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Contributors

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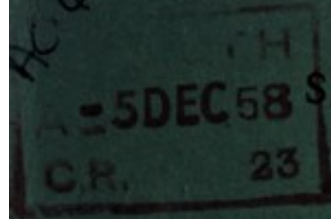
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ST. ALBANS CITY COUNCIL



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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

1957

PRINTED BY JAMIESON & MUNRO, LTD.,
40 Craigs, Stirling.
1958

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ST. ALBANS CITY COUNCIL



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS CITY

Alderman R. E. HOLDHAM (Chairman)

Alderman Mrs. S. E. DUNHAM (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman A. BLOTT

Councillor D. ASHTON DAVIES

Councillor T. A. BICKERTON

Councillor J. FARRELLY

Councillor W. G. PYNE

Councillor Mrs. I. E. STEBBINGS

Councillor Miss E. TOMS

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.
(Resigned 30th June.)

L. A. CROFT, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
(Appointed Deputy Chief Inspector, 1st August.)

G. R. ALLENBY, M.A.P.H.I.,
Commenced 26th January.

J. CABOURNE, M.A.P.H.I.,
Commenced 25th November.

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 1957.

Except for a widespread epidemic of measles in the first half of the year, fortunately mild in character and a large number of Asian Flu cases about October, the health of the two areas remained good. Most of the Asian Flu cases were mild. A vaccine to give protection to people especially exposed to the infection, *e.g.*, Doctors and Nurses, was issued by the Ministry of Health, but by the time it arrived the epidemic had passed its peak. It was difficult to assess the efficacy of the vaccine in preventing the infection, but it was certainly a long way from 100% and the reaction in several cases was just as bad as having the actual disease.

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

| | St. Albans City | St. Albans R.D.C. |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population | 47,290 | 33,060 |
| Area (in acres) | 5,129 | 32,084 |
| Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books— | | |
| Dwelling Houses | 14,461 | 8,081 |
| Shops with living accommodation ... | 323 | 85 |
| Licensed Premises with living accommodation | 75 | 60 |
| Total | 14,859 | 8,226 |
| Rateable Value | £785,963 | £380,168 |

Extracts from Vital Statistics

| | St. Albans City | | | St. Albans R.D.C. | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total |
| Live Births : Legitimate ... | 363 | 347 | 710 | 247 | 239 | 486 |
| Illegitimate ... | 13 | 9 | 22 | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population | | | 15·48 | | | 15·31 |
| Stillbirths | 8 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Deaths | 235 | 279 | 514 | 248 | 281 | 529 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... | | | 10·87 | | | 16·00 |

Birth and Death Rates

Obviously the birth rate in any community will be affected by the percentage of women of childbearing age and marital status in that community, compared with the average of the country as a whole.

Especially or even more so, a community with a high proportion of elderly people must have a higher death rate than one with few old people and many young ones.

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the City and R.D.C. gives the following results :—

| | Crude Birth Rate | Comparable Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Comparable Death Rate |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| City | 15·48 | 15·17 | 10·87 | 10·65 |
| R.D.C. | 15·31 | 16·53 | 16·00 | 8·32 |

Deaths from Pregnancy

Child Birth, Abortion

| Deaths | Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths) | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths) |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| — | — | — | — |

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age

| | | | | St. Albans City | | | St. Albans R.D.C. | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|----|-------|----------------------|----|-------|
| | | | | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total |
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births | | | | 15.03 | | | 17.79 | | |
| Combined Rate | | | | 12.29 | | | 16.16 | | |
| Neonatal Death Rate | | | | 12.29 | | | 9.88 | | |

The following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947.

| Year | Death Rate | | Birth Rate | | Infant Mortality Rate | |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | St. Albans City | St. Albans R.D.C. | St. Albans City | St. Albans R.D.C. | St. Albans City | St. Albans R.D.C. |
| 1947 | 12.6 | 9.2 | 17.9 | 16.5 | 33.0 | 54.0 |
| 1948 | 10.2 | 6.98 | 17.2 | 14.54 | 19.2 | 18.1 |
| 1949 | 11.5 | 8.2 | 18.2 | 14.8 | 13.1 | 22.2 |
| 1950 | 11.3 | 7.7 | 16.3 | 13.2 | 33.3 | 22.5 |
| 1951 | 12.0 | 7.7 | 16.4 | 13.3 | 27.6 | 29.1 |
| 1952 | 10.6 | 6.8 | 16.5 | 12.8 | 27.1 | 8.1 |
| 1953 | 11.52 | 18.05 | 15.60 | 14.46 | 29.87 | 28.64 |
| 1954 | 10.83 | 17.74 | 15.43 | 14.48 | 18.54 | 16.59 |
| 1955 | 10.32 | 19.10 | 15.93 | 15.16 | 15.23 | 15.28 |
| 1956 | 10.99 | 19.31 | 16.31 | 14.43 | 15.77 | 19.78 |
| 1957 | 10.87 | 16.00 | 15.48 | 15.31 | 15.03 | 17.79 |
| 1902 | 10.9 | | 21.4 | | 67.4 | |
| 1901 | 13.0 | | 21.6 | | 135.4 | |

Causes of Death

| | St. Albans City | | St. Albans R.D.C. | | |
|--|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... | — | — | 5 | 2 | |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 3. Syphilitic diseases ... | 1 | — | 3 | — | |
| 4. Diphtheria ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 5. Whooping Cough ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 6. Meningococcal infections ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 8. Measles ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | Cancer 178 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | 19 | 3 | 15 | 2 | |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... | — | 10 | — | 10 | |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... | — | 4 | — | 6 | |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... | 27 | 29 | 14 | 12 | |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| 16. Diabetes ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 23 | 67 | 23 | 35 | Heart Disease 326 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina ... | 40 | 37 | 39 | 27 | |
| 19. Hypertension ... | 8 | 12 | 3 | 20 | |
| 20. Other heart disease ... | 19 | 31 | 33 | 57 | |
| 21. Other circulatory disease ... | 8 | 17 | 17 | 23 | |
| 22. Influenza ... | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | |
| 23. Pneumonia ... | 6 | 13 | 30 | 22 | |
| 24. Bronchitis ... | 28 | 5 | 10 | 14 | |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duo- denum ... | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | |
| 27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea | — | 4 | 2 | 1 | |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... | 1 | — | — | — | |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... | 4 | — | 4 | — | |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion ... | — | — | — | — | |
| 31. Congenital malformations ... | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 24 | 20 | 19 | 22 | |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents ... | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 34. All other accidents ... | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 | |
| 35. Suicide ... | 3 | 4 | — | 3 | |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war ... | — | — | — | — | |
| Totals ... | 235 | 279 | 248 | 281 | 1043 |

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 326 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age."

Vital Statistics, 1957—England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

BIRTHS

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Live Births (per 1,000 total population) | ... | ... | ... | 16.1 |
| Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births) | ... | ... | ... | 22.4 |

DEATHS

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All Causes (per 1,000 total population) | ... | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births) | ... | ... | ... | 23.0 |
| Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) | ... | ... | ... | 0.47 |
| Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births) | ... | ... | ... | 16.50 |

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, 1957

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1957 are as follows:

| | Number | | | Rate | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | 3,151 | 1,099 | 4,250 | 146 | 47 | 95 |
| Other Tuberculosis ... | 264 | 270 | 534 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Cancer of lung and bronchus ... | 16,430 | 2,688 | 19,118 | 759 | 116 | 426 |
| Other cancer ... | 33,615 | 41,274 | 74,889 | 1,553 | 1,775 | 1,668 |

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY
(Combined figures for two authorities)

| Cause of Death | AGE AT DEATH | | | | | | | | | Total under 1 year |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Under 1 week | 1 and under 2 weeks | 2 and under 3 weeks | 3 and under 4 weeks | Total under 1 month | 1 and under 3 months | 3 and under 6 months | 6 and under 9 months | 9 and under 12 months | |
| Prematurity ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Gastro Enteritis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pneumonia ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Congenital Malformations ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Marasmus ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| T.B. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Difficult Labour ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Causes ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| All causes ... | 12 | ... | 2 | ... | 14 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 20 |

It will be seen that prematurity and congenital conditions account for 16 out of the 20 deaths.

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 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd.)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m. at Nurse's Cottage,
139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone, Garston 2183.)

Colney Heath—The Pavilion

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

Harpenden—Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal... ... Mondays, 2-4 p.m.
Orthopaedic ... Saturdays, a.m. (Surgeon attends once monthly.)

40, Luton Road (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic ... 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.
(By appointment.)
Minor Ailments ... Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon (Dr. attends).
Speech Therapy ... Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.
Dental ... Mondays, 2-4 p.m.;
Thursdays, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (by
appointment).

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill

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

London Colney—Primary School, Alexander Road

Minor Ailments ... Fridays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.)
Infant Welfare ... Thursdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

Redbourn—Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30-4.30 p.m.
Minor Ailments treated 8.15-8.30 a.m., and 6.15-6.45 p.m. at nurse's
residence, 18, Bettespool Meadows. (Red-
born 251.)

St. Albans—Village Hall, Park Street

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30-4 p.m.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road

Infant Weighing ... 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2-4 p.m.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

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

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

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

Dental Tuesday a.m. (2nd and 4th in month).*
 Wednesday a.m. (1st and 3rd in month).*
 Thursday p.m. (weekly).*
 Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly).*
 Saturday a.m. (alternate).*
 *By appointment.

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

Immunisation and
 Minor Ailment ... Mondays, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
 (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
 Dental Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
 Friday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
 Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon (alternate).
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
 Friday, 2-5 p.m.
 Orthoptic Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon ; 2-4.30 p.m.
 Ophthalmic Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 noon ;
 Monday, 1.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m.
 Speech Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. ;
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
 1.30-4.30 p.m.
 Ante-Natal Wednesday, 9.30-11.30 a.m. ;
 Monday, 2-4.30 p.m. (Midwives session).
 Infant Welfare Tuesday and Friday, 1.30-4 p.m.
 (Dr. attends Friday.)
 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,
 p.m.

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women) Tuesday, 5-7 p.m. ; Friday, 2-4 p.m.
 V.D. (Men) Tuesday, 5-7 p.m. ; Friday, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
 Post Natal Wednesday, 11 a.m.
 Chest Clinic Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. (children).
 Monday, 2 p.m. (St. Albans Patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

Child Guidance Mondays to Fridays a.m. and p.m.

Sandridge—The Parish Hall

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

Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead—Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30-4 p.m.
 (Dr. attends 3 p.m.)
 Minor Ailments treated 8.30-9 a.m. at nurse's residence, Inez Cottage,
 Luton Road. (Wheathampstead 3123.)

National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered 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 have omitted the figures for ambulance journeys, etc. The service is at full stretch and whether a St. Albans case is serviced from St. Albans or Harpenden or even further afield depends on the urgency of the case, availability of vehicles, etc. County ambulances are under wireless control and an ambulance bringing a case to St. Albans from, say, Hertford, may be detailed to take a St. Albans case home to, say, Smallford.

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

School Medical Service

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 twenty 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 six Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and 9 Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See 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 expenditure 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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Females | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Children—Males | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Females | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Number of Post Mortems | ... | ... | ... | ... | 94 |

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.

Nursing in the Home

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing, which includes Midwifery and General Nursing 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. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

Section E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****Food Poisoning Outbreaks**

There was one outbreak of Food Poisoning in 2 of the wards of St. Albans City Hospital caused by *Clostridium Welchii* with 23 cases. This was traced to minced chicken in which *Clostridium Welchii* was found. I discussed the position with the Catering Officer who promised to take suitable action to avoid the chances of similar outbreaks in future.

In addition, there were 5 individual cases of food poisoning notified. One of these was due to *Salmonella Typhi* Murium, but the cause of the other 4 was not known, nor could the food causing the disease be identified in any of the other 5.

Section F**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES****Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1957**

| | | | | St. Albans City | | St. Albans R.D.C. | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| | | | | Notified | Deaths | Notified | Deaths |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 45 | ... | 9 | ... |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | 99 | ... | 53 | ... |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | 865 | ... | 433 | ... |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 11 | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | ... |
| Food Poisoning | ... | ... | ... | 26 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Infective Hepatitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Meningococcal Infection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic) | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Dysentery | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 57 | ... |
| Acute Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Poliomyelitis

We were fortunate in this area in having only 2 cases of paralytic Poliomyelitis notified with no deaths and 3 non-paralytic.

The diagnosis in the non-paralytic form is usually highly doubtful and several other cases were quite rightly admitted to hospital as suspects. Even the laboratory examination of the Cerebro spinal fluid gives in some cases doubtful results, and experience so far of laboratory examination of stools seems quite untrustworthy.

I had this examination carried out in 2 cases, of definite poliomyelitis and their family contacts in another area. Both patients showed negative stools and all contacts positive though these had no illness whatever!

All close contacts of definite and doubtful cases who have to deal with food or children are kept away from work for 3 weeks. This, of course, means that contacts of doubtful cases which subsequently turn out to be not Polio may be kept away from school or work for 3 weeks.

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1957

| | PULMONARY | | NON-PULMONARY | | Total |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| St. Albans City ... | 219 (199) | 124 (111) | 25 (25) | 19 (16) | 387 (351) |
| St. Albans R.D. ... | 168 (148) | 125 (119) | 13 (12) | 19 (22) | 325 (301) |
| Totals ... | 387 (347) | 249 (230) | 38 (37) | 38 (38) | 712 (652) |

Figures at 31/12/56 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 1957.

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 1957:

| Age at 31st December— | Under 1 | 1 | 2-4 | 5-14 | 15 and over | Total |
|--|---------|-----|-----|------|-------------|-------|
| Number vaccinated ... | 1,185 | 86 | 78 | 79 | 52 | 1,480 |
| Number Re-vaccinated ... | ... | ... | 15 | 31 | 116 | 162 |
| Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,020 |
| Primary vaccination rate per 100 births ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73.3 |

Of the total number of primary vaccination (1480), 581 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 73.3 per 100 births is well up on last year (54.9).

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 the 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 1957.

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 Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1957:

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, |
|----------|-------|--------|
| 1,758 | 91 | 1,849 |

982

Number of births registered for the same area 2,020

Primary immunisation rate per 100 births 91.5

The numbers shown above include 1,379 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough—Diphtheria immunisation injections and 344 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 Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1957:

| Age at date of final injection— | | Total, |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Under 5, | 5-15, | |
| 1,725 | 59 | 1,784 |

Primary Immunisation Rate, 88.3.

These figures include 1379 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."

Programme of Protective Inoculations

The following should be the routine procedure for young children :—

Month and Age

| | | |
|------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 3rd month | ... | Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c. |
| 4th month | ... | Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c. |
| 4½ months | ... | Smallpox Vaccine. |
| 6th month | ... | Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c. |
| 7th month | ... | Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c. |
| 8th month | ... | Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c. |
| 9th month | ... | Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c. |
| 12th month | ... | Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c. |

Booster

Diphtheria 1 c.c. Formol Toxoid or T.A.F. immediately before or after the child starts school.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

The only contraindications considered to be valid at present are the same as those applying to the other types of immunising procedures, viz., acute or intercurrent illness, poor or indifferent general health, acute constitutional disturbance, etc. If a child is to have tonsils or adenoids removed and is also due for the vaccine, it should be given at least two weeks before the operation if possible in the hope that the child may develop some immunity.

B.C.G. Vaccine.

If this vaccine is to be—or has been—given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections of any kind before or for six weeks afterwards.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the City of St. Albans.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my nineteenth Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year 1957.

HOUSING

In connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, eighteen houses were demolished, thirty-four individual unfit houses were closed and a total of 47 families, involving 131 persons, were re-housed.

A large number of dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action, although it was necessary to serve statutory notices in ten instances, before necessary repairs were carried out.

The coming into force on the 6th July of the Rent Act, 1957, caused a considerable increase in the number of callers, both landlords and tenants, seeking advice, and also in the number of visits to dwelling houses. There were 100 applications for certificates of disrepair and inspection of the properties concerned showed that almost all were justified.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Attention has again been paid to all aspects of food hygiene and premises have been visited as frequently as circumstances will allow.

There was a large increase in the number of animals slaughtered for human consumption at the two licensed slaughterhouses in the City compared with previous years.

All carcasses and offal were examined prior to removal from the slaughterhouses, although this necessitates considerable overtime on the part of the staff through early morning and evening inspections.

STAFF

Mr. C. A. Bailey, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, resigned after fourteen years' service with the City Council, on obtaining another appointment with Hatfield R.D.C. and Mr. L. A. Croft was subsequently appointed to succeed him.

It has again proved most difficult to fill vacant posts of Public Health Inspectors and the Department has, with the exception of one very brief period, been below establishment for over three years.

As I have stated previously, these unfortunate delays in filling vacancies, coupled with the increase in other duties, *e.g.*, Rent Act and Clean Air Act, 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 :—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Dwelling Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 485 |
| Rent Act, 1957 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 126 |
| Complaints reported to Department | ... | ... | ... | ... | 304 |
| Complaints re rats and mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 280 |
| Complaints re flies, ants, bedbugs, woodworm, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| Infectious disease and contacts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Disinfestation of verminous premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| New Council houses sprayed prior to occupation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169 |
| Council houses sprayed prior to re-occupation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 232 |
| Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Factories and Workplaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 164 |
| Cinemas and Public Halls | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Vacant Land and Dumps | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Rats and Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,248 |
| Rivers and Streams | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Drains examined and/or tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Smoke observations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 122 |
| Stables and Piggeries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 155 |
| Interviews | ... | ... | ... | ... | 285 |
| Food Premises (see later section) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,900 |
| Miscellaneous visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | 639 |
| Revisits to premises under notice (PH. Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 552 |
| Revisits to premises under notice (H. Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 501 |
| Swimming Baths | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Shops Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 197 |
| Public Market and Food Stalls | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,304 |
| Pet Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Water Cress Beds | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 11,004 <hr/> |

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1012 and 215 preliminary and 10 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 | 88 |
| Defective roofs, spoutings and down pipes ... | 122 |
| Defective floors, walls and ceilings | 99 |
| Defective window frames and sash cords | 58 |
| Defective fireplaces/cookers | 30 |
| Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed | 39 |
| Internal water supply provided | 10 |
| Drains cleared and/or repaired | 50 |
| Drains connected to sewer | 12 |
| New W.C.s provided | 14 |
| W.C. Compartments repaired | 28 |
| W.C. pedestals provided | 20 |
| W.C. cisterns provided or repaired | 32 |
| Pail Closets abolished | 4 |
| Cesspools abolished | 5 |
| Dustbins provided | 28 |
| Offensive accumulations removed | 6 |
| Foodstore provided or repaired | 11 |
| Chimney and stack repaired | 9 |
| Yards and passages paved or repaired | 5 |
| Animals—Nuisances abated | 3 |
| Contraventions remedied in shops | 41 |
| Contraventions remedied in food premises | 102 |
| Miscellaneous | 196 |

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.

Fifty-six cases of infectious diseases and contacts were enquired into and eight houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated. Five houses in connection with tuberculosis and cancer were also fumigated.

DISINFESTATION

1. Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.

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

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

As a preventive measure, one hundred and sixty-nine new Council houses were sprayed with an insecticide before occupation and two hundred and thirty-two Council houses before re-occupation.

2. Other Vermin—Ants, Earwigs, etc.

Thirty-one premises infested with cockroaches, ants, and wood-worm were reported to the department and treated with insecticide.

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

HOUSING

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

A—Houses Demolished

| In Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) | Houses Demolished | Displaced during year | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | Persons | Families |
| (2) Houses unfit for human habitation | 4 | 23 | 8 |
| (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ... | — | | |
| (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936 | — | | |
| Not in Clearance Areas— | | | |
| (4) As a result of formal or infor- mal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 | 14 | 15 | 5 |
| B—Unfit Houses Closed | | | |
| (5) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 | 34 | 93 | 34 |
| (6) Under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) Housing Act, 1949 ... | ... | | |
| (7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Hous- ing Act, 1936 | ... | | |

C.—Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

| | By Owner | By Local Authority |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| (8) After informal action by local authority | 215 | ... |
| (9) After formal notice under— | | |
| (a) Public Health Acts ... | 6 | ... |
| (b) Housing Act, 1936 ... | 4 | ... |
| (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 licences in respect of the stationing of eighteen caravans, situated as single caravans or in small groups, in various parts of the City. New licences were granted under similar conditions in respect of four 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's 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 | 238 |
| (b) Factories without mechanical power | 32 |

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

The following defects were dealt with :—

| | |
|---|----|
| Want of cleanliness | 5 |
| Inadequate ventilation | 2 |
| Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences ... | 12 |
| Insufficient sanitary accommodation | 3 |

OUTWORKERS

During the year notification was received of 21 persons within the City who are employed as outworkers in connection with the various trades as shown below :—

| | |
|---|----|
| Finishing and repairing of wearing apparel | 21 |
|---|----|

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.

Thirteen treatments were carried out at Local Authority properties, three hundred and fifty at dwelling houses and one hundred and twenty-seven 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 Property | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|
| Non-Agricultural | | | | |
| (1) Local Authority | (2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) | (3) All other (including Business Premises) | (4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3) | (5) Agricultural |
| 44 | 14,633 | 1,415 | 16,092 | 7 |
| 12 32 | 299 300 | 105 10 | 416 342 | 7 |
| ... | 1,788 | 1,927 | 3,715 | 14 |
| 176 | 4,699 | 2,978 | 7,853 | ... |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4 | 179 | 67 | 250 | ... |
| ... | 171 | 60 | 239 | ... |
| 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 12 | 350 | 113 | 475 | ... |

1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :—
 - (a) Notification ...
 - (b) Survey under the Act ...
 - (c) Otherwise (*e.g.*, when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :—
 - (a) Rats : Major ...
 - Minor ...
 - (b) Mice : Major ...
 - Minor ...
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.
(Figures should not exceed those given at Sec. 4) ...

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Continued

| | Type of Property | | | | (5) Agricultural |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|
| | (1) Local Authority | (2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) | (3) All other (including Business Premises) | (4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3) | |
| 6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments | 13 | 350 | 127 | 490 | ... |
| 7. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act— | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (a) Treatment | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (b) Structural Work | ... | 25 | 20 | 45 | ... |
| 8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Section 4 of the Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10. Legal Proceedings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments
7. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act—
- (a) Treatment
- (b) Structural Work
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Section 4 of the Act
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out
10. Legal Proceedings

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 licences 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 eighteen samples, nine from the shallow (inlet) end and nine from the deep (outlet) end, were taken covering the period May-September, and all proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, six 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 | 249 |
| Bakehouses | 50 |
| Cooked Food premises (including restaurant kitchens and cafes) | 148 |
| School Canteens | 45 |
| Factory Canteens | 25 |
| Mobile Food shops | 14 |
| Food Inspection | 156 |
| Fish shops (including fried fish premises) | 63 |
| Dairies and milkshops | 273 |
| Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops | 435 |
| Ice cream premises | 44 |
| Licensed premises | 155 |
| Other food premises | 243 |

Bakehouses

At the end of the year there were fifteen bakehouses on the register.

The majority of these are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

Cafes and Restaurant Kitchens

Regular inspection of food premises was made throughout the year and the majority of these were found to be 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 five 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 ten 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 of the new Food Bye-laws, all food stalls 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

Two hundred and forty-nine visits have been made to local slaughterhouses for the inspection and examination of carcasses for human consumption, as shown in the following table.

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

Cattle, 219 ; Calves, 230 ; Sheep, 176 ; Pigs, 824 ; total, 1,449.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

| | Cattle Exclud- ing Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Total |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) ... | 202 | 116 | 490 | 338 | 1,146 |
| Number inspected ... | 202 | 116 | 490 | 338 | 1,146 |
| All disease except Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci— | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 32 | ... | 2 | 3 | 37 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ... | 16.0% | ... | 0.4% | 0.85% | 3.2% |
| Tuberculosis only— | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 10 | ... | ... | 3 | 13 |
| Percentage of the number of inspected affected with tuberculosis ... | 5% | ... | ... | 0.85% | 1.1% |
| Cysticercosis— | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Generalised and totally con- demned ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Merchandise Marks Order

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 four registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are as follows :—

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Manufacture and sale of ice cream | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sale of ice cream | ... | ... | ... | 137 |

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 eight samples examined, seven were placed in Grade I, and one in Grade 2.

(c) Chemical Examination

Four 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, 1933.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31/12/57 ... 4

Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31/12/57 ... 42

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Number of persons holding at 31/12/57 Dealers' Licences
authorising the use of the special designation
"Tuberculin Tested" 6

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

NUMBER OF PERSONS HOLDING AT 31/12/57 :—

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" 32

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1957. 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 | | Phosphatase Test | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| | | Passed | Failed | Passed | Failed |
| Tuberculin Tested | 29 (49) | 28 (48) | 1 (1) | Not tested | |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | 202 (224) | 201 (224) | 1 (—) | 202(224) — (—) | |
| Pasteurised | 205 (235) | 203 (233) | 2 (2) | 204(234) | 1 (1) |
| Totals | 436 (508) | 432 (505) | 4 (3) | 406(458) | 1 (1) |

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results for 1956.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Samples

During 1957, one hundred and forty samples were submitted to the Public Analyst (Mr. C. W. McHugo, F.R.I.C.) for chemical analysis. These included seventy-one of milk, three of butter, two each of margarine, aspirin tablets, honey, self-raising flour, tomato puree, pork sausages and beef sausages and one each of steak and kidney pie, tea, cheese spread, glycerine of thymol, cod liver oil, liquid paraffin, cream of tartar, mint sauce, white pepper, coffee and chicory, non-brewed condiment, lemon curd, marmalade, strawberry and gooseberry jam, creamed mushrooms, cod roe (tinned), lemon juice (canned), chicken noodle soup, celery soup, glycerin, boracic acid crystals, Parrish's Food, dried mint, cheese spread with ham and onion, Swiss roll, rainbow bar, Welsh rarebit, pork kidneys (canned), hamburgers (canned), pork pie, beefsteak pie, dried fruit (mixed), tomato cream (tubes), shredded beef suet, peppermint cordial, ginger (non-alcoholic), lime juice (unsweetened), lime juice cordial, diabetic lemon squash, diabetic orange squash, orange squash, lemon barley, West Indian marmalade, lime marmalade, orangeade powder, lemonade powder, marzipan substitute, ground almonds, nutmeg flavoured compound, Christmas pudding and lemon flavour.

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 miscellaneous 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

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 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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Meat | 91 | tins |
| Corned Beef | 166 | " |
| Pork Luncheon Meat | 116 | " |
| Stewed Steak | 48 | " |
| Ham | 25 | " |
| Veal | 4 | " |
| Ox Tongue | 8 | " |
| Pork in Juice | 22 | " |
| Minced Beef | 7 | " |
| Soup | 11 | " |
| Fruit | 856 | " |
| Vegetables | 1,118 | " |
| Milk | 279 | " |
| Fish | 98 | " |
| Miscellaneous | 160 | " |
| Miscellaneous | 13 | pkts. |
| Cheese | 114½ | lbs. |
| Beef Imported | 117 | " |
| Beef, Home Killed | 14½ | " |
| Mutton, Home Killed | 50 | " |
| Lambs' Liver, Imported | 65½ | " |
| Pork Sausages | 149½ | " |
| Beef Sausages | 36 | " |
| Jellied Veal | 6 | " |
| Chickens | 52 | " |
| Tongue | 42 | " |
| Bacon | 4½ | " |
| Gammon | 52 | " |
| Shoulder Ham, English | 128½ | " |
| Fish | 27 | stone |
| Cod Roe | 14 | lbs. |
| Fish Fingers | 65 | " |
| Currants | 82 | " |
| Prunes | 48 | " |
| Ground Almonds | 6½ | " |
| Honeybuttons | 55 | " |
| Marshmallows | 25 | pkts. |
| Whipped Cream Whirls | 33 | " |
| Custard | 14 | gals. |
| Lime Juice | 8 | pints |
| Apricot Pulp | 5 | kegs. |
| Chicken Cutlets | 34 | " |
| Chicklettes | 18 | " |



