

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Slough Borough.

Contributors

Slough (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1957

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/uk3n95wv>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



Borough of Slough

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

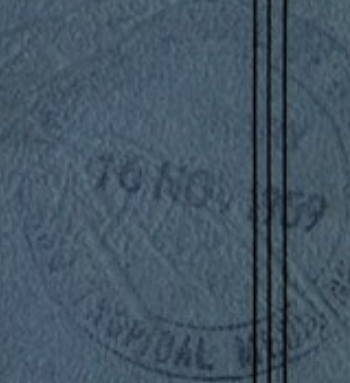
For the Year 1957

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector





Booked by P.C.
19.9.58.

mpy 4/5/58

BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May 1957

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

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

May to December 1957

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

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

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., (2,3.5.6.7)

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

D.A. OWEN, (2.3.)

I.D. PRESTON, (2.3.)

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

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

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

Laboratory Technician/Mortuary Attendant:

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

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 (resigned 31.3.57)

MRS. E.A. GORMAN (appointed 12.4.57)

Asst. Home Help Organiser

MRS. E.M. RIDGWAY (resigned 14.12.57)

MISS J.M. ABRAHART (appointed 16.12.57)

Home Helps - 36

County Almoner

MRS. A.V. PARRY (resigned 31.7.57)

MISS H.E. RAVEN (appointed 1.9.57)

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 Inspector's 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. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
7. 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.*

MADAM MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my ninth Annual Report - for the year 1957.

This was the year in which the population of the Borough rose, for the first time, above 70,000. It was almost as if to emphasise the growth of the town that the birth rate was the highest for some years.

The mortality statistics for 1957 were, on the whole, reasonably satisfactory. Although the infant mortality rate did not, to my disappointment, show a decrease compared with recent years and cancer of the lung caused more deaths than before, tuberculosis killed fewer than ever before and no one died from poliomyelitis. Unfortunately, the death of a mother in child-birth - the first since 1951 - is included.

In the autumn an epidemic of influenza caused by an Asian variety of the Influenza Virus 'A' created many problems in home and industry because of the speed with which it swept through the country. In the great majority of cases the disease was mild though unpleasant. Widespread publicity which had been given to the rapid spread of the disease from the Far East where it began in July, the belief that the severity of the influenza might equal or surpass that of the great pandemic of 1918 caused considerable alarm. Although the community has every right to be forewarned of impending danger, undue publicity and speculation as to the severity and possibly catastrophic proportions of an impending epidemic does more harm than good.

There seems to be an excess of publicity and politics involved in medicine at the present time. The confusion caused to parents and doctors by conflicting statements concerning the most efficacious vaccine for injection against poliomyelitis and the ways in which supplies were to be obtained was most unfortunate. Vague and generalised statements were made nationally but medical officers of health were given no reasoned and detailed information to enable them to answer the many individual problems posed by parents. Large quantities of Salk vaccine were eventually flown from America and the staffs of Health Departments were faced with the need to vaccinate a large number of children in just a few weeks. By the co-operation of all concerned the vaccinations have been completed but at the expense of nearly all other duties.

Noteworthy among the improvement of environmental factors influencing health was the Council's progress with the slum clearance programme. As Slough is a young town the problem of bad houses is small but the Council has nevertheless tackled the problem with vigour.

The effective, although unspectacular, method of improving food hygiene in shops, restaurants and canteens by systematic visiting by Public Health Inspectors has, I think, been shown, over a long period of time, to be the surest and safest way of producing good and lasting results. There is still much to be done but there is no doubt that the self-service system now widely used for groceries and provisions is doing much to improve the standards of food handling. Self-service requires pre-packing and this, of course, prevents subsequent contamination. It does mean, however, that the packing must be carried out under the most perfect conditions, particularly as the public believes that pre-packed goods are free from dirt and disease. A greater responsibility lies with the trader who carries out the packing and with the food inspectorate of the local authority in whose area the packing is done. Refrigeration which is now commonly used in connection with packed, perishable foods is a good way of reducing bacterial multiplication but cooling must never be considered a substitute for perfect cleanliness.

There is often much new legislation affecting the health department to report but 1957 was, from this point of view, a quiet year. In all other ways, however, the volume of work passing through the department increased just as the town and the population of the town and the neighbourhood continued to grow.

All the members of the staff have continued to afford me their loyal support, but I must mention especially those who, in the early months of 1958, have been concerned with vaccination against poliomyelitis. The organisation and performance of an emergency programme of this nature was not only an enormous task performed at great pressure but also one beyond the previous experience of anyone involved.

To Dr. A.E.R. Scott who resigned his post as Deputy Medical Officer of Health in May 1958 in order to take another post in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, I express my appreciation and best wishes. To Dr. R.Y. Forbes, his successor, from Edinburgh, I give my welcome.

I must not conclude without recording the first election of a lady to hold the position of leading citizen of the town. Councillor Mrs. J.M.B. Gibson, who is a member of the Health and Sanitation Committee and who was its Chairman for some years took office as Mayor in May 1957.

The future is, as ever, uncertain, but while the officers of the Health Department continue to receive the support of the Health and Sanitation Committee and the Council in maintaining and improving the health services of the town, for so long will it be possible to record a state of health which can hold its own with the best in the land. As I express my appreciation of the Committee's help I wish to mention particularly the lead which the Chairman, Councillor F.S.G. Room, J.P., now a County Alderman, has given to all.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1958.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1957.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimate for mid 1957	...	71,560
Number of dwelling houses, including flats at 31st March, 1958	...	20,723
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1958	...	£1,374,087
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1958/59	...	£5,625

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Live Births:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	538	515	1053
Illegitimate	24	25	49
Total	<u>562</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>1102</u>

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) - 15.4

Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) - 14.3
(Comparability Figure - 0.93)

National Birth Rate - 16.1

Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate - 0.89:1

Still Births:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	13	7	20
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Total	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>22</u>

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births - 19.6

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population - 0.31

Deaths:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	317	288	605

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population - 8.5

Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) - 11.05
(Comparability figure 1.30)

National Death Rate per 1,000 population - 11.5

Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate 0.96:1

Maternal Deaths:

Number of women dying in, or as a consequence
of pregnancy 1

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

Deaths:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	18	8	26
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	18	8	26

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births - 23.6
National Rate per 1,000 live births - 23.0
Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate - 1.03:1

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

Deaths:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	15	6	21
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	15	6	21

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks of
age per 1,000 live births 19.06

Death rates per 1,000 population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 0.07
All forms of Tuberculosis ... 0.07
Cancer ... 1.52

Other Deaths:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer	61	48	109
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meales	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	4	1	5
- Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General credited the Borough with 1,102 live births in 1957. 562 were males and 540 were females.

The crude birth rate at 15.4 per 1,000 of the population was 0.72 per thousand greater than in 1956 (14.68). After multiplying this figure by 0.93 to obtain the corrected birth rate we see that the ratio of the Slough birth rate to the National rate rose from 0.86:1 in 1956 to 0.96:1 in 1957.

With a population younger than the national average, as shown by the need to multiply the crude rate by a figure less than one, a higher birth rate in the town would be expected. The fact that the local rate approached the national figure more nearly in 1957 than for many years is in itself interesting as the rate for England and Wales as a whole continued the increase which had first been shown in 1956.

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
1957	14.3	16.1	0.96 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY.

The total number of illegitimate births (both live and still) was about the same as in the previous year: 51 in 1957 compared with 50 in 1956. Although this was an increase of one over the previous year, owing to the increased number of births only 4.45% of all births were illegitimate compared with 4.79% in 1956.

This percentage continues the downward trend of the recent past although the true significance is difficult to assess in one or two individual years as the calculations are made on small numbers.

STILL-BIRTHS.

22 still-births were registered during the year; of these 20 were legitimate and two were illegitimate.. This number, which gives a rate of 19.6 per 1,000 total births, or 0.31 per 1,000 of the population is considerably lower than that experienced here during the past few years (see table below). On this occasion the Slough rate showed a considerable improvement on the National rate which had, according to provisional figures, dropped from 22.9 in 1956 to 22.4 in 1957.

However, as I mentioned in connection with illegitimate births, as the calculations are made on relatively small numbers, there are bound to be fluctuations from year to year. While we may be quietly optimistic over a fall in rates we must not over-emphasise the importance of a decrease in even one or two years. A reference to the table below will show this clearly.

STILL-BIRTH RATES - SLOUGH

1949	-	18.4
1950	-	22.9
1951	-	20.1
1952	-	17.6
1953	-	16.55
1954	-	25.0
1955	-	25.7
1956	-	25.9
1957	-	19.6

As the major causes of large numbers of infant deaths and still-births have been eliminated over the past few decades so there has been left a small proportion of cases the cause of whose failure to survive is more difficult to determine and still more difficult to prevent. The dividing line between those children who die in early infancy and those who fail to be born alive is extremely small and a considerable amount of research is being carried out nationally into the causes and prevention of peri-natal deaths in the hope that they may be brought to an apparently irreducible minimum.

DEATHS

After correction for inward and outward transfers the number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 605, an increase of 19 over the previous year. Owing to an increase in population, however, this number represents a very slight decrease in the crude death rate compared with the previous year (11.05 per 1,000 population in 1957 and 11.1 in 1956).

Once again, as usual, the number of male deaths exceeded the number of female deaths, this time by 29 (317 males and 288 females).

After multiplying by the comparability figure which was 1.30 in 1957, the corrected death rate of 11.05 is found. This is still nearer the National Rate than was even 1956 - Ratio of Slough Death Rate in 1957 to National Rate for England and Wales during the same period was 0.96:1.

The table below gives the crude and corrected death rates in Slough since 1949.

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
1957	8.5	11.05

The six main causes of death during 1957, in numerical order, were:-

Heart disease	212
Cancer	109
Vascular lesions of nervous system	65
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	56
Other circulatory disease	23
Accidents, all types	17

There is no change in the order of this table from that given in 1956, but there was a sharp increase in the number of cases of death from heart disease. The other causes produced a number of deaths comparable with previous years but there was a welcome decrease in the number of accidental deaths from 22 to 17. Of these only four were due to motor vehicle accidents compared with seven in 1956 and nine in 1955. This at first sight appears encouraging in a town which has taken such a great part in road safety experiments but it must not be forgotten that traffic was diminished in the early months of the year due to petrol rationing, following the Suez Crisis which occurred late in 1956.

The number of cases of lung cancer continued to rise, no less than 28 men dying from that disease during 1957 - an increase of three on the previous year which had, until now, shared the dubious honour with 1951 of producing most male lung cancer deaths. Separate figures for deaths from lung cancer have been available since 1950 and they are set out in the table below.

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1
1957	28	5

CAUSES OF DEATH					1956		1957	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	7	1	4	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	1
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection ...	...	...	...	-	-	1	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				2	3	2	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	12	6	8	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	25	1	28	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	-	8	-	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...		3		1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				32	29	25	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	5	-	1	3
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	-	6	2	7
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system				24	40	30	35
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	39	33	67	33
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	3	6	8	1
20.	Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	44	53	34	69
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	14	11	12	11
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	-	1	2	1
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	13	12	11	14
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	23	7	24	7
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system				1	-	3	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	12	2	4	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	-	3	2	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	4	3	4	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	3		9	
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...		-		1
31.	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	3	3	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				36	22	23	31
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	5	2	3	1
34.	All other accidents ...	...	...	...	8	7	3	10
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	3	2	4	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
All causes					322	264	317	288

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1957.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1957 by Local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually occurred during 1957 even although, in some cases, notification of their occurrence may not have been received until well on into 1958.

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, until some time after their occurrence. There is, therefore, likely to be some slight difference between the figures given in the previous tables and those given in the table below. In 1957 this difference consists of only one.

Ages at Death, in Years:					Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	...	17	9	26
1 -	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
10 -	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
25 -	...	...	...	...	10	17	27
45 -	...	...	...	...	98	60	158
65 -	...	...	...	...	41	25	66
					173	114	287
70 -	...	...	...	...	48	37	85
75 -	...	...	...	...	39	39	78
80 -	...	...	...	...	33	52	85
85 -	...	...	...	...	18	33	51
90 -	...	...	...	...	8	10	26
95 and over	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
					146	173	319
TOTALS.					319	287	606

From this table it will be seen that 319 (52.64%) of all deaths were in persons over the age of 70 years and 385 (63.53%) occurred in persons over the normal retiring age of 65 years. These percentages were almost exactly the same as in 1956.

The seven diseases, or groups of diseases, causing the greatest disturbance of family life by killing men during the years when they could normally have been 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	30	297	9.9	55
2. Heart disease	32	279	8.7	56
3. Accidents, all types	5	118	23.6	41
4. Suicide	5	105	21	44
5. Pneumonia and Bronchitis	7	97	14	51
6. Other circulatory disease	7	78	11	54
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	68	9.7	55

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.

The table in fact excludes the deaths in old age and it is interesting to see how the deaths from cancer rise to the top for the second year running. If the cancer figures are further analysed, then cancer of the lung is shown to be the most common cancer in men under 65 years, the average age of the 18 men dying from this being 55 years.

Accidents only accounted for 5 deaths in men of working age but the average age at death rose by 10 years so that accidents fell from 2nd to 3rd place compared with 1956.

The absence of tuberculosis is probably of as great an interest as the inclusion of some other diseases. The fact that this disease occurs neither in this table nor in the one relating to the commonest causes of death reflects the continuously diminishing part it is playing as a killer.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is with very great regret that I have to record one death as the result of pregnancy. This followed the extension to the blood stream of a virulent infection of the womb.

Particularly tragic though this case was its very occurrence almost emphasises the safety of the mother during childbirth at the present time.

This was the first death attributed directly to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion since 1951. From the beginning of 1952 to the end of 1957 no less than 6167 births took place.

INFANT MORTALITY.

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 26 deaths (18 males and 8 females) of infants under one year of age. This is five greater than in 1956 but as the number of births was higher the rate was only increased by 2.9 per 1000 live births. In 1956 there were 20.7 deaths for every thousand live births and in 1957 there were 23.6.

1946	...	31.1	1952	...	24.93
1947	...	39.9	1953	...	23.13
1948	...	31.09	1954	...	20.51
1949	...	25.51	1955	...	24.34
1950	...	28.4	1956	...	20.67
1951	...	23.4	1957	...	23.6

A full investigation was made into the cause of each infant death

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Out of the twenty six infant deaths recorded in the table (page No. 17) no less than 22 (84.6%) occurred during the first month of life and 15 of these (57.7% of the total) died during the first week. These twenty two deaths are equivalent to a neo-natal mortality rate of 19.06.

As I mentioned last year, the fact that deaths occur so soon after birth means that there is often a very fine balance between births and still-births. Much research is now going on into the causes of still-birth and death in the first short while after live birth in the hope that both may be reduced. There may, of course, be an element of chance in deciding whether a small or deformed child is born alive or dead and so it is probably wiser to look at still-births and neo-natal deaths as a whole.

If for 1957 we take the deaths in the first week of life - 15 - and add them to the still-births - 22 - we obtain a total of 37 out of 1,124 total live and still-births, a rate of 32.9 per 1,000 total births. In 1955 the rate was 47.43 and in 1956 it was 44.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1957	23.6	1951	22.4
1956	30.67	1950	28.4
1955	24.54	1949	23.31
1954	23.12	1948	21.09
1953	23.12	1947	28.9
1952	24.31	1946	21.1

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	2	1	1	-	4	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	5
Atelectasis	2	2	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Broncho-pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	4
Congenital abnormalities	-	2	-	-	2	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	5
Haemorrhagic disease of the newborn	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hyaline Membrane disease	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Umbilical Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	6	7	2	-	15	4	3	22	1	2	1	-	26

INQUESTS

Twenty four inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1957, the same number as in 1955 and 1956. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths are set out in the following table:-

Causes of Death:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Natural Causes	2	1	3
Accidents:			
Falls	1	2	3
Road Accidents	3	1	4
Railway Accident ...	1	-	1
Asphyxia - foreign body in throat	1	-	1
Following anaesthetic for appendicectomy ...	-	1	1
Acute alcoholic poisoning	-	1	1
Carbon-monoxide poisoning	1	-	1
Suicide:			
Carbon-monoxide poisoning	-	3	3
Cyanide poisoning	1	-	1
Barbiturate poisoning ...	2	-	2
Hanging... ..	1	-	1
Open Verdict:			
Asphyxia	1	-	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning	-	1	1
Total	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>24</u>

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the end of June 1957 was 71,560, a net gain of 2,370 on the estimated population a year earlier.

The natural increase (births less deaths) was 497 and from this it follows that there was a net immigration into the town during the year of 1,873. Thus for the third year in succession a net immigration occurred. The influx was, however, very much greater during 1957, the figure for 1956 being 820 while that for 1955 was 450.

From the table at the end of this section will be seen the growth of the town in the post-war period. The immediate post-war years showed a very rapid increase but this ceased for the next five or six years during which time the shortage of sewage treatment facilities prevented large-scale house building.

During the last few years, however, building has proceeded at a great pace both inside the town and also just outside it. The L.C.C. Langley estate was largely completed apart from an additional piece of land opposite the shops which became available later. The Borough Council built houses at Wexham, Langley and Cippenham Lane, while the main centre of private enterprise building occurred in the Marlborough Road and Langley Road areas.

Apart from small areas of in-filling it does seem as if all the building land in the town has been used, unless Langley Airfield is made available for the purpose.

The other L.C.C. Estate - Britwell - at the north-western tip of the town continues building apace. The majority of this is outside the Borough but the influx of population is felt in the town as many of the people look to Slough for their main shopping and recreational facilities.

1945 ... 60,220	1951 ... 66,439 (Census)
1946 ... 63,040	1952 ... 66,730
1947 ... 64,240	1953 ... 66,950
1948 ... 66,060	1954 ... 67,090
1949 ... 66,610	1955 ... 67,940
1950 ... 66,340	1956 ... 69,190
1957 ... 71,560	

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cleansing and Disinfestation.

The steam disinfestor at 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 the year with part of the refuse being dealt with at the Chalvey destructor and the remainder being tipped on low-lying land near the Datchet Road.

The Health Committee gave attention during the year to methods by which the practice of dustless loading could be extended and, in fact, purchased another vehicle of the type which automatically empties the contents of the bins into the interior of the vehicle.

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 carrying out their obligations owing to labour shortages was not diminished in any way.

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. 417 additional houses were connected up to the supply during the year.

Bacteriological analyses were continued in the Town Hall laboratory and quarterly samples were sent to an Independent Analyst. All 24 samples so analysed were free from contamination and confirmed the purity and wholesomeness of the supply.

My remarks in 1956 about the continual expansion in the demand for the supply of pure water possibly leading to local and national shortages are further emphasised by the increase in demand in this town from 49 gallons of water per head of the population per day in 1956 to nearly 52 gallons in 1957.

The following is a copy of a chemical analysis of water taken from No. 5 Delivery Pipe on the 20th August, 1957.

(Chemical values are given in parts per million).

Appearance	Bright
Turbidity	Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	30
Electric Conductivity	590
Total Solids	395
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	225
Hardness: Total	285
Temporary	225
Permanent	60
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.8
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Free Ammonia	0.005
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.026
Oxygen Absorbed	0.20
Metals	Absent

The report of the Analyst on this water was as follows:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance and neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

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

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.

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.

18 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.

Riding Establishments Act, 1939.

During 1957, the Corporation extended Mr. Garland's appointment to include duties under the Riding Establishments Act, 1939. No adverse reports were received.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action was necessary under this section during 1957.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The number of staff examinations, although slightly less than in the previous year, remained at a high level. Although these examinations are almost looked upon by many people as an incidental to the work of the Public Health Department, each examination takes half an hour not counting any letters which have to be written or X-rays arranged and it will, therefore, be realised that in aggregate the time taken by these examinations is quite considerable.

	1954	1955	1956	1957
Slough Borough Council	24	40	36	29
Bucks. County Council	53	67	89	60
Teachers' Training Colleges and Teaching for first time	36	30	48	37
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	28	24	10	44
Total	141	161	183	170

The table above only indicates the routine staff medical examinations performed before an applicant is appointed to a post or for superannuation purposes. It does not include a small but important group of examinations which are carried out when sickness or infirmity is jeopardising a man's career with the Council. Should an employee become unfit to carry out the job for which he is appointed, the possibility of alternative employment is always considered before coming to the conclusion that his services with the Council are no longer required.

SLOUGH GENERAL PRACTICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH LIAISON COMMITTEE

In 1954 I invited all the general practitioners in the town to meet me to discuss matters of public health of interest to us all.

From this meeting, which was successful, was born this Committee whose title is long but descriptive of its purpose.

Since that time some 4 years ago, meetings have been held regularly each quarter and have usually been attended by between one third and one half of the general practitioners in the town in addition, of course, to medical staff of the Public Health Department. In its early days the time at the meetings was taken up chiefly by discussion of problems common to us all but as these were gradually solved it became the practice to ask a speaker to give us his or her experiences in some particular field of preventive medicine.

The relationship between family doctors and doctors of the Public Health Service in this town have always been of the best and I think that perhaps these quarterly meetings may have contributed towards this friendly atmosphere.

LABORATORY.

During the year, 1,178 examinations were undertaken in the Laboratory, the same number as in the previous year.

A detailed analysis of the examination is shown below:-

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ...	-	15
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	-	38
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	-	3
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	2	67
Urine for routine examination ...	148	
Blood Counts ...	45	

	Satisfactory	Un satisfactory
Milk Samples:-		
(a) Phosphatase test ...	156	-
(b) Methylene Blue test ...	179	3
(c) Turbidity test ...	13	-
(d) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water ...	292	-
Water Samples:-		
(a) Drinking water ...	35	1
(b) Swimming Bath water ...	66	-
Ice Cream:-		
(a) Chemical tests ...	58	
(b) Bacteriological tests ...		
Grade I ...	57)	
Grade II ...	2)	Satisfactory
Grade III ...	-)	
Grade IV ...	-)	Unsatisfactory

The number of ice-cream samples taken in 1957 was smaller than in previous years. The number of manufacturers in the town

is very small and, as the practice of pre-packing ice-cream has rapidly grown the sampling can be directed more largely towards the places where contamination is likely to occur.

59 samples were taken in 1957 compared with 99 in 1956. Of these 57 (96.6%) were in Grade I and 2 (3.4%) were in Grade II. Both these Grades are considered to be satisfactory.

	Number of samples					Percentage of Samples				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Grade I	148	121	76	75	57	94.9	96.8	85.4	75	96.6
Grade II	1	Nil	1	12	2	0.6	Nil	1.1	12	3.4
Grade III	4	1	10	6	Nil	2.6	0.8	11.2	6	Nil
Grade IV	3	3	2	6	Nil	1.9	2.4	2.2	6	Nil

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

The number of sudden deaths requiring post-mortem examinations in 1957 was the highest so far recorded. It is not surprising that such an increase is recorded because the population of the area served by the Mortuary has been increasing very rapidly. Indeed, I think surprise may be expressed that an increase in post-mortem examinations did not occur in the few years previous to 1957.

1954 - 89

1956 - 76

1955 - 87

1957 - 100

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

Mrs. Molland, who had been Home Help Organiser for many years and who was, in fact, responsible for the service from its beginning, resigned at the end of March on reaching retiring age and left for New Zealand. Mrs. Gorman was appointed as her successor in April.

No. of Home Helps as at:-	31.12.56	31.12.57
(a) Full-time	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	42	36
No. of cases who received help during	1956	1957
(a) Acute Sick	70	77
(b) Chronic sick	347	337
(c) Tuberculosis	6	7
(d) Maternity	65	69
(e) Good Neighbour Scheme (over 70 years)	Nil	1
	<u>488</u>	<u>491</u>

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SHOWING CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957 AND DEATHS. ALSO NOTIFICATIONS FOR YEARS 1946-56.

	CASES NOTIFIED 1957	DEATHS 1957	POPULATION IN THOUSANDS.											
			69	67	67	67	66	66	66	66	66	64	63	
			TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED DURING											
			1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	
Smallpox ...	-	-	27	11	70	215	117	33	54	33	66	44	77	
Scarlet Fever ...	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	16	
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	25	-	23	21	25	24	26	6	5	9	8	12	17	
Pneumonia ...	29	25	19	41	53	64	33	44	32	14	20	27	22	
Erysipelas ...	9	-	18	14	15	17	14	12	14	15	14	20	24	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	
Measles ...	1001	-	52	1185	29	526	778	1681	76	416	748	168	859	
Whooping Cough ...	69	-	64	56	78	143	101	226	98	118	328	171	280	
Meningococcal Infection...	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	7	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	3	-	5	5	1	5	11	7	7	3	9	5	1	
- Non - Paralytic	1	-	5	6	1	2	9	7	8	-	-	-	-	
Encephalitis - Infective	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Post - Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery ...	6	1	-	19	3	6	3	2	3	-	-	-	2	
Food Poisoning ...	1	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	

SHOWING MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Non - Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles ...	1	3	18	144	393	359	67	9	2	1	1	3
Pneumonia ...	3	1	1	4	2	5	1	1	1	7	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	1	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	4	5	2	5	4	-	3	3	2	4
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	5	2	1	2	6	2	4	2	5	-	4	3
Non - Pulmonary ...	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough ...	10	5	16	11	6	4	5	1	4	-	2	5
* * *												

SHOWING INCIDENCE IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURN- HAM NORTH	BURN- HAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARN- HAM NORTH	FARN- HAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKE NORTH	STOKE SOUTH	UPTON
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Non - Paralytic	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	1	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-
Measles ...	30	41	115	48	71	54	50	448	39	51	54
Pneumonia ...	2	2	3	-	5	1	2	8	3	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia...	-	4	2	1	1	1	-	4	-	1	10
Scarlet Fever ...	-	2	6	4	4	2	3	11	2	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	2	1	4	3	2	5	5	8	2	2	2
Non - Pulmonary ...	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough ...	5	1	1	-	7	4	-	44	1	5	1
* * * * *											

DIPHTHERIA.

It has become almost a commonplace to record the absence of diphtheria - the last case in the town was in 1948 - only three years after the end of the war.

The clinical appearance of the disease has now virtually been eliminated in this country and its rapid disappearance has been one of the triumphs of modern preventive medicine. As with battles in other spheres of disease prevention the fight against the diphtheria bacillus must be a continuing one, as the enemy, although defeated, is not eliminated. Any relaxation in precautions would merely allow the bacillus to gain the upper hand and to make necessary once again the recording of serious illness and tragic death.

The task of immunisation, although much more readily acceptable as time goes on, in some ways becomes more difficult as new prophylactic immunisations are discovered. Only a few years ago immunisation against diphtheria was the only immunisation practised as a routine; today our work includes preventive inoculations against whooping cough, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis and tetanus as well. In view of the increasing use of inoculations against other diseases it is encouraging to note that the number of children immunised against diphtheria is being maintained.

706 children were given initial protection against diphtheria in 1957 compared with 660 in 1956. Of these 637 received the combined vaccine which gives protection also against Whooping Cough. 1,187 children also received renewal or 'booster' doses - an increase of 173 on the figure for 1956.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Sixty-nine cases of Whooping Cough were notified during 1957, an increase of five over 1956. For the third year in succession the incidence has been low and there were no deaths from that disease.

Cases occurred in every month except October but although there was no month showing a real outbreak, the incidence was highest from January to April, - this follows the high incidence in the later months of 1956. The great majority of the cases occurred in Langley.

Whooping Cough is now generally a much milder disease than it was twenty or thirty years ago and immunisation has no doubt played its part in reducing its incidence and the severity. I must stress once again, however, that inoculation may only decrease the severity in a particular child and not actually prevent the disease. Thus a mildly ill child is as highly infectious to an un-immunised child as is a severely ill one, and in fact, a child who has not been protected may become critically

ill from the same germ which only caused a mild infection in a protected child. A parent who suspects whooping cough should always call a doctor and take the precaution of isolating the ill child just as he or she would have done when the disease was generally more severe.

Parents should remember that the disease most frequently kills children under one year of age and that whooping cough immunisation should be carried out as early as possible.

During 1957, 637 children were given protection against Whooping Cough. This is an increase of 24 over 1956 and 139 more than in 1955.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 36 cases in 1957 and although this number is somewhat higher than in the past two years, it is still well below the average.

The disease continued generally to be mild and as often happens nowadays the child is often well on the way to recovery before the diagnosis can be made.

As in the case of whooping cough the largest number of cases were notified in the Langley ward.

ERYSIPELAS.

Only nine cases of this disease came to my attention during the year. This is the lowest recorded and is somewhat surprising as the rise and fall in the incidence of the disease usually roughly follows that of Scarlet Fever, a not unexpected occurrence as both are caused by the same organism. However, the number of notifications is only small and the variation is not really statistically significant.

PNEUMONIA.

29 cases of Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during 1957, some ten more than in 1956. Cases occurred in every month of the year but the highest number was recorded in October.

The number of deaths from Pneumonia in 1957 was twenty-five, the same number as in 1956.

The low figure for notifications and deaths during 1957 is surprising as an outbreak of Asian influenza became very widespread during the autumn and extended into the winter. The rapidity of spread of the disease throughout the world and in this country once it had reached here was extremely rapid and

the incidence of infection was very high. Fortunately, however, the disease caused by the A. type influenza virus was on the whole fairly mild and although the work of many factories and offices was dislocated for a short while the tragedy of many deaths in young people such as occurred in the influenza pandemic of 1918 did not occur.

Preventive inoculation was offered to health staff holding key positions. The general effect of this has not yet been published but it was very obvious that the vaccine was in many cases only available after the disease had been contracted. The period between the recognition of the disease in the Far East and its arrival in epidemic form in this country was only about 3 months, a very short time in which to prepare new vaccine for a previously unknown strain of virus.

MEASLES.

The year 1956 was a low measles year and it was only to be expected that 1957 would see the disease at its peak once again. The first month or two of the year gave no indication that a sharp outbreak which began towards the end of March would have spent itself following over 1000 notifications by the time the summer holidays arrived.

In view of later developments which will be reported in the Annual Report for 1958, it is interesting to note that nearly half the notifications came from Langley whereas the incidence of the disease in the Western part of the town was extremely low. On the whole the disease was fairly mild and no deaths occurred.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

25 cases, two more than in 1956, were notified during 1957 and this means that there was practically no variation in the number which is usually reported since the new regulation came into force in 1952.

One event, however, did cause some concern. A number of patients in the Maternity Department at Upton Hospital became infected with the Haemolytic Streptococcus Group A - the germ which in pre-sulphonamide and pre-penicillin days was the main cause of 'child-bed fever'. Investigations showed that quite a number of mothers, infants and staff were infected with the organism although not actually ill. It was considered necessary to close the ward which was only opened again after fumigation and washing down. As is so often the case, no one particular reason could be found for the outbreak but it is perhaps worth noting that staff shortages in the department had been quite severe and this is the sort of condition which may well lead to unfortunate results.

**ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.
(Infantile Paralysis)**

Once again this town was extremely fortunate in having a very low incidence of popiomyelitis. All told there were three paralytic cases and one non-paralytic, one of the former occurring in February and two in August.

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

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis which I reported last year was continued in 1957 but supplies of the vaccine coming from British manufacturers were not great and altogether only 2929 children received two injections and 322 2 children received one injection.

In May, the parents of children born in 1955 and 1956 were given the opportunity to register them for vaccination and the parents of children born between 1947 and 1954 were also given a further chance to register. Administrative arrangements for the inoculations are being carried out on an area basis and the figures given above refer to 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 Borough only.

No reports of any ill-effects from the inoculations were reported.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of primary vaccinations against smallpox rose considerably compared with 1956 and the number of re-vaccinations was almost doubled.

632 persons were vaccinated for the first time and 151 were re-vaccinated.

SALMONELLA INFECTION.

At the beginning of September a man aged 56 who had been admitted to Upton Hospital died within 24 hours. The post-mortem examination showed typical lesions of typhoid fever. This information naturally caused considerable activity at the hospital where special arrangements for disinfecting laundry and the ward had to be carried out and a special watch kept on staff and patients. A thorough search was made in the town to see whether a source of infection could be discovered and similar investigations were carried out in the Eton Rural District where the man had worked until a short time before his illness. None of these investigations gave any helpful information. It was not until 3 weeks later that the bacteriological report from the Public Health Laboratory showed that the patient's death had been due to *Salmonella Anatum* and not to typhoid.

The patient's wife was found to be carrying the germ but no other positive discoveries were made. It is very interesting to note, however, the similarity in the intestine to lesions caused by typhoid fever produced by this particular variety of salmonella.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) New Cases.

For a number of years, in fact up until 1955, Slough appeared to be the black spot with many new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis each year in a county where the incidence of the disease was falling quite steadily and quite rapidly.

The peak was in fact reached in 1955 when no less than 93 new cases were recorded. Then, suddenly in 1956 the number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs fell to 57. This appeared to be encouraging but, as almost exactly the same number of cases had occurred in 1953, there was the possibility that this reduction was no more than a fortunate incident occurring contrary to the normal trend of events. In 1957, however, the decrease in new cases was almost as dramatic - only 36 new cases were notified during the year, of these 20 were male and 16 female. It is obviously too much to hope that this very rapid decrease will continue in subsequent years but there appears to be a real reason for hoping that the peak incidence of the disease in this area has passed and that we may look forward to an improvement in the future.

It must be emphasised once again, however, that not only will patients fail to be cured if they look upon the disease lightly and forget to adhere rigidly to their treatment, particularly when this is being given at home, but they are also much more likely to become infectious or to remain infectious to others and thus create a crop of new cases in a

community where the possibility of eliminating the disease appears within practical bounds.

The number of cases of the non-pulmonary form of the disease was also considerably lower than in the previous years. Only 6 cases being notified during the year. 3 were males and 3 females.

Age in Years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	1	-
5-	-	-	-	-
15-	4	4	1	-
25-	2	4	-	-
35-	6	-	1	-
45-	6	6	-	2
65-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	2	-	1
Unknown	1	-	-	-
Total	20	16	3	3

(b) Notification Register.

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1957, shows a remarkable difference from previous years.

Partly because of the high number of new cases but mainly during the last four years because of the large number of people being re-housed from London on the L.C.C. Estate at Langley with tuberculosis, the number of cases on the notification register has increased quite rapidly.

Males	Pulmonary		Males	Non-Pulmonary	
	Females	Total		Females	Total
513	298	811	55	60	115

To offer a word of explanation the register is made up of new cases and "inward transfers" less "outward transfers", "cures" and "deaths".

The number of cases remaining at the end of 1957 so far as the pulmonary form of the disease was concerned was 68 less than in the previous year. This decrease was caused partly by an increase in the number of outward transfers but also to a considerable extent by the number of cases considered by the Chest Physician to have been cured. So far as the non-pulmonary forms of the disease are concerned there was little change.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

YEAR	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	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.
POPULATION ...	66,060		66,610		66,340		66,439		66,730		66,950		67,090		67,940		69,190		71,560	
CASES NOTIFIED	76	10	71	11	79	16	88	13	71	9	55	4	69	9	93	11	57	12	36	6
NOTIFICATION PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	1.15	0.25	1.07	0.17	1.19	0.24	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13	0.82	0.06	1.03	0.13	1.36	0.16	0.82	0.17	0.50	0.08

(c) B.C.G. Vaccination.

The practice of offering B.C.G. vaccination to all school children of approximately 14 years of age after sensitivity tests have been carried out was continued during 1957. The tests and inoculations were carried out by school doctors of the Bucks County Council as part of the School Health Service. The children were first given a Heaf test to find out whether they were positive reactors, that is to say had had previous experience of the disease. Should no reaction have occurred by the time their arms were examined a week after the test, a dose of 0.1 c.c. of B.C.G. vaccine was injected into the skin of the upper arm.

The number of acceptances for this procedure was considerably higher than in the previous year. In 1956 832 tests were performed and in 1957 the number rose to 1013. Of this number only 116 (11.46%) compared with 138 (16.6%) in 1956 were positive reactors and a total of 897 children were given B.C.G. vaccine.

(d) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Six cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1957 and the table below gives further details of those cases.

	Males	Females
Cervical glands	-	2
Kidney	1	-
Salpinx	-	1
Shoulder	1	-
Spine	1	-
Total	3	3

(e) Deaths from Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was a new low record. All five deaths during the year were attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis. Of these four were males and one female.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Year	Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary Death rate per 1,000 population
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1940	60,670	11	15	2	3	0.43
1941	63,350	14	18	4	6	0.49
1942	64,420	11	13	3	2	0.37
1943	62,960	19	13	1	-	0.51
1944	61,250	18	14	4	1	0.52
1945	60,220	14	12	5	1	0.43
1946	63,040	16	17	2	1	0.62
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
1957	71,560	4	1	-	-	0.07

(f) Chest Clinic.

At long last the new Chest Clinic at Upton Hospital was ready for use and it was opened in September. The first requests for this clinic were made in the middle of 1952. On many occasions our hopes that the building would materialise were raised only to be dashed once again as news of deferment came through. The new clinic is, however, now a reality and the benefits not only to the patients but to the staff running the Chest Clinic have been considerable. In addition, all the staff of local authorities dealing with children who have an annual X-ray of the chest have only had to make a short walk to Upton Hospital instead of a difficult bus journey and walk to the old clinic in Windsor. Naturally too, the liaison between chest clinic and public health personnel has been much closer since the new building was opened.

IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following infant welfare clinics and sessions for toddlers were held in and around the town. No changes in centres or sessions were made during 1957.

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

The Child Welfare Clinic held at Trelawney Avenue on the Langley L.C.C. Estate is held in a house rented by the County Council for this purpose. Waiting facilities are, of course, limited in this type of accommodation and additional sessions became necessary during the year. Instead of holding further sessions on different afternoons of the week, the experiment of holding a session in the morning was tried. This proved very acceptable to the mothers of Langley and the Welfare Centre is now open from 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 2-4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

MOTHERCRAFT AND ANTE-NATAL RELAXATION CLASSES.

Mothercraft classes and ante-natal relaxation exercises have become increasingly popular during the past few years. During 1957 the experiment of showing films to young couples expecting their first babies was tried. Two films were shown. The first, entitled "My First Baby" described the story of a mother from the first time she realised she was pregnant until the end of labour. The second film dealt with the first three months of a baby's life.

The films were shown alternately at Upton Hospital and Burlington Road Health Centre at six-weekly intervals. Admission was by invitation only and nearly all those invited did in fact attend irrespective of the weather conditions which on occasions were extremely adverse.

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 nurseries and although there are other nurseries situated throughout the county, the only nursery in Slough is at 'Brookside,' Salt Hill.

Applications for admission to a children's nursery 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.

CHILDREN'S HOME.

A new children's home, built at the junction of Oatlands Drive and Mildenhall Road, was opened during 1957.

At the moment, 15 boys and 3 girls from 5 to 14 years are resident and under the care of a Housefather and Housemother.

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.

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 Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough. All arrangements are made by the Chest Physician, who is available at the Hospital (Tel. No. Slough 23261).

(ii) *Sanatorium*. All admissions are arranged by the Chest Physician, Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.

Maternity Accommodation.

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

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

Part III Accommodation.

Aged Persons	Sick	Upton Hospital
	Non Sick	Upton Towers, Upton Hospital, Wexham Court Hostel

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 1957

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

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

TABLE NO. 1.

Summary:

Total inspections	18,887
Complaints received and investigated ...	1,002
Preliminary Notices served	432
Secondary Notices Served	187
Statutory Notices Served	49
Letters received	5,754
Letters despatched... ..	1,792
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	1,505

TABLE NO. 2.

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

Housing	5,640
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	897
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	2,765
Dairies	116
Factories and Workplaces	551
Shops	1,415
General Sanitation	6,525
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	4,296
Miscellaneous Matters	1,094

TABLE NO. 3.

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)	179
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	143
Factories and Workplaces	33
Shops	77
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.,) ...	121

S E C T I O N B.**HOUSING.**

A former Minister of Health said "A decent home is a primary social need. Good housing conditions are of fundamental importance to the nation's health". This statement will ring true for always.

There has been a notable change in the social life of the people during the present century. Before 1914 we were predominantly a nation of tenants, but steadily there has been a change towards a property owning democracy. Of the four million dwelling-houses built in the inter-war period, two million were built for owner occupation.

Despite this change however, housing has sadly lagged behind in the general advance in public health.

Slum Clearance.

Although still used in statute and government literature the term "slum" is quite outmoded.

A "slum" surely envisages a hovel, or at any rate a dwelling, the condition of which is not only due to structural defects and bad arrangements, but also bad husbandry by its occupants. Of the 170 dwellings so far dealt with in the Five Year Programme, less than 6 could be described as slums.

It will be recalled that the Council's Five Year Programme approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government comprised some 368 unfit houses for clearance, and the re-housing by the Borough Council of the displaced occupiers. By the end of 1956, some 111 of these properties had been dealt with by either "clearance area" or "individual unfit" procedure.

During 1957, action under the programme was continued as follows: -

(a) *Clearance Areas.*

Seventy-nine houses occupied by 190 persons were declared as Clearance Areas. Thirteen areas were dealt with by way of Clearance Orders, and three areas by the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure. All orders were confirmed by the Ministry during 1957.

The distribution of properties represented was as follows:-

Chalvey	32
Cippenham	34
Langley	7
Bath Road (Swan Cottages) ...	6

(b) *Individual Unfit Houses.*

Twenty-eight dwelling-houses occupied by 84 persons were dealt with during 1957 as follows:-

Demolition Orders 10
(Housing Act, 1936, Section 11)

Closing Orders 13
(Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Section 10)

Closing Orders 2
(Housing Act, 1936, Section 12)

Others.

Acquired free of cost from the
Official Receiver in Bankruptcy
for Highway purposes 3
(92, 94, 96, High Street, Chalvey)

Improvement Grants.

The administration of the technical aspect of Improvement Grants in pursuance of the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is dealt with by the Building Works Committee of the Borough Council. During 1957, some forty enquiries were made by the owners of dwelling-houses, regarding the scheme for obtaining such grants for the improvement of their properties. For various reasons the majority of these enquiries did not lead to applications for grant. Some were in respect of houses which would not have had a minimum life of 20 years; some owners could not find the 50% of the cost of the proposed improvements, and in others, the work envisaged would not have ranked for grant because it was

not strictly 'improvement', much of it being in respect of repairs and maintenance.

Seven applications for grants were received, and all were in respect of owner/occupied houses. Six applications were subsequently approved by the Borough Council and one was deferred pending certain legal formalities being completed by the applicant.

The total amount of grant was £624, and a total of 204 visits was made to the dwelling-houses for the purposes of preliminary examination and advice upon improvement proposals, the supervision of works in progress and final inspections of completed works before the grant was paid.

Following the payment of grant, premises are subject to an annual inspection for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions under which it was approved were continuing to be complied with.

The nature of improvements carried out under this scheme follows the usual pattern consisting of the provision of a bathroom, indoor sanitation and a domestic hot water system.

Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling-Houses.

No house is immortal - like motor cars and humans they all wear out. During the year, some 218 complaints from tenants regarding the disrepair of their dwellings were made to the Department. The District Public Health Inspectors paid 2,461 visits to some 1,006 houses for the purpose of initial inspections and subsequent re-inspection in securing compliance with notices served and supervising building works in progress. As a result of this action 179 houses were rendered habitable.

In connection with this work under the Housing and Public Health Acts, 49 statutory, 432 preliminary written and verbal notices, and 78 Requisition for Information notices as to ownership of premises were served during 1957.

The following is a summary of the work of re-conditioning of dwelling-houses with which the Department was concerned:-

Houses externally repaired	...	...	...	147
" internally repaired	...	...	...	103
" dampness remedied	...	...	...	93
" internally decorated	...	...	...	30
" portable dustbins provided	...	...	...	123

For the first time since 1948, it was found unnecessary for the Council to carry out repairs in default of owners.

Overcrowding.

No survey to determine the extent of overcrowding within the Borough has been made since 1935 when standards were first laid down. It is therefore quite impossible to estimate the actual degree of overcrowding which exists today. The standards, it will be recalled, are based on the number and size of 'habitable rooms' in a dwelling house and for that reason are now considered to be of little value.

Several instances of alleged overcrowding which came to the notice of the Department by complaint or otherwise, were investigated during the year. In almost every case coloured workers were involved, and definite overcrowding was found in a few instances. After informal action, however, such overcrowding ceased immediately.

'Permitted numbers' of dwelling houses were supplied on request, to property owners and others.

Council Housing Estates.

(a) Allocation of Council Houses.

Two hundred and forty-three visits of inspection were made by the staff for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of insanitary or sub-standard conditions of houses occupied by applicants under the Council's Housing Points Scheme, to enable me to recommend the appropriate award of points under this heading.

(b) Council Housing Estates.

Close liaison is maintained with the Housing Department on various aspects, and numerous visits of inspection of houses on corporation estates were made in connection with rodent control, vermin, etc.

Movable Dwellings.

It would appear that both Central and Local Government regard the caravan as a curse, and it has been said that the caravan site is an admission of our failure to build houses.

However, some tens of thousands of people in this country permanently reside in caravans.

During the year, the Council granted annual licences in respect of 122 caravans stationed on various sites within the town. Twenty-nine of these were renewals of licences previously issued.

Included in this number were 76 caravans situated at Foxborough Farm, London Road, Langley, in respect of which a site licence was granted in November after a prolonged period of negotiations with the proprietors, Messrs. Foxborough Farm (Langley)Ltd., and their Solicitors regarding the provision of the necessary facilities. These, completed earlier during the year included main drainage, two ablution blocks, each separated for sexes, comprising water-closets, urinals, sinks, lavatory basins and baths, together with water heating arrangements.

Each van has its own dustbin and refuse is collected by the Council's vehicles touring the site; the original water service has been supplemented by a new main. On the recommendation of your officers the proprietors of the site have appointed a resident caretaker to be responsible for day to day supervision, and I am satisfied with these arrangements.

Rent Acts - Certificates of Disrepair.

The Rent Act, 1957, came into operation on 1st July, and replaced the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, with regard to certificates of disrepair.

Under the 1954 Act, one certificate was granted and four were revoked. Under the 1957 Act, the procedure is far more complicated for the tenant, landlord and the Council, involving the possible use of some 21 different forms, prescribed by the statute, and this in turn causes unavoidable delay.

From September to the end of the year, 70 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, 42 were granted and in 12 instances the Council accepted from landlords undertakings to remedy defects proposed to be included in Certificate of Disrepair.

No certificates were cancelled.

All transactions under the Rent Acts, and any legal proceedings which may be invoked are matters strictly between landlord and tenant. The Council merely act in an administrative capacity. Furthermore, items of disrepair in house which are the subject of Rent Act negotiations are in no way complementary to the Council's powers exercised under the Housing Acts.

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 disrepair, was supplied in respect of 1,400 properties upon a 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 considerable number of requests for information were dealt with during the year, 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.

As in so many of the facets of the work of public health inspection, food hygiene demands continual vigilance. It is not sufficient to say that progress has been made; it is essential that improved standards shall be maintained, and this can be achieved only by routine inspection and re-inspection.

The drive for food hygiene commenced soon after the war. In those early days there were many difficulties - rationing, shortage of building materials and untrained personnel in the food trades. Added to these difficulties was the somewhat ineffective legislation. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 gave local authorities the tools for the job and by that time many of the difficulties and shortages were over. There is now no valid reason why those responsible for food manufacture, handling and sale should serve the public with food leaving anything to be desired in the way of cleanliness. Food hygiene is not a luxury but an essential.

Although we are becoming more and more conscious of the need for care in the handling of food, and despite the progress made in the field of hygiene the latest available figures for food poisoning incidents in the country as a whole are alarming.

The hygiene of food is very closely related to the environmental health standards of the home, for these are the standards which the housewife takes with her when she is shopping and which the food handler takes to his place of business, be it shop, canteen or warehouse.

The Food Hygiene Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Health said recently:-

“Is it not vital that food hygiene should be built on the double foundation of structural progress in the food industry, coupled with general living conditions that inculcate in all of us automatic hygienic actions?”

Frequent inspections of all food premises within the Borough were made during 1957 when some 2,241 visits were paid to food factories, catering establishments and factory canteens, bakeries, dairies, ice-cream manufactories, markets, licensed premises, together with meat, fish, grocery and other retail food shops.

During these inspections every opportunity is taken to discuss with both managements and personnel, matters which bear upon general and personal hygiene e.g. protective clothing, cleansing and sterilizing of equipment, use of detergents, etc.

Steady improvement was made in the conditions under which foods were manufactured, transported and distributed. Food traders appear to have realized fully that clean food and hygienic methods of display and sale have become an important feature of trade competition. Who would deny that price for price and other considerations being equal, the food trader who has the cleanest premises and whose staff exercise the most hygienic practices, deserves the patronage of the enlightened and food hygiene conscious customer. The trader, the public health inspector and the customer have each, therefore, an important role in achieving good standards of food hygiene.

Milk and Dairies.

Situated as it is in a 'Specified Area', all milk sold within the Borough must be heat-treated (either pasteurised or sterilised) or tuberculin tested.

There are now in the Borough only two wholesale receiving dairies where milk is received daily from over a hundred farms from Buckinghamshire and adjoining counties. Both dairies are equipped with modern pasteurising plant, and together serve a very large proportion of the Borough and its immediate environs. In addition, a considerable quantity of milk, pasteurised and bottled outside the Borough, is brought into the town for distribution. Fresh and sterilized milk is also sold from small shops and general stores. In all there are some 61 distributors of milk on the Council's register kept in pursuance of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 57.

During the year 116 visits were made to these registered premises and in particular the two large dairies were kept under close supervision. In both cases it was found that the short-term-high-temperature type of plant was being operated efficiently. Although both dairies have their own control laboratory facilities, as a routine 161 samples of milk were procured by your officers and subjected to the phosphatase test which is the recognised test to determine whether or not the processed milk was being properly pasteurised. Not one sample failed the test.

Throughout the year attention was also paid to the operation of the bottle filling, bottle and churn washing plants, cold storage arrangements, conditions of premises and hygienic practices generally.

Both dairies are not only well equipped but are supervised by the firms' personnel who are experienced in the dairy industry.

Few complaints were received in relation to the town's milk supply and no offences against the Specified Area Order were observed.

Licences were granted in pursuance of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) and (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 as follows:-

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	2
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	9
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	19
Dealer's Sterilized Milk Licences	51
Supplementary Licences	4

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The cow has so rightly been called the foster-mother of the nation. Those who do not partake of milk in one form or another are few indeed. From mother's milk pudding to the workman's cup of tea on the isolated building site, milk has become a constant necessity throughout the 24 hours of the day and it is comforting to know that this basic food is available in plenty.

It is essential, therefore, that the consumer should receive his milk in a clean, fresh wholesome state, properly treated and free from harmful organisms. It should be reasonably cool and have good keeping qualities. Towards these ideals a great deal of thought and carefully organised team work is necessary along the long line from cow to consumer.

During 1957, 199 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination and the efficiency of heat treatment processes. The samples were examined at the Departmental laboratory. In one instance only, that of tuberculin-tested milk bottled on a farm outside the Borough, the sample failed the test.

TABLE NO. 4.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

<i>Classification:</i>	<i>No. of Samples Procured.</i>
Pasteurised Milk	74
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	87
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	26
Sterilized Milk	12

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream.

The consumption of ice-cream continues to grow. Once an occasional children's treat, ice-cream is fast becoming an accepted article of food for all in the home and cafe and place of entertainment. Its popularity is no doubt due to increased use of modern refrigeration facilities for storage between manufacture and sale, not forgetting the domestic refrigerator which enables ice-cream to be served as a sweet in all seasons as and when required. Ice-cream is a food both in law and in fact and when properly prepared a good food at that.

By its nature and substance, however, ice-cream happens to be an ideal culture medium for the growth of bacteria. If, therefore, potential trouble (e.g. food poisoning) is to be avoided, the subject of ice-cream looms large in the sphere of public health inspection.

The Food and Drugs Act, therefore, requires that all premises where ice-cream is manufactured, stored or sold shall be registered with the local authority. In Slough at the end of 1957, 7 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream and 195 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. This included 20 new applications made during the year. To those premises your staff made 179 visits during the year.

During inspections of manufactories, careful attention was given to the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.,) Regulations, 1947 - 1952. Supervision is also exercised at retail premises and particularly in the case of itinerant vendors.

Apart from bulk supplies to catering establishments, ice-cream is, in the main, distributed to the consumer in a pre-packed condition. This avoidance of handling is welcomed from the food hygiene angle.

During the year, 59 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination at the Departmental laboratory with the following satisfactory results:-

TABLE NO. 5

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST.

<i>Provisional Grade</i>	<i>Samples</i>
1	57
2	2
3	-
4	-

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

At the end of 1957, 49 premises in the Borough were registered in pursuance of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of the manufacture of preserved foods, namely:-

Canning Factories	2
Preparation of Shell Fish	1
Fish Friers	14
Manufactories of Sausages and cooked meats	32

Frequent inspection of these premises and the processes involved has shown that the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956 were well observed.

Bakehouses.

At the close of the year, there were 10 premises registered as bakehouses. Some 39 visits were made for the purpose of inspection of premises and machinery. Conditions were found to be very satisfactory.

Foreign Bodies in Food.

A number of complaints were made by members of the public concerning food in which extraneous matter was discovered after purchase. Examples of these were:- piece of string in marmalade; dirt attaching to the inside of milk bottles; nail embedded in piece of cake. A few complaints were received alleging unfitness in food (e.g. mould growth on meat pie and bread.)

Although these cases were of a minor nature they did point to carelessness or lack of attention to detail at some stage prior to sale. Accordingly, each complaint was fully

investigated at the place of sale or by consultation with the manufacturer's representative.

Warning letters were sent to those concerned, it being considered that statutory action was inadvisable having regard to all the circumstances. For statutory action to be successful in such cases under the Food and Drugs Act, proof of unfitness for food must be forthcoming or otherwise one has to prove that the purchaser has been prejudiced as to the nature, substance and quality. Having regard to case law in recent years, such proof is most difficult to establish.

Food and Drugs. (Compositional Standard and Quality).

Each year since 1945 when the Borough Council became a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Acts, a careful watch has been kept on various foods and drugs to determine compositional standards and chemical quality in accordance with standards either required by law or implied or expected on sale. Careful thought is given in selecting the articles of food and drugs to be sampled.

In addition to the detection of adulteration it is necessary to check on the possible misdescription of articles of food and drugs.

In the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 some 596 samples were procured during 1957, this being the equivalent of 8.7 samples per 1,000 of the population.

Two hundred and two of the samples (169 formal and 33 informal) were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst, Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., of London. The results of the analysis of these samples are given in Table No. 6 and the action taken in respect of the 10 samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine is shown in Table No. 7.

The remaining 394 samples were tested by the sampling officers or in the Departmental laboratory, as follows:-

Milk	-	292	Samples
Ice-cream	-	58	"
Spirits	-	44	"

Milk.

An endeavour was made to sample and test every classification of milk on sale within the Borough. As mentioned earlier in this section, the milk supply to the town comes from over 100 farms and as a routine measure each individual farmer's consignment to the two large processing dairies in Slough is sampled from time to time. In fact, each churn of each consignment is checked.

In 1957, it was found that in a few cases milk from individual churns was below the minimum standard of 3% fat and 8.5% non fatty solids, but that the general level of the whole consignment of churns when averaged was satisfactory. Certain producers were found to have a fairly consistently poor quality milk, but check samples to the Public Analyst did not reveal any added water. Not one of the 292 milk samples was found to be adulterated.

The average composition of all samples examined during the year was as follows:-

Channel Islands Milk	- 4.8% fat and 9.08% solids-not-fat.
Other Milk	- 3.7% fat and 8.7% solids-not-fat.

Ice-Cream.

All samples of ice-cream sampled during the year and tested in the Departmental laboratory were of satisfactory quality.

Spirits.

An attempt is made to check on all spirits sold at licensed premises to determine the degree of proof and to detect adulteration. During 1957, all samples which were tested by your officers were found to be genuine.

Local Food Manufactories.

Each year articles of food manufactured within the Borough are sampled. In 1957, all such samples were found to be satisfactory.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

During the year 64 samples of food were examined by the Public Analyst to check on the presence of prohibited preservatives and colouring matter. All were found to be satisfactory.

Labelling and Advertising.

Careful scrutiny was made of labels on foodstuffs and advertisements in the popular press, weekly journals etc., for the purpose of detecting false or exaggerated statements which would mislead the purchaser as to the nature, substance or quality of the article concerned, particularly as to its nutritional or dietary value.

Several such matters were investigated during the year but no contraventions were observed. Advice was given to local manufacturers as to the wording of proposed labels.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

In those instances where the article 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 observation. No unsatisfactory instances were found.

TABLE NO. 6

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.							
				PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
				Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:							
Anchovy Essence	...	...	...	1			
Angelica	...	...	...	1			
Apple Pectin	...	...	...		1		
Arrowroot	...	...	...	1			
Almonds, ground	...	...	...	1			
Beer	...	...	...	4			
Beef, Minced	...	...	...	2			
Beverage, chocolate flavoured	...	...	...	1			
Biscuits	...	...	...	3		1	
Bread	...	...	...	1	1		
Butter	...	...	...	1			
Butter Beans	...	...	...	1			
Butter, Peanut	...	...	...	1			
Brawn	...	...	...	1			
Broad Beans	...	...	...		1		
Beetroot	...	...	...	2			
Caraway Seeds	...	...	...	1			
Cakes	...	...	...	3			
Cheese	...	...	...	1		1	
Chicken Vol-au-Vent	...	...	...		1		
Chicken, Minced	...	...	...	1			
Chutney	...	...	...	1			
Coconut, desiccated	...	...	...	2			
Cherries in syrup	...	...	...	1			
Cherries, glaze	...	...	...	1			
Chicklettes	...	...	...	1			
Coffee	...	...	...	2			
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	1			
Crab, dressed	...	...	...	2			
Custard Powder	...	...	...	1			
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	1			
Chocolate Coating	...	...	...	1			
Chocolate Icing	...	...	...	1			
Cream	...	...	...	1			
Cockles	...	...	...	1			
Dripping	...	...	...	1			
Eels jellied...	...	...	...	1			
Essence, vanilla	...	...	...	1			
Essence of Rennet	...	...	...	1			
Faggots	...	...	...	2			
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	2			
Flour	...	...	...	1			
Fruit, dried	...	...	...	6			
Fruit Pies	...	...	...	1			
Ginger Wine	...	...	...	1			
Ginger	...	...	...	1			
Ginger, crystallized	...	...	...	1			
Ginger, root	...	...	...	1			
Golden Raising Powder	...	...	...	1			
Grapefruit in syrup	...	...	...	1			
Groundnut Oil	...	...	...		1		
Glucose, liquid	...	...	...		1		
Ham, potted	...	...	...	1			
Haslet	...	...	...	1			
Herbs	...	...	...	2			
Honey	...	...	...	1			

TABLE NO. 6

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

TABLE NO. 6

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

	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Codein Linctus	1			
Codein Tablets	1			
Compound of Glycerin & Thymol	1			
Digestive Tablets	1			
Dried Yeast	1			
Epsom Salts	1			
Glucose	1			
Glucose Tablets	1			
Lemon, Glycerin & Honey ...	1			
Nerve Tonic	1			
Raspberry Leaf Tablets ...	1			
Rheumatic & Gout Tablets	1			
Saccharin Tablets	1			
Throat Lozenges	1			
Yeast Tablets	1			
Zinc Ointment	1			
 TOTAL FOODS.	 144	 33	 5	 5
TOTAL DRUGS.	25	-	-	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS	169	33	5	5

TABLE NO. 7

Food and Drugs Samples reported not to be Genuine.			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
47	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Supply kept under observation.
48	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Supply kept under observation.
96	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Supply kept under observation.
99	Vinegar	False description. Coloured dilute acetic acid commonly known as non-brewed condiment.	Vendor warned.
66	Milk Chocolate Coconut Macaroon Biscuits	Absence of almonds.	Manufacturer warned.
150	Sauce	Objectionable taste rendering it unfit for human consumption.	Matter referred to manufacturer.
225	Cream Cheese	False description. Deficient in milk fat.	Vendor warned.
157	Lemon Tonic Water	No tonic property.	Referred to manufacturer.
226	Butter Macaroons	Contained no almonds.	Referred to manufacturer.
551	Milk	Deficient in fat and solids-not-fat. No added water.	Supply kept under observation.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 - 1953.

Careful observation was kept on the labelling of those imported foodstuffs which are the subject of the Merchandise Marks Orders. In a few instances it was found necessary to warn retailers, in particular to imported tomatoes exposed for sale without adequate indication of the country of origin. No serious infringements of the Acts were observed.

Public Abattoir.

The Public Abattoir in Cippenham Lane continued to operate satisfactorily during 1957.

It is now almost 4 years since the Council took over these premises on the cessation of government control of meat and livestock. So far as English meat is concerned, the slaughterhouse has been able to meet the demands of the town and surrounding district together with a small quantity for further afield.

It will be appreciated that a considerable quantity of home-killed meat is bought by local butchers from other sources outside the town.

The advantage of all local slaughtering being concentrated at one premises is abundantly clear, affording a greater measure of control, not only in carrying out meat inspection but also in the supervision of hygienic practices of personnel. Secondly, since the Council are in control of the buildings, machinery and tools, your officers can organise and maintain the premises and associated equipment in a good state of repair and cleanly condition. In general, the premises are by no means modern but it will be recalled that they were originally a private slaughterhouse serving the needs of one local butcher. The alterations by the Ministry during the war and more recently by the Council have considerably improved them for their present purpose which, it will be remembered, is primarily to satisfy the needs of the town.

The lairages are old and the pens being constructed of wood are somewhat costly to maintain. The open yard is rather small and is in need of a good metalled surface. Lastly, the premises lack cold storage or temperature controlled accommodation so desirable during the summer months.

The slaughterhouse facilities are available from Monday to Saturday noon inclusive. Sunday killing is not permitted excepting on very rare occasions as a concession (e.g. the Sunday prior to Christmas.) The premises are opened at 7 a.m. and normally close at 7.30 p.m. or later according to seasonal demands. An Inspector is on daily duty from 9 a.m. until the close of the premises.

The lairage, slaughterhalls and hanging rooms are capable of a daily throughput of 25 cattle and 100 pigs, sheep or calves, provided the meat is removed the following day.

In 1957, the following animals were slaughtered:-

Cattle	-	2475
Sheep	-	4380
Pigs	-	6608
Calves	-	1121

These figures show that on average twice the number of animals could be handled should the demand arise, in which case additional lairage room would be necessary.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1958, tolls for the use of the slaughterhouse amounted to £2,181.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Some 14,584 animals were slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during 1957, an increase of some 24% on the previous year. All carcasses and offals of these animals were examined by the District Public Health Inspectors, all of whom possess the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health in Meat and Food Inspection.

With reference to reports during the last twelve months that in some areas of the country meat inspection was not being carried out, I am able to say that 100% inspection of home-killed meat has been achieved in Slough for many years.

Table No. 8 gives particulars of carcasses examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Considerable attention was paid by your officers to the handling, dressing and cooling of carcasses to ensure that, so far as possible, no contamination took place.

After examination, each carcass passed as satisfactory is marked with the Inspector's official stamp in accordance with the Meat Marking Scheme that with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has now operated in Slough for 4 years.

In addition to inspection carried out at the Public Abattoir it was necessary to examine some carcasses and offals which came to a meat depot on the Trading Estate and at retail butchers' shops from other sources outside the town.

For a number of years the Meat Inspectors acted on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as certifying

officers under their Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for pigs. In February 1957, however, the slaughterhouse was designated as a Deadweight Centre for Cattle in addition to pigs and, as a result, from that date the Ministry's grader attended at the premises two or three times per week in order to grade both cattle and pigs for the purpose of the Scheme.

In addition to meat inspection some 200 visits were made to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. As a result almost 8½ tons of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation for destruction.

The details are as follows:-

Canned Foods	14,407 lb.
Preserves	42 "
Fish	182 "
Bacon	39 "
Imported Meat	2,494 "
Manufactured Meat Products ...	199 "
Fruit	24 "
Cheese and Butter	1,028 "
Miscellaneous	328 "

Disposal of Unsound Food.

Carcases and offal certified as unfit for human consumption cannot necessarily in all cases be destroyed. Such material not only remains the property of the butcher concerned but also has a value, since it is capable of being sterilized and made into animal feeding stuff and fertilizers. The Slaughtering Contractor, on behalf of the owners, sells this material for such purposes. I have approved of certain reputable collectors of condemned meat to whom I have authorised the Contractor to dispose of such material.

All condemned meat is removed to a separate store at the Slaughterhouse and is treated with a special green dye which cannot be obliterated. Despite the attention given by your officers to this matter, statutory regulation governing the question of ownership and disposal of condemned meat is overdue.

Other foods referred to under previous headings are collected by van and disposed of by tipping.

Table No. 9 shows the weights of condemned meat dealt with in 1957. The total amount represents approximately 2% by weight of meat inspected.

Hygiene of Meat Transport.

The handling of meat in transit to retail butchery premises from the Slough Public Slaughterhouse and from outside the town is an important part of food hygiene. Frequent observation is kept on the vehicles and protective clothing used by personnel so engaged. Little cause for complaint was experienced during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

In pursuance of the above Acts, the Borough Council renewed 5 Licences and granted 2 new Licences to persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Electrical stunning apparatus was used at the Public Slaughterhouse for small animals together with the captive bolt type instrument for the stunning of larger animals. Both methods of humane slaughtering proved to be efficient and no cruelty occurred. No contraventions of the Acts were observed.

TABLE NO. 8

Slough Public Slaughterhouse.

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.					
	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	2,018	457	4,380	6,608	1,121
<u>Disease except tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	1	6	9	73	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	473	125	51	500	5
% of No. Inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.4	28.6	1.3	8.6	0.6
<u>Tuberculosis:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	96	42	-	118	-
% of No. Inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.9	9.8	-	1.8	-
<u>Cysticercosis Bovis:</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	29	3			
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	29	3			
Generalized condition whole carcasses condemned.	-	-			

TABLE NO. 9.

Weights of Condemned Meat.						
				Tuberculosis		
				cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
				Other Diseases		
				cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases ...	...	...	...	24	3	23
Parts of Carcases or Organs...	...	...	...	56	2	17
TOTALS ...	...	...	...	81	2	12
TOTAL WEIGHT: 13 tons, 16 cwts, 1 qr. 24 lbs.						

S E C T I O N D.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS.

Factories.

There were 572 factories on the Corporation's register at the end of 1957. A few of these are situated in the Langley, Central and Cippenham areas but the majority are on the Slough Trading Estate. In recent years there has been considerable industrial development on the south side of the Bath Road, abounding Wellcroft Road. Slough's factories vary greatly in size, number employed and trades involved.

Each year, the Ministry of Labour & National Service requires a return giving statistical information concerning factories. These figures, as supplied in respect of 1957, are reproduced in Tables Nos. 10 and 11. They indicate the work of the District Public Health Inspectors in relation to the administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 - 1948 in so far as they concern the Local Authority. The Borough Engineer deals with means of escape in case of fire.

Visits of inspection to factories are mainly to ensure compliance with the Factories Acts, e.g. cleanliness, ventilation etc. In addition, consequent upon the widely specialised processes involved and the use of various industrial plants, investigations are made from time to time concerning alleged public health and noise nuisances. A number of factories are also food premises within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and are therefore inspected in connection with the further requirements of that Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Close liaison was maintained with the Planning Officer throughout the year concerning proposed developments and new

processes. All plans deposited with the Borough Engineer for approval under Planning and Building Byelaws were examined by my Deputy in order to discover proposals concerning various aspects of the Department's activities.

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.	37	43	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	529	439	24	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	6	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	572	488	25	Nil

TABLE NO. 11

Improvements Effectuated 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)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (s.1) ...	3	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	5	6	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	27	23	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	1	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Out-worker) ...	3	-	5	-	-
TOTAL:	39	33	6	1	Nil

Homework.

Each year in February and August, firms employing out-workers are required by the Factories Act, 1937, to furnish to the local authority lists giving names and addresses of such persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory. The types of work for which these returns are required are from time to time specified in Ministry Regulations.

On receipt of such returns there is an interchange of addresses between the local authorities concerned. All such premises, invariably dwelling-houses, are then subjected to periodic inspection by your officers for the purpose of ensuring

that working conditions are satisfactory and in accordance with minimum standards of environmental hygiene.

In these times of modern factory equipment and moving-belt-like processes there is little call for 'farming out' work to people's homes. Homework is now almost entirely limited to the making and alteration of wearing apparel.

The returns during 1957 showed some 29 premises in the Borough where 'homework' is carried out. Upon inspection these homes were found to be satisfactory.

Lists in respect of 61 outworkers were sent to other local authorities in various parts of the Country and lists were received from other local authorities in respect of 12 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 41 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 ... ..	...	...	...	429
Conditions of employment ... ..	...	...	...	339
Hours of employment of Young Persons ... ..	...	...	...	112
Hours of Closing ... ..	...	...	...	419
Sunday Trading ... ..	...	...	...	116

(b) Improvements Effected at Shops:

Improved sanitary accommodation ... ..	...	...	5
Improved washing facilities ... ..	...	...	7
Improved lighting or heating ... ..	...	...	1
Notices displayed ... ..	...	...	16
Other contraventions remedied ... ..	...	...	1

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 19 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.

Eleven 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.

The whole field of air pollution is an aspect of public health inspection which, from now on, will demand the increasing attention of the Government, local authorities, industry and householders.

Following numerous government committees (notably the Beaver Committee), reports and investigations during the past 20 years, the Clean Air Act, 1956, is ample evidence that Parliament has been convinced and that the average citizen is slowly realizing that clean air is not an impracticable ideal.

The great majority of air pollution is caused by the inefficient burning of fuels and, since the cost of all industrial and domestic fuels is no longer an incidental item, it is in the interest of all concerned that the war against atmospheric pollution should be waged with the utmost vigour. The emission of smoke, grit and other pollutants constitutes not only a public nuisance causing substantial damage to health, buildings, fabrics and plants, but is also a source of considerable fuel wastage.

The Clean Air Act is comprehensive and is the first really effective legislation for dealing with the scourge of atmospheric pollution. Certain sections of the Act became operative on 31st December, 1956, but the remainder, including most of the enforcement provisions, were deferred until 1st June, 1958.

This was intended to give industry some 18 months in which to formulate and implement plans for complying with the Act's requirements. It is to be hoped that directors, managers, engineers and all concerned with the industrial smoke problem will have made use of this breathing space.

In the main, the technical problems of atmospheric pollution concerning the emission of smoke and grit have been solved. It now needs application in the field.

Full technology has almost become a science in its own right and many difficulties will of course be encountered, particularly in relation to specialised processes with their varying conditions and power requirements.

Industry can however call upon the assistance of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service which has regional offices throughout the country.

Hitherto all legislation, albeit ineffective, dealing with atmospheric pollution was limited to industrial and commercial premises. The Clean Air Act, however, gives the local authority power to deal with the domestic smoke problem by making an order, which must be confirmed by the Minister, declaring the whole or any part of its district as a "smoke control area". This term supersedes "the smokeless zone" which a few local authorities have set up in recent years under powers contained in private acts.

Such an area, containing dwelling-houses, industrial and commercial properties or a mixture of all three, would become a smoke free area in so far as any emission of smoke would constitute an offence under the Act.

The domestic fire burning bituminous coal on the basis of ton per ton is said to be a bigger culprit than the industrial furnace. If therefore the Clean Air Act is to become effective and the clean air campaign successful, no local authority in the country can ignore its responsibilities on the grounds that its area is partly or wholly residential or non-industrial.

During 1957, 17 complaints were received concerning smoke and like problems. As a result of these and other routine inspections, 427 smoke observations and 69 special visits were made to factory premises for the purpose of investigations and discussions with managements and engineers.

No applications were received during 1957 for "prior approval" of industrial furnaces. The Council's scheme of "prior approval" under the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, and which so far has dealt with some 14 installations of fuel burning plant in the Borough, will in future continue under the Clean Air Act in which is included this provision, also on a voluntary basis.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and I represent the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee and the Vice-Chairman and my Deputy attended the Society's Annual Conference at Hastings in 1957.

Offensive Trades.

The Council granted consent for one soap boiler and two rag and bone dealers, being the only offensive trades within the Borough scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Inspections throughout the year showed that these premises were being used satisfactorily.

Water Supply.

In connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, 72 visits were made during 1957 and the following samples were procured:-

Domestic Water supplies.

Wells	3
Others	6

Swimming Bath Waters.

Slough Community Centre	42
Baylis House... ..	12
Licensed Victuallers	8
St. Bernards Convent	2

House Drainage.

Ninety-two complaints were received concerning defective drainage and sanitary fittings. The District Inspectors made some 350 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At 20 premises, drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 96 premises. Further progress was made with the abolition of cesspools during the year.

S E C T I O N F.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION.

The war between man and the pests that plague him is almost as old as time.

It has been said that common pests eat away at our substance, year by year, to the tune of some £600 million and that 5% of all the world's cereals, peas, beans, oil-seeds, etc. harvested annually are lost through insect infestation before rats and mice take their share.

The control of pest infestation is one of the basic necessities of environmental health and, therefore, constant vigilance is essential with early notification and speedy treatment as the keynotes to success.

Physical environmental defects encourage pests even more than food and, with a combination of both, the work of pest control is indeed most difficult.

Sound construction of buildings and services, proper drainage systems, meticulous refuse treatment and attention to repairs and maintenance are essential. Stored foodstuffs must be protected continuously and all waste food awaiting disposal should be kept in containers with tightly fitted lids.

Six manual workers engaged principally in pest control work under the supervision of the Pest Control Officer were employed throughout the year. All types of pests are dealt with, together with some disinfection work and ancillary duties.

Rodent Control.

The bulk of the work of this section concerns the destruction of rodents.

Notification was received in respect of 348 infestations of rats and 93 of mice and as a result some 4,296 visits of investigation were made by the District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer.

Supervision was exercised in connection with rat proofing of numerous dwellings and business premises during the year.

Table No. 12 gives the details of the work of the Rodent Operators during 1957.

Annual Agreement Scheme.

Now in its tenth year of operation, the Council's Annual

Agreement Scheme continues the regular servicing of industrial and business premises in order that they shall remain free from infestation. Considerable effort has been made in the past few years to encourage industrial concerns to participate in the scheme. Many such businesses are under contract to commercial firms specialising in rodent treatment work, and there are some premises which are branches of multiple firms whose own specialist personnel carry out the necessary work. One hundred and sixty nine premises were serviced under the scheme during 1957.

Sewers.

As required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, test baiting and treatment for rodent infestation in sewers were carried out twice during the year.

When one considers the potential relationship between the infestation of sewers and premises it will readily be appreciated that this is an important aspect of rodent control. As will be seen from the figures in Table No. 12 the town's sewers were found to be only slightly infested.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is represented by your Chairman and myself on the South Bucks and East Berks. Workable Area Committee which met twice during 1957. The Committee is made up of members and officers from the many local authorities in this region. It is regrettable that in recent years there has been a gradual falling off in the attendance of elected representative members of this Committee. The discussions and exchange of information on common problems which take place at these meetings are helpful and worthwhile.

Other Pests.

In connection with pests other than rodents, complaints were received and treatments carried out as follows:-

Beetles	38
Wasps	48
Flies	96
Rabbits	7
Moles	33
Others	12

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Steam disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and other articles was carried out at the disinfecting station situated at the Chalvey Pumping Station, where steam is obtained from the adjoining refuse destructor plant.

The following work was supervised by the Pest Control Officer during the year:-

Premises disinfected	12
Bedding etc. disinfected by steam	8
Premises disinfested	10
Bedding etc. disinfested by steam	5

In addition, bedding and articles of clothing from some 8 premises associated with infections and/or vermin were destroyed under the supervision of the Pest Control Officer.

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. Investigations made ...	5,467	2,452	106	107	6	24	123	8,285
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation ...	3,534	1,085	102	18	6	24	58	4,827
3. Pre-baits Laid ...	5,035	36	955	66	1,681	1,330	918	10,021
4. Poison Baits Laid ...	13,828	16,182	805	28	1,133	1,702	1,522	35,200
5. Poison Baits taken ...	9,034	7,885	578	2	828	1,321	1,020	20,668
6. No. of visits made ...	11,131	2,699	515	231	394	573	447	15,990

S E C T I O N G.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

Within the Borough there are some 153 premises licensed for the storage of 534,250 gallons of petroleum-spirit and petroleum-mixtures and 3 premises for the storage of 9,896 lb. of Carbide of Calcium.

During the year, inspections of these premises to ensure that the conditions of licences granted by the Corporation were observed, involved some 759 visits by your technical staff.

The storage of petroleum in its various forms represents an extra-ordinary potential fire-risk and nothing short of rigorous enforcement of the requirements of the Acts is sufficient.

Closely linked with the siting and ventilation of storage tanks is, of course, the associated electrical equipment of pumps etc., which is examined on behalf of the Corporation by the Southern Electricity Board.

Quite often the advice of the Buckinghamshire Fire Service is sought on problems which arise and such help, which is so readily given, is much appreciated.

During the year, the Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, 1957, came into operation. Amongst other things, these regulations added certain obligations on the proprietors of storage premises when receiving bulk supplies of petroleum-spirit.

Registries for Female Domestic Servants.

Visits were made to the three domestic servant agencies for the inspection of records of applications from employers of servants, which must be kept. No contravention of the Byelaws was observed.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores.

In accordance with Section 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by dealers in old metal. There are four premises within the town where such business is transacted. Forty-three visits of inspection were made, and it was found that proper records were being kept.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Some 66 visits were made to premises where new and second-hand heating appliances were exposed for sale. This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliances not fitted with a suitable guard.

Two second-hand dealers were prosecuted during the year before the Slough Magistrates Court and were fined £90 and £10 respectively for offences under the Act. The case against a third dealer prosecuted before the Burnham Magistrates was dismissed. Each of the defendants had previously received warning letters drawing their attention to the provisions of the Act.

Constant observation is made for similar contraventions.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Corporation granted 10 licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Hackney Carriages.

As in previous years, the Borough Council decided that 30 hackney carriages were adequate to meet the needs of the district.

Before granting licences, each vehicle was subjected to the usual detailed examination and certified as being road-worthy by the Consulting Engineers, appointed by the Corporation. This arrangement of annual inspection of these vehicles, begun some years ago, has operated to great advantage in ensuring that licences are granted only in respect of hackney carriages which are fit for public service.

Licences were granted in respect of 51 hackney carriage drivers.

Inspections were made by the District Public Health Inspectors of vehicles on the ranks.

Various contraventions of the byelaws were found as follows:-

- (a) Hackney Carriage Licence number plate not securely fixed and legible.
- (b) Letter and figures on taxi-meter not suitably illuminated.
- (c) Fare-cards not fixed so as to be clearly legible to the passenger.

(d) No fire extinguisher.

(e) Taxi-meter unsealed.

In each case the attention of the proprietor of the vehicle concerned was drawn to the various contraventions and further inspections were made to ensure compliance.

I am satisfied that this public service was operated efficiently.

