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Borough of Slough



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health



For the Year 1958

including the

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

67161



BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May 1958

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

ALDERMAN J. MANNING

ALDERMAN MRS. M.J. MORGAN

ALDERMAN A.E. WARD, C.A.

COUNCILLOR R.A. CAIL

COUNCILLOR MRS. J.M.B. GIBSON

(Mayor)

COUNCILLOR R. GREEN

COUNCILLOR W. PARNHAM

COUNCILLOR J. RIGBY

(Deputy Mayor)(ex officio)

COUNCILLOR M.J. SHEEHY

COUNCILLOR L.S. WILLIS

May to December 1958

Chairman:

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

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR N.M. ESCHLE

ALDERMAN P. LIGHTFOOT

(Deputy Mayor)(ex officio)

ALDERMAN MRS. M.J. MORGAN

(Mayor)

ALDERMAN A.E. WARD

COUNCILLOR MRS. J.M.B. GIBSON

COUNCILLOR R. GREEN

COUNCILLOR MRS. P. MARGREE

COUNCILLOR W. PARNHAM

COUNCILLOR M.J. SHEEHY

COUNCILLOR F. WARWICK

COUNCILLOR L.S. WILLIS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,

'GLENHARTIE',

15 BATH ROAD,

SLOUGH.

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R.Y. FORBES, L.R.C.P.S(Ed)., D.P.H. (App. 23.6.58)

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.

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:

MRS. G.A. SCOTT

R.S. PRESTON

MISS A.E.A. DIXON (Res. 10.10.58)

MISS R.I. SAMWORTH (App. 20.10.58)

MISS S. JEFFREY

MRS. G.E. JACKSON (App. 1. 1.58)

MISS M. BABER (App. 15. 9.58)

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. E.A. GORMAN

Assistant Home Help Organiser

MISS J.M. ABRAHART (Res. 30.11.58)

Home Helps - 50

County Almoner

MISS H.E. RAVEN

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 tenth Annual Report - for the year 1958.

The year was, I think, rather unexceptional apart from appalling weather during the summer months and the Asian 'flu epidemic which, in the early months was still running its rapid, but fortunately mild, course through the town.

The population continued to rise, the birth rate was higher than for some years, deaths were fewer and there was no poliomyelitis. The infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded but as the still-birth rate was higher than it had been in the previous year there is little reason for believing that any marked, additional success in dealing with these problems had occurred.

Heart diseases, in addition to lung cancer, took the centre of the stage as the greatest reasons for illness and death. These now completely outclass the more conventional infectious diseases which gave no undue alarms during 1958.

As new diseases came to the forefront so did new industrial processes and new developments in the atomic field obtrude themselves into the work of the Health Department for the first time. I was fortunate enough to be allowed to attend a three-day course in London during April on the use of radio-active substances, the safety precautions to be used in handling them and the most suitable methods of disposal of wastes.

The timing of this course was particularly fortunate as the knowledge gained was of value on no less than three occasions during the following twelve months. In two instances, discussions took place with those using radio-active isotopes in scientific laboratories and, on the third occasion, co-operation between the Hawker-Siddeley Nuclear Power Company and the Corporation's Chief Officers enabled the latter to satisfy the Council upon the safety precautions being taken with the Company's atomic research reactor to be built at their factory in Langley.

Standards of environmental hygiene can never be considered satisfactory but, so far as this branch of preventive medicine

was concerned, the year was, I think, a good one. For instance, the first five-year slum clearance plan was virtually completed; but now that the main problem has been solved it must not be forgotten that all houses which were in existence when the slum clearance plan was formulated are now five years older and some are approaching the time when action will have to be considered.

When problems appear to be relatively minor in character they are often put to one side or dealt with in a dilatory manner but the Council is to be congratulated upon the expeditious way in which the slum clearance problem has been handled and I hope they will adopt an equally enlightened and forthright policy over Clean Air. Slough does have a problem in this respect but, once again, the malady is not so obvious as it is in some other areas, the industrial areas of the Midlands and the North for example. For this reason there could be a tendency to allow the cleansing of Slough air to be looked upon as a matter of little importance and for the protagonists of Clean Air to receive scant support. Industrially the town is not too dirty but it could be cleaner; domestically it seems to be as bad as anywhere else. May I plead for the Council's full support for efforts which their officers will recommend from time to time to make Slough not only a 'Safety Town' but a 'Clean Safety Town'.

The Chief Public Health Inspector, in his portion of this report, stresses the value of a Municipal abattoir. Only by having the slaughter of animals carried out at premises controlled by the Local Authority can there be full public health control; the decrease in the proportion of animals suffering from tuberculosis is noteworthy.

The rapidly increasing habit of pre-packing ice-cream is to be applauded but manufacturers, particularly of iced-lollies, must take care to have the coverings sufficiently large to prevent outside contamination. There is no doubt that the modern products are better in every way than the vast majority were even a short time ago.

One other relatively minor problem dealt with by the Council is, I think, worth mentioning. Hackney Carriage drivers must now provide satisfactory evidence of fitness to drive vehicles for hire. Considerable efforts are taken to ensure the safety and suitability of cabs, what more natural than that the drivers should also be required to be fit, as well as technically competent, to drive.

Last year the Health and Sanitation Committee was honoured by the choice of one of its members as the first lady Mayor of the town. Another lady, Alderman Mrs M.J. Morgan, also a member of the Health Committee, was elected as Mayor for the year in May 1958.

The Health and Sanitation Committee, under the leadership of its Chairman, Councillor F.S.G. Room, J.P., C.A., continued to give a strong lead and strong support to me and to the other officers of the Health Department during the year and the Committee had the satisfaction of obtaining, from the Council, the ratification of its many recommendations.

New legislation, increased population and the expansion of welfare services all lead to additional work and to the need for more staff. This has meant that many of the Health Department's officers have had to work under cramped and overcrowded office conditions for quite a long time and I am very appreciative of the very fine way in which they have all continued to give of their best. As this is being written there is hope of some easing of the situation, and two sections will, in the very near future, be transferred to 'Darenth' and the 'Richmond', buildings adjacent to the main offices in 'Glenhartie'.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1958

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,620
Number of dwelling houses, including flats at 31st March, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,238
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	£1,438,524	
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1959/60	...	...	...	...	...	£6,950	

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958

Live Births:						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	632	582	1214
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	32	29	61
Total						664	611	1275

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) - 17.32

Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) - 15.76

(Comparability Figure - 0.91)

National Birth Rate - 16.4

Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate - 0.96

Illegitimate live births were 4.8% of total live births

Still Births:						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	18	11	29
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Total						20	13	33

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births - 25.22

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population - 0.45

Deaths:						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
						309	261	570

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population - 7.74

Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) - 10.53

(Comparability figure 1.30)

National Death Rate per 1,000 population - 11.7

Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate - 0.90 : 1

Maternal Deaths:

Number of women dying in, or as a
consequence of pregnancy ... NIL

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	10	7	17
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total	12	7	19

Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000

live births 14.90

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per

1,000 live births 14.50

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate

per 1,00 live births 32.79

National Rate per 1,000 live births 22.5

Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate 0.66 : 1

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total	8	5	13

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks of
age per 1,000 live births ... 10.20

Death Rates per 1,000 Population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.054
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.08
Cancer	1.37

Other Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer	53	48	101
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	4	-	4
- Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2

I. VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar General credited the Borough with 1,275 live births in 1958; 664 were male and 611 were female.

The crude birth rate at 17.3 per thousand of the population was 1.9 per thousand greater than in 1957 (15.4). After multiplying this figure by 0.91 to obtain the corrected birth rate of 15.76 we see that the ratio of the Slough birth rate to the National rate rose from 0.89 : 1 in 1957 to 0.96 : 1 in 1958. The need to multiply the crude birth rate of a figure less than 1.0 (Comparability Figure - 0.91) indicates that the population of the town is younger than the national average. In 1958 the Registrar General decreased the Comparability Figure from 0.93 to 0.91 thus indicating that the average age of people in the town was decreasing. At the same time the Slough birth rate rose by more than a compensating amount so that while it did not exceed the National Rate it was very much nearer to it than it has been in the past.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough	Birth Rate England & Wales	Slough : Ratio 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	0.89 : 1
1958	15.76	16.4	0.96 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY

The total number of illegitimate births both live and still was 65 compared with only 51 on 1957. Of these 32 live births and 2 stillbirths were males and 29 live births and 2 stillbirths were females.

Although there was an increase of 14 in the number of illegitimate births compared with 1957, the percentage only rose from 4.45 per cent to 5.01 per cent as the total number of births had risen by 184 compared with the previous year.

STILLBIRTHS

33 stillbirths were registered during the year of which 29 were legitimate and 4 illegitimate. This number which gives a rate of 25.22 per thousand total births or 0.45 per thousand of the population is rather higher than experienced in 1957 although very much closer to the figures experienced in the three previous years (see table below). This means that the stillbirth rate in Slough was a little above the National figure of 21.6 per thousand total live and still births.

When referring to the particularly low rate obtained in 1957 I mentioned that there were bound to be fluctuations from year to year in rates which are calculated upon such small numbers, and this point needs to be borne in mind once again.

The fact that infant deaths and stillbirths no longer cause such a great number of tragedies as they used to means that the reasons for the relatively few remaining cases are much more difficult to discover and therefore even more difficult to prevent. The fact that stillbirth and infant mortality rates are lower in some other countries, notably New Zealand and the Netherlands, means that a further improvement can still be sought and achieved and as our first-class services become more readily available so will the hazards of birth and life be decreased not only for the mothers but also for the children.

STILLBIRTH 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
1958	...	25.22

DEATHS

After correction for inward and outward transfers the number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar General was 570; this represents a decrease of 35 compared with 1957. As the population had increased during this year, however, there was a marked decrease in the crude death rate from 8.5 to 7.7. Slough has, however, a population younger than the average for the whole country and in order to compensate for this the number of deaths must be increased; this is done by multiplying by the Comparability Figure of 1.30. This produces the corrected

death rate of just over 10.5 per thousand of the population compared with the national rate of 11.7. The ratio of the local death rate to the national rate is thus 0.9 : 1.

The number of male deaths in 1958 was considerably higher than that of females; 309 males to 261 females.

The table below gives crude and corrected death rates for Slough for the last 10 years.

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
1958	7.74	10.53

The six main causes of death during 1958 in numerical order were:-

Heart disease	211
Cancer	102
Vascular lesions of nervous system	61
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	58
Accidents, all types	23
Other circulatory disease	14

There was an increase in the number of accidents compared with 1957 and these with the total of 23 deaths take fifth place. Because of this increase 'Other Circulatory Disease' with 14 deaths fell to 6th place. Of the 23 accidents no less than nine were due to motor vehicles compared with four in 1957, 7 in 1956 and 9 in 1955. The apparently encouraging fall in the number of deaths from road accidents in 1956 and 1957 was thus not continued into this year although, of course, the number of people and number of vehicles at risk is increasing rapidly each year.

The deaths from lung cancer were slightly less than in 1957, only 25 men dying from this disease compared with 28 in 1957. The number of women affected was 3 as compared with five in the

previous year. So far as men are concerned, however, cancer of the lung and bronchus still remains the most frequent cause of death of all cancers.

The following table shows the deaths from this cause in Slough since 1950.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS - SLOUGH - DEATHS		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1
1957	28	5
1958	25	3

CAUSES OF DEATH					1957		1958	
					M	F	M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	4	1	4	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	-	-	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	-	1	1	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				2	-	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	8	7	5	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	28	5	25	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	-	11	-	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...		1		8
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				25	24	23	20
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	1	3	4	3
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	2	7	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system				30	35	20	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	67	33	81	45
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	8	1	10	9
20.	Other heart diseases ...	...	...	...	34	69	32	34
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	12	11	6	8
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	2	1	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	11	14	16	14
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	24	7	20	8
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system				3	2	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	4	-	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	2	3	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	4	1	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	9		8	
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...		1		-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	3	5	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				23	31	22	25
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	3	1	6	3
34.	All other accidents ...	...	...	...	3	10	8	6
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	4	3	4	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	...	...	...	-	-	-	1
All causes ...					317	288	309	261

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1958

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1958 by local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually

occurred during the year even although in some cases notification of their occurrence may not have been received until 1959, sometimes because they had occurred in other areas and sometimes because the deaths were the subject of inquests by coroners.

As the Registrar General's machines have to be allocated to other work shortly after the beginning of the new year, he is unable to take these late notifications into consideration and there is, therefore, from time to time, a slight difference between the figures given in the table below and the one set out on the previous page.

Ages at Death, in Years:				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	12	7	19
1 -	...	...	...	7	2	9
10 -	...	...	...	4	5	9
25 -	...	...	...	16	14	30
45 -	...	...	...	97	61	158
65 -	...	...	...	49	31	80
				185	120	305
70 -	...	...	...	41	30	71
75 -	...	...	...	41	32	73
80 -	...	...	...	17	37	54
85 -	...	...	...	16	26	42
90 -	...	...	...	2	12	14
95 and over	...	...	...	1	4	5
				118	141	259
				303	261	564

Out of the 564 deaths, which incidentally were 42 fewer than in 1957, 259 (45.9%) were in persons over the age of 70 years and no less than 339 (60.1%) of those who died had reached retiring age. These percentages compare with 52.6 and 63.5 in 1957.

The six diseases, or groups of diseases, causing the greatest disturbance by killing men during their working years is given in the table below. For the purpose of this table normal working life is assumed to cease at 65 years and deaths under the age of 10 years have been left out or the effect of infant deaths will obscure the picture.

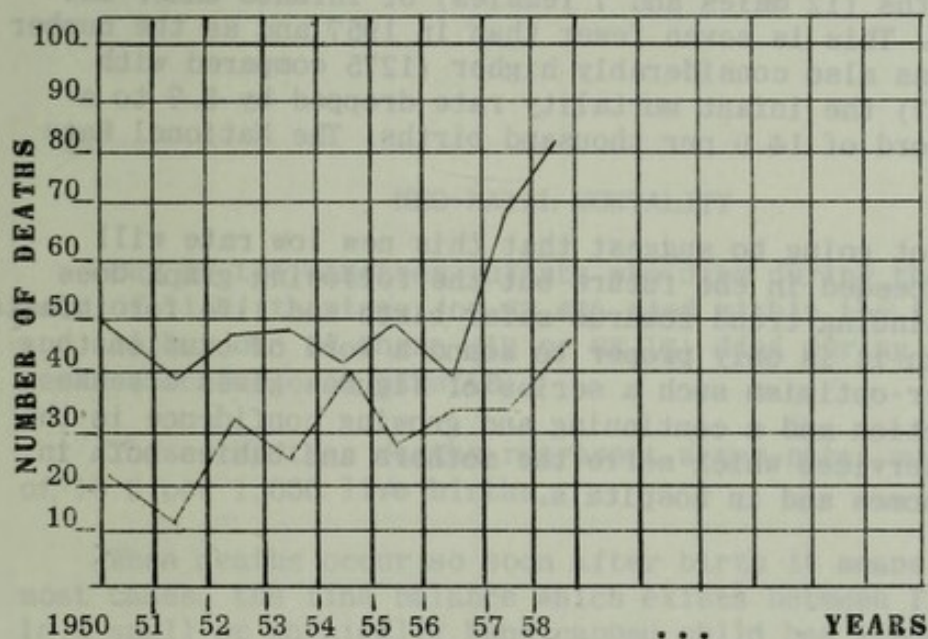
Although many women now contribute to the family income, men only are included in the table, it being assumed that men normally make the main contribution to family income.

The table also, of course, excludes deaths occurring in old age.

Cause	No. of cases	Loss of working years	Average loss of working years per case	Average age at death
1. Heart disease	43	406	9.4	55
2. Cancer	30	405	13.5	51
3. Accidents, all types	8	206	25.75	39
4. Pneumonia & Bronchitis	11	84	7.6	57
5. Suicide	4	56	14	51
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	52	8.7	56

The interest of the table this year lies not so much in the order of causes but in the very considerable increase in the number of working years lost by deaths from diseases in the three main groups. Heart diseases and cancer each caused almost exactly the same loss of time and increased by over 100 years in 1959. Coronary disease was responsible for 38 deaths at an average age of 55 years in the age group represented by this table alone and, if the whole population is taken into account, it will be seen that 81 men and 45 women died from this condition. The graph below shows how the numbers have increased over the past few years.

DEATHS FROM CORONARY DISEASE - SLOUGH



KEY
 ————— MEN
 - - - - - WOMEN

The suggestion that coronary disease has become epidemic does not seem out of place.

Cancer also took a very considerable upward leap this year in this group but the main reason lay in the earlier age of the deaths - 51 years instead of 55 years. Cancer of the lung killed rather fewer in this category than in 1957, 15 as compared with 18; the average age at death remained the same - 55 years.

Accidents were responsible for no less than 8 males between the ages of 10 and 65, the average age at death being only 39 years. Fatal road casualties amounted to 6; the average age of each man dying being only 37 years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

I have been able, under this heading, to return to a report which I gave between 1952 and 1956 - 'No maternal deaths were due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.'

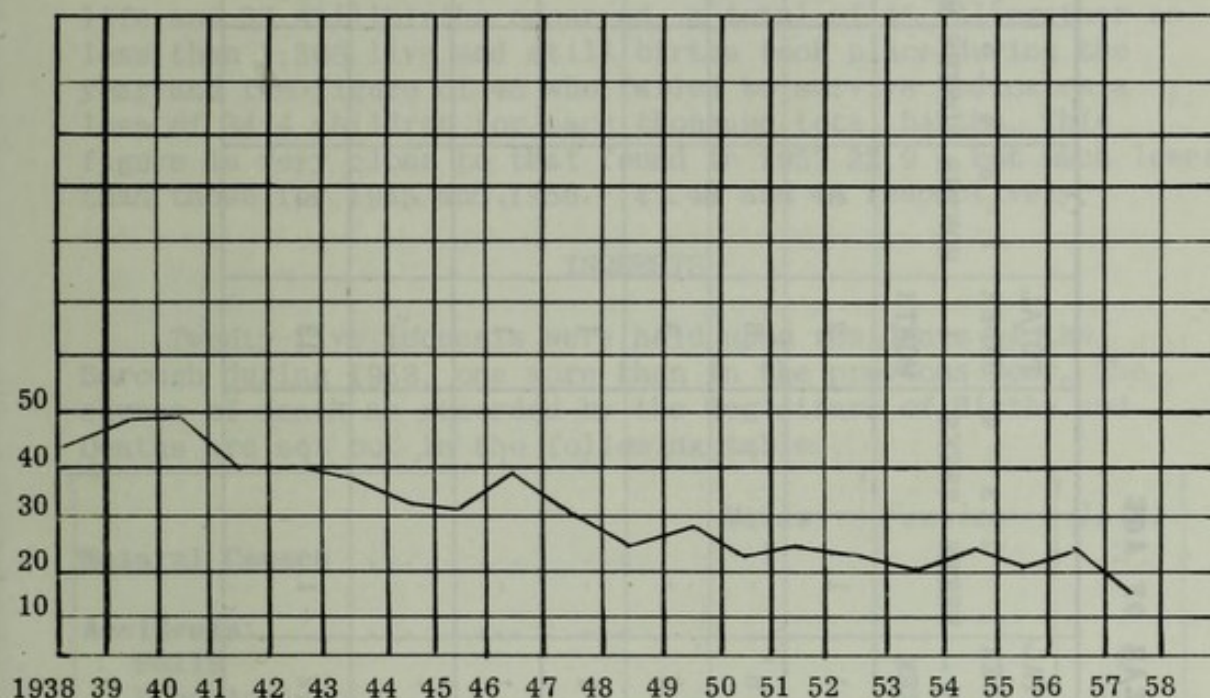
The death which occurred in 1957 broke a record of safe childbirth which had existed since 1951, but the fact that 1958 was clear once again means that there has been only one maternal death in Slough for no fewer than 7,475 births.

INFANT MORTALITY

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 19 deaths (12 males and 7 females) of infants under one year of age. This is seven fewer than in 1957 and as the number of births was also considerably higher (1275 compared with 1102 in 1957) the infant mortality rate dropped by 8.7 to a new low record of 14.9 per thousand births. The National Rate was 22.5.

I am not going to suggest that this new low rate will never be exceeded in the future but the following graph does show a continuing trend towards safer birth and life for infants and although it is only proper to sound a word of caution to prevent over-optimism such a series of figures gives a sense of satisfaction and a continuing and growing confidence in the maternity services which serve the mothers and babies both in their own homes and in hospitals.

INFANT MORTALITY - SLOUGH



NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Out of the nineteen infants who died during their first year of life, thirteen (or 68.4%) died within the first month and all but one of these (12 or 63.1%) died during the first week. (See table on page 18).

These thirteen deaths represent a neo-natal mortality rate of, 10.2 per 1,000 live births.

When deaths occur so soon after birth it means that, in most cases, the fine balance which exists between life and death in a small or physically handicapped child has tipped the wrong way. The very fact that the infant mortality is now so low reduces the chances of obtaining further dramatic falls in the Infant Mortality Rate. However, much research goes on, not only into the ways of keeping new born infants alive but also of preventing the causes of stillbirth whether they be maternal or foetal in origin.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF ALL INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

CAUSE OF DEATH	UNDER 1 DAY	1 - 2 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	6 - 7 DAYS	TOTAL UNDER 1 WEEK	1 - 2 WEEKS	3 - 4 WEEKS	TOTAL UNDER 1 MONTH	1 - 3 MONTHS	4 - 6 MONTHS	7 - 9 MONTHS	10-12 MONTHS	TOTAL UNDER 1 YEAR
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	1	2	7
Prematurity	5	-	1	-	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Atelectasis	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Birth Injury	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormalities	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTALS	8	1	3	-	12	1	-	13	2	-	2	2	19

It is often said that the infant mortality rate is an index of the standard of life in a country but now such comparatively high levels have been attained a better index may well be indicated by studying together the stillbirths and deaths occurring very shortly after birth.

During 1958, 12 infants died during the first week of life and 33 stillbirths occurred, a total of 45. Altogether no less than 1,308 live and still births took place during the year and the figure of 45 who failed to survive indicates a loss of 34.4 children for each thousand total births. This figure is very close to that found in 1957 32.9 - but much lower than those for 1955 and 1956 - 47.43 and 44 respectively.

INQUESTS

Twenty-five inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1958, one more than in the previous year. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths are set out in the following table.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural Causes	...	...	...	1	1	2
Accidents:	...	...	...			
Falls				-	1	1
Road Accidents	...	...		7	3	10
Post-operative	...	...		1	-	1
Cerebral contusions		...		1	-	1
Drowning	...	...	...	1	-	1
Suicide:						
Coal Gas poisoning		...		1	1	2
Stabbing	...	...	...	1	-	1
Hanging	...	...	...	1	-	1
Barbiturate poisoning		...		1	-	1
Open Verdict:						
Coal Gas poisoning		...		-	1	1
Barbiturate poisoning		...		1	-	1
Railway accident	...	...		1	-	1
Manslaughter:						
Multiple stab wounds		...		-	1	1
TOTAL	...			17	8	25

POPULATION

The population of the Town rose once again; or perhaps I should say continued to rise, and by the end of June 1958 the Registrar General estimated that there were 73,620 people living

here. This is a net gain of 2,060 over the year and is made up by the natural increase (births less deaths) of 705 and a net immigration of 1,355. When it is remembered that the great majority of the Britwell Estate and certainly that part which is at present being built for the London County Council tenants is in the Eton Rural District, it is difficult to understand how such an increase in population has occurred without apparently a real increase in overcrowding. An additional number of houses has been built on the Langley L.C.C. Estate on the site opposite the shops where it was originally thought a community centre, church and cinemas might be erected, but the majority of private building has occurred on less obvious sites, for example, near the Langley and London Roads and at Cippenham. Very considerable 'in-filling' is now taking place all over the town and is a very real indication that building land in the Borough is rapidly disappearing. By the time the Langley Airfield site is developed there will be virtually no building land at all left in the town.

II GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cleansing and Disinfestation.

Alterations in the sewage pumping system deprived the disinfecting machine at Chalvey of its steam supply. As the number of articles needing steam disinfestation has, during the past years, remained consistently low, it was decided not to provide an alternative apparatus for the use of the Slough Health Department alone but to approach the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee to see if arrangements could be made for the use of a disinfestor at one of the hospitals within that group. Negotiations were satisfactorily completed and arrangements were made to use the disinfecting plant at Cippenham Hostel from 1st April, 1959.

Disposal of Refuse

The methods of disposing of refuse remained the same as in previous years. The Health Committee continued towards their goal of dustless loading and there is no doubt that the vehicles in use in the Borough today show very great advantages in this respect over the older machines which were, of course, when they were purchased, considered to be the best available.

Kitchen Waste

The kitchen waste was disposed of by contractors as in previous years. No additional difficulties were experienced.

WATER

Slough Corporation Water Supply

40 bacteriological analyses were made from samples of water taken from the Datchet Pumping Station and on two occasions a very slight deterioration from the normal excellent standard was found. In both instances it was thought maintenance and

repairs to pumps was the cause and frequent follow-up samples failed to reveal any sinister significance for the adverse reports. In order to remove any lingering doubts which may remain as to the purity of the Slough water supply, the following extract from a letter from the analyst after these incidents may be quoted.

“ - the deterioration is limited to the least degree which can be recorded. Further, in such circumstances careful control of the system of precautionary chlorination applied to the supply will ensure that the bacterial quality does not fall short of the high standard appropriate to a public supply”.

This, of course, was done and residual chlorine retained as 0.1 parts per million. 534 dwelling houses were added to the number of premises supplied with water by the Borough during 1958.

Slough Estates Water Supply

Factories and their canteens on the Trading Estate together with a small number of houses situated on the estate itself continued to be supplied by the Slough Estates Water Company. Satisfactory results were obtained from analyses and the one given below from No. 6 Borehole on the 3rd September 1958 is fairly typical.

(Chemical values are given in parts per million)

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with few particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	8.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	3
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	555
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	370
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	220
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	75
Temporary	...	...	...	...	75
Permanent	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrogen as nitrites	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.13
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals - Iron	...	...	...	...	0.22

The analyst's report was as follows:

“This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance on the alkalinity side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character contains no excess of mineral constituents in

solution and it is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes

Burnham, Dorney and Hitchem Waterworks Co. Ltd.,

This company reported an additional 64 houses supplied. 52 samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological analyses and were satisfactory.

Swimming Bath Water

Samples were taken from all five baths - the Community Centre, Baylis House, St. Bernard's Convent School, Licensed Victuallers School and Long Close School.

Apart from the Community Centre bath which is used all the year round, the baths are only open during the summer months. All samples were satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Riding Establishments Act, 1939

Mr. J.E. Garland, the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough Council to inspect Pet Shops and Riding Establishments and to give any advice upon the conditions found therein reported that everything was satisfactory upon each of his visits.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Once again no action was necessary under this section during 1957.

The necessity to ask the Magistrates' Court to give an order for the removal of persons to hospital or other institution because they are unable to obtain the necessary care at home is always an unpleasant task and one which is never undertaken lightly. Earlier awareness of deteriorating conditions, particularly in the elderly, can often enable those responsible for welfare services to prevent conditions becoming so bad that this distressing course of action has to be taken. I am sure that as Home Helps services, meals on wheels, chiropody and other personal services become increasingly developed and fear of the 'Poor Law' recedes so not only will more elderly folk receive help and be able to remain at home but those who need whole time care and nursing will readily enter the hospital or home.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The number of staff medical examinations performed for the Borough Council and for the County Council again rose and the highest number yet recorded was reached. The following table gives a comparison of the work over the past five years.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Officers of Slough Borough Council	24	40	36	29	46
Officers of Bucks County Council	53	67	89	60	81
For admission to Teachers' Training Colleges and teaching for the first time	36	30	48	37	34
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	28	24	10	44	27
	141	161	183	170	188

LABORATORY

During the year, 1,111 examinations were performed compared with 1,280 in the previous year.

Decreases took place under these headings:

- (i) Very few throat swabs were examined; this was partly due to the general trend which has occurred over the past few years but also to the fact that a fuller bacteriological service was available to General Practitioners at Upton Hospital.
- (ii) We were very fortunate in having only a very few persons suspected of food poisoning or dysentery and the number of faeces samples taken for examination was very low.
- (iii) Some reduction in ice-cream sampling. In this sphere not all is yet ideal but all except a very few persons handle only pre-wrapped ice-cream; general inspection is sufficient in the main to ensure adequate and hygienic storage.

These decreases were balanced to some extent by increases in the number of milk samples analysed and the number of urinalyses made.

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	-	2
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	-	5
Swabs for Vincent's Angina	-	-
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	-	-
Urine for routine examination	174	
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	-	70
Faeces for Food Poisoning	-	5
Blood Counts	2	
Blood for Haemoglobin	2	

Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Milk Samples:

(a) Phosphatase test	145	-
(b) Methylene blue test	175	-
(c) Coliform test	-	-
(d) Turbidity test	12	-
(e) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water	303	10

Water Samples:

(a) Drinking water	38	2
(b) Swimming Bath water	50	-

Ice Cream:

(a) Chemical tests	50	-
(b) Bacteriological tests		
Grade I	56	
Grade II	1	
Grade III	4	
Grade IV	3	

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN					PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES				
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Grade I	121	76	75	57	56	96.8	85.4	75	96.6	87.5
Grade II	Nil	1	12	2	1	Nil	1.1	12	3.4	1.6
Grade III	1	10	6	Nil	4	0.8	11.2	6	Nil	6.2
Grade IV	3	2	6	Nil	3	2.4	2.2	6	Nil	4.7

**SLOUGH GENERAL PRACTICE AND
PUBLIC HEALTH LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Meetings between the Public Health Medical Officers and General Practitioners of the town continued during the year and the co-operation given by both teams of doctors has, I am sure, never been better. The suspicion that existed before the passing of the National Health Service Act between Public Health Doctors and Family Doctors has now very largely disappeared with the realisation that all are working towards the well-being of the individual and that the assistance which each can give is complementary and not conflicting.

BOROUGH MORTUARY

The services supplied at the Mortuary were again subjected to some increase in demand, the number of post-mortem examinations rising to 103, the second year in which 100 or more examinations has taken place.

1954	89	1956	76
1955	87	1957	100
	1958	103	

HOME HELP SERVICE

No. of Home Helps as at:-	31.12.57	31.12.58
(a) Full-time	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	36	50
No. of cases who received help during	1957	1958
(a) Acute Sick	77	75
(b) Chronic Sick	337)	110
(c) Old Age	)	239
(d) Tuberculosis	7	6
(e) Maternity	69	55

Bare figures such as these give very little idea of the great value of the Home Help Service. It takes little imagination to understand the value of assistance when acute illness exists but it is more difficult to realise that quite a high proportion of those over 70 (Old Age Group) who are helped would need residential accommodation in hospital or hostel were it not for the Home Help Service.

About 40,000 hours of assistance were given during the year to the 485 cases but whereas each acute sick case required on an average only about 20 hours help, the chronic sick and old age cases needed over 100 hours each.

III PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SHOWING CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1958 AND DEATHS. ALSO NOTIFICATIONS FOR YEARS 1947-57

	CASES NOTIFIED 1958	DEATHS 1958	POPULATION IN THOUSANDS											
			71	69	67	67	66	66	66	66	66	66	64	
			TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED DURING											
			1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	
Smallpox ...	-	-	36	27	-	-	70	215	117	-	33	54	-	44
Scarlet Fever ...	39	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	7
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	8	12
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	38	-	25	23	21	25	24	26	6	32	14	20	27	20
Pneumonia ...	31	-	29	19	41	53	64	33	44	14	15	14	14	20
Erysipelas ...	12	-	9	18	14	15	17	14	12	2	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	442	-	1001	52	1185	29	526	778	1681	76	416	748	168	168
Whooping Cough ...	64	-	69	64	56	78	143	101	226	98	118	328	171	171
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	7	7
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	3	5	5	1	5	11	7	7	3	9	5	5
Non - Paralytic	-	-	1	5	6	1	2	9	1	1	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis - Infective	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Post - Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	14	-	6	-	19	3	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	9	-	1	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

SHOWING MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	2	2	2	2	-	-	3	1	-	1	1
Erysipelas ...	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	4	2
Measles ...	6	67	38	70	47	101	99	10	1	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	5	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	3	3	2	3	1	3	5	5	5	2	5
Scarlet Fever ...	2	3	10	3	3	3	3	1	2	5	2	2
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	3	5	5	4	4	5	3	-	5	6	2	4
- Non-Pulmonary ...	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	-	7	3	2	5	9	11	9	4	1	2	11

SHOWING INCIDENCE IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURN- HAM NORTH	BURN- HAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARN- HAM NORTH	FARN- HAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKET NORTH	STOKET SOUTH	UPTON
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	1	2
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	2	-
Measles	101	14	11	3	29	34	34	191	10	9	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	2	4	3	2	-	4	1	4	9
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	34
Scarlet Fever	8	3	2	2	4	3	-	12	2	2	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	6	3	2	4	4	5	2	8	5	1	6
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	2	2	7	6	3	7	7	19	8	3	-

DIPHTHERIA

It is still possible to report that the last recorded case of diphtheria in this town occurred in 1948 - a whole decade ago.

And yet I still go on recommending, year after year, that parents should see that their children receive immunisation against this disease. It is relatively easy to persuade people to accept prevention when dangers are obvious but much more difficult as the danger recedes even although it still exists in the background.

If cross-roads are found to be dangerous because of the amount of traffic using them, then traffic lights will be installed to control the traffic and to prevent accidents. No one would suggest removing traffic lights just because accidents no longer occur at that spot.

The dangers of diphtheria, are, it is true, hidden from view but the risk still remains and as the population in this locality is continually rising the chances of an outbreak is potentially greater than it ever has been.

The practice of using single antigens has temporarily made the task of immunisation more difficult as separate injections need to be given for separate diseases. I hope very much that the reduction in poliomyelitis as the result of immunisation will shortly make it possible to start using at least the combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine again.

In 1958, 579 children had their initial or original protection against diphtheria, compared with 706 in 1957 and 660 in 1956. Of these, 269 received the combined vaccine, which also gives protection against whooping cough. 369 children received renewal of 'booster' dose - a considerable decrease on the figure (1,187) for 1957.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Booster</i>
1950	871	868
1951	855	1256
1952	762	1160
1953	826	1212
1954	867	1425
1955	600	1198
1956	660	1014
1957	706	1187
1958	579	369

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 64 cases of Whooping Cough in 1958, a number which shows little variation when compared with the past 4 years. There was a greater number of cases in the Langley Ward than in any other part of the Borough and quite a high proportion occurred during the summer months - June, July and August.

It is, I think, very interesting to note that the Langley ward has had an undue proportion of cases of infectious diseases for the past two years and a higher incidence of whooping cough than the remainder of the Borough for the past three years. There could, of course, be many explanations - a high proportion of children, a high birth rate, a variation of type between the H. Pertussis in one area and another, the greater emphasis placed upon certain symptoms in the previous area where parents lived, and so on. No one reason is apparent.

During 1958, 483 children were given protection against Whooping Cough as compared with 637 in 1957.

SCARLET FEVER

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was almost exactly the same as in 1957; there were 39 cases notified in 1958. As mentioned last year this number is rather higher than that for 1954-1956 but compares very favourably with 117 in 1952 and 215 in 1953.

There was no change in the severity of the condition, many of the cases being well on the way to recovery by the time the doctor was called and diagnosis made.

Once again the highest number of cases was notified from the Langley ward.

ERYSIPELAS

Twelve cases of this disease were notified in 1958 compared with 9 in 1957. This low number was expected as Erysipelas is caused by the same organism as that which is responsible for Scarlet Fever and a high proportion of sore throats and there was no suggestion of epidemic outbreaks in either of the other conditions.

PNEUMONIA

That the apparent incidence of pneumonia in 1957 and 1958 should have been so low is, perhaps, rather surprising; the number of cases notified were 29 and 31 respectively. While it is true that there was some increase over the previous year, there is nothing in these numbers to indicate the occurrence of a very widespread epidemic of Virus A Influenza during the closing months of 1957 and the beginning of 1958.

The pandemic of Asian influenza which had begun in the Far East during the summer months reached this country by about October and spread very rapidly, the worst of the outbreak having passed before the beginning of 1958.

As only acute influenzal and acute primary pneumonias are notifiable it is, of course, understandable that notifications can give a false picture - it is often difficult to be sure that pneumonia falls into one of the above categories. The fact that deaths from influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis only totalled 58 compared with the 56 in 1956 and 59 in 1957 is an absolute record of the mildness of the disease causing the epidemic.

MEASLES

Measles usually occurs roughly once every two years and it was expected that the number of children suffering from this illness in 1958 would have been small as over 1,000 cases had been notified in 1957. The fact that the 1957 epidemic had occurred during the spring months, with practically no cases after August would have made one doubly certain in forecasting, confidently, that there would be virtually no measles in 1958.

January was, in fact, almost free, but there were no less than 67 cases notified in February and a high incidence continued until July; again an unusual state of affairs - once the disease has commenced a rapid spread and well-marked peak is the usual pattern. Only when we start to look at the geographical distribution of the cases does a possible explanation occur. Well over half the cases occurred in Langley and in Burnham North, the former ward houses the new Langley L.C.C. estate and the latter contains the Priory Estate where there had only been a few cases during the outbreak of 1957.

Although measles is epidemic at roughly two-year intervals in any one place it does take time to spread and there may be a period of some months between the peak of an outbreak in one area and that in another. To prove that this had happened in Langley would need a considerable amount of research but there is, in my opinion, little doubt that the children coming from London and other L.C.C. out-county estate had experienced their measles epidemics at times different from those in Slough and that many of the newcomers had not therefore, gained immunity before arriving here: under those conditions it only needs one or two children with the disease to set an epidemic off; it spreads rapidly among the immigrant population but stops once it reaches the native immunes. The Burnham North ward missed the high incidence of measles in 1957, the last outbreak there having occurred in 1955.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

The number of notifications 38 - was the highest on record. The number is not serious, nor were there any outbreaks such as that recorded in 1957 to cause concern. Most of the cases, were, as expected, registered in the Upton Ward where Upton Hospital with its maternity unit is situated, but the cases were spread almost uniformly over each month of the year.

It is always to be hoped that an increased number of maternity beds can become available in this area and that staffing shortages can be eased so that ideal conditions for the delivery of mothers can prevail.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

It is with the greatest pleasure that I am able to report there were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis in Slough during 1958.

The last previous year without any notifications of this disease was 1944.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

For much of the year the programme of inoculations against poliomyelitis threw a very great strain upon doctors, health visitors, school nursing assistants and clerks. Many people may feel that this effort was responsible for the absence of polio in Slough during the last year; it is just within the bounds of possibility that this was so, but the odds against it having been the cause of such a pleasant fact are astronomical. Inoculations have undoubtedly decreased the chances of those people who have already had them from contracting the disease but no significant change in the epidemiology of the disease can be expected until at least 75% of those at risk have been protected - that proportion is not yet even in sight although to many of those most intimately connected with the work it seems as if the whole population had been injected over and over again.

The year opened quietly enough with many clamouring for the small amount of vaccine which had become available from British sources and it was only early in May when large quantities of vaccine were flown in from the United States that the mass campaign really got under way.

In Buckinghamshire the County Council and Local Executive Council agreed that family doctors should undertake polio immunisations on behalf of the Local Authority by working on a sessional basis instead of making their own arrangements. This system undoubtedly had the advantage of our being able to make full use of the vaccine in the shortest possible time and to

prevent wastage, but the organisational strain thrown upon the Area Health Office was very great indeed.

During the three months between May and July no less than 14,000 children received two injections of poliomyelitis vaccine.

239 sessions were arranged and involved the engagement of doctors, hiring of halls, arranging for sterilizing of equipment, distribution of vaccine etc. The whole of this campaign was carried out without any serious dissatisfaction and from this can be gathered the great spirit of co-operation found amongst all those concerned.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number of primary vaccinations against smallpox rose slightly and 711 persons were vaccinated, as compared with 632 in 1957. The number of re-vaccinations totalled 100.

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) New Cases

As I said last year it was too much to hope that the rapid fall in the number of new cases of this disease would continue as it had between 1955 and 1957 - from 93 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary cases to 36 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary cases. There was, in fact, a rise in new notifications in 1958, twelve more chest cases and three more cases from other sites occurring. However, with the continual increase in the population this rise is more apparent than real and the incidence of the disease is little more than half of what it was ten years ago.

Many diseases have been conquered or subdued during the past fifty years and the Medical Officer of Health has a hard time trying to convince people that relaxation of the conditions which brought about that very improvement of which we are so proud may well lead once again to the epidemics of former years. There is at the present time only too good an example of this in hospitals. Since the introduction of sulphonamides and antibiotics there has been a tendency to rely upon these substances and to forget that before the existence of penicillin prevention of the spread of infection was achieved by scrupulous cleanliness, meticulous attention to detail and hard work. Now that some germs have become resistant to antibiotics there is a great danger that hospitals may themselves become the source of epidemic infections, particularly of staphylococci. The lessons of earlier years must, therefore, be relearned.

The home treatment of many cases of tuberculosis with drugs which are easy to take and yet which may have unpleasant side-effects is a potential source of danger. How easy it is to forget to take an unpleasant medicine if one is feeling well and how easy to believe that there is no need to bother because the

doctor won't know anyway. Human failings I know, but these failings may cause tragedies and new cases of tuberculosis from those who again become infectious. Do not let us become complacent because of the ease with which cure can apparently be obtained.

The number of cases of the non-pulmonary form of the disease was nine - three more than in 1957. Four were males and five females.

The following table gives the details of the age and sex incidence of all cases.

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY	
Age in Years	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	-	1	-	-
1 -	3	7	2	-
15 -	5	4	-	2
25 -	4	7	1	-
35 -	3	4	1	2
45 -	5	3	-	1
65 -	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-
Unknown	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	22	26	4	5

TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
POPULATION	66,610	66,340	66,439	66,730	66,950	67,090	67,940	69,190	71,560	73,620
P - PULMONARY										
N.P. - NON-PULMONARY	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.
CASES NOTIFIED	71	11	88	13	71	9	55	4	69	9
NOTIFICATION PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	1.07	0.17	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13	0.82	0.06	1.03	0.12

(b) Notification Register

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1958 were as follows:

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
533	315	848	61	63	124

This register which is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers' less 'outward transfers' 'cures' and deaths, showed an upward trend once again. There were 37 more pulmonary cases on the register and nine more non-pulmonary cases on the books compared with 1957. The new cases and deaths compensate very closely for this increase and so we had during 1958 about the same number of 'transfers in' as 'transfers out'. The great increase of 'transfers in' of the past few years have occurred mainly on the L.C.C. Langley Estate and with the virtual completion of the estate as originally planned, the number of transfers was as might have been expected almost in equilibrium; additional building on this estate may well lead to a new rise in 1959.

(c) B.C.G. Vaccination

Tests to determine sensitivity to tuberculosis were offered to all school children of approximately 14 years of age. Of 1,454 children eligible, the 1,009 taking advantage of the offer were tested. Of these 893 showed no reaction, i.e. to say there was no indication of any previous exposure to or experience of tuberculosis and the tests were negative. These children were then given 0.1 c.c. of B.C.G. vaccine into the skin of an upper arm.

The number of acceptances and the number of positive reactors was almost exactly the same as in 1957.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Number Negative</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>
1956	832	138 (16.6%)	694 (83.4%)
1957	1013	116 (11.46%)	897 (88.54%)
1958	1009	116 (11.49%)	893 (88.51%)

It had been hoped that the number of children tested would have been higher but the influenza epidemic during the early part of the year may have been responsible for a high absentee rate.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary Death Rate per 1000 population
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
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	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	0	0.33
1950	66,340	10	3	1	2	0.19
1951	66,439	10	6	1	0	0.24
1952	66,730	11	3	1	1	0.21
1953	66,950	5	1	0	0	0.09
1954	67,090	5	2	0	2	0.13
1955	67,940	5	3	0	1	0.12
1956	69,190	7	1	1	0	0.12
1957	71,560	4	1	0	0	0.07
1958	73,620	4	0	1	1	0.05

(d) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Nine cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1958 and the table below gives further details of those cases.

	Males	Females
Cervical Glands	1	2
Genitals	1	
Hip	1	
Kidney		2
Meninges	1	
Uterus		1
TOTAL	4	5

(e) Deaths from Tuberculosis

The number of deaths from tuberculosis was only one higher than that of 1957 when fewer people died from this disease than in any previously recorded year. Four deaths of males were due to the chest form of the disease and two deaths - one male and one female, were due to the disease in other parts of the body.

IV MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following infant welfare clinics and sessions for toddlers were held in and around the town.

	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>Fridays</i>
Weekly	Burlington Road St. Michael's Community Centre	Langley	Langley L.C.C. Est. Burnham	Farnham Royal Burlington Road	Cippenham Wexham Road Britwell Est.
Twice Monthly		Stoke Poges Colnbrook			Lent Rise

Although no additional centres or sessions were added in the town during 1958, new centres were open on the Britwell L.C.C. Estate and at Colnbrook, both of which catered to some extent for the inhabitants on the fringes of the town.

The Colnbrook Centre is held twice monthly in the Public Rooms at Colnbrook and a doctor attends on the 4th Tuesday in each month, while the Britwell Centre is held weekly in a house rented for this purpose by the Bucks County Council. At this latter, a doctor is present twice monthly.

ANTE-NATAL AND MOTHERCRAFT EDUCATION

Mothercraft Classes and ante-natal relaxation exercises continued during 1958 as also did the periodic showing of films to young couples expecting their first babies. The films were shown during 8 or 9 evenings during the year and were greatly appreciated by the invited audiences. The practice of using Upton Hospital and Burlington Road Health Centre alternately for these showings helps to demonstrate the co-operation and foster the liaison between the public health maternity services and the hospital maternity services both of which exist for the same purpose.

ANTE-NATAL BLOOD TESTS

During the year alternative arrangements had to be made for taking blood samples from expectant mothers as the ante-natal clinics at the Community Centre had become overwhelmed with additional work. Although the examination of samples was continued at Upton Hospital or the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, the specimens themselves had to be taken by general practitioners or patients to one of the laboratories concerned.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC

Although no additional sessions were arranged at these clinics their popularity continued to increase and all clinics were filled to capacity.

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

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 AND CHILDREN'S HOME

Residential accommodation for children needing care by the Local Health Authority is supplied by the Bucks County Council at Brookside Residential Nursery, Salt Hill, Slough, and at Manor Lodge, Mildenhall Road, Slough.

The former cares for children under five years of age while the latter looks after those who have already reached school age.

Accommodation is restricted and, although it is always hoped a place will be available for urgent cases, no guarantee that a child can be admitted to a particular nursery can be given.

Applications should be made to the Children's Officer, 18, Walton Street, Aylesbury.

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 1958

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

SECTION A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TABLE NO. 1

Summary:

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	16,528
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	857
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	490
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	163
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	10
Letters received	...	...	...	...	...	5,865
Letters despatched	...	...	...	...	...	1,721
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	1,518

TABLE NO. 2

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

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	4,110
Inspections of Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	982
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	...	...	...	...	...	3,072
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	139
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	522
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1,220
General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	5,549
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	...	...	...	...	...	5,236
Miscellaneous Matters	...	...	...	...	...	1,073

TABLE NO. 3

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable)	108
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	148
Factories and Workplaces	26
Shops	70
Drainage (reconstruction, repair etc.,) ...	96
Miscellaneous	40

SECTION B

HOUSING

Programme of Housing Slum Clearance

At the end of 1958, the Council's Five Year Programme was nearing completion, some 350 dwelling-houses having been dealt with.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, it will be recalled, had approved the programme which comprised 368 unfit houses for clearance and the rehousing by the Borough Council of the displaced occupiers.

At the beginning of the year under review, a total of 218 of these properties had been dealt with by either 'clearance areas' or 'individual unfit' procedure.

During 1958, action under the programme was continued as follows:-

(a) Clearance Areas

One hundred and twelve houses occupied by 257 persons were declared as clearance areas. Sixteen of these areas were dealt with by way of Clearance Orders and five areas by the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure. All Orders were confirmed by the Ministry.

The distribution of properties represented was as follows:-

Wellington Street, Chandos Street, etc.	35
Upton Road, Sussex Place, etc.	14
Albert Street, Hencroft Street, Church Street, etc.	34
Windsor Road	8
St. Mary's Road, Langley	12
Blacksmith Row, Langley	9

(b) *Individual Unfit Houses*

Twenty dwelling-houses occupied by 30 persons were dealt with as follows:-

Demolition Orders	3
Closing Orders	9
Slough Borough Council (Upton Lea Cottages)	2
Informal arrangement with Owners to demolish (High Street, Langley)	6

Improvement Grants

The provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, Part II replacing the Housing Act, 1949 relating to housing improvement grants, have continued to be dealt with by the Building Works Committee of the Council.

As in the previous year, the Council set aside the sum of £1,500 for this purpose to be allocated to applicants whose proposals were in conformity with the requirements of the Acts. This amount proved to be adequate for the purpose and in every case it was possible to make the maximum grant of 50% of the cost of approved works.

Numerous 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 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.

Nine applications for grants were received during the year and these, amounting to £1,120, were subsequently approved by the Borough Council. An additional amount of £193 was approved in respect of an application which, due to certain legal formalities, was deferred from the previous year.

All these grants were in respect of owner/occupied houses and the nature of improvements carried out followed the usual pattern consisting of the provision of bathroom and indoor water-closet, one exception being the abolition of an existing cesspool and connection of the drain to the public sewer.

Three hundred and nine visits were 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 Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling-houses

To ensure a satisfactory standard of fitness of dwelling-houses will ever be amongst the more important functions of the Public Health Inspector, for the condition of the dwelling-house must surely be the basis of environmental health.

Due to the ever-increasing scope and consequent widening of duties, a regular system of routine inspection of houses has not been possible for many years.

During the year 258 complaints from tenants regarding the disrepair of their dwellings were made to the Department.

The District Public Health Inspectors made 2,793 visits to some 776 houses for the purpose of initial inspection, and subsequent re-inspection in securing compliance with notices served and supervising building works in progress. As a result of this action 108 houses were rendered habitable.

In connection with this work under the Housing and Public Health Acts, 9 statutory, 496 preliminary written and verbal notices, and 44 Requisition for Information notices as to ownership of premises were served during 1958.

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

Houses externally repaired	...	...	86
" internally repaired	...	...	70
" dampness remedied	...	...	52
" internally decorated	...	...	24
" portable dustbins provided	...	...	332

Again as in 1957, it proved to be unnecessary for the Council to carry out repairs in default of owners.

Overcrowding

The extent of overcrowding at the present time within the Borough is uncertain because no survey has been carried out since 1935 when standards were first laid down. There is, however, no evidence which would suggest that a problem exists.

Several instances of alleged overcrowding came to the notice of the Department during the year by complaint or otherwise. Upon investigation it was found that in almost every case coloured people, the numbers of which have increased in recent years, were involved.

Definite overcrowding was discovered in a few instances, but following informal action, warning letters etc., such contraventions ceased immediately.

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

Council Housing Estates

(a) Allocation of Council Houses

One hundred and eighty-four 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

Despite the criticism and general dislike of the caravan way of life, many thousands of families either by choice (and I think they are in the minority), or otherwise, have solved for the time being, at any rate, their housing problem and continue to live peacefully and without apparent ill effects.

There are said to be some 200,000 people living in caravans in this country, 25,000 of them in Greater London, where the vans are parked in the metropolitan green belt.

The authoritative and traditional view - that the movable dwelling can only offer sub-standard living accommodation - must prevail.

In Slough, probably because of the shortage of suitable land together with town planning restrictions, the caravan situation has not assumed anything in the nature of a problem.

During 1958, the Council granted annual licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 130 caravans situated throughout the town. Thirty of these were renewals of licences previously issued.

The distribution of caravans was as follows:-

Foxborough Farm, Common Road, Langley	76
(Licensed as a site)	
Ditton Farm, Ditton Road, Slough	4
(Licensed as a site)	
Brook Path, Cippenham	10
(Caravans individually licensed)	
Farnham Royal (Britwell) Contractors Temporary Sites (Caravans individually licensed) ...	12

The remaining 28 licences were in respect of individual caravans scattered on odd sites in various parts of the Borough.

Your officers made some 501 visits of inspection in connection with movable dwellings during 1958.

Rent Acts - Certificates of Disrepair

The controversial subject of Rent Acts is the concern of this Department in so far as the Council act in an administrative capacity during the cumbersome process of the issue by them of Certificates of Disrepair. The procedure as laid down by the Rent Act, 1957 has been called the 'Battle of Forms', involving the possible use of some 21 prescribed forms between the occupants' receipt of notice of increase in rent, and the cancellation of the Certificate of Disrepair. At the various stages of such procedure decisions are called for, and these must be those of the Council. For this purpose a Health (Certificate of Disrepair) Sub-Committee was formed.

The following is a summary of the action taken during 1958, regarding Certificates of Disrepair.

Applications for Certificates	46
Applications withdrawn	8
Certificates granted	39
Landlords' undertakings accepted	25
Landlords' applications for cancellation	26
Certificates cancelled	12
Cancellations refused	8

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 1,453 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 Acts, in respect of the purchase of small dwellings. A 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

The chemical and bacteriological quality of food, its compositional standard, its freedom from disease, the method of handling, packing, preparation and transport, are all important considerations which must continue to be the concern of the Department.

The Hygiene of Food

Few would deny that striking advances have been made in this part of the public health field in recent years. These are surely due to the pressure applied by local authorities who have made a genuine attempt to apply the present food regulations which must be admitted to be more effective than any previous legislation.

This period has coincided with considerable advances made in the canning industry and in the pre-packing of food generally. On the other hand, we are a long way from complete satisfaction and there is no room for complacency in food hygiene. Undoubtedly the most serious problem in improving and maintaining high standards concerns the food handler as much of this work attracts the unskilled and unintelligent; here much more stress is needed on the importance of hygienic practices and cleanliness of habit and person.

School kitchens and canteens and other arrangements for taking meals, both at County Council and private schools, received attention during the year. In general they were found to be very satisfactory and the Food Hygiene Regulations were reasonably well observed. The ready co-operation of the school meals service organiser and the various canteen supervisors is much appreciated. Considerable improvement has already been made in some of the older school canteens but much remains to be done in the case of others and this is scheduled to be carried out in the near future. At one school the canteen and dining-room were completely re-built and several new schools were opened each with its modern and well equipped canteen.

Buildings are important but less so than equipment and personnel.

Much more remains to be done in Food Hygiene education of both handlers and consumers.

Frequent inspections of all food premises within the Borough were made during 1958 when some 2,603 visits were paid to food factories, catering establishments and factory canteens, bakeries, dairies, ice-cream manufactories, markets, licensed premises, meat, fish, grocery and other retail food shops.

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

Milk and Dairies

Slough is in a 'Specified Area', and all milk sold within the Borough must be heat-treated (either pasteurized or sterilized) 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 139 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-time-high-temperature type of plant was being operated efficiently. Although both dairies have their own control laboratory facilities, as a routine 145 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 efficiently pasteurised. Not one sample failed the test.

The operation of bottle filling, bottle and churn washing plants received close attention during the year. This together with arrangements for cold storage, the conditions of premises and hygienic practices were found to be very satisfactory.

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 ...	24
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	27
Dealer's Sterilized Milk Licences	52

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

A good deal of thought and carefully organised team work is essential at all stages of milk production to ensure that the customer receives his basic food in a clean, fresh, wholesome condition, properly treated and free from harmful organisms. Milk should, when delivered, be reasonably cool and have good keeping qualities.

During 1958, 189 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination. The samples were examined in the Department's laboratory. In two instances only, those of tuberculin-tested milk bottled at a farm outside the Borough, the samples failed the test.

TABLE NO. 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SAMPLES PROCURED
Pasteurised Milk	58
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk ...	87
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	32
Sterilized Milk	12

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream

The popularity and consumption of ice-cream continues to increase. We British too now boast the 'ice box' and like the Americans, look upon ice-cream as an all-year-round food and not as an occasional treat to be enjoyed only during heat-waves.

Legislation over the past two decades has literally forced the 'back yard' manufacturer-cum-vendor out of business and we do not mourn his passing. He has been replaced by the larger manufacturers using modern equipment with 'no touch' technique capable of producing at least a safe product, as well as one of good compositional standard.

The Food and Drugs Act 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 1958, 6 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream and

214 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. This included 20 new applications made during the year. To those premises your staff made 197 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, 64 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination at the Departmental laboratory with the following results:-

TABLE NO. 5

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

PROVISIONAL GRADE	SAMPLES
1) satisfactory	55
2)	1
3) unsatisfactory	5
4)	3

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Foods

At the end of 1958, 53 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	2
Fish Friers	15
Manufactories of Sausages and cooked meats	34

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 9 premises registered as bakehouses. Some 30 visits were made for the purpose of

inspection of premises and machinery. Conditions were found to be very satisfactory.

Foreign Matter in Food

Despite all manner of preventive measures taken by food manufacturers in respect of raw materials and detection devices employed on finished products, each year brings forth a small crop of complaints regarding the presence of foreign matter. The cause of this is glibly referred to as the 'human element'. In fact it always points to carelessness or lack of attention to detail at some stage during the long chain from raw material to final product.

In 1958, several complaints were received from members of the public concerning food in which extraneous matter was discovered after purchase. Examples of these were:- metal in bread; cement in bottle of milk; fibre brush bristle in boiled sweet.

In the case of all such complaints a full investigation is made including consultation with manufacturers' s representatives.

In no case during 1958 was statutory action instituted but warning letters were sent to those responsible.

Food and Drugs (Compositional Standard and Quality)

Each year a careful watch is 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 scale. 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 mis-description of articles of food and drugs.

In the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955: some 617 samples were procured during 1958, this being the equivalent of 8.6 samples per 1,000 of the population.

Two hundred and twenty-four of the samples (197 formal and 27 informal) were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst. The results of the analysis of these samples are given in Table No. 6 and the action taken in respect of the 26 samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine is shown in Table No. 7.

The remaining 393 samples were tested by the sampling officers or in the Departmental laboratory, as follows:-

Milk	-	313 samples
Ice-Cream	-	50 ''
Spirits	-	30 ''

Milk

An endeavour was made to sample and test every source and 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 1958 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. Added water was found in 10 formal samples, all from one producer against whom summary proceedings were instituted.

The average composition of all samples examined during the year which can be considered as satisfactory, was as follows:-

Channel Islands Milk	- 4.4% fat and 9.2% solids-not-fat.
Other Milk	- 3.6% fat and 8.66% solids-not-fat.

Ice-Cream

All samples of ice-cream sampled during the year and tested in the Departmental laboratory were of satisfactory compositional 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 1958, a sample of whisky was found to contain added water. Summary proceedings were instituted.

Local Food Manufactories

Each year articles of food manufactured within the Borough are sampled. In 1958, all such samples were found to be satisfactory.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter

During the year, 106 samples of food were examined by the Public Analyst to check on the presence of prohibited

preservatives and colouring matter. In one instance a sample of sausages was found to contain preservatives but no notice to that effect was exhibited in the shop. The vendor was warned and suitable notices were eventually affixed in the shop.

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.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 - 1953

Careful observation was kept during the year 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, regarding imported tomatoes exposed for sale without adequate indication of the country of origin. No serious infringements of the Acts were observed.

TABLE NO. 6

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst						
			PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
			Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:						
Almonds, ground	...	...	1			
Almonds, salted	...	...	1			
Apples	...	...		1		1
Baking Powder	...	...	1			
Beans, Baked	...	...	1	1		
Beer	...	...	2			
Beef, minced	...	...	2			
Biscuits	...	...	4			
Butter	...	...	2			
Buttered cheese spread	...	...	2			
Brawn	...	...	1			
Cakes	...	...	1			
Cashew Nut Cream	...	...	1			
Cheese	...	...	2			
Cheese sticks	...	...	1			
Chicken fillets	...	...		1		1
Chicklettes	...	...	1			
Coffee	...	...	2			
Coffee and Chicory essence	...	...	3			
Coffee and Chicory, strong	...	...	1		1	
Colouring	...	...	1			
Cornflour	...	...	1			
Cornish pasty	...	...	1			
Corned beef	...	...	1			
Crab, dressed	...	...	1			
Crabmeat	...	...	1			
Cream	...	...	1	1		
Creamed rice	...	...	2			
Custard powder	...	...	1			
Dripping	...	...	1			
Essence flavouring	...	...	1			
Extract of Malt	...	...	1			
Faggots	...	...	1			
Fish	...	...	5			
Fish cakes	...	...	1			
Fish dressing	...	...	1			
Flour	...	...	1			
Fruit, dried	...	...	5			
Fruit, tinned	...	...	4	1		
Gelatine	...	...	1			
Ginger, ground	...	...	1			
Gravy browning	...	...	1			
Gravy salt	...	...	1			
Ham, cooked	...	...	1			
Herbs	...	...	3			
Herring roes	...	...	1			
Honey	...	...	1			
Ice lollies	...	...	2			
Indian curried mutton	...	...	1		1	
Jam	...	...	3			
Jelly	...	...	2			
Jelly cream	...	...	1			
Lard	...	...	3			
Lemon curd	...	...	2			
Lemon juice	...	...	1			
Lemonade powder	...	...	1			
Luncheon meat	...	...	1			
Macaroni	...	...		1		
Margarine	...	...	2	2		

	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Marmalade	2			
Marzipan	1			
Meat paste	1			
Milk	21	10	10	9
Minced beef with peas ...	1			
Mincemeat	2			
Mustard	2			
Oatmeal	1			
Olives, stuffed	1			
Orange curd	1			
Peanut butter	2			
Peanuts, salted	1			
Peas, dried	1			
Peas, garden	2			
Peas, processed	1			
Peel, cut	1			
Pepper	1			
Pickles	5			
Potato crisps	1			
Potato puffs	1			
Rice, ground	1			
Sago pudding mixture ...	1			
Sauce	5			
Sausages	2			
Sausage rolls	2			
Savoury straws	1			
Soft drinks	9			
Soups	4		2	
Spaghetti		1		
Steak & Kidney pudding ...	1			
Suet	1			
Sugar confectionery	5	7		
Sugar, Demerara	1			
Sugar, icing	1			
Sweetened creamed sago pudding	1			
Tea	2			
Tomato paste	1			
Tomatoes, peeled	1			
Vermicelli	1	1		
Vinegar	4			
Walnuts	1			
Whisky	1		1	
Wine	3			
DRUGS:				
Cascara sagrada	1			
Cough syrup	1			
Digestive tablets	1			
Eye lotion tablets	1			
Glucose	1			
Glucose tablets	1			
Halibut Liver oil capsules	1			
Oil of juniper	1			
Rose-hip syrup	1			
Travel sickness tablets	1			
TOTAL FOODS	187	27	15	11
TOTAL DRUGS	10			
TOTAL FOODS AND DRUGS	197	27	15	11

TABLE NO. 7

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
38	Whisky	14% added water	Summary proceedings instituted. Brewers & Manager each fined £50 and £11.15.0 costs. Fines reduced on appeal to Bucks Quarter Sessions to £10 each and costs totalling 35 guineas awarded to Slough Borough Council
56	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (7.55%). No added water	Supply kept under observation
136	Milk	Deficient in fat 10% and in solids-not-fat (8.43%). No added water	Supply kept under observation
64	Cream of Leek Soup	Did not qualify for description 'Cream of	Importers agreed to withdraw remaining stocks
57	Apples	Contained slight excess of arsenic and lead	Consignment released subject to adequate washing
245	Milk	Added water 1.3%	Supply kept under observation
296	Milk	Added water 5.0%	Supply kept under observation. Subsequent samples genuine
273	Cream of Mushroom Soup	Did not qualify for description 'Cream of	Importers agreed to withdraw remaining stocks
302	Strong coffee & chicory	No justification for use of word 'strong'	Vendors warned
317	Indian Curried Mutton made with Butter	Amount of butter present does not justify description	Manufacturers warned
352	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.38%). No added water	Supply kept under observation
353	Milk	Added water 1.3%	Supply kept under observation
445	Milk	Deficient in fat 33.3% and solids-not-fat (7.83%). No added water	Supply kept under observation
444	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (7.98%). No added water	Supply kept under observation
181	Chicken Fillets	Contained matchstick	Vendors warned
521	Milk	Deficient in fat 16.6%	Supply kept under observation

TABLE NO. 7

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATED	ACTION TAKEN
583	Channel Island Milk	Added water 6.9%	)
584	"	Added water 6.9%	)
585	"	Added water 9.4%	)
586	"	Added water 6.9%	)
587	"	Added water 4.1%	)
588	"	Added water 5.0%	)
589	"	Added water 4.1%	)
590	"	Added water 7.9%	)
591	"	Added water 4.5%	)
592	"	Added water 1.8%	)

Municipal Abattoir

These premises in Cippenham Lane continued to operate satisfactorily during 1958.

So far as English meat is concerned, the abattoir 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, of course, 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 Abattoir 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. With increased hanging room and lairage accommodation the annual throughput could be almost doubled.

In 1958, 18,625 animals were slaughtered, as follows:-

Cattle	-	3,370
Sheep	-	5,585
Pigs	-	8,683
Calves	-	987

This is an increase of 27% on the previous year.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1959, tolls for the use of the Abattoir amounted to £2,901.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

Again I am pleased to repeat that 100% inspection of home-killed meat was achieved during the 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.

Table No. 8 gives particulars of carcasses examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption. The graph which precedes Table No. 8 shows the gradual decreasing incidence of tuberculosis in all animals slaughtered for food in Slough over the past 14 years.

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 carcase passed as satisfactory is marked with the Inspector's official stamp in accordance with the Meat Marking Scheme which, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has now operated in Slough for 5 years.

In addition to inspection carried out at the Municipal 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.

In addition to meat inspection some 207 visits were made to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. As a result almost 19½ tons of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation for destruction.

The details are as follows:-

Canned Foods	...	...	...	...	11,993 lb.
Fish	...	...	...	...	143 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	484 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	...	819 lb.
Manufactured Meat Products	...	...	...	...	93 lb.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	1,820 lb.
Cheese & Butter	...	...	...	...	62 lb.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	28,000 lb.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	140 lb.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	127 lb.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Carcase and offal certified as unfit for human consumption are not necessarily in all cases destroyed. Such material 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 from time to time approved of certain reputable collectors of condemned meat to whom I have authorised the Slaughtering Contractor to dispose of such material.

All condemned meat is removed to a separate store at the Abattoir and is treated with a special green dye which cannot be obliterated.

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 1958. 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 Municipal Abattoir 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 6 Licences and granted 2 new Licences to persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Electrical stunning apparatus was used at the Municipal Abattoir 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.

**AVERAGE PERCENTAGE
OF
ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR FOOD
AFFECTED WITH
BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS**

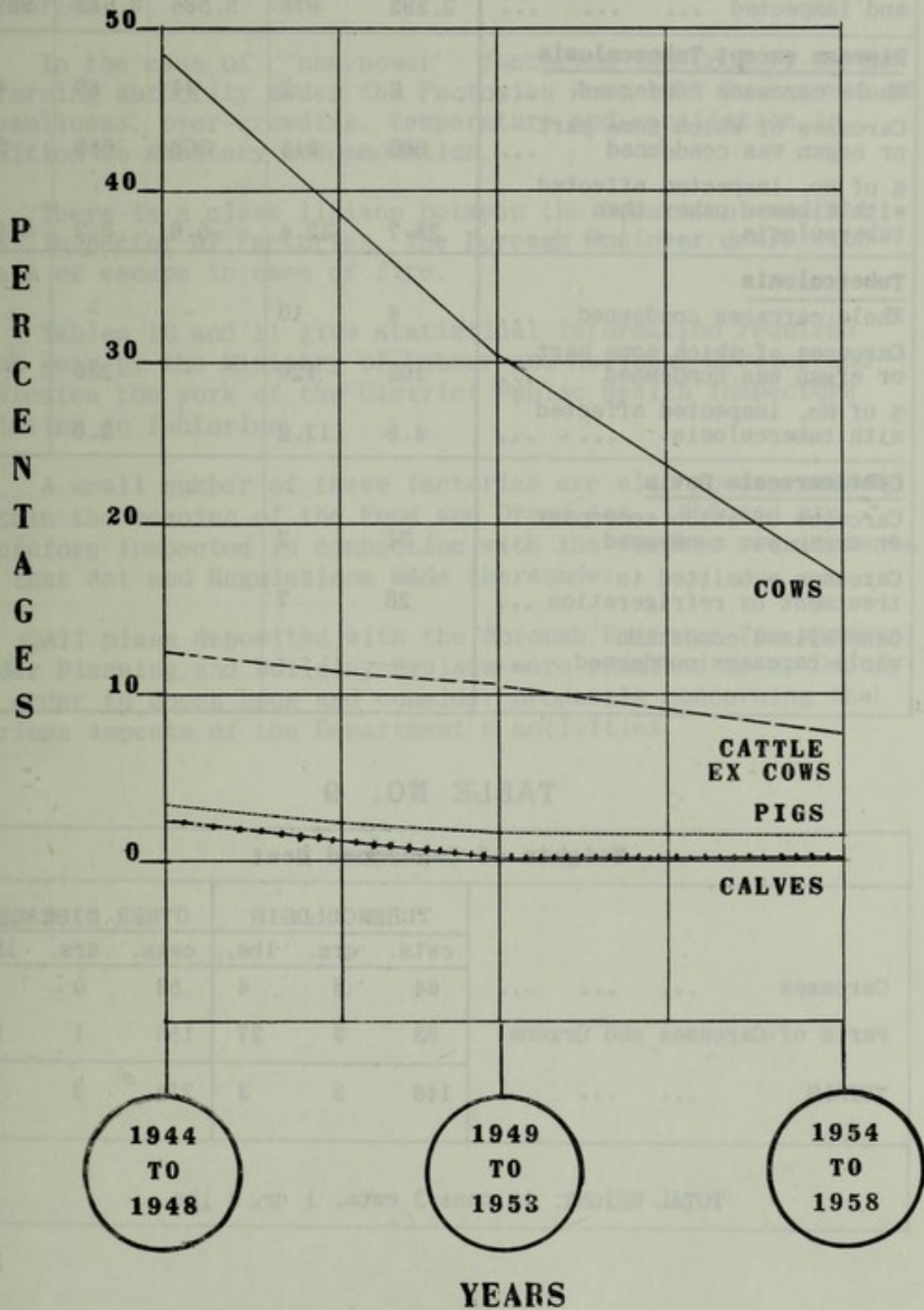


TABLE NO. 8
SLOUGH MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned					
	CATTLE EX. COWS	COWS	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	2,392	978	5,585	8,683	987
Disease except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	2	11	59	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	600	315	308	659	5
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	25.7	32.4	5.6	8.2	0.9
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	10	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	103	120	-	230	-
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.5	13.2	-	2.6	-
Cysticercosis Bovis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	31	7			
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	26	7			
Generalized condition whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-			

TABLE NO. 9

Weights of Condemned Meat						
	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcasses	64	3	4	58	0	9
Parts of Carcasses and Organs	83	3	27	156	1	19
TOTALS	148	3	3	214	2	0
TOTAL WEIGHT: 18 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 3 lbs.						

S E C T I O N D

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

At the close of the year there were 592 factories on the Corporation's register. All but 36 of these are factories where mechanical power is used, and consequently, are the concern of the local authority only in respect of the adequacy, arrangement and maintenance of the sanitary accommodation. For all other purposes they are controlled by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

In the case of 'non-power' factories the Council is the enforcing authority under the Factories Act, 1937 in respect of cleanliness, over-crowding, temperature and ventilation in addition to sanitary accommodation.

There is a close liaison between the Department and the H.M. Inspector of Factories. The Borough Engineer deals with means of escape in case of fire.

Tables 10 and 11 give statistical information required each year by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and indicates the work of the District Public Health Inspectors relating to factories.

A small number of these 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 Regulations made thereunder.

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

Firms employing persons to carry out work outside their factory premises are required by the Factories Act, 1937, during February and August each year, to furnish the local authority with lists giving the names and addresses of all such "outworkers".

The premises where the work is carried out, invariably dwelling houses, are then subjected to periodic inspection by our officers for the purpose of ensuring that working conditions are satisfactory and in accordance with minimum standards of environmental hygiene.

Such "outwork" is now almost wholly limited to the alteration of wearing apparel.

The returns during 1955 showed some 30 premises within the Borough where "homework" was carried out, and upon inspection

TABLE NO. 10

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES				
PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	36	57	1	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	539	457	19	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	17	22	4	NIL
TOTAL	592	536	24	NIL

TABLE NO. 9

FACTORY	1954-55			1955-56		
	No.	Area	Value	No.	Area	Value
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE NO. 11

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AT FACTORIES					
PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NO. OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FND	REMEDIED	REFERRED		
			TO H. M. INSPECTOR	BY H. M. INSPECTOR	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	22	25	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	-	-	1	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) ...	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	26	-	2	-

Homework

Firms employing persons to carry out work outside their factory premises are required by the Factories Act, 1937, during February and August each year, to furnish the local authority with lists giving the names and addresses of all such 'outworkers'.

The premises where the work is carried out, invariably dwelling-houses, are then subjected to periodical inspection by your officers for the purpose of ensuring that working conditions are satisfactory and in accordance with minimum standards of environmental hygiene.

Such 'outwork' is now almost wholly limited to the alteration of wearing apparel.

The returns during 1958 showed some 30 premises within the Borough where 'homework' was carried out, and upon inspection

were found to be generally satisfactory.

Lists in respect of 57 outworkers were forwarded to other local authorities, from whom lists were received in respect of six outworkers in Slough

Drinking Water

In the case of a 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. The water in question was previously sampled and found to be satisfactory for that purpose.

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

All shop premises within the Borough are subject to the provisions of the above Acts.

The following is a brief summary of the inspections made by your officers together with improvements effected:-

(a) Inspections:

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	322
Conditions of employment	137
Hours of employment of Young Persons	34
Hours of closing	525
Sunday Trading	202

(b) Improvements Effected at Shops:

Improved sanitary accommodation ...	12
Improved washing facilities ...	17
Facilities for taking meals ...	1
Notices displayed	11
Other contraventions remedied ...	12

Workplaces

The few premises which are neither registered factories nor shops are included under the heading of workplaces. In the main they are one-man workshops, but nevertheless they are inspected for general purposes, some 12 visits being made by your officers during the year. Unfortunately legislation dealing with such premises and office accommodation would not appear to be imminent although it is now some years since the Gowers' Committee submitted its Report.

Places of Entertainment

Conditions at premises used for the purpose of public entertainment were found to be generally satisfactory. Some 10 visits of inspection were made during the year.

S E C T I O N E

GENERAL SANITATION

Air Pollution

The Clean Air Act, 1956, like all important public health matters must be regarded as long-term in its effect as an educative force.

In recent years there has been a gradual awakening of the public conscience to the evils of air pollution. The bastard term 'smog' has proved to be useful propaganda. The ever increasing cost of all fuels, the competition amongst the various fuel interests, solid fuel, gas, electricity and oil have all played a part in focussing attention on the clean air campaign.

The average domestic chimney, however, still pours out filth into the atmosphere as recklessly as our forefathers threw refuse into their streets and the result, added to the pollution of industry, is detrimental to health, materials and plant life to say nothing of the cost of such waste of fuel.

The pace of progress in the control of air pollution is set largely by local authorities in so far as they exercise their enforcement powers in connection with industry and by the scope of their smoke control areas in the field of domestic smoke.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 enables local authorities with Government help to rid their areas of smoke and grit and that part of the Act which deals with the smoke which comes from domestic chimneys has already been in operation for two years. Pollution by domestic smoke is, of course, half of the problem. By the end of 1958 in this country, some 30 smoke control areas were in operation and about 200 areas were in various stages of planning. A useful but very small beginning.

Following my special report to the Health and Sanitation Committee in July 1958 on the implications of the Clean Air Act, 1956 it was recommended as follows -

'Adoption of model building byelaw requiring installation of smokeless heating and cooking appliances in new buildings. Acceptance in principle of smoke control of the Borough of Slough by means of 'smoke control areas'.

Preparation of a scheme for the setting up of atmospheric pollution stations in various parts of the

Borough for the continuous recording of the degree of pollution from water soluble and insoluble deposit and sulphur dioxide.''

Twelve complaints were received during the year concerning smoke and like matters. As a result of these and other routine inspections some 472 visits were made by your technical officers to factory and other business premises for the purpose of making 'smoke observations', investigations and interviews with managements and engineers. No obvious infringement of the Act was observed during the year.

No applications were made during the year for 'prior approval' of industrial furnaces under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which superseded the Council's powers under the Slough Corporation Act, 1949.

For the purposes of advising the Council on applications received for 'prior approval' a panel was formed during the year, comprising a representative of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and myself or my Deputy, together with an appointed representative of local industry when required by the applicant in any particular case.

In co-operation with the Bucks. Branch of the Association of Public Health Inspectors - two of your officers attended a three day course, at the Coal Utilization Council's training centre, dealing with the correct selection and installation of solid fuel burning appliances for use with smokeless fuels.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and I represented the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee, and the Chairman and my Deputy attended the Society's Annual Conference at Llandudno in 1958.

Offensive Trades

Two rag and bone dealers and a soap boiler are now the only offensive trades scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936, which operate within the Borough.

In 1958, the Council granted the necessary consent in each case, and inspections throughout the year showed that these premises were being used satisfactorily and no nuisance arose.

Water Supply

In connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, 55 visits were made during 1958 and the following samples were procured:-

Domestic Water Supplies

Wells	3
--------------	---

Swimming Bath Waters

Slough Community Centre	32
Baylis House	6
Licensed Victuallers School	10
St. Bernard's Convent School	3
Long Close School	2

House Drainage

Fifty-six complaints were received concerning defective drainage and sanitary fittings. The District Inspectors made some 508 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At 17 premises drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 71 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 Borough Council are charged under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 with the carrying out of pest infestation control work. I consider that this section of the Department is well equipped for discharging the requirements of this Act together with carrying out work in respect of other pests and disinfection, etc.

The Pest Control Officer is responsible to me for supervising the whole of this work in which six manual workers are engaged. Pest control is essentially a basic necessity in environmental health. Early notification of signs of infestation, speedy treatment and constant vigilance are vital for success.

Because physical defects in property and the presence of food are so closely associated with pest infestation, it is obvious that there must be a very close liaison between the Pest Control Officer and the District Public Health Inspectors.

Rodent Control

The destruction of rats and mice comprises the bulk of the work of this section.

Notification was received in respect of 367 infestations of rats and 97 of mice and as a result some 5,236 visits of

investigations 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 1958.

Annual Agreement Scheme

This scheme which has become popular over the years continues to be successful in 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 specializing 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 seventy-two premises were serviced under the scheme during 1958 for which there was an income of £1 537.

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 South Bucks. and East Berks. Workable Area Committee met twice during the year. This Committee, which is made up of members and officers from the many local authorities in the area, provides a common ground for discussion and exchange of information on topics which continually arise in this sphere. Your Chairman and I are representatives for the Borough Council.

In consequence of the re-organisation of local government finance in connection with rodent control, certain changes took place in the organisation of the Infestation Control Section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In future, the scope of the Workable Area Committees will be broadened to include in addition to rodent control, matters relating to land pests and insect control, and the meetings should prove to be even more interesting and worthwhile.

Other Pests

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

Beetles	11	Wasps	26	Flies	2	Others	14
---------	----	-------	----	-------	---	--------	----

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	...	6
Bedding etc. disinfected by steam	...	4
Premises disinfested	...	14
Bedding etc. disinfested by steam	...	11

In addition, bedding and articles of clothing from some 4 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 ...	5,675	2,614	145	181	139	205	146	9,105
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation ...	2,341	1,867	85	6	85	107	48	4,539
3. Poison Baits laid ...	17,770	26,222	825	12	877	3,018	1,091	49,815
4. Poison Baits taken ...	10,631	15,241	458	2	671	2,177	632	29,812
5. No. of visits made ...	15,437	2,910	387	365	383	479	315	20,276

S E C T I O N G

MISCELLANEOUS

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

There are within the Borough of Slough some 153 premises licensed for the storage of 509,615 gallons of petroleum-spirit and petroleum-mixtures, and 3 premises for the storage of 9,896 lb. of carbide of calcium.

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, inspections of these premises to ensure that the conditions of licences granted by the Corporation were observed, involved some 732 visits by your technical staff.

Registries for Female Domestic Servants

No contravention of the Byelaws dealing with this matter was observed. Five visits were made to the three domestic servant agencies for the purpose of inspecting records of applications from employers of servants.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores

There are 4 premises within the Borough where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted. In accordance with Section 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by such dealers. Twenty-eight visits of inspection were made and it was found that proper records were being kept.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliance not fitted with a suitable guard.

Your officers made 36 visits to premises where such new and second-hand appliances were exposed for sale but no contraventions of the Act were observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers

Eight licences were granted by the Corporation authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Hackney Carriages

The Borough Council decided that 30 hackney carriages were adequate in meeting the needs of the district. This figure has remained unaltered for many years past.

Before granting these 30 licences, each vehicle was subjected to the usual detailed examination and certified as being road-worthy by the Consulting Engineers, appointed and paid by the Corporation. This arrangement of annual inspections of these hackney carriages begun some years ago, has operated to great advantage in ensuring that licences are granted only in respect of vehicles which are mechanically fit and safe for public service.

In recent years, proprietors have tended to acquire newer vehicles and all are now post-war cars.

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

Licences were granted in respect of 60 hackney carriage drivers.

A further measure of control designed to safeguard the public was instituted during the year. I refer here to the resolution that each driver must satisfy the Council as to his medical fitness to drive a hackney carriage.

A few complaints were received alleging contraventions of the Byelaws, but upon investigation none was deemed to be of any substance.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that this public service was operated efficiently during the year.