

[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Slough Borough.

Contributors

Slough (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gg7369tf>

License and attribution

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

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

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

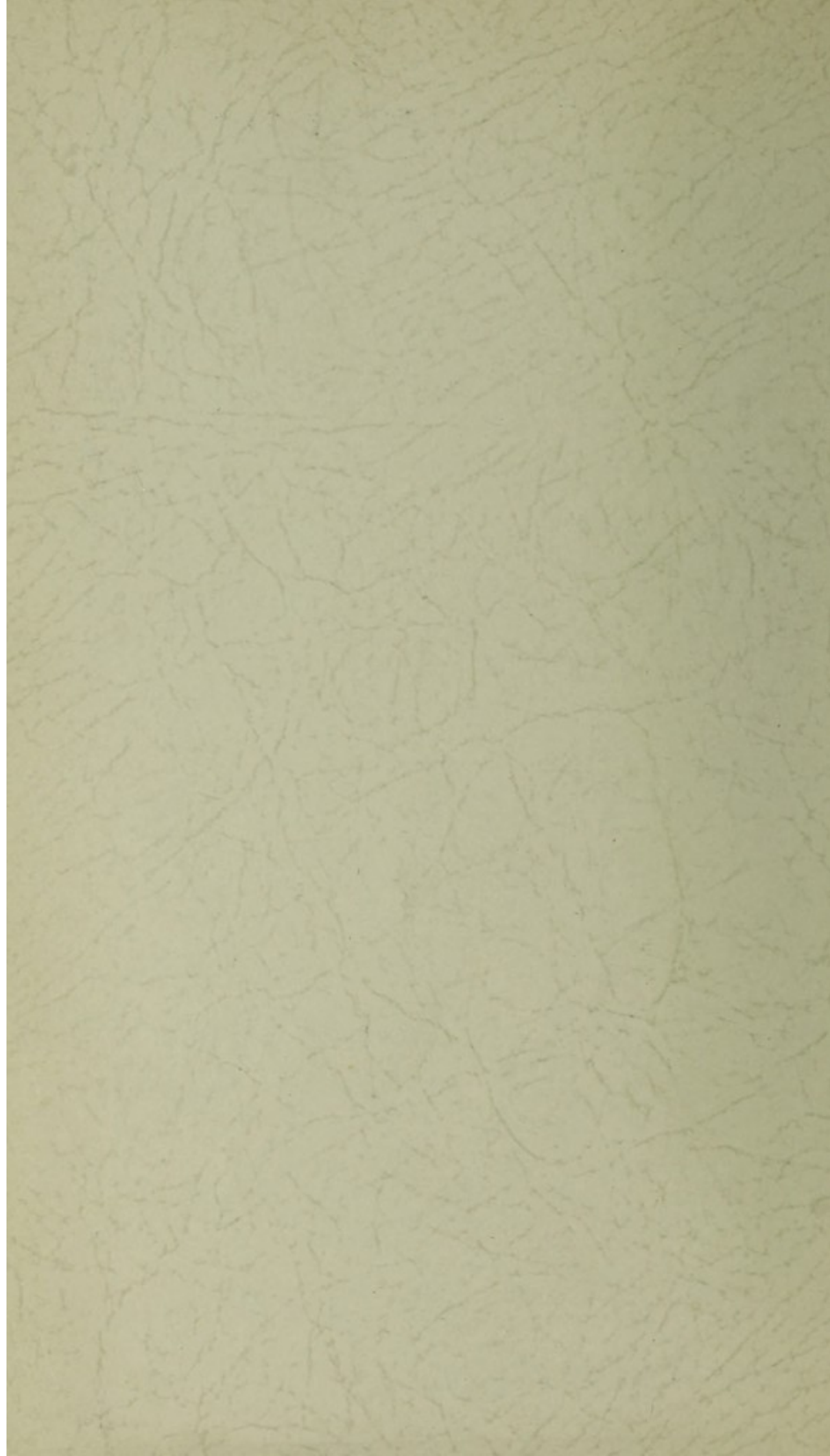


Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

The Health of Slough

1959





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 the honour and pleasure to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Slough for 1959. This is the eleventh report which I have produced for this town to which I came just over ten years ago.

The period of the 'fifties' has been one of almost continual expansion and this has, in itself produced many problems. The Department has been faced not only with trying to improve the Public Health Services but also to expand them at the same time; looking at the ten years in retrospect I think that, with continuous support from the Health and Sanitation Committee and from the Council, at least moderate success can be claimed.

1959 will probably be remembered for many years as the year with the perfect summer. While the beginning of the year was cold and dry and March and April were wet and mild the period from May to September was the driest for two centuries and September was the warmest since 1911.

Although the weather will remain as an outstanding memory it could be said that the year was dull from the public health point of view and yet such a remark would in itself be a great tribute to all the services connected with the maintenance of the public's well being. In years gone by epidemics of food or water borne disease could be expected regularly in the summer months when temperatures rose and yet, in 1959, when for months on end the climate resembled that of a sub-tropical country no outbreaks of infectious disease occurred. Without an adequate supply of wholesome water, without an efficient sewage system, without regular refuse disposal, without careful and constant surveillance over the production and storage of food and, possibly without preventive inoculation, epidemics of serious proportions must have inevitably occurred.

The year did have its bleak spots, however. Deaths from lung cancer continued to rise and no less than fourteen people died in road accidents. A year or two ago I thought that more and more motor-cyclists were wearing crash helmets, that may still be true but there are far too many without. This seems particularly to be true of those who ride the rather gay little

scooters or natty little mopeds; perhaps they feel it rather silly to wear a crash helmet; it's much more silly not to have a head on which to fit one.

Having determined its policy towards Clean Air the Council has taken the most logical steps to reduce atmospheric pollution in the Borough. First steps nearly always appear too halting and ineffective, but a start is in itself a step in the right direction and as experience brings more expertise in dealing with the problems so does the programme become more sure and more rapid.

The first slum clearance programme has been completed and the way is now clear for a start upon the next group of dwellings which have become unfit during the past five years: once again Slough has no great problem but even small problems need to be dealt with energetically or they become intolerable burdens in future years.

Some reduction in the pressure of office accommodation occurred when the Almoner and Social Welfare Officer moved into 'Darenth' and the Home Help Section took up residence in 'Richmond'. This was, however, largely offset by the fact that the Welfare Workers for the Blind also moved into 'Darenth' and some expansion of the clerical staff occurred owing to additional work falling upon the department.

The Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee, Alderman F.S.G. Room continued his very valuable activities during the year and I am grateful for the support which he gave in all branches of the Department's many activities. My appreciation must last of all be directed to all the members of staff who continued to give the Council loyal and unfailing service during 1959.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,
Medical Officer of Health

JULY, 1960.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1959	...	75,450
Number of dwelling houses, including flats at 31st March, 1960	...	21,961
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1960	...£1,765,188	
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1960/61	...	£7,400

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959

Live Births:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	636	593	1229
Illegitimate	...	...	...	42	35	77
Total				678	628	1306

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	-	17.30
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)	-	15.74
(Comparability figure - 0.91)		
National Birth Rate	-	16.5
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate	-	0.95:1
Illegitimate live births were 5.9% of total live births		

Still Births:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	20	12	32
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4
Total				22	14	36

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	26.83
Still-birth rate per 1,000 population	-	0.48

Deaths:				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
				375	314	689

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	9.13
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)	-	12.42
(Comparability figure 1.36)		
National Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	11.6
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate	-	1.07:1

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	13	9	22
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	14	9	23

Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000
live births

- 17.62

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per
1,000 legitimate live births

- 17.9

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per
1,000 illegitimate live births

- 12.99

National Rate per 1,000 live births

22.0

Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate

- 0.8, 1

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	9	5	14

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

- 10.73

Death Rates per 1,000 Population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.09
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.12
Cancer	1.84

Other Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer	81	58	139
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	7	-	7
- Non-Pulmonary ...	1	1	2

I VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough of Slough with 1,306 live births in 1959; 678 were male 628 were female. Although the number of births topped 1,300 there was virtually no change in the birth rate, the increased number of births merely being commensurate with the increase in population. The crude birth rate of 17.30 compares with the crude birth rate of 17.32 per thousand of the population in 1958.

The corrected birth rate of 15.74 makes the ratio of the Slough birth rate to the National birth rate 0.95:1 compared with 0.96:1 in 1958. The need to multiply the crude birth rate by a figure less than 1.0 (Comparability Figure for Slough - 0.91) indicates that the proportion of the population in the child-bearing age group is greater in Slough than it is in the Country as a whole. In 1958 the Registrar-General lowered the Comparability Figure from 0.93 to 0.91 thus indicating that the average age of Slough people was decreasing.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Corrected Birth Rate, Slough</i>	<i>Birth Rate England & Wales</i>	<i>Slough : Ratio England & Wales</i>
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
1959	15.74	16.5	0.95 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY

The total number of illegitimate births, both live and still, was 81 compared with 65 in 1958 and only 51 in 1957. Of these 42 live births and 2 stillbirths were males and 35 live births and 2 stillbirths were females.

The increase of 16 in 1959 over the number in 1958 represents an increase of 1.1% whereas the increase of 14 between 1957 and 1958 represented only an additional 0.56%. This is because the actual number of births rose quite rapidly in the first period (1,275 in 1958 and 1,091 in 1957) whereas the number of births in 1959 was only 31 more than in 1958.

Of these illegitimate births 77 were live births out of a total of 1,306 live births; that is to say, an illegitimacy rate of 58.98 per 1,000 live births or 4 per 1,000 more than the average for the preceding five years.

STILLBIRTHS

36 stillbirths were registered during the year of which 32 were legitimate and 4 illegitimate. This number, which gives a rate of 26.83 per thousand total births or 0.48 per thousand of the population, is higher than that of 1958 and in fact a little greater than that experienced for some time, on the other hand, the National stillbirth rate continued to decline. The stillbirth rate in Slough in 1959 was a little above the National Figure of 20.7 per thousand total live and still births.

Infant deaths and stillbirths no longer cause so many tragedies as they used to but the causes of those remaining are much more difficult to discover and it is, therefore, even more difficult to prevent them. The fact that still births and infant deaths are lower in some other countries, notably New Zealand and the Netherlands, means that further improvement must still be sought and achieved here, our services are good and as the best become more widely available so do the hazards of birth and life decrease for mothers and children alike.

STILLBIRTH RATES		SLOUGH
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	...	25.2
1959	...	26.8

DEATHS

After correction for inward and outward transfers the number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 689 an increase of 119 over 1958. Although the population had increased somewhat during the year there was a marked increase in the crude death rate from 7.7 to 9.13. The population of Slough is, however, younger than the population of England and Wales as a whole and in order to compensate for this the crude rate must be increased by multiplying by a

'Comparability Figure'. The Registrar-General considered that the population of this town was comparatively younger in 1959 than it had been in 1958 and so he increased the 'Comparability Figure' from 1.30 to 1.36. This meant a corrected death rate of 12.42 per thousand of the population compared with 10.53 the year before. The National death rate was 11.6 per thousand and the ratio of the local death rate to the National rate was thus 1.07:1.

Male deaths in 1959 were considerably in excess of females - 375 males to 314 females.

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

DEATH RATE - SLOUGH		
Year	Crude Death Rate	Corrected Death Rate
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
1959	9.13	12.42

No one cause seems to have been responsible for this increase in the number of deaths for although the six main causes of death remained the same as in the previous year there were more deaths from each cause than there had been in 1958.

	1958	1959
Heart disease	211	215
Cancer	102	139
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	58	87
Vascular lesions of nervous system	61	77
Accidents, all types	23	24
Other circulatory diseases	14	22

Heart diseases and accidents actually contributed little to this numerical increase but cancer, pneumonia, bronchitis and brain haemorrhage all made upward jumps. Men seem to have

come off worse so far as cancer and chest complaints were concerned but women succumbed more readily to heart diseases than they had in 1958. Both sexes suffered equally from road accident deaths; the story of the past three years had been a sad one - a total of four deaths in 1957, nine in 1958 and fourteen in 1959.

Cancer of the lung must continue to be highlighted - eleven more deaths than the year before and a total of 39 - ten years ago it was only 18. Although smoking, and particularly cigarette smoking, is certainly not the sole cause of this disease, the strong relationship between this and lung cancer first shown some years ago had remained obvious and yet the number of cigarettes sold continues to go up and up. Many deaths from road accidents and lung cancer must surely occur because of the belief that "it can't happen to me".

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS - SLOUGH - DEATHS		
Year	Males	Females
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1
1957	28	5
1958	25	3
1959	35	4

CAUSES OF DEATH						1958		1959	
						M	F	M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	4	-	7	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	-	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases					1	1	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	5	3	14	12
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	25	3	35	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	11	-	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	8	-	7
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms					23	20	32	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	4	3	2	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	3	4	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system					20	41	31	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	81	45	64	42
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	9	8	13
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	32	34	41	47
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	6	8	7	15
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	4	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	16	14	21	16
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	20	8	40	10
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system					3	1	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	1	6	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1	-	5
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	8	-	6	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	3	5	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases					22	25	22	26
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	6	3	9	5
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	8	6	5	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	2	7	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	-	1	-	-
ALL CAUSES						309	261	375	314

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1959

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1959 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 1960, either because they had occurred in other areas or 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 one set out on the previous page.

Ages at Death, in years:				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	15	9	24
1	...	...	...	2	2	4
10	...	...	...	6	3	9
25	...	...	...	23	9	32
45	...	...	...	115	59	174
65	...	...	...	43	36	79
				204	118	322
70	...	...	...	66	50	116
75	...	...	...	50	54	104
80	...	...	...	34	40	74
85	...	...	...	16	37	53
90	...	...	...	6	10	16
95 and over	...	...	...	-	5	5
				172	196	368
				376	314	690

Of the 690 deaths, 368 (53.3%) were of persons over the age of 70 years and 447 (64.8%) over the accepted retiring age of 65. The respective percentages were only 45.9 and 60.1 in 1958 but those of 1957, at 52.6 and 63.5, were very comparable with those of this year of 1959.

These percentages, of course, are of total deaths. If, however, one separates the sexes, men do not do so well - only 45.7% of their deaths occurred over the age of 70 compared with no less than 62.48% of female deaths; they do not do much better if we reduce the age to 65 - just over 57% of deaths happened over this age in men, but nearly three-quarters of the women were older than this when they died. 45 - 65 was the dangerous age for men in 1959 - 115 men died between these ages compared with only 59 women.

<i>Cause</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Loss of working years</i>	<i>Average loss of working years per case</i>	<i>Average age at death</i>
1. Cancer	40	445	11.1	52
2. Heart disease	37	354	9.6	56
3. Accidents, all types	10	316	31.6	33
4. Suicide	6	170	28.3	37
5. Pneumonia & Bronchitis	19	139	7.3	58
6. Tuberculosis	6	73	12.2	53

The table above enumerates the six groups of diseases or conditions causing the greatest upset of family life by killing men during their working lives. The deaths included are those for males between the ages of 10 and 65 years.

Although cancer and heart disease changed places in 1959 the loss of working years from these causes was almost exactly the same as in 1958. It is probable, however, that as cancer tends to kill more slowly than heart disease, especially coronary thrombosis, the amount of time lost from work before death is much higher with cancer than with heart disease. This is also probably true of the fifth and sixth causes of death in the table above - pneumonia and bronchitis and tuberculosis. Bronchitis and tuberculosis tend to be chronic diseases and much disability has probably occurred prior to death.

It is very disappointing to see tuberculosis cropping up again in this table.

What a waste of life is indicated by items three and four ! Accidents and suicides. What a reflection on modern life ! Note the average ages 33 and 37. Out of ten accidents recorded above are eight deaths from road accidents with an average age at death of less than 36 years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

I am again in the happy position of being able to report that no maternal deaths occurred from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

A death in 1957 broke a long record of safe childbirth which had existed since 1951. It was, however, the only death in nine years and there have now been 8,817 births with the loss of only one mother. A very fine record.

INFANT MORTALITY

After correction for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General allotted 23 deaths of children under the age

of one year (14 males and 9 females). This is six more than in 1958 and means, unfortunately, an increase in the infant mortality rate to 17.6 per 1,000 live births in 1959. The rate being experienced in this area, is admittedly, lower than that for the country as a whole and although, as the numbers recorded here are relatively small and inevitably lead to statistical fluctuation it is disappointing, to say the least, to see the infant mortality rate rise.

The maternity services, both hospital and domiciliary, are always striving to give a better service to the patients in their hands and it is hoped that the number of infant deaths will continue their downward path next year.

Local records show that there were, in fact, 24 deaths of children under the age of one year during 1959 and not 23 as recorded by the Registrar-General. All calculations of rates are, however, based upon the Registrar-General's figures.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Of the twenty-three infants who died during their first year of life, fourteen (60.9%) died within the first month and eleven (47.8%) died during the first week.

These fourteen deaths represent a neo-natal mortality rate of 10.7 per 1,000 live births, a figure which is very little higher than that for 1958.

The infant mortality rate is usually regarded as an index of the standard of living of a country but as a number of countries have now reached a fairly high standard the index of maternal and child care might well be represented more truly by a study of the stillbirths and deaths within the first four weeks of life together.

During 1959, eleven infants died during the first week of life and 36 stillbirths occurred, a total of 47. During the year there were no less than 1,342 live and stillbirths and the number of 47 who failed to survive indicates a loss of 35 children for each 1,000 total births. This figure is much closer to those for 1958 and 1957 than might have been supposed.

For the last five years the figures have been:

1955	47.4	1956	44	1957	32.9	1958	34.4	1959	34
------	------	------	----	------	------	------	------	------	----

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
Fibrocystic disease of Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Prematurity	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Birth Injury	2	1	1	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital Abnormalities	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	5
Gastro enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2
Lung Abscess	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rhesus Incompatibility	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Inhalation of Vomit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	8	2	1	-	11	2	1	14	7	1	-	2	24

INQUESTS

There was a great increase in the number of inquests held upon the residents of the Borough during 1959 - thirty-eight compared with twenty five the previous year. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths following receipt of the Coroner's verdicts are set out in the following table:-

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural Causes	5	2	7
Accidents:			
Falls	1	1	2
Road accidents	9	5	14
Choking	1	1	2
Electrocution - television	1		1
Coal gas poisoning	-	1	1
Suicide			
Coal gas poisoning	2	2	4
Hanging	2	-	2
Barbiturate poisoning	2	1	3
Drowning	1	-	1
Open Verdict:			
Drowning	1	-	1
TOTAL ...	25	13	38

POPULATION

The number of people living in the town continued, as usual, to show an increase and by the end of June, 1959 the Registrar General estimated a total of 75,450 living within the Borough boundaries.

This is a net gain of 1,830 over the previous year and is made up by the natural increase (births minus deaths) of 617 and a net immigration of 1,213.

SPECIAL INDUSTRY

Last year I mentioned that the Hawker-Siddley Nuclear Power Company were to build an atomic research reactor at Langley, and that the Company had co-operated by giving the Council's chief officers sufficient information to enable them to satisfy the Council that no danger would be created to persons living in the town or in the vicinity of the reactor.

The reactor was duly built and the inauguration ceremony of Jason, as the reactor is called, was performed by Sir John Cockroft on 24th November. The ceremony was attended by an imposing array of scientific gentlemen and as Sir John Cockroft performed the ceremony so did the various indicators behave as he predicted. The performance was no more dramatic than this and, indeed, the whole process of controlled nuclear reaction is completely undetectable by man's senses. Herein, of course, lies the danger of radioactive emissions and it is only by the careful instrumental control of reactors and the products created by them that danger can be eliminated.

This small reactor at Langley does not create a hazard for the people of this town or the surrounding district.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

CLEANSING AND DISINFESTATION, DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AND KITCHEN WASTE

No changes occurred in these services during the year under review and I do not propose to make any special comment. A satisfactory service was maintained under each of the headings mentioned above although labour difficulties created problems from time to time.

WATER

Slough Corporation Water Supply

Some additional demands were made upon the water supply during the year, a further 350 dwelling houses receiving connection during 1959. In addition to this the water undertaking was able to allow the use of hoses for gardens for the first time admittedly the use was restricted to the evening - from 7.0 p.m. to 10.0 p.m. but as the summer was hot and dry this relaxation of the restrictions was welcomed by many a gardener in the town.

128 bacteriological analyses were made during the year and 127 of these were satisfactory. One sample fell slightly below the normal excellent level but further samples taken immediately after this result was known were found to be satisfactory. Such slight deviations are almost certain to happen from time to time and occur particularly after maintenance work has been going on. Contamination for such a reason is always anticipated and is rarely dangerous, particularly as a careful watch is being kept upon the situation at such a time. A slight error in technique when taking samples for analysis can also give a poor result a false one, of course.

(Chemical Results in Parts Per Million)

Appearance	...	Bright with few particles
Turbidity	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	Less than 3
Odour	...	Very faintly chlorinous
pH	...	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	21
Electric Conductivity	...	650
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	...	440
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	40
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	230
Hardness: Total	...	300
Carbonate	...	230
Non-carbonate	...	70
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.005
Oxygen Absorbed	...	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.010
Residual Chlorine	...	0.04
Metals - Iron, Zinc, Copper & Lead	...	Absent
Fluorine (F)	...	0.6

(Method: Perchloric acid distillation - thorium nitrate titration)

The analyst's report was as follows:

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

From the aspects of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The fluorine content appears to have been a little reduced and this, I think, needs to be carefully watched. We have been particularly fortunate in Slough as the supply has contained almost an ideal amount of naturally occurring fluorine; it would be most unfortunate if this was to disappear.

There is often talk, nowadays, of amalgamation of water undertakings. What the future of the Borough's water undertaking will be I do not know but I hope that if consideration is ever given to amalgamation with other supplies due thought will be given to the proportion of fluorine likely to be in the resulting water and due emphasis laid upon the existence in our water supply of an amount of fluorine which prevents a great deal of dental decay.

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

The company supplied 128 additional houses during 1959. 67 samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological analyses and all showed the water to be of the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

The company uses the super-chlorination and dechlorination method of treatment.

Slough Estates Limited Water Supply

No changes occurred either in the method of water treatment or in the extent of the Company's supply during 1959. Samples submitted for examination were satisfactory.

Swimming Bath Water

Samples were taken regularly from all the five baths mentioned below during the times when they were open to the public or used by school-children. No adverse reports upon the samples taken were received.

The swimming baths are as follows. The Community Centre baths and the Baylis House baths which are open to the general public. The baths at the St. Bernards Convent School, the Licensed Victuallers' School and Long Close School are for private use only.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Riding Establishment Act, 1939

Regular reports upon the above establishments in the Borough were received during the year from Mr. J.E. Garland, the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough to inspect the premises. No adverse reports were received and this happy state of affairs reflects as highly upon the service which Mr. Garland gives as it does upon the traders concerned. To be able to report, regularly, that all is well is one of the unsung but important aspects of prevention.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Once again I am happy to report that no action was needed under this section during 1959.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The table below gives the number of staff medical examination carried out during the year. The number performed reflects not only the work of this department but, by indicating the turnover of staff, gives an idea of the immense amount of work carried out by local government.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Officers of Slough Borough Council	40	36	29	46	34
Officers of Bucks County Council	67	89	60	81	91
For admission to Teachers' Training Colleges and teaching for the first time	30	48	37	34	46
Servants entering Superannuation scheme	24	10	44	27	16
TOTALS	161	183	170	188	187

LABORATORY

During the year, 1,218 examinations were carried out compared with 1,111 in 1958.

Increases in examinations occurred in the clinical field and also in relation to the sampling of water and ice-cream. None of these increases was particularly significant epidemiologically but the additional number of blood counts is interesting as these relate chiefly to routine samples taken from persons whose work brings them into contact with X-rays or radio-isotopes.

Samples of drinking water were taken more frequently than in past years and, although partly undertaken as a safeguard while engineering work was being performed at the pumping station, it was considered that continued further extensions of the water supply warranted additional routine precautions.

The number of ice-cream samples was slightly greater in 1959 than in 1958. It is very satisfactory to report that all except one sample was in Grade I and that no sample could be considered unsatisfactory. This is the best annual record so far and it happily occurred during the finest and hottest summer for many years. I have no doubt that the practice of wrapping ice-cream at the time of manufacture is largely responsible for this satisfactory report, but it must be pointed out that those who now deal in tons rather than ounces have a great responsibility towards the public as contamination during the preparation of such large quantities of frozen milk products could cause poisoning or illness on such a much wider scale than could possibly have happened when only small quantities were made by each producer.

Not quite so many milk samples were analysed but the reduction was only small and not significant.

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli		15
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci		9
Swabs for other examinations		4
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli		4
Urine for routine examinations	176	
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	-	90
Blood Counts	36	

Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Milk Samples:

(a) Phosphatase test	127	-
(b) Methylene blue test	167	-
(c) Turbidity test	12	-
(d) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water	295	-

Water Samples:

(a) Drinking water	98	-
(b) Swimming bath water	56	-

Ice-cream:

(a) Chemical tests	62	-
(b) Bacteriological tests		
Grade I	67	-
Grade II	1	-
Grade III	-	-
Grade IV	-	-

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN					PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES				
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Grade I	76	75	57	56	67	85.4	75	96.6	87.5	98.5
Grade II	1	12	2	1	1	1.1	12	3.4	1.6	1.5
Grade III	10	6	Nil	4	Nil	11.2	6	Nil	6.2	Nil
Grade IV	2	6	Nil	3	Nil	2.2	6	Nil	4.7	Nil

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

More meetings were held during the year between General Practitioners and the doctors practising Public Health in this town. These meetings, which have continued for a number of years have helped, I am sure, towards a better understanding of the

different problems facing doctors in two parts of a tripartite Health Service. General Practitioners and Public Health Medical Officers have often to deal with different aspects of the same problem or with different problems in the same patients. Such circumstances can easily lead to misunderstandings or friction between any of the parties concerned that they do so so seldom is, I believe, due in large measure to the fact that we nearly all know each other well.

BOROUGH MORTUARY

The services of the Mortuary were once again in greater demand than heretofore. No less than 115 post-mortem examinations were carried out during the year.

1954	89	1957	100
1955	87	1958	103
1956	76	1959	115

HOME HELP SERVICE

As will be seen from the figures below, the Home Help Service continued to expand in accordance with demand, 68 more cases being assisted during 1959. There is no doubt that many families are kept going during times of illness or infirmity by the provision of Home Help and this assistance amounted to over 50,000 hours during the year.

Householders are charged for the service according to a scale laid down by the Bucks County Council but this charge is only calculated after evidence of need has been established and the amount of assistance required has been determined. The number of hours allocated to each case is based primarily upon need and not upon ability to pay.

Number of Home Helps as at:	31.12.58	31.12.59
(a) Full-time	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time	50	53
Number of cases who received help during:	1958	1959
(a) Acute Sick	75	112
(b) Chronic Sick	110	109
(c) Old Age	239	266
(d) Tuberculosis	6	3
(e) Maternity	55	63
TOTAL	485	553

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SHOWING CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1959 AND DEATHS. ALSO NOTIFICATIONS FOR YEARS 1948-1958

	CASES NOTIFIED 1959	DEATHS 1959	POPULATION IN THOUSANDS										
			73	71	69	67	67	66	66	66	66	66	66
			TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED DURING										
			1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	68	-	39	36	27	11	70	215	117	33	54	33	66
Enteric Fever ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	41	-	38	25	23	21	25	24	26	6	5	9	8
Pneumonia ...	71	-	31	29	19	41	53	64	33	44	32	14	20
Erysipelas ...	22	-	12	9	18	14	15	17	14	12	14	15	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1
Measles ...	797	-	442	1001	52	1185	29	526	778	1681	76	416	748
Whooping Cough ...	46	-	64	69	64	56	78	143	101	226	98	118	328
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	3	5	5	1	5	11	7	7	3	9
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	1	5	6	1	2	9	7	8	-	-
Encephalitis - Infective ...	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Post - Infective ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	1	-	14	6	-	19	3	6	3	2	3	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	2	-	9	1	-	-	-	6	3	-	1	-	-
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 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	3	2	1	2	2	3	-	1	1	2	3	2
Measles ...	36	56	147	166	167	188	23	4	7	2	1	-
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	4	38	16	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	4	4	4	1	4	3	6	1	6	5	1
Scarlet Fever ...	1	5	6	3	8	6	4	1	1	10	14	9
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	3	2	3	1	2	2	1	5	4	4	6	7
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough ...	13	6	6	9	5	3	3	-	-	1	-	-

SHOWING INCIDENCE IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURNHAM NORTH	BURNHAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARNHAM NORTH	FARNHAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKE NORTH	STOKE SOUTH	UPTON
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	1	1	3	2	5	-	-	3	1	4	2
Measles ...	34	99	55	58	47	35	33	283	61	47	45
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	3	8	6	5	5	2	-	28	1	6	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	37
Scarlet Fever ...	5	1	1	11	5	12	5	20	4	3	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1	2	3	2	2	6	4	11	2	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	-	1	9	-	1	2	1	25	3	4	-

DIPHTHERIA

In my last report I said "it is still possible to report that the last recorded case of diphtheria in the town occurred in 1948 - a whole decade ago". That sentence need only be changed in one respect - "eleven years" can now be put in instead of "whole decade".

This is a wonderful record but one which must not be taken lightly - some Medical Officers of Health, including one not far from here, are having to say that their fine and proud records have been broken. They are having to report that their areas are no longer free from this disease which looked, not long ago, as if it had been conquered.

I am however, going to take a chance this year. In the tables showing infectious diseases notified during the years 1948 - 1959 there would have been, for the first time, a series of dashes. I have therefore, made no reference to this disease in the table. Let us hope it need never return.

There was during 1959 a welcome increase over the previous year in the number of children protected against diphtheria. A total of 783 including 219 who had combined vaccine, had their initial immunisation and a further 563 received their "renewal" or booster doses.

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
1959	783	563

Year after year I urge parents to make sure that their children receive active immunisation against this disease. From the number of immunisations each year it is obvious that some parents heed this advice and some don't. There will be some who are too lazy or too indifferent to obtain this free service for their children and there will also be some who object to immunisation on religious, moral or other less worthy grounds. While the great majority of parents make sure that their children are protected we can still afford the luxury of free choice.

1959 was still a year of difficulty as the use of single antigens needing separate injections against separate diseases was continued, but we were again fortunate in having no cases of poliomyelitis and I am hoping that we shall be able to use combined vaccines again shortly.

WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping Cough was somewhat less frequently reported in 1959 than for many years - only 46 cases.

Does this really mean a true reduction in cases or does it mean that most are so mild as to be undetected? It is known that immunisation reduces the risk of catching Whooping Cough and also reduces the severity if it is caught. If fewer children are catching a milder disease it could mean that it was disappearing but on the other hand this improvement could be apparent and not real. If this were to be true and was leading to apathy in immunisation, then more children would be at risk and the present trend could well be reversed. What the present true position is only the future will reveal, but in the meantime the campaign of protection must continue as vigorously as ever.

During 1959, 789 children were given protection against Whooping Cough as compared with 483 in 1958. 219 were given the combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria vaccine.

SCARLET FEVER

Rather more Scarlet Fever was reported during 1959 particularly in the autumn and early winter but, fortunately, the disease remained, in nearly all cases, as mild as before. There appeared to be an increase in sore throats and it may well be that the streptococcus was much more active than it had been for some time although, of course, the exact cause of a sore throat is very often unknown as it is not sought.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was still not large, however, and there would appear to be no cause at present for fear of a return of the previous virulence of the streptococcus.

There were 68 cases in 1959 - an average of between 5 and 6 cases per month.

ERYSIPELAS

Once again the notifications of erysipelas, a condition caused by the same germ as Scarlet Fever, followed the same trend - there were 22 cases compared with only 12 in 1958. In no month were more than 3 cases notified.

MALARIA

Reference to the table showing the prevalence of infectious and other diseases shows that malaria occurs in this town rather more often than might be expected. I do not know of any cases which originated here, however, all the cases reported since I have been in the town have been contracted abroad.

The case in 1959 was that of a school girl who had contracted the disease in Uganda several years ago.

MEASLES

Measles once again caused a surprise and it now begins almost to look as if there is going to be some sort of outbreak in most years if indeed not in every year. The incidence of the disease had been high during the earlier months of 1958 (February to July) but there had been practically no cases during the autumn and early winter. However the new year brought an increase and there was a small epidemic in full swing from March to June when once again, the disease disappeared almost as quickly as it had arrived.

The year's total of 797 cases was midway between that of 1958 during which 442 cases were recorded and 1957 when the total just topped the thousand mark (1,001)

The disease was, on the whole, still a mild one and no deaths were recorded.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There were 41 notifications of puerperal pyrexia during 1959 - three more than the previous highest figure which had been recorded in 1958. All except four of these were allocated to the Upton Ward where is situated the maternity department of Upton Hospital. The number of cases in any one month fluctuated between one and six and there was no sign of an outbreak at any time during the year.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

I am delighted to say that 1959 was again free from poliomyelitis.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

I said last year that the programme of inoculation against Poliomyelitis had thrown a great strain upon doctors, health visitors, school nursing assistants and clerks. If I could have foreseen the future I would have left a greater opportunity for emphasis upon events in 1959.

The interval between the first two doses of vaccine is not less than three weeks and then at least seven months must elapse before the third dose is given. This meant that the early part of 1959 was devoted to giving third doses to children who had received their first two inoculations during the previous summer.

When this task was nearly completed the Ministry of Health announced that vaccine was now available for all persons under the age of 25 years. Although this added some work to the department the response by those who had now been offered protection was not good and various methods of increasing it were tried. Visits were made to factories, offices and shops and inoculations given while people were at work. Cinemas and dance halls had special sessions arranged and doctors were available to give inoculations during the lunch-hour and during the evening. Family doctors who had also started taking part in the campaign the previous autumn did their best to encourage their own patients to seek protection.

These high pressure methods produced results which were reasonably encouraging but certainly not as rewarding as had been hoped.

And then a young professional footballer died from poliomyelitis ! The trickle of applicants became so great a flood that only by the sheer determination of all concerned was it possible to meet the public demand. For example, an evening session which had been attended usually by about 150 people found itself overwhelmed by more than 700. This pattern was to be repeated in Slough and the surrounding district for the next month or so by which time the panic had passed.

It must not be forgotten that the first injection had to be followed by a second one after three weeks and a third dose after another seven months or more. A few things went wrong, of course a few appointments went astray, some people had to wait longer than they should have done and there were a handful of complaints, but I must record the magnificent efforts by all those involved in the campaign who worked extremely hard for long hours until the demand had been met. Without that extra effort the programme could not have been carried out.

It must also not be forgotten that the department's motto continued to be 'Business as usual !'

As the immunisation programme is the responsibility of the Bucks County Council and arrangements were made for the South Bucks Area, consisting at that time of the Borough of Slough, the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton and the Urban District of Beaconsfield, it has not been possible to give separate figures for the town only. In the area mentioned

above, however, no less than 17,660 persons had two injections during the year and 21,927 had the third, or booster inoculation.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am pleased to be able to report, once again, a rise in the number of people who received vaccination against smallpox.

728 had primary vaccination during the year compared with 711 in 1958 and 632 in 1957. The number of re-vaccinations was 94.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

I am including active immunisation against Tetanus for the first time in my annual report although this procedure has been known for a good number of years and was, indeed, responsible for the low rate of tetanus in the Forces during the war.

It has been possible to confer immediate protection against tetanus for a long time by the injection of tetanus anti-toxin and this is usually done automatically in cases of severe injury either by the hospital or family doctor. This injection has two disadvantages. Firstly, the protection is only short lived - a matter of a few weeks - and secondly, the anti-toxic serum contains animal protein which may cause even quite severe local or general reactions in the patient.

Active immunisation with tetanus toxoid, which consists of two injections at an interval of six weeks, does not give protection until after the second injection has been given and so cannot be used as an immediate alternative to the anti-toxin. It does not, however, cause any harmful reaction in the patient and if a booster dose is given in the future, full immunity will be restored at once.

The procedure of choice is, therefore, for active immunisation against tetanus to be performed in infancy and for a booster of this toxoid to be given in case of injury.

To be fully effective an accurate personal record must be carried by a patient otherwise, when confronted by an emergency, a doctor is bound to give the anti-toxin.

The records show only 35 persons as being given active protection against tetanus in 1959 but I am sure that this figure gives no real representation of the situation.

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) New Cases.

When the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis rose to 48 in 1958 compared with the record low number of 36 in 1957 I said it had been too much to hope that the dramatic and sudden fall from the peak of 93 new cases in 1955 could be continued. I did not feel too pessimistic last year, though, because a total of just under fifty new cases was considerably better than had been experienced for quite a time. On the whole my cautious optimism appears to have been justified as there were only 40 new cases during 1959.

The incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis also appears to have been reasonably well-contained no more than seven new cases being reported during the year.

With the rapid decline in the incidence of the disease with its apparently decreasing severity and with the prospect of cure by new drugs the word 'tuberculosis' no longer strikes the fear that it did only a few years ago nor is there a social stigma associated with its onset. Tuberculosis is, however, a serious disease and must be taken seriously by the individual contracting it if he wishes to be cured and to live a normal life. The condition must be considered seriously too by the community if it wishes to see the disease disappear.

New drugs often reduce the symptoms of the illness so rapidly that patients, particularly those upon treatment at home, are tempted to 'forget' to take the medicines which the doctor has ordered especially as the side-effects may be somewhat unpleasant. It cannot be stressed too strongly that to neglect the instructions given by the physician may not only lead to a deterioration in the patient's condition but may also make it impossible for the drugs to work at all at a later date. The worsening condition may, moreover lead to the disease becoming infectious once again and thus to its spread among those most intimately concerned with the original sufferer.

The ages of persons notified suffering from tuberculosis is particularly interesting. Out of 25 men taken ill 10 were over the age of 45 years and 15 over 35, while of the 15 women notified no less than seven were in the younger 25 - 35 age group. In recent years there seems very definitely to have been an increase in the age contracting the disease. This is in keeping with the decreasing number of school-children who are positive to the tuberculin sensitivity test and is the picture to be expected when a disease is becoming less dangerous or disappearing.

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

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY	
Age in Years	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	2		-	
1	2	3	1	
15	4	3	-	
25	2	7	2	
35	5	1	-	1
45	10	1	1	1
65 and over	-		-	1
TOTAL	25	15	4	3

TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
POPULATION	66,340	66,430	66,730	66,950	67,090	67,940	69,190	71,560	73,620	75,450
P - PULMONARY N.P. - NON-PULMONARY	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.	P N.P.
	79 16	88 13	71 9	55 4	69 9	93 11	57 12	36 6	48 9	40 7
CASES NOTIFIED	79 16	88 13	71 9	55 4	69 9	93 11	57 12	36 6	48 9	40 7
NOTIFICATION PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	1.19 0.24	1.32 0.19	1.06 0.13	0.82 0.06	1.03 0.13	1.36 0.16	0.82 0.17	0.50 0.08	0.65 0.12	0.53 0.09

(b) **Notification Register**

The number of cases on the notification register on 31st December 1959 was as follows:

PULMONARY			NON PULMONARY		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
555	323	878	60	58	118

This register, which is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers' minus 'outward transfers' cures and deaths, showed a rise of 30 in the pulmonary section and a fall of 6 in the non pulmonary section. The new cases minus the deaths in 1959 came to 33 and it must be concluded, therefore, that there was a reduction under the other headings. There was again a net immigration in 1959 and as those people would probably have at least as many cases as the population already living here this table gives one more indication that there is now beginning to be a real decrease in tuberculosis.

(c) **B. C. G. Vaccination**

1,330 children in the 13 to 14 year age group were eligible for B.C.G. vaccination in 1959.

Of these 937 accepted the test to determine the sensitivity to tuberculosis and 847 showed no reaction. That is to say, there was no indication of any previous exposure to or experience of, tuberculosis, these children were then given 0.1 c.c. B.C.G. vaccine into the skin of an upper arm. The remaining 90 who had shown some experience of tuberculosis were then offered x-ray and any necessary follow-up at the Chest Clinic.

The table below indicates the numbers tested each year since 1956 and the numbers regarded as positive and negative. It is interesting that the proportion of those who showed previous experience of tuberculosis has again fallen and this is yet another indication of a decrease in tuberculosis generally.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>	<i>Number Negative</i>
1956	832	138 (16.6%)	694 (83.4%)
1957	1013	116 (11.46%)	897 (85.54%)
1958	1009	116 (11.49%)	893 (88.51%)
1959	937	90 (9.6%)	847 (90.4%)

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	62,240	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
1959	75,450	7	0	1	1	0.09

(d) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Seven cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1959 and the table below gives further details of those cases.

	Males	Females
Abdomen	1	1
Cervical glands	1	-
Inguinal glands	-	1
Meninges	1	-
Spine	1	1

(e) Deaths from Tuberculosis

The number of deaths from tuberculosis was a little higher than in the previous two years. There were seven deaths as compared with 4 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, all those dying being males. One male and one female died from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

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, Elmhurst Road	Langley, Trelawney Avenue, Burnham	Farnham Royal, Burlington Road	Cippenham Wexham Road Wentworth Avenue, Britwell
Twice Monthly		Stoke Poges Colnbrook			Lent Rise

ANTE NATAL AND MOTHERCRAFT EDUCATION

Mothercraft Classes and ante-natal relaxation exercises continued during 1959 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

Blood tests for expectant mothers were continued with the co-operation of hospitals and family doctors. This is a very vital part of the ante-natal service and it is pleasing to report that some slight difficulties which had been experienced with the change in arrangements during 1958 disappeared during 1959.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC

The popularity of these clinics 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) *Hospital Treatment for Chest Diseases*. 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

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(Leslie A. Stroud, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.)
for the year 1959

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

S E C T I O N A
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TABLE NO. 1

Summary:

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	16,551
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	1,231
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	436
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	95
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	14
Letters received	...	...	...	...	...	6,240
Letters despatched	...	...	...	...	...	2,192
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	1,678

TABLE NO. 2

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

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	4,227
Inspections of Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	957
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	...	...	...	...	...	3,158
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	111
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	838
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1,421
General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	5,754
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	...	...	...	...	...	5,394
Miscellaneous Matters	...	...	...	...	...	1,042

TABLE NO. 3

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling houses (rendered habitable)	89
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	62
Factories and Workplaces	34
Shops	24
Drainage (reconstruction, repair etc.)	106
Miscellaneous	44

SECTION B**HOUSING**

The Council's Five Year Programme was virtually completed by the end of 1959. Originally the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had approved the programme which comprised 368 unfit houses for clearance necessitating the re-housing by the Borough Council of the displaced occupiers.

During the year the following action was taken in respect of unfit dwelling-houses:-

(a) Clearance Areas

Two houses occupied by six persons were declared as a Clearance Area which was subsequently confirmed by the Ministry.

These two houses were:-

1 and 2, Ivy Cottages, Station Road, Langley.

(b) Individual Unfit Houses

Three dwelling-houses and one basement occupied by eleven persons were dealt with as follows:-

Demolition Orders ...	1 dwelling
Closing Orders ...	2 dwellings
	1 basement

One of the dwelling-houses and the basement affected by the Closing Orders have since been demolished by the Owners.

(c) Others - 47-73, Jubilee Cottages, Bath Road, and 77-87, Jubilee Cottages, Bath Road

These houses all in the ownership of the Slough Borough Council were represented as unfit for human habitation.

During the year a start was made in the preparation of a list of properties likely to be dealt with by Demolition Orders or Clearance Areas in a future programme. A considerable number of houses was surveyed for this purpose in all parts of the Borough. It is anticipated that the survey will be completed by the summer of 1960.

Improvement Grants

The purpose of Housing Improvement Grants is to encourage and enable owners of dwelling houses to bring their properties up to a reasonable standard of amenity (e.g.) provision of bathroom, hot water, indoor sanitation, etc.

That there are more television sets and/or motor cars than bathrooms per housing unit in this country is indeed a sad reflection on our so called high standard of living.

There are in Slough far too many dwellings, as indeed there are countless thousands in the country, without a fixed bath or permanent hot water arrangements which must continue to be regarded as luxuries since the law of the land makes no requirement for the compulsory provision of such facilities not even for a new house.

There have been several changes in the law concerning improvement grants since they were first introduced by the Housing Act, 1949. The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 came into operation during the year under review and set up a new system of 'Standard Grants'. Hitherto all such grants were made at the discretion of the local authority, Slough Borough Council having wisely exercised that discretion since 1949. The recent Act makes it compulsory for Local Authorities to operate 'Grants' where requested and subject to the usual conditions, (e.g.) general conditions and expectation of life of the property in question.

These grants are paid only in respect of the provision of specified standard amenities, i.e. fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, wash hand basin, a hot water supply, a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling and satisfactory facilities for storage of food. The dwelling must after improvement be equipped with all five standard amenities, but no grant can be made for the provision of a second amenity (e.g.) a second water closet.

The old system of 'discretionary' grants with certain modifications continues alongside the newer system of 'standard' grants. During 1959, 17 applications for standard grants were received. Two of these were refused. Seven applications were received and approved for discretionary grants.

Three hundred and thirty two visits were made to the dwelling houses for the purpose 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.

The Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling-Houses

Members of the public continue to complain to this Department regarding housing defects following which inspection of the houses are made by the District Public Health Inspectors. During the year 118 complaints were made by tenants regarding the disrepair of their dwelling houses. Two thousand two hundred and eighty four visits were made to 1,195 houses for the purpose of survey, inspection and re-inspection in securing compliance with Notices served and the supervision of building works in progress. This action resulted in 89 houses being rendered habitable.

The work of re-conditioning of houses with which the Department was concerned during the year may be summarised as follows:

Houses externally repaired ...	...	94
" internally repaired ...	...	81
" dampness remedied ...	...	57
" internally decorated ...	...	25
" portable dustbins provided ...	...	120

Once again it proved to be unnecessary, for the Council to carry out works of repair in default of owners.

Overcrowding

The extent of overcrowding within the Borough in accordance with the standard laid down under the Housing Act is unknown since no detailed survey has been made since 1935 but there is no evidence to suggest that a problem exists. The fact that children under 10 years of age count as a half unit and infants under the age of one year do not count at all so far as the assessment of overcrowding is concerned means that a family would have to be quite large before even an average small dwelling is legally overcrowded.

A few complaints regarding alleged overcrowding were received during the year and these were investigated by your officers who made 95 visits in order to make enquiries into these complaints.

Legal proceedings were instituted against two owners of houses in connection with offences relating to overcrowding. In both cases the defendants pleaded guilty and fines were imposed.

Council Housing Estates

(a) Allocation of Council Houses

In order to enable me to award points to applicants under the Council's Housing Points Scheme, 113 visits were made by the District Public Health Inspectors to ascertain the existence of insanitary or sub-standard conditions in the housing accommodation occupied by the applicants.

(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

The yearly manufacture of caravans has increased from 1,000 in 1938 to 36,500 in 1958.

The enormous increase in the number of caravans in use during the last 20 years has created a complex social problem which will remain alongside the acute shortage of traditional housing accommodation, for the majority of the 150,000 people now living in caravans want to settle down in a house as soon as they can.

There is nothing necessarily disreputable about living in a caravan, but the dislike of residential caravan encampments is shared by local authorities, government departments and most people who do not have to live in movable dwellings.

Mobility of labour is a necessity of industrial expansion and it seems that movable housing must for some time to come play a part in securing it.

The caravan is undoubtedly fulfilling a national as well as an individual need, and since therefore, it is with us for the foreseeable future, the aim should be to improve standards of caravan sites.

The Government has been considering a report entitled 'Caravans as Homes', which deals at some length with the residential caravan problem, and a Bill is now before Parliament which provides for both planning and public health considerations. It promises to improve legislative control which should be to the advantage of all concerned with caravans and not the least the caravaners.

The report excludes the Romany and other gypsies who are notorious unauthorised campers creating isolated problems for local authorities

Despite the increasing number of houses being built at present, the housing position is still very acute. As a result, an increasing number of persons are turning to the modern well equipped caravan as providing living accommodation at a relatively low cost, no doubt preferring the privacy of their own small caravan home to living in rooms and sharing cooking and washing facilities.

From the public health angle the caravan must still be regarded as sub standard accommodation. Owing to the fact that there is an ever decreasing amount of land available, the number of movable dwellings within the Borough has not increased during the past year. All such caravans are licensed and during 1959, 29 licences were issued. The distribution of caravans is 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) Contractor	...	...	11
Temporary Sites (Caravans Individually Licensed)			

The remaining six Licences were in respect of individual caravans on odd sites in various parts of the Borough.

Altogether some 631 visits were made by the District Inspectors in connection with movable dwellings during 1959.

Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair was considerably reduced during 1959. This was inevitable as the majority of tenants applied soon after the original notices of rent increase occurred shortly after the Act came into operation.

It will be recalled that a Health (Certificates of Disrepair) Sub-Committee was formed in order to deal with the decisions required at various stages of the procedure under the Rent Act.

The following is a summary of the action taken during 1959, regarding Certificates of Disrepair:

Applications for Certificates	17
Applications withdrawn or not valid	3
Certificates granted	5
Landlord's Undertakings accepted	6
Landlord's Applications for cancellation	23
Certificates cancelled	13
Cancellation refused	17

If by the Rent Act 1957, it was hoped to solve the problem of preventing the decay of dwelling house property due to low rents and high costs of repairs, the experience in Slough shows that this part of the Act has failed in its purpose.

All such transactions under the Rent Act are matters strictly between landlord and tenant the Council acting merely in an administrative capacity. Furthermore, these negotiations are unrelated to the Council's powers exercised under the Housing and Public Health Acts dealing with repair of dwelling house property.

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 1,704 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 Department must continue to regard surveillance of food supplies amongst the most important of its many functions. The work involved in safeguarding food falls under three general headings:- the hygiene of preparation handling and display the inspection for fitness and compositional standard.

The Hygiene of Food

It would seem evident that standards of food hygiene have been improving over the past 10 years. This has followed the many striking advances made in the techniques of food handling and marketing. The trade competition in food, the reasonably adequate legislation in the form of the Food Hygiene Regulations,

1955 and the vigilance of local authorities have all contributed towards improved food hygiene. There the matter definitely cannot rest nor is there any room for complacency or relaxation of efforts for in food hygiene continued vigilance is essential in the form of inspection and re inspection by your officers.

Once again I stress the great importance of the customer's attitude towards food hygiene. Far too many will not face up to complaining to the management. The number of food complaints to the Department tends to increase which is a good thing and rather than indicating a lowering of standards, this in my view indicates a growing consciousness of the public generally towards the necessity for clean food.

During 1959, some 1,897 visits of inspection were made to all food premises within the Borough, including food factories, catering establishments, factory and school canteens, bakeries, dairies, ice-cream manufactories, markets, licensed premises, meat, fish, grocery and other retail food shops.

Generally speaking these premises were found to be satisfactory.

School kitchens and canteens both in County Council and private schools were regularly inspected during the year and were generally found to comply with the regulations.

The opportunity is always taken during food hygiene inspections to discuss with proprietors, managers and their staff matters of general and person hygiene (e.g.) protective clothing, sterilization of equipment, use of detergents, etc.

Food Hawkers

In 1959, the Borough Council implemented Section 115 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949 which provides for the compulsory registration of all hawkers of food and their premises.

This measure is designed to give greater control over the hygiene of food sold direct from vehicles, some of which operate within the town from premises outside the Borough boundary.

Milk and Dairies

All milk sold within the Borough by law must be heat-treated (either pasteurised or sterilized) or tuberculin-tested.

Two large receiving dairies in the town continued to operate very satisfactorily. Together they receive milk daily from over a hundred farms in 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 and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1957.

During the year 111 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 140 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 firm's 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	...	...	24
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	...	...	26
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	...	...	32
Dealer's Sterilized Milk Licences	...	...	55

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Carefully planned team work is necessary at all the many 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 1959, 179 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. This must be regarded as very satisfactory particularly in view of the long, warm summer.

TABLE NO. 4
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SAMPLES PROCURED
Pasteurised Milk	63
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	77
Tuberculin Tested Milk	27
Sterilized Milk	12

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream

Ice cream continues to grow in popularity, and is enjoyed by most of us irrespective of our age or the season. The use of modern refrigeration facilities and the increasing numbers of domestic refrigerators has enabled this product to be regarded as regular item on the menu.

The nature and substance of ice-cream makes it an ideal medium for the growth of bacteria which could cause food poisoning but the fact that outbreaks of food poisoning due to ice cream are nowadays so very rare speaks well for the very high standards of present day manufacturers.

Legislation since the war has put an end to the activities of the once infamous 'back yard' ice-cream makers who operated in great numbers.

The local authority has a very rigid control over this important item of food since the Food and Drugs Act requires that all premises where ice-cream is manufactured, stored or sold shall be registered. In Slough at the end of 1959, 6 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, although not all the firms in question did actually manufacture, and those which did were very limited in output. As the number of ice-cream manufacturers decreases, the number of retailers continues to increase. There were in Slough at the end of the year, 226 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. This included 9 new applications made during the year. To those premises your staff made 104 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, 68 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination at the Departmental laboratory with the following excellent results:-

TABLE NO. 5

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

PROVISIONAL GRADE:	SAMPLES
1) satisfactory	67
2)	1
3) unsatisfactory	NIL
4)	NIL

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Foods

At the end of 1959, 54 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	...	...	...	...	35

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 25 visits were made for the purpose of inspection of premises and machinery. Conditions were found to be very satisfactory.

Foreign Bodies in Food

As in previous years several complaints were received from members of the public concerning food in which extraneous matter was discovered after purchase. Whilst in all these instances the cause points to carelessness and lack of attention to detail at some stage of manufacture, they vary greatly in the degree of seriousness as presented to the unfortunate purchaser.

Summary proceedings were instituted in respect of a nail in a cake (two instances), a surgical dressing embedded in a cake, and glass in bread rolls. Other instances of a less serious nature were dealt with by way of warning letters to those responsible.

In all cases of complaint regarding such foreign matter, a full investigation is made including consultations with purchaser, vendor and manufacturer. The main object here is to try to find the cause with a view to preventing a recurrence. Alas however it would seem that the 'foreign body' is with us still despite the most modern machinery which has been designed to reduce human handling to a minimum.

Municipal Abattoir

These premises in Cippenham Lane have been operating satisfactorily as a Municipal Abattoir since July, 1954 on the cessation of Government control of meat and livestock.

They have been adequate in meeting the needs of the town and its immediate environs so far as home killed meat is concerned. In addition, considerable quantities of fresh meat are brought into the town by local butchers principally from Smithfield Market.

For many years now, all the slaughtering of food animals has taken place at these premises. This has, of course, facilitated the carrying out of meat inspection and has afforded a great measure of control in the supervisions of hygienic practices of personnel.

When the Borough Council first took over these premises it was considered to be a temporary measure since they had approved in principle the erection of a large abattoir which would serve a considerable area including Slough, and which at that time would have met the Government's policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering. In recent years, however, such policy has changed and it would seem that the local arrangements could well continue indefinitely.

In 1938, there were 120 Public Slaughterhouses and 12,000 private ones operating. In 1959, these figures had changed to

166 and 4,200 and it would appear to be the Government's hope that the number of private slaughterhouses will be reduced still further as more public slaughterhouses are brought into use.

Of immediate concern is the Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction, 1959, whereby all Local Authorities must review and submit a report to the Ministry before November, 1960 on the existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, are somewhat stringent and give improved powers which many local authorities will welcome.

During 1959, the whole of the yard at the abattoir was concreted. The lairage building is old and inadequate and the wooden pens are obsolete and costly to maintain. Cold storage or air conditioning of hanging accommodation is lacking. These and many smaller items will have to be considered in the scheme of extension which will soon be necessary to comply with recent legislation.

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 until the close of the abattoir.

In 1959, 22,487 animals were slaughtered as follows:-

Cattle	3,393
Sheep	9,733
Pigs	8,432
Calves	929

TABLE NO. 6
SLOUGH MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condenned					
	CATTLE EX. COWS	COWS	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	2,386	1,007	9,733	8,432	929
Disease except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condenned ...	-	8	6	25	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condenned ...	746	368	313	500	13
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	31.2	37.3	3.2	7.0	1.9
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condenned ...	2	2	-	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condenned ...	48	44	-	226	1
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.1	4.5	-	2.6	0.2
Cysticercosis Bovis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condenned ...	43	9			
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	20	4			
Generalized condition whole carcasses condenned ...	-	-			

TABLE NO. 7

Weights of Condenned Meat						
	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcasses	20	0	1	47	0	13
Parts of Carcasses and Organs	51	1	8	169	2	17
TOTALS ...	71	1	9	216	3	2
TOTAL WEIGHT: 14 tons 8 cwts, 0 qrs, 11 lbs.						

These figures show an increase of 21% on the previous year and 80% on the figure for 1955 the first year of operation as the Municipal Abattoir.

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1960, tolls for the use of the Abattoir amounted to £2,933.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

In pursuance of the above Act, the Borough Council renewed 8 licences and granted 1 new licence 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 Act were observed.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

All carcasses and offals of animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir 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, and again 100% inspection of home-killed meat was achieved in 1959.

Table No. 6 gives particulars of carcasses examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

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

After examination, each carcass 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 6 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 281 visits were made to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. As a result almost 5 tons of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation for destruction.

The details are as follows:-

Canned Foods	...	...	...	8,292 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	66 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	542 lb.
Manufactured Meat Products	...	...	...	307 lb.
Cheese & Butter	...	...	...	120 lb.
Cereals	...	...	...	30 lb.
Preserves	...	...	...	513 lb.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	722 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. 7 shows the weights of condemned meat dealt with in 1959. The total amount represents less than 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.

Food and Drugs (Compositional Standard and Quality)

A careful watch was kept on various foods and drugs to determine compositional standards and chemical quality in accordance with standards either required by law or implied or expected on sale. Careful thought is given in selecting the articles of food and drugs to be sampled.

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

In the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 605 samples were procured during 1959, this being the equivalent of 8.1 samples per 1,000 of the population.

Two hundred and six of the samples (153 formal and 53 informal) were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst. The results of the analysis of these samples are given in Table No. 8 and the action taken in respect of the 39 samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine is shown in Table No. 9.

The remaining 399 samples were tested by the sampling officers or in the Departmental laboratory. as follows:-

Milk	287 samples
Ice-Cream	64
Spirits	48

Milk

Each year an attempt is 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 1959, 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. Prosecutions were instituted successfully against one farmer in respect of milk containing added water, and against two vendors of hot milk containing added water.

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

Channel Islands Milk	- 4.3% fat and 8.88% solids-not-fat
Other Milk	- 3.8% fat and 8.59% 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. In addition, two samples of ice-cream where the cartons bore misleading labels were sent to the Public Analyst. The manufacturer was warned and the label was changed immediately.

Spirits

An attempt is made to check on all spirits sold at licensed premises to determine the degree of proof and to detect adulteration. All spirits tested were genuine.

Local Food Manufactories

Each year articles of food manufactured within the Borough are sampled. In 1959 all such samples were found to be satisfactory.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter

During the year, 103 samples of food were examined by the Public Analyst to check on the presence of prohibited preservatives and colouring matter. No contraventions were observed.

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. 8

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst							
				PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
				Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:							
Almonds, ground	...	...	...	2			
Banana chips	...	...	...	1			
Barley	...	...	...	1			
Beans, broad	...	...	...	1			
Beef, corned	...	...	...	1			
Beef, minced	...	...	...	1	6		
Beverage	...	...	...	1			
Bread	...	...	...		2		2
Bread & Butter	...	...	...	1			
Bread crumbs	...	...	...	1			
Broth	...	...	...	2			
Cake	...	...	...		2		2
Cake mix	...	...	...	2			
Cereal	...	...	...	1			
Cheese	...	...	...	2			
Cherries, glaze	...	...	...	1			
Chicken, chopped	...	...	...	1			
Chicken, curried	...	...	...	1			
Chicken fillets	...	...	...	1			
Chicken, minced in jelly	...	...	...	1			
Cider	...	...	...	1			
Cloves	...	...	...	1			
Coconut, desiccated	...	...	...	2			
Coffee & chicory essence	...	...	...	1			
Colouring	...	...	...		1		
Cooking liquid	...	...	...	1			
Cornish pasty	...	...	...		4		4
Crabmeat	...	...	...	1			
Cream	...	...	...	3			
Currants	...	...	...	2	2		
Custard powder	...	...	...	1			
Curry powder	...	...	...	1			
Dessert powder	...	...	...	1			
Faggots	...	...	...	1			
Fish cakes	...	...	...	1			
Flour	...	...	...	1			
Fruit, mixed	...	...	...	1			
Fruit juices	...	...	...	2			
Gelatin	...	...	...	1			
Gravy powder	...	...	...	1			
Ham	...	...	...	1			
Herbs	...	...	...	1			
Honey	...	...	...	1			
Ice cream	...	...	...	2	1	1	1
Ice lollies	...	...	...	1			
Instant icing	...	...	...	1			
Jelly	...	...	...	2			
Lard	...	...	...	2	1		
Lemonade powder	...	...	...	1			
Meat pies	...	...	...	1	1		1
Milk	...	...	...	18	16	2	15
Milk, evaporated	...	...	...	1			
Milk, hot	...	...	...	6		3	
Minced Beef loaf	...	...	...	1			
Mint in vinegar	...	...	...		1		
Mushrooms, creamed	...	...	...	1			
Mutton, curried	...	...	...	1			

TABLE NO. 8 (cont'd)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst							
				PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
				Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Nuts and raisins	...	...	...	1			
Pastry, puff	...	...	...	1			
Pate de foie	...	...	...	1			
Peas, dried	...	...	...	1			
Peas, tinned	...	...	...	2			
Pork luncheon meat	...	...	...	1			
Preserves	...	...	...	1	3		
Prunes	...	...	...	1			
Raisins	...	...	...	2			
Rice	...	...	...	1			
Rolls	...	...	...		2		2
Rolls, buttered	...	...	...	5			
Sago	...	...	...	3			
Salmon	...	...	...	1			
Sauce	...	...	...	3			
Sauce, apple	...	...	...	1			
Sausages and sausage meat	...	...	...	1	6		
Sausage roll	...	...	...	1			
Scones, buttered	...	...	...	1		1	
Shrimps, peeled	...	...	...	1			
Soft drinks	...	...	...	4	1		1
Soup	...	...	...	2			
Steak and kidney pie	...	...	...		1		1
Strawberries	...	...	...	1			
Sugar	...	...	...	2			
Sugar confectionery	...	...	...	4	1	1	
Tapioca	...	...	...	1			
Tomatoes	...	...	...	1			
Vinegar	...	...	...	6	1	1	1
Wafers	...	...	...	1			
Yoghourt	...	...	...	1			
DRUGS							
Analgesic tablets	...	...	...	1			
Aspirin	...	...	...	1			
Bronchial Pastilles	...	...	...	1			
Chilblain ointment	...	...	...	1			
Cod Liver Oil Vitamin capsules	...	...	...	1			
Distilled witch hazel	...	...	...	1			
Epsom salts	...	...	...	1			
Food supplement	...	...	...	1			
New skin	...	...	...	1			
Pep. tablets	...	...	...	1			
Slimming aid	...	...	...		1		
Tonic yeast	...	...	...	1			
Travel sickness tablets	...	...	...	1			
Vitamin and mineral capsules	...	...	...	1			
Vitamin tablets	...	...	...	1			
Zinc and castor oil B.P.	...	...	...	1			
TOTAL FOODS	...	...	...	138	52	9	30
TOTAL DRUGS	...	...	...	15	1	-	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS	...	...	...	153	53	9	30

TABLE NO. 9

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
12	Milk	Added water 14.7%	Supply kept under observation
13	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
46	Bread Rolls	Sample contained particles of glass	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £50 and £18. 5. 0. costs
47	Buttered Scones	False Description (Mixture of margarine and butter)	Summary proceedings. Defendant fined £20 and £9. 17. 0. costs
52	Hot Milk	Added water 8.8%	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £2 and £6. 13. 0. costs
53	Hot Milk	Deficient in fat 6.6%	Vendor warned
57	Hot Milk	Added water 9.4%	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £3 and £1. 8. 0. costs
60	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
61	Milk	Added water 19.8%	Formal samples taken
64	Milk	Added water 9.4%	Summary proceedings. Defendant fined £25 and £33. 11. 0. costs
69	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
106	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
107	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat and in fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
108	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
109	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
179	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
180	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
187	Cornish Pasty	Unfit for human consumption (Mould spores and hyphae)	Summary proceedings. Defendant fined £10 and £9. 17. 0. costs
259	Bread Roll	Contained machine oil and grease	Manufacturers attention drawn to matter
306	Bread	Contained charred dough	Manufacturers attention drawn to matter
307) 308)	Assortment of Meat Pies etc.	Pies were mouldy and decomposing	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined total of £60 and £5 costs

TABLE NO. 9

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
363	Milk	Deficient in solids-not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
364	Milk	Deficient in solids-not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
452	Vinegar	Deficient in acetic acid	Subsequent formal sample satisfactory
454	Ice-Cream	Ingredients listed in misleading order	Formal sample taken
455	Iced Fruit Bun	Contained a nail	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £15 and £7. 15. 0. costs
456	Iced Fruit Ring	Contained portion of adhesive medical bandage	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £50 and £13. 0. 0. costs
461	Orange Drink	Contained mould	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £40 and £9. 17. 0. costs
462	Ice-Cream	Ingredients listed in misleading order	Manufacturer warned
479	Pickling Vinegar	False description	Vendor warned
499	Cornish Pasty	Mouldy and unfit for human consumption	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £45 and £9. 17. 0. costs
524	Milk	Deficient in solids-not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
525	Milk	Deficient in solids-not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
537) 538)	Cornish Pasty	Pasty was mouldy and decomposing	Summary proceedings. Defendants fined £75 and £13 costs
539	Bread	Affected by yeast torulae	Manufacturer warned
559	Kreemys Egg & Milk Flavoured Toffee Pieces	Misleading label	Not proceeded with
576	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation

S E C T I O N D

CLEAN AIR

Atmospheric pollution has hitherto formed part of the General Sanitation Section of the Annual Report. Since, however, the subject has in recent years assumed some importance in the field of environmental hygiene, it was considered fitting that a whole Section of the Report be devoted to it.

Although long term in its effect, the Clean Air Act, 1956 can be looked upon as a milestone following a long list of somewhat half-hearted, ineffective and abortive legislation over the past 25 years. It was 3 years old at the end of the year under review. 1959 was, therefore, a period in which it was pertinent to take stock of the position locally.

Clean air is something which must be sold, and in my opinion business is slowly but surely increasing. In the last few years there has been a gradual awakening of the public conscience to the evils of air pollution. Government propaganda, radio and television broadcasts and the intensive advertising by the various fuel interests have focused attention on the evils of atmospheric pollution. This propaganda has coincided with a period of ever-increasing costs of fuel and has proved most useful to the clean air campaign, in so far as it is being realized that apart from its many other advantages, Clean Air is also sound economics.

Railways

The British Transport Commission has planned modernisation schemes in all its regions and is gradually making an appreciable contribution to the reduction of railway smoke. The Western Region of British Railways has made its last steam locomotive.

Industrial

The industrial smoke and grit problems must not be overlooked. In the main all the technical problems have been solved. These are closely bound by the mechanisation in the boiler house, its correct use and the correct type of fuel.

Industrially the case for smoke prevention has been widely accepted, and although there is still a long way to go the factory chimney belching forth dense clouds of smoke produced from a wasteful and inefficient boiler house is clearly on the way out.

During the last few years a considerable number of factories in Slough have converted their boiler installations from coal to fuel-oil. Oil is not a smokeless fuel and like

coal the installation must be properly attended but it is somewhat easier to control from a clean air angle.

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, gives Local Authorities power to control the height of industrial chimneys in so far as they can reject plans submitted in accordance with Building Byelaws, unless they are satisfied that the height of a chimney as shown on the plan will be sufficient to prevent the emission of smoke, grit, gases etc., which are prejudicial to health or a nuisance. In this connection the Department has a close liaison with the Borough Engineer's Chief Building Inspector, and this additional power was put to good use during the year.

Prior Approval

Under the Council's Scheme of 'Prior Approval' in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, fourteen applications were received in respect of fuel consuming plant within the Borough. 'Approval' was given in thirteen cases. One application was refused since the Council were not entirely satisfied that the plant, as proposed, was capable of smokeless operation.

Since 1954 when the Council's Scheme of Prior Approval of Industrial Furnaces was introduced by the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, some twenty-eight cases had been dealt with up to the end of 1959.

Domestic

There is every good reason for emphasizing the case against domestic smoke.

It is becoming generally recognised that smoke from the raw coal fire is the most harmful and dangerous constituent of air pollution from which this country suffers.

The whole of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which is the first really effective Statute for dealing with the scourge of Air Pollution, is now in operation. Probably its greatest virtue is that for the first time ever local authorities can now control domestic smoke, which is responsible for more than half of our pollution.

This is not always readily appreciated but a study of the following three main reasons for it shows how true this statement is: firstly that no domestic firegrate can burn bituminous, coal efficiently enough to prevent the emission of smoke; secondly a domestic chimney discharges its waste products at a comparatively low level; and thirdly there are literally millions of such chimneys.

No local authority can therefore claim that they have no problem on the grounds that their area is partly a wholly residential and/or non industrial.

Smoke Control of the Borough

If therefore the Clean Air Act is to become effective, all local authorities must sooner or later make Smoke Control Areas. During 1959, the Slough Borough Council resolved on the complete Smoke Control of the Borough within the next 8 - 10 years, by means of some 37 areas. It was agreed that the first area should be at Langley to include the large parcel of land which is shortly to be developed.

Particulars of this area were sent to the Minister asking for approval in principle and suggesting May 1st, 1961 for the date of operation of the Smoke Control Order, and it is hoped that it will be possible to continue the procedure smoothly over the coming years until the whole Borough is completely smoke controlled.

Smokeless Fuels

The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations, 1956 declares the following to be authorised fuels for the purposes of the Clean Air Act, 1956:-

Anthracite,	Electricity,
Coke,	Gas,
Briquetted fuels carbonised in the process of manufacture,	Low temperature carbonisation fuels.
Low volatile steam coals.	

In pursuance of the Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order, 1957, liquid fuel (oil) can be used in a Smoke Control Area provided the fireplace is specially designed or adapted for the purpose.

There would seem to be a need for a National Fuel policy. New products are gradually being introduced into the smokeless fuel range including specially reactive cokes developed by the various gas boards. Increased attention will have to be given to the production of more such fuels in order to keep pace with the expected spread of smoke control activities in the next few years.

The Committee on Solid Smokeless Fuels has already warned the Minister that there may be a shortage of certain smokeless fuels.

Measurement of Air Pollution

As mentioned in my Report for 1958 the Slough Borough Council recommended the preparation of a scheme for setting up atmospheric pollution stations in various parts of the Borough for the continuous recording of the degree of pollution from water soluble and insoluble deposits and sulphur dioxide.

A scheme was prepared and following negotiations with owners and occupiers of property and land, and the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the following stations were set up and recording began on 1st May, 1959.

Three British Standard Deposit Gauges

Rochford s Nursery, Uxbridge Road
Baylis Court Secondary School, Oatlands Drive
Girls High School, Twinchess Lane

Seven Lead Peroxide Instruments

Slough Grammar School
Langley Grammar School
Pasolds, Station Road, Langley
The Lea Infant School, Grasmere Avenue
Baylis Court Secondary School, Oatlands Drive
Haymill School, Windsor Lane
Sewage Purification Department, Cippenham

One Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

'Glenhartie', 15, Bath Road

I would like to record my appreciation of the efforts and interest shown by the Manager of the Sewage Purification Department who has carried out the detailed examination and analysis each month of the deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments.

The result of all the above instruments are forwarded each month to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The results of the first 6 months of recording were reported to the Council in December, 1959.

Any period of under 12 months is far too short to glean any reliable picture of the extent of air pollution in the Borough. Even with the most careful consideration as to siting of instruments, there are many variable factors which have a bearing upon the study of air pollution measurements. These are in the main climatological conditions e.g. force and direction of wind, temperature, rainfall etc. Such results always require very careful study, but even with so short a period they were most interesting and showed an upward trend both in smoke and sulphur dioxide during the months of September and October which coincided with the lighting up of domestic fires.

Propaganda

In April, 1959 The Worshipful the Mayor convened a Public Meeting to discuss 'Air Pollution - Problem and Remedy'.

The Meeting was attended by some 100 people representing various organisations, associations, industries etc.

The two speakers were Dr. A. Parker, formerly Director of the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Mr. A. Marsh, Director of the National Society for Clean Air. Each lecture was illustrated by lantern slides and considerable interest was shown by questions from the audience.

It is expected that some clean air propaganda will be arranged when the Council's Programme of Smoke Control gets under way by the making of Orders. This could take the form of posters, exhibitions and demonstrations.

Your Chairman and I represent the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee, and we attended the Society's Annual Conference in London, which in 1959, took the form of the Diamond Jubilee International Conference and Exhibition to mark the Society's 60 years existence.

Twelve complaints were received during the year concerning smoke and like matters. As a result of these and other routine inspections some 499 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.

SECTION E

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

At the end of 1959 there were 603 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.

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 in 'non-power' factories.

There is a close liaison between the Department and the H.M. Inspector of Factories. The requirements of the Factory Act relating to means of escape in case of fire are dealt with by the Borough Engineer.

Statistical information required each year by the Ministry of Labour and National Service relating to factories is given in Tables 10 and 11.

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.

TABLE NO. 10

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES				
PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
1 Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	36	37	1	NIL
2 Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	550	541	33	NIL
3 Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	17	62	2	NIL
TOTAL	603	640	36	NIL

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	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	5	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	34	26	-	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	1	-	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers) ...	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	38	34	-	4	-

Outworkers

Those 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.

With the advent of modern factory techniques there is little scope for 'farming out' work to people's homes, and with few exceptions, such 'homework' is now almost wholly limited to the alteration of wearing apparel.

The returns during 1959 showed some 57 premises within the Borough where 'homework' was carried out, and upon inspection were found to be generally satisfactory.

Lists in respect of 84 outworkers were forwarded to other local authorities from whom lists were received in respect of 20 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 Act.

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	...	...	...	...	401
Conditions of employment	...	...	...	...	159
Hours of employment of Young Persons	...	...	...	...	58
Hours of closing	...	...	...	...	678
Sunday Trading	...	...	...	...	125

(b) Improvements Effected at Shops:

Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	6
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	4
Notices displayed	...	...	...	2
Other contraventions remedied	...	...	...	2

Shops

Over a million people are employed in shops in this country and the conditions under which they work must be a matter of some importance. In the last 25 years great changes have taken place in retail trading practices including times of closing.

The Shops Act, 1950 was simply a consolidating measure re-enacting, with other Acts, the Shops Act of 1934. The Shops Bill of 1956 which followed the Report of the Gowers Committee, never reached the statute book and, therefore, there is an urgent necessity for a revision of shops legislation, much of which at present is unintelligible, confusing and indeed unenforceable. Your Vice-Chairman and my Deputy attended the

Annual Conference of the Institute of Shops Act Administration at Weymouth.

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 22 visits being made by your officers during the year.

Offices

Public opinion has been focused on a new subject - 'Sub-standard office accommodation'. There are in offices throughout the country several millions of 'black-coated workers' whose conditions relating to space, heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation are not covered by any Act of Parliament and in many instances leave much to be desired.

There is here, indeed, a strong case for laying down compulsory minimum standards. Powers of systematic inspection and enforcement by local authorities are urgently needed.

Places of Entertainment

Conditions at premises used for the purpose of public entertainment were found to be generally satisfactory. Some 9 visits of inspection were made during the year.

S E C T I O N F

PEST INFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

Britain is still at war - in a battle against rodents and insect pests, and our scientists are engaged in a ceaseless search for new chemicals, improved techniques and basic knowledge of pest behaviour and physiology. Despite some impressive advances in this direction since 1945, the cost to the country as a whole in terms of property damage, spoiled food and disease is estimated in millions of pounds each year.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Slough Borough Council is charged 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, 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 and it cannot be stressed too often that occupiers of premises should practise the basic principles of hygiene, e.g. proper disposal of waste food, removal of refuse and lumber which attracts rodents. Again one cannot over stress the need for reporting immediately any infestation which is discovered so that action can be taken.

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 380 infestations of rats and 92 of mice and as a result some 5,394 visits of investigation were made by the District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer.

Supervision was exercised in connection with the 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 1959.

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 and commercial concerns to participate in the scheme. Many such businesses are under contract to private 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 eighty-five premises were serviced under the scheme during 1959 from which there was an income of £1,512.

Sewers

On two occasions during the year, test-baiting and treatment for rodent infestation in sewers were carried out. This is a recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Rodent control of sewers is very important because of the direct link with premises. 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.

During the last year, the scope of the Workable Area Committee has been broadened to include in addition to rodent control, matters relating to land pests and insect control, and the meetings are proving to be even more interesting and worthwhile. Quite often films are shown concerning the habits and control of pests and lectures are given by the Ministry's Scientific research personnel.

Other Pests

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

Beetles	12	Wasps	161	Flies	3	Others	35
---------	----	-------	-----	-------	---	--------	----

Disinfestation and Disinfection

Steam disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and other articles was carried out at the disinfestation 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	...	...	...	...	9
Bedding etc. disinfected by steam	...	...	...	...	1
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	21
Bedding etc. disinfested by steam	...	...	...	...	4

In addition, bedding and articles of clothing from some 5 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		SEWERS TREATMENT (MANHOLES)	REFUSE DESTRUCTOR TIPS DUMPS ETC.	PARKS HEDGES DITCHES ETC.	OTHER COUNCIL PROPERTIES	TOTALS
		ANNUAL AGREEMENT SCHEME	SHORT TERM ACTION					
1. Investigations made ...	3,875	2,510	213	68	49	152	131	6,998
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation ...	3,059	1,969	55	1	31	68	47	5,230
3. Poison baits laid ...	14,614	27,107	1,229	1	643	1,671	2,789	48,054
4. Poison baits taken ...	8,887	13,387	792	1	327	886	2,079	26,359
5. No. of visits made ...	12,314	2,737	398	137	161	261	209	16,217

SECTION G

MISCELLANEOUS

Water Supply

In connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, 61 visits were made during 1959 and the following samples were procured:-

Domestic Water Supplies

Wells	8
--------------	---

Swimming Bath Waters

Slough Community Centre	40
Baylis House	8
Licensed Victuallers School	10

Noise

Life in the machine age of an ever expanding industrial society, has produced many penalties, and noise can be regarded as one of the growing evils of our time.

During 1959, considerable publicity was given to this subject in the national press. Probable effects upon health in terms of mental wear and tear, irritability etc., and cuts in production have been the talking points.

There is a tremendous range of contributors to noise in industrial, commercial and domestic spheres, ranging from the rattle of the milk churn to that of the typewriter and from the clanging dustbin to the din of the pneumatic drill, to say nothing of the noise produced by road, rail and air transport.

Research has been proceeding on how to control noise and how to assess the injury it is doing to the nerves and health of the people.

Much of our noise would appear to be unnecessary and easily avoidable; but there is much which will tax the energies of the scientists who strive to suppress it at its source. The war against noise has begun. Already a voluntary body has been born - The Noise Abatement Society - with which some 250 Local Authorities including the Slough Borough Council have associated themselves. The Society has very rightly said that noise is ugly, wasteful and unintelligent. What is more important is that an attempt at legislation has been unusually quick to follow public opinion for towards the end of the year a Noise Abatement Bill was introduced in Parliament. Whatever the shortcomings of the

anticipated Act, at least a start will have been made towards tackling a very complex problem.

At present there is no universal statutory power to deal with noise. The Slough Corporation Act, 1949, contains as does many a private Act, a Section dealing with noise but its provisions are such that the Section can be applied to very few noise nuisances.

Hairdressers

During the year the Slough Borough Council adopted Section 82 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957, which provides for the registration of hairdressers and barbers. These requirements became operative on the 1st June, 1959, and the following month the Slough Borough Council made Byelaws under the same Act for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment, together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

At the end of the year there were some 48 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber.

Obviously there are important public health aspects to hairdressing and henceforth all such establishments will be subject to routine inspections by the District Public Health Inspectors.

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 1959, 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.

House Drainage

Ninety-five complaints were received during 1959 concerning defective or choked drainage and sanitary fittings. The District Inspectors made some 483 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At 11 premises drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 91 premises. Further progress was made with the abolition of cesspools during the year.

Licensing of Petroleum Storage

As required by the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936 the storage of petroleum-spirit and mixtures is subject to licence by the local authority which may attach such conditions as it thinks fit. These conditions have become standardised, and with certain slight variations to suit local circumstances, follow codes of practice which are advised by the Home Office.

The storage of any inflammable material must always be regarded potentially as a social hazard. Petroleum and its associated products, in themselves indeed very complex, are only part of the total amount of inflammable materials which are widely stored and used throughout industry today. The rest are not petroleum products and are therefore not subject to any control by the Local Authority.

Within the Borough of Slough at the end of 1959, 149 premises were licensed for the storage of 581 301 gallons of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures and 3 premises for the storage of 9.996 lb. of carbide of calcium. These very considerable quantities stored at so many different points within the Borough constitute an extra ordinary fire risk, and consequently it is essential that the controlling Act and its many regulations are strictly enforced.

The ready assistance by Officers of the Buckinghamshire Fire Service on problems which may arise is most appreciated.

The supervision of premises where petroleum is stored either for sale at filling stations or for use in industry involved during 1959 some 847 inspections by your technical officers. Constant inspection was necessary in order to ensure that the conditions attached to the licences granted by the Council were being observed. In addition, on behalf of the Corporation, the Southern Electricity Board examines the electrical equipment associated with pumps etc.

Hackney Carriages

In 1959, the Borough Council again 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 licences, each vehicle was subjected to the usual detailed examination and certified as being roadworthy by the Consulting Engineers who were appointed and paid by the Corporation. This arrangement of annual inspections of 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. All licensed vehicles are now of post-war manufacture and proprietors tend to make frequent changes in order to keep their cars up-to-date.

Licences were granted in respect of 43 hackney carriage drivers.

As a measure of control designed to safeguard the public, each driver must satisfy the Council as to his medical fitness to drive a hackney carriage.

Some 177 visits were made in 1959 by the District Public Health Inspectors in connection with licensing, for the purpose of examination of vehicles on the ranks, for cleanliness, and generally to check on the observance of the Byelaws.

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

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

Licensing of Game Dealers

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

Registries for Female Domestic Servants

No contraventions of the Byelaws dealing with this matter were observed. 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 5 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. Six 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 9 visits to premises where such new and second-hand appliances were exposed for sale but no contraventions of the Act were observed.