

[Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Slough Borough.

Contributors

Slough (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1961

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jn32qxmng>

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.



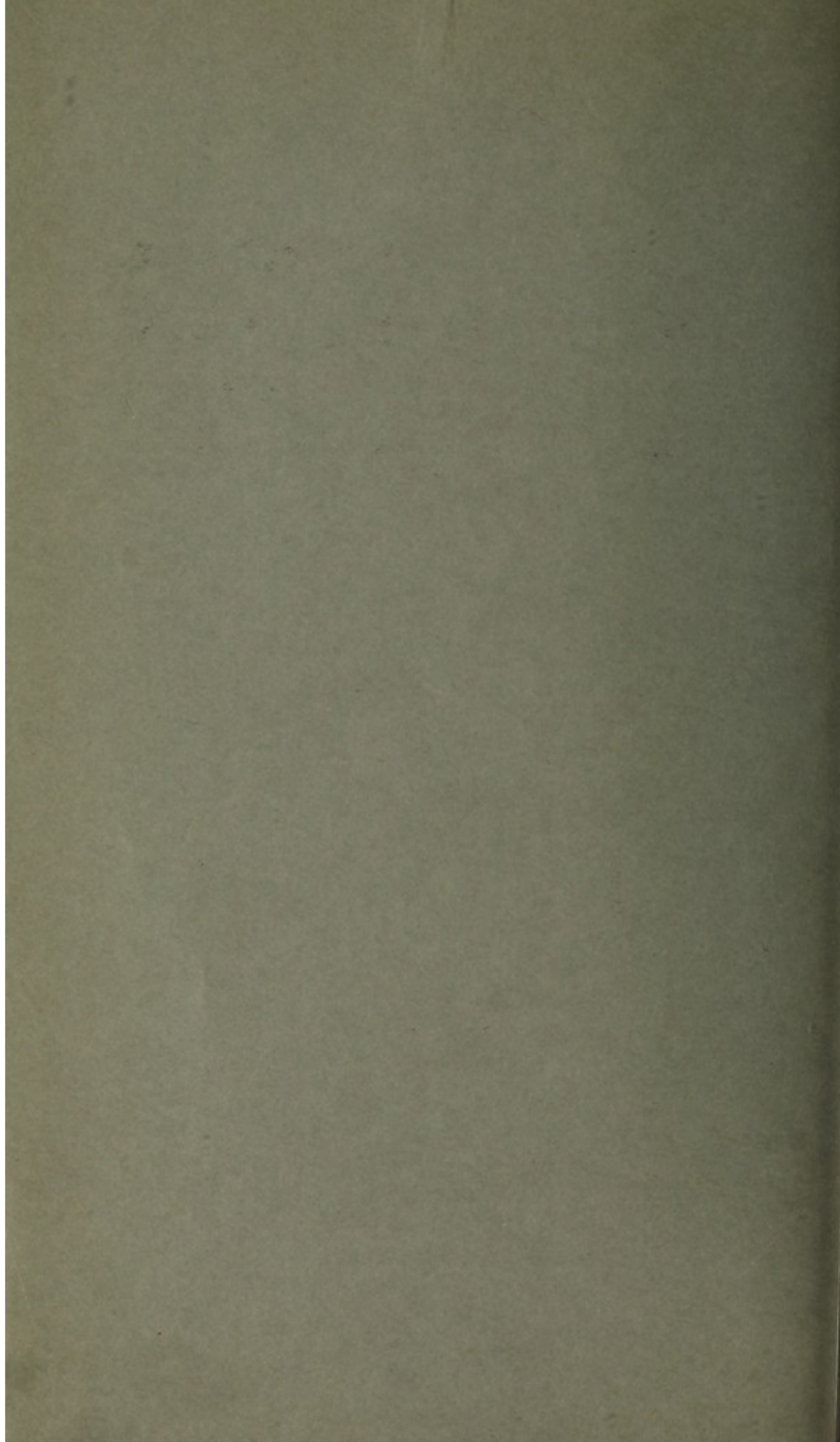
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

424 (1)

Library

THE HEALTH OF SLOUGH





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

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Slough for the year 1961.

1961 was a Census year and the result of this count confirmed, if indeed confirmation was necessary, the prodigious growth of this town during the previous decade. In 1951 Slough was a town of 66,000 people whereas ten years later it had increased to more than 80,000, becoming a town almost bursting at its seams and still showing no signs of a slowing in the rate of growth. If the town were situated in some vast prairie no real problems would accrue from such rapid and apparently indeterminate expansion, but as the town lies in the crowded Thames Valley and has practically no more land for housing this expansion will cause very considerable problems in the near future; the problems arising must be solved or great overcrowding with all its consequent damage to health will occur.

Looking generally upon the vital statistics for the year one may perhaps be reasonably satisfied with the health of the community. The number of births was higher than it had ever been before, the number of deaths was down, the number of babies either still-born or dying within a week of birth was lower than previously and apart from measles, epidemic diseases were of little concern; even the measles was fortunately of a very mild type. From this it might be thought that the Public Health services had completed their task and that the community would no longer need to retain the services of doctors, public health inspectors, nurses, health visitors and so on.

It is true, of course, that many of the tasks set to these officers by their Local Authorities in the past have either been solved or have become a matter of routine administration. Nowadays we take for granted the provision of a good, plentiful and wholesome water supply, we become disgruntled if our refuse is not collected as often as we would wish and lower standards of cleanliness in our streets or in our shops would not be tolerated. None of these standards has, however, been produced without effort and none of them is maintained without effort. It is true that many problems have disappeared into the oblivion of routine, but a reminder of their importance is not I think out of place.

Important as routine is, however, no service could ever be considered as fulfilling its functions if it was not continually looking for fresh fields to conquer. Apart from the fact that we should never be satisfied with what we have and should always be striving to improve those services which have become routine, so must we deal with problems which previously were submerged when more urgent and basic problems existed but which themselves became urgent as the more prime needs were satisfied.

Doctors now find themselves engaged more and more in dealing with problems of mental health than they do in combating infectious disease. They find themselves trying to satisfy the needs of the public in health education rather than dealing with the deficiencies caused by poverty. In fact one of the new problems confronting the nation may be an over-abundance of food and a lack of stimulation to healthy exercise.

Public Health Inspectors, on the other hand, find themselves engaged more in dealing with atmospheric pollution and with the rather more intangible problem of noise, although they can never forget that the basic needs of house inspection, food inspection and pest control are always with us.

No department can carry out its work if the members of the Council in general and the Committee most concerned with that Department in particular, fail to give their support. The Health and Sanitation Committee under the Chairmanship of Alderman F.S.G. Room has always been very much aware of the need to look forward to tomorrow and research into atmospheric pollution, and the intention to set up a Home Safety Council in the near future are examples of this.

Each member of the staff, whatever may be his or her position, has a vital job to perform if the department is to maintain a high standard of efficiency. With goodwill and co-operation from all concerned, we can continue to give this town a good, improving and imaginative public health service.

I remain Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

AUGUST 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1961

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	6,276 acres
Population: Registrar General's Estimate for mid 1961	80,690
Population (1961 Census)	80,503
Number of dwelling-houses, including flats at 1st April, 1962... ..	23,328
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1962 ...	£1,906,925
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1962/63 ...	£7,850

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1961

Live Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	774	733	1507
Illegitimate	55	35	90
Total	829	768	1597

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	-	19.8
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability factor 0.89)	-	17.62
National Birth Rate	-	17.4
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate	-	1.01:1
Illegitimate live births were 5.63% of total live births		

Still Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	11	5	16
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	11	6	17

Total of live and still births	-	1614
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	10.53
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	-	0.21
National still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	18.7

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
	354	285	639

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	7.93
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population)	-	11.1
(Comparability figure 1.40)		
National Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	12.4
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate	-	0.89:1

Maternal Deaths:

Number of women dying in, or as a consequence of, pregnancy	-	1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	0.62

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	20	15	35
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Total	22	16	38

Rate per 1,000 live births	-	23.79
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	23.22
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	33.33
National Rate per 1,000 live births	-	21.4
Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate	-	1.11:1

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

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	11	26
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Total	17	12	29

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	-	18.15
---	---	-------

Peri-Natal Mortality (Still births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	16	10	26
Still births	11	6	17
Total	27	16	43

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	26.64
--	-------

Other Deaths:

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 Population
Cancer	66	69	135	1.67
Pulmonary T.B.	5	-	5	0.06
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	-	1	1	0.01

rate of 18.4 per thousand population in 1930 to 19.8 per thousand in the current year. After the considerably large has been taken into account, the corrected birth rate of 17.6 per thousand population is obtained, and for the first time so far as can be ascertained, the ratio of the Slough birth rate to the National Birth rate is greater than one. It will be seen however from the table below that with small variations there has been a steady increase in the corrected birth rate ever since 1923.

From the summary of statistics at the beginning of the report, it will be seen that the number of dwelling houses has continued to increase quite rapidly. It is calculated some years ago, as to whether the birth rate in this town would exceed that of the National average as further houses were completed because in a town which has a large net immigration it would be expected that the birth rate would be higher than that found throughout the country as a whole. The birth rate in this town has at last exceeded that for England and Wales as a whole, whether the increase in the number of houses has been a major factor or of course, really a matter for continued speculation.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate Slough	Birth Rate England & Wales	Ratio Slough England & Wales
1923	12.38	12.7	0.98
1924	12.54	12.5	0.91
1925	12.57	12.3	0.93
1926	12.55	12.0	0.93
1927	12.51	12.7	0.98
1928	14.3	12.1	0.93
1929	15.78	12.4	0.96
1930	15.74	12.8	0.93
1931	16.74	12.1	0.93
1932	17.82	12.4	1.01

I. VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General credited the town with 1,597 live births during 1961; of these 829 were male and 768 were female. This is an increase of no less than 171 upon the previous year, and the birth rate made quite a substantial jump from a crude rate of 18.4 per thousand population in 1960 to 19.8 per thousand in the current year. After the comparability figure has been taken into account, the corrected birth rate of 17.6 per thousand population is obtained, and for the first time so far as can be ascertained, the ratio of the Slough birth rate to the National Birth Rate is greater than one. It will be seen moreover from the table below that with small variations there has been a steady increase in the corrected birth rate ever since 1953.

From the summary of statistics at the beginning of the report, it will be seen that the number of dwelling houses has continued to increase quite rapidly. I speculated, some years ago, as to whether the birth rate in this town would exceed that of the National average as further houses were completed because, in a town which has a large net immigration, it would be expected that the birth rate would be higher than that found throughout the country as a whole. The birth rate in this town has at last exceeded that for England and Wales as a whole; whether the increase in the number of houses has been a major factor is, of course, merely a matter for continued speculation.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough	Birth Rate England & Wales	Ratio Slough : England & Wales
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
1960	16.74	17.1	0.98 : 1
1961	17.62	17.4	1.01 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY

The total number of illegitimate births during 1961 was 91 compared with 82 in 1960 and 81 in 1959. Of the 91 births 55 live births were male; 35 live births and 1 still-birth were female.

The consequent illegitimacy rate of 56.9 per thousand is almost exactly the same as that obtaining in 1960 (56.8 per thousand).

The rate for England and Wales in 1961 was 59 per thousand.

STILLBIRTHS

One less stillbirth was registered during 1961 than was recorded in 1960. Out of the 17 which occurred in 1961, all but one were legitimate. The stillbirth rate was, therefore, only 10.53 per thousand total births, or 0.21 per thousand of the population compared with a figure of 18.7 per thousand total births for England and Wales. This figure for Slough is by far the lowest ever recorded in the town. As I have said in previous years, however, this in itself should not necessarily be a matter for jubilation, because if this low stillbirth rate was, in fact, accompanied by a much higher Infant Mortality rate then the risk to children at, or around, birth would in fact be greater than it was in the past. Further reference to the Perinatal Mortality will be made later on in the report, but it is pleasing to know that there is a small reduction in that rate compared with the previous year, and there is reason to believe, therefore, that the quality of the midwifery and nursing services in this town is not only of a high level but is gradually and continually improving.

STILLBIRTH RATES		SLOUGH
1952	...	17.6
1953	...	16.55
1954	...	25.0
1955	...	25.7
1956	...	25.9
1957	...	19.6
1958	...	25.2
1959	...	26.8
1960	...	12.46
1961	...	10.53

DEATHS

It will be noted from the table below that the crude death rate is 7.93 and the corrected death rate is 11.10. This latter figure is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a figure given by the Registrar General in order to produce a rate which can be compared with the national rate and with any other rate in the country to which a comparability calculation has been applied. As the comparability figure takes into account the age of the population then obviously the younger the average age of the population the higher must be the comparability figure in order to bring the local rate up to that of the nation as a whole. We know that Slough is a town with a large immigrant population and we would expect, therefore, the average age to be young. It is, as one might predict, not only younger than average but is, in fact, getting younger, the comparability figure having once again been increased, this time from 1.36 in 1960 to 1.40 in 1961.

DEATH RATE - SLOUGH		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>
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
1960	8.6	11.69
1961	7.93	11.10

It is not very often that there is a change in the table showing the six main causes of death, but in 1961, influenza with no less than 16 deaths replaced other circulatory causes in sixth place. December produced a spell of exceptionally severe weather and the weekly death returns issued by the local Registrar showed a very marked increase in the number of deaths of elderly people due to influenza. If, however, one adds together the deaths due to pneumonia and bronchitis and influenza, the change in the number of deaths from respiratory diseases appears far less startling.

	1960	1961
Heart Disease	217	202
Cancer	129	135
Vascular lesions of nervous system	82	70
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	77	58
Accidents, all types	26	33
Influenza	2	16

The number of fatal accidents continued to be high and in fact rose by 7 compared with the previous year. Of this increase one was due to motor vehicle accidents which went up from 14 to 15, but other causes of accidents increased much more. In view of the 18 accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents) which occurred it may be of interest to comment upon the Borough Council's action following the coming into force of the Home Safety Act, 1961. This Act gave to County Districts the power to promote home safety by the giving of information and advice on the prevention of accidents in the home.

The Borough Council decided -

That a Home Safety Council should be established, consisting of members of the Health and Sanitation Committee and co-opted members and that I should act as its executive officer.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS - SLOUGH DEATHS		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1
1957	28	5
1958	25	3
1959	35	4
1960	27	3
1961	29	5

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus

The average number of deaths from this during the last ten years is:-

Males	24.2
Females	3.3

A recent report published by the Royal College of Physicians lays great stress upon the relationship between smoking, cancer of the lung and other diseases, and I shall, in due course, be reporting to the Borough Council on this subject.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS			
Year	Males	Females	Total
1952	19	1	20
1953	15	1	16
1954	10	2	12
1955	10	2	12
1956	10	2	12
1957	10	2	12
1958	10	2	12
1959	10	2	12
1960	10	2	12
1961	10	2	12
1962	10	2	12
1963	10	2	12
1964	10	2	12
1965	10	2	12
1966	10	2	12
1967	10	2	12
1968	10	2	12
1969	10	2	12
1970	10	2	12
1971	10	2	12
1972	10	2	12
1973	10	2	12
1974	10	2	12
1975	10	2	12
1976	10	2	12
1977	10	2	12
1978	10	2	12
1979	10	2	12
1980	10	2	12
1981	10	2	12
1982	10	2	12
1983	10	2	12
1984	10	2	12
1985	10	2	12
1986	10	2	12
1987	10	2	12
1988	10	2	12
1989	10	2	12
1990	10	2	12
1991	10	2	12
1992	10	2	12
1993	10	2	12
1994	10	2	12
1995	10	2	12
1996	10	2	12
1997	10	2	12
1998	10	2	12
1999	10	2	12
2000	10	2	12
2001	10	2	12
2002	10	2	12
2003	10	2	12
2004	10	2	12
2005	10	2	12
2006	10	2	12
2007	10	2	12
2008	10	2	12
2009	10	2	12
2010	10	2	12
2011	10	2	12
2012	10	2	12
2013	10	2	12
2014	10	2	12
2015	10	2	12
2016	10	2	12
2017	10	2	12
2018	10	2	12
2019	10	2	12
2020	10	2	12

CAUSES OF DEATH					1960		1961	
					M	F	M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	1	5	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	1	-	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
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	...	...	...	9	7	9	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	27	3	29	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	13	-	13
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	6	-	9
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	39	25	28	36
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	2	1	2	4
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	5	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	30	52	33	37
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	64	42	77	40
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	5	4	7	7
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	52	50	32	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	14	11	9	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	12	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	23	9	15	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	32	13	22	9
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	4	-	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	2	4	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	1	-	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	5	2	-	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	5	-	6	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	5	2	6	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	28	30	30	31
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	7	7	10	5
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	6	6	10	8
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	4	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES					368	298	354	285

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1961

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1961 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 1962 either because they had occurred in other areas or because the deaths were the subject of inquests by coroners.

There is always a slight discrepancy between the total number given in this table and that given in the preceding one which is taken from the Registrar General's returns. As his machines have to be allocated to other work shortly after the beginning of the new year he is unable to take notice of late notifications whereas I am able to record in their proper year deaths which may not have been received until as much as two, three or four months after the end of the year in which they occurred.

Ages at Death in Years:				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	22	16	38
1	...	...	...	6	3	9
10	...	...	...	8	4	12
25	...	...	...	17	12	29
45	...	...	...	118	75	193
65	...	...	...	30	29	59
				<u>201</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>340</u>
70	...	...	...	43	26	69
75	...	...	...	51	46	97
80	...	...	...	37	32	69
85	...	...	...	18	22	40
90	...	...	...	7	10	17
95 and over	...	...	...	1	1	2
				<u>157</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>294</u>

Of the 634 deaths, 294 (46.4%) were of persons over the age of 70 years and 353 (55.7%) over the accepted retiring age of 65 years. The respective percentages in 1960 were 47.7 and 59.1 and in 1959 53.3 and 64.8.

These percentages, of course, are of total deaths. If, however, one separates the sexes, men do not do quite so well; 43.8% of their deaths occurred over the age of 70 compared with 49.6% of females. Once again the "dangerous age" for men was between 45 and 65 years - 118 died in this group.

Although the following table is not widely used I have for some years attempted to portray the diseases or groups of diseases causing the greatest dislocation to family life by killing men during their working lives. Although the groups of diseases occurring in this table are usually the same, there may be some quite startling changes in the order in which they occur from year to year. This year, for example, accidents head the list; while not so many died from accidents as from heart disease or cancer, no less than 446 working years were lost because of deaths due to accidents, the average age at death being 35.3 years. The other causes of death during the working years tend to occur between 50 and 65.

Cause	No. of cases	Loss of working years	Average loss of working years per case	Average age at death
1. Accidents, all types	15	446	29.7	35.3
2. Cancer	35	326	9.3	55.6
3. Heart Disease	38	304	8.0	57.0
4. Pneumonia & Bronchitis	17	179	10.1	54.4
5. Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	177	10.6	54.3
6. Other Circulatory diseases	6	90	15.0	50.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

I have, I am sad to say, to record the death of one mother due to child birth. In this case, the death occurred from cardiac arrest and post operative shock, following the operation of Caesarian section.

With a total of 1,614 live and stillbirths this gives a maternal mortality rate of 0.62 per thousand total births, compared with the National rate of 0.33. To record a maternal mortality rate twice as high as the National average without comment would be to allow an injustice to the maternity services of this area. In order to place the situation in a truer light I must point out that this is only the second death due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during the past eleven years; during this period there have been 11,858 births with a maternal mortality rate of 0.17 per thousand total births.

INFANT MORTALITY

After allowing for both inward and outward transfers, the Registrar General allocated 38 deaths of children under the age

of one year (22 male and 16 females). This is two more than last year, but since the number of births was considerably higher than in 1960, the infant mortality rate fell from 25.2 to 23.79 per thousand births, compared with the national rate of 21.4 which was the lowest ever recorded.

The Registrar General's figures are used as the basis for all calculations of rates, but as will be seen from the table on page 16 (compiled from local records) there are slight differences in the numbers detailed under the two sections which follow.

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY

Peri-natal mortality rate is calculated by taking the number of stillbirths and deaths occurring during the first week of life and expressing this figure as a ratio per thousand births.

This figure is, in my view, an extremely important one. Whether a child is stillborn or survives the dangers of birth and dies shortly afterwards must to some extent be a matter of chance, although obviously the better the mother's condition and the better the maternity service available, the greater will be the chances that the child will be born alive. This means, as a corollary, that the stillbirth rate will be low. If one, therefore, looks at stillbirths and infant deaths separately, it may be possible to deplore an increased infant mortality rate and to praise the low stillbirth rate. On the other hand, one might be delighted to record a low infant mortality rate and to be disturbed that the stillbirth rate had increased. If however, these two figures are looked at together, then there will, I think, be a fuller understanding of the true situation as it affects both mothers and children.

In 1961 26 infants died during the first week of life and 17 stillbirths occurred making a total of 43, out of 1,614 total births. This shows a loss of 26.6 children for each 1,000 total births. The national rate was 32.2 per thousand total births.

The small table overleaf shows the situation over the past five years; as will be seen the rate has been steady or has happily become lower. The 1961 rate is the lowest so far recorded, and it is considerably below the national average.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF ALL INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

CAUSE OF DEATH	UNDER 1 DAY	1 - 2 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	6 - 7 DAYS	TOTAL UNDER 1 WEEK	1 - 2 WEEKS	3 - 4 WEEKS	TOTAL UNDER 1 MONTH	1 - 3 MONTHS	4 - 6 MONTHS	7 - 9 MONTHS	10-12 MONTHS	TOTAL UNDER 1 YEAR
Prematurity	7	5	-	-	12	1	-	13	-	-	-	-	13
Icterus Gravis	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
Asphyxia	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Pulmonary Syndrome of Newborn	3	1	1	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Congenital heart Disease	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Congenital deformity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Acute Laryngo-tracheo- bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Fibrocystic disease of pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Neuroblastoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Inhalation (a) Cows Milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
(b) Vomit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	17	7	3	-	27	3	-	30	2	6	-	-	38

INQUESTS

Twenty-eight inquests upon residents of the Borough were held compared with thirty-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>
Accidents:			
Falls	2	-	2
Road Accidents	10	4	14
Electrocution (Record player)	1	-	1
Burning	1	-	1
Railway Accident	1	-	1
Drowning	2	-	2
Suicide:			
Hanging	1	-	1
Drowning	1	-	1
Open Verdict:			
Drowning	-	1	1
Coal Gas poisoning	-	1	1
Barbiturate poisoning	1	2	3
TOTAL ...	20	8	28

POPULATION

The census was taken on the 23rd April, 1961, and the population determined by this method was 80,503. The Registrar General's estimate of the population taken a little later, at the end of June, showed a further slight increase to 80,690, and this figure is the one used for all the calculations in this report. The increase in population over the preceding year was no less than 3,280. The natural increase, births minus deaths, was 958 and this means that no less than 2,322 people came to live in the town from elsewhere. Building has been particularly noticeable at Chalvey, Parlaunt Park and to the north of the Langley Road.

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. It was just possible to maintain an adequate service under each of the headings mentioned above, but labour difficulties created problems from time to time.

WATER

Slough Corporation Water Supply

Another 717 dwelling houses were connected to the water supply during 1961. A slight fall in the fluorine content (from 0.6 ppm to 0.54 ppm) was noted but a chemical sample examined at the time of writing showed a restoration of the fluorine content to its former level of 0.6 ppm.

Frequent bacteriological samples were taken during the year. Of the 126 samples, 122 were satisfactory; the remaining four were from a well used as a standby supply only and further samples were satisfactory after treatment had taken place.

As I have mentioned in previous years the teeth of Slough children are less liable to decay than are those of children living in areas where there is no fluoride in the water. It is possible to add fluorine to a drinking water supply in order to attain such a beneficial condition and I hope that, should dilution of the Slough water supply be made with water which contains no fluorine, then consideration will be given to adding fluorine artificially. Some consider it an infringement of public liberty to add a substance to the water which was not there previously; I suggest that it could equally be considered an infringement of the public's rights if there is less fluorine in the water than that occurring naturally.

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

The Company supplied 78 additional houses during 1961. 54 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.

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 1961. Samples

submitted for examination were satisfactory, and the details of a typical sample are given below:-

(Chemical Results in Parts Per Million)

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright with a few particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	7.9
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	5
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	600
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	...	...	...	400
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	43
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	240
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	75
Carbonate	...	...	...	75
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.091
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	Absent
Metals: Iron	...	...	...	0.16
Zinc, Copper and Lead	...	...	...	Absent

The analyst's report was as follows:-

‘This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron.

The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

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

Swimming Bath Water

Three new pools were brought into use during the year, and there are now eight in the town:-

Community Centre	Long Close School
Baylis House (Slough Lido)	Thomas Gray School
St. Bernard's Convent School	Langley County Secondary School
Licensed Victuallers School	Pasolds Limited, Langley

Although there are now eight pools only two of these, at the Community Centre and Baylis House, are open to the general public. The pool at Pasolds is used by members of the staff and the remainder are restricted for schools use only.

Samples were taken regularly from all pools and two unsatisfactory reports were received, one in respect of a sample from the Long Close pool and the other from the St. Bernard's Convent pool. In both cases, however, follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Riding Establishments Act, 1939

Regular reports from the Council's veterinary surgeon were received on the establishments in the town. All were satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

I am pleased to say that it was not found necessary to take action under this section.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

A further slight increase is shown in the number of examinations carried out. One wonders if a more flexible system of transfer between local authorities could not be introduced. A considerable saving of time would result if, for instance, local authorities accepted a transfer, without further medical examination, of officers already contributing to a national or local authority superannuation scheme.

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Officers of Slough Borough Council	29	46	34	44	57
Officers of Bucks County Council	60	81	91	94	96
For admission to Teacher's Training Colleges and teaching for the first time	37	34	46	51	48
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	44	27	16	28	22
TOTALS	170	188	187	217	223

LABORATORY

The number of examinations carried out during the year, 1,101, shows a drop of about 10% on 1960 but is almost exactly the same as the number carried out in 1958. No one section of the work seems to be responsible for this drop, the small decrease being shown in almost every section.

All bacteriological samples of milk were satisfactory but a small number of samples did not pass the chemical tests. Investigation showed, however, that the deficiency in solids was not due to added water, but presumably to a low fat yield from the cows.

Of the four drinking-water samples shown to be unsatisfactory, two came from a private well which becomes polluted from time to time, and two came from the 48 inch bore-hole at the waterworks site which is used only as a standby. Chlorination produced a satisfactory drinking water.

The two unsatisfactory swimming-bath water samples came from small private school baths. Follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

Once again, I am happy to report that all ice-cream samples passed the bacteriological and chemical tests satisfactorily. Out of 53 samples taken, all but one fell into the Grade I class. The one remaining came in Grade II, which is also considered satisfactory. A glance at the small table below will show that all samples taken since 1958 have proved satisfactory. This is certainly very encouraging and is I am sure due to the production of ice-cream mainly in large factories, with good premises, good equipment and reliable staff. In addition of course very little ice-cream nowadays is sold loose, it is nearly all pre-packed. This high standard has, however, been reached only through years of hard work and supervision by the Public Health Authorities. Having attained this very satisfactory situation we must now make absolutely certain that the standard never falls again.

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	-	1
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	-	-
Swabs for other examinations	-	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	-	-
Urine for routine examinations	171	
Faeces for organisms of Coli/ Typhoid Group		89
Blood Counts	14	
Milk Samples:	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
(a) Phosphatase test	117	-
(b) Methylene blue test	188	-
(c) Turbidity test	3	-
(d) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water	250	12

Water Samples:*Satisfactory Unsatisfactory*

(a) Drinking Water	68	4
(b) Swimming bath water	75	2

Ice-Cream:

(a) Chemical tests	53	-
(b) Bacteriological tests		
Grade I	52	-
Grade II	1	-
Grade III	-	-
Grade IV	-	-

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN					PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Grade I	57	56	67	65	52	96.6	87.5	98.5	98.5	98.2
Grade II	2	1	1	1	1	3.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8
Grade III	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Grade IV	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.7	Nil	Nil	Nil

BOROUGH MORTUARY

The demands made upon the service continue to increase each year, and the table following shows the number of post mortem examinations carried out during the past five years. In case it is felt that this table signifies a great increase in sudden deaths, it should be pointed out that the Mortuary caters not only for Slough, but also for the Eton Rural and Urban districts. The population in these areas, as well as in Slough, has been rising very rapidly. Quite a proportion of the increase shown below can be attributed merely to the rise in population.

1957	-	100
1958	-	103
1959	-	115
1960	-	125
1961	-	135

HOME HELP SERVICE

The following table gives details of the home help service locally during the year:-

Number of Home Helps as at:	31.12.60	31.12.61
(a) Full-time	..	..
(b) Part-time	48	56
Number of Good Neighbours as at:	6	5
Number of cases who received help during	1960	1961
(a) Acute sick	78	84
(b) Chronic sick	106	105
(c) Old age	254	310
(d) Tuberculosis	2	2
(e) Maternity	83	66
	523	567

The number of Home Helps and the number of cases assisted during 1961 both rose, the increase in the number of cases being due almost entirely to those in the old age group.

In addition to the ordinary cases, 5 were helped under the Good Neighbour Scheme under which payment is made to the person assisting not on an hourly basis but on an agreed weekly service. A few problem families were also assisted and although it is often difficult to make a precise assessment of the result of these cases, it is felt that these families were helped to continue as a united unit.

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1952 TO 1961

	CASES NOTIFIED AND POPULATION IN THOUSANDS										
	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	
POPULATION IN THOUSANDS	80	77	75	73	71	69	67	67	66	66	
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	3	5	5	1	5	11	
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	1	2	9	
Dysentery	2	8	1	14	6	-	19	3	6	3	
Encephalitis - Infective	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	
Post - Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Enteric Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelae	6	9	22	12	9	18	14	15	17	14	
Food Poisoning	18	3	2	9	1	-	-	-	6	3	
Malaria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Measles	1324	244	797	442	1001	52	1185	29	526	778	
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Pneumonia	20	17	71	31	29	19	41	53	64	33	
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	29	41	38	25	23	21	25	24	26	
Scarlet Fever	18	32	68	39	36	27	11	70	215	117	
Whooping Cough	19	27	46	64	69	64	56	78	143	101	

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURNHAM NORTH	BURNHAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARNHAM NORTH	FARNHAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKE NORTH	STOKE SOUTH	UPTON	TOTAL
Dysentery ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	1	6
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	1	4	-	1	2	4	-	3	1	18
Measles ...	157	192	81	51	120	184	119	229	74	75	42	1324
Pneumonia ...	3	1	3	3	2	-	1	2	1	2	2	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	7	12
Scarlet Fever ...	1	-	2	2	2	-	1	6	-	2	2	18
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	-	4	5	4	4	2	7	16	3	7	1	53
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
Whooping Cough ...	-	1	2	4	3	1	1	4	-	2	1	19

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APL.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	4	2	4	3	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	18
Measles	65	168	520	363	98	41	47	15	3	2	2	-	1324
Pneumonia	6	4	4	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	3	2	-	2	-	12
Scarlet Fever	9	-	2	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	18
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	5	6	3	7	4	5	1	6	9	4	2	1	53
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	5
Whooping Cough	3	2	5	1	1	3	1	2	-	-	1	-	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MEASLES

In my report for 1960, I mentioned that the majority of cases occurred during November and December, and they were, in fact, the fore-runners of a considerable outbreak. The number of cases continued to increase during the early months of 1961 reaching a peak of 520 in March. By the time that the epidemic had completely run its course more than 1,300 cases had occurred. Fortunately the disease was again mild.

FOOD POISONING

Food poisoning tends to be notified if a family doctor suspects that an illness may have been caused by a patient having eaten contaminated food. In all such cases investigations are made and as a rule there is no evidence to show that food in general, or any special food in particular was, in fact, the cause of the condition. During 1960, 18 people were thought possibly to have had food poisoning, but only two were confirmed.

One was a woman who appeared to have contracted the infection whilst on holiday in Spain; this was a Salmonella Newport and the infection eventually cleared after a period in hospital.

The other was a Salmonella Typhi Murium in a boy of twelve who was admitted to hospital with a provisional diagnosis of appendicitis; the infection was cleared after some three weeks in hospital.

SCARLET FEVER

This disease was only notified 18 times during the year and of these one half occurred during January, the remainder of the year having sporadic cases only. The disease is so mild nowadays that other cases may be missed.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twelve cases were notified, the lowest number for ten years, and seven of these were in the Upton Ward. It is not surprising that most of the cases occur in this part of the town as Upton Hospital, which takes a large number of maternity cases from Slough and the surrounding districts, is situated here.

POLIOMYELITIS

Although one case was suspected of this disease, the diagnosis was fortunately not confirmed. Slough has now had four years free from this condition.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Some years ago, it was decided to use separate instead of combined antigens for diphtheria and pertussis as it had been found that the pertussis fraction of the combined vaccine tended to precipitate poliomyelitis in the injected limb; polio must of course have already been contracted. Because of the success of the immunisation campaign against poliomyelitis this risk has become so negligible that it has been thought desirable, once again, to use combined antigens and so to obtain immunity or protection against more diseases with a smaller number of injections. In addition to this, injections against tetanus have become more common and one injection is now used to give protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at the same time. The total number of injections required to give protection against the three diseases is now three, compared with eight which were required when single antigens were used. The amended scheme came into operation in September.

Details of the immunisations carried out by the Public Health Service and by family doctors during 1961 are below. The table looks a little complicated because single antigens or various combinations of two or more antigens can be used.

Primary Diphtheria	-	490
Primary Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	-	16
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	12
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough	-	433
Primary Whooping Cough	-	387
Primary Tetanus	-	177
		1,515

“Boosters” totalled - 492

DIPHTHERIA

Of the 951 children receiving their initial dose, 693 were under one year of age; this number is far too low and it is hoped that the numbers of babies receiving protection will show a steady increase with the wider use of combined antigens which reduces considerably the number of injections necessary.

The number of booster doses is particularly disappointing.

WHOOPING COUGH

387 children received the single antigen and 449 the combined vaccine, a total of 836 as against 938 in the previous year and 1,008 in 1959. Not only has there been a drop in the number of children receiving whooping cough immunisation but

there has also been quite a considerable increase in the birth rate. We must make every effort in the future to see that the proportion of children obtaining protection against this very distressing disease is increased very considerably.

The number of cases of whooping cough notified during the year was 19, the lowest number for many years.

TETANUS

A total of 177 persons received active protection against tetanus during the year. This is an increase of 43 on the number injected during 1960.

SMALLPOX

The number of primary vaccinations carried out during the year was 821, and the number of re-vaccinations 178, making a total of 999, an increase of 70 over the previous year.

During the last few days of December there occurred the first of what was, for this country, a very high number of cases of smallpox. These led to an enormous demand for vaccination and this will be the subject of report for the year 1962. This demand for vaccination particularly in order to obtain international certificates for travel abroad continued right into the summer of 1962.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

In the spring of 1961 the Minister of Health decided, on the advice of the Joint Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccination that, having regard to the markedly greater risk of infection to which children in school are exposed, a reinforcing fourth dose should be offered to children when they entered school, normally at the age of five; and also to children of five and over already at school and who had not reached the age of twelve years.

Arrangements were put in hand and a programme of sessions for fourth injections was commenced, to be done mainly at schools.

By July supplies of vaccine had been restricted and it was not possible to complete the programme of fourth injections before the summer was over. In August the Ministry published a new priority list in which fourth injections were relegated to the bottom of the list and finally in October it was requested that the fourth injections be suspended altogether. At the same time it was confirmed that oral vaccine was to be introduced for primary vaccinations and at the time of writing the changeover is in process.

During 1961 a total of 8,874 fourth injections of Salk type vaccine were given, leaving some 4,000 to be carried over to the following year.

The primary immunisation programme was carried out as far as possible having regard to the limited supply of vaccine. 7,910 persons had two doses and 10,471 had the third 'booster' dose. As the immunisation programme is the responsibility of the County Council, all the figures shown relate to the South Bucks Area (Slough Borough, Eton Urban and Rural Districts) and it is not possible to show the figures for Slough separately.

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) New Cases

(i) *Pulmonary T.B.* There was a slight increase in the number of new cases notified in 1961, 53 compared with 51 in 1960; of these 34 were males and 19 females. As the population of the town increased by some 3,300, however, the rate of 0.60 per thousand of the population is slightly lower than the previous year's rate.

(ii) *Non-Pulmonary T.B.* Five new cases were notified (4 males and 1 female). This is the same number as in 1960.

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year:-

Age in Years	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	1	-	-	-
1 -	4	6	1	-
15 -	7	5	1	-
25 -	6	3	2	1
35 -	12	5	-	-
45 -	4	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	34	19	4	1

(b) Notification Register

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1961 was as follows:-

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
587	344	931	62	60	122

The register is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers', minus 'outward transfers', cures and deaths. The number showed an increase of 25 in the pulmonary section and three in the non-pulmonary section. These increases were considerably less than the number of new notifications.

(c) B.C.G. Vaccination

1,726 children in the thirteen to fourteen year age group were eligible for B.C.G. vaccination in 1961. Of this number, 1,226 accepted the test to determine sensitivity to tuberculosis, a drop in the percentage accepting to 71% compared with 79% in 1960. It is disappointing to record a drop in the percentage accepting (from 79 to 71 per cent) as the proportion of those accepting had risen in the previous three years from 69 to 79 per cent.

Of the number accepting the test, 1,094 showed no reaction and these children were given the vaccine. 132 children appeared to have had some experience of tuberculosis; I should mention, however, that 48 attended one school and on referral to the chest clinic at Upton Hospital, no evidence of tuberculosis was found. It seems, therefore, that the technique or the testing material used or the interpretation of the results have been responsible for some inaccuracies, but as these equivocal results led to further investigations, the health of the children was always safeguarded.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>	<i>Number Negative</i>
1957	1013	116 (11.46%)	897 (88.54%)
1958	1009	116 (11.49%)	893 (88.51%)
1959	937	90 (9.6%)	847 (90.4%)
1960	1422	74 (5.2%)	1348 (94.8%)
1961	1226	132 (10.8%)	1094 (89.2%)

(d) Deaths from Tuberculosis

There were five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from the Non-Pulmonary form of the disease.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary Death Rate per 1000 Population
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1952	66,730	11	3	1	1	0.21
1953	66,950	5	1	-	-	0.09
1954	67,090	5	2	-	2	0.13
1955	67,940	5	3	-	1	0.12
1956	69,190	7	1	1	-	0.12
1957	71,560	4	1	-	-	0.07
1958	73,620	4	-	1	1	0.05
1959	75,450	7	-	1	1	0.09
1960	77,410	2	1	-	1	0.04
1961	80,690	5	-	-	1	0.06

Year	Number Tested	Number Positive	Number Negative
1957	1013	118 (11.6%)	895 (88.4%)
1958	1009	118 (11.6%)	891 (88.4%)
1959	937	90 (9.6%)	847 (90.4%)
1960	1432	78 (5.5%)	1354 (94.5%)
1961	1338	132 (10.6%)	1206 (89.4%)

TUBERCULOSIS																				
YEAR	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961	
POPULATION	66,730		66,950		67,090		67,940		69,190		71,560		73,620		75,450		77,410		80,690	
P - PULMONARY																				
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.	P	N.P.
NON-PULMONARY																				
CASES NOTIFIED	71	9	55	4	69	9	93	11	57	12	36	6	48	9	40	7	51	5	53	5
NOTIFICATIONS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	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	0.63	0.07	0.60	0.06

TUBERCULOSIS																				
YEAR	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961	
POPULATION	66,730		66,950		67,090		67,940		69,190		71,560		73,620		75,450		77,410		80,690	
P - PULMONARY																				
N.P. -																				
NON-PULMONARY																				
CASES NOTIFIED	71	9	55	4	69	9	93	11	57	12	36	6	48	9	40	7	51	5	53	5
NOTIFICATIONS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	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	0.63	0.07	0.60	0.06

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following table shows the location of the various Welfare Centres in and around Slough.

	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>Fridays</i>
WEEKLY	Health Centre, Burlington Rd.	Langley - Elmhurst Road.	Langley - 173, Trelawney Avenue. (all day)	Farnham Royal	Cippenham
	St. Michael's Community Centre, Farnham Road	1, Went- worth Avenue Britwell	Burnham	Health Centre Burling- ton Road Lent Rise	Wexham - Court 1, Went- worth Avenue, Britwell
TWICE MONTHLY	Farnham Common	Stoke Poges Colnbrook	Datchet		

Plans are in hand for two new Health Centres to be built at Wentworth Avenue and Parlaunt Park. The existing L.C.C. council house at Wentworth Avenue will then be returned to that authority.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education undertaken within the Borough may be considered under two main headings; firstly the routine teaching that goes on week after week to selected audiences mostly of expectant and young mothers and secondly special campaigns or series of talks. Ante-Natal Clinics and Mothers Clubs may be considered in the first group.

Ante-Natal Clinics

The majority of young women booked to have their first baby in hospital or at home attended a course at one of the seven weekly classes held in the Borough where Health Visitors, Domiciliary Midwives, Regional Hospital Board Staff and the Area Health Education Organiser undertook the tuition. The evening filmshows to which these young women brought their husbands were also very popular. About thirty-five couples attended at each of the eight filmshows when the Medical Officer of Health introduced the feature film 'My First Baby'. The last

three filmshows closed with a showing of the Slough Home Safety Association's film 'Fabrics and Fire Guards' which was very well received.

Mothers' Clubs

The clubs based on the Health Centres in Burlington Road and Wexham Court both had successful years, studying a variety of health subjects, mainly with a Child Care bias; they increased their membership and had much social and educational contact with similar Clubs in other parts of South Buckinghamshire.

Health Teaching in Schools

Courses of personal hygiene and child care have been given to senior girls in four Secondary Modern Schools in the Borough and some special talks on dental care and the rules of health have been given to the senior children in three Junior Schools. A Dental Health Evening for the staff from local Nursery Schools was well attended in March, and another arranged for Infant School Staff in June was also well supported.

Mental Health

This was the special health subject on which a campaign was based during the year.

In the spring a course of twelve lectures was arranged by the Workers Educational Association in the library. Staff from the Health Department of the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board were the lecturers, the chairman was the Medical Officer of Health and enthusiastic audiences of over 80 on some occasions participated in the lively discussions. A number of special talks on Mental Health were given by the Medical Officer of Health and his assistants to various organisations within the Borough. A Mental Health Exhibition was held in the library from 21st to 28th January in which the Regional Hospital Board and Voluntary Organisations concerned with Mental Health put up exhibits in addition to those erected by the Local Authority. The exhibition was well attended. A short Mental Health Course for professional staff was also given during November and December.

Health Talks to the Deaf Youth Club

A course of six talks given by medical and health education staff in the autumn was much appreciated by the young people attending the club.

Mouth to Nose Resuscitation

Ten filmshows followed by discussion were given in conjunction with the ambulance staff to the Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Civil Defence and associated bodies during the autumn and early winter.

An Ambu Manikin was purchased and this is, at the time of writing, being used to give practical demonstrations to members of the Ambulance service, after which it will be used to train other services in the town.

The cost of the Manikin, about £50, may seem rather high, but one cannot balance potential saving of even one life against an item of expenditure of this order.

ANTE NATAL BLOOD TESTS

Blood tests for expectant mothers were continued with the co-operation of hospitals and family doctors, and the arrangements continued to function smoothly.

MARRIED WOMENS' ADVISORY CLINIC

The following clinics are held locally:-

Upton Hospital,	-	Mondays	6 - 7.30 p.m.
Albert Street		Tuesdays	6 - 7.30 p.m.
		Wednesdays	11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Health Centre,	-	Fridays	2.15 - 4 p.m.
Burlington Road			

DAY NURSERY

Children from 0 - 3 years are cared for daily at the Manor Park Day Nursery.

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 HOMES

Residential accommodation for children needing care by the local Authority is supplied by the Children's Department of the Bucks County Council at Brookside Residential Nursery, Salt Hill, Slough, Manor Lodge, Mildenhall Road, Slough, and at a new hostel, 'Elmside', 1, Upton Road, Slough.

Brookside cares for children under 5 years of age, and Manor Lodge for those who have reached school age. 'Elmside', which was opened in December, looks after boys aged between 15 and 18 years.

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 or hostel can be given.

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

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
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor

At the end of the year preliminary site works for the new Wexham Park Hospital had commenced.

Infectious Diseases

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

- (1) *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).

(2) *Hospital Treatment for Chest Diseases.* All admissions are arranged by the Chest Physician, Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, 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 recommendation to the Hospital Management Committee following a report on home circumstances made by the Health Visitor.

Part III Accommodation

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Leslie A. Stroud, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.)

for the year 1961

* * *

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

SECTION A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TABLE NO. 1

Summary:

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,829
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,235
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Letters received	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,307
Letters despatched	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,178
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,869

TABLE NO. 2

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

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,927
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	994
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,070
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	532
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	792
General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,434
Pest Infestation Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,262
Miscellaneous Matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,524

TABLE NO. 3

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling houses (rendered habitable)	136
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food ...	61
Factories and Workplaces	23
Shops	27
Drainage (reconstruction, repair etc.)	47
Miscellaneous	59

SECTION B

HOUSING

In view of the intensive post-war house-building programme it might well be assumed that the scarcity of housing accommodation would by now have been eased considerably, but that is apparently not the case. The population continues to increase, there is a tendency to marry younger, private builders rarely build houses to let, the cost of land and building continues to increase, and there has been a relaxation in rent restriction. All this adds up to an apparent insatiable demand for housing accommodation.

A national newspaper comments that a man reckoned to pay one-tenth of his income in house rent.

It is suggested that a house could not now be built to rent at less than £6 per week. It further comments that up to 1957 housing costs were merely excessive. Today they are prodigious. In some districts housing costs have doubled in five years.

Many young couples, newly married or about to be married are in despair. Apartment rents are often more than they can pay and the repayments on a new house far beyond their means. The main element in housing costs today is the scarcity price of land.

Land prices in the most popular residential areas are going up at the rate of 20% per year.

In the home counties the average rise in the cost of a house, new or old has been 10% per year over the past five years. The suburban bungalow or three bedroomed semi-detached house built pre-war for £700 was worth £2,750 in 1958. It now changes hands for £3,800.

So far as existing houses are concerned, there are said to be half a million slum houses waiting to be dealt with, and

four million houses which are over 80 years old, half of which have no bathroom.

Clearance

I recommended in July 1960 that a further programme should be implemented in respect of some 207 houses to be cleared by way of demolition orders, clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders. The Slough Borough Council in adopting this recommendation decided that in view of the difficulty of providing alternative accommodation the implementation of the programme should be deferred for twelve months, to operate for five years from the autumn of 1961. Occupants were informed that the programme would commence in the autumn of 1961.

The tenants of these houses are resigned, in the majority of cases, to the fact that the buildings they live in are no longer fit for that purpose, and whilst they know the answer to one question - that the Council will be considering the clearance of their houses, - the question that is so important, yet cannot be answered, is WHEN will this happen ?

Towards the close of the year action upon this programme was commenced, when three small proposed clearance areas totalling eight houses were reported to the Council.

During 1961 three individual unfit dwellings were dealt with under the Housing Acts, two were demolished and a Closing Order was made in respect of the third.

Improvement Grants

During 1961, 40 applications for Standard Grants were received and approved by the Borough Council, this being somewhat less than was originally anticipated, and a total amount of £4,109 was paid in Standard Grants during the year. A further sum of £1,170 was approved for the payment of five Discretionary Grants.

Despite much publicity it is apparent from enquiries received that many people still know little of the facilities available for obtaining financial assistance for the provision of the five standard amenities i.e. bath, wash-hand basin, hot water, water-closet and food storage. This applies particularly to people who own property which is eminently suitable for modernisation in this way, being structurally sound, but lacking the amenities which are now considered part of ordinary living conditions.

Since 1949, the year that improvement grants were first made available, only 169 firm applications have been received, or an average of 13 per year. Such response judged by any standards is both surprising and disappointing.

The average house built around the turn of the century, lacked a bathroom, hot water supply, and internal water-closet, and there are many of this type in the Borough. Of the 45 grants made, only six were from owners who were not also in occupation of the premises. In the past owners have been entitled to increase the rent by 8% of what has been spent on the improvements. This figure of 8% has been increased to 12½% and this should provide a greater incentive for the improvement of tenanted dwellings.

The majority of applications for Standard Grants to provide bathrooms fall into two main categories, either (a) by the conversion of a bedroom, or (b) by structural alteration of the ground floor at the rear. In general, the conversion of a bedroom into a bathroom has been shown to cost slightly less than the alternative method.

Enquiries are often made from owners regarding the possibility of obtaining financial assistance to carry out works which may perhaps be desirable from that particular person's point of view, but which do not fall within the type of improvement for which financial assistance is available; e.g. the conversion of a hot water system which has been allowed to become defective or derelict, into a more modern system, often including the provision of radiators for central heating. Work of this nature or, indeed, any other work which is purely for replacing one amenity by another does not rank for grant.

There is also a considerable number of houses in the Borough which were constructed between the wars and were provided originally with a small bathroom adjoining the kitchen. This bathroom contains a bath, water-closet and gas-fired boiler for clothes washing - the hot water for the bath being provided by the washing-boiler. It is possible for the owners of these houses to obtain grants, as has been done often, for providing a hot-water supply and a wash-hand basin, and a piped hot water supply can then be taken to the sink.

Grants paid during 1961 and Amenities provided

<i>No. of Dwellings concerned</i>	<i>Total Amount £</i>	<i>Fixed Baths</i>	<i>Wash-Basins</i>	<i>Hot Water Supplies</i>	<i>Water-Closets</i>	<i>Food Storage Facilities</i>
48	4,109	39	43	46	15	25

During the year the Association of Public Health Inspectors called once more for compulsory measures to require house-owners to use improvement grants, and more recently

support has come from the National Housing and Town Planning Council, which in a memorandum draws attention to 'the apparent failure of persuasive measures'. After consistent ministerial rejection of the compulsory improvement of older houses, the Minister of Housing and Local Government has admitted that he does not exclude the idea altogether.

The Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling Houses

During the year some 106 complaints from tenants regarding the disrepair of their dwellings were made to the Department. The District Public Health Inspectors made 3,121 visits to some 1,692 houses for the purpose of initial inspections and subsequent re-inspection in securing compliance with notices served and for supervising repair works in progress.

In connection with this work under the Housing and Public Health Acts 19 statutory, 269 preliminary written and verbal notices, and 55 Requisitions for Information notices as to ownership of premises were served during 1961.

It was found unnecessary for the Council to carry out repairs in default of Owners.

Overcrowding

This is a subject which is causing increasing work for the District Public Health Inspectors, due to the rise in the West Indian and Indian population in the Borough and the attendant increase in complaints to the Department of alleged overcrowding. All complaints are investigated, although inspection reveals few cases of gross statutory overcrowding.

During the year, in connection with this subject, your officers made 115 visits to dwelling houses.

So many complainants in alleged overcrowding cases find it hard to understand that the standards laid down for assessing overcrowding relate to the number and size of habitable rooms. This standard takes no account of the number of persons who may frequent a dwelling house during the day.

The Housing Act 1961, which will make a contribution towards social and environmental betterment was added to the Statute Book during the year. Under its provisions and those of Regulations under the Act give Local Authorities increased powers generally in relation to existing houses, and in particular more effective control in dealing with houses in multiple occupation in which unsatisfactory conditions are so often associated. The provision of increased amenities and the prevention of overcrowding of

such dwellings will undoubtedly assist your officers with the problems confronting them in these cases.

Council Housing Estates

(a) Allocation of Council Houses.

One-hundred and twenty-nine inspections were made by the District Public Health Inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of insanitary or sub-standard conditions of houses occupied by applicants under the Council's Housing Points scheme, to enable me to recommend the award of points under this heading.

(b) Council Housing Estates.

Liaison is maintained with the Housing Department on various matters concerning Council Estates and other Corporation property. Numerous visits of inspection of such property were made by the District Public Health Inspectors in connection with structural defects, rodent control, vermin, etc.

Caravans

People living in caravans can roughly be divided into three classes:- Permanently resident on a site, either from choice or necessity; those using caravans for recreation, holidays etc., and those whose business demands that they must continually be on the move, gipsies, showmen, contractors' key personnel.

For many purposes the caravan as a dwelling has become accepted as a way of life, and the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act 1960 has been instrumental in improving site amenities by requiring higher standards. The Act provides for a very close liaison between the planning authority and the district council, and in Slough the machinery set up has, to date, operated to good effect.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has issued model Standards of conditions to be attached to Site Licences. These are intended as a guide to Local Authorities with respect to lay-out, provision of facilities, services and equipment on caravan sites. The occupier of land becomes the site operator, and he, not the individuals occupying the caravan, holds the Site Licence.

During 1961 some 13 caravans were already subject to site licences, and licences were granted in respect of 10

additional caravans. Negotiations were nearing completion regarding conditions to be attached to a site licence in respect of some 80 caravans at Foxborough Farm where in 1960 a ten years planning permission was granted.

Some 1,238 visits of inspection were made by your officers during 1961 in relation to caravans.

During 1961 one heard a great deal about gipsies, and taking a long term view, in a highly developed society, their days are numbered, for sooner or later these people must be absorbed into the community. In the meantime what is the solution, and has the local authority any responsibility, beyond fulfilling their obligation under the law ? It is significant that the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, far from exempting, makes no mention of the problem of the gipsy or other itinerant caravanner.

It is no solution for one Local Authority to move caravans over their boundary into the area of the adjoining Local Authority, and thereafter forget the problem. If Society recognises the right of these people to wander the country and to pursue their way of life, then it would seem that some provision should be made by the setting up of suitable caravan sites scattered throughout the land.

The true Romany gipsies are, perhaps, part of the traditional English scene; they are however few in number and generally cause little trouble. The real problem lies with the so-called gipsy - the 'diddicois', who travel around certain areas, with motorised transport. They trespass upon private property and settle without permission, they pay no rent or rates and probably no taxes and invariably they are the cause of great annoyance to the owners and occupants of land and property in the vicinity of their camps. They are often associated with car breaking operations, scrap metal etc., and any material which they do not want is left lying on the ground, to become an eye sore to be cleaned up by the owner or occupier of the land.

The only part of Slough where itinerant caravanners park their vehicles is around Chequers Railway Bridge area - in the north-east corner of the Borough. Until recently this was a secluded spot, off the beaten track, and therefore attractive for this purpose.

With the recent housing development up to Meadfield Road, Langley, many complaints are received. Every attempt is made by the owners and occupiers of the land to get these campers off the land, including towing them off, but they return in due course.

The Government are alive to these difficulties for in Circular No. 6/62 the Minister of Housing and Local Government has made suggestions for dealing with the problem. County Councils are asked to review the position generally in consultation with District Councils.

The solution probably lies in the setting up of a number of permanent sites specially for this class of caravan dweller, in areas where they are known to visit, on a regional basis, properly controlled, with basic amenities and run on economical lines.

In the meantime, perhaps an initial survey of itinerant caravanners should be undertaken. One Local Authority has already experimented with a site to accommodate twelve such caravans together with transport vehicles and others are considering similar action. The Act provides for exemption from licences in respect of certain classes of caravanners, e.g. travelling showmen, building and engineering sites, seasonal workers in agriculture, forestry etc.

Rent Act 1957

The Department has been concerned with the Rent Act 1957 only in so far as it deals with applications for Certificates of Disrepair, Cancellations and other associated certificates. The Council act merely in an administrative capacity since all such transactions under the Act are matters strictly between landlord and tenant.

Furthermore these negotiations are unrelated to the Council's powers exercised under the Housing and Public Health Acts which deal with the repair of dwelling house property.

The Rent Act 1957 became operative in the autumn of that year, and up to the end of 1961 the Department dealt with a mere 156 houses.

Since there are over 20,000 units of housing accommodation in the Borough, a goodly proportion of which are "controlled" by the Act, the indication is that in Slough this part of the Rent Act has failed in its purpose, which was, to solve the problem of preventing the decay of dwelling house property due to low rents and high costs of repair.

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 1,579 properties upon a request for official search of the Land Charges Register.

In addition, particulars as to properties were supplied in all cases in which mortgages were being arranged under the Housing Act, in respect of the purchase of small dwellings. A number of requests for information was dealt with during the year, as to whether properties changing hands were included in the Borough Council's Programme of Housing Clearance.

SECTION C

SAFEGUARDING OF FOOD SUPPLIES

The safeguarding of food supplies is one of the most important of the many duties carried out by Public Health Inspectors. A lot of work is involved which does not normally receive any recognition, this being mainly due to the nature of the work which is 'behind the scenes'.

The report on the Department's activities relating to food during the year has been set out under three headings. The hygiene of preparation, handling and display, inspection and compositional standards.

Food Hygiene

During 1961 some 3,064 visits of inspection were made by your officers to all food premises within the Borough. These premises included food factories, catering establishments, factory and school canteens, bakeries, dairies, manufacturers and retailers of ice cream, markets, licensed premises, meat, fish, grocery and other retail shops.

School kitchens where food is prepared in County Council and private schools were regularly inspected throughout the year. All modern schools have a properly equipped kitchen in which meals are prepared and served within the building. Most of the schools which have no kitchens, and the number in Slough is low, receive meals in insulated containers direct from the Central Kitchen at Cippenham. The remaining few are supplied from other school kitchens. Considerable improvement in the general standard of school kitchens was achieved.

Food hygiene is not merely a matter of providing facilities for the hygienic preparation and handling of food and equipment, for the Public Health Inspector frequently advises managers of food premises on the education of food handlers. The general public can make an equal contribution by being more critical of unhygienic practices, and avoiding food premises where such conditions exist.

Milk Supply

A register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk (other than dairy farms and farmers) is kept in the department.

During the year the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 came into operation. They consolidate and re-enact earlier regulations dealing with special designations of milk.

Such licences are now granted for a period of five years from the 1st January 1961 and will be renewable for subsequent quinquennial periods.

At the end of 1961 the following licences were in force:-

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	-	2
Dealer's (Prepacked Milk) Licences	-	
Tuberculin Tested		26
Pasteurised	-	39
Sterilised	-	55

From 25th June 1962 all milk sold retail in England and Wales must normally be "specially designated" milk, i.e. "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "tuberculin-tested". The specification of areas whereby the use of special designations for milk was made obligatory began in 1951. Only 6% of the milk sold retail is unpasteurised.

In Slough all milk sold retail has for some years been in accordance with special designations.

A licensed vendor selling milk under a special designation is responsible for ensuring that the milk complies with the bacteriological standards required by the Milk (Special Designation) Orders.

There are two dairies in the Borough receiving bulk milk from various suppliers for heat treatment and bottling. These dairies are regularly inspected and 118 samples of milk were taken by officers of this Department and subjected to laboratory examination to ascertain the efficiency of the heat treatment in all 104 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

Both the dairies referred to above operate their own control laboratories which maintain a constant check on the quality of the milk. The personnel of these laboratories continue to co-operate willingly with your officers when the occasion for mutual discussions arise.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

During 1961 162 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination in the Department's laboratory. The details are shown in Table No. 4. Not one of the samples failed to pass the prescribed tests.

TABLE NO. 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SAMPLES
Pasteurised Milk	46
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	71
Tuberculin Tested Milk	41
Sterilised Milk	3

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 requires that all premises used for the sale, the manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream, or the storage of ice cream intended for sale, shall be registered with the Local Authority.

During 1961 9 additional premises were registered for the sale of ice cream. During the year 110 visits were made to premises where ice cream was manufactured or sold, and 53 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination in the Department's Laboratory with the following results:-

TABLE NO. 5

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

PROVISIONAL GRADE	SAMPLE
1) satisfactory	53
3) unsatisfactory	-
4)	

The standard of hygiene among the manufacturers and vendors (including itinerant vendors) was found to be generally satisfactory.

Preparation and Manufacture of Prepared Foods

At the end of 1961 59 premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1958 in respect of the manufacture of preserved foods as follows:-

Canning Factories	2
Preparation of Shell Fish	2
Fish Friers	15
Manufacturers of Sausages and Cooked Meats ...	40

These premises have been inspected regularly and the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been complied with.

Bakehouses

At the end of 1961 there were 9 premises on the register of bakehouses, and inspections made during the year revealed that conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Complaints relating to Food

Numerous complaints were made to the Department during the year regarding food which was considered to be unfit, including a fairly wide variety of foods with such items as a clothes peg in a bottle of milk, a steel nut in a faggot, and string in a breadroll. By far the most commonplace cause for complaint was mould in meat pies and bread, especially during the summer months. Manufacturers have gone to great lengths to educate not only the public but the retailers themselves, in the proper method of storing meat pies but complaints still arrive. In some cases it is difficult to apportion blame where, for example, a meat pie is purchased on a Saturday, kept in a warm larder until Sunday and complaint made to the Department on Monday.

Each complaint is fully investigated and often a warning is sufficient. On one occasion only was a prosecution instituted, when the defendant was fined £75 for selling a doughnut split containing a piece of metal. Members of the public are often ready to make complaint after they have purchased food which is in an unsatisfactory condition, usually with every justification, but many of them decline to agree to give evidence on the grounds that they 'don't want any trouble'.

Municipal Abattoir

In the Annual Report for 1960 I referred to the legislation giving effect to the Government's policy on

slaughterhouses, and the reasons which led the Borough Council to consider the erection of a new abattoir as being the only practicable solution to the problem.

To this end a piece of land in the vicinity of the present abattoir was selected and following negotiations concerning the site, a local enquiry was held in May 1961. Unfortunately the Minister gave an adverse decision and rejected the Council's proposals.

During the last twelve months the Borough Council have had the difficult task of trying to find another suitable site, but, although several possibilities have been explored, no decision has yet been made.

Meantime, the abattoir, with all its limitations and improvisations continues to function satisfactorily in providing a justifiable service, and as the figures show, the demand for these facilities is increasing. The premises are under the full-time supervision of your officers, who have carried out inspection of the carcasses and offals of all animals slaughtered, and generally controlled the running of the abattoir.

Public Health Inspectors, during their term of duty at the abattoir, constantly watch the habits and methods of food handlers, and through pointing out undesirable practices and explaining the dangers that might arise, a general improvement has been obtained, particularly with regard to the wearing of protective clothing.

The abattoir facilities are available from Monday morning to Saturday noon inclusive, as well as on certain Bank Holidays. Slaughtering on Saturday afternoon and Sunday is not permitted except on rare occasions, such as the Sunday prior to Christmas.

The premises are opened at 7 a.m. and close as required up until 8 p.m. according to seasonal demands. An Inspector is on daily duty until the abattoir is closed.

The following figures show the throughput of animals since the Borough Council took over the premises as a municipal abattoir in 1954. They indicate a steadily increasing demand for the slaughter of animals in this area.

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1954	2,977	5,351	3,460	1,078	12,866
1955	2,040	3,721	5,662	1,073	12,500
1956	1,990	3,736	4,854	1,135	11,715
1957	2,475	4,380	6,608	1,121	14,584
1958	3,370	5,585	8,683	987	18,625
1959	3,393	9,733	8,432	929	22,487
1960	3,764	6,898	8,281	1,083	20,026
1961	4,512	10,744	10,256	1,234	26,746

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1962, tolls for the use of the Abattoir amounted to £3,628.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

In pursuance of the above Act, the Borough Council licensed ten persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Electrical stunning apparatus is used at the Municipal Abattoir for small animals together with the captive bolt type instruments for the stunning of larger animals. Both methods are humane and efficient, and no cruelty occurred. No contraventions of the Act were observed.

The duties of the slaughtermen are hard and in many ways unpleasant but I am pleased to report that they perform their work in an efficient and skillful manner, and it is interesting to note that the observations on the condition of dressed carcasses at the Abattoir, made by wholesale and retail butchers, confirm that the standard of butchering is very high.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

One hundred per cent inspection of all carcasses and offals of animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir was achieved by the District Public Health Inspectors, all of whom possess the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Table No. 6 gives particulars of carcasses examined and rejected as unfit for human consumption. After examination each carcass, passed as fit for human consumption, is marked with the Inspecting Officer's stamp in accordance with the

meat marking scheme. Particular attention was paid to the general handling and dressing of carcasses to prevent the possibility of contamination before despatch from the Abattoir. From time to time it was necessary to examine some carcasses and offals which had arrived from outside the Borough to retail shops.

Three hundred and four visits were made during 1961 to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. As a result of these visits nearly four tons of food, considered by your Officers to be unfit for human consumption, was voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation and was destroyed.

The details are as follows:-

	Wt. in lbs.
Canned Foods	7,382
Imported Meat	1,056
Manufactured Meat Products ...	53
Cheese and Butter	4
Fruits	70
Miscellaneous	384

Disposal of Unsound Food

Carcasses and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption are disposed of by two methods:-

- (a) Since some of this material is capable of being sterilized and processed into animal feeding stuffs and fertilizers, permission has been given to the Slaughtering Contractor to sell to approved collectors, on behalf of the owners, such rejected meat as the Inspecting Officer considers suitable for such use.
- (b) Rejected carcasses and offal not considered suitable for processing are destroyed.

All rejected meat is removed from the hanging room as soon as possible after examination and is placed in a separate store kept exclusively for this purpose; it is retained for a limited period in order that the owner or his representative may examine the material considered by the Inspector to be unfit. Experience has shown that some owners are quite prepared to accept the Inspecting Officer's judgment without question whilst others are eager to examine their property and to discuss the reasons why rejection has been found necessary. This facility is offered to owners because even rejected meat remains their property and unless this meat is voluntarily surrendered to the Local Authority it

could be removed from the premises by the owners and action for its seizure would then become necessary under the Food and Drugs Act. Such action has not been necessary at any time since the Corporation have been controlling the Abattoir but the Inspecting Officers have found it necessary, when dealing with some owners, to explain the full implications of removing unfit meat from the premises.

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

Table No. 7 shows the weights of rejected meat dealt with in 1961. The total amount represents less than 1% by weight of meat inspected.

Hygiene of Meat Transport

Regular observation by the District Public Health Inspector has revealed satisfaction in the handling of meat in transit to wholesale and retail butchery premises from the Municipal Abattoir and from outside the Borough. This has included a number of early morning visits to the Abattoir to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. It has been found necessary to issue warnings in a limited number of cases where the standards of cleanliness both in regard to vehicles and protective clothing were not considered suitable. These warnings have proved effective and no statutory action was required during the year.

Food Hawkers

The registration of hawkers of certain classes of food has been compulsory since 1959 when the Borough Council implemented Section 115 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949. This provided for the compulsory registration of all hawkers of food and their premises. This is designed to give greater control over the hygiene of food sold from vehicles, and both vehicles and storage premises used by these traders are regularly inspected by the Public Health Inspectors, to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food and Drugs (Compositional Standard and Quality)

Five hundred and seventy samples were procured during the year. Of this number 206 were sent to the Public Analyst and are shown in Table No. 8; those reported as unsatisfactory being shown in Table No. 9.

In addition to the samples sent to the Public Analyst, 49 samples of spirits, 262 samples of milk and 53 samples of ice cream were tested in the Department.

All the samples of ice cream contained more than the minimum of 5% fat as prescribed by the regulations.

It is not generally appreciated by members of the public, nor in fact by some members of the trade, that sampling of ice cream and milk falls into two distinct categories, i.e. to determine the cleanliness of the product from the point of view of bacterial impurity, and to determine the chemical content of the product from a nutritional aspect.

Ice cream must contain a minimum of 5% fat and 7½% milk solids other than fat, but in the case of Dairy Ice Cream or a similarly described commodity, the fat must be all milk fat, and no other fat is permitted. Artificial sweeteners i.e. other than sugar, are banned from all types of ice cream.

The presumptive standard for milk generally is that it should contain not less than 3% fat and 8.5% solids other than milk fat. This is only a presumptive standard and it has been held that where milk is sold of a poorer quality than that laid down in the Regulations, there can be no offence as long as the milk is as it came from the cow with nothing added or subtracted. The Milk Marketing Board is at present operating a scheme whereby producers whose supplies of milk average less than 3.3% butterfat over a year are placed on a special testing list, and may ultimately be paid a reduced price for their milk.

One informal sample was found to contain added water, but none was found in subsequent formal samples taken from churns awaiting collection at the farm.

Several samples of milk were again discovered having low fat and solids contents, but in no case could added water be detected. It is to be hoped that the Milk Marketing Board scheme will result in such supplies improving in the future.

The samples of milk taken in Slough during the year averaged 3.6% fat and 8.75% solids other than fat, - figures which are approximate to those of the country as a whole.

Sampling was extended to cover a wide range of foodstuffs by random purchase, and special attention was given to those which lend themselves to adulteration by their nature and price. In view of modern practices of crop spraying which may leave traces of pesticide on the fruit, several samples of fresh fruit were purchased but upon examination were found to be satisfactory.

The influx of coloured people into Slough has resulted in an increased sale of their own particularly favoured foods, and samples of these foods all proved satisfactory.

TABLE NO. 6
SLOUGH MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned					
	CATTLE EX. COWS	COWS	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	3,774	738	10,744	10,256	1,234
Disease except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	2	11	15	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	657	241	187	704	2
% of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	165	32.9	1.8	7.0	1.0
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	1	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	13	-	255	-
% of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.05	1.9	-	2.5	-
Cysticercosis Bovis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	71	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	21	-	-	-	-
Generalized condition whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-

TABLE NO. 7

Weights of Condemned Meat						
	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcasses	4	3	15	47	3	21
Parts of Carcasses and Organs	26	1	11	154	2	22
TOTALS ...	31	-	26	202	2	15
TOTAL WEIGHT: 11 tons 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 lbs.						

TABLE NO. 8

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst								
					PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
					Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:								
Almonds, Ground	...	...	...	...	2			
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	2			
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	3	1		
Butter	...	...	...	...	1			
Butter, Rum	...	...	...	...	1			
Butter, Peanut	...	...	...	...	1			
Bamboo Shoots	...	...	...	...	1			
Beef, Minced	...	...	...	...	1			
Beef, Curry	...	...	...	...	1			
Beef, Steak	...	...	...	...	1			
Beef, Goulash	...	...	...	...	1			
Caraway Seeds	...	...	...	...	1			
Cakes	...	...	...	...	9	1	1	1
Custard	...	...	...	...	1			
Cherries Glace	...	...	...	...	1			
Cherries in Syrup	...	...	...	...	1			
Cherries in Jelly	...	...	...	...	1			
Cherries, Cocktail	...	...	...	...	1			
Chocolate Drink	...	...	...	...	1			
Coffee	...	...	...	...	5			
Cream	...	...	...	...	4	1		
Cheese	...	...	...	...	3	1		
Corn Oil	...	...	...	...	1			
Crisps, Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	1			
Casserole Steak	...	...	...	...	1			
Colouring matter	...	...	...	...		1		
Dripping	...	...	...	...	1			
Egg Noodle Squares	...	...	...	...	1			
Flour	...	...	...	...	4		1	
Fruit dried	...	...	...	...	5			
Fish	...	...	...	...	3			
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	1			
Fruit juice	...	...	...	...	1	1		
Fruit, tinned	...	...	...	...	4			
Fruit, fresh	...	...	...	...	5			
Ginger, Crystallised	...	...	...	...	3			
Golden Crumbs	...	...	...	...	1			
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	1			
Ginger flavour	...	...	...	...	1			
Honey	...	...	...	...	1			
Ham	...	...	...	...	1			
Jelly	...	...	...	...	2	1		
Jam	...	...	...	...	3	1		
Lamb Tongues	...	...	...	...	1			
Lard	...	...	...	...	1	1		
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	1	1		
Lolly, Ice	...	...	...	...	1			
Milk	...	...	...	...	9	6		6
Mint	...	...	...	...	1			
Milk Shake	...	...	...	...		1		
Mayonnaise, Smoked Salmon	...	...	...	...	1			
Mustard	...	...	...	...	1			
Melon, Pickled	...	...	...	...	1			
Milk, Evaporated	...	...	...	...	1			
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	2			
Mustard Oil	...	...	...	...	1			
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...		1		
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	2			

TABLE NO. 8 (cont'd)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst				
	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Onions, Sliced...	1			
Olives ...	1			
Potato ...	1			
Parsley Sauce Mix ...	1			
Pickle ...	3			
Pork Luncheon Meat ...	1			
Pork Roll ...	1			
Pease Pudding ...	1			
Peas ...	1			
Poppadums ...	1			
Paste, fish ...	1			
Rice ...	7			
Soft Drinks ...	11	1	1	
Sugar Confectionery ...	5	1		1
Sugar ...	2			
Syrup ...	1			
Soft Drink Powder ...	2			
Soup ...	3		3	
Spice ...	5			
Sauce ...	2			
Salmon with Butter, potted	1			
Sausages ...	2	2		1
Stuffing, sage and onion ...	1			
Salt, gravy ...	1			
Sausage Rolls ...	1			
Sponge Pudding ...	2			
Tea ...	4			
Tongue and Ham Roll ...	1			
Vinegar ...	3			
DRUGS:				
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	3			
Cod Liver Oil Vitamin Capsules	1		1	
Throat Lozenges ...	1			
Calamine Lotion ...	1			
Eye Lotion ...	1			
Eye Lotion Tablets ...	1			
Talcum Powder ...	1			
Aspirin ...	1			
TOTAL FOODS: ...	174	22	6	9
TOTAL DRUGS: ...	10	-	1	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS: ...	184	22	7	9

TABLE NO. 9

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
69	Milk	Added water 9.4%	Further formal samples taken
79	Nut Crisp	Contained 3 pieces of quartz	Manufacturers cautioned
100	Milk	Deficient in solids not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
131	Orange Drink	Deficient in fruit juice 60%	Manufacturers cautioned
218	Milk	Deficient in fat and solids not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
219	Milk	Deficient in fat and solids not fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
221	Doughnut Split	Contained piece of metal	Vendor fined £75 and £10.12.0d. costs
222	Self-Raising Flour	Deficient in carbon dioxide	Manufacturers cautioned
267	Cod Liver Oil Vitamin Capsules	Minimum quantity of vitamins not stated	Manufacturers advised of labelling infringement
287	Mushroom Champignon Soup	False description	Manufacturer cautioned
345	Oxtail flavoured Soup	Should be described as soup mix	Manufacturers cautioned
350	Chicken Noodle Soup	Should be described as soup mix	Manufacturers cautioned
435	Milk	Deficient in solids not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
436	Milk	Deficient in fat and in solids not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
448	Pork Chipolata Sausages	Contained undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative	Vendor cautioned
451	Junior Swiss Rolls (Jam and Cream)	Contained imitation cream	Vendor advised regarding labelling infringement

SECTION D

CLEAN AIR

Further progress is being made towards obtaining clean air throughout the country. People are becoming more conscious of the importance of the subject and this is mainly due to the increased publicity from Government propaganda, exhibitions, newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts together with advertising by the various producers of fuel and manufacturers of heating appliances. Advice to householders by public health inspectors plays no small part in educating the public on the advantages of clean air.

Railways

There has been a further increase in the number of diesel engined locomotives and a corresponding reduction in the number of steam locomotives on the local suburban lines. This has led to a considerable reduction in the amount of smoke emission usually associated with the railways.

Industrial

Smoke emissions from industrial chimneys are controlled by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations 1958. These Regulations, made under the Clean Air Act, 1956, state the duration of time permitted for dark and black smoke to be emitted.

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 gives local authorities power to control the height of new industrial chimneys in so far as they can reject plans submitted in accordance with Building Byelaws, unless they are satisfied that the chimney height is sufficient to allow for the reasonable disposal of the smoke, grit, dust and gases, so as not to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance. This section is particularly useful where the boilers are oil-fired. A number of firms are now using oil instead of coal and provided they are properly maintained and operated they are generally an improvement as regards smoke emission. The sulphur gases however, although invisible, are obnoxious and it is essential that the chimney be of sufficient height to allow for the disposal of the gases into the upper atmosphere.

In this connection a close liaison has been maintained with the Borough Engineer's Chief Building Inspector during the year.

Despite the increasing use of mechanical stokers for firing boilers there are still many thousands of boilers

throughout the country which are hand-fired. Inefficient stoking often causes both atmospheric pollution and wastage of fuel, hence the value of courses for boiler operators conducted by the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, and a one-year course in preparation for the Boiler Operator's Certificate of the City and Guilds Institute provided at the Slough College of Further Education.

The skilled boiler operator in a large factory can save thousands of pounds worth of fuel in a year by operating the plant at its maximum efficiency, and in so doing, he is also making a valuable contribution towards the reduction of atmospheric pollution.

Prior Approval

The Council operate a scheme for Prior Approval in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. Under this scheme firms intending to install new boiler plant can submit details to the Council for approval regarding the ability of the plant to operate smokelessly. Three applications for Prior Approval were received and granted during the year in respect of boiler plant within the Borough.

Domestic

The smoke from dwelling houses has become a bigger nuisance than that from industrial buildings. The tarry smoke from the soft coal fires discharged at a low level contributes a high percentage of atmospheric pollution.

Smoke Control Areas

The Slough Borough Council has resolved to create Smoke Control Areas throughout the Borough by using their power under Section 11 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The making of a Smoke Control Order from the planning stage to the date of its operation is a somewhat lengthy and involved procedure. The houses in the proposed area are inspected by the Department's Technical Assistant (Smoke Control) who records the necessary adaptations to the fireplaces and estimates the cost thereof. Any industrial premises in the area are inspected by the public health inspector specialising in smoke control work. When the survey is completed details of the number of houses requiring adaptations and the estimated costs are placed before the Council so that they can make the Order, which is then submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

Notice of the making of the Order is given in the local newspapers and suitably printed notices are posted in conspicuous positions throughout the area.

Provided no objections have been made to the Order, it will subsequently be confirmed by the Minister.

The occupiers of all buildings within the area are then notified and householders are informed of any adaptations which may be necessary which rank for grant, and estimate forms are enclosed. Estimates have then to be approved before the work of adaptation is put in hand. Following receipt of a claim for grant, the work is then inspected and the claim form endorsed and forwarded to the Borough Treasurer for payment.

All works of adaptation must be carried out between the date of confirmation and the date of the Order coming into operation, in order to rank for the 7/10ths grant. After the Order is in operation it is an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of any building within the Smoke Control Area.

In May 1961, the first Smoke Control Order was confirmed and came into operation on 1st December. It was found that although six months were allowed for work to be carried out, most of the work was in fact, done during the latter half of that period.

From experience during the surveys of areas so far, most people appear to be in favour of clean air. The Ministry have now approved an electric form of ignition as an alternative to gas, which is eligible for grant under certain conditions.

The Council are required to pay 7/10ths of the cost of approved expenditure incurred in the adaptation of fireplaces and are able to re-claim 4/10ths of the cost from the Ministry.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Various recording stations for the measurement of air pollution were set up in May 1957. These stations consisted of one smoke filter and volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus, three British Standard Deposit Gauges and seven Lead Peroxide Instruments stationed at various schools and factories throughout the Borough.

During 1961 Slough Borough Council accepted an invitation to become one of a hundred towns to take part in a National Survey of air pollution recording using five smoke filters and volumetric types of apparatus. One such instrument was set up in each of the following types of locality:-

- (1) A smoke control area
- (2) A lightly populated area
- (3) A densely populated area
- (4) A commercial area
- (5) An industrial area

Recording commenced in October. This entails daily visits to each of the five stations, excluding Sundays.

The results of all the recording instruments are forwarded each month to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for publication in their Bulletin.

Your Chairman and I represent the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee. The Society's Annual Conference at Brighton was attended by your Vice-Chairman and my Deputy.

Eighteen complaints were received during the year regarding smoke and similar matters, 114 smoke observations were made, and 418 visits paid in connection with boiler house inspections, investigations and matters associated with clean air. There has been an increasing number of interviews with people regarding adaptations to property in smoke control areas.

In order to assist the householders in proposed smoke control areas an explanatory booklet is sent to each house before the survey is made.

Some 1,524 house to house visits were made in connection with the survey of heating appliances in proposed smoke control areas.

SECTION E

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

Factories

At the end of the year under review there were 668 factories on the Corporation's register, over half of which are situated on the Slough Trading Estate. The factories cover many different trades and processes and vary widely in size from large establishments employing several hundred persons to small premises employing only one or two workers.

There are still 29 factories registered as "non power" factories, and in these cases it is the Council's responsibility under the Factories Act, 1937 to ensure that they comply with

standards of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and sanitary accommodation laid down in the Act.

In respect of the majority of factories where mechanical power is used the Council is responsible for ensuring that suitable and satisfactory sanitary accommodation is provided and maintained. All other matters come under the control of H.M. Inspector of Factories with whom the Department is in close liaison, and matters relating to fire escape are dealt with by the Borough Engineer.

Some 352 inspections of factories were made in 1961 and where defects under the Factories Act and Sanitary Accommodation Regulations were observed the persons concerned were notified in order that any necessary works could be carried out to ensure that the requirements of the Act or Regulations were fulfilled.

Tables 10 and 11 give statistical information required each year by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Inspections were also carried out under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960, of factories where food is handled or processed and I am pleased to report that a satisfactory standard was found to exist in these premises.

The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector examines plans which have been deposited with the Borough Engineer for Planning and Byelaw approval, in order to ascertain whether there are matters which are the concern of the Department.

Investigations are also carried out with regard to public health and noise nuisances. Alleged offences under the Clean Air Act, 1956 are also investigated, but I am pleased to state that the trend with more and more factories is to provide more modern and efficient boiler house equipment to fulfil their obligations required by the Act.

TABLE NO. 10

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES				
PREMISES	NUMBER OF REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
1 Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	29	33	2	NIL
2 Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	526	314	8	NIL
3 Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers premises).	13	5	4	NIL
TOTAL	568	352	14	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	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	1	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	3	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	7	9	1	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	4	11	-	3	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	23	2	4	-

Outworkers

Alterations or the making of clothing and wearing apparel continues to predominate in the type of work for factories carried out by persons in their homes. Lists of such persons were returned during February and August and showed that 32 outworkers were employed in the Borough. Regular inspection of such premises were carried out by the District Public Health Inspectors and all were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Lists in respect of 101 outworkers were passed to other local authorities and information was received from other authorities in respect of those outworkers in Slough.

Drinking Water

One factory which obtains its supply of drinking water from a deep well was issued with a certificate of approval under Section 41 of the Factories Act 1937.

Shops Act, 1950 and Young Persons Employment Act, 1938

Inspections under the above Acts were carried out during the year and where necessary improvements were effected. Details of such are shown below.

(a) Inspections:

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	...	...	...	...	285
Conditions of employment	...	...	...	...	96
Hours of employment of young persons	...	...	...	...	22
Hours of closing	...	...	...	...	286
Sunday trading	...	...	...	...	103

(b) Improvements effected at Shops:

Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	11
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	9
Notices displayed	...	...	...	7
Other contraventions remedied	...	...	...	15

Workplaces

These premises, which usually comprise small workshops, are inspected by your officers to ensure that satisfactory standards of sanitary accommodation, ventilation, cleanliness and overcrowding, required by Sections 46 and 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936 are observed.

There were 21 visits made during the year.

Places of Entertainment

In all 10 inspections were carried out during the year at places of entertainment, and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Offices

At the present time there is no statute dealing with the health, safety and welfare in offices and other non-industrial premises.

Legislation, long overdue is urgently needed to deal with sub-standard office accommodation for many millions of black-coated workers, where conditions relating to space, heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation so often leave much to be desired. It is reported that the 'offices charter' Bill will come before Parliament in the autumn of 1962.

SECTION F

PEST INFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

The Slough Borough Council is directly responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. With the aid of scientists in the Infestation Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and chemists in private enterprise, we are continually trying new, and improving older, methods of eradication of pests.

Toxic insecticides and pesticides must always be used by properly trained personnel for the effects of residues in food and risks to wild life with the possible disturbance of the balance of nature are matters which must be carefully watched.

The World Health Organisation has set up and is co-ordinating a scheme of collaboration between the chemical industries and independent research laboratories. The aim of the scheme is to evaluate promising new compounds for ultimate use as pesticides, nearly 500 of which have been examined to date.

The problem of Pest Control in Slough is often handicapped by householders and owners of business premises who, when troubled by pests, are inclined to treat, or partially treat, an infestation instead of notifying the Department which has a Pest Control Officer and five manual workers who

are trained, fully equipped and experienced in carrying out all types of pest destruction, disinfection etc. Co-operation between the public and the local authority is all important.

The inestimable damage done by rodents cannot be over emphasized. The very nature of a rat demands gnawing to keep its continuously growing biting teeth in order. The amount of food eaten, though considerable, is negligible compared with that which is spoilt and contaminated in the process and results in enormous amounts of merchandise which must be destroyed. Furthermore, rodents constitute a potential source of danger, as they can cause water leaks, and fires through interference with water and electrical installations.

Advice can be given on the rat proofing of premises. The service and knowledge of this department is always available to the owners and occupiers of land and property in the Borough.

Rodent Control during 1961

The District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer during the course of their duties, investigated some 613 infestations which were subsequently treated.

The Pest Control Officer made some 3,036 visits to premises during the year, giving advice to numerous owners and occupiers concerning rat and mouse proofing of business and private dwellings, and supervising the work of the rodent operators.

Notifications of rat infestations amounted to 819.

Notifications of mouse infestations amounted to 90.

Rodent infestation of sewers in Slough has not presented any problem in recent years and 1961 was no exception. Consequently little attention was necessary in this otherwise potential source of trouble.

Table No. 12 gives a summary of the Rodent Operators work during 1961.

Annual Agreement Scheme

Once again the response to the Council's Annual Agreement Scheme has shown that occupiers of industrial and business premises appreciate the advantages of being able to call on the services of the Pest Control Section at short notice to keep their premises free from infestation.

One hundred and ten premises were serviced under the Council's Scheme during 1961.

Advice on many types of infestation problems has been given in respect of business premises where such properties are being serviced by their own specialised personnel.

The once-prevalent black rat (or ship rat) which caused a considerable amount of damage in certain premises in Slough has been virtually eradicated in this locality.

Workable Area Committee

The South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee met twice during the year. Numerous points of interest of pest control which were common to members and officers from many local authorities in this area were discussed. Your Chairman and I are representatives for the Borough Council.

The Workable Area Committee has continued to expand its original terms of reference on pest infestation and control. By films and discussions members have learned of new methods of eradication. Emphasis has been placed on the elimination of particular pests such as cockroaches, crickets, ants and cluster flies, and much useful information concerning the technical "know-how" and life cycle of these pests has been given by the scientific and research personnel of the Ministry.

Other Pests

A few complaints of pests other than rodents were received from occupiers of premises, and treatment was carried out as follows:-

<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Other Pests</i>
47	6	5	44

Disinfestation and Disinfection

Bedding and other articles were disinfected and disinfested by steam disinfection.

A number of premises and articles were also disinfected by sealing the rooms and using a formaldehyde fumigant.

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

Premises disinfected - 8

Premises disinfested - 29

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

In 1961 some 29 visits were made to premises with water supplies and averaging 12th Street 20 and 113 were procured.

Domestic Water

Wells

Swimming Bath

Slough Community Centre
Slough Life ...
Licensed Victuallers School
St. Bernard's Convent
Long Cross School
Thomas Gray School
Langley County Secondary School
Pascals Ltd.

The results of these supplies were found to be satisfactory.

Noise

Although the advent of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 is so recent, considerable publicity on the subject has focused public attention on what can be described as a 'lifestyle' noise.

The aircraft is undoubtedly by far the greatest source of noise. It is, however, not possible at the moment, to take action against those responsible, because aircraft are exempted from the provisions of the Act. Public protests, particularly in the vicinity of large airports have been made, and much has been written and said on this subject of late. In the last twelve months, it would appear, however, that it is not at present economically possible to abate this nuisance, but one hopes that research will be stepped up and that the noise of the long-suffering public will continue to be loud and clear until some successful attempt is made. No doubt at least reduce the screaming of the aircraft.

One hundred years ago Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote 'Unnecessary noise is the worst kind of waste of care which can be inflicted on either the sick or well' and here it is interesting to note that the King's Hospital, London, had for

LYBGE NO. 13

TABLE NO. 12

Rodent Infestation Control (Rodent Operators)							
	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	BUSINESS PREMISES		REFUSE DESTRUCTOR TIPS DUMPS ETC.	PARKS HEDGES DITCHES ETC.	OTHER COUNCIL PROPERTIES	TOTALS
		ANNUAL AGREEMENT SCHEME	SHORT TERM ACTION				
1. Investigations made	3,784	1,511	126	91	167	119	5,798
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation	2,629	708	66	61	66	30	3,560
3. Poison baits laid	13,774	13,398	1,064	1,266	2,047	860	32,409
4. Poison baits taken	9,988	3,397	447	572	937	384	15,725
5. No. of visits made	10,255	1,888	178	225	313	209	13,068

SECTION G

MISCELLANEOUS

Water Supply

In 1961 some 89 visits were made in connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, and the following samples were procured: -

Domestic Water Supplies

Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Swimming Bath Waters

Slough Community Centre	...	...	...	...	38
Slough Lido	...	...	...	...	15
Licensed Victuallers School	...	...	...	...	6
St. Bernard's Convent	...	...	...	...	3
Long Close School	...	...	...	...	5
Thomas Gray School	...	...	...	...	12
Langley County Secondary School	...	...	...	...	6
Pasolds Ltd.	...	...	...	...	2

The results of these samples were found to be very satisfactory.

Noise

Although the advent of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 is so recent, considerable publicity on the subject has focussed public attention on what can be described as a canker of modern life.

The aircraft is undoubtedly by far the greatest producer of noise. It is, however, not possible at the moment, to take action against those responsible because aircraft are exempted from the provisions of the Act. Public protests, particularly in the vicinity of large airports have been made, and much has been written and said on this cause of noise during the last twelve months. It would appear, however, that it is not at present economically possible to abate this nuisance, but one hopes that research will be stepped-up and that the voice of the long-suffering public will continue to be loud and clear until some successful attempt is made, to deaden or at least reduce the screeching of jet aircraft.

One hundred years ago Florence Nightingale wrote 'Unnecessary noise is the most cruel absence of care which can be inflicted on either the sick or well', and here it is interesting to note that the King Edward's Hospital Fund for

London is launching a campaign to reduce noise in hospitals. The idea has the backing of the Ministry of Health, and hospital management committees are appointing anti-noise committees.

The Government have provided £60,000 for research into the technical problems of noise, and the Wilson Committee is at present studying the subject.

'The sound insulation qualities of many buildings needed improvement' says the Minister of Housing and Local Government in urging architects to make a contribution towards solving noise problems associated with high density living. The Royal Institute of British Architects in their report to the Wilson Committee have presented a grim picture - busy airports, roaring highways and vast building programmes. They have said that broadly speaking, noise cannot be restricted without serious financial loss.

At a recent international Congress for Noise Abatement in Austria the British Representative urged a 'Tax on Noise' to be paid by the owners of any type of machine which made more noise than the sound-level of a normal conversation - 60 decibels. Such a tax was not intended to operate as a licence to produce noise, but to make it preferable for users, particularly of pneumatic drills and picks, to invest in new and silent equipment.

The whole subject of noise is one of some complexity. Some sources of noise are undoubtedly difficult to abate or reduce. Some are commonplace and therefore accepted as inevitable. Some of the avoidable noise is created with complete and utter disregard for others.

The Noise Abatement Act is useful if only in so far as it is a first step in making noise and vibration an actionable statutory nuisance, and has perhaps operated as a deterrent. Its effectiveness is however, limited. It is a good defence in any proceedings to prove that the best practicable means have been used to prevent noise, and again the need for a local authority in serving an abatement notice, to specify a remedy, for much of the answer is an unknown quantity. The Rural District Councils' Association has already made representation to the Ministry of this latter difficulty.

During the year some 93 visits were made in connection with alleged noise and associated complaints. Upon investigation none was found to constitute a statutory nuisance.

Hairdressers

The Public Health aspects of hairdressing are important, and during 1961 all such establishments were subjected to routine inspections by the District Public Health Inspectors.

At the end of the year there were some 57 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber, under Section 82 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1957, which was adopted by the Borough Council in 1959, when the Council also made Byelaws for the securing of cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

Offensive Trades

During the year the Council granted the necessary consent in the case of two rag and bone dealers and a soap boiler who are now the only offensive trades scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936, which operate within the Borough.

Inspections throughout the year showed that these premises were being operated satisfactorily and without nuisance.

House Drainage

Ninety complaints were received during 1961 concerning defective or choked drainage and sanitary fittings. The District Inspectors made some 602 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At four premises drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 45 premises. Further progress was made with the abolition of cesspools during the year.

Licensing of Petroleum Storage

The Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936 makes the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures the subject of 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 supervision of premises where petroleum is stored either for sale at filling stations or for use in industry, involved during 1961, some 604 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 examined the electrical equipment associated with new pumps etc., installed during the year.

Within the Borough of Slough at the end of 1961, 163 premises were licensed for the storage of 638,385 gallons of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures and 4 premises for the storage of 11,046 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 storage of any inflammable material must always be regarded as a potential 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. Substances other than petroleum products, however inflammable or dangerous are not subject to any control by the Local Authority.

Hackney Carriages

The Hackney Carriage Service is operated and organised by private enterprise. It is nevertheless a Public Service and the object of any control over it is to make the taxicab a more effective and satisfactory part of our public transport system. The legislation under which this control is exercised is the Towns Improvement Clauses Act of 1847, together with the Byelaws made by the Borough Council. It may be that there is a need to reconsider the role of the taxicab as part of the public transport system which can provide the conveniences of the private motor car without all the disadvantages to the community of the excess use of private motor cars in congested areas.

During 1961 the hackney carriage service within the Borough of Slough has operated very satisfactorily, as indeed it has for many years. The Council again decided that 30 hackney carriages were adequate in meeting the needs of the district. This figure has remained unaltered for many years.

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 were granted only in respect of vehicles which were mechanically fit

and safe for public service. All licensed vehicles were 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 35 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 133 visits were made in 1961 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 was deemed to be of any substance.

Licensing of Game Dealers

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

Registries for Female Domestic Servants

Although there are still three Female Domestic Servants agencies registered in the Borough, registration is a token only, and the amount of business carried out in domestic servants registration is apparently negligible.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metal

The same five premises are registered under the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, four of them belonging to the one firm. Fifteen visits were made for the purpose of checking that the necessary requirements were being observed.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations 1953

Fifty-five visits were made to premises for the purpose of these regulations. Three separate premises were discovered where second-hand heating appliances were exposed for sale and which were not fitted with guards complying with the Regulations. In each case the person responsible was cautioned in writing and advised to seek the advice of this Department in any future case where doubt might exist as to the satisfactory nature of a guarded heating appliance.

All new heating appliances seen were fitted with satisfactory guards.