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Contributors

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BOROUGH



SWINDON

of

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955



Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955

Report of the
**PRINCIPAL BOROUGH
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**
FOR THE YEAR 1955

Report on the
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES
FOR THE YEAR 1955

Copy of Report of the
AREA MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1955



BOROUGH OF SWINDON
COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF
as at 31st December, 1955.

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
 COUNCILLOR HAROLD THORPE

Chairman: Alderman N. V. TOZE

Vice-Chairman: Councillor L. C. MOBEY

MEMBERS:

Alderman M. WEBB	Councillor W. J. HOMER
Councillor A. T. BECK	„ R. S. J. HONEY
„ A. M. BENNETT	„ Mrs. L. R. LOCK
„ F. E. BISHOP	„ E. C. Mundy
„ A. E. CAMDEN	„ L. J. NEWMAN
„ Miss V. L. M. CARTER	„ Mrs. J. ROBINSON
„ H. DIMENT	„ Mrs. K. M. TOMKINS
„ Miss C. M. GAPPER	„ R. E. WHITE

TOWN CLERK

D. MURRAY JOHN, Esq., O.B.E., B.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

31st December, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health	-	JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	- -	D. S. PARKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	- -	E. M. WALLIS, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	-	H. A. BANWELL, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector	-	R. A. LAW, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	-	P. M. DALE, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I. I. JONES, Cert. S.I.J.B., C.M. & F.I.
Pupil Sanitary Inspectors	-	R. HAYWARD T. C. POPE
Dental Surgeon	-	A. V. YATES
Dental Attendant	-	Miss J. CAPPER
Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse	-	Miss E. M. CLARKE
Health Visitors and School Nurses	-	Miss A. HAWKINS Miss N. MACGREGOR Mrs. M. McCADDEN (part-time) Miss W. PARKINS Miss C. J. THORN Mrs. J. D. WALL
Domiciliary Midwives	-	Miss J. E. BLOCK Miss R. E. HALL Miss M. HOO Miss M. M. KENNEDY Mrs. M. MAYNARD Mrs. H. M. MORTIMORE Miss N. NEAL Mrs. G. M. TAYLOR
Matron, Day Nursery	-	Mrs. A. DAVIES
District Nurses	-	Miss E. E. M. BARKER Mrs. A. B. BUSHNELL Mrs. E. M. EGGERS Mrs. F. HISCOCKS Miss E. M. HULBERT Mrs. V. M. SELWOOD Miss L. M. SHEPPARD
Administrative Assistant and Chief Clerk	-	J. W. DAY
Senior Clerks	-	J. R. PELL Miss L. M. RAWLINGS

Assistant Clerks - - **F. C. MOSS**
W. H. PAUL
 Miss U. G. BOFFIN
 Miss P. A. MOLDEN
 Mrs. J. PEYTON (Part-time)
 Mrs. P. PUGH (part-time)
 Mrs. R. PLUMMER
 Miss K. M. S. SHERGOLD
 Miss M. A. TUCKER
 Mrs. M. VOCKINGS

Rodent Operators - **B. H. GARDINER**
H. SNELL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Swindon.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1955.

With the permission of the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, I have appended the report on the services under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946 which are delegated by the Local Health Authority to the Swindon Area Sub-Committee. The report on the School Health Service of the Borough is also appended and these three reports taken in conjunction will, I trust, give members a comprehensive picture of the state of health in the town.

Expansion of the Borough under the Town Development Act continued steadily during the year and at 31st December 1955 Penhill Estate housed 1928 families and Walcot Estate had received 125 families. Of these, a total of 628 families had come to the town under the above scheme. It is anticipated that the future rate of development will be 100 houses per month on the Walcot estate, 60% of which will be allocated to overspill population.

This rate of development means that our population will, until the completion of the expansion scheme, be considerably in excess of the population figure given by the Registrar General which is reckoned from the mid-year. This will naturally affect the vital statistics which are based on this estimate and, for example, our birth rate and death rate will be somewhat higher if they are calculated on a lower population than is actually residing in the Borough.

Expansion presents many problems to the Health Department and the experience gained in this respect over the past two years has been invaluable in helping to anticipate our needs for the future.

One rather disturbing problem of expansion is the comparatively large number of cases of tuberculosis imported. It was anticipated that such families badly housed in London would take advantage of the offer of the better conditions here. To this end the main employers in the town were contacted and measures taken to require a high standard of fitness in their prospective employees. Again, applicants for housing were asked to disclose whether any members of their household were suffering from tuberculosis and, if so, enquiries have been made to ensure that the patients would co-operate in their treatment and in the prevention of the

spread of tuberculosis. However, transfer notifications from the exporting authorities showed that a further 47 cases of tuberculosis had been housed where the applicants did not disclose the presence of the infection. The exporting Authorities have been consulted on this matter and now with their co-operation it is likely that we shall receive prior information on the health of all households coming to the town.

For most of the year we were much below our establishment of Sanitary Inspectors and for several months we had only one additional Sanitary Inspector instead of six. Throughout the country there is a serious shortage of Sanitary Inspectors and it is obvious that the high standard of general education required before a student is accepted for entry to the training course which lasts four years and the comparatively poor remuneration offered on qualification makes this career unattractive to young men. Again, the only Authorities which can recruit and hold Sanitary Inspectors are those which can offer inducements such as subsidised houses, inflated car allowances and removal expenses in addition to salaries above the negotiated scales. This problem is one which can only be solved at national level and until it has been solved it is difficult to see how most Authorities can meet their statutory obligations in health matters.

During the year the lack of Sanitary Inspectors made it exceedingly difficult to maintain basic services and particularly was it difficult to carry out meat inspection. In fact if the throughput at the Abbatoir had not fallen considerably this year all the meat could not have been inspected.

Overall, the health record of Swindon is good and compares very favourably with that of England and Wales as a whole. This year there was a rise in Infant Mortality from the record low figure of last year of 16 to 20.8. This rise was wholly due to prematurity, congenital defects and birth injury. Infant deaths from all other causes fell.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee for their encouragement and support and to thank the staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and service during the year. I also wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the officers and staff of other departments of the Corporation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART

Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year complaints were received regarding the quality of the water supply from the town mains. The complaints were all of the same nature, namely brown discolouration of the water which was depositing on fittings and utensils and in some instances the water was said to have an offensive smell.

Two such samples sent to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis were not regarded as satisfactory for a public supply because of a heavy sediment of iron and lime compounds. It was found that the houses from which the complaints arose were either drawing water from the end of a main or from a section of new main in which the water was not freely circulating because of few houses being connected to it.

Repeated flushing of the mains solved the problem and in the case of the new mains no complaints were received after sufficient houses were connected to ensure free circulation of water.

Some 23004 houses, with a population of 71370 have water laid on from the public mains.

Twenty-three dwellings, housing seventy-one people are supplied from stand-pipes, and a further eight dwellings, housing twenty-eight people, are not connected to the public mains.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS—1955

Area of the Borough (acres)	-	-	-	-	6,361
Estimated total population mid-year 1955	-	-	-	-	71,370
Live Births—Legitimate	-	-	-	-	1,097
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	54
				TOTAL ———	1,151
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	-	16.12
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	-	0.32
Stillbirths	-	-	-	-	23
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	-	-	-	19.98
Deaths at all ages—Males	-	-	-	-	421
Females	-	-	-	-	338
				TOTAL ———	759
Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	-	10.63
Deaths from cancer	-	-	-	-	135
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	71
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	8
Deaths from Influenza	-	-	-	-	5
Deaths from Vascular and heart diseases	-	-	-	-	394
Deaths from infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	—
Deaths from all other causes	-	-	-	-	146
				TOTAL ———	759
Deaths of infants under the age of 1 year	-	-	-	-	24

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

The following table gives the number of legitimate and illegitimate live births in Swindon during 1955 and 1954.

	1955			1954		
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate -	584	513	1097	555	513	1068
Illegitimate -	25	29	54	34	21	55
TOTALS -	609	542	1151	589	534	1123

The illegitimate births formed 4.68% of the total live births in Swindon during 1955 and 4.89% during 1954.

The Swindon live birth rate per 1,000 population was 16.12 during 1955 as compared with 16.08 during 1954.

The trend in birth rates in Swindon since 1905 is illustrated by the following table:—

TABLE SHOWING SWINDON LIVE BIRTH RATES FROM 1905 to 1955, with COMPARATIVE LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES SINCE 1931:—

Year	Swindon Birth Rate	Year	Swindon Birth Rate	England & Wales: Birth Rate
1905	28.4	1931	14.5	15.8
1906	29.4	1932	14.3	15.3
1907	28.8	1933	12.5	14.4
1908	28.9	1934	12.7	14.8
1909	26.5	1935	12.3	14.7
1910	23.4	1936	12.4	14.8
1911	21.6	1937	12.4	14.9
1912	23.4	1938	13.1	15.1
1913	23.4	1939	14.0	15.0
1914	22.5	1940	14.8	14.6
1915	22.0	1941	15.8	13.9
1916	18.9	1942	17.0	15.6
1917	15.5	1943	17.6	16.2
1918	16.5	1944	21.0	17.7
1919	16.9	1945	17.7	15.9
1920	23.3	1946	19.2	19.2
1921	20.3	1947	21.7	20.5
1922	19.0	1948	17.6	17.9
1923	17.8	1949	16.3	16.7
1924	17.1	1950	15.1	15.8
1925	16.6	1951	15.6	15.5
1926	17.1	1952	15.2	15.3
1927	14.5	1953	16.6	15.5
1928	15.6	1954	16.08	15.2
1929	14.0	1955	16.12	15.0
1930	15.7			

Still births numbered 23 in Swindon during 1955—the same as in 1954. They were made up as follows:—

	1955			1954		
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate -	11	11	22	10	13	23
Illegitimate -	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS -	12	11	23	10	13	23

The stillbirth rates per 1,000 population for the last five years in Swindon and England and Wales are:—

YEAR	STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1951	0.30	0.36
1952	0.33	0.35
1953	0.35	0.35
1954	0.33	0.36
1955	0.32	0.35

DEATHS

The causes of deaths are analysed on page 12.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis has remained low and there were no deaths from non respiratory tuberculosis. Non respiratory tuberculosis is commonly caused by the bovine type of tubercle bacillus and the fall in the number of the deaths from this disease is the result of the increased use of pasteurised and tuberculin tested milk.

There were 416 deaths from disease of the circulatory system as compared with 404 last year, while malignant disease, as in 1955, caused 135 deaths. There were 30 deaths from cancer of the lung, five of which were in females.

Infectious disease again accounted for only a small number of deaths.

There were fewer deaths from road accidents but deaths from accidents in the home and in factories remained the same.

It is disturbing to find that the number of deaths from suicide has more than doubled to 13 in the past two years while the figures for the country as a whole have not altered.

From the table on Page 14 it will be seen that there has been no marked alteration in the proportion of deaths in the various age groups.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH IN SWINDON
during 1954 and 1955

Cause of Death			1955		1954
	Male	Female	Total	Total	
Tuberculosis—respiratory	-	7	1	8	8
Tuberculosis—other	-	—	—	—	4
Syphilitic diseases	-	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria	-	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	-	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	-	—	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	—	1	1
Measles	-	—	1	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	15	4	19	22
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, Bronchus	-	25	5	30	22
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	—	16	16	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	—	7	7	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	33	30	63	73
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	3	2	5	6
Diabetes	-	2	5	7	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	45	69	114	105
Coronary disease, Angina	-	63	19	82	85
Hypertension with Heart disease	-	13	9	22	27
Other heart diseases	-	79	97	176	156
Other Circulatory diseases	-	13	10	23	31
Influenza	-	4	1	5	2
Bronchitis	-	33	7	40	27
Pneumonia	-	15	7	22	28
Other diseases of Respiratory system	-	5	2	7	10
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	5	2	7	7
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1	2	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	6	0	6	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	6	—	6	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	—	2	2	1
Congenital malformations	-	6	2	8	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	27	27	54	81
Motor vehicle accidents	-	4	1	5	7
Other accidents	-	2	4	6	6
Suicide	-	7	6	13	8
Homicide and Operations of war	-	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		421	338	759	759

The following tables give the death rates per thousand population from various causes, in Swindon and England and Wales during 1955

CAUSE OF DEATH	DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION	
	Swindon	England & Wales
All Causes - -	10.63	11.7
Tuberculosis - -	0.11	0.15
Influenza - -	0.07	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis -	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia -	0.30	0.49

TABLE SHOWING SWINDON DEATH RATES FROM 1905 TO 1955 WITH COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES SINCE 1941

Year	Death Rate Swindon	Year	Death Rate Swindon	Death Rate England & Wales
1905	11.2	1929	11.0	
1906	9.9	1930	10.8	
1907	12.3	1931	10.9	
1908	11.8	1932	11.7	
1909	10.8	1933	11.1	
1910	9.7	1934	11.1	
1911	10.9	1935	10.5	
1912	10.3	1936	12.2	
1913	12.1	1937	11.2	
1914	11.5	1938	11.6	
1915	12.8	1939	12.5	
1916	11.3	1940	15.4	
1917	12.3	1941	11.4	13.5
1918	15.1	1942	11.1	12.3
1919	12.0	1943	10.9	13.0
1920	11.6	1944	10.9	12.7
1921	9.6	1945	11.3	12.6
1922	12.2	1946	11.0	12.0
1923	9.3	1947	12.3	12.0
1924	10.8	1948	10.1	10.8
1925	11.1	1949	12.0	11.7
1926	10.7	1950	12.2	11.6
1927	11.2	1951	13.2	12.5
1928	9.9	1952	10.9	11.3
		1953	11.6	11.4
		1954	10.88	11.3
		1955	10.63	11.7

The number of deaths and the death rate per 1,000 population from the main causes of death are given in the following table:—

Year	Circulatory and Heart diseases		Respiratory diseases		Tuberculosis		Cancer	
	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000
1951	429	6.25	112	1.63	20	0.29	121	1.76
1952	367	5.33	75	1.09	15	0.22	131	1.90
1953	368	5.33	107	1.55	16	0.23	145	2.10
1954	404	5.79	65	0.93	12	0.17	135	1.93
1955	396	5.54	71	0.99	8	0.11	135	1.89

The ages at death of Swindon people are given in the following table:—

Year	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	Over 65	Total
1954	18	2	4	34	192	509	759
1955	24	3	5	37	210	480	759

MATERNAL MORTALITY

In Swindon where there were 1151 births in 1955, the maternal mortality rate which is the number of maternal deaths per thousand births, will rise .85 with each maternal death, and even one maternal death gives a higher rate than for England and Wales as a whole. It will be seen from the table below that during the past five years the maternal deaths have not exceeded two per year.

One maternal death occurred in hospital after a planned operative delivery and there was no possible means of preventing this. In the second case a hospital confinement had been advised, but the patient refused to be admitted to hospital. It is possible that this death could not have been prevented even with early admission to hospital, but the question arises whether a patient should have the right to home confinement against medical advice.

The maternal mortality rates per 1,000 total births for Swindon and England and Wales since 1950 are shewn in the following table:—

YEAR	MATERNAL DEATHS IN SWINDON	RATE PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS SWINDON	RATE PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS ENGLAND & WALES
1951	2	1.83	0.79
1952	2	1.87	0.72
1953	2	1.77	0.76
1954	1	0.89	0.69
1955	2	1.70	0.64

INFANT MORTALITY

24 Infants under the age of one year died in Swindon during 1955 giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 20.85 per 1000 live births. This compares very favourably with the infant mortality rates for England and Wales of 24.9.

The Infant Mortality Rate is generally regarded as an index of the social conditions and standard of Infant Welfare of the town, but although the number of deaths is higher this year, it is of interest to note that any improvement in the Infant Welfare services could only have affected three cases, for the deaths from prematurity, birth injury and congenital abnormalities could not be prevented in the present state of knowledge. Indeed any further improvement in the Infant Mortality Rate is likely to come rather as the result of better antenatal care for the mother than of a more extensive Infant Welfare Service.

It is most gratifying to note that there was not a single death from gastro-enteritis, which in the early years of the century was the most prevalent factor in infant mortality.

The causes of deaths in infants under one year of age during 1954 and 1955 were:—

	1954	1955
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	5	3
Diarrhoea, Enteritis & other internal disorders	1	0
Congenital defects, Malformations and Prematurity and Birth Injury	8	18
Other causes	4	3
	18	24

The table below gives figures of Infant Mortality during the last 5 years for Swindon and England and Wales:—

YEAR	RATE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS			
	Swindon			ENGLAND & WALES
	NEONATAL RATE	RATE-AGE 4 wks.-1 yr.	MORTALITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
1951	20.5	5.6	26.1	29.6
1952	11.4	4.8	16.2	27.6
1953	11.3	7.0	18.3	26.8
1954	10.7	5.3	16.0	25.5
1955	15.6	5.2	20.8	24.9

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In 1955 there was a marked increase in the number of notifications of dysentery towards the end of the year, this being in keeping with trends in the country as a whole. There was also an increase in the number of cases of food poisoning and the importance of cleanliness in all those handling food cannot be over-stressed.

There was a marked drop in the number of notified cases of scarlet fever but this disease has now become very mild so that there is reason to think that all cases are not being notified.

As predicted in the 1954 report there was a large number of cases of measles in 1955 and there was one death. Measles can be a serious illness in very young children and every effort should be made to protect them from it.

The number of cases of whooping cough remained stationary at 201 and there were no deaths. It is hoped that with the introduction of whooping cough immunisation there will be a drop in the incidence of this disease.

Diphtheria.

The sixth successive year passed without there being a case of diphtheria in Swindon and it is now eleven years since there was a death from this disease. To remember that as recently as 1940 there were 150 cases and 15 deaths, is to appreciate the value of immunisation against this disease. This improvement can only be maintained if the children are immunised and constant efforts are made to persuade parents of the value of the procedure. It is hoped that with the introduction of a vaccine which gives protection both against diphtheria and whooping cough, parents who previously refused the vaccine on the grounds that diphtheria was a rarity will be persuaded to have the combined vaccine.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

In Swindon as elsewhere in the country, relatively few people have their children vaccinated against smallpox although the outstanding value of this harmless procedure has been demonstrated over so many years. It is worthy of note that anyone going in the services or to many countries abroad is required to be vaccinated and that vaccination is in early adult life often a painful and unpleasant experience.

TABLE GIVING THE INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN SWINDON AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS

YEAR	NO. OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA	NO. OF DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA	YEAR	NO. OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA	NO. OF DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA
1936	101	12	1946	15	0
1937	31	3	1947	9	0
1938	38	0	1948	6	0
1939	42	2	1949	1	0
1940	150	15	1950	0	0
1941	105	6	1951	0	0
1942	25	0	1952	0	0
1943	39	1	1953	0	0
1944	74	2	1954	0	0
1945	15	0	1955	0	0

Food Poisoning and Dysentery.

51 cases of food poisoning and dysentery were notified. In each case the home was visited by a doctor from the Department who tried to trace the source of infection. Earlier notification would greatly simplify this task and gives a much better chance of success. The doctor also gave instructions on the best means to prevent the spread of infection, and visited the house at intervals until faecal specimens taken from each member of the household showed that they were free from infection. In almost all cases the members of the families affected gave full and willing co-operation in the attempt to control the spread of the disease.

The increase in the number of cases of dysentery is not confined to Swindon, almost all areas of England and Wales having a considerable number of cases. The disease is mild in older children and adults and did not cause any deaths, but it is a serious infection in young babies. Attention to the simple rule of washing one's hands after using the toilet would soon diminish the incidence of the disease.

The prevention of food poisoning is a matter for those who handle food both in the shop and in the home. Scrupulous cleanliness of the person and of utensils will result in the disappearance of this infection.

Tuberculosis.

In 1955 there was an increase to 62 in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and a drop to 8 in the number of cases of Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The increase in the number of notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the result of the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to Swindon, several cases being found when the patients had no knowledge of their illness before the X-ray. The decrease in the number of cases of Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis may be expected to continue as the use of pasteurised milk becomes more widespread.

AGE PERIOD	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
Under 5	—	1	—	—	1
5—10	1	—	—	1	2
10—15	—	—	1	—	1
15—20	3	6	—	2	11
20—25	4	3	—	—	7
25—30	6	4	1	1	12
30—40	6	7	—	—	13
40—50	5	3	1	—	9
50—60	5	1	1	—	7
Over 60	5	2	—	—	7
TOTALS	35	27	4	4	70

YEAR	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS				ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS			
	Primary cases notified	Case rate per 1000 popn.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 popn.	Cases notified	Case rate per 1000 popn.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 popn.
1950	84	1.22	31	.45	106	1.54	32	.46
1951	64	0.93	18	.26	86	1.25	20	.29
1952	49	0.71	13	.19	62	.90	15	.22
1953	101	1.46	14	.20	112	1.62	16	.23
1954	50	0.72	8	.11	68	.97	12	.17
1955	62	0.86	8	.11	70	.97	8	.11

Apart from the above notifications, 10 cases of Tuberculosis in Swindon became known to the Health Department through death returns, posthumous notifications, transfers from other areas etc.

Of the 8 deaths which occurred in 1955, three occurred in non-notified cases. The high proportion of deaths occurring in non-notified cases gives cause for concern for these individuals will unwittingly have been infectious for a considerable period before death and therefore a danger to all and especially to their own families. It cannot be too strongly stressed that all those with a chronic cough

should consult their own doctor who will refer them, if necessary, to the Chest Clinic for full investigation.

One of the most important means of case finding in Tuberculosis at the present time is Mass Radiography. X-ray of the chest may show signs of the disease before the subject has any idea that he is unwell and so may allow treatment to begin at a very early stage.

In September and October 1955, the Mass Radiography Unit of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board visited Swindon. An invitation was given to all adult members of the population to have a Chest x-ray and all possible means of publicity were used to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity. There was a good response and 24,579 or 44% of the population were examined. The director of the Mass Radiography Unit reported that this was the largest number the unit had ever dealt with in the space of two months.

The following summary shows the approximate numbers examined by Mass Radiography Units:—

	Male	Female	Total
Industrial Sites -	8,598	3,722	12,320
General Public Sites -	5,082	7,177	12,259
			24,579

In addition the Unit visited Swindon Schools and offered to x-ray pupils over the age of 14 and all staff. The pupils responded well to this offer and of 2582 in this age group 2425 representing 93.9% were x-rayed. Reference to B.C.G. vaccination of school children is made in the Report of the Principal Borough School Medical Officer. Under this scheme 142 children were found on testing to have a positive reaction to tuberculin. Special arrangements were made to have these children and their family contacts x-rayed by the Mass Radiography Unit. Of the 142 children 135 attended for x-ray. Three were found to have inactive primary tuberculous lesions and one was referred for treatment as a possible active primary lesion. The other two were already under observation by the chest physician.

Of the family contacts, it is known that many attended with industrial groups etc. and did not produce the special card issued to them. The findings in those who did produce the card indicating they were contacts of a positive reactor were as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
No. of persons examined -	17	38	55
No. of persons recalled for full size x-ray -	2	2	4
No. of persons recalled for clinical investigation -	1	—	1
No. of persons referred for further investigation -	1	—	1

Whooping Cough and Measles.

As predicted, there was an increase in the number of cases of measles and it may be expected that next year the incidence will fall. There was one death from measles, a reminder that measles in small children can be a severe disease.

The whooping cough notifications remained much the same as past years and again there were no deaths. The introduction of the use of a combined vaccine against whooping cough and diphtheria towards the end of the year enables a child to be protected against both diseases by three simple injections at monthly intervals whereas previously five injections had to be given when each vaccine was given separately. With this simple method it is hoped that immunisation against whooping cough will become as common as immunisation against diphtheria and so substantially reduce the incidence of the disease.

YEAR	MEASLES		WHOOPIING COUGH	
	Number notified	Number of deaths	Number notified	Number of deaths
1950	353	—	233	—
1951	1173	1	287	1
1952	242	—	244	—
1953	1490	—	201	—
1954	128	—	200	—
1955	860	1	209	—

Scarlet Fever.

There has been a marked drop in the number of notifications of cases of scarlet fever. The disease is now usually very mild and it is thought that the explanation is that cases are not being notified rather than that the incidence has fallen so remarkably.

The following table shows the incidence of scarlet fever over the past five years.

Year	No. of Cases notified	No. of Deaths
1951	146	—
1952	169	—
1953	62	—
1954	62	—
1955	16	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notified infectious diseases in Swindon during recent years is given in the following table:—

DISEASE	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Acute Pneumonia -	38	26	72	35	26
Acute Poliomyelitis -	5	2	11	6	8
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebrospinal Fever -	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria - -	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas - -	1	3	7	8	2
Dysentery, Food Poisoning - -	67	5	1	6	51
Measles - -	1,173	242	1,490	128	860
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia -	37	51	65	52	52
Scarlet Fever - -	146	169	62	62	16
Smallpox - -	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	64	49	101	50	62
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary -	22	13	13	18	8
Whooping Cough -	287	244	201	200	209
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	5

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (including POLIOENCEPHALITIS)

During 1955, 8 cases were notified compared with 6 the previous year. One was not confirmed and 4 were paralytic, there being 3 non-paralytic cases notified.

One death occurred in an adult.

All known contacts were advised on the precautions they should take and were kept under observation in case symptoms of the infection developed. No new cases occurred in Swindon that could be attributed to spread of the infection from any of the known cases.

A comparative table showing the incidence of poliomyelitis since 1945 is set out below.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED	NUMBER OF DEATHS
1945	2	1
1946	1	0
1947	8	1
1948	5	1
1949	5	0
1950	13	2
1951	5	0
1952	2	0
1953	11	2
1954	6	1
1955	8	1

Medical Examination of Staff.

During the year, the Medical Officers of this Department carried out the following examinations of staff :—

Candidates for entry into the Superannuation Scheme and transfer to the established list of employees	-	-	-	-	-	148
Candidates for Public Service Vehicle Licences	-	-	-	-	-	41
Entrants to Training Colleges	-	-	-	-	-	34
Others	-	-	-	-	-	31
TOTAL						254

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR YEAR 1955

**To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report on work carried out under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector during the year 1955.

STAFF

There were two vacancies for Sanitary Inspectors which, in spite of repeated advertisements, remained unfilled during the year, and at the end of the year Mr. I. Jones, who had been in the service of the Corporation since October 1954, secured another appointment after obtaining his Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

115 samples of milk and 103 of other foodstuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, and particulars of these samples will be found on page 32 of this report.

157 samples of milk were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination, details of which are on page 30.

The 39 samples of milk submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for biological examination were free from tubercle bacilli.

There were 15 prosecutions during the year, 5 in respect of mouldy meat pies and 6 in respect of varied articles of food which contained such matters as string, cigarette ends, a piece of metal and a slug in a tin of peas. There were also prosecutions for selling milk in dirty bottles and for selling orangeade which contained a small percentage of petrol; these prosecutions arose from misuse of bottles by the public, as in each instance the firm concerned had installed the most modern equipment for bottle washing, but the machines were unable to remove the contamination. The dirty milk bottles were caused by persons using them for the discharge of fireworks, and the carbon deposited on the insides of the bottles was not removed by the ordinary washing methods, and could scarcely be detected until the milk was put into the bottles.

The fines imposed in these cases amounted to £75.

ICE CREAM

There are only three premises within the Borough which are used for the manufacture of ice cream. Most of the ice-cream sold in the Borough is manufactured by nationally well-known manufacturers. All samples examined by the Public Analyst complied with the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order 1953 which requires that ice-cream should contain not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat.

16 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, and as there is no statutory test for the bacteriological examination of ice-cream these samples were graded in accordance with the Advisory Bulletin of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service 1947.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT INSPECTIONS

1416 visits were made to premises where food is sold or prepared for sale. The Food and Drugs Act 1955, which came into force on the 1st January 1956, and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, will require higher standards of cleanliness in the handling of food and in the premises where food is sold or prepared for sale.

MEAT INSPECTION

There was a considerable reduction in the number of cattle slaughtered at the Marlborough Lane Slaughterhouse during the year, but the numbers of sheep, pigs and calves slaughtered were about the same as in 1954.

52,658 carcasses were inspected at the Slaughterhouse, and some 80 tons of unsound meat and offal were found to be unfit for human consumption. The graph and tables give further particulars of the numbers of animals slaughtered and the percentages found affected with Tuberculosis or other diseased conditions.

In spite of the reduction in the number of cattle slaughtered, killing was carried out on 21 Sundays during the year. It is necessary for Meat Inspectors to be present during the whole time that slaughtering is in progress if meat inspection is to be efficiently carried out.

DRAINAGE WORK

The drains of 242 premises were relaid or overhauled during the year under the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Public Health Act 1936. Housing Acts 1936-1954

Housing repairs were carried out at 565 houses following the sending of informal notices. Statutory Notices were served in respect of 9 properties, 5 of which were complied with by the owners and 1 by the Corporation by agreement with the owner under the provisions of section 277 of the Public Health Act 1936.

OVERCROWDING

The records of the department show that at the beginning of the year there were 12 cases of overcrowding affecting $78\frac{1}{2}$ persons outstanding. 1 new case affecting 3 persons came to the notice of the department and 4 cases affecting $22\frac{1}{2}$ persons were abated during the year. There were 9 cases of overcrowding affecting 59 persons outstanding at the end of the year.

HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE

Slum houses, as defined by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, are houses which are unfit for human habitation and which cannot be made fit at reasonable expense, or which by reason of their bad arrangement or the narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets are dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants.

Local Authorities were required to submit to the Minister an estimate of the number of unfit houses in their areas and the period the Councils thought they would need to secure the demolition of all these houses together with the Councils' programmes of action in relation to these houses during the next five years. It was estimated that there were 173 unfit houses within the Borough at the time the survey was made and that these houses would be demolished within five years.

HOUSING CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, in certain cases rent increases are permitted provided that the houses are in a good state of repair and that the owner has incurred a certain amount of expenditure in carrying out repairs. A tenant may apply to the Local Authority for a certificate of disrepair and if one is granted the increased rent is not payable as long as the certificate of disrepair remains in force. Four certificates were applied for and granted, and one revocation certificate was granted, during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Under this Act it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to carry out the burial or cremation of any person who has died in their area, where no suitable arrangements have been made for the disposal of the body. During the year under review arrangement was made for the burial of two such persons.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

443 premises were treated and cleared of rats or mice infestation during the year. The usual routine baiting of the sewers was carried out and 2,338 sewer manholes were baited. Although some of the sewers in the older parts of the town showed considerable infestation there has been a steady decline in the rat population in the remainder of the sewer manholes.

The Rodbourne Tip still remains practically free from rats, but there has been some infestation of the Salvage Depot, which has been treated.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, disinfection of business properties is now charged for, and treatment was carried out at business premises at a cost of £149:4:6, which is recoverable from the occupiers.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

This Act requires the registration of premises where upholstery, including the stuffing or lining of bedding, toys etc., is being done, and requires that any rag flock or other filling material used on such premises shall comply with the standard of cleanliness prescribed in the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations 1951. The Act does not apply to premises where only the remaking or reconditioning of articles is carried on, and the fitting out of railway carriages is also exempt from the provisions of the Act.

At the end of the year six premises were registered and four licences were in force for the storage of rag flock; while five samples of filling materials were submitted to the Prescribed Analyst under the Act and were all found to be satisfactory.

In concluding my report I desire to thank all Officers of the Corporation for their assistance and ready co-operation throughout the year.

H. A. BANWELL,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Primary Inspections	Revisits
INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS—1955		
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936		
Dwelling-houses on complaint - - -	608	916
Dwelling-houses—no nuisances found - -	462	1
Other premises - - - -	102	64
Caravans - - - -	54	4
Marine Stores - - - -	2	22
Smoke Observations - - - -	13	3
Stables and Piggeries - - - -	3	8
Theatres, Cinemas etc. - - - -	10	—
Licensed Premises - - - -	10	9
Public Sanitary Conveniences - - - -	12	—
Verminous premises - - - -	56	24
Infectious disease enquiries - - - -	48	3
Drainage work under supervision - - -	580	424
HOUSING ACTS 1936—1954		
Dwelling-houses on complaint - - -	253	122
Dwelling-houses—no defects found - -	—	—
Houses inspected and recorded - - -	156	4
Overcrowding - - - -	12	9
FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS 1938		
Bakehouses - - - -	50	29
Dairies - - - -	25	—
Milk Samples—Bacteriological - - -	157	—
„ „ Chemical - - -	115	—
„ „ Biological - - -	39	—
Ice-cream Samples—Bacteriological - -	16	—
„ „ „ Chemical - - -	11	—
Food and Drugs Samples—Chemical -	92	—
„ „ „ „ Bacteriological - - -	22	—
Water Samples—Bacteriological - - -	33	—
„ „ Chemical - - -	7	—
„ „ from Swimming Baths - - -	20	—
Samples of Sewage effluent - - -	8	—
Butchers' shops - - - -	142	26
Fish shops and Fish friers - - -	70	11
Food preparation and storage premises -	70	12
Food shops - - - -	478	103
Ice-cream premises - - - -	20	6
Licensed premises - - - -	6	2
Markets and Food stalls - - - -	233	—
Restaurants, cafes etc. - - - -	77	56
Slaughterhouses - - - -	876	—
Merchandise Marks Orders - - - -	3	—

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

Factories—mechanical	-	-	-	52	22
„ non-mechanical	-	-	-	10	2
Outworkers	-	-	-	132	1

SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS 1947 and 1951

Hairdressers	-	-	-	4	1
Hawkers	-	-	-	1	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948	-	26	7
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PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

1949	-	-	-	150	109
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RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

Rag Flock Samples	-	-	-	5	—
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SHOPS ACT. 1950—S.38	-	-	-	252	8
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MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	3732	54
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TOTALS				<u>9320</u>	<u>2062</u>
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**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) and
(PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK)
REGULATIONS 1949**

Licences in force within the Borough issued by the Town Council of Swindon:—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" -	14
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" -	3
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" - - -	11
Dealers' (Pasteurisers') Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" -	4
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" - - -	2
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" - - -	2
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" - - -	1

**SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL
EXAMINATION TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
GORSE HILL, SWINDON**

Designation	No. of Samples taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Not satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested -	21	13	8
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) - -	76	75	1
Pasteurised -	48	47	1
Non-designated -	12	12	—
TOTALS - -	157	147	10

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947

Samples of Ice-cream submitted for bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Samples taken	Placed in Grade 1	Placed in Grade 2	Placed in Grade 3	Placed in Grade 4
16	2	4	4	6

As there is no statutory test for the bacteriological examination of ice-cream, the above samples are graded in accordance with the Advisory Bulletin of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service, 1947.

OTHER SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR SPECIAL TESTS TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, GORSE HILL, SWINDON

Samples	No. Taken	Results
Ice Cream - -	7	No pathogenic organisms found
Ice Cream - -	1	No pathogenic organisms found but B.coli found
Ice Cream - -	1	Growth of staphylococcus aureus, coagulase positive
Cooking Fat - -	1	Growth of staphylococcus aureus, coagulase positive
Cooked Veal - -	1	No pathological organisms found
Ice Lollies - -	4	No B.Coli found
Ice Lollies - -	1	B.Coli found but not pathogenic

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Samples taken	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Milk - - -	78	37	115	—
Milk Drinks - -	—	2	2	—
Ice Cream - - -	—	11	11	—
Ice Lollies - - -	—	4	4	—
Chocolate - - -	1	—	—	1
Butter - - -	1	—	—	1
Bread - - -	2	—	1	1
Cake Mixture - -	6	—	6	—
Soups - - -	8	—	8	—
Pork Sausages - -	—	7	7	—
Beef Sausages - -	—	5	5	—
Pork Chippolatas -	—	2	2	—
Beef Chippolatas -	—	1	1	—
Seidlitz Powders -	—	1	1	—
Epsom Salts - - -	—	4	4	—
Glauber Salts - -	—	4	2	2
Cough Mixture - -	—	5	3	2
Ammoniated Quinine Tablets - - -	—	1	1	—
Aspirin Tablets - -	—	3	3	—
Camphorated Oil -	—	2	2	—
Castor Oil - - -	—	2	2	—
Orangeade - - -	1	—	—	1
Cordials - - -	4	—	4	—
Squashes - - -	7	—	7	—
Whisky - - -	5	—	5	—
Gin - - -	5	—	5	—
Rum - - -	3	—	3	—
Beer - - -	5	—	5	—
Potatoes - - -	1	—	1	—
TOTALS - - -	127	91	210	8

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food - - - -	64
Premises registered for the Manufacture, Sale or Storage of Ice Cream - - - -	257
Registered Dairies - - - -	16
Registered Distributors of Milk - - - -	23
Butchers' Shops - - - -	71
Wholesale Meat Stores - - - -	4
Fish Shops and Fish Friers - - - -	39
Bakehouses - - - -	18
Other Food Shops - - - -	538

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during 1955

	Cattle		Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
	Cows	Others			
Totals killed and inspected - -	1593	6446	313	31795	12511
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCOSIS - -					
Whole carcasses condemned - -	16	5	1	71	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	885	2203	1	7329	1274
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis - -	59	34	.53	23	10.3
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned - -	26	15	—	11	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	326	546	—	1341	—
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis - -	22	8.7	—	4.2	—
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY					
Generalised and totally condemned - -	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	3	36	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration - -	3	36	—	—	—
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis - -	.188	.55	—	—	—

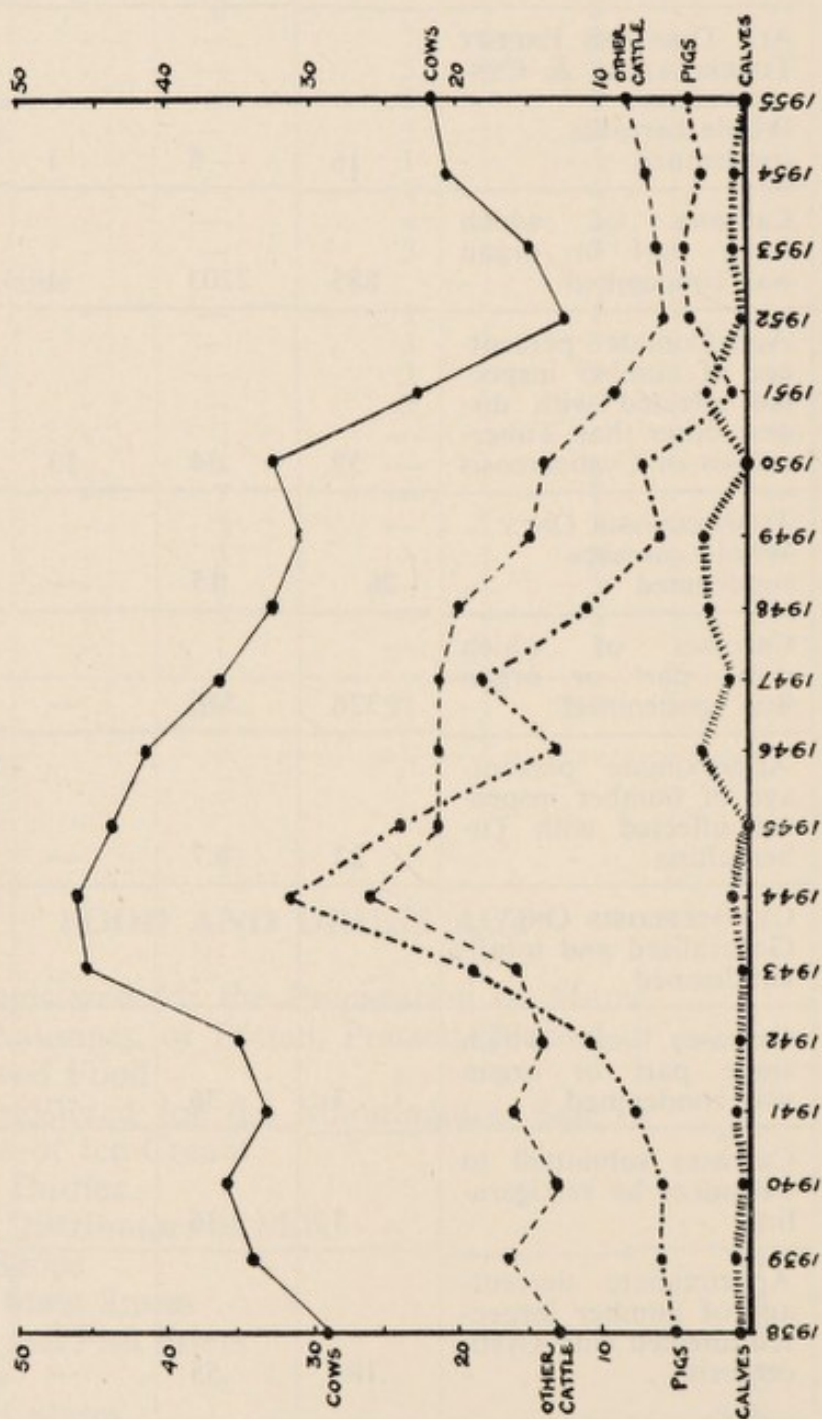
Unsound Food condemned by Sanitary Inspectors during 1955

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Unsound Meat and Offal	-	80	10	2	2
Other Unsound Food	-	4	19	3	7
TOTAL		85	10	1	9

Carcasses Inspected in 1955

Cow/s	~	~	1593
Other Cattle	~	~	6446
Calves	~	~	313
Pigs	~	~	31795
			<u>40147</u>

**PERCENTAGE OF
CATTLE & PIG CARCASSES
FOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH
TUBERCULOSIS
FROM 1938 TO 1955**



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. The following table gives details of the inspections carried out during the year.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	72	12	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	194	74	7	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL - -	266	86	9	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Number of Outworkers at August 1955:—

Making, cleaning etc., of wearing apparel	-	148
Making of receptacles of paper, cardboard etc.	-	3
Furniture and upholstery	- - -	3

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948—continued

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1) - -	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s.2) -	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s.3) -	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s.4) - -	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6) -	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7) - -					
(a) insufficient -	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective -	34	36	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes - -	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork) - -	5	5	1	—	—
TOTALS - -	39	41	1	—	—

**Matters requiring attention and remedied following inspection,
in 1955**

Shops Act 1950	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food and Drugs Act 1938			-	-	-	151

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

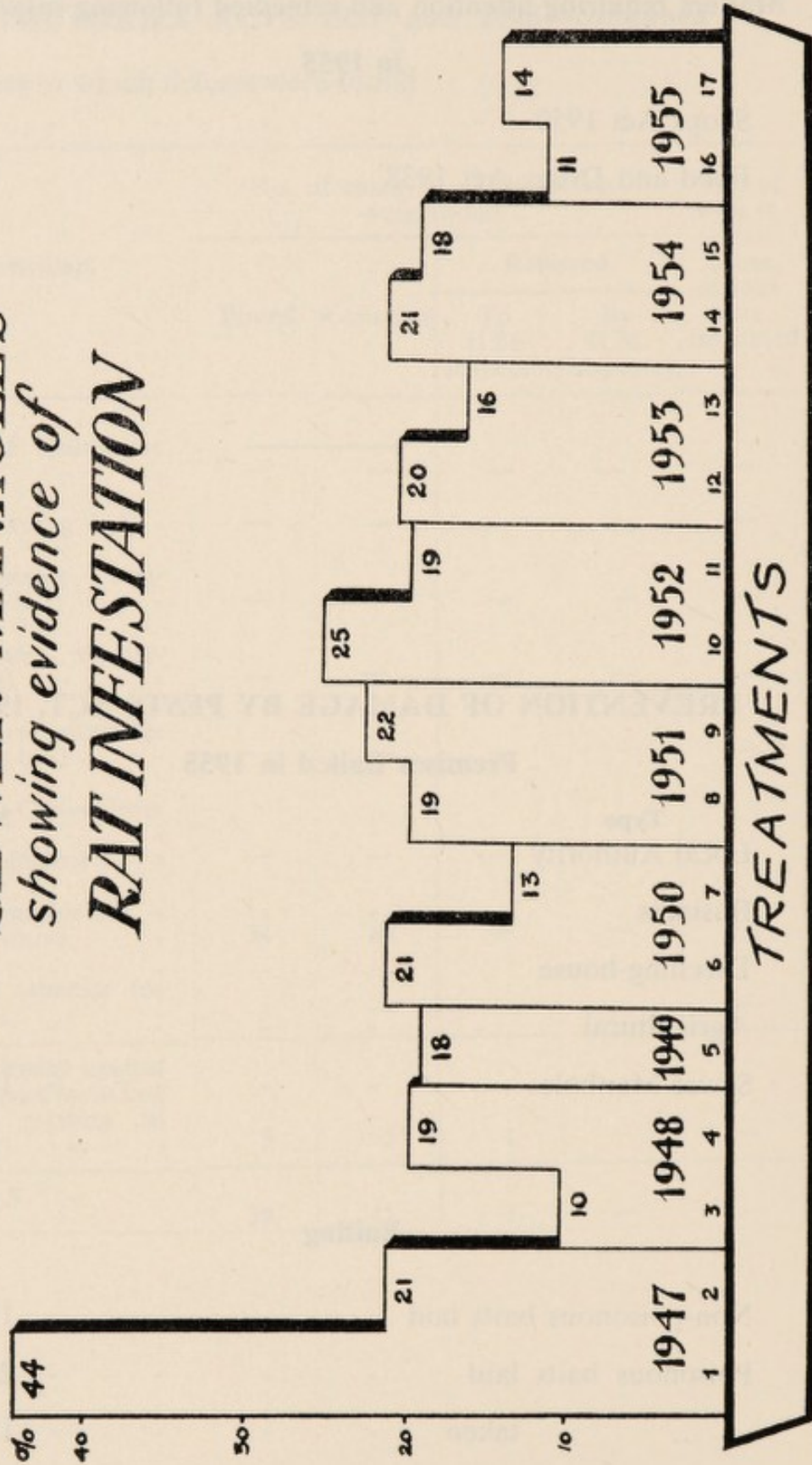
Premises Baited in 1955

Type						Number
Local Authority	-	-	-	-	-	25
Business	-	-	-	-	-	98
Dwelling-house		-	-	-	-	288
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sewer Manholes		-	-	-	-	1895

Baiting

Non-poisonous baits laid		-	-	-	1848
Poisonous baits laid	-	-	-	-	2979
„ „ taken	-	-	-	-	1351

*Percentage of
SEWER MANHOLES
showing evidence of
RAT INFESTATION*



**PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 AND HOUSING ACTS
1936-1954**

NUISANCES ABATED and HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

Defective ceilings	-	-	-	-	62
„ walls	-	-	-	-	257
Damp walls	-	-	-	-	106
Dirty rooms (or verminous)	-	-	-	-	417
Defective floors	-	-	-	-	51
„ firegrates	-	-	-	-	16
„ windows	-	-	-	-	88
„ doors	-	-	-	-	24
„ stairs	-	-	-	-	4
„ coppers	-	-	-	-	—
„ sinks	-	-	-	-	3
New sinks provided	-	-	-	-	156
Water services provided or repaired	-	-	-	-	16
Defective chimneys	-	-	-	-	17
„ roofs	-	-	-	-	113
„ eavesgutters and/or rainwater pipes	-	-	-	-	79
„ yard paving	-	-	-	-	2
„ forecourt paving	-	-	-	-	2
„ water-closets repaired	-	-	-	-	16
New pedestal pans fixed	-	-	-	-	168
Defective flushing-cisterns repaired	-	-	-	-	29
New flushing-cisterns fixed	-	-	-	-	88
Additional water-closets provided	-	-	-	-	62
Choked drains	-	-	-	-	130
Defective drains	-	-	-	-	242
„ traps	-	-	-	-	7
Drains tested	-	-	-	-	457
New baths fixed	-	-	-	-	141
Offensive accumulations removed	-	-	-	-	34
„ animals	-	-	-	-	—
Overcrowding abated	-	-	-	-	4
Dustbins provided	-	-	-	-	—
Food stores provided or ventilated	-	-	-	-	—
Rent Books made to comply with the Housing Act	-	-	-	-	7
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	386
TOTAL					3184

HOUSING STATISTICS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 and HOUSING ACTS 1936 and 1949

Houses inspected	-	-	-	-	1334
„ found to be defective	-	-	-	-	245
„ rendered fit by informal action	-	-	-	-	565
„ „ „ formal	-	-	-	-	6
Informal notices served	-	-	-	-	145
„ „ complied with	-	-	-	-	105
Statutory Notices, Public Health Act—					
Served	-	-	-	-	9
Complied with by owners	-	-	-	-	5
„ „ „ Corporation in default of owners	-	-	-	-	1
Statutory Notices, Housing Acts—					
Served	-	-	-	-	—
Complied with by owners	-	-	-	-	—
„ „ „ Corporation in default of owners	-	-	-	-	—

HOUSING ACT 1936, section 58

Overcrowding

Houses overcrowded at end of 1954	-	-	12
Number of persons affected	-	-	78½
New cases of overcrowding found in 1955	-	-	1
Number of persons affected	-	-	3
Cases of overcrowding abated during 1955	-	-	4
Number of persons affected	-	-	22½
Cases of overcrowding not abated at end of 1955	-	-	9
Number of persons affected	-	-	59

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PROPERTY

Council owned, rooms disinfested	-	-	155
Other property, rooms disinfested	-	-	253
Lots of bedding disinfested	-	-	100
„ „ „ destroyed	-	-	12

After disinfestation has been carried out, periodical visits are made until complete disinfestation of the premises has been effected.

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Rooms disinfected	-	-	-	87
Articles disinfected	-	-	-	11825
Library books disinfected	-	-	-	97
Bedding from hospitals disinfected	-	-	-	43
„ „ private premises disinfected	-	-	-	23
„ destroyed	-	-	-	17

FREE DISINFECTANTS ISSUED

Fluid — 157 pints

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS

ACT 1951

Premises licensed to store Rag Flock	-	-	4
Premises registered	-	-	6

SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS 1947 and 1951

Premises registered as accommodation for food intended for sale from vehicles	-	-	17
Hawkers registered for the sale of food from vehicles	-	-	45
Hairdressers and Barbers	-	-	91

BOROUGH OF SWINDON



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1955

—

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Alderman H. THORPE)

Chairman: Alderman C. S. MACPHERSON

Vice-Chairman: Councillor L. J. NEWMAN

MEMBERS

Alderman A. W. J. DYMOND	Ceuncillor D. JONES
„ H. W. GARDNER	„ H. BOND
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„ J. G. GAY	Mr. F. W. HAWKSWORTH
„ H. G. LEWIS	Mr. F. SMITH (N.U.T.)
Councillor F. E. BISHOP	Miss F. H. SHALLCROFT
„ G. BOND	Mrs. J. FRANCIS

W.C.C.

Dr. O. D. GILMORE

Wing Commander
H. J. LANGTON

Mr. F. M. TAYLOR

Mr. H. W. MOUNTFORD

BOROUGH EDUCATION OFFICER

Mr. G. JELLCOE, M.A. (Oxon)

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee of the Borough of Swindon.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1955 on the work of the School Health Service in Swindon.

The state of health and nutrition of the school children remains good.

There was an increase in the percentage of children requiring treatment but this was largely in minor orthopaedic defects for which no treatment was available before the appointment of the remedial gymnast.

The work of the remedial gymnast has continued to prove most successful and both parents and teachers have given willing co-operation.

The services of the one full time dental officer were available from February, but it has still not been possible to carry out periodic dental inspections on a large scale and the dental health of the children remains a matter of deep concern.

During the year B.C.G. vaccination was offered to all children aged 13. Thanks to the co-operation of parents and teachers there was a very good response and 723 children were vaccinated.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART.

Principal Borough School Medical Officer.

Civic Offices,
Swindon.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

A summary of the principal statistics for the year 1955 with comparable figures for 1954 is given below:—

	1954	1955
Number of primary and secondary school children on register (at 20th January, 1956) -	11,593	12,331
Number of children examined at routine medical inspection - - - -	3,054	3,519
Number found to require treatment for diseases and defects - - - -	738	1,121
Number of dental inspections - -	2,287	2,098
Number referred for dental treatment - -	1,923	1,985
Number of children examined for part-time employment - - - -	135	143

SCHOOL POPULATION

The estimated population of the Borough of Swindon at mid-year 1955 was 71,370. There was at the end of 1955 a total of 12,331 children on the registers of the primary and secondary schools of Swindon (including the Central Primary School.) It will be noted that this is an increase of 738 over the school population at the end of 1954.

STAFF.

The following changes in staff took place during the year:—

1. Medical.

Dr. E. M. Wallis	commenced	1.2.1955
Dr. C. W. Shearer	resigned	16.2.1955
Dr. D. S. Parken	commenced	27.3.1955

2. Dental.

Mr. K. V. Yates	commenced	1.2.1955
Miss J. E. Capper	..	14.5.1955

3. School Nurses.

Mrs. M. Powell	resigned	30.4.1955
Miss J. E. Robson	commenced	1.7.1955
Miss E. M. Clarke	..	4.7.1955
Miss M. J. MacGregor	..	4.7.1955
Mrs. M. McCadden	..	8.11.1955
		(part-time)
Mrs. E. A. Butt	retired	3.6.1955
Mrs. B. E. Bell	..	31.8.1955

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year, periodic medical examinations were carried out in accordance with the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations 1945.

The findings at medical inspection are given in the table on page 55.

The following gives the number of primary and secondary school children examined and the number found to be suffering from diseases and defects (excluding dental caries and uncleanness) which required some form of treatment.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. of children examined	3,519	3,054	3,795	2,526	3,291
No. of children found to have defects - -	1,121	738	855	507	746
Percentage of children examined in need of treatment - -	31.8	24.1	22.5	20.0	22.6

Of the 3519 children examined at routine medical inspections, there were 422 (11.9%) defects of vision and 450 (12.79%) defects of ear, nose and throat.

The increase in the percentage of children noted as requiring treatment is marked but it is felt that this does not indicate any deterioration in the health of the school children.

The largest increase was in minor orthopaedic defects. As 1955 was the first full year in which the services of a remedial gymnast were available, the doctors were able to advise treatment for children whose defects were slight, and where previously there was no point in recording the defects and worrying the parents when no treatment could be offered.

NUTRITIONAL STATE

A — Good

B — Fair

C — Poor

A table, showing the number and percentage of children placed in each of these three categories for each age group examined during 1955 and 1954 is given below:—

Age Group		No. of children Inspected	Category A		Category B		Category C	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1954	1,086	488	44.93	592	54.51	6	.56
	1955	1,419	512	36.08	887	62.52	20	1.4
Second Age Group	1954	919	514	55.93	393	42.76	12	1.31
	1955	861	231	26.83	594	69.00	36	4.17
Third Age Group	1954	994	612	61.56	379	38.13	3	.31
	1955	1,139	622	54.61	512	45.00	5	.39
Other Periodic Inspections	1954	55	9	16.36	42	76.36	4	7.28
	1955	100	19	19.00	79	79.00	2	2.00
TOTAL	1954	3,054	1,623	53.14	1,406	46.03	25	.83
	1955	3,519	1,384	39.33	2,072	58.88	63	1.79

Comments:—

This year the percentage of children placed in Categories B and C was larger. It is felt that this does not indicate any deterioration in the nutritional state of the children as a whole but is a reflection of the change of medical staff which took place at the beginning of 1955, the new doctors using a slightly higher standard in assessing the nutrition of the children.

Cleanliness.

During 1955 the School Nurses carried out a total of 17,104 inspections for uncleanliness, and a total of 254 individual children were reported as infested.

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

Minor Ailment clinics are held at the following places and times:

Eastcott Hill	Time	Dr. in attendance
Monday to Saturday inclusive	9-0 a.m. to 10-30 p.m.	Monday, Friday and Saturday
Pinehurst		
Monday to Friday inclusive	9-0 a.m. to 10-30 p.m.	Tuesday

In all, some 7,830 attendances were made at these clinics during the year. There were 2,336 consultations with doctors.

OBSERVATION CLINICS.

The practice of holding special observation clinics was continued. Children who are found at a periodic or special medical examination to have any defect which, while not severe enough for reference to a specialist, requires special observation, are seen at these clinics and reviewed.

During 1955 a total of 379 consultations were held at observation clinics.

OTHER MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Special medical inspections and re-inspections were carried out on 1,589 primary and secondary school children. The figures for 1954 and 1955 are as follows:—

		1954	1955
Number of inspections	- -	1818	1589
Number of re-inspections	- -	1722	2290

An analysis of the 1954 and 1955 figures is given below:—

Number seen for skin conditions	-	1004	947
" " " eye	-	216	157
" " " school accidents	-	36	31
" " " ear defects	-	26	25
" " " throat or nose defect	-	83	86
" " " juvenile employment	-	135	143
Others	- - - -	318	200
TOTAL		1,818	1,589

PLANTAR WARTS

The special treatment clinics established for the treatment of plantar warts were continued through 1955 and a total of 176 children were treated. The incidence of new cases of plantar warts decreased steadily during the year.

CONSULTANT CLINICS

The Consultant clinics in Swindon have been the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board since July 1948. Any child found on examination by a school medical officer to need hospital treatment or a consultant's opinion is referred to the appropriate clinic. In every case, the family doctor is notified of the intention to refer children to these clinics, and is given the opportunity to deal with the case himself if he so desires.

The only consultant clinic now held on Local Authority premises is the Ophthalmic Clinic at the School Clinic, Eastcott Hill.

Ophthalmic Clinic. Consultant clinics continue to be held at the school clinic, Eastcott Hill, with clerical and nursing staff provided by the Health Department. It was obvious however, that the one clinic held for the school children could not cope with the number referred to it and the waiting list was steadily growing. Representations to this effect were made to the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee and additional eye clinics were arranged at the Hospital Ophthalmic Department.

			1954	1955
Number of clinics held	-	-	89	104
Number of attendances	-	-	1,495	1,663

At the end of December 1955 the position was as follows:—

Number of cases referred and not seen - - 64

Number of cases already seen and referred for re-examination:—

In three months -	-	-	-	-	15
In six months -	-	-	-	-	170
In one year -	-	-	-	-	19

Orthopaedic Clinic. Since May 1950, the Orthopaedic Clinic has been run by the Regional Hospital Board at St. Margaret's hospital. 25 cases were referred to the clinic during 1955 by the School Medical Service as compared with 29 in 1954. As this department no longer arranges the appointments at this clinic, we have no actual knowledge of the total number of Swindon school children referred there from all sources. 149 Swindon school children were treated at these clinics during the year and the attendances were 302 at Surgeons' clinics and 69 at Sisters' clinics.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics. 131 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers during 1955 as compared with 72 in 1954. There has been a definite improvement in the waiting period for consultation and operation.

Paediatric Clinic. 25 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers in 1955 as compared with 22 in 1954. As in 1954 the children were seen with little delay, and full reports were sent to the School Medical Officer by the consultant. The consultant also sends us a report on any school child referred to him for consultation from other sources.

SPECIAL CLINICS

Remedial Exercises. Number of children receiving treatment:—

Infant School Children	-	-	-	-	63
Junior School Children	-	-	-	-	51
Secondary Modern and Secondary Grammar School Children	-	-	-	-	145
					259

Instruction and supervision in remedial exercises have been given to all children who have been referred by the doctor as likely to derive benefit from treatment.

There are three main groups of children:—

- (1) Those with flat feet or valgoid ankles who are given foot and ankle strengthening exercises, and instructed in the correct method of walking.
- (2) Those with postural defects who are given shoulder girdle exercises, and instructed in the correct way to stand and sit.
- (3) Those suffering from asthma who are given exercises to enable them to breathe properly.

The defects are usually of a minor degree and the aim of treatment is to normalise the condition, if possible, and to strengthen the muscles concerned.

The sessions are held weekly in the schools attended by the children and the programme arranged so that it does not interfere unduly with the child's education.

The various schemes of exercises are short, attractive as possible and specifically for the complaint. They are of the type which can be carried out in a limited space without elaborate equipment. Children are encouraged to do the exercises at home and parents are advised on their value. Each child is re-examined by the doctor during treatment and the degree of progress assessed. Before discharge the child is seen with his parent by the doctor and advice given to prevent recurrence of the defect.

The results have been very satisfactory and it is hoped in the near future to carry out a more intensive research into the value of the work.

Child Guidance Clinic. The Child Guidance Clinic set up by the Wiltshire County Council continued to hold regular sessions at 81 Bath Road, Swindon.

A report on the Child Guidance Service by Mr. H. R. Melrose, Educational Psychologist, is appended to this report.

SPEECH THERAPY

Speech therapy clinics have been held for four sessions weekly throughout the school year.

As in previous years, the most common defect has been dyslalia—i.e. defects of articulation—in many cases this was associated with general backwardness. Cleft palate cases were again very few. Stammerers have been treated in groups as a general rule; this has proved very satisfactory in most cases, the children gaining noticeably in self-confidence through group games, dramatic reading etc.

In spite of a marked increase in attendance over last year, the waiting list remains persistently long, but the waiting time had been reduced to four months by the end of the year. It is perhaps worth remarking that children are being referred at an earlier age than was the case in previous years. More than half of the children waiting for treatment are aged six years or under and their speech defects are often comparatively slight, frequently improving spontaneously as they settle down at school.

Attendance figures for the year are as follows:—

			Boys	Girls	Total
Number of children seen	-	-	58	16	74
Number of attendances	-	-	581	137	718
Number of children discharged	-	-	28	15	43
School Visits	-	-	-	-	18

The numbers above refer to children from Swindon only. Children from the surrounding County districts were also seen at the clinic—a total of 36 children, who made 246 attendances.

147 Speech Therapy sessions were held during the year.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

1. Blind Pupils (that is to say, pupils who have no sight or whose sight is, or is likely to become so defective that they require education by methods not involving the use of sight). One Swindon blind girl aged 16 has been in a Special School for the blind at the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, since 1945. One child aged 4 was admitted to the Sunshine Homes for the Blind in February 1955. One boy aged 10 is still awaiting admission to a special school for the blind.

2. Partially Sighted Pupils (that is to say, pupils who by reason of defective vision cannot follow the normal regime of ordinary schools without detriment to their sight or to their educational development, but can be educated by special methods involving the use of sight).

Two boys aged 12 have been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since September 1952.

One boy aged 9 has been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since January 1953.

One boy aged 7 has been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since September 1953.

One boy aged 8 is still awaiting admission to a Special School for the Partially Sighted.

3. Deaf Pupils (that is to say, pupils who have no hearing or whose hearing is so defective that they require education by methods used for deaf pupils without naturally acquiring speech or language).

One boy aged 9 years and who has been at the Donnington Lodge Nursery School since January 1950 was transferred to St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke in 1955.

One boy aged 7 has been at Donnington Lodge Nursery School since May, 1953.

One girl aged 14 has been at the Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby, since April 1947.

One girl aged 13 has been at the Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby, since September 1950.

One girl aged 9 has been at the Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby, since September, 1953.

One girl aged 12 was admitted to Nutfield Priory Boarding School for the Deaf, Redhill, Surrey in September 1955.

One girl aged 5 is still awaiting admission to a Special School for the Deaf.

4. Partially Deaf Pupils (that is to say, pupils who have some naturally acquired speech and language but whose hearing is so defective that they require for their education special arrangements or facilities though not necessarily all the educational methods used for deaf pupils). No child was ascertained as partially deaf during 1955 and there are none awaiting admission to a special school for partially deaf pupils.

5. Educationally Sub-normal Pupils (that is to say, pupils who, by reason of limited ability or other conditions resulting in educational retardation, require some specialised form of education wholly or partly in substitution for the education normally given in ordinary schools).

During 1955, 57 new cases were examined and were grouped as follows:—

28 were recommended for education in a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

11 were recommended for special educational treatment in an ordinary school.

4 were recommended for a school or hostel for maladjusted pupils.

1 child was recommended for admission to a Residential School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

12 were reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable.

1 was notified under Section 57(5) of the Education Act 1944.

34 children already classified as educationally sub-normal were re-examined during the year and the following recommendations were made:—

7 to be admitted to a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

8 to continue to receive education at a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

1 was recommended for admission to a Residential School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

2 to continue to receive special educational treatment in an ordinary school.

4 were recommended to return to the ordinary school system

3 were reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable.

9 were notified under Section 57(5) of the Education Act 1944.

At the end of 1955, children assessed as educationally sub-normal were receiving special education as follows:—

Special Day School	-	-	-	-	75
Special Residential School	-	-	-	-	2
Ordinary Schools	-	-	-	-	56

6. Epileptic Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who by reason of epilepsy cannot be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools without detriment to themselves or other pupils).

One boy aged 12 was discharged from Lingfield Epileptic Colony during 1955.

One boy aged 8 was admitted to Lingfield Epileptic Colony in April 1955.

7. Maladjusted Pupils (that is to say, pupils who show evidence of emotional instability or psychological disturbance, and require special educational treatment in order to effect their personal, social or educational re-adjustment).

One boy aged 15 years was discharged from Cam House, Dursley, Gloucester in December 1955.

One boy aged 17 years has been at Finchden Manor, Tenterden, Kent, since April 1953.

One boy aged 13 years was discharged from Southfield Hostel, Ilminster, in March 1955.

One boy aged 12 years was admitted to Cam House, Dursley, Gloucester in November 1955.

One boy aged 8 was admitted to The Mount Special School, Chepstow, in October 1955.

One boy aged 15 has been at Tilehurst School, Forest Row, Sussex since August 1954.

Five children were assessed as maladjusted during 1955, four of whom are still awaiting places in a school or hostel for maladjusted pupils.

8. Physically Handicapped Pupils (that is to say, pupils not suffering solely from a defect of sight or hearing who by reason of disease of crippling defect cannot, without detriment to their health or educational development, be satisfactorily educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools).

One girl aged 15 has been at Dame Hannah Rogers School for Physically Handicapped since January 1950.

One boy aged 10 has been at The Heritage Craft Schools and Hospital, Chorley, since January 1954.

One boy aged 6 has been at the John Capel Hanbury Hospital School, Woodford Bridge since January 1954.

One girl aged 8 at Marlborough Convalescent Home was awaiting transfer to a Special School for the Physically Handicapped.

Four children were attending at the Swindon Spastic Unit.

Three children were receiving home tuition at the end of 1955.

9. Pupils suffering from Speech Defect, (that is to say, pupils who on account of defect or lack of speech not due to deafness require special educational treatment). No children have been ascertained as handicapped on account of speech defect.

10. Delicate Pupils, (that is to say, pupils not falling under any other category in this Regulation, who by reason of impaired physical condition need a change of environment or cannot, without risk to their health or educational development, be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools).

One girl aged 15 classified under this category has been a pupil at Hutton Residential School since January 1949.

SPASTIC PARALYSIS.

The Spastic Unit continued to function in the Regional Hospital Board's premises at the Physiotherapy Department, Community House, Faringdon Road.

At the end of 1955 there were 7 pupils on the roll, 4 being Swindon children and 3 from the surrounding areas. These children mostly attended for the whole day, 5 days a week.

The Ministry has still not granted recognition of this unit as a special school or class so that the children attending cannot obtain

school meals at reduced prices, or school milk, which are at present being subsidised by the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee.

The services of the Consultant in Physical Medicine, Dr. J. B. Stewart, and his staff, are available to the children attending the Unit. The Speech Therapist for the Swindon and District Hospitals attends daily to give treatment to the children. The parents of the children attend voluntary in rotation to help in the general management of the children.

PHYSICAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Milk in Schools Scheme.

The results of a survey taken on one day in October 1955 are as follows (figures in brackets represent a similar survey, taken on one day in October 1954).

Total number primary children taking milk, 6,502 representing 89.32% of children attending school at the time. (6,103 representing 84.9%).

Total number secondary children taking milk 3,159 representing 73.2% of children attending school at the time. (2,686 representing 68%.)

Total number Central Primary children taking milk, 60 representing 93.75% of children attending school at the time (50 representing 90.9%.)

Number of school departments supplied is 39.

All milk supplied to schools is pasteurised and samples are examined at regular intervals, and any complaints regarding it are reported to the office for action.

MEALS IN SCHOOLS

I am indebted to the Borough Education Officer for the following details of the numbers of school children having school meals.

		1954	1955
Number of school canteens	-	25	30
Number of children taking meals	-	2,132	2,518
Number of children taking free meals	-	182	123

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE — SWINDON CLINIC — 1955.

Regular sessions have been held by the Child Guidance Service at 81 Bath Road, Swindon, on Thursday in each week, apart from short breaks during the school holidays, as mothers usually find it difficult to attend if they have several children at home from school.

The members of the Child Guidance team have been:—

Dr. K. C. P. Smith	Consultant Psychiatrist
Mr. H. R. Melrose	Educational Psychologist
Mrs. N. Varga (nee Comber)	Psychiatric Social Worker
Mrs. M. Hardaker	Secretary

Mrs. Varga returned in October, after completing the Mental Health Certificate course at the London School of Economics, London University. During the months February to September, Miss S. Heimler, Social Worker, temporarily filled Mrs. Varga's place, and has now proceeded to Edinburgh University to undertake the Mental Health Certificate course.

As in previous years, children from the county areas of Highworth, Stratton, Marlborough, Calne, Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury have also attended at the Centre, but their number and disposal are not included in this report.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN REFERRED.

In 1955, the Principal Borough School Medical Officer referred 38 new children to the Centre, all of whose homes were visited by the Social Workers. Later they were seen by the Psychologist, and 35 of them were passed to the Consultant Psychiatrist. In the course of the year he has discharged 6 as improved, one was considered as a consultation only, and 28 will be carried forward to 1956 for further treatment. The three children not seen by the Psychiatrist had educational and learning difficulties, and two of these will be seen again by the Psychologist in 1956 the third having improved satisfactorily.

As previously mentioned in last year's report, 33 children (13 from 1952 and 1953, 20 from 1954) were considered to require further treatment in 1955. Of these, 6 of the 13, and 8 of the 20 have been discharged as improved, and the remaining 19 will be attending the Centre in 1956. Thus, in all, 49 children (19 + 28 + 2) will make further attendances in 1956.

During 1955, the Psychiatrist carried out 155 therapeutic interviews with children and their parents, usually their mothers. The

Psychologist undertook 82 interviews for the assessment of intelligence and educational attainments, with subsequent remedial sessions. The Social Workers, in addition to making initial and follow-up home visits, have supervised 60 play observations sessions.

It will be observed that a few more children were referred than in 1954. In view of the increasing population of the borough, with the consequent social problems which may arise on new housing estates, the number of referrals of children with emotional and educational problems may tend to rise in subsequent years.

Children's Problems.

The problems for which the 38 children were referred are summarised under the following headings and may be compared with 1954.

	1955	1954
1. Nervous disorders - - -	4	2
2. Habit disorders and physical symptoms	8	9
3. Behaviour disorders - -	22	13
4. Educational and Vocational Difficulties	4	9
	38	33

The main increase in referrals is in behaviour disorders, which usually includes such symptoms as described in the Report by the Committee on Maladjusted Children, issued by the Ministry of Education in October 1955, viz., unmanageableness, defiance, disobedience, refusal to go to school or work, temper, aggressiveness, bullying, destructiveness, cruelty, jealous behaviour, demands for attention, stealing and begging, lying and romancing, truancy—wandering, staying out late, sex difficulties.

Ages of Children

The distribution of the ages of the 38 children referred is as follows:—

Ages	2 yrs. & under	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 & over	Total	Year
Children	1	0	1	2	4	4	5	4	2	6	1	5	3	0	0	38	1955
Children	0	1	4	2	7	3	2	4	2	4	0	0	2	2	0	33	1954

This year more children aged 13 were referred than previously.

Intelligence of Children

The distribution of intelligence of the 38 children referred is:—

I.Q.	Below Average			Average		Above Average			Total	Year
	54 & below	55-70	71-85	86-100	101-115	116-130	131-145	145 & over		
Children	0	3	4	15	13	2	1	0	38	1955
„	1	5	4	14	7	1	1	0	33	1954
Percentage	0	8	10	40	34	5	3	0	100	1955
„	3	15	12	43	21	3	3	0	100	1954

	Below Average	Average	Above average
1955	— 18%	74%	8%
1954	— 30%	64%	6%

It will be noted that the emphasis has moved from the Below Average to the Average Group of intelligence among the children referred. This tendency is helpful from the treatment point of view, as children of average and above average intelligence are likely to profit more from therapy, whereas children of below average intelligence primarily require special educational treatment in day or residential special schools.

The thanks of the Child Guidance Team are again due to Dr. James Urquhart, Principal Borough School Medical Officer, and his staff, and to all the Head Teachers in the Borough, for their ever-ready assistance and co-operation.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES

Mr. Yates was appointed full time dental surgeon in February 1955 and Mr. Randerson continued in his part time capacity. A small number of periodic dental inspections only were possible as the time available was occupied with treatment.

Two evening sessions weekly were held by Mr. Yates and these were well attended.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1955

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officer:—				
(a) At Periodic Inspections	-	-	-	711
(b) As Specials	-	-	-	1387
Total (1)				2098
(2) Number found to require treatment				1985
(3) Number offered treatment				1985
(4) Number actually treated				1926
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment				4516
(6) Half days devoted to: Periodic Inspection				3
Treatment	-	-	-	317
Total (6)				320
(7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth				1380
Temporary Teeth	-	-	-	22
Total (7)				1402
(8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth				960
Temporary Teeth	-	-	-	22
Total (8)				982
(9) Extractions: Permanent Teeth				638
Temporary Teeth	-	-	-	1895
Total (9)				2533
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction				1095
(11) Other operations: Permanent Teeth				522
Temporary Teeth	-	-	-	421
Total (11)				943

PROTECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Swindon in 1955 and facilities for examination were offered to all the senior pupils attending schools in the Borough. The number of children examined and the results are shewn in the following table:—

Number of children aged 14 and upwards on the school rolls	-	-	-	-	-	2,582
Number of children examined	-	-	-	-	-	2,425
Percentage response	-	-	-	-	-	93.9
Number of children recalled for full size X-ray	-	-	-	-	-	58
Number of children recalled for clinical examination	-	-	-	-	-	11
Number of cases of tuberculosis found	-	-	-	-	-	1

The vaccination of children of the 13—14 age group against Tuberculosis using B.C.G. vaccine was carried out in 1955.

The parents of all children of this age group were circularised and the nature and the advantages of B.C.G. Vaccination were explained in a leaflet. All schools were visited and through the co-operation of the Head Teachers it was possible for a doctor to give a short talk on the subject of "Tuberculosis and its prevention" to the children concerned.

Permission was obtained for vaccination from the parents of 865 children. As a result of Tuberculin Testing it was found that 142 had already some protection against tuberculosis and vaccination was not therefore necessary. 723 children were vaccinated with B.C.G.

All these children were followed up six weeks later and a further test showed that they were now protected against Tuberculosis.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF ENTRANTS TO COURSES OF TRAINING FOR TEACHING AND TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

In accordance with Ministry of Education Circular 249, candidates applying for admission to training colleges are examined by the School Medical Officers of the areas where they live.

During 1955, 34 examinations of such candidates were carried out by the School Medical Officers in Swindon.

THE CHILDREN ACT 1948

Boarded-out children attending school in the Borough are examined annually by the School Medical Officers as required by the Act.

During 1955, 28 such examinations were made.

SCHOOL PREMISES

School premises, including school meal kitchens, are inspected by the Medical Officers at the conclusion of routine medical inspections. Any defects noted are reported to the Education Committee.

REPORT OF THE AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

I have pleasure in submitting the report of the Area Medical Officer for the year 1955.

This report deals exclusively with the services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which have been delegated to the Swindon Area Sub-Committee.

With the continued expansion of the borough the services falling to be provided have increased in scope and extent, and unexpected problems have arisen in connection with the expansion programme. For instance, in the Penhill estate the birth rate has been double that in the remainder of the borough and whereas it was expected that one midwife would cover the estate two have been needed. This increased birth rate has reacted on the provision of child welfare clinics and it has become increasingly obvious that the clinic held in the Penhill Farmhouse is unable to cope with the numbers attending. An additional weekly session has been requested at which it will be necessary to employ a doctor on a part-time basis. The farmhouse premises are however too cramped, and congestion at the clinics cannot be avoided until the more commodious premises at the proposed community centre become available.

During the year we were consistently considerably below our establishment of health visitors and this resulted in severe limitation of the service. Towards the end of the year the position had somewhat eased and recruitment stimulated by the Borough Council providing housing accommodation for health visitors. It is, of course, quite obvious that with fixed salary scales health visitors will only accept a post which offers personal advantages or housing provision.

At the 31st December, 1928 houses were occupied at Penhill estate and 125 on the Walcot estate which received its first occupant in September 1955. Of these houses a total of 628 were occupied by overspill population.

It is obvious therefore that if the services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act are to be maintained at the present level, provision will have to be made next year for an all round increase in staff to be recruited as the need arises.

JOINT USE OF STAFF

The only hospital clinics now held in Local Health Authority premises and staffed by its clerical personnel are the ophthalmic clinics for school children and premature babies. The hospital authorities are now preparing a new ophthalmic department and when completed it is expected that all eye clinics will be held there. It is hoped, however, that the good relationship built up with the hospital ophthalmic department will continue after the transfer.

Hospital Gynaecological and midwifery ante-natal clinics continue to be held in the Local Health Authority premises at 81 Bath Road. Of the two weekly ante-natal clinics run by the Local Health Authority one is attended by a general practitioner and the other by a member of the public health medical staff.

As in past years facilities to attend Local Health Authority clinics for instructional purposes have been granted to general practitioners and hospital medical and nursing staffs.

Local Authority medical officers, health visitors and midwives have given lectures and practical instruction to hospital student nurses.

The Medical Officer of Health continues to be in clinical charge of the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee's infectious diseases hospital beds.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The care of old people demands an ever increasing proportion of the time of the Local Health Authority staff. In this most necessary and important work no single department can function independently and to obtain the maximum benefit for the old folk it is essential that the efforts of the Local Health Authority, Welfare Authority, voluntary organisations, hospital services and general practitioners are co-ordinated and integrated.

During the present year the provision of the Slum Clearance Act brought the problem of the rehousing of old people into sharp focus. The detailed survey of sub-standard property showed that a large proportion of such houses were occupied by elderly people, many living alone in poor financial circumstances. These old people will have to be rehoused and most of these cases raise three distinct problems:—

1. a physical problem of providing suitable alternative accommodation
2. a financial problem of providing new homes at rents which the old people can afford
3. a human problem of uprooting the old people from houses in which they have lived most of their lives and replanting them in unfamiliar surroundings and perhaps at a distance from their old friends and neighbours.

Each of these problems may have to be faced in many cases and every housing authority must take positive action now to meet them when they do arise.

During the year there has been little change otherwise in the overall scheme for the care of old people in Swindon. The Swindon Old People's Welfare Committee with its system of district sub-committees and its voluntary visitors who are allocated to defined areas, continue to do excellent work and bring to the notice of the statutory authorities many cases where help is needed.

In this respect the demand for domestic help continues to grow and each year the establishment of domestic helps has to be increased to provide even a minimum of help to all necessitous cases. It is however gratifying to note that during 1955 we were able to provide some help in every instance where it was required by old people.

In all cases brought to our notice the old people are visited regularly by the health visitors and it is only in the very exceptional case that such visits are not welcomed. Unfortunately during the year the health visiting staff was far below establishment and the visiting of old people had to be considerably curtailed.

Enquiries from health visitors, district nurses and hospital staff elicited the unanimous opinion that almost every old person seen required the services of a chiropodist. The chiropody service provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee, while helping some of the more needy cases, cannot hope to cope with the large number who require such treatment. It is regretted that no scheme for the provision of a chiropody service can yet be provided under the National Health Service Act 1946, in spite of the many representations to this effect which have been made.

The laundry service at reduced cost for old people provided for an average of forty cases throughout the year and continues to prove a great boon to the recipients.

This service is provided by a local firm which still wishes to remain anonymous and who to their credit make no capital from this work. Incidentally the firm in question tells me that the quality and condition of the articles they receive from the old people is well above the average.

During the coming year it is hoped to provide a night attendant service for old people. This service is needed to provide rest for relatives looking after old people and especially needed in homes where there is nobody to give any night attention to the old people while temporarily ill or waiting admission to institutional care.

During the year approximately 1,040 meals were provided by the W.V.S. Meals on wheels service.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Number of premature babies born:—

	1954	1955
(i) At home - - - -	27	24
(ii) In hospital or nursing home - -	66	67
Number who died during the first 24 hours:—		
(i) Born at home - - - -	2	1
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home -	4	7
Number who survived at end of one month:—		
(i) Born at home - - - -	25	23
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home -	61	57

WELFARE FOODS

Since July 1954 the distribution of foods, vitamin preparations and other items has been carried out at the Health Centre and all infant welfare clinics. The extent of this work, formerly carried on by the Ministry of Food, can be gauged from the following table:—

	Health Centre issues	Clinic issues
National Dried Milk	35,015 tins	21,419 tins
Cod Liver Oil	4,429 bottles	4,472 bottles
Vitamin Tablets	2,575 packets	1,528 packets
Orange Juice	31,928 bottles	23,467 bottles

SUPPLY OF PROPRIETARY DRIED MILKS ETC.

A member of our clerical staff attends at the child welfare clinics and among her other duties is the sale of dried milks and nutrients. During the year there were 5,978 such sales, for which £765 15s. 7½d. was received.

DENTAL CARE

During 1954, Swindon had the part-time services of two assistant county dental officers. On 1st February 1955 one of these dentists, Mr. A. V. Yates took up a whole time appointment in Swindon and we also had the part-time services of Mr. Randerson, assistant county dental officer.

While this appointment helped considerably it is very obvious that with less than half our establishment of dental officers the dental department cannot possibly cope with the demands made on it. Repeated advertising failed to attract candidates to fill the vacant posts.

It is true to say that the present establishment of three dental officers could not now with our rapidly increasing population, provide an adequate service. On the other hand it would appear to be futile to increase the establishment of dental officers unless there is a reasonable chance of filling the posts.

HEALTH VISITORS

At the beginning of the year the staff of health visitors consisted of seven health visitors one of whom was off ill and subsequently retired on the grounds of ill health. The senior health visitor resigned in August 1954 and no applications for this post or for the two other vacancies were received in spite of repeated advertising. One health visitor resigned in April 1955 and one resigned in June 1955. This left us with five health visitors one of whom had been off ill since the beginning of the year. This shortage of staff severely limited the work of the department and is reflected in the figures given in the table on pag 74.

At this stage the Borough Council made housing accommodation available for health visitors at the request of the County Health Committee and by the end of the year we were able to recruit four health visitors (one part-time) and one other appointment was made but the applicant had not started work at the end of the year.

From our experience it would appear that it is almost essential to offer housing accommodation if a full establishment of nursing staff is to be recruited and maintained.

MIDWIFERY

Of the eight midwives employed at the end of the year, 5 were approved as teachers of pupil midwives.

The scheme for training pupils from Swindon Maternity Hospital and Bradford-on-Avon Maternity Hospital continued and during the year 12 pupils were trained.

During the year there were no domiciliary midwives in private practice in the Town.

The domiciliary midwives hold booking clinics as follows:—

81 Bath Road—2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at 6 p.m.

Pinehurst Clinic—Every Thursday at 2 p.m.

Penhill Farmhouse—1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month.

In addition they attend the ante-natal clinics held at Pinehurst on Mondays and Fridays and carry out domiciliary ante-natal care.

During the year medical aid was summoned in 168 instances.

The scheme of co-operation between the Maternity Hospital and the Local Health Authority in respect of cases desiring admission to hospital for social reasons continues to work most satisfactorily.

Investigations of social circumstances are made by the health visitors and on the reports so made the Area Medical Officer makes his recommendations to the Consulting Obstetrician. During the year 322 of such investigations were carried out.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

During the year the major development in the schemes for vaccination and immunisation was the introduction of B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis for school children. This later scheme is reported on separately.

The scheme for immunisation against whooping cough and for the use of the combined antigen for diphtheria and whooping cough will be introduced as from 1st January, 1956.

During 1955 special efforts were made by way of publicity campaigns to stimulate immunisation against diphtheria and particular attention was given to the scheme for giving booster doses of antigen to school children. These efforts met with considerable success and are reflected in the figures given in the table on page 68.

Facilities for vaccination and immunisation were available as before at infant welfare clinics and special sessions at clinics. In addition several immunisation sessions were held in schools.

The tables given below summarise the vaccination and immunisation carried out during the year:—

		Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	-	439	70	18	24	551
Re-Vaccination	-	—	3	13	87	103
TOTALS	-	439	73	31	111	654

Immunisation

			1954	1955
Number of clinics held	-	-	68	63
Number of attendances	-	-	1171	3202
Number of children who have completed course	-	-	587	763
Number of children immunised by general practitioners	-	-	387	417
Total number immunised	-	-	974	1180
Re-inforcing injections, including general practitioners	-	-	172	1762

B.C.G. VACCINATION

As mentioned in last year's report plans were prepared for giving B.C.G. vaccination to school children in their 13th year. The medical officers carrying out the procedure were given a course of training under Dr. Harper the Chest Physician.

The scheme was started in April 1955.

All parents of children in this age group were sent details of the scheme and were required to complete a consent form if they wished their children to be tested and if necessary vaccinated.

After a preliminary tuberculin test (Heaf test) all those who showed a negative reaction were inoculated with the B.C.G. vaccine. Six weeks later those inoculated were re-tested with tuberculin to ascertain whether the vaccination had been successful in converting them to positive reactors.

The response to the scheme was most encouraging as of the 1200 children eligible for vaccination consents to the procedure were obtained in respect of 865 representing 73% response.

No. of children given initial tuberculin test	865	
No. of positive reactors	-	142 16.21%
No. of negative reactors	-	726
No. of children vaccinated	-	723 82.87%

As an initial positive reaction to the tuberculin test implied that these pupils had already been infected with tuberculosis all children in this group and their family contacts were encouraged to attend the Mass radiography unit when it visited the town during October and November 1955. They were visited by health visitors and issued with special cards and a nominal roll was supplied to the Mass Radiography Unit.

Of these children all but seven attended for x-ray examination. Three were found to have inactive primary tuberculosis and two of them were already known and under the care of the Chest Physician.

One pupil was found to have a possibly active primary tuberculosis and was referred for treatment.

PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER CARE

The scheme for prevention, care and after care in Swindon is similar to that for the county as a whole.

During the year convalescent or recuperative holidays were provided for 9 as compared with 22 in 1954.

Other provisions under this heading are referred to in other parts of the report.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

A summary of the work of the domestic help service during the year is given below:—

Number of domestic helps on books at the end of the year	-	-	-	-	-	55
--	---	---	---	---	---	----

Number of householders helped during the year:—

(a) Maternity cases	-	-	-	-	88
(b) Other cases	-	-	-	-	253
					341

Number of hours of assistance provided during the year:—

(a) Maternity cases	-	-	-	-	7423
(b) Other cases	-	-	-	-	49987
					57410

Number of cases in which full fee was not charged-	323
--	-----

During the year we were able to supply some domestic help to every necessitous case applying for it. In many instances however the amount of help given was less than requested or considered necessary.

The administration of this service becomes more complicated as the number of helps employed and the number of requests for service increases. Indeed it is felt that the time has come when, to maintain and enhance the efficiency of the service, a Domestic Help Supervisor is needed. The main function of such an officer would be to maintain an overall supervision of the service, to allocate help according to the needs of the applicants and instruct and train the domestic helps in the efficient performance of their duties.

One disturbing feature of the service during the year was the amount of time lost by the personnel due to sickness. Over the year this amounted to approximately 10% of the total potential hours of service of the staff employed. The scheme for assisting problem families by supplying them with free domestic help was introduced

on the 7th November 1955. Three domestic helps volunteered for this work and as a beginning two were chosen to work each morning with two problem families. Up to the end of the year the results of this scheme were to my mind disappointing.

Certainly both households were cleaner and the children better fed but in both cases the housewife showed little or no evidence of any desire to co-operate. However, the time for which the scheme has been in operation is too short to assess its success or otherwise and it is hoped when repairs and decorations are carried out in the houses concerned the housewives will be encouraged to make a new effort to achieve a higher standard of living.

HEALTH CENTRE

Dental Department

Dental Surgeons	-	1	Dental Receptionists	-	1
Dental Technicians	-	3	Dental Attendants	-	2

During the year there were 10,034 attendances for treatment and the following work was carried out:—

Scalings	FILLINGS		Extractions	X-rays	DENTURES		Treatments
	Amalgams	Synthetic			Repairs	Manufactured	
189	2836	248	1790	705	744	500	4545

Pharmacy

The Pharmacy dealt with 123,999 prescriptions during year.

CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS

Ante and Post Natal Clinics

Clinics at which a doctor is in attendance are held weekly as follows:—

Beech Avenue	Mondays and Fridays	1-30 to 4 p.m.
Bath Road	Mondays	1-30 to 4 p.m.

1954 1955

Number of women who attended these clinics during the period	-	-	-	-	494	592
Number of attendances made during the period	-				2010	2863

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The Table below gives the list of clinics held and the attendances made:—

Centre	Day and Time 2 — 4 p.m.	Number of consulta- tions with doctor	Number of attend- ances
61 Eastcott Hill ...	Wednesday & Friday	1357	3271
Beech Avenue, Pinehurst	Tuesday	611	2413
Gorse Hill ...	Wednesday	—	1979
Rodbourne Cheney ...	Monday	—	1088
Bath Road ...	Friday	584	1506
Penhill ...	Thursday	832	2715

The table above gives a list of clinics held and the attendances made. The numbers attending Penhill Farmhouse clinic have increased to such an extent that the clinic premises become grossly congested.

It is regretted that the new clinic premises in the proposed community centre are not likely to be available for a considerable time yet. It is thus necessary to hold extra sessions at the Farmhouse and application has been made for an extra weekly clinic. The present establishment of medical officers is inadequate to cover this session so a part-time medical officer will have to be employed for it.

In July, the Moredon clinic premises became no longer available for clinic purposes. Alternative accommodation was obtained in the Methodist chapel at Rodbourne Cheney and the clinic commenced there on the 8th August. These premises, although not ideal, do serve the purpose and are in any case preferable to the premises at Moredon.

With the development of the Walcot estate it is obvious that in the near future clinic premises will be needed there and negotiations to this effect are taking place.

DAY NURSERY

The only day nursery operating in Swindon continues to be housed in the Gorse Hill Community centre. The premises which are adapted for this use are adequate but give a general impression of dinginess. Recently the land surrounding the nursery has been built up and the absence of any open air playing space is a big drawback. There are public parks not too far distant from the nursery but to reach them the children have to be escorted through busy streets.

During the year it has been possible to accommodate all the necessitous cases applying for admission to the nursery. On the other hand there have been many applications for admission, particularly from overspill population from parents who wish their children cared for to allow them to earn additional wages. In accordance with the policy of the County Council the only children accepted for placement in the nursery are selected after careful scrutiny of the individual circumstances.

At the present time there appears to be an insufficient demand from necessitous cases to warrant an increased number of nursery places.

The nursery staff continue to prepare all meals for the children. The cost of providing meals in this way compares very favourably in cost and suitability of food with the previous method of supplying meals through the school meals service.

	Number of Nurseries	Number of Approved Places	No. of children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance	
			0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Nurseries maintained by the Council ..	1	25	4	14	4	10

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

The Family Planning Association continues to hold clinics at Eastcott Hill clinic weekly.

TREATMENT OF INFANTS FOR ORTHOPAEDIC AND OPHTHALMIC DEFECTS

4 children were referred to the Orthopaedic clinic at St. Margaret's Hospital.

14 cases attended the Surgeons' sessions and made 56 attendances.

4 cases attended the Sisters sessions and made 13 attendances.

33 children were seen by the Ophthalmologist, making 125 attendances.

23 cases attended the Premature Baby Eye Clinic and made 99 attendances.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The following is an analysis of the midwifery carried out in the area during the year:—

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR						
	Domiciliary Cases					Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals	
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	—	1	97	434	532	—
(b) Midwives employed by voluntary organisations:— (i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including hospi- tals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by hospital management committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	778
(d) Midwives in private practice (in- cluding midwives employed in nursing homes)	—	—	—	—	—	163

ADMINISTRATION OF GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA

All the domiciliary midwives employed are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. During the year instruction in the administration of trilene analgesia was given to these midwives and six were issued with trilene apparatus. Preliminary reports from the midwives using the analgesia are most satisfactory both from the midwives and the patients point of view.

As in previous years patients were given demonstrations of the analgesia apparatus during the antenatal period.

Details of the administration of analgesia during the year are summarised as follows:—

			Midwives acting as such	Midwives acting as Maternity Nurses
Gas and Air	-	-	194	35
Trilene	-	-	179	39

MIDWIVES ACT, 1951

Medical aid was summoned in 168 domiciliary cases during the year.

HEALTH VISITING

Number of visits paid by Health Visitors (figures for 1954 in brackets):—

Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 & 5	Other Classes
First visits	Total visits	First visits	Total visits	Total visits	Total visits
313 (331)	322 (345)	1110 (1067)	2238 (3464)	1665 (3015)	1134 (1780)

Number of live births to Swindon residents during the year - - - - - 1151

Number of stillbirths to Swindon residents during the year - - - - - 23

Included in "Other Classes" in this table are 347 visits to cases of infectious diseases and 371 visits to cases of tuberculosis.

HOME NURSING

Details of work carried out by Home Nurses

	No. of Cases
Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis)	143
Digestive diseases	85
Heart and Arteries	115
Veins and other circulatory diseases	33
Genito-urinary	96
Skin	227
Ear, Eye and other sense organs	65
Cancer (and other neoplasms)	50
Cerebral lesions of vascular origin	26
Infectious and parasitic diseases	258
Diabetes	32
Injuries	17
Tuberculosis	10
Bones and organs of movement (mainly rheumatism)	41
Pregnancy	38
Mental and other nervous diseases	4
Other diseases or ill defined	407
Preparation for X-ray examination	61

Total number of cases 1708

in respect of which a total of 22,098 visits were made.

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS

The Medical Loan Depot housed at the Health Centre continues to have regular demands made on it for nursing equipment and apparatus.

A summary of the equipment issued and the stocks held is given below.

		On Payment	On Free Loan	Stock at 31/12/55	Additions and Renewals
Invalid chairs	-	31	1	34	—
Air Rings	-	65	3	33	6
Waterproof Sheets	-	200	3	94	38
Bed Pans	-	195	2	84	27
Bed Rests	-	60	3	27	3
Bed Slippers	-	14	—	10	—
Crutches (pairs)	-	6	3	32	—
Urinals	-	30	1	16	—
Air Beds	-	2	—	8	—
Bed Cradles	-	9	—	10	—
Bed Tables	-	1	—	5	—
Mattresses	-	—	—	2	—
Inhalers	-	1	1	1	—
Walking Sticks	-	2	1	3	—
Feeding Cups	-	7	—	19	—
Diet Spring Balances	-	—	—	3	—
Electric Blankets	-	—	—	1	—
Rubber Bed Pans	-	—	—	5	—
Hot Water Bottles	-	1	—	19	—

			£	s.	d.
Hire payments received on appliances during the year ended 31.12.54	-	-	88	1	5
Hire payments received on appliances during the year ended 31.12.55	-	-	78	0	10

JAMES URQUHART.



