1954 - 89	1956 - 76

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

There was a considerable increase in the demands upon the Home Helps service during 1956, the total number of cases rising from 347 to 488. The administration of the service continues as before, a Home Help Organiser runs the service for the Bucks. County Council under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Area Medical Officer for South Bucks.

Of the 347 chronic sick cases assisted, no less than 195 (56.2%) were over 70 years of age.

In 1954 only 42.5% were over 70 years old while in 1955 the percentage had risen to 49.2.

No. of Home Helps as at:-	31.12.55	31.12.56
(a) Full-time	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	31	42
No. of cases who received help during	1955	1956
(a) Acute Sick	67	70
(b) Chronic sick	255	347
(c) Tuberculosis	5	6
(d) Maternity	47	65
	<u>347</u>	<u>488</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SHOWING CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956 AND DEATHS. ALSO NOTIFICATIONS FOR YEARS 1945-55.

	CASES NOTIFIED 1956	DEATHS 1956	POPULATION IN THOUSANDS.										
			67	67	66	66	66	66	66	66	64	63	60
			TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED DURING										
			1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Smallpox ...	27	-	11	70	215	117	33	54	33	66	44	77	113
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	16	8
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ...	23	-	21	25	24	26	6	5	9	8	12	17	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	19	-	41	53	64	33	44	32	14	20	27	22	28
Pneumonia ...	18	-	14	15	17	14	12	14	15	14	20	24	9
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	52	-	1185	29	526	778	1681	76	416	748	168	859	826
Measles ...	64	-	56	78	143	101	226	98	118	328	171	280	92
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	7	1	6
Meningococcal Infection ...	5	-	5	1	5	11	7	7	3	9	5	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	5	-	6	1	2	9	1	8	-	-	-	-	-
Non - Paralytic	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis: Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Post- Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	19	3	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
* * *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SHOWING NOTIFIED INCIDENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS INFECTION DISEASE

SHOWING MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Non - Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis: Infective ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Erysipelas...	1	3	2	2	-	-	2	4	1	-	3	-
Measles ...	1	-	-	-	11	6	15	13	1	1	4	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	4	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	-	-	2	4
Scarlet Fever ...	-	3	-	3	2	1	1	1	-	6	2	8
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	2	6	4	3	4	3	4	5	5	2	6	8
Non - Pulmonary ...	1	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	2	3	6	2	2	-	3	7	8	12	13	6
sterco * * *												

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	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Non - Paralytic	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	9	5	3	1	3	-	3	36	-	2	2
Acute Encephalitis: Infective	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas... ..	-	2	3	3	5	3	-	-	1	-	1
Measles	7	20	2	1	4	3	2	9	2	1	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	4	1	4	-	-	4	-	-	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	-	3	8
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	2	1	4	6	1	3	1	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	3	5	5	2	10	5	4	7	8	6	2
Non - Pulmonary ...	3	2	-	1	2	-	1	3	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA .

It is now eight years since a case of Diphtheria was reported in this town, years during which many girls have grown into women, have married and begotten children. In the early days of the campaign against diphtheria little difficulty was experienced in persuading mothers to bring their children along for immunisation but although many still ask for immunisation there is an increasing proportion who cannot bother to have their children done. This may be due in part to the continuous addition of new diseases against which inoculation is effective but it is also due to the fact that few people can now remember vividly the suffering and deaths which resulted from this disease only a few short years ago.

During the past year publicity and thoughts have been centred upon the new anti-poliomyelitis vaccine but we must not allow ourselves to forget that without a sufficiently high protection against Diphtheria we may well get a return of a disease which caused many more deaths a few years ago than poliomyelitis has ever done.

660 children were given initial protection against Diphtheria in 1956 compared with 600 in 1955. Of these, 612 received the combined vaccine which gives protection against Whooping Cough in addition to Diphtheria. 1,014 children also received renewal or 'booster' doses compared with 1,198 in 1955.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Sixty-four cases of Whooping Cough were notified during 1956 compared with 56 in 1955. On only two occasions since the disease became notifiable in October 1939 have there been fewer cases. There was one death from the disease.

Cases occurred in every month except June but there was a higher general incidence towards the end of the year and particularly in October and November.

In general the disease is less serious than it was a generation ago and, no doubt, immunisation has had a part to play in reducing both the incidence and severity of the illness. Immunisation may, however, only reduce the severity of the condition and not prevent its occurrence - an immunised child who has the disease may not be very ill, and may in fact be undiagnosed; that child is likely to be a source of danger to uninoculated children in whom the disease may be as severe as it ever was. It is, therefore, up to all parents to have their children immunised against this disease and

the earlier the better because Whooping Cough is a killing disease in the very young.

During 1956, 613 children were given protection against Whooping Cough. This compares with 498 in 1955. Of these all but one was given the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified - 27 - was more than double than that of 1955, - 11 - which was by far the lowest number ever recorded. The number in 1956 was the second lowest recorded.

The disease now is generally mild and often the child is almost better before the diagnosis can be made. As has been stated in previous annual reports the Streptococcus, which is responsible for Scarlet Fever can cause a host of other complaints such as sore throat, erysipelas, child-bed fever, etc., and merely to notify Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas does not really show the extent of infection with this germ, although the number of notifications does, probably however, give some indication as to whether infection with the germ is prevalent or not. The continuation of notification of these two diseases only, however, does seem rather a farce.

It is worth noting that contacts of children who have Scarlet Fever are no longer excluded from school - unless of course, they become ill.

ERYSIPELAS.

There was a slight increase too, in the notifications of this disease - from 14 in 1955 to 18 in 1956. This increase is just about in line with that experienced in Scarlet Fever.

PNEUMONIA.

19 cases of Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during 1956; 22 fewer than in 1955. The majority of the cases occurred during the spring and winter months but only May, June and September were entirely free.

If you look in the table giving causes of death you will see that there were 25 deaths from Pneumonia, meaning apparently that at least six cases were not notified.

As, however, only Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable the number of cases of pneumonia from all causes, the number of deaths and the number of notifications bear

little resemblance to each other - a truly farcical position. Let us hope that reviews of notifiable diseases which are now going on will deal with such anomalies.

MEASLES.

The biennial outbreak of measles had finished by the late summer of 1955, and 1956 was, as expected, fairly free from the disease. There was, in fact, a small rise in the incidence of measles during the summer months of the year but at no time did conditions even faintly resemble an epidemic.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The incidence of puerperal pyrexia remained at about the usual level. During the five years since the new regulations making a very mild condition notifiable, have been in force, the number of cases has never risen above 26 or fallen below 21 - there were 23 cases in 1956. No case was serious.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

(Infantile Paralysis)

After a dry spring, the summer of 1956 was very disappointing and most peoples' memories are of holidays spoiled through rain and low temperatures. There is popularly supposed to be some relationship between hot weather and increased poliomyelitis but I doubt whether a strong relationship has yet been established; it is true that an increase in the disease does not seem to occur until a certain climatic temperature has been reached but once the increase has started, cool summer weather does not necessarily result in a subsequent decrease. However, that may be the incidence of the disease in Slough and in the country as a whole during 1956 was low.

There were, in this town, only 10 cases in all, five paralytic and five non-paralytic, two of each kind being in males and three in females. Two paralytic cases occurred very early in the year and three during the summer and autumn; of the non-paralytic cases one occurred in July and four in October.

It had been possible, in 1955, for Maidenhead Isolation Hospital, where most cases are sent, to arrange for virological examinations to ascertain the type of virus responsible for the illness. Unfortunately, this was not possible during 1956.

The table as follows gives the sex and age incidence of the disease during 1956.

Ages	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5-	1	1	1	2	2	3
15-	-	1	1	-	1	1
25-	1	-	-	1	1	1
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	2	3	4	6

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Early in the year the Minister of Health announced the production of a vaccine effective against all three types of poliomyelitis virus which was to be made available to certain age groups of the population through the medical services of the local health authorities.

Registrations of children born during the years 1947 to 1954 were accepted during March 1956 and vaccine to inoculate a certain proportion of these was made available during May and June after which inoculations were stopped as it was feared that although the material inoculated was known to be harmless there might be some risk accruing from the actual intramuscular injection itself. Altogether 352 children (199 boys and 153 girls) received two injections and 144 children (78 boys and 66 girls) received one injection. This was out of a total of 3,861 registrations for the South Bucks. area which includes Slough Borough, Eton Urban District, Beaconsfield Urban District and Eton Rural District; no separate figures are available for the town only.

50 cases were followed up on behalf of the Medical Research Council and although some alarms and excursions took place due to children developing colds, sore throats or other minor illnesses the day or so after injection, only two very minor red areas on arms could be traced to the injections themselves.

It had been hoped that inoculations would re-start during the late autumn or early winter but difficulties in manufacture prevented vaccine from becoming available until the Spring of 1957.

Preliminary reports from the medical research council seem to show that the incidence of the disease fell by about 75% or 80% in inoculated children.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox was 482 compared with 363 in the previous year.

The number of re-vaccinations was 85.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) New Cases.

My annual report for 1955 included the sad story of the number of new cases of tuberculosis being greater than ever before. Now a year later, I have to report that in 1956 that number fell remarkably - only 57 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being notified.

For some time past Slough has appeared the black spot in an area where fewer and fewer cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are being found and yet is there any real reason for supposing the town to be different from the surrounding countryside? Perhaps the variety of jobs available here together with full employment has attracted and maintained in work those whose health is not of the best but even so the annual increase in new cases has caused anxiety and has been almost inexplicable except in years when Mass X-ray units have been active.

Up until 1950 improved notification or better relationship between Chest Clinics and Medical Officers of Health could be given as the main reasons for apparently greater numbers of new cases; since that time no new case failed, I think, to find its way on to my register and, with the decreasing public fear of tuberculosis, fewer cases remain undiagnosed; in spite of this the number of new cases continued to rise.

In 1949 there were 71 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and this figure rose, except for a considerable drop to 55 in 1953, to 93 in 1955, the highest ever recorded in the town.

In 1956 there were only 57 new cases (32 males and 25 females).

Does this mean that a real decrease in this disease has occurred or has there been another freak year like 1953? Looking through the case records of 1956 I have hopes that the real turning point has been reached and that, even although the incidence of 1956 may be exceeded occasionally in the future, there will be a real downward trend. Why am I hopeful? The reason is this.

The great majority of new cases in 1956 were discovered early enough for the disease still to be in the non-infectious state and, in a considerable proportion, the source of infection was easily traceable. Not only are cases now being notified much earlier and often before the disease has become infectious but infectious cases are usually rendered harmless quite rapidly by modern drug treatment.

There has been quite a noticeable decrease in demands on hospital beds during the past year or two and many more cases are now treated at home. On the whole this is a very laudable tendency but there is a real danger that patients will look upon tuberculosis as a disease which can be easily cured and that nothing more is needed to put them right than a few pills or powders. Such beliefs are dangerous and everything possible should be done to prevent the spread of this attitude which may lead to pressure being placed upon doctors to leave patients at home when they should be in hospital. For doctors to be persuaded against their better judgment to agree to home treatment could lead not only to greater eventual length of treatment required for the patient himself but also to increased risk of infection to others coming into contact with him.

In essence I believe that 1956 has given hope that pulmonary tuberculosis may be a disappearing disease in this area but with this hope must go the realisation that the disease has not yet disappeared and that the fullest co-operation between doctors, patients and the community as a whole is still necessary if the disease is to be eliminated at the earliest possible opportunity.

The number of new cases of non-pulmonary disease, however, was still disappointingly high.

Age in Years.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	1	-	-
5-	2	-	1	-
15-	5	6	1	2
25-	7	9	1	2
35-	9	4	2	1
45-	3	3	-	1
55-	3	1	1	-
56 and over	3	1	-	-
TOTAL	32	25	6	6

(b) **Notification Register.**

The number of cases remaining on the Notification Register on 31st. December, 1956, was as follows:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
490	389	879	51	57	108

The increase in the number remaining on the Register at the end of the year exceeded the total of new notifications: this is because the considerable number of people suffering from pulmonary or other tuberculosis being rehoused on the Langley L.C.C. estate are added to the register.

The register is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers' less 'outward transfers', 'cures' and deaths.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

YEAR ...	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
POPULATION ...	64,240	66,060	66,610	66,340	66,439	66,730	66,950	67,090	67,940	69,190
	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	58	76	71	79	88	71	55	69	93	12
NOTIFICATION PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.	0.90	1.15	1.07	1.19	1.32	1.06	0.82	1.03	1.36	0.17

(c) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Twelve cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1956 and the table below gives further details of those cases.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Cervical glands	1	3
Genito-urinary tract ...	1	-
Hip	1	1
Kidney	1	-
Knee	-	1
Rectum	1	-
Salpinx	-	1
Meninges	1	-
Total	6	6

(d) B. C. G. Vaccination.

B.C.G. Vaccination was again offered to all school-children of approximately 14 years of age and tests and inoculations were carried out by doctors of the Bucks. County Council School Health Service.

After parents' consent had been obtained the children were first given a Heaf test to see whether they had had any previous experience of tuberculosis, and, if no reaction was obtained, they were then given 0.1 cc. B.C.G. vaccine into the skin of the upper arm.

About 850 parents gave consent for their children to be immunised. Out of 832 tests performed, 138 (16.6%) were positive and no further action was carried out. 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 all forms of tuberculosis was exactly the same as in 1954 and 1955.

There were eight deaths (7 males and 1 female) from pulmonary tuberculosis and one death (one male) from the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

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
1956	69,190	7	1	1	-	0.12

(f) **Chest Clinic.**

For a number of years considerable inconvenience has been caused to the inhabitants of this town because of the situation of the chest clinic in Alma Road, Windsor. The North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, however, recognising the needs of a rapidly expanding district which, included a large number of tuberculosis cases being rehoused on the new L.C.C. estates, decided to build a new chest clinic in the grounds of Upton Hospital. These projects always seem to take longer than anticipated to materialise but there is every hope that the building will be ready for use in the summer of 1957. Patients from this side of the river will then be saved considerable time and exertion and it will be possible to effect a much closer working and personal liaison between chest clinic and public health personnel than in the past.

IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following infant welfare centres and sessions for toddlers are held in and around the town. No changes in centres or sessions were made during 1956.

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Weekly.	Burlington Rd. St. Michael's Community Centre.	Langley	Langley L. C. C. Est. Burnham	Farnham Royal Burlington Rd.	Cippenham Wexham Rd.
Twice Monthly		Stoke Poges			Lent Rise

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

In May 1956 the Ministry of Health published a memorandum on ante-natal care embodying advice from the Standing Maternity and Midwifery Advisory Committee which was endorsed by the Central Health Services Council.

Doctors representing the three branches of the Health Service - Public Health, General Practice, and Hospitals, met to discuss the implications of the memorandum so far as this area is concerned. All aspects of the maternity and midwifery services were discussed and effective liaison between all branches of the Health Services ensured.

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.

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. The minor ailments clinic is now hardly used at all and the time thus saved is devoted to special examinations by appointment. The doctor is still available however, on Thursday mornings should any minor ailments require treatment and Health Visitors are present each day at the Health Centre in Burlington Road for this purpose.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC.

Community Centre, Farnham Road ... Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.
(Entrance, Buckingham Avenue)

Health Centre, Burlington Road ... Fridays, 2.30 - 4 p.m.
and 5.30 - 7 p.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).

(After September 1957 the main Windsor Group chest clinic will be at Upton Hospital).

(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:-

A newly built home for 44 aged persons' was opened in August, 1956, and accommodation for non sick is now available, at Upton Towers and Wexham Court, in addition to that at Upton Hospital.

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

For the year 1956.

- 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	15,767
Complaints received and investigated	1,003
Preliminary Notices Served	515
Secondary Notices Served	217
Statutory Notices Served	39
Letters received	5,958
Letters despatched	1,805
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	964

TABLE NO. 2.

Analysis of Inspection Work Performed by the District Public Health Inspectors:

Housing	4,179
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods ...	842
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	1,259
Dairies	129
Factories and Workplaces... ..	479
Shops	732
General Sanitation	4,045
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	4,028
Miscellaneous Matters	1,074

TABLE NO. 3.

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)...	225
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	60
Factories and Workplaces ...	7
Shops ...	39
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.) ...	104

S E C T I O N B.

HOUSING.

Programme of Housing Slum Clearance:

During the year, the Borough Council decided to commence operations to implement the proposals contained in the five years' programme of Housing Slum Clearance, submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This programme involves the clearance by 1960, of some 368 unfit houses and the rehousing by the Borough Council of the displaced occupiers.

As many of these worn-out houses have been retained for human habitation for some years after their unfitness was so obviously irreparable, one is naturally gratified that it has now become possible to take the necessary action to secure their removal and to place the tenants in satisfactory accommodation.

At the close of 1956, the following Slum Clearance action had been taken:-

(a) Clearance Areas.

The declaration of 10 Clearance Areas containing a total of 91 houses occupied by 228 persons. Nine Areas were dealt with by Clearance Orders, and one Area by Compulsory Purchase Order. These Areas are all situated in the Chalvey Ward of the Borough.

The Compulsory Purchase Order was in respect of 25 dwellings situated on the north side of Church Street, Chalvey, where it is proposed to carry out housing redevelopment. A Public Inquiry by the Minister of Housing and Local Government was held concerning the application of the Corporation for the confirmation of this Order, which subsequently was confirmed without amendment.

(b) *Individual Unfit Houses.*

Twenty houses occupied by 49 persons were dealt with under the Housing Acts, as follows:-

Demolition Orders	6
(includes one caravan)	
Closing Orders	10
(Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Section 10).	
Closing Orders	4
(Housing Act, 1936, Section 12).	

(c) *Undertaking to Execute Works.*

Following consideration in pursuance of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, of the condition of the almshouse No.2, St. Mary's Road, Langley, an undertaking offered by the Owners to carry out works of reconditioning was accepted.

Housing Improvement Grants:

The administration of the technical aspect of Housing Improvement Grants, is dealt with by the Building Works Committee of the Borough Council.

A total of 268 visits was made to dwelling-houses which were the subject of applications for improvement grants in pursuance of the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. These inspections were for the purpose of preliminary examination and advice upon improvement proposals, the supervision of works in progress and final examination of completed works before the grant is paid.

Upon completion of works, the premises are then visited annually to ensure that the conditions under which the grant has been approved are complied with.

At the end of the year under review, improvement works had been completed at eight dwelling-houses and works were in progress at a further twelve properties. The total grant involved being £3,690, which included approved cases carried forward from 1955.

The type of improvement carried out is similar in most cases, consisting of the provision of a bathroom, indoor sanitation and a domestic hot-water system. In several instances, this improvement has been done on the ground-floor,

either within the structure of the existing building or by the addition of a small rear extension together with some internal re-arrangement.

Improvement works were executed at a block of eleven houses in one ownership, and the remainder were owner-occupied premises. The Borough Council withdrew approval of a grant in one instance involving the provision of two units of housing accommodation upon the failure of the owners to carry out the specified works within a reasonable period.

Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling-Houses.

Having regard to the general pressure of statutory obligations, it was not found possible to carry out any systematic house-to-house inspection work during 1956.

Complaints were received from members of the public concerning the disrepair of 166 dwelling-houses. The District Public Health Inspectors examined a total of 814 dwellings for that purpose and following initial visits there were some 1,846 re-inspections made in securing compliance with Notices served and in supervising building works in progress. As a result of this action, 225 houses were rendered habitable.

In relation to this work 37 statutory, 694 preliminary, written and verbal notices and 58 Requisitions for Information as to the Ownership of Premises were served in pursuance of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The works of re-conditioning which were carried out may be summarised as follows:-

Houses externally repaired...	...	...	136
" internally repaired...	...	...	113
" -dampness remedied ...	...	...	80
" -internally decorated ...	...	...	21
" -means of lighting improved	...	...	1
" -portable dustbins provided	...	...	90

Repair of Properties in Default of Owners.

There were three cases in which owners of property had failed to comply with the requirements of statutory notices and consequently, upon the authorisation of the Borough Council, the works were executed in default to the extent of £227, and this amount was recovered from the owners of the property concerned. The work was carried out by various building contractors on a 'Tender' basis as follows:-

Moveable Dwellings.

During 1956, the Council granted yearly licences in respect of 52 caravans stationed on various sites within the town, 34 of these being renewals of licences previously issued.

At Foxborough Farm, London Road, Langley, there are sited some 65 modern caravans, which, due to the lack of satisfactory facilities, were not licensed in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936. The owner of the land was granted Town Planning consent for the stationing of these vans, subject to the proper provision of amenities befitting a site of its size.

During the year, discussions took place between the owner and your officers, and finally agreement was reached concerning the provision of facilities, including the erection of two ablution blocks, each comprising water-closets, urinal, shower and bath, and the installation of hot water; and in addition larger water mains, main drainage, waste water disposal points and proper arrangements for storage and collection of refuse.

At the end of 1956, work on the above proposals was well in progress, and it was hoped that when completed, the site could be licensed as such and indeed that the site would become a model of its kind.

The District Inspectors made some 1,393 visits during 1956, in connection with moveable dwellings, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

On three occasions during the year, it was found necessary to proceed against the occupiers of caravans, for contraventions under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 - stationing of caravans without licence. The defendants pleaded guilty, and maximum fines were imposed.

Certificates of Disrepair.

During the year under review, one certificate of disrepair was granted by the Council, and none was revoked.

Again this strengthens the opinion, which I expressed in my last report, that the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has failed in its purpose, in so far as its provisions attempted to balance rent increases with cost of repairs.

Towards the end of the year, a further attempt was in preparation in the shape of yet another Rents Bill, which, it was hoped, would solve the problem of preventing the decay of dwelling-house property due to low rents and high costs of repairs.

Information Re: Local Land Charges etc.

Information as to statutory orders made in respect of dwelling-houses and non-complied-with notices requiring works of repair, was supplied in respect of 1,558 properties upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register.

In addition, particulars as to properties were supplied in all cases in which mortgages were being arranged under the Housing Act, 1949, in respect of the purchase of small-dwellings.

A new form of enquiry, of which many cases were dealt with during the year, requested information as to whether properties changing hands were included in the Borough Council's Five Year Programme of Housing Clearance.

S E C T I O N C.

SAFEGUARDING OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Food Hygiene.

The year 1956 has been another period of steady consistent work, carried out with the purpose of raising and maintaining a reasonably satisfactory hygienic standard at all premises within the Borough, at which foodstuffs are either manufactured or otherwise prepared and offered for sale, and during this time attention has been given, not only to the suitability of premises and equipment, but to methods and the personal hygiene of the food handler.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on 1st January, 1956, and this statutory instrument, which marked another important milestone of public health progress, has strengthened the hands of the local authorities and their responsible officers in securing a minimum standard of food hygiene. The aim, however, is to encourage the manufacturer, the transporter and the retail trader to aspire to something even better than mere legal minimum conditions and in this project we often have their whole-hearted co-operation.

A summary of the new Regulations was supplied to all food traders and this together with national and local newspaper publicity, gave the Regulations a good send off. It must be remembered that the foundation for food hygiene had already been laid in Slough in previous years, and good progress had already been made before the Regulations of 1955 appeared. The work here has continued and the staff as often as possible, have acted in an advisory capacity,

encouraging traders and food handlers to be satisfied with nothing less than the best practicable standard. This line of action is considered essential for the security of the public, particularly as there are great risks of food poisoning arising from certain branches of the food trades.

Another activity which received attention during the year, was a survey of school kitchens and canteens and other arrangements for taking meals, both at County Council and private schools, for these are within the scope of the new Regulations. Here I would make reference to the splendid co-operation of the Meals Supervisory Officers of the Bucks County Council, which has been so appreciated.

During the year, a number of lectures were given to various trade and other organisations by my Deputy and me, to explain the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and means of compliance therewith, and to seek the co-operation of all concerned.

Some 1,388 visits were made to food factories and retail shops, including catering establishments, and factory canteens, bakehouses, dairies, ice-cream manufactories, markets, licensed premises, and at meat, fish, grocery and other retail food shops, for the purposes of food hygiene. Many substantial improvements were secured in the manufacture, transportation and distribution of foods, and generally, retail traders appear to realise that the standard of food hygiene at their premises, which is apparent to the customer, is now an important part of trade competition. The enlightened members of the public are becoming more and more food hygiene conscious, and are demanding food which has been dealt with under satisfactory conditions.

The following classified list gives the approximate number of food premises within the Borough, and will provide some indication as to the extent of the problem relating to food hygiene, but there is also the transportation of food and the itinerant vendor to be considered.

Bakers and flour confectioners ...	...	16
Butchers ...	...	46
Caterers ...	...	68
Cinema shops ...	...	4
Dairies ...	...	2
Factory canteens ...	...	109
Fishmongers (wet and fried) ...	...	22
Food factories ...	...	18
Greengrocers and fruiterers ...	...	42
Grocers, general and multiple stores ...	...	152
Ice-cream manufacturers ...	...	7
Licensed premises ...	...	66
Markets ...	...	2
Preserved foods ...	...	31

Milk and Dairies.

The Borough of Slough is situated in a "Specified Area" so that only heat-treated or tuberculin-tested milk may be sold. The milk supply is now provided by two wholesale receiving dairies at which it is pasteurised, and by ready-bottled milk from dairies in other districts. In pursuance of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 - 1954, in addition to the above-mentioned dairies, there are 58 distributors of milk on the register, and these include several small general stores at which sterilized milk is sold. One hundred and twenty-nine visits of inspection were made to registered premises and distributors of milk.

The two dairies have been kept under supervision by frequent inspection, and found to be satisfactory, both in relation to the efficient operation of the pasteurising high temperature - short time plant, bottle filling and bottle and churn washing plants; also the arrangements for the cold-storage of milk, the condition of the premises and hygiene of the personnel generally.

Very few complaints were received relating to the milk supply of Slough and no offences against the Specified Area Order, were observed.

Sixty-eight licences were granted in pursuance of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) and (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, as follows:-

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence	2
Dealer's Tuberculin-Tested Milk Licences	12
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	10
Dealer's Sterilised Milk Licences	40
Supplementary Licences	4

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year under review, 192 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination, and efficiency of heat treatment and were examined at the Department laboratory. It is with satisfaction that I am able to place on record that all samples proved to be satisfactory for the third year in succession. This improvement is probably due, partly to the steady advisory work of past years new legislation and a greater realisation by those concerned in the handling, processing and distribution of milk, of the public health aspect of our milk supplies.

TABLE NO. 4.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

<i>Classification:</i>	<i>No. of Samples Procured.</i>
Pasteurised Milk	93
Tuberculin-tested (pasteurised) Milk	71
Tuberculin-tested Milk	17
Sterilised Milk	11

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream.

At the close of the year, there were 7 premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and 193 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the Borough, including 11 new applications granted during the year. One hundred and seventy-nine visits were made.

In addition to the frequent inspection of registered premises, 99 samples of this commodity were procured for bacteriological examination and estimation of fat content. Of these, 11 samples failed to satisfy the test.

Careful attention was given to the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat-Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952, at premises at which ice-cream was manufactured and as the demand is no longer seasonal such supervision is carried on throughout the year. Supervision is also exercised at retail premises and particularly over itinerant vendors. There can be no doubt that the practice of pre-packing ice-cream, has assisted in giving this commodity a good reputation, and, except at catering establishments, vendors are recommended to adopt this method of distribution.

Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

There are 50 premises registered in pursuance of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of preserved foods, namely:-

Canning factories	2
Preparation of shell-fish	1
Fish friers	19
Manufacture of sausages and cooked meats	28

Regular inspection has shown that the premises were maintained satisfactorily, and that the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 - 1956 were well observed.

Bakehouses.

Premises on register	10
Inspection by District Inspectors ...	30

Foreign Bodies Etc., in Food.

During the year, a few instances of foreign bodies etc., in food-stuffs were brought to my notice by members of the public (e.g., metal in a sugar cube, label in a bottle of soft drink, and extraneous matter in a bottle of milk.

These complaints together with two cases of mould growth on food, were the subject of full investigations. In all these instances, the food originated outside the Borough, but in each case a representative of the food manufacturer was called to the office for discussion and examination of the offending item. Warning letters were sent, but in none of these instances, having regard to all the circumstances, did I consider it advisable to recommend the Council to take statutory action.

Food and Drugs (Compositional Standard and Quality).

In administering the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in relation to the sampling and analysis of food and drugs, some 617 samples were procured for the purpose of detecting and preventing adulteration or misdescription, this being the equivalent of 8.9 samples per 1,000 of the population of the Borough.

Two hundred and eight of the above-mentioned samples were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst, Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., of London. The results of analysis are contained in Table No.5 and the action taken in respect of 17 samples reported to be not genuine in Table No.6. The remaining 409 samples were tested by the sampling officers, or in the Department laboratory, as follows:-

Milk ...	...	275 samples.
Ice-cream ...	86	"
Spirits ...	48	"

Milk.

The activities of the Department in relation to the sampling of milk was largely concentrated at wholesale dairies, as milk supplies arrived direct from the farm of production. Of the informal samples of milk examined, 48 were found to be sub-standard by reason of containing less

than 3% of fat or 8.5% of solids-not-fat. These samples were all taken from churns upon arrival of the milk at pasteurising dairies and included some follow-up samples of milk previously found to be of poor quality. In each case, it was found that the bulked consignment was above the legal minimum standard. A number of samples was sent to the Public Analyst who confirmed that extraneous water was absent. Samples of bottled milk supplied to consumers within the Borough were found to be satisfactory.

During the year Regulations came into operation which require that all milk sold under the designations 'Channel Islands,' 'Jersey,' 'Guernsey' or 'South Devon' milk must contain not less than 4% of fat and this is therefore, now enforceable as a statutory food standard..

The average chemical quality of the milk samples examined was as follows:-

All milk samples	-3.69% fat and 8.74% solids-not-fat.
Channel Islands, etc., milk	-4.58% fat and 9.01% solids-not-fat.

Ice-Cream.

One sample of ice-cream was found to be deficient in milk-fat content, but subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Spirits.

All samples of spirits were informal and found to be genuine.

Cream.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into force on 1st January, 1956, consolidated much of the previous law relating to the sale of food and drugs, but also introduced certain new measures including a restrictive definition of the term 'Cream.' During the year, summary proceedings were instituted against a caterer for the sale of an article of confectionery described as 'Cream Slices,' whereas upon analysis, it was found not to contain 'cream' with the definition of the Act, but only imitation cream.

Manufacture of Food.

As in previous years, the practice of procuring samples of food at places of manufacture, within the Borough, was continued. The samples taken at food factories were all found to be genuine. Advice was given to local manufacturers as to the wording of proposed labels.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

Sixty-seven samples of food were examined by the Public Analyst, for the presence of prohibited preservatives and colouring matter. These samples were found to be satisfactory.

Labelling and Advertising.

Most of our foodstuffs are now sold as pre-packed articles, and therefore consideration of descriptions contained on labels is of importance. Labels on food stuffs and drugs were submitted with the respective samples to the Public Analyst, and advertisements making claims in respect of foodstuffs were carefully scrutinised for the purpose of detecting false, or over exaggerated statements, which would mislead the purchaser as to the nature, substance or quality of the article, and particularly as to its nutritional or dietary value.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

In those cases in which the substance sampled was recommended as a medicine, the labelling requirements of the Act were checked and the formula contained on the label was submitted to the Public Analyst for confirmation.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1887 - 1953.

There were no serious infringements of the Acts observed during the year. A careful watch was kept on the labelling of those imported foodstuffs which are the subject of Merchandise Marks Orders, and in a few instances, verbal warnings were given to retailers, particularly in relation to imported tomatoes exposed for sale without adequate indication of the country of origin.

TABLE NO. 5.

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

	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:				
Almonds, ground ...	3	1		
Almond Macaroons ...	5		5	
Bacon and Ham ...	2			
Beef Roll ...	1			
Beer ...	8			
Brawn... ..	2			
Bread and Butter ...	15		3	
Bread Crumbs ...	1			
Brisket of Beef ...	1			
Butter ...	1			
Cakes... ..	1	1		
Cheese ...	2			
Cherries, glaze ...	1			
Cochineal ...	1			
Coconut, desiccated ...	1			
Coffee ...	1			
Crabmeat ...	1			
Cream Slices ...	1		1	
Curry Powder ...	1			
Dripping ...	1	1		
Faggots ...	1			
Fish Cakes ...	2	1		
Flour ...	1			
Gelatin ...	1			
Golden Raising Powder ...		1		
Grapefruit in Syrup ...		1		
Horse-Radish Sauce ...		2		
Ice-Cream ...	2			
Ice Lollies ...	2			
Jam ...	1			
Lard ...	4			
Lemonade Powder ...	1			
Lemon Essence ...		1		
Lentils ...	1			
Lobster & Fishpaste ...		1		
Macaroni & Cheese ...		1		
Margarine ...	1	2		
Marzipan ...	2			
Milk ...	9	3		3
Milk, Hot ...	9		5	
Milk Powder ...		1		
Mint, dried... ..		1		
Mint Sauce ...		1		
Olive Oil ...	1			
Pastry, puff ...	1			
Pearl Barley ...	1			
Peas, processed ...	1			
Peel, mixed, cut... ..		1		
Pepper, white ...	1			
Piccalilli ...		1		
Pie Filling ...	1			
Pork Luncheon Meat ...	2			
Pork Pie ...	1			
Rennet ...		1		
Rice ...	1			
Rolls, buttered ...	3			
Sago ...	1			

TABLE NO. 5.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst				
	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Salad Cream	1			
Sauce	2			
Sausage, liver	1			
Sausages & Sausage Meat, Beef	2	2		
Sausages & Sausage Meat, Pork	1	7		
Sausage Roll		2		
Semolina	2	1		
Soft Drinks		12		
Soups	1	1		
Spices... ..	2			
Sugar	1			
Sugar Confectionery ...	5	9		
Tapioca	1			
Tea	2			
Tomato Juice		1		
Veal and Ham Pie	2			
Vinegar	3			
DRUGS:				
Almond Oil Ear Drops ...		1		
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1			
Borax	1			
Calamine Lotion	1			
Camphorated Oil	1			
Castor Oil	1			
Cough Syrup		1		
Cream of Tartar		1		
Epsom Salts	1			
Eye Lotion	1			
Friars Balsam	1			
Glauber's Salt	1			
Glycerine	1			
Gripe Water	1			
Indigestion Mixture ...		1		
Indigestion Tablets ...	1	1		
Iodine	2			
Laxative Tablets		1		
Liquorice Powder	1			
Nerve Sedative	1			
Quinine and Iron Tonic ...		1		
Sulphur & Lime Juice Tablets		1		
TOTAL FOODS.	127	57	14	3
TOTAL DRUGS.	16	8	-	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS.	143	65	14	3

TABLE NO. 6

Food and Drugs Samples reported not to be Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
29	Bread & Butter.	Contained 95% margarine.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £5.0.0. and £1. 15.0 costs.
30	Bread & Butter.	Contained 96% margarine.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £10.0.0. and £1. 1.0. costs.
31	Hot Milk.	Contained 21.3% added water.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £10.0.0. and £1. 1.0 costs.
32	Bread & Butter.	Contained 75% margarine.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £15.0.0. and £1. 15.0 costs.
36	Hot Milk.	Contained 11.8% added water.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £10.0.0. and £1. 1.0. costs. Servant fined £20.0.0. and £1. 1.0. costs.
54	Hot Milk.	Deficient in fat by 23.8% and contained 18.8% added water.	Vendor fined £40.0.0. and £3. 3.0. costs.
56	Hot Milk.	Deficient in fat by 30.3% and contained 4.3% added water.	Vendor fined £50.0.0. and £2. 2.0 costs.
39	Hot Milk.	Contained 7.5% added water.	Vendor warned.
108	Cream Slices.	Contained imitation cream.	Vendor fined £10.0.0. and £5. 13.0. costs.
511 512	Milk.	)Deficient in solids -)not-fat.	Presence of added water not confirmed. Supply kept under observation.
546	Milk.	Deficient in fat by 20%	Supply kept under observation.
574	Almond Macaroons	)	Warnings issued to vendors, and local traders' association.
575	" "	) Almonds Absent.	
579	" "	)	
580	" "	)	
582	" "	)	
* * *			

Public Slaughterhouse.

The Public Slaughterhouse in Cippenham Lane is now the only premises within the Borough where slaughtering of animals is carried out. This is in itself a great advantage, and together with the fact that the premises are maintained and administered by the Council, affords a great measure of control, which is essential not only in carrying out inspection of all carcasses and offals, but also in relation to hygienic practices of personnel and general caretaking of premises. For these purposes, a public health inspector is in attendance from 9 a.m. until the close of the premises, which are open from Monday to Saturday. One of the manual workers opens the premises at 7 a.m. and remains until 2 p.m. each day, and during that time he is engaged on cleansing and incidental duties.

The rest of the personnel engaged are the employees of the Slaughtering Contractor who operates under an Agreement with the Borough Council.

These arrangements have been built up since July 1954, when the Council took over the lease of the premises from the Ministry of Works, upon the cessation of Government control of meat and livestock, and have proved satisfactory in meeting the needs of the Borough and adjoining areas.

Early in 1956, the new slaughter hall and hanging room, referred to in my last report, was brought into operation. It was designed primarily for pigs, but in such a way that sheep and/or calves could equally well be handled. Although small, with a capacity for dealing with 100 pigs per day with the most up to date equipment, this is a most useful addition to the slaughterhouse, providing for the slaughter of smaller animals independently of cattle which can proceed at one and the same time, as the need arises.

During the financial year ended 31st. March, 1957, tolls for the use of the slaughterhouse amounted to £1,734.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

In 1956, the total number of animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse was 11,715, being slightly less than the figure for the previous year. All carcasses and offals of these animals were examined by the District Public Health Inspectors, all of whom possess the qualification as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Table 7 gives particulars of carcasses examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

At all stages in the preparation of meat, your officers pay considerable attention to handling, dressing and cooling of carcasses to ensure that, so far as possible, it is protected from contamination.

Following inspection, each satisfactory carcass is marked with the inspector's official stamp, in accordance with the Meat Marking Scheme approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. On behalf of the Ministry, the meat inspectors continued to act as certifying officers under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme in respect of pigs. It was necessary to examine some carcasses and offals which came into the retail butchers' shops from elsewhere.

In addition to meat inspection, your officers made some 165 visits to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. Almost 3 tons of food were found to be unfit, and were surrendered to the Council for destruction. (See Table 9).

Disposal of Unsound Meat.

It is of the utmost importance that meat condemned as unfit for human consumption should be disposed of in such a way that it does not fall into the hands of unscrupulous dealers who would otherwise sell it for fit meat. Two safeguards are therefore put into operation. Immediately following condemnation, meat is removed to a separate store which is locked. Such meat is slashed and treated with a green dye which cannot be removed. Despite its condition, such meat has a value, and is disposed of for sterilisation and manufacture into animal feeding stuffs and fertilizers. The contractor at the slaughterhouse sells this material, but I have been particularly careful to authorise him to dispose of it only to reputable collectors, of whom I have approved. Table 8 shows the weight of condemned meat dealt with in 1956. The total amount represents approximately 2.5% by weight of meat inspected.

Hygiene of Meat Transport.

Attention was again directed to the handling of meat in transit to the retail butchery premises, not only from the Public Slaughterhouse, but also from other sources. Frequent observation is kept on the vehicles used and inspection has revealed little cause for complaint as far as cleanliness is concerned. Protective clothing used by personnel engaged in the carrying of meat was also given attention, and it was found to be maintained satisfactorily.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

The Borough Council granted 8 licences during the year to persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Electrical stunning apparatus at the Public Slaughterhouse for small animals, was used throughout the year, whilst the captive bolt type of humane killer was used for the stunning of larger animals. These methods proved to be efficient and I was satisfied that there was no cruelty. No infringements of the Acts were observed.

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	1,605	385	3,736	4,854	1,135
Disease except tuberculosis: Whole carcases condemned.	-	2	8	38	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	484	130	87	292	5
% of No. Inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	30.15	34.28	2.54	6.79	0.7
Tuberculosis: Whole carcases condemned.	5	3	-	9	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	103	56	-	90	1
% of No. Inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.72	15.32	-	2.03	0.17
Cysticercosis Bovis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	14	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration.	14	4	-	-	-
Generalised condition whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE NO. 8.

Weights of Condemned Meat.						
	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases	46	1	1	60	1	20
Parts of Carcasses or Organs ...	67	0	27	96	2	25
TOTALS	113	2	0	157	0	17
TOTAL WEIGHT: 13 tons. 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 17 lbs.						

TABLE NO. 9.

Weights of Canned and Other Foods Condemned as unfit for Human Consumption.			
lbs.			
Canned Food	Preserves	Bacon	Cheese
4,717	1	44	1
Imported Meat	Manufactured Meats	Miscellaneous	
1,109	3	544	
TOTAL WEIGHTS: 2 tons. 17 cwts. 1 qr. 7 lbs.			

SECTION D.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS.

Factories.

At the end of the year the Corporation's register showed that there were 538 factories within the Borough, with great variation as to size, number of workers employed and trades involved. There are several factories in the Langley, Central and Cippenham areas but the majority are on the Slough Trading Estate.

Statistical information, which is required annually by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, is reproduced in Tables 10 and 11, and indicates the work of the District Public Health Inspectors in relation to the administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1948, in so far as they concern the Local Authority, with the exception of means of escape in

case of fire, which duties in Slough are performed by the Borough Engineer.

In addition to visits of inspection to ensure compliance with the Factories Acts, there is a number of premises which are also food manufactories, and these together with factory canteens, were visited regularly in order to check on all aspects of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Due to the widely specialised processes, and the use of varying industrial plants, public health and noise nuisances are the subjects of investigations at these same premises, from time to time.

Plans submitted during the year to the Borough Engineer for approval under Planning and Building Byelaws, were examined by my Deputy, and a close liaison was maintained with the Planning Officer, concerning proposed developments and new processes.

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.	27	12	2	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	502	341	3	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	9	3	nil	nil
TOTAL	538	356	5	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.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	4	1	-	2	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)... ..					
(a) insufficient	2	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	12	6	-	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworker) ...	-	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	18	7	2	4	nil

Homework.

As required by law, lists of persons engaged in their homes in carrying out work for factories, were returned during February and August. These showed that only 27 outworkers were employed at premises within the Borough in specified occupations. This figure is considerably lower than in 1955, but as in previous years, the principal occupation concerned the making and altering of wearing apparel.

The homes of these workers were regularly visited by the District Inspectors, and were generally found to be very satisfactory.

Lists in respect of 53 outworkers were sent to other Local Authorities in various parts of the country, and lists were received from Local Authorities in respect of 3 outworkers in Slough.

Drinking Water.

Following satisfactory results of water sampling, in the case of one factory where drinking water is supplied from a deep well, a certificate of approval was granted by the Council in pursuance of Section 4 of the Factories Act, 1937.

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

There are over 800 shops within the Borough, all of which are subject to the provisions of the above Acts.

(a) Inspections:

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	256
Conditions of employment	209
Hours of employment of Young Persons ...	31
Hours of closing	196
Sunday trading	40

(b) Improvements Effected at Shops:

Improved Sanitary Accommodation	10
Improved washing facilities	8
Improved lighting or heating	2
Notices displayed	17

Workplaces.

Under this heading falls those premises which are neither registered factories nor shops (e.g.) small one-man workshops, offices etc. To these premises, the District Public Health Inspectors made some 25 visits during the year. It is anticipated that legislation, dealing with non-industrial employment, already foreshadowed after the Gowers' Report will include workplaces.

Places of Entertainment.

Fifteen visits were made to premises used for the purpose of public entertainment, where conditions were found to be satisfactory.

S E C T I O N E.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

Unlike clean water and clean food, the need for the purity and cleanliness of the air is not yet fully realised by the average citizen, although for so many valid reasons, apart from economics, clean air is vital to the well being of man and beast.

There are many pollutants of the atmosphere, but undoubtedly the greatest by far is smoke, produced by the burning of fuel.

I have mentioned in previous reports the good fortune of this Borough, in that as an industrial area, motive power is mainly by means of electricity, and consequently pollution of the atmosphere cannot be compared with problems confronting areas in the Midlands and Industrial North.

It should not be thought, however, that the industrial furnace is the sole culprit, indeed it has been stated that a good fifty per cent of atmospheric pollution is due to the inefficient burning of fuel at the domestic hearth, and again I feel certain that this fact is not realised.

For the first time in legislation on atmospheric pollution, the Clean Air Act, 1956, empowers Local Authorities to deal with the domestic smoke problem by the making, subject to Ministry approval, of Smoke Control Areas.

The year under review, was important, mainly because the Clean Air Act was placed on the statute book. This Act is the outcome of the report, in 1954, of the Committee on Air Pollution (Beaver Committee) and represents a big step forward in combating the evils of atmospheric pollution, furnishing Local Authorities with an effective weapon.

The full implementation of the Act, an increased awareness of the evils of air pollution together with the production of more and better smokeless fuels at a reasonable price, are essential requirements for the eradication of atmospheric pollution.

Ten complaints were received during the year, concerning smoke and like problems. As a result, 112 smoke observations were made and some 139 special visits were paid to factory premises for the purpose of investigation and discussions with managements and engineers.

Under the Council's scheme of 'Prior Approval,' in accordance with the provisions of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, the following fuel consuming plant was approved during the year:-

July	Messrs. Stroat Manufacturing Co.Ltd., Oxford Avenue.	Oil fired boiler.
Sept.	Messrs. F. W. Woolworth & Co.Ltd., Farnham Road.	Oil fired boiler.
Oct.	Messrs. Zwicky Ltd., Buckingham Avenue.	Two oil fired boilers.

Since the implementation of the scheme of Prior Approval in 1954, 14 installations of fuel burning plant have been approved.

The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service examined each of the above proposals before the Council finally gave their approval.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and I represented the Corporation on the National Smoke Abatement Society, and the Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Committee, and a member of the Committee with my Deputy attended the Society's Annual Conference at Southport in 1956.

Offensive Trades.

One soap boiler and two rag and bone dealers were again the only offensive trades within the Borough, scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936. The Council granted consent in each case, and throughout the year inspection showed that the premises were satisfactorily operated.

House Drainage.

Any system of drainage other than to the main sewer can at the most be regarded as an evil necessity, and therefore it is pleasing to note the increasing number of conversions from cesspool drainage to the main sewerage, made possible mainly by the provision of the southern intercepting sewer.

Complaints to the Department concerning defective drainage and sanitary fittings during 1956 numbered 117. The District Inspectors made some 498 visits for the purpose of investigation, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At 4 premises drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 77 premises.

Water Supply.

At the end of 1956, only three dwelling-houses within the Borough were not connected with the public water supply. The well-water supplies to these premises were regularly examined as to fitness for human consumption. In connection with these supplies and swimming bath waters, 65 visits of inspection were made during the year and the following samples were procured:-

Domestic water supplies	...	...	6
Swimming bath waters	...	...	55

S E C T I O N F.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION.

During the year six rodent operators were employed in this section of the Department. These men work under the close supervision of the Pest Control Officer, who is responsible to me and who works in close liaison with the District Public Health Inspectors.

In the main, the rodent operators are engaged in the destruction of rats and mice, but they also deal with other pests, and in addition carry out the work of disinfection and ancillary duties. Each man receives his training within the Department and periodically attends refresher courses arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose methods of treatment are adopted throughout the country.

Quite apart from economic aspects, the control of pest infestation is one of the basic necessities of environmental health. Not only are all pests undesirable, be they insects or rodents, but they are also capable of spreading diseases by contaminating food, fouling premises and adding to the unwholesomeness of conditions.

Furthermore, complete eradication of pests cannot be looked upon with any degree of permanence, because premises will become re-infested and therefore in pest control the key note is continual vigilance.

Rodent Control.

The bulk of work of this section concerns the destruction of rats and mice. It cannot be too strongly stressed that early notification of an infestation is important. Rodents are prolific breeders, and neglect to report the odd rat may lead to a small infestation in very quick time.

In 1956, the Department received 346 notifications of infestation of rats, and 91 in respect of mice, and as a result some 4,028 visits of investigation were made by the District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer.

The rat proofing of numerous dwellings and business premises was supervised during the year.

The details of the work of the Rodent Operators are given in table 12. It will be noted that the number of pre-baits laid is considerably reduced on the previous year's figures. This is accounted for by the increasing use of 'Warfarin,' which can be used effectively without pre-baiting.

Annual Agreement Scheme.

The regular servicing of those business premises participating in the Annual Agreement scheme continued as in previous years. During the year 172 premises were treated under the scheme.

Sewers.

The inspection, and if necessary, the destruction of rats in sewers is carried out twice each year. This is a recommendation of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (see Table 12). Main sewers can be a habitat for the brown (or common) rat and if unchecked, could provide good harbouring facilities and ready means of communication between one premises and another. A careful watch is therefore kept on this potential source of infestation, and I am pleased to report that the Borough's sewers were again found to be only slightly infested.

Workable Area Committee.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and I represented the Council on the South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee which met twice during the year. These meetings provide a common ground for discussion of operational problems and technique, under the very able secretaryship of the Ministry's Divisional Rodent Officer. Quite often a member of the Ministry's technical and research staff is present.

Other Pests.

Treatment was carried out concerning pests other than rodents. These instances came to the Department's knowledge mainly by way of householders' complaints.

Rabbits	...	...	...	...	15
Squirrels	...	...	...	...	6
Moles	...	...	...	...	25
Beetles	...	...	...	...	6
Wasps	...	...	...	...	20
Other Pests	...	...	...	...	30

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Infestation by beg bugs, so common two decades ago, has now by comparison, become a rarity.

The steam disinfectant at Chalvey Pumping Station is available on demand, and is used for both disinfection and

disinfestation of bedding and other articles.

During 1956 the following work was supervised by the Pest Control Officer:-

Premises disinfested	13
Bedding and other articles disinfested by steam	22
Premises disinfested	17
Bedding and other articles disinfested by steam	16

TABLE NO. 12
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 ...	2,429	172	53	200	6	14	17	2,891
2. Premises treated by the Corporation ...	1,624	152	53	200	6	14	7	2,056
3. Pre-baits Laid ...	6,470	3,581	879	28	1,678	898	163	13,697
4. Poison Baits ...	4,637	28,688	695	9	796	796	105	35,726
5. Poison Baits taken ...	4,218	7,018	592	8	581	531	59	13,007
6. No. of visits made ...	3,726	5,316	321	242	192	268	127	10,192

S E C T I O N G.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

The supervision of premises at which petroleum-spirit and mixtures were stored involved some 520 inspections to ensure that the conditions attached to the licences granted by the Corporation were observed. Having regard to the extraordinary fire-risk involved, requirements under the Acts are rigorously enforced. The advice of the Buckinghamshire Fire Service is sought as problems arise and I would express appreciation of the help so readily given.

The Southern Electricity Board continued to examine the associated electrical equipment of service petrol pumps on behalf of the Corporation.

There are 143 premises licensed for the storage of some 481,000 gallons of petroleum-spirit and mixtures, and 2 premises for the storage of 9,672 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

Registration of Female Domestic Servants.

Visits were made to registered domestic servant agencies for the inspection of records of applications from employers and servants, which must be kept. In no instance was it found that persons seeking employment were being provided with accommodation at the registered premises or elsewhere in connection with the business. One agency discontinued during the year, leaving three on the Register.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.

There are four premises used for this purpose within the Borough, three of which are occupied by the same firm. Inspections confirmed that records of articles purchased were properly kept in accordance with Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Observations showed that new heating appliances, whether electrical, gas or oil heaters complied with the provisions of Regulations made under the Act. Instances, however, were found where second-hand furniture dealers exposed for sale second-hand electric and gas fires which were not fitted with approved guards. In each case the dealer was warned and the provisions of the Act and Regulations were explained to him. No further contraventions were found during the year

Licensing of Game Dealers.

Eleven Licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game were granted.

Hackney Carriages.

The number of vehicles fixed by the Borough Council as being necessary to meet the needs of the district remained at 30 as in recent years. Before licensing, all vehicles were examined by consultant engineers appointed by the Corporation and certified as being roadworthy and fit for public service. Licences were also granted to 47 hackney carriage drivers.

It is interesting to note that at the end of the year, all licensed vehicles were post-war cars, whereas two years previously only five per cent of licensed vehicles within the Borough were post-war models.

During the year, all proprietors were reminded of their obligation to exhibit in their vehicles a statement as to the fares laid down in the Byelaws.

Few complaints were received as to the efficiency of the service given, and none related to over-charging. The Byelaws were reasonably well observed.

SECTION 3.
Eleven licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game
were granted.

Hackney Carriages (No. 1) has 2201 (No. 2) has 2202

The number of vehicles licensed by the Borough Council as
being necessary to meet the needs of the district remained
at 30 in the year 1901. Before the year 1901, vehicles
were examined by consultants appointed by the
Council and certified as being fit for use. In 1901
public service vehicles were examined and granted
licences. Drivers were also examined and granted
licences. It is interesting to note that at the end of the year
1901, 11 licensed vehicles were post-war, whereas two years
previously only five per cent of the licensed vehicles within
the Borough were post-war models.

During the year 1901, 11 licensed vehicles were registered at their
respective depots in the Borough. The following table shows the
number of vehicles registered at each depot.

For compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicle
Act, 1901, the service given, and none related to over-charging. The
vehicles were examined by consultants appointed by the Council
and certified as being fit for use. It was found that the
vehicles were in good condition and that the drivers were
competent to drive them. The following table shows the
number of vehicles examined and certified as fit for use.

There are four premises used for this purpose within
the Borough, three of which are occupied by the Council
and one by a private owner. The following table shows the
number of vehicles examined and certified as fit for use.

There are four premises used for this purpose within
the Borough, three of which are occupied by the Council
and one by a private owner. The following table shows the
number of vehicles examined and certified as fit for use.

Public Health Act, 1901.

There are four premises used for this purpose within
the Borough, three of which are occupied by the Council
and one by a private owner. The following table shows the
number of vehicles examined and certified as fit for use.