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Contributors

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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B. Ch.B. D. P. H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR . R.E.C. GODDARD FARHJ. M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1956





ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

James C. Sleigh M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

- and -

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

FOR THE YEAR 1956

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS CITY

Alderman R. E. Holdham (Chairman)

Councillor J. T. Jarman (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman W. Bird

Councillor G. F. Burrell

Councillor Mrs. S. E. Dunham

Councillor P. W. Hall

Councillor Mrs. L. Millard

Councillor W. G. Pyne

Councillor Mrs. I. E. Stebbings

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

James C. Sleigh, M.B., ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health

R.E.C.Goddard F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

C.A. Bailey, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

L.A.Croft, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

C.W.McHugo, F.R.I.C., Public Analyst (Part Time)

Mrs. K.F. James, Secretary

R. H. Fox,

Public Health Assistant

Health Department, 15, Hatfield Road, St.Albans.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1956.

The incidence of infectious diseases was extremely low, as will be seen from the details supplied in the report. There was, however, one very disturbing feature to which no solution has yet been found, that is a prolonged outbreak, which is not yet over, of Winter Sickness at one of the schools in the City. I have commented more fully in regard to it in the City report.

The immunisation rate for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is, as one would expect with no interruptions from poliomyelitis, very much better, in fact the Diphtheria rate is over 100% and the Whooping Cough rate 94%. It should be realised, of course, that this is due partially to catching up the back lag of immunisations which had to be postponed in 1955.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) Number of inhabited houses	pulation on the Rate Books:- modation	13,935	St.Albans R.D.C. 31,540 32,084 7,569 87 60
Rateable Value	TOTAL	14,323 £811,026	7,716 £339,206
Extracts from Vital Statist	ics		
	St. Albans City	St.Alba	ans R.D.C.
Live Births - Legitimate Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 of	M. F. Total 375 353 728 17 16 33	M. F 220 220 6	Total 440 15
the estimated population Stillbirths Deaths Death Rate per 1,000 of	16.31 10 2 12 241 272 513	5	.43 5 10 0 609
the estimated resident population	10.99	19	.31
Deaths from Pregnancy, Chil	d Birth, Abortion		
Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	(Te	te per 1,000 otal live and Stillbirths)
The state of the s		1	2.15
Deaths of Infants Under 1 Y	ear of Age		
Legitimate Illegitimate Death Rate of Infants under l year of age. All Infant per 1,000 live births		M. F. 5 5 4 	Potal 9 -
Combined Rate Neonatal Death Rate	14.45	7.27	79

The Following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947:-

1901	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	Year	
13.0	10.99	10.32	10.83	11.52	10.6	12.0	11.3	11.5.	10.2	12.6	St.Albans St	Death Rate
	19.31	19.10	17.74	18.05	6.8	7.7	7.7	8.8	6.98	9.2	St. Albans R.D.C.	tto
21.4	16.31	15.93	15.43	15.60	16.5	16.4	16.3	18.2	17.2	17.9	St. Albans City	Birth
	14.43	15.16	14.48	14.46	12.8	13.3	13.2	14.8	14.54	16.5	St.Albans R.D.C.	Rate
67.4 135.4	15.77	15.23	18.54	29.87	27.1	27.6	33.3	13.1	19.2	33.0	St. Albans S	Infant Mortality
	19.78	15.28	16.59 3	28 64	0 0	29.1	200	23.33	18.1	54.0	St.Albans R.D.C.	tal ity

	Courses of Death				
	Causes of Death	St. J	lbans	St. A	lbans
	1956 - daytond ond tong	Ci			D.C.
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3	2
	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	1	ĩ
	Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	3,523/
	Diptheria	-	-	-	-
	Whooping Cough	-	a) John	-	-
	Meningococcal infections		_	_	-
	Measles	F. 100	d) 10 10 47	MTT DIS	_
100000	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	= -	2	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	8	4	3)
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14.	3	7	5) Cancer
	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	13	-	6) 182
14	Malignant neoplasm, uterus Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	7 36	18	7)
		1	2	2	17)
	Diabetes	1	-	-	1
	Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	51	25	47
	Coronary disease, angina	48	30	42	25) Heart
	Hypertension	10	13	7	11)Dis-
	Other heart disease	18	39	34	77) ease
	Other circulatory disease Influenza	20	21	14	30 354
	Influenza Pneumonia	17	10	2 38	1 60
	Bronchitis	14	5	11	14
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	8.	1	3	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	4	77	3
	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	2	-	2	2
	Nephritis and nephrosis Hyperplasia of prostate	3	1	0	2
	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	_	_	_	1
	Congenital malformations	2	1	2	4
	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	11	23	31
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	3	1
	All other accidents	5	6	2	5
	Suicide	1	4.	75 - N	ŀ
36.	Homicide and operations of war	417	1	C	103 - 003
	TOTALS	241	272	249	360 1,122

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age - something which is inevitable, and most of the 354 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age".

Vital Statistics, 1956 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births	(per 1,000 total population)	15.7
Stillbirths	(per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.0

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	23.8
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.56
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	16.9

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer 1956

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1956 are as follows:

	Number			Rate	
Male	s Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis 3,53	33 1,318	4,851	164	57	109
Other Tuberculosis 2'	71 251	522	13	11	12
Cancer of lung and					
bronchus 15,6		18,185	726	111	407
Other Cancer 33,3	17 41,199	74,516	1548	1780	1668

ANALYS IS OF INFANT MORTALITY (Jombined figures for two authorities

0		7 7 7 10		W	lige at	Death	10			
Cause of Death	Under 1 week	der lard week under 2 wls	2 and under 3 wks	3 and under 4 wks	Total under 1 mth	l and under 3 mths	and 3 and er under mths 6 mths	6 and under 9 mths	9 and under 12mths	Total under
Prematurity	9	1	1	BI	7	3 1	9797 230	210		7
Gastro Enteritis	ı	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	-	1	10	1	. 1	1
Congenital Malformations	4	1	1	.1	4	Ç	7	٦	7	o
Marasmus	1		(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0 1
T.B.	1	1	1	1	1	1	For best	. 1	1	1
Whooping Cough	ı	Ī.	1	1	1	,	Boo	21.	1	1
Difficult Labour	Н	1	1)		н	1	1	1	. 1	' '
Other Causes	3	1	1	1	3	ī	-		1	4
All Causes	14	1	1.5	7	15	Q	03	1	1	21

This table shows the merked change that has occurred recently in the cause of infant deaths. Prematurity and Congenital Malformations have remained fairly constant but the great killers of years not so long ago, Gastro Enteritis Marasmus and Pheumonia, show no deaths at all this year.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Bricket Wood - The Social Club, Oak Avenue.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 pm. (Doctor attends 2nd)

Minor Filments treated between 8.30 and 9am. at Nurses Cottage, 139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone Garston 2183)

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4pm.
Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local scho

Harpenden - Memorial Hospital, (Harpenden 3696)
Ante-Natal (Booking) - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2 - 4pm.

40, Luton Road, (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic - 1st and 3rd Mondays, llam - 12 noon.
(By appointment)

Minor Lilments - Wednesdays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)

Speech Therapy - Wednesdays, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

Dental - Mondays, 2 - 4pm.

Thursdays, 10.30am - 12 noon; 2 - 4pm.
(By appointment)

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

London Colney - Primary School, Aledander Road.

Minor Ailments - Fridays, 9.30am - 12 noon (Doctor attends 2nd and 4th)
Infant Welfare - Thursdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm.
Minor Ailments treated 8.15 - 8.30am., and 6.15 - 6.45pm.
at Nurse's residence, 18, Bettespol Meadows (Redbourn 251)

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays 1.30 - 4pm.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.-4pm.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Orthoptic

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2 -4pm.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe - High Oaks (St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare - Wednesdays, 1.30 - 4pm.
Speech Therapy - Mondays, 9.30 - 12.30pm.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.30pm.

Dental - Tuesday am. (2nd and 4th in month)*

Wednesday am. (1st and 3rd " ")*

Thursday pm. (weekly)*

Friday am. and pm. (weekly)*

Saturday am. (alternate)*

By appointment

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55002 and 54926)

Immunisation and - Mondays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)
Minor Ailment

Dental - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Saturdays, 9.30am - 12 noon (alternate)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday, 2-5pm.
Thursday and Friday, 9am. - 12noon;

2 - 4.30pm.

Ophthalmic - Thursday and Friday, 10am - 12noon Monday, 9.30 - 10.30am. Wellington Court - cont'd.

Tuesday, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Speech Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,

1.30 - 4.30pm)

Wednesday, 9.30 - 11.30am. Ante-Natal

Monday. 2 - 4.30pm (Midwives session)

Tuesday and Friday 1.30 - 4pm. (Doctor attends Friday) Infant Welfare Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic Monday, Wednesday Friday, all day Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday, pm.)

Osterhills Hospital. Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women) - Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 2-4pm.

V.D. (Men) Post Natal Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 10am - 12noon

- Friday, llam.

Chest Clinic

Tuesday, 2pm. (children)
Monday, 2pm. (St. Albans patients)

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

Child Guidance - Monday to Friday, am. and pm.

Sandridge - The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 3.30pm. Minor bilments treated between 4 and 5pm. at nurse's residence, 2, Reynolds Crescent (St. Albans 54985) or in children's own homes if necessary.

Shenley

Minor Lilments treated at school.

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane

- 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 - 4pm. Infant Welfare (Doctor attends 3pm)

Minor Ailments treated 8.30 - 9am. at Nurse's residence, 5, Brewhouse Hill, (Wheathampstead 3123)

National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services adminstered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information:

District of St. Albans Year ending 31st December, 1956

Appended are details of calls dealt with during the last year.

	Ambulance	Utilicon	Total	Increase and Decrease over 1955
Accidents	614	7	621	- 49
Sudden Illness	225	3	228	+ 19
Maternity	356	- DOUGLAND D	356	- 63
Removals Mileage	9,586 54,975	10,262 77,147	19,848 132,122	- 485 - 4,641

These figures show a slight but very welcome decrease compared with 1955.

Hospitals.

I am indebted to Mr. E.J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:

The allocation of beds is as follows:

St. Albans City Hospital.

Surgical Medical Orthopaedic Paediatric Chronic Sick Maternity Gynaecological Chest Infectious Diseases	87 66 20 25 78 23 26 31 18
ivate Wing:	
Section 5 Patients Section 4 Beds	4 6
Total	384

School Medical Service

Pr

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are seventeen nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes.

There are five Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and nine Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewarage

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area - one in the City and two in the Rural District - have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over four years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health Service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and e penditure will decrease but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:-

Adult .	- Males Females		:::	51 38
Children	- Males Females .	:::		3
Number	of Post Mortems			89

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Mursing in the Home.

The District Mursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Mursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors,

midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or nurse's certificate. No-one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas - Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Section D.

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so, In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding, etc. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

As I warned both Councils at the time, additional houses have had to be added to those given in the report of last year to the Minister.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total No. of Outbreaks	No. of Cases	No. Of Deaths	Organisms or other Agents responsible with no. of out- breaks of each	Foods involved with no. of out breaks of each.
-	5	-	Salmonella Typhi- murium 3 Unknown 2	-

After most careful investigation it was impossible to trace the cause of these cases contracting food poisoning. This is only to be expected in dealing with such small numbers.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1956

	St.Alban Notified		St.Albans Notified	
Scarlet Fever	29	2 0 0 5	31	AND HA
Whooping Cough	37	_	34	-
Measles	44	- "	46	-
Pneumonia	14	-	2	
Erysipelas	10	M 7 - 1000	6	-
Food Poisoning	2	4	3	1192
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	3	- 119
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infec	tion -	-	- Dear II	
Poliomyelitis (Para			- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	-
" (Non Paral	ytic) 1	-	- **	-
Dysontery	-	-	17	-
Acute Encephalitis	160-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	1	-	3	-

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1956

	Pulm	onary	Non Puli	monary	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Labermen
St.Albans City	199 (186)	111 (107)	25 (26)	16 (19)	351 (338)
St.Albans R.D.	148 (134)	119 (108)	12 (13)	22 (20)	301 (275)
Totals	347 (320)	230 (215)	37 (39)	38 (39)	652 (613)

Figures at 31.12.55 are in brackets

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1956

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during 1956:

Age at 31st December	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15	& ove	r Total
Number vaccinated	1,157	94	38	35		20	1,344
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	12	24		83	119
Number of cases specially	reported groups	during as ab	per ove)	iod (ag	gө		NIL
Number of births registere	d for the	St.Al	bans	Divis	ion		1,935
Primary vaccination rate p	or 1,000	births					69.5

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,344), 569 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 69.5 per 100 births is quite good, but it could be better.

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1956

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for primary Immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) in 1956 Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to a complete full course)

Age at date of final injection:

Under 5 5 - 15 Total

1,866 94 1,960

1,131

Number of births registered for the same area: 1,935

Primary immunisation rate per 100 births 101.3

The numbers shown include 1,648 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria immunisation injections, and 312 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area, (including temporary residents) in 1956

Age at date of final injection Total
Under 5 5 - 15

1,770 43 1,813

Primary Immunisation rate - 93.7%

These figures include 1,648 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment"

A report of the Medical Research Council early in 1957 suggests that there is a danger of converting a non-paralytic case of policyelitis into a paralytic one by using either the combined Diphtheria - Whooping Cough vaccine or an Alum Precipitated vaccine (L.P.T.) for Diphtheria. We are therefore, with very great regret, having to stop the use of the combined vaccine and also of A.P.T. for Diphtheria inoculations. This means that the total number of injections goes up from three to five and I do hope that this will not result in a serious fall in the immunisation rate for both Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. The present rates using the combined vaccine are very satisfactory (Diphtheria 101% of the total births, and Whooping Cough 94%) The 101% is admittedly a rather freak figure, due to catching up the back lag of 1955 when immunisations were held up by the prevalence of policyelitis.

18.

I think it might be profitable for me to set down the recommended periods for all immunisation procedure, including vaccination. They are as follows:

Primary vaccination against smallpox at 3 months of age
First injection against Whooping Cough at 4 months of age
Second injection at 5 months and third at 6 months
First injection against Diphtheria at 7 months
Second injection at 8 - 12 months.

Winter Sickness

Winter Sickness has been very prevalent in one particular school in the City, though by no means confined to that school. The cause of the disease is not known and all laboratory tests of stools and vomit have proved negative. It is definitely infectious with an incubation period of about 5 - 6 days. It is characterised by very sudden onset of vomiting, with sometimes diarrhoea following but not always. It is most common in children, but certain of the staff of the school were affected. In adults, and to a lesser extent in children, the disease leaves a rather long period of feeling unwell. One attack definitely does not protect against others - several children had it three or four times. All possible causes were very carefully checked, food, canteens, lavatories, but no cause could be found, and this was confirmed by a visit from a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

The disease is by no means new. I had a very large outbreak of it at Chatham in 1940, 1941 and 1942, and this produced a very marked increase in infant mortality, though so far, I am glad to say, there have been no deaths in St.Albans. At the time of the Chatham outbreak a similar outbreak occurred, though on a much wider scale, in Glasgow. I was in communication with the Medical Officer of Health there, but no infective agent could be found there either. In St.Albans I closed the school for a week and excluded all cases subsequently for seven days. This did appear to produce some good effects, but I fear that in many of the more transient cases where vomiting occurred at home, parents did not inform the Head Teacher and sent the children back to school thus helping, at any rate, to continue the outbreak.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I have the honour to present to you my eighteenth Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year 1956.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Considerable attention has been paid to all aspects of food hygiene and in the majority of premises a high standard is maintained.

As I have mentioned in previous reports, a happy relationship exists between members of the staff and traders generally, and I am very pleased to acknowledge the co-operation of the traders in matters of food and food hygiene.

The weekly sampling of "Designated" milks has continued with very good results.

St. Albans is a "specified area" under the Milk and Dairies (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, and no ungraded milk is permitted to be sold in the area.

All carcases of animals intended for human consumption have been examined prior to removal from the two licensed slaughterhouses in the City, although this frequently entails evening and early morning visits to the slaughterhouses.

HOUSING

In connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, six houses were included in a Clearance Area and twenty three individual unfit houses were closed during the year; twenty two families, involving fifty seven persons, were re-housed.

A large number of dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action and in only seven instances was it necessary to have recourse to legal action.

STAFF

Throughout the year one post of Additional Public Health Inspector remained unfilled. The unfortunate delays experienced in filling vacancies among the qualified Inspectorate is materially affecting the Slum Clearance Programme and the implementation of the Clean Food Regulations.

I again wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the members of the Staff and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support received throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

	12222
Dwelling Houses	623
Complaints reported to Department	269
Complaints re rats and mice	205
Complaints re flies, ants, bedbugs,	
woodworm etc	26
Infectious disease and contacts	88
Disinfestation of verminous premises	23
New Council houses sprayed prior to	
occupation	129
Council houses sprayed prior to re-	
occupation	119
Common Lodging Houses	10
Factories and Workplaces	109
Cinemas and Public Halls	15
Vacant land and dumps	12
Rats and Mice	3151
Rivers and Streams	5
Drains examined and/or tested	195
Smoke observations	57
Stables and Piggeries	14
Tents, Vans and Sheds	72
Licensed premises	53
Interviews	223
Food premises (see later section)	1270
Miscellaneous visits	658
Revisits to premises under notice (PH.Acts) Revisits to premises under notice (H.Acts)	
	14
Swimming Baths	28
Shops Acts	1191
Public Market and Food Stalls	4
Pet Shops	50
Water Cress beds	50
	9835

9835

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1017 and 210 preliminary and 7 statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

Damp walls	85
Defective roofs, spoutings and down pipes.	139
Defective floors, walls and ceilings	111
Defective window frames and sash cords.	55
Defective fireplaces/cookers	31
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed.	38
Internal water supply provided	19
Drains cleared and/or repaired	81
Drains connected to sewer	17
New W.C's provided	16
W.C. compartments repaired	32
W.C. pedestals provided	30
W.C. cisterns provided or repaired	51
Pail Closets abolished	7
Cesspools abolished	6
Dustbins provided	20
Offensive secumulations removed	8
Foodstore provided or repaired	12
Chimney and stack repaired	9
Yards and passages paved or repaired	6
Animals - Nuisances abated	4
Contraventions remedied in shops	23
Contraventions remedied in food premises.	45
Miscellaneous	172

DISINFECTION.

Enquiries are made with regard to infectious diseases and to contacts from other infected areas.

Disinfection of rooms is carried out following cases of infectious diseases and in connection with cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Forty one cases of infectious diseases were enquired into and ten houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated. Seven houses in connection with tuberculosis and cancer were also fumigated.

DISINFESTATION.

1. Eradication of Bed Bugs etc.

During the year, eight treatments with an effective insecticide were carried out.

Of the premises treated, five were private dwellings and three were Council houses.

As a preventive measure one hundred and twenty nine new Council houses were sprayed with an insecticide before occupation and one hundred and nineteen Council houses before re-occupation.

2. Other Vermin - Ants, Earwigs etc.

Twenty four premises infested with cockroaches, ants and woodworm were reported to the department and treated with insecticide.

Twenty nine wasp nests were also destroyed by the Public Health Assistant.

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HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1936 & Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954)	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during quarter Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation. (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	i perenna a perenna a perenna	to competing with
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	-	
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act 1936.	10	
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED (5) Under Section 11, Housing Act 1936 & Sections 10 (1) & 11 (2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act 1953	Number 23	57 22
(6) Under Sections 3 (1) & 3 (2) Housing Act 1949 (7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act 1936	Plantoride	vidanjeni o da kononi o da da

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

Long Long	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by local authority	210	real remover concerns
(9) After formal notice under -		or outer observed
(a) Public Health Acts	5	- JantalahA
(b) Housing Act 1936	2	-
(10) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954	-	-

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year under review the City Council approved the renewal of licenses in respect of the stationing of nineteen caravans, situated as single caravans or in small groups, in various parts of the City. New licenses were granted under similar conditions in respect of three caravans.

The Corporation now owns three sites - one at Abbey Camp, which holds fourteen caravans, one at Folly Avenue which holds ten caravans, and one at Drake'd Drive which holds thirty caravans.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the number of Factories registered in the City at the end of the year:-

(a)	Factories	with	mechanical	power.	••	••	232
-----	-----------	------	------------	--------	----	----	-----

(b) Factories without mechanical power. .. 29

Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

The following defects were dealt with: -

Want of cleanliness	 6
Inadequate ventilation	 2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary	
conveniences	 10
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.	 2

. -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -,

OUTWORKERS.

During the year notification was received of 25 persons within the City who are employed as outworkers in connection with the various trades as shown below:

Finishing and repairing of wearing apparel. 25

No cases of notifiable infectious disease has occurred in the homes of these outworkers and conditions of work and the premises are satisfactory in each case.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice has again been carried out efficiently and the standard methods, as recommended by the Ministry have been maintained.

The work is divided into two main sections - private and business premises - and the latter is sub-divided into casual and annual contracts.

Eighty six treatments were carried out at Local Authority properties, one thousand and forty at dwelling houses and three hundred and sixty one at other premises (including business premises).

Treatment of the soil system of sewers was carried out on two occasions and as previously, infestation was found to be in the older part of the system.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

		TYPE OF	PROFERTY		
		Non-Agri	Non-Agricultural	-	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		Dwelling	All other	9	
	Local	(inc. Council	Business	Cols. (1)	Agri-
	Authority	Houses)	Premises)	(2) & (3)	qultural
Wiseless of memory and in Tool	at it	*			
authority's District	44	14,168	1,389	12,601	- 1
2. Number of properties inspected					
(a) Notification	22	260	16	361	16
		201		O#1	
purpose other		3,418	1,270	4,688	1
3. Total inspections carried out in- cluding re-inspections	72	5,782	2,058	7,912	14
4. Number of properties inspected (m. Sec. 2.) which were found to be		1000	8		
(a) Rats - (Major	чĸ	661	- 64	1 266	11
(b) Mice - (Major	108	60	27	107	1.1
5. Number of infested properties (In		}	00 11.0		
Sec. 4.) treated by the LA. Figures should NOT exceed those			163		
given at Sect. 4)	24	260	89	373	-

		TYPE OF	PROPERTY		
The state of the s		Non-Agricultural	cultural	2002	
San et language of the control of th	(1)	(2) Dwelling	(3) All other	(4)	(5)
	Local	Houses (inc.Council	(including Business	Total of	Agri-
	Authority	Houses)	Premises)	(2) & (3)	oultura]
		2000			
6. Total treatments carried out in- cluding re-treatments	98	1,040	361	1,487	1
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:			880 68	are.	
(a) Treatment	1	(House	4	4	1
(b) Structural Work	1	20	4	24	1
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	1			- 25.5	1
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	- *		- 086,1	- 15.	1
10. Legal Froceedings	1	1	1	-	1

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952 and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Two licenses were renewed during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only class of offensive trade carried on in the City - that of Edible Fat Refiner - has been well conducted during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Throughout the year observations were made of factory chimneys within the City regarding excessive emission of smoke.

Managements were interviewed and advice given. Assistance was also obtained from the representatives of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Periodic inspection of the Public Swimming Bath at Cottonmill Lane has been carried out and twenty samples, ten from the shallow (inlet) end and ten from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May - September and all proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, five samples were taken during the same period from the pool at St.Albans School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises.

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Grocery and provision shops	 146
Bakehouses	 47
Cooked food premises (including restaurant	
kitchens and cafes)	 114
Fish shops (including fried fish premises)	 60
Dairies and milkshops	 294
Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops	 298
Ice cream premises	 30
Licensed Premises	 53
Other food premises	 228

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were twenty-two bakehouses on the register.

The majority of these are maintained in a satisfactory condition but difficulty is experienced in one or two of the older bakehouses where the structural condition is such that demolition would appear to be necessary in the very near future.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods etc.

Cafes and Restaurant Kitchens.

Regular inspection of food premises was made throughout the year and these were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Grocery and Provision Shops.

Frequent visits are made to grocery and provision shops in the City and in addition numerous requests are received from retailers for the examination of food stocks.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

Hotels and Public Houses.

A number of visits was also made to these premises at six of which structural improvements, including the provision of additional lavatory accommodation, have been carried out.

Butchers' Shops.

Regular inspection of butchers' shops has been carried out throughout the year and on numerous occasions examination of meat and canned food was carried out at the request of the traders.

Fish Frying.

The trade of fish frying is carried out at eight establishments and on inspection during the year the premises were found to be well maintained.

St. Albans Market - Food Stalls.

Since the adoption by the City Council last year of the new Food Byelaws all food stores on the Saturday market have been visited weekly.

Generally there is a great improvement in the handling and displaying of food stuffs and the stall holders without exception, have co-operated with the staff in effecting improvements.

On every stall is now displayed the name and address of the holder.

Slaughterhouses.

One hundred and sixty seven visits have been made to local slaughterhouses for the inspection and examination of carcases for human consumption, as shown in the following table.

In addition, fifty one visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St. Albans Rural District Council and the following have been examined viz:

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
290	265	302	866

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

apiding the provision of addition	this to nutaivong out anticulant atmossvence			Linusporte dotale o			
		Calves	Sheep	Pigs	mom. T		
	Exclud-		& Towho		TOTAL		
	ing Cows		Lambs		DIVID		
Number killed (if known)	133	55	443	231	862		
Number inspected	133	55	443	231	862		
All disease except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1				ants -		
Whole carcases condemned	Te -ul	1	to She	1	2		
Carcases of which some part or	1407 00	gnFxub	pootion	unt or	bus		
organ was condemned	18	-	1	2	21		
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other	- 4444	8 boos		Dans	A.da		
than tuberculosis & cysticerci	14%	27	0.257	1.4%	2.97		
Tuberculosis only	d ac se	ata bou	I IIo su	Meyal	3000		
Whole carcases condemned	1 1 -		did -	1	1		
Carcases of which some part or	ota soit		15 0001		valg .		
organ was condemned	11	-	- 10	6	17		
Percentage of the number inspec-			1100 211	-33	a for		
ted affected with tuberculosis	8%	-	-	3.0%	2.0%		
Cysticercosis					MIT O		
Carcases of which some part or	and the same of		7-60514		unta		
organ was condemned	1	-	and Fin	20.0	1		
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-11		Sa .= [1		
Generalised and totally condemned	-	7/10	al case	-	ba-		
		1					

Merchandise Marks Orders.

The above Orders relating to an indication of country of origin to be given to a number of imported food stuffs were introduced in May 1951.

In general it was found that traders co-operated readily in complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises.

Premises (including twelve registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, are as follows:-

Regular inspection was made of these premises and at a number structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for storage of ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

(b) Bacteriological Examination.

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were very satisfactory.

Of the nine samples examined, eight were placed in Grade 1 and one in Grade 2.

(c) Chemical Examination.

Three samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949		
Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.56 Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.56.	100	5 43
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949		
Number of persons holding at 31.12.56 Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	Squar.	7
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.		
Number of persons holding at 31.12.56 - Dealers' (Pasteuriser's)Licences	(2
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Pasteurised"		11
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Sterilised"		30

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1956. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test Passed Failed	Phosphatase Test Passed Failed
Tuberculin Tested	59 (96)	57 (83) 2 (13)	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	212 (192)	212 (192) - (-)	212(191) - (1)
Pasteurised	231 (258)	230 (258) 1 (-)	230(255) 1 (3)
TOTALS:	502 (546)	499 (533) 3 (13)	442(446) 1 (4)

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results for 1955.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Samples.

During 1956, one hundred and thirty nine samples were submitted to the Public Analyst (Mr.C.W. McHugo, F.R. I.C.) for chemical These included seventy one of milk, two of pork sausage, lard, white pepper and table jelly, and one each of buttercream sponge, Madeira cake, fruit cream biscuits, milk chocolate crunch, milk chocolate wafer, baked beans, garden peas, processed peas, liver sausage, non-brewed condiment, malt vinegar, mixed spice, lobster paste, aspirin, full cream evaporated milk, dripping, luncheon meat, cockles, almond nougat, raspberry jellies, lemonade powder, instant whip, ground cinnamon, dried mint, cherry jam, tinned cream, orange squasg, fish cakes, snoked cod roe, cheese cake mixture, cheese spread, butter flavouring, chocolate flavouring, gristick, custard powder, chicken & ham galantine, pork & meat roll, cooking oil, sweet pickle, piccalilli, "Host" sauce, shredded suet, Barbados sugar, mixed spice, ground almonds, "Helm Royal Tots", peppermint cordial, diabetic lemon squash, lemon squash, unsweetened lime juice, lime juice cordial, diabetic cordial, orange squash, lemon barley, grapefruit squash, non-alcoholic ginger, W. Indian marmalade, lime marmalade and lime marmalade (sugar free)

All the milk samples were obtained formally from roundsmen during delivery to the consumer and all were reported upon as genuine, reaching the legal presumed standard of fat content (3%) and solids not fat (8.5%).

It will be seen that the misvellaneous samples, all of which were obtained informally, covered a wide range of foodstuffs and all were reported upon as satisfactory by the Public Analyst.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Supply.

Quarterly samples of water from the main supply of the St. Albans Water Works Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination.

Mr. McHugo reported that the water possesses a high degree of bacteriological purity and fully complies with the requirements of a supply intended for general and public use.

(b) Watercress - Treatment at the Beds.

Further to our experiences over the past few years with watercress grown locally, another series of trials with hypochlorite disinfection was carried out.

All cut cress from two extensive beds in the City is now immersed in a large shallow, concrete dipping tank which is dosed daily with a hypochlorite solution before being dispatched to a number of markets throughout the country.

The object of the daily tests was to ascertain the strength of hypochlorite required to produce a sterile cress under every possible variation of circumstances, without of course affecting the natural product in taste and appearance.

The cultivation of cress is dependent upon running water from natural sources, in this case from boreholes and river water and it cannot be denied that at some stage in the course of time, such waters are liable to contamination without warning. It was felt, therefore, in the light of past experience, that precautions of the nature now undertaken are most desirable.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Home Killed Beef.	••			85	lbs
" " Mutton.				59	"
Imported Beef				173	"
Offal				68	"
Ham				110	"
Tinned Ham				44	tins
" Meat				180	"
Sausages				57	lbs
Fish				18	stones
Tinned Fish				107	tins
" Vegetables.				1084	11
" Fruit				592	11
" Milk				293	"
Cheese				185	lbs
Oatmeal				16	11
Semolina				56	11
Mousse				57	pkts
Orange Drinks				32	bottles
Dried Fruits				94	lbs
Ice Cream				64	cartons
Cake				56	lbs
Miscellaneous packe	ts.			34	pkts
" tins.				148	tins
Pork Luncheon Meat.				219	11
Corned Beef				65	11
Paprika				1	cwts
Cocoa				1	11
Sliced Chicken.				17	pkts
Chicken Cutlets.				48	
Turkeys				83	1bs
Apricot Pulp				105	kgs
Cockles	••				lbs
Rollmop Herrings.	••	••	••	1	gall

... death they'd



