

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of Health, Swindon Borough.

Contributors

Swindon (Wiltshire, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

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BOROUGH



SWINDON

of

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1958



Report of the
PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1958

Report of the
**PRINCIPAL BOROUGH
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**
FOR THE YEAR 1958

Report of the
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES
FOR THE YEAR 1958

Copy of Report of the
AREA MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1958



BOROUGH OF SWINDON

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF

as at the 31st December, 1958

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEEHIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
ALDERMAN F. J. KING**Chairman:** Councillor L. C. Mobey**Vice-Chairman:** Alderman Mrs. L. R. Lock**MEMBERS:**

Alderman	R. S. J. Honey	Councillor	Mrs. G. L. Knapp
"	A. J. Bown	"	L. J. Newman
Councillor	A. M. Bennett	"	Mrs. K. M. Tomkins
"	F. E. Bishop	"	A. H. Pope
"	A. E. Camden	"	J. J. Meaney
"	T. R. Sealey	"	A. J. Beck
"	W. G. H. Hind	"	N. Toze
"	W. J. Homer	"	M. Webb
"	J. G. McKennedy		

TOWN CLERK

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

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

31st December, 1958

Medical Officer of Health - JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health - W. M. HISCOCK, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.Assistant Medical Officers of Health - S. B. S. SMITH, L.M.S.S.A., D.T.M. & H.
A. J. JENKINS, M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.Principal Public Health Inspector - R. A. LAW, C.R.S.I., M.P.H.I.A.,
C.M. and F.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector	-	G. HOLMES
Senior Meat Inspector	-	R. G. MARSHALL
Additional Public Health Inspectors	-	P. M. DALE W. L. JUDD J. G. HUGHES R. HAYWARD T. C. POPE
Pupil Public Health Inspectors	-	VACANT
Dental Surgeon	-	W. SIMKINS (Part-time)
Dental Attendants	-	Mrs. B. PELL (Part-time)
Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse	-	Miss E. M. CLARKE
Health Visitors and School Nurses	-	Mrs. C. M. BURNAS Miss A. HAWKINS Miss N. MACGREGOR Miss W. PARKINS Miss C. J. THORN Mrs. J. D. WALL Mrs. R. WILLIAMS Miss A. E. JONES
Domiciliary Midwives	-	Miss J. E. BLOCK Mrs. R. E. TAYLOR Miss I. POSTON ROBINSON Miss M. M. KENNEDY Mrs. C. M. WRIGHT Mrs. H. M. MORTIMORE Miss N. NEAL Mrs. G. M. TAYLOR Miss N. EVANS Miss D. HARE
Matron, Day Nursery	-	Mrs. A. DAVIES
District Nurses	-	Mrs. M. A. DUFF Miss E. E. M. BARKER Mrs. A. B. BUSHNELL Mrs. E. M. EGGERS Mrs. F. HISCOCKS Miss E. M. HULBERT Miss P. KIRKHAM
Domestic Help Supervisor	-	Mrs. E. M. SHURGOLD

Administrative Assistant and Chief Clerk	-	J. W. DAY
Senior Clerks	-	J. R. PELL Miss L. M. RAWLINGS
Assistant Clerks	-	F. C. MOSS Miss U. G. BOFFIN Miss P. A. MOLDEN Mrs. P. PUGH (Part-time) Miss K. M. S. SHERGOLD Mrs. M. VOCKINGS D. JAMES Mrs. D. HAZELL (Part-time) Miss K. PONTING Miss P. FULLUCK Miss M. H. SKULL Miss E. WILLIAMS Mrs. B. HODGES Mrs. O. DARLINGTON
Rodent Operatives	-	H. SNELL C. EAVES

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Mayor,

Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Swindon.

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1958.

Expansion of the town under the Town Development Act continues and the population of the town is increasing rapidly year by year. As well as the increase due to the influx of population the birth rate in the Borough is high—19.96 as compared with the rate of 16.4 for England and Wales and the death rate continues to be lower than for the country as a whole.

On the debit side attention must be directed to the high infant mortality rates which have been recorded in the past two years. Previously the infant mortality rate in Swindon compared very favourably with the National rate but in 1957-1958 it suddenly rose well above the National average. The infant mortality rate of 35.58 in 1958 is the highest recorded in Swindon since 1942. An attempt was made to assess why the infant mortality rose and some of the findings of the investigations are embodied in this report.

During the year there were no major epidemics but the incidence of measles and scarlet fever was considerably higher than was expected. Reference to this is made under the section of the report dealing with infectious diseases.

On the 14th October, 1957, Mr. Law was appointed Principal Public Health Inspector in succession to the late Mr. Banwell and we are now in the fortunate position of having our full establishment of Public Health Inspectors. The two pupil inspectors became fully qualified and were incorporated in the Staff and at the end of the year their places had not been filled by new pupils. The full complement of staff enabled us to catch up on most of the outstanding work of the department which accrued owing to previous staff shortages. A report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors is incorporated in this report.

As in previous years I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, for his permission to append the report on the services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which are delegated to the Swindon Area Sub-Committee. To complete the picture the report on the School Health Services of the Borough is also appended.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the staff of this department for their loyalty and support during the year. I would also like to express my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from the Officers and Staff of other Corporation departments and of the many voluntary associations who render such valued services to the Community.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART,

Medical Officer of Health.

Civic Offices,
SWINDON.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1958

Area of the Borough (acres)	-	-	-	6,361
Population (estimated for mid-1958)	-	-	-	80,260
Live Births—Legitimate	-	-	-	1,538
—Illegitimate	-	-	-	64
—Total	-	-	-	1,602
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	19.96
Still Births	-	-	-	31
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	.39
Deaths from all causes—male	-	-	-	462
—female	-	-	-	409
—total	-	-	-	871
Death rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	10.9
Deaths of infants under ONE year old	-	-	-	57
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	-	35.58
Deaths from Certain Important Causes:—				
Cancer	-	-	-	160
Respiratory Disease	-	-	-	98
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	4
Vascular and Heart diseases	-	-	-	443
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	1

BIRTHS**Live Births.**

The table shows the number of legitimate and illegitimate live births in Swindon in each sex with the comparable data for 1957.

LIVE BIRTHS	1957			1958		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	729	749	1478	788	750	1538
Illegitimate	39	37	76	35	29	64
TOTALS	768	786	1554	823	779	1602

Illegitimate births comprised 3.99% of the total live births in 1958 as compared with 4.89% in 1957.

The total live birth rate per 1,000 population rose to 19.96 in 1958 as compared with 19.95 in 1957. From the table given below it will be seen that this is the highest birth rate recorded in Swindon since 1947 and is appreciably higher than the rate for England and Wales which is 16.4 per 1,000 population:—

YEAR	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1948	17.6	17.9
1949	16.3	16.7
1950	15.1	15.8
1951	15.6	15.5
1952	15.2	15.3
1953	16.6	15.5
1954	16.08	15.2
1955	16.12	15.0
1956	18.29	15.7
1957	19.95	16.1
1958	19.96	16.4

STILL BIRTHS.

The following table shows the numbers of legitimate and illegitimate still births in Swindon in 1958 with comparable figures for 1957.

STILL- BIRTHS	1957			1958		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	19	12	31	13	16	29
Illegitimate	—	1	1	1	1	2
TOTALS	19	13	32	14	17	31

The 31 still births give a still birth rate for Swindon of 0.39 as compared with 0.41 for 1957.

It will be seen from the table below that this rate compares with that for England and Wales as a whole and the figure has remained fairly steady over the past five years. In view of the infant mortality figures which are referred to later in the report one would have expected the still birth rate to have shewn considerable variation this year.

YEAR	Still-Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1954	0.33	0.36
1955	0.32	0.35
1956	0.42	0.37
1957	0.41	0.37
1958	0.39	0.37

A comparison of the causes of death of still born infants in Swindon over the past four years as ascertained at post mortem examination is as follows:—

Causes of Still births at Post Mortem, Swindon, 1955-58

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Congenital abnormality	10	13	8	7
P.E.T.	5	0	8	4
A.P.H.	2	5	4	1
Rh. incompatibility	0	0	1	0
Birth trauma	1	2	0	1
Other causes	8	9	10	15
	26	29	31	28

DEATHS.

The chief causes of death are summarised in the extracts from vital statistics on page 6.

As in previous years the deaths from vascular and heart diseases which numbered 443 amounted to more than half of the total deaths.

During the year there were 160 deaths from cancer as compared to 126 in 1957. Of these 42 died from cancer of the lung and bronchus, and the table below gives the numbers of such cases over the past 5 years:

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION
1954	22	—	22	.315
1955	25	5	30	.420
1956	13	1	14	.189
1957	13	2	15	.192
1958	35	7	42	.523

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN SWINDON

during 1957 and 1958

Cause of Death	1958		1957	
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Tuberculosis—respiratory	-	4	4	7
Tuberculosis—other	-	—	—	2
Syphilitic diseases	-	1	1	1
Diphtheria	-	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	—
Meningococcal infections	-	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	—	—	—
Measles	-	—	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	14	12	17
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	35	7	42
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	—	8	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	—	3	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	44	37	81
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	—	2	2
Diabetes	-	—	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	57	67	124
Coronary disease, Angina	-	59	39	98
Hypertension with Heart disease	-	15	15	30
Other Heart diseases	-	87	104	191
Other Circulatory diseases	-	13	8	21
Influenza	-	—	—	14
Pneumonia	-	26	28	54
Bronchitis	-	27	12	39
Other diseases of Respiratory system	-	2	3	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	4	4	8
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	—	4	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	7	—	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	-	13	6	19
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	32	35	67
Motor vehicle accidents	-	5	3	8
Other accidents	-	6	4	10
Suicide	-	6	4	10
Homicide and Operations of War	-	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	462	409	871
				781

The following table shows the death rates per 1,000 population from various infectious diseases in Swindon, and in England and Wales during 1958:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION	
	Swindon	England & Wales
Tuberculosis - -	.049	.099
Influenza - - -	—	.053
Acute Poliomyelitis -	—	.0028
Pneumonia - - -	.67	.544

The table below shows how the death rate from all causes has altered in Swindon since 1948 with comparable rates for England and Wales:—

Year	Total Death Rate per 1,000 population	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1948	10.1	10.8
1949	12.0	11.7
1950	12.2	11.6
1951	13.2	12.5
1952	10.9	11.3
1953	11.6	11.4
1954	10.9	11.3
1955	10.6	11.7
1956	10.3	11.7
1957	10.02	11.5
1958	10.9	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
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
1956	321	4.34	81	1.09	10	1.35	121	1.63
1957	301	3.85	72	0.92	9	0.11	126	1.61
1958	340	4.23	98	1.22	4	.049	160	1.99

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
1957	41	6	7	40	156	531	781
1958	57	6	4	35	216	553	871

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During 1958 there were no maternal deaths in Swindon. It is only when we can report this happy position that we can achieve a maternal mortality rate below that for England and Wales.

The table below illustrates the position over the past five years:—

YEAR	NO. OF MATERNAL DEATHS IN SWINDON	Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
		SWINDON	ENGLAND & WALES
1954	1	0.89	0.69
1955	2	1.70	0.64
1956	—	—	0.56
1957	2	1.22	0.48
1958	—	—	0.44

INFANT MORTALITY

The Registrar General's return shows that 57 infants under the age of one year died in Swindon in 1958, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 35.6 per 1,000 live births. This rate is unusually high and compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Prior to 1957, the Swindon infant mortality rate had for many years been comparatively low but in the past two years there has been a dramatic rise although the still birth rate has remained the same. This is illustrated in the table given below:—

Table No. 1.

Year	SWINDON			ENGLAND AND WALES		
	Still Birth Rate	Neo Natal Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neo Natal Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1954	0.33	10.7	16.0	0.36	17.7	28.5
1955	0.32	15.6	20.8	0.35	17.3	24.9
1956	0.42	14.0	19.9	0.37	16.8	23.8
1957	0.41	19.9	26.4	0.37	16.5	23.0
1958	0.39	26.8	33.5	0.37		22.5

This situation obviously called for a thorough investigation and with the co-operation of the hospital authorities and their officers, particularly Dr. Neville R. Butler, Paediatrician, and Dr. G. C. Hickie, Pathologist, the infant deaths over the past few years were analysed to see whether any light could be shed on the reason for the sudden rise in infant mortality.

Some of the results of the investigation are as follows:—

The certified cause of death in infants under 1 year of age over the past four years are summarised in the following table (No. 2):—

Table No. 2.

CERTIFIED CAUSE OF DEATH		1956	1957	1958
Bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory conditions - -	3	7	5	18
Diarrhoea, enteritis and other internal disorders -	—	—	—	—
Congenital defects	7	7	8	17
Prematurity -	11	9	23	18
Other causes -	3	4	5	4

It will be seen from the table that the greatest increase in deaths is ascribed to Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory conditions. These 18 deaths were confirmed by post mortem examination but 14 of these babies were premature. It is possible that had there been no post mortem examinations some of these deaths would have been ascribed as solely due to prematurity. The deaths in this category were spread fairly evenly throughout the year and were not due to an epidemic. This group includes not only infants dying from pneumonia but also from non-infective conditions such as hyaline membrane and pulmonary haemorrhage.

The high incidence of congenital defects in 1958 is commented on later. The low incidence of gastro-enteritis as a cause of death is worthy of note.

An analysis of the ages at which these children died is as follows:—

Table No. 3.

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Died in 1st week of life	14	19	29	36
Died in 2nd week of life	2	—	—	3
Died in 3rd week of life	1	—	—	3
Died in 4th week of life	5	—	2	4
Died between 2 and 12 months - -	2	8	9	10

The number of deaths between the 2nd and 12th month has not increased proportionately since 1956.

An analysis of the birth weights of premature infants over the past four years is given in table (4) below:—

Table No. 4.

Weight in Grammes	1955	1956	1957	1958
1000 — 1500	5 (3)	5 (3)	18 (14)	20 (13)
1501 — 2000	16 (4)	15 (2)	27 (5)	28 (12)
2001 — 2250	22 (3)	27 (2)	21 (0)	25 (2)
2251 — 2500	48 (0)	56 (0)	58 (3)	50 (2)

The figures in brackets are the numbers of deaths in the group.

This table shows that over the past two years there has been an absolute increase in the number of lightweight babies born. In 1957 and 1958 the number of babies born under 4 lbs. 6 ozs. (or 2,000 grammes) weight was about double that of previous years.

In 1957 the increase in infant deaths over 1956 was accounted for almost exactly by the 14 extra deaths in babies weighing under 2,000 grammes. Likewise, the increase in 1958 was explained by the 20 extra deaths of babies under 2,000 grammes in that year, and also by 9 more deaths due to congenital anomalies in other weight groups.

In an effort to elucidate why premature births had increased, an attempt was made to assess the cause of prematurity for the babies born in hospital, and the results are summarised in table 5. These figures also include some cases from surrounding areas.

Table No. 5.

Assessed cause of prematurity in hospital cases.

	1956	1957	1958
Pre-eclamptic toxæmia	22	21	35
Twins	27	27	23
Ante-partum haemorrhage	3	13	13
Congenital abnormalities	5	6	11
Maternal illness other than above	5	8	6
Unknown	30	56	55
	92	131	143

The increase in premature births shown in table 5 was mainly in babies under 2,000 grammes. The major factor concerned in the increase in 1957 over 1956 was prematurity from "unknown" causes and from ante-partum haemorrhage. The slight increase in 1958 over 1957 was due to pre-eclamptic toxæmia.

The incidence of multiple pregnancy as a cause of prematurity has not increased.

The post mortem cause of death of premature infants dying in hospital are summarised in table 6 and comparative figures are given for full time children.

Table No. 6.

CAUSE OF DEATH	PREMATURE			FULL-TIME		
	1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
Congenital abnormality -	1	3	10	1	1	7
Birth trauma - -	3	7	4	6	2	0
Pulmonary condition -	5	9	14	0	3	1
Haemolytic Disease -	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other causes - -	2	10	3	1	1	0

The increase in deaths from pulmonary conditions in 1957 and 1958 is not a reflection of more respiratory infection but is an outcome of the increased number of deaths in small premature babies in those years, from conditions such as hyaline membrane and pulmonary haemorrhage.

This table also shows that there has been an increase in the number of babies dying from congenital abnormalities. There is, however, no evidence of any new factors which might account for this. It is known that certain virus diseases affecting a mother during the early months of pregnancy do increase the chances of her child being born with congenital malformation. From records available, it was not possible to correlate these abnormalities with the prevalence of virus infection in the mother. Again, if atomic radiation was suspect, then one would expect a similar rise in the incidence of deaths from leukaemia. The tables showing the causes of death (page 13) reveals that this is not so.

The types of congenital abnormality from which Swindon babies have died is summarised below—some of these were in still-born babies.

Table No. 7.

CAUSE OF DEATH	1956	1957	1958
Defects of Central Nervous System -	3	2	5
Defects of Cardio Vascular System -	3	4	5
Defects of Alimentary System -	1	1	2
Multiple Defects - - -	0	0	4
Other Defects - - -	1	0	1

Another change which has occurred in Swindon has been in the proportion of home and hospital deliveries as shown in table 8.

Table No. 8.

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Domiciliary deliveries -	532	695	783	787
Total Hospital deliveries*	768	852	930	1049
Hospital emergencies* -	200	251	351	413

* These figures include some cases from surrounding areas of Wiltshire County Council.

Table 8 shows that the number of hospital emergency admissions was doubled between 1955 and 1958. In table 8a, an attempt is made to assess the reasons for these emergency admissions, though it will be appreciated that causation is often multiple or complicated.

Table No. 8a.

**REASON FOR NON-BOOKED EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS
(Swindon Maternity Hospital)**

REASON FOR EMERGENCY ADMISSION (Analysed by F. C. M. Rant)	1955 (part)	1956	1957	1958
Premature Labour - - -	16	31	30	23
Postmaturity - - -	8	19	35	46
Toxaemia - - -	24	50	65	104
Antepartum haemorrhage - -	4	19	22	25
Hydramnios - - -	0	1	0	5
Disproportion - - -	4	0	8	21
Delay in labour, including Failed Forceps and obstructed labour -	13	21	20	45
Other complications of labour in- cluding:—P.O.P. - - -	6	12	21	27
Breech - - -				
Transverse lie - - -				
Prolapsed cord - - -				
Foetal distress - - -				
Twins - - -	1	0	4	8
Foetal abnormality - - -	1	0	4	3
Intrauterine death - - -	1	3	3	1
Maternal illness (other than PET) -	2	3	7	9
Rh. - - -	0	2	4	2
No ante-natal arrangements made -	5	8	8	9
Social (other than above) - - -	2	10	6	14
Post-natal admission:—				
Ill baby - - -	1	6	8	6
Ill mother - - -	0	8	10	7
Total emergencies - - -	200	251	351	413
Total emergencies analysed - - -	88	193	255	355

It will be seen that in the proportion of these emergencies which was analysed, the increased rate was reflected by a greater number of cases in nearly every category in 1958, but especially in cases admitted for toxaemia, disproportion and delay in labour. Cases admitted with post-maturity for induction have increased steadily throughout the years.

DOMICILIARY DELIVERIES

There were 775 domiciliary deliveries in Swindon in 1958.

A comparison was made of the parity of the mothers, where definitely recorded, and compared with figures for 1954:—

			1954	1958
Para 0	-	-	15	135
Para 1, 2 or 3	-	-	403	528
Para 4	-	-	15	27
Para 5	-	-	14	15
Para 6	-	-	3	4
Para 7	-	-	2	0
Para 8	-	-	1	1

The great increase in the number of mothers having their first child at home will be noted. Owing to pressure on maternity beds in hospital, it was not possible to admit all those who desired confinement there. All mothers applying for hospital admission were examined by the consultant obstetrician. If there were any medical indications for hospital confinement, they were booked for admission. If not the cases were referred to the Local Health Authority for a survey of the social circumstances. As a result of this the Medical Officer of Health either recommended hospital or domiciliary confinement. It has been the policy to admit to hospital mothers expecting their fourth or subsequent child. From the table given above it will be noted that a considerable number of such mothers were delivered at home, but in these cases hospital admission was not always accepted.

Only one first child born at home in 1958 died, so it would appear that this system of selection of mothers for admission to hospital does not appear to have had any material effect on the infant mortality rate.

Of the babies born at home in 1958, 41 were premature including 4 sets of twins. There were 6 neonatal deaths and with the exception of the one first child mentioned above the remainder who died were either second or third children.

The ages at which these children died and the certified causes of death are as follows:—

3 died in the first week of life—2 from congenital defects and 1 from prematurity. 1 died in the second week of life from broncho-pneumonia. 2 died in the third week of life—1 from congenital defects and one from broncho-pneumonia.

So far then the study of the facts available lead one to the following conclusions:—

- (1) More lightweight babies under 2,000 grammes (4 lbs. 6 ozs.) were born in Swindon in 1957 and 1958. An increased incidence of pre-eclamptic toxæmia and ante-partum hæmorrhage partially accounted for this rise in premature births but in many cases no cause could be established.
- (2) In 1957 the increase of deaths in babies under 1 year old compared with 1955 or 1956, was almost completely in those whose birth weight was under 2,000 grammes and in 1958 the increase was in the same category and in infants born with severe congenital abnormalities. A study of the type of congenital abnormality showed no increase in any specific type of abnormality, though numbers were small.
- (3) There has been no increase in the stillbirth rate.
- (4) Although the incidence of pre-eclamptic toxæmia is not known, more emergency admissions to hospital have been necessitated because of this reason, and it accounted for some of the increase in small premature babies.
- (5) Both the total births and the domiciliary rate have increased and these have been associated with more emergency hospital admissions. The main reason for the latter appears to be cases of toxæmia, disproportion and delay in labour.
- (6) The fact that more first babies are born at home has not materially affected the infant mortality rate.
- (7) It was thought that the influx of new population to the town might have had some bearing on the increased infant mortality. However, a study of the proportion of births and deaths on the new estates shows no significant increase in the death rates there.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in Swindon during the past five years.

It will be noted that in 1958 the only outstanding feature is a marked increase in the incidence of scarlet fever and the incidence of measles was rather high considering the considerable epidemic experienced in 1957.

Disease	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Acute Pneumonia -	35	26	16	19	11
Acute Poliomyelitis -	6	8	3	3	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria -	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas -	8	2	4	3	6
Dysentery, Food Poisoning -	6	51	152	25	80
Measles -	128	860	43	2,186	1,414
Ophthalmia Neonatorum -	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia -	52	52	55	55	56
Scarlet Fever -	62	16	22	31	206
Smallpox -	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary -	50	62	50	35	42
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary -	18	8	12	4	9
Whooping Cough -	200	209	57	314	74
Meningococcal Infection	—	5	1	2	2

POLIOMYELITIS.

For the first time in many years no cases of poliomyelitis were recorded in Swindon during 1958.

It is difficult to understand why the town has been so fortunate as even in epidemic years we seem to have had many fewer cases than one would expect in a town of this size.

During the year poliomyelitis vaccination was made available to older age groups and it is to be hoped that in future it will be offered to all who desire it. If a sufficiently large proportion of the population are immunised then this disease would cease to be an epidemic menace to the Community.

Details of the poliomyelitis vaccination position are given in the Area Health report. The table below gives the incidence of poliomyelitis in Swindon over the past 10 years.

CASES AND DEATHS FROM POLIOMYELITIS

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED	NUMBER OF DEATHS
1948	5	1
1949	5	0
1950	13	2
1951	5	0
1952	2	0
1953	11	2
1954	6	1
1955	8	1
1956	3	0
1957	3	0
1958	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

It is now nine years since a case of diphtheria was reported in Swindon and fourteen years since a death from this cause was recorded. Immunisation has undoubtedly kept this disease at bay but it could well again strike out with deadly blows at the unprotected. In the absence of the disease it becomes increasingly more difficult to persuade parents of the menace of diphtheria and of the necessity to safeguard children against it. It is hoped therefore, that as soon as they can be proved to be effective combined antigens will be introduced to minimise the number of injections required to protect the child against the serious infectious diseases.

The table below summarises the incidence of diphtheria in Swindon over the past 20 years:—

YEAR	NO. OF CASES	NO. OF DEATHS	YEAR	NO. OF CASES	NO. OF DEATHS
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
1946	15	0	1956	0	0
1947	9	0	1957	0	0

SMALLPOX.

No cases of smallpox occurred in Swindon in 1958.

Here again the only protection against this disease is vaccination but in the absence of cases it is frequently very difficult to persuade parents of the potential danger of smallpox.

With the speed of present day travel a person infected many thousands of miles away could arrive in the country during the incubation period and transmit smallpox to many unprotected contacts before the disease became manifest in himself.

Another factor in the resistance to vaccination is the fear of parents, particularly of girls, that the vaccination scars will be as disfiguring as it is in many parents. The modern technique of vaccination is such that the vaccination scar is a single mark of less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter.

During 1958 the number of children vaccinated in Swindon was 1139.

FOOD POISONING AND DYSENTERY.

The following table gives the incidence of Food Poisoning and Dysentery over the past five years:—

1954	—	6
1955	—	51
1956	—	152
1957	—	25
1958	—	80

Of the 80 cases notified during 1958 there were 72 of dysentery and 8 cases of food poisoning.

Each case of dysentery notified is followed up by a medical officer of the department and efforts are made to trace the source of infection and advise householders on the means of preventing the spread of infection. In such cases it is frequently established that infection is spread from person to person and one infected member of a household infects other members. Rarely is it possible to identify any particular food as being the source of infection. In almost every instance one finds on investigation that those infected have been in contact with others who have had similar symptoms but who have not felt ill enough to consult their doctor. One can assume, therefore, that the actual incidence of dysentery is much greater than notifications would indicate. In almost all cases the disease is very mild and the acute symptoms clear up in a day or two. However, such people frequently excrete the organisms for a considerable time after the symptoms have subsided and such persons can pass the infection on to others. Particular attention, therefore, must be paid to such carriers whom, by reason of their occupation, could readily pass infection to others. In such cases the person is suspended from their normal duties until such time as laboratory reports prove them to be clear of infection.

Food poisoning cases are similarly investigated by a medical officer and public health Inspector.

During the year there was one outbreak of food poisoning in a works canteen. Of the 75 persons who took lunch in the canteen that day 15 complained of feeling ill between 3—6 hours after eating the meal and two were admitted to hospital.

The only common articles of food consumed by those affected were a meat stew and gravy prepared from the stew liquor. The stew and gravy had been partly cooked the previous day and heated up before being served.

Unfortunately no specimen of the gravy was available for sampling and specimens from the two men admitted to hospital were unfortunately destroyed before submission to the Laboratory. The samples of the available food submitted to the laboratory showed no pathogens but a staphylococcus aureus was isolated from septic lesions in the cook's face and from a roller towel in the kitchen. The identical organism was also isolated from the stools of one of the affected patients.

One presumes, therefore, that the outbreak originated from the cook who infected the gravy. This infection could have been passed directly by the cook or indirectly from the roller towel by any of the canteen helpers. The fact that virulent organisms were found on the towel proves that communal towels can be a potential danger wherever they are used.

The only other cases of food poisoning notified in the Borough was almost certainly due to infected watercress.

An investigation was carried out for a neighbouring district where two persons were notified as suffering from food poisoning. The suspected food was boiled ham purchased in a Swindon shop. Investigations in the shop proved that the organisms isolated from the patients and the ham was also present in several samples taken from apparatus in the shop and from an infected lesion on the shopkeeper.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1958, 42 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, an increase of 7 over 1957, and cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis rose from 4 to 9. The table below shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases:—

NOTIFIED CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1958

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 5 yrs.	—	—	—	1	1
5—10 "	1	—	—	1	2
10—15 "	1	1	1	1	4
15—20 "	1	—	—	—	1
20—25 "	2	2	—	—	4
25—30 "	1	3	1	—	5
30—40 "	3	5	1	—	9
40—50 "	4	3	—	1	8
50—60 "	9	4	—	1	14
Over 60 "	2	—	—	1	3
TOTAL	24	18	3	6	51

The table below shows the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and of all types of tuberculosis, the case rate per 1,000 population, the number of deaths, and the death rate per 1,000 population, for each of the last 5 years:—

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1954—1958

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis				All forms of Tuberculosis			
	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.
1954	50	0.72	8	0.11	68	0.47	12	0.17
1955	62	0.86	8	0.11	70	0.97	8	0.11
1956	50	0.68	9	0.12	62	0.84	10	0.14
1957	35	0.45	7	0.09	39	.50	9	0.12
1958	42	0.52	4	0.05	51	.64	4	0.05

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board carried out a comprehensive survey in Swindon between 6th January, 1958 and the 3rd April, 1958.

During that time 21,151 persons were X-rayed, either at their places of work or at various sites in the town. Of those attending about 60% were examined during the previous survey.

In such a survey when some abnormality shows in the small film, those persons are recalled for a second X-ray on a large film and depending on the findings the medical director of the unit notifies the family doctor and recommends action when appropriate.

Practitioners were notified of abnormalities found in 239 patients. Of those found with diseased conditions which required treatment, 40 were already under medical supervision and a further 77 were discovered for the first time. Included in this 77 were 41 cases of tuberculosis and six of cancer of the lung. Of the tubercular cases 21 were considered to be active and 19 inactive. These persons are referred to the Chest Clinic through their own doctor and are there either given treatment or kept under observation as the case may be, and those in whom a diagnosis of active tuberculosis is substantiated are notified as such. The fact that only 7 more cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1957 than in 1958 means that of those cases discovered during Mass Radiography many either did not live in Swindon or the diagnosis of active disease was not substantiated.

WHOOPIING COUGH AND MEASLES

It will be seen from the table given below that during 1958 the incidence of both whooping cough and measles was much less than in 1957.

During this year the number of cases of measles was the highest ever recorded in the town and it is anticipated that in 1958 the incidence would be low. However it will be seen that 1,414 cases were notified and this figure is only 76 less than the previous highest recorded number in 1953. Again, as in 1957, in spite of the large number of cases no deaths from this cause were recorded.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 74 in 1955 as compared with 314 in 1957 and again no deaths from this disease were recorded:—

YEAR	MEASLES		WHOOPIING COUGH	
	Number notified	Number of deaths	Number notified	Number of deaths
1954	128	—	200	—
1955	860	1	209	—
1956	43	—	57	—
1957	2186	—	314	—
1958	1414	—	74	—

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year a total of 206 notifications of Scarlet Fever were received, the highest number since 1941.

54 cases were notified between March (27 cases), April (16 cases) and May (11 cases) and from October to the end of the year 123 were notified.

A suggestion was made by the Ministry of Health that some of these cases might be similar to cases of Erythema infectiosum which was at the time an epidemic in parts of Germany. No connection with the German outbreak could be traced and all the cases seen by me were typical mild Scarlet Fever.

From personal observations and from information received from general practitioners, the illness was generally of short duration and in few cases were there any complications. No deaths from this cause were reported. The disease was fairly evenly distributed throughout the town and it was generally easy to trace contact between cases.

The table below shows the number of notifications and the number of deaths during the past 5 years:—

YEAR	No. of Cases notified	No. of Deaths
1954	62	—
1955	16	—
1956	22	—
1957	31	—
1958	206	—

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	...	155
Candidates for Public Service Vehicle Licences	...	69
Entrants to Training Colleges	... ..	28
Other	... ..	106
		<hr/> 358 <hr/>

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the work carried out in the Public Health Inspectors' Department during the year 1958.

STAFF

In view of the additional duties arising from recent legislation and the expansion of the Borough, the establishment of the Public Health Inspectors' Department was increased by one Public Health Inspector.

Mr. G. Holmes was appointed to fill the vacancy of Senior Public Health Inspector and commenced duties on the 11th March, 1958.

Mr. R. Hayward and Mr. T. C. Pope, Student Public Health Inspectors, were successful in passing the examination for Public Health Inspector and were appointed to fill vacancies in the department as Public Health Inspectors on the 18th April and 8th December, 1958, respectively.

Two vacancies for Student Public Health Inspectors remained unfilled at the end of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the Food Handling Byelaws has afforded Local Authorities the statutory means of improving and controlling the standard of food hygiene at premises where food is prepared, handled, stored, sold, and during all stages of its distribution. It is, however, recognised that legislation in itself is not sufficient; a high standard of personal cleanliness for all persons engaged in the handling of food is also essential to ensure that food reaches the consumer in a clean, safe condition.

Every opportunity is taken by Public Health Inspectors during the course of routine visits and inspections to explain to food handlers the importance of clean personal habits and talks are given from time to time to employees of various firms and to members of other organisations, on the importance of clean food handling at all stages of its preparation and distribution.

During the year under review a total of 1,679 visits were made at premises, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, including premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream and premises used in connection with the preparation of meat or other foods.

24 new registrations were granted under Section 16 of the Act, most of these being in connection with the retail sale of ice-cream.

As a result of routine inspections 569 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found and it is pleasing to report that most of the food traders concerned readily co-operated and 603 infringements were remedied by informal action following advisory letters. It was, however, necessary to institute legal proceedings against one butcher for failing to provide and maintain suitable and sufficient sinks or other facilities for the washing of food and equipment used in connection with his butchery and cooked meat shop. In this instance the only facilities available were two galvanised buckets and two metal bins with a supply a hot water from a gas heater situated in a water closet some 80' from the shop. The defendant pleaded "Not Guilty" but the Magistrates found the case proved and a fine of £5 was imposed. (Regulation 19 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955).

Particular attention was focussed on food stalls, mobile shops and food delivery vehicles and two firms of bakers and confectioners were prosecuted under the Food Handling Byelaws for failing to keep the interior of bread delivery vans clean. In one instance the firm was fined £3 and a similar fine was imposed in respect of each of two offences on the other firm.

Proceedings were taken against a baker's roundsman for smoking while delivering bread and a fine of £1 was imposed in this case.

For selling chippolata sausages which were unfit for human consumption a firm of grocery and provision merchants were prosecuted under Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act and were fined £10 10s. with £2 10s. costs.

One company was prosecuted for selling a sausage roll containing a piece of wire. The company pleaded "Not Guilty" through their solicitors but the Magistrates found the case proved and imposed a fine of £10.

Several complaints were received during the year regarding foreign matter and other substances found in food including a complaint from a customer regarding glass-like particles found in a tin of salmon. This is a common complaint and the presence of these crystals in canned fish is not unusual. A similar complaint was received last year and reported more fully in the Annual Report for 1957.

Complaints were also received concerning the dirty condition and presence of foreign matter in dried apricots. As a result of these complaints samples of the fruit were procured and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that the samples contained an excessive amount of shell of the apricot nut together with smaller amounts of other admixture. The matter was taken up with the suppliers when it was found that the apricots were imported from Persia. Representations were made to the company concerned with a view to obtaining a higher standard of cleanliness in the sale of this commodity and, as a result of these representations, the company are now having the fruit analysed on arrival into this country and in cases where the full standard of hygiene has not been met the commodity is not being accepted for distribution.

As a result of a complaint, a piece of cheese containing a fly was submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that, in his opinion, the fly had been processed during the making of the cheese. The cheese had been purchased by the complainant from a local retailer and as far as could be ascertained the cheese was imported into this country and it was not possible to ascertain the name of the manufacturer. On the advice of the Legal Department no proceedings were instituted in this case but suitable warnings were given.

SAMPLING

31 informal samples and 213 formal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and particulars of these samples and the action taken in respect of samples which were reported as "Not Genuine" will be found on page 40.

3 samples of draught vinegar submitted to the Public Analyst were reported as being artificial vinegar made from dilute acetic acid and coloured, and their sale as vinegar was, in the opinion of the Public Analyst, not lawful, as the description "vinegar" may lawfully only be applied to a product of double fermentation, alcoholic and acetous and that the term "non-brewed vinegar" applied to an imitation produce which was a coloured, dilute solution of acetic acid, was a false description within the prohibitions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. No proceedings were recommended in these cases on the advice of the Legal Department as the barrels containing the vinegar when supplied from the manufacturers were marked "NON-BREWED CONDIMENT" and the retailers concerned had omitted to disclose that the product was non-brewed condiment when the samples had been procured. Warnings were issued to the retailers in these instances,

Information was received from an adjoining Food and Drugs Authority regarding apples suspected of being contaminated with arsenic and supplied from wholesalers within the Borough. The apples were found to be imported from The Lebanon and samples of these apples were obtained from the traders concerned who agreed to suspend the sale of this particular brand of apple until the result of the analysis was known. The result of the analysis, however, proved that the arsenical compounds were within the limits considered safe for human consumption and therefore no further action was deemed necessary.

One trader pleaded "Guilty" when prosecuted for offences under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925. The prosecution resulted from the procuring of a formal sample of pork sausages which was found on analysis to contain preservatives the presence of which was not disclosed at the time of sale and that the amount of sulphur dioxide present was in excess of the maximum permitted by the Regulations. The Public Analyst reported that the sample contained 503 parts per million compared with 450 parts per million, the maximum amount allowed by the Preservatives in Food Regulations.

The defendant pleaded ignorance of the Regulations but the Bench imposed a fine of £5 for each offence with £2 10s. costs.

174 samples of Milk were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination and details of these samples will be found on page 38.

32 samples of milk were sent to the Pathological Laboratory for biological examination and all were found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

9 samples of Ice-cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination and all these samples were found to be entirely satisfactory.

25 samples of Ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. As there is no statutory standard test for the bacteriological content of ice-cream the samples were graded in accordance with the Advisory Bulletin of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service, 1947, 18 of these samples being placed in Grade 1 and 7 in Grade 2.

MEAT INSPECTION

There was a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir and a total of 31,360 animals were slaughtered and inspected this being an increase of 5,512 over the total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1957.

Every carcase and offal is inspected at the time of slaughter and over 86 tons of meat, including 224 whole carcasses, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Of the 6,321 cows inspected 15.5% were found to be affected by tuberculosis compared with 18.4% in 1957.

The tables and graph on pages 41 and 42 give particulars of the animals slaughtered and inspected and the percentage of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis and cysticercosis.

Slaughtering was carried out on 7 Sundays during the year.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Housing repairs were carried out at 356 dwelling-houses during the year as a result of informal action under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. 2 Statutory Notices were served in respect of 2 houses requiring repairs and the work necessary to comply with these notices was carried out by the owners in each instance.

Two Compulsory Purchase Orders relating to eleven houses were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and these Orders were still awaiting confirmation at the end of the year and two Clearance Orders relating to seventeen houses were made but these Orders had not been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation by the end of the year.

As a result of action taken under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, one Demolition Order was made, one house and one part of a house were Closed, and one Undertaking in respect of an unfit house was accepted by the Local Authority.

78 persons, of whom 40 were re-housed by the Corporation, were displaced from unfit houses during the year under review.

DRAINAGE WORK

The drains of 266 premises were relaid or overhauled during the year under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors.

OVERCROWDING

The records of the department show that at the beginning of the year there were 11 cases of overcrowding affecting $83\frac{1}{2}$ persons outstanding. 7 new cases affecting $54\frac{1}{2}$ persons came to the notice of the department and 7 cases affecting $56\frac{1}{2}$ persons were abated during the year, leaving 11 cases of overcrowding affecting 82 persons outstanding at the end of the year.

For the purposes of the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act, in determining the number of persons occupying a dwelling-house, no account shall be taken of a child under one year old, and a child who has attained one year and is under 10 years old shall be reckoned as $\frac{1}{2}$ of a unit.

RENT ACT, 1957

74 visits were made to dwelling-houses in connection with applications and follow-up procedure under the Rent Act, 1957.

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair and Undertakings received, together with action taken under the provisions of the Rent Act, will be found on page 48.

As there is no obligation on the landlord to carry out repairs specified in an Undertaking or on a Certificate of Disrepair, appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Public Health Act to secure essential repairs being carried out in cases where the landlord has failed to remedy the defects.

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 arrangements were made for the burial of one such person.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Four Licences were granted during the year for the storage of rag flock and seven premises remain on the Register of Premises where upholstery, including the stuffing and lining of bedding, toys etcetera, is being carried out.

Seven samples of filling materials were submitted to the Prescribed Analyst and all were found to satisfy the standard of cleanliness prescribed in the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The dark smoke provisions and sections of the Clean Air Act dealing with grit and dust from furnaces and smoke nuisances came into operation on the 1st June. These provisions mainly affect users of boilers of industrial premises, commercial buildings and warehouses, but the dark smoke provisions equally apply to users of small stoves, boilers or open fires in shops, offices and dwelling-houses, but these are unlikely to be seriously affected by the provisions as they rarely produce dark smoke as defined by the Act, or emit grit or dust.

Certain defences are provided in the Act where emissions of dark smoke are proved to be solely due to the lighting up of furnaces from cold or due to the failure of apparatus or where the use of unsuitable fuel is made necessary because suitable fuel was unobtainable.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 also came into operation on the 1st June and exempts certain emissions of dark smoke which may at times be unavoidable, such as dark smoke produced by soot blowing or fire cleaning, and also permitted emissions of dark smoke for certain limited specified periods.

Section 2 of the Act provides a further defence available for a temporary period of seven years from the passing of the Act if it can be proved that any emission of dark smoke was due to the nature of the building or its equipment and that it had not been practicable to alter or equip the building so as to enable it to be used for the purpose for which it was intended without contravening the dark smoke provisions.

TWENTY-FIVE Certificates of Temporary Exemption were granted under Section 2(2) of the Act in respect of 26 furnaces used for heating steel or iron ingots. In each instance the Certificate was issued for a period of six months to enable certain experiments to be undertaken into the possibility of converting these obsolete type coal hand fired furnaces to oil burning or by the installation of mechanical under-feed stokers.

Certificates of Temporary Exemption were refused in respect of three incinerators used for the burning of sawdust and other trade refuse. Smoke emitted from the chimneys serving these furnaces was mainly caused by improper stoking or by serious over-loading of the plant, and, therefore, Certificates of Temporary Exemption were refused in these instances. Suggestions and advice on practical methods of operation of these furnaces were given to the furnace-men and management concerned.

No plans or specifications in connection with the installation of new furnaces were received for approval during the year.

A number of complaints regarding smoke nuisances were received and dealt with during the year under review. These complaints resulted mainly from excessive smoke emissions from industrial chimneys. Experience shows that much avoidable smoke is produced by incorrect use of plant by unskilled operators and numerous visits were made to the industrial premises concerned and advice given on the operation of the plant to abate and prevent nuisances.

It is pleasing to report that there are three Public Health Inspectors on the staff holding the specialist qualification for Smoke Inspectors, and during the year the Public Health Committee agreed to one other Public Health Inspector attending an approved course of training with a view to obtaining this qualification.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Two systematic treatments of the sewers were again carried out in the Borough and 496 manholes were baited for rat infestation and the percentage of sewer manholes showing evidence of rat infestation is shown on the chart on page 46.

The advantage of systematically baiting the sewers is clearly reflected in the results obtained over the past 11 years and the rat population of the sewers in the Borough remains at a comparatively low level.

Experiments were made during the year with a new method of baiting as suggested by the Infestation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which involved the use of suspended baits to replace the old method of baiting on the manhole benching. The results of this method showed that the number of takes could be more readily recorded but considerable difficulties were encountered from baits becoming detached thus causing choking of the sewers and it was found necessary to discontinue this method and revert to our previous system of baiting.

919 primary inspections and 1,475 revisits were made to premises in connection with investigations into rat or mouse infestations during the year and of these primary inspections, 256 were made as a result of complaints received. Treatment was carried out at 328 premises for the eradication of rats or mice.

Regular routine inspections for rat infestation were made at the Rodbourne Tip, Rodbourne and Broome Sewage Works and the Rodbourne Salvage Depot. The Tip remains practically free from rats but there was some infestation at the Sewage Farms where treatment was carried out. It was found necessary to provide permanent baiting points at the Salvage Depot, Rodbourne, where recurring infestation takes place.

Disinfestation for rats or mice was carried out at 71 business premises and in order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, these treatments were charged for at a total cost of £185 13s. 9d., which is recoverable from the occupiers of the premises concerned.

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

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

R. A. LAW,

Principal Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS—1958

Premises	Primary Inspections	Revisits
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936		
Dwelling houses on complaint - - -	891	1154
Dwelling house—no nuisance found - - -	292	6
Other premises - - - - -	171	124
Caravans - - - - -	98	92
Hide and Skin Depot - - - - -	7	18
Stables and Piggeries - - - - -	6	5
Theatres, Cinemas, etc. - - - - -	7	2
Licensed Premises - - - - -	9	3
Public Sanitary Conveniences - - - - -	2	1
Verminous premises - - - - -	38	46
Infectious Disease enquiries - - - - -	188	4
Drainage work under supervision - - - - -	305	705
HOUSING ACT, 1957		
Dwelling houses - - - - -	82	88
Dwelling houses—no defects found - - - - -	—	—
Houses inspected and recorded - - - - -	48	250
Overcrowding - - - - -	28	33
RENT ACT, 1957		
Dwelling houses inspected in connection with applications for Certificates of Disrepair, etc.	42	32
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955		
Bakehouses - - - - -	31	17
Butchers' shops - - - - -	103	56
Dairies - - - - -	29	11
Fish shops and Fish friers - - - - -	51	15
Food preparation and food storage premises - - - - -	60	10
Food shops/premises - - - - -	497	186
Ice-Cream premises - - - - -	43	20
Licensed premises - - - - -	54	69
Markets and Food stalls - - - - -	84	3
Restaurants, cafes, canteens, etc. - - - - -	142	89
Slaughterhouse - - - - -	607	—
Merchandise Marks Order - - - - -	104	5
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—SAMPLING		
Food samples—Bacteriological - - - - -	19	—
Food and Drug samples—Chemical - - - - -	131	—
Ice-Cream—Methylene Blue test - - - - -	25	—
Milk Samples—Chemical - - - - -	113	—
Milk samples — Methylene Blue/Phosphatase/ Turbidity tests - - - - -	174	—
Milk samples—Biological - - - - -	32	—
Carried forward	4,513	3,044

Premises	Primary Inspections	Revisits
Brought forward	4,513	3,044
OTHER SAMPLES		
Water samples—Bacteriological	49	—
Water samples—Fluorine	3	—
Water samples—Chemical	19	—
Water samples from Swimming Baths/Bathing Pools, etc.	16	—
Sewage Effluent samples	9	—
DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957		
Piggeries	12	—
AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956		
	34	9
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948		
Factories—mechanical	179	29
Factories—non-mechanical	32	6
Other premises—Building sites, etc.	18	2
Outworkers	4	2
CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956		
Dwelling houses	5	8
Factories and other premises	18	2
Smoke observations	30	8
SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS, 1947 AND 1951		
Hairdressers	57	1
Hawkers	13	5
Noise nuisances	13	15
SHOPS ACTS		
	25	2
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948		
	5	2
RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951		
Premises	6	11
Samples of Rag Flock and Filling Materials	7	—
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949		
	238	203
MISCELLANEOUS		
	3210	142
TOTALS	8,515	3,491

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food -	108
Premises registered for the Manufacture, Sale or Storage of Ice-Cream - - - - -	283
Registered Dairies - - - - -	15
Registered Distributors of Milk - - - - -	29
Wholesale Grocery / Confectionery premises - - - - -	8
Grocery and Provision shops - - - - -	74
Premises carrying on a Wholesale Margarine business - - - - -	8
General Food shops - - - - -	188
Bakehouses - - - - -	14
Bakers' and Confectioners' premises - - - - -	34
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars - - - - -	54
Works' Canteens - - - - -	29
Schools' Meals Services premises - - - - -	47
Wholesale Greengrocery premises - - - - -	8
Greengrocers' and Fruiterers' premises - - - - -	59
Wholesale Meat stores - - - - -	2
Butchers' shops - - - - -	77
Fishmongers' and Fish Friers' premises - - - - -	40
Wholesale Wine and Beer premises - - - - -	6
Licensed Hotels and Public Houses and Off Licenses - - - - -	108
Licensed Clubs - - - - -	38
Chemists' and Drug Stores - - - - -	24
Mineral Water Works and Wholesale Depots - - - - -	2
Sweet shops - - - - -	91
Wholesale Ice-Cream premises - - - - -	2
Warehouses used in connection with Travelling Shops - - - - -	6

SWINDON CORPORATION ACT, 1947

Premises registered as accommodation for food intended for sale from vehicles - - - - -	19
Hawkers registered for the sale of food from vehicles - - - - -	53

INFRINGEMENTS OF THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955, REMEDIED DURING 1958

	Remedied
Unsatisfactory premises - - - - -	—
Unclean or unsatisfactory equipment - - - - -	34
No protection from contamination - - - - -	2
Food placed lower than 18" from the ground - - - - -	6
Unsatisfactory personal cleanliness - - - - -	1
Smoking and taking snuff - - - - -	6
Unsatisfactory carriers or wrapping - - - - -	—
Unsatisfactory drainage - - - - -	1
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation - - - - -	61
Absence of Notice requesting washing of hands - - - - -	18
Absence of water supply - - - - -	—
Absence of wash basins - - - - -	38
Absence of hot or cold water supply to wash basins - - - - -	84
Absence of soap and/or nailbrushes - - - - -	35
Absence of towels - - - - -	11
Absence of First Aid Equipment - - - - -	27
Absence of accommodation for clothing - - - - -	21
Absence of sufficient sinks - - - - -	6
Absence of hot and cold water to sinks - - - - -	27
Absence of soap or detergents for sinks - - - - -	—
Absence of clean wiping cloths - - - - -	—
Unsatisfactory lighting/ventilation - - - - -	9
Food rooms used as, or communicating with, sleeping places - - - - -	4
Food rooms with unclean and/or defective ceilings - - - - -	66
" " " " " " walls - - - - -	89
" " " " " " windows - - - - -	13
" " " " " " doors - - - - -	4
" " " " " " woodwork - - - - -	8
" " " " " " floors - - - - -	17
Unsatisfactory protection against rodents/birds/insects entering food rooms - - - - -	1
Accumulations of rubbish etcetera - - - - -	6
Unsatisfactory temperature of food for immediate consumption - - - - -	—
Absence of name and address on stalls and vehicles - - - - -	3
" " covering of sides and backs of stalls and vehicles - - - - -	—
" " covered receptacles for waste and trimmings - - - - -	—
MEAT VANS	
Absence of impervious floor or duckboards - - - - -	—
Absence of receptacles for offal - - - - -	—
Offal not covered in receptacle - - - - -	—
Absence of cleanliness - - - - -	—
Absence of clean overalls/head covering - - - - -	—
Miscellaneous infringements - - - - -	5
TOTAL	603

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" - - - - -	20
Dealers' Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" - - - - -	7
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" - - - - -	21
Dealers' (Pasteurisers') Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" - - - - -	4
Dealers' Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" - - - - -	6
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" - - - - -	13
Dealers' Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" - - - - -	2

SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, GORSE HILL, SWINDON, DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

Designation	No. of Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested -	12	9	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) -	95	90	5
Pasteurised -	62	58	4
Sterilised -	5	5	—
TOTALS -	174	162	12

SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, GORSE HILL, SWINDON, DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

Designation	No. of Samples taken	Negative results	Positive results
Tuberculin Tested -	18	18	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) -	9	9	—
Pasteurised -	5	5	—
TOTALS - -	32	32	—

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
25	18	7	—	—

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.

SIX samples of Ice lollies were also submitted for examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

THIRTEEN Other Food samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Description	No. taken	
Tinned Stewed Steak (opened)	1	Culture: B. Coli
Tinned Stewed Steak	1	Sterile
Tinned Corned Beef	2	No Pathogens isolated
Chocolate eclairs	2	No Pathogens isolated
Portion of Cream Cake	1	Strep. faecalis isolated
Water Cress	3	B. Coli type 1 isolated from all 3 specimens
Ham	3	Staph. aureus Coag. positive isolated from 2 specimens 1 specimen satisfactory

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Samples procured	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Milk	111	2	113	—
Pork Chippolatas	1	—	1	—
Pork Sausages	4	—	1	3 (a)
Beef Sausages	4	—	4	—
Apples	—	2	2	—
Meat and Fish Pastes	—	8	8	—
Cheese Spread with Onion	—	1	1	—
Dried Fruits	6	—	6	—
Dried Apricots	3	—	1	2 (b)
Stewed Steak	4	1	5	—
Soup	5	—	5	—
Tinned Salmon	1	—	1	—
Beef Gulash	1	—	1	—
Bigos	1	—	1	—
Orange Drinks	2	—	2	—
Cordials	4	—	4	—
Squashes	2	—	2	—
Ice Cream	—	9	9	—
Ice Lollies	—	5	2	3 (c)
Baking Powder	—	3	3	—
Vinegar	12	—	8	4 (d)
Mincemeat	7	—	7	—
Jams	11	—	11	—
Honey	1	—	1	—
Peanut Butter	2	—	2	—
Marmalade	1	—	1	—
Butter	4	—	4	—
Margarine	2	—	2	—
Lard	1	—	1	—
Cheese	1	—	—	1 (e)
Bread	6	—	6	—
Flour	4	—	4	—
Whisky	3	—	3	—
Gin	3	—	3	—
Rum	3	—	3	—
Beer	3	—	3	—
TOTALS	213	31	231	13

- (a) Legal proceedings taken in respect of two of these samples and the other sample was found to be only slightly low in meat content and legal proceedings were not recommended in this case but the trader was warned.
- (b) No legal proceedings taken but representations were made to the suppliers regarding the presence of foreign matter found in these two samples.
- (c) These samples were found to be slightly low in sugar content. The trader was advised on the manufacture of this product and follow-up samples revealed that the sugar content had been considerably increased. No further action was recommended in these instances.
- (d) No legal proceedings taken in these instances but the traders were warned.
- (e) No legal proceedings taken in this case as it was not possible to trace the manufacturers.

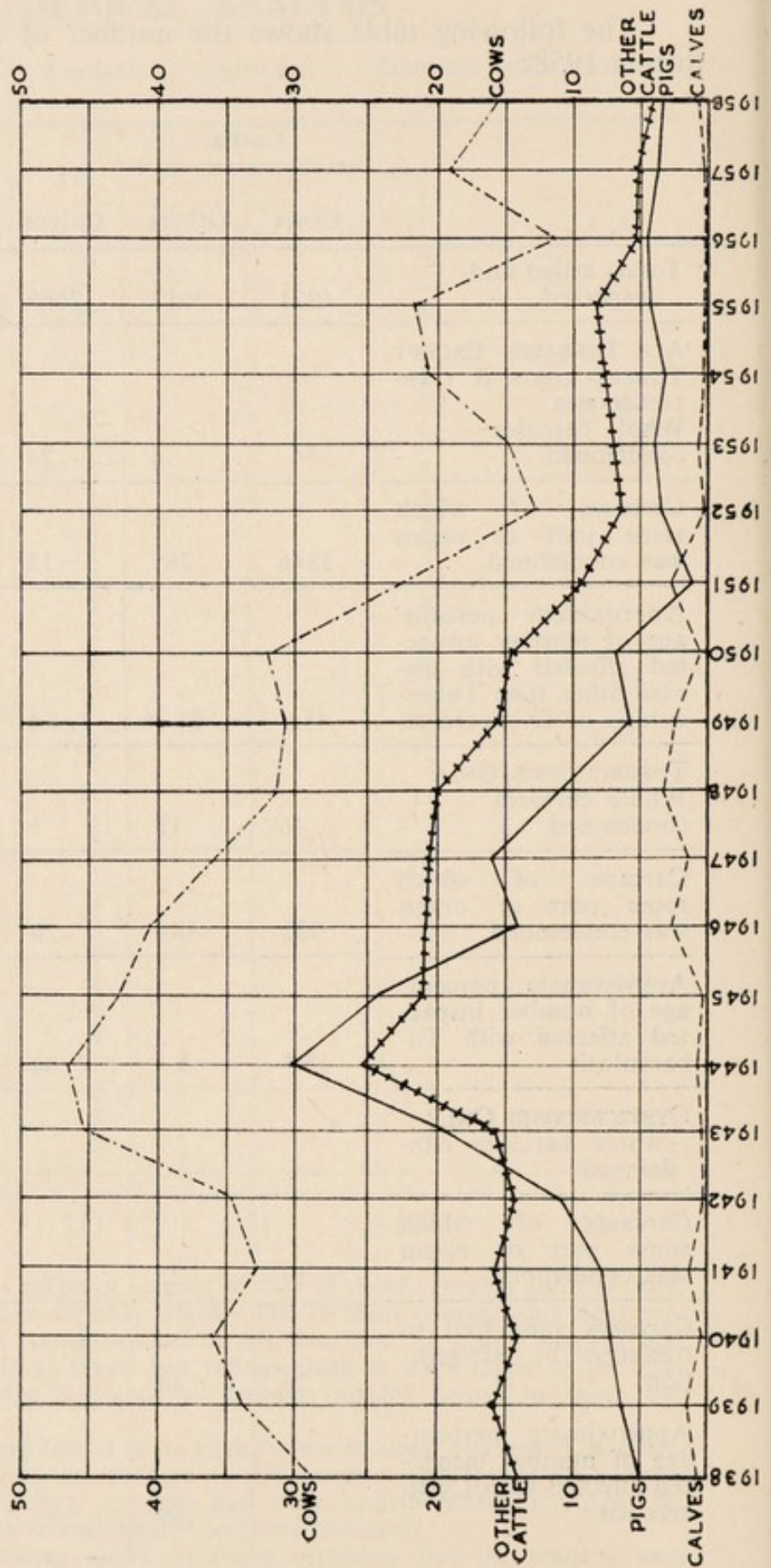
PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during 1958:—

	Cattle				Sheep and Lambs
	Cows	Others	Calves	Pigs	
Totals killed and inspected - -	6321	3617	2669	13319	5434
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYS- TICERCOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned - -	56	4	24	47	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	2846	765	13	2681	672
Approximate percent- age of number inspec- ted affected with dis- ease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticercosis	45.9	21.26	1.4	20.5	12.8
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned - -	46	12	5	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	932	144	20	464	—
Approximate percent- age of number inspec- ted affected with Tu- berculosis - -	15.5	4.3	.94	3.5	—
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY					
—whole carcasses con- demned - -	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned -	19	25	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion - - -	23	23	—	—	—
Approximate percent- age of number inspec- ted affected with Cysti- cercosis - -	.30	.69	—	—	—

**PERCENTAGE OF
CATTLE & PIG CARCASSES
FOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH
TUBERCULOSIS
FROM 1938 TO 1958**

CATTLE & PIG	
CARCASSES INSPECTED IN 1958	
COWS	6321
OTHER CATTLE	3617
CALVES	2669
PIGS	13319
TOTAL	<u>25926</u>



UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1958

						Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Unsound Meat and Offal	-	-	-			86	7	0	21
Other Unsound Food	-	-	-			5	10	2	20
TOTAL						91	17	3	13

Unsound meat and offal from the Abattoir are sold for processing and animal feeding. Other unsound food is destroyed at the Rodbourne Tip.

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	59	38	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	239	208	17	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	27	20	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1) - -	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s.2) -	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s.3) -	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s.4) - -	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6) -	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7) - -					
(a) insufficient -	3	4	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective -	66	46	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes - -	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork) - -	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS - -	73	54	—	1	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Numbers of Outworkers at August, 1958:—

Making, cleaning, etc. of wearing apparel	-	-	127
Making of curtains, furniture hangings, etc.	-	-	2
Making of receptacles of paper, cardboard, etc.	-	-	3
Furniture and Upholstery	-	-	1

TOTAL 133

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Inspections and Revisits during 1958:—

Type of Property			Public Health Inspectors'		
			Inspections	and	Revisits
Local Authority	-	-	9		8
Dwelling-house	-	-	116		132
Business	-	-	50		59
Agricultural	-	-	63		2
Other Premises	-	-	—		2
Inspectors' Totals	-	-	238		203

Type of Property			Rodent Operative's		
			Inspections	and	Revisits
Local Authority	-	-	84		106
Dwelling-house	-	-	433		865
Business	-	-	153		300
Agricultural	-	-	11		1
Sewer Manholes	-	-	815		1317
Operative's Totals	-	-	1496		2589

2. Premises baited in 1958:—

Type of Property			Number
Local Authority	-	-	25
Dwelling-house	-	-	231
Business	-	-	71
Agricultural	-	-	1
Sewer Manholes	-	-	496

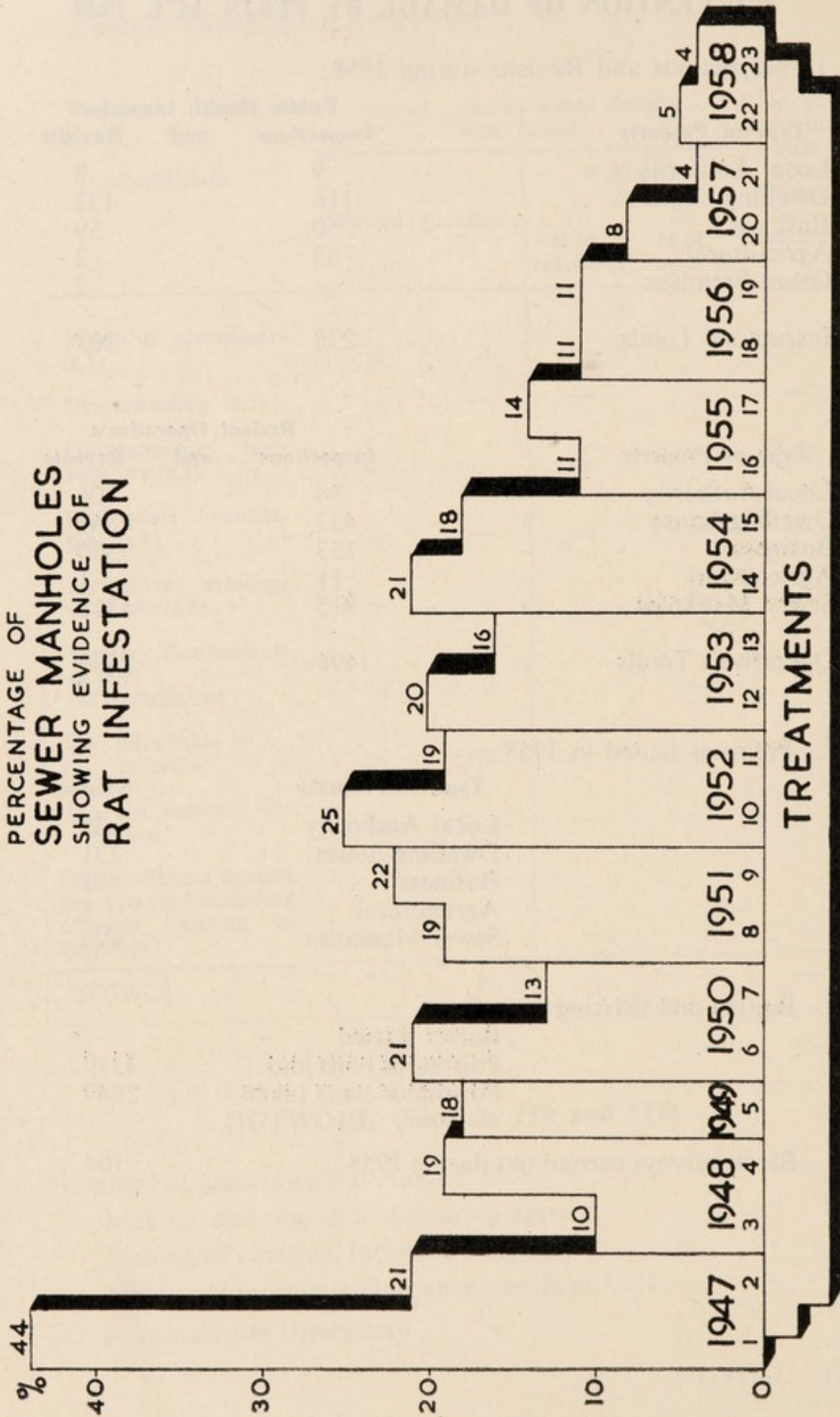
3. Baiting and Gassing:—

Buries gassed	-	-	—
Poisonous baits laid	-	-	4310
Poisonous baits taken	-	-	2649

4. Block surveys carried out during 1958

- - 104

PERCENTAGE OF
SEWER MANHOLES
SHOWING EVIDENCE OF
RAT INFESTATION



PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 and HOUSING ACT, 1957

NUISANCES ABATED and HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

Defective ceilings	-	-	-	-	46
Defective walls	-	-	-	-	164
Damp walls	-	-	-	-	170
Dirty rooms	-	-	-	-	8
Defective floors	-	-	-	-	48
Defective firegrates	-	-	-	-	20
Defective windows	-	-	-	-	110
Defective doors	-	-	-	-	32
Defective stairs	-	-	-	-	4
Defective coppers	-	-	-	-	2
Defective sinks	-	-	-	-	3
New sinks provided	-	-	-	-	25
Water services provided or repaired	-	-	-	-	10
Defective chimneys	-	-	-	-	28
Defective roofs	-	-	-	-	96
Defective eavesgutters and/or rainwater-pipes	-	-	-	-	85
Defective yard paving	-	-	-	-	6
Defective forecourt paving	-	-	-	-	2
Defective water closets repaired	-	-	-	-	8
New pedestal pans fixed	-	-	-	-	152
Defective flushing cisterns repaired	-	-	-	-	17
New flushing cisterns fixed	-	-	-	-	48
Additional water closets provided	-	-	-	-	74
Choked drains	-	-	-	-	105
Drains, new, repaired or relaid	-	-	-	-	266
Defective traps	-	-	-	-	1
Inspection chambers repaired or provided	-	-	-	-	122
Gullies repaired or provided	-	-	-	-	156
Drains tested	-	-	-	-	373
New baths fixed	-	-	-	-	159
New lavatory basins provided and fixed	-	-	-	-	188
Offensive accumulations removed	-	-	-	-	18
Offensive animals	-	-	-	-	—
Overcrowding abated	-	-	-	-	7
Food stores provided or ventilated	-	-	-	-	—
Rent books made to comply with the Housing Act	-	-	-	-	3
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	111

TOTAL 2,667

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses inspected	-	-	-	-	1673
Houses found to be defective	-	-	-	-	433
Houses rendered fit by informal action	-	-	-	-	367
Houses rendered fit by formal action	-	-	-	-	2
Informal notices served	-	-	-	-	271
Informal notices complied with	-	-	-	-	205
Statutory notices, Public Health Act:					
Served	-	-	-	-	2
Complied with by Owners	-	-	-	-	2
Statutory notices, Housing Act:					
Served	-	-	-	-	—
Complied with by Owners	-	-	-	-	—

HOUSING ACT, 1957, Section 77

Overcrowding

Houses overcrowded at end of 1957	-	-	-	11
Number of persons affected	-	-	-	83½
New cases of overcrowding found during 1958	-	-	-	7
Number of persons affected	-	-	-	54½
Cases of overcrowding abated during 1958	-	-	-	7
Number of persons affected	-	-	-	56½
Cases of overcrowding not abated at end of 1958	-	-	-	11
Number of persons affected	-	-	-	82

RENT ACT, 1957—STATISTICS

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	-	30
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates of Disrepair	-	1
Number of decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair:		
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	-	28
(b) in respect of all defects	-	1
Number of Undertakings received from landlords	-	17
Number of Undertakings refused by Local Authority	-	2
Number of Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects issued:		
(a) to the landlord	-	2
(b) to the tenant	-	2
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	20
Number of applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	-	9
Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	-	1
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	-	—
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled by Local Authority	-	9

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PROPERTY

Council owned, rooms disinfested -	-	-	349
Other property, rooms disinfested -	-	-	185
Lots of bedding disinfested -	-	-	38
Lots of bedding destroyed -	-	-	11
Other articles disinfested -	-	-	4

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE, etc.

Rooms disinfected -	-	-	259
Articles disinfected -	-	-	18,803
Library books disinfected -	-	-	289
Bedding from hospitals disinfected -	-	-	—
Bedding from private premises disinfected	-	-	317
Infected bedding destroyed -	-	-	20
Other bedding and miscellaneous articles destroyed -	-	-	27

FREE DISINFECTANTS ISSUED

Fluid — 185 pints

SWINDON CORPORATION ACT, 1951

Number of Hairdressers and Barbers on Register - 97

SHOPS ACT, 1950..

Matters requiring attention — 5 found — 2 remedied

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Premises licensed to store Rag Flock -	-	-	4
Premises registered -	-	-	7

**BOROUGH OF SWINDON
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
as at 31st December, 1958.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Alderman F. J. KING)

Chairman: Councillor C. S. MACPHERSON

Vice-Chairman: Councillor D. JONES

MEMBERS

Alderman	A. J. BOWN	Councillor	P. J. FURKINS
„	A. W. J. DYMOND	„	H. W. GARDNER
„	T. G. GAY	„	I. W. J. HOMER
„	R. S. J. HONEY	„	E. C. MUNDY
Councillor	A. M. BENNETT	„	L. J. NEWMAN
„	F. E. BISHOP	„	H. THORPE
„	G. BOND	Mrs.	J. FRANCIS
„	R. G. CRIPPS	Mr.	F. W. HAWKSWORTH
„	H. DIMENT	„	J. G. MASON

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr. O. D. GILMORE

Wing Commander H. A. LANGTON

Mrs. D. C. ORMOND

Mr. F. M. TAYLOR

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 1958 on the work of the School Health Service in Swindon.

During the year the expansion programme of the Borough under the Town Development Act was somewhat slower than in previous years. This is reflected in the smaller increase in the number of children on the school register, 881 as compared to 1,005 in 1957. The total number of school children on the register at the end of the year was 15,461.

To accommodate the increasing school population, new schools are being built, and during the year five new departments were opened, and others are nearing completion and should be ready for occupation early in 1959.

These new schools are bright, well ventilated, and well equipped, and such pleasant surroundings must reflect on well being of the children.

During the year an extension of the programme of poliomyelitis vaccination threw a heavy burden on the department and it was not possible to carry out as many periodic examinations in schools as was planned. Our activities too were limited by the shortage of Health Visitors/School Nurses, for although our establishment was increased to 12 we were 3 short of this number.

The position as regards dental care of the school population did not improve during the year and we were unable to recruit any whole time dental officers. However, in December, 1958, a candidate was interviewed and he will be taking up duties in January, 1959.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART,

Principal Borough School Medical Officer.

Civic Offices,
Swindon.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

A summary of the principal statistics for the year 1958 with comparable figures for 1957 is given below:—

	1957	1958
Number of primary and secondary school children on register (at 16th January, 1959) ...	14,580	15,461
Number of children examined at routine medical inspection ...	4,330	3,105
Number found to require treatment for diseases and defects ...	1,184	478
Number of dental inspections ...	2,264	1,886
Number referred for dental treatment ...	2,151	1,700
Number of children examined for part-time employment ...	82	116

SCHOOL POPULATION

The estimated population of the Borough of Swindon at mid-year 1958 was 80,260. There was at the end of 1958 a total of 15,461 children on the registers of the primary and secondary schools of Swindon (including the Central School). This is an increase of 881 over the school population at the end of 1957 and 1,886 over 1956.

STAFF

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

1. MEDICAL

Dr. A. McGregor	resigned	31/8/58
Dr. W. M. Hiscock	commenced	27/10/58

2. DENTAL

Mr. W. Simkins	commenced part time	12/7/58
Mrs. B. Pell	commenced part time	12/7/58

3. SCHOOL NURSES

Miss B. Clark	resigned	5/12/58
Mrs. C. Burnas	commenced	15/12/58

4. SPEECH THERAPIST

Mrs. M. Watt	commenced part time	29/9/58
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MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year periodic medical examinations were carried out in accordance with the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations 1953.

As in previous years the majority of the periodic medical inspections at the two Grammar Schools were carried out (at School Clinics) during the summer holiday so as to avoid interference with the work of the schools as far as possible.

The total number of pupils examined in 1958 and in each of the preceding four years is shown in the table below, together with the total number found to be suffering from diseases and defects (excluding dental caries and uncleanness) which required some form of treatment.

YEAR	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
No. of children examined	3,105	4,330	3,084	3,519	3,054
No. of children found to have defects needing treatment	478	1,184	852	1,121	738
Percentage of children examined needing treatment	15.39	27.3	27.6	31.8	24.1

It will be seen that 1,225 fewer children were medically examined during 1958 than in 1957. This was due to several breaks in the medical examination programme in order that the School Medical Officers could carry out the extra poliomyelitis vaccination sessions required.

There was, nevertheless, a considerable drop in the number of children found to have defects requiring treatment. This is very satisfactory and it is hoped that this low figure will continue. Details of the findings at periodic medical inspections are given in the table on page 54, together with the comparable data for 1957.

The number of children with defects of the nose and throat referred for treatment fell considerably being only 1.03% but in comparison, more were kept under observation. As in 1957, records were kept, at the request of the Ministry of the number of children found to have had their tonsils removed when examined at periodic medical inspections. The table below shows the number examined of each sex for this purpose in each age group and the number and percentage found to have undergone tonsillectomy.

It will be noticed that the total percentage of children who have undergone tonsillectomy has fallen slightly. This is to be expected as this operation is now only undertaken when definite disease is present causing a deterioration in the general health of the child.

Age Group	Sex	No. Examined	No. undergone Tonsillectomy	Percentage with Tonsils removed
INFANTS	Boys	542	19	3.5%
	Girls	528	19	3.6%
JUNIORS	Boys	625	147	23.5%
	Girls	703	132	18.7%
SECONDARY AND GRAMMAR	Boys	310	86	28%
TOTALS	Girls	185	52	28%
	Boys	1,477	252	17%
	Girls	1,416	203	14.3%

DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958, WITH COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1957

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections No. of defects			
	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	
	1958	1957	1958	1957
Skin - - -	34	165	39	64
Eyes :—				
(a) Vision - -	215	384	210	215
(b) Squint - -	29	65	28	25
(c) Other - -	5	31	7	12
Ears :—				
(a) Hearing - -	19	11	26	22
(b) Otitis Media - -	13	17	20	24
(c) Other - -	2	12	4	4
Nose or Throat - -	32	101	84	118
Speech - -	17	18	27	44
Lymphatic Glands - -	3	4	10	30
Heart and Circulation - -	14	20	92	140
Lungs - -	25	40	95	110
Developmental :—				
(a) Hernia - -	1	21	2	7
(b) Other - -	9	12	46	25
Orthopaedic :—				
(a) Posture - -	31	42	27	18
(b) Feet - -	15	47	23	34
(c) Other - -	26	81	42	85
Nervous system :—				
(a) Epilepsy - -	4	4	10	7
(b) Other - -	11	32	24	23
Psychological :—				
(a) Development - -	4	9	6	33
(b) Stability - -	9	12	47	46

CLASSIFICATION OF PHYSICAL CONDITION

As in the past two years the nutritional status and general physical condition of the children was classified as either "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory."

In all age groups more than 99.5% were assessed as "satisfactory," only 0.13% of the total number of children examined being found to be "unsatisfactory."

In 1957 0.23% were found to be "unsatisfactory" so that a slight improvement has been observed.

Year of Birth	No. of pupils inspected	No. satisfactory	Percentage satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	Percentage unsatisfactory
1954 & later	66	66	100%	1	.12%
1953	865	864	99.88%		
1952	167	167	100%		
1951	64	64	100%		
1950	10	10	100%		
1949	9	9	100%		
1948	8	8	100%	2	.27%
1947	922	920	99.73%		
1946	508	507	99.80%		
1945	48	48	100%		
1944	9	9	100%		
1943 & later	429	429	100%		
TOTALS	3105	3101	99.87%	4	.13%

CLEANLINESS

During 1958 the School Nurses carried out a total of 23,806 inspections for uncleanness, and a total of 253 individual children were reported as infested (1.63% of the school population) compared with 143 in 1947 (0.98% of the school population). This definite increase in uncleanness is very disappointing after several years of a slow but steady fall. Time after time it is found that children from the same families are found to be infested and after cleansing are soon again re-infested. One must conclude, therefore, that these children are being re-infested from older members of the family. Although every effort is made to encourage cleanliness of the whole household it is most difficult to gain the co-operation of those over whom we have no control. All unclean children are excluded from schools to be treated at the School Clinic or at home provided the parents agree to co-operate.

SCHOOL CLINICS

The principal School Clinics are located at Eastcott Hill and Pinehurst and are used as follows:—

Eastcott Hill Clinic

Minor Ailment Clinics are held each morning on Monday to Saturday inclusive.

Speech Therapy Clinics are held each afternoon, Monday to Friday inclusive.

Dental Clinics — Three Sessions weekly.

Child Guidance — Two Sessions monthly.

Immunisation Clinics on alternate Thursday afternoons.

The Clinic is also used for Special and Routine School Medical Inspections, Observations, etc.

Pinehurst Clinic

Minor Ailment Clinics are held each morning — Monday to Friday inclusive.

Speech Therapy — on Monday mornings.

Dental—as often as can be arranged.

Immunisation — on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

The Clinic is also used for Special and Routine School Medical Inspections, Observations, etc.

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 requires special observation, are seen at these clinics.

During 1958 504 consultations were held at observation clinics.

OTHER MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Special medical inspections and re-inspections were carried out on 1,279 primary and secondary school children. The figure for 1958 and 1957 are as follows:—

	1957	1958
Number of inspections ...	1,427	1,279
Number of re-inspections ...	719	715

An analysis of the 1957 and 1958 figures is shown in the table of special examinations on the next page.

**DEFECTS FOUND AT SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958, WITH
COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1957**

Defect or Disease	Special Examinations No. of defects			
	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	
	1958	1957	1958	1957
Skin - - -	855	639	109	65
Eyes :—				
(a) Vision - -	116	185	92	157
(b) Squint - -	5	5	1	8
(c) Other - -	95	127	7	13
Ears :—				
(a) Hearing - -	16	5	7	7
(b) Otitis Media - -	3	5	1	4
(c) Other - -	51	35	14	14
Nose or Throat - -	53	41	36	81
Speech - - -	20	17	9	27
Lymphatic Glands - -	—	4	—	5
Heart and Circulation	5	4	21	21
Lungs - - -	32	27	35	33
Developmental:—				
(a) Hernia - -	—	1	—	—
(b) Other - -	4	5	10	10
Orthopaedic :—				
(a) Posture - -	13	21	14	32
(b) Feet - -	58	150	27	72
(c) Other - -	259	86	56	42
Nervous system :—				
(a) Epilepsy - -	—	—	—	—
(b) Other - -	33	10	19	29
Psychological :—				
(a) Development - -	2	2	2	2
(b) Stability - -	11	9	3	3
Other - - -	246	317	145	96

PLANTAR WARTS

No one school had a particularly high incidence of plantar warts in 1958 and the special treatment clinics were discontinued, treatment being provided instead at the ordinary Minor Ailment Clinics. 231 cases were treated in 1958 despite every effort to limit the spread of the infection.

CONSULTANT CLINICS

Consultant clinics in Swindon are now held on Regional Hospital Board premises and any child found on examination by a School Medical Officer to need hospital treatment, or a Specialist'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.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

The Ophthalmic Specialists held their clinics in the Ophthalmic Department of Community House, Faringdon Road, Swindon, and the table below gives details of the number of school children who attended. It will be seen that the number of cases still on the waiting list has decreased to 34—a much more satisfactory position.

	1957	1958
Number of Clinics held ...	190	178
Number of attendances ...	2,399	2,415
At the end of December, 1958, the position was as follows:—		
Number of cases referred and not seen	96	34
Number of cases already seen and referred for re-examination:—		
In three months ...	29	32
In six months ...	135	257
In one year ...	5	39

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

During 1958 18 school children were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic held in the G.W.R. Hospital as compared with 22 in 1957. It is not known how many Swindon school children were referred from other sources as the appointments are no longer arranged in this Department.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINICS

45 children were referred in 1958, as compared with 64 in 1957. There has been an improvement in the waiting period for consultation and operation and there is no delay in obtaining appointments to see the specialist.

Number of cases known to have received operative treatment during 1958:—

(a) for diseases of the ear ...	23
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ...	236
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ...	52
No. of cases known to have received other forms of treatment ...	9
No. of cases known to have been provided with hearing aids during 1958 ...	5

PAEDIATRIC CLINIC

34 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers in 1958 as compared with 36 in 1957. As in 1957 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 from other sources.

SPECIAL CLINICS

REMEDIAL EXERCISES. Number of children receiving treatment at the end of 1958:—

Infant School Children	...	...	...	67
Junior School Children	...	...	...	60
Secondary Modern and Secondary Grammar School Children	...	...	...	108
				<hr/> 235 <hr/>

During 1958 instruction and supervision in remedial exercises have been given to all children referred by the School Medical Officers to the Remedial Gymnast, a total of 156 children being referred during the year. The progress of the children was supervised closely, 296 children being seen for review and reassessment during the year.

The children treated mainly fall into three categories, those with foot defects, those with postural defects, and those suffering from bronchitis or asthma. The table below shows the number of children in each of these classes receiving treatment at the end of the year, and the number discharged during the year because they no longer required treatment.

	Under treatment at end of 1958	Discharged during 1958
Foot Defects	99	90
Postural Defects	76	68
Chest Defects	53	24
Other Defects	7	2
TOTAL	235	184

SPEECH THERAPY

Throughout the year Miss Hall, the County Council Speech Therapist, devoted 2 sessions each week to Swindon children.

Mrs. Watt commenced her duties as Speech Therapist on a part-time basis on 29.9.58, devoting 5 sessions each week to Swindon children.

Due to the shortage of staff only 4 visits were paid to schools during 1958 and at present only the most seriously handicapped children can be treated, and even then often only after a prolonged delay.

The table below gives details of the service provided in 1958:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of children seen	60	19	79
Number of attendances	551	115	666
Number of children discharged	8	6	14
School visits		4	

Of the children seen and treated about 2/3rds of them suffered from dyslalia of varying degrees of severity, and the remainder from stammering defects.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The Education Authority is responsible for the ascertainment of all handicapped children over the age of 2 years who require special educational treatment.

As a general principle handicapped children attend ordinary schools provided they are able to benefit by the education offered and do not disturb other children by their presence.

Children are not removed from their homes to residential institutions unless they would obviously benefit from the transfer or unless their presence in the day school is prejudicial to other children. A few of these children are ascertained in early infancy and referred to the School Health Service when they reach the age of 2 years. Many are referred by the head teachers shortly after admission or at the first periodic medical inspection and some are brought to notice after illness or prolonged hospital treatment.

In 1958 the number and type of handicapped pupils in Swindon remained substantially similar to the findings of 1957.

The number of handicapped pupils ascertained to be in need of special educational treatment in 1958 was 24, the same as in 1957. The number of pupils placed in special schools was 10 in 1958 and there were 3 children still awaiting places in boarding special schools at the end of the year, as compared with 7 placed and 6 waiting 1957. There was no waiting list for the Central Primary School at the end of the year as the number of children who left the school during the year was more than the number of new places required.

At the end of 1958 there were 75 children in the Central Primary School (85 in 1957) and 27 children in boarding special schools (28 in 1957).

2 children were receiving Home Tuition for physical handicaps at the end of the year (3 in 1957), and 7 were attending the Spastic Unit, including 2 County children.

During 1957 2 children were reported to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act 1944 as ineducable, none were notified under Section 57 (4), and 3 were notified under Section 57 (5), the same number as in 1957.

Details regarding the different categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment are contained in the "School Health Services and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953" as follows:—

(a) Blind Pupils

"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."

Number of Blind Children ascertained during the year	...	...	...	...	1
				(aged 3 years)	
Number of Blind Pupils admitted to Special Schools for the Blind during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of blind pupils in Special Schools for the Blind	...	...	...	...	2

These 2 children are:—

1 girl (aged 7 years) transferred from the Sunshine Homes for the Blind to the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym.

1 boy (aged 13 years) admitted to the West of England School for the Blind, Exeter, in August, 1958.

(b) Partially Sighted Pupils

"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."

Number of partially sighted pupils ascertained during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of partially sighted pupils admitted to Special Schools during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of partially sighted pupils in Special Schools for Partially Sighted Children	...	...	...	...	5

These children were all admitted to the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils in the following order:—

2 boys aged 15 years have been attending since September, 1952.

1 boy aged 12 years has been attending since January, 1953.

1 boy aged 10 years has been attending since September, 1953.

1 boy aged 11 years has been attending since February, 1956.

(c) Deaf Pupils

“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.”

Number of deaf pupils ascertained during the year	Nil
Number of deaf pupils admitted to Special Schools during the year	Nil
Total number of pupils in Special Schools for the Deaf	8

These are as follows:—

One boy aged 10 years has been attending St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke, since May, 1953.

One boy aged 12 years has been attending St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke, since January, 1954.

One girl aged 8 years has been at The Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby, since January, 1956.

One girl aged 15 years has been at the Royal School for Deaf and Dumb, Margate, since June, 1956.

One boy aged 7 years was admitted to Donnington Lodge School for the Deaf, Newbury, on the 13th November, 1955.

One boy aged 11 years is attending St. John's Residential School for the Deaf.

One boy aged 11 years is attending the Royal West of England School for the Deaf.

One girl aged 12 years has been at the Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby, since September, 1953.

One girl aged 16 years was discharged from the Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby, during 1958.

(d) Partially Deaf Pupils

"Pupils who have some naturally acquired speech and language but whose hearing is so defective that they require further education, special arrangements or facilities though not necessarily all the educational methods used for deaf pupils."

Number of partially deaf pupils ascertained during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of partially deaf pupils admitted to Special Schools during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of pupils in Special Schools for Partially Deaf Children	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of children known to have been provided with Hearing Aids	...	...	...	...	15

(e) Educationally Sub-normal Pupils

"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."

After ascertainment educationally sub-normal pupils are admitted to the Central School, unless it is considered that they should continue at their ordinary school with extra tuition in the basic subjects.

During 1958, 25 new cases were examined and were grouped as follows:—

Number of E.S.N. children recommended for admission to the Central School	...	...	...	...	4
Number of E.S.N. children recommended for Special Educational treatment at the Ordinary School	...	...	...	...	18
Number of E.S.N. children recommended for education at a Residential School for E.S.N. pupils	...	...	...	...	2
Number of children reported to the Local Authority as being ineducable during the year	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of E.S.N. children on the register at the Central School	...	...	...	...	75
Total number of E.S.N. children at Ordinary Schools	...	...	...	...	49

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

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

1 was reported to the Local Health Authority as being ineducable.

- 2 continue to receive special educational treatment within the ordinary school.
- 3 were placed under the friendly supervision of the Local Health Authority after leaving school.
- 2 were recommended for education at a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.
- 4 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 and Delicate pupils (since left the area).
- 6 were recommended for return to the ordinary school system.

(f) Epileptic Pupils

"Pupils who by reason of epilepsy cannot be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools without detriment to themselves or other pupils."

Number of epileptic pupils ascertained during the year	...	...	...	...	2
Number of epileptic pupils admitted to Special Schools during the year	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of epileptic pupils in Special Schools for Epileptic Pupils	...	...	...	...	2

(g) Maladjusted Pupils

"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."

Number of pupils with psychological disturbance ascertained during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of maladjusted pupils admitted to Special Schools for maladjusted pupils during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of maladjusted pupils in Special Schools, Hostels, etc.	...	...	...	2

These are:—

One boy aged 11 years has been at The Mount Special School, Chepstow, since October, 1955.

One boy aged 8 years (transfer in) was at Southfields Hostel, Ilminster, at the end of 1958.

One boy aged 15 years was discharged from Cam House, Dursley, Gloucester, during 1958.

One boy aged 14 years, one boy aged 10 years, one boy aged 12 years and one boy aged 13 years were discharged from Southfields Hostel, Ilminster, during 1958,

(h) Physically Handicapped Pupils

“Pupils not suffering solely from a defect of sight or hearing who by reason of disease or crippling defect cannot, without detriment to their health or educational development, be satisfactorily educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools.”

Number of physically handicapped pupils ascertained during the year	2
Number of physically handicapped children admitted to Special Schools for Handicapped Pupils	2
Total number of physically handicapped children in Special Schools for Physically Handicapped, Spastic Unit, or having Home Tuition ...	12

(i) Pupils suffering from Speech Defect

“Pupils who on account of defect or lack of speech not due to deafness, require special educational teaching.”

Number of pupils with speech defect ascertained during the year	Nil
Number of pupils with speech defect admitted to Special Schools during the year	Nil
Total number of children with speech defect in Special Schools	Nil

(j) Delicate Pupils

“Pupils not falling under any other category 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.”

Number of delicate pupils ascertained during the year	Nil
Number of delicate pupils admitted to Special Open Air Schools during the year	Nil
Total number of delicate pupils in Residential Open Air Schools	2

These are :—

- 1 boy aged 15 years has been at Park Place School, Henley-on-Thames, since September, 1956.
- 1 boy aged 15 years (transfer in) is at The Hatchford Park Special School.
- 1 boy aged 10 years was discharged from the Residential Open Air School, Banstead, Surrey, during 1958.

SPASTIC PARALYSIS

The majority of the children affected by Spastic Paralysis are handicapped from birth, for the condition is due to damage to or imperfect development of the brain.

Children suffering from this handicap fall into the category of physically handicapped pupils, but they often present certain special problems, since their brain lesion may be responsible for mental retardation coupled with, or influenced by their 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 1958 there were, as in 1957, 7 pupils on the roll, 5 being Swindon children, and the other 2 from the surrounding areas, of these 7 pupils, 4 were predominantly spastic, 1 athetoid and 2 hemiplegic.

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 voluntarily in rotation to help in the general management of the children.

School meals and milk for the children attending the unit are subsidised by the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee.

PHYSICAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN

I am indebted to the Borough Education Officer for the details of the School Milk and School Meals given below.

Milk in Schools Scheme

Total number primary children taking milk, 7,636 representing 92.2% of children attending school at the time (4,019 representing 95.4% in 1957).

Total number secondary children taking milk, 4,863 representing 80.1% of children attending school at the time (2,499 representing 69.4% in 1957).

Total number Central Primary children taking milk, 68 representing 87.2% of children attending school at the time (41 representing 91% in 1957).

Number of school departments supplied is 50.

All milk supplies to schools is pasteurised and samples are examined at regular intervals, and any complaints regarding it are reported to the Principal Borough School Medical Officer.

MEALS IN SCHOOLS

	1957	1958
Number of school canteens	43	53
Number of school children taking meals ...	1770	3503
Number of children taking free meals ...	74	145

DYSENTERY

During November and December of 1958, 56 cases of dysentery were notified from the Walcot area, the majority of them being schoolchildren. Each case was thoroughly investigated, the homes of each household being visited and specimens of the stools of all contacts sent to the Laboratory. All schoolchildren found to have Sonne Dysentery were excluded from school until their symptoms had disappeared and, after treatment had negative specimens of stools.

Careful study of the epidemic showed that the actual number of cases was far higher than those notified, as many children had such a mild infection that their parents considered they were not ill enough to stay away from school or to need medical treatment. These children, no doubt, caused the disease to spread in the schools through defective personal hygiene.

PROTECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

The vaccination of children of the 13-14 year age group against Tuberculosis continued in 1958, using freeze dried B.C.G. vaccine instead of the fresh liquid B.C.G. vaccine used previously.

The parents of all children of this age group were circularised, and the nature and the advantage of B.C.G. vaccination were explained in a leaflet.

Although 1,318 children were eligible for B.C.G. Vaccination, only 678 acceptances were received, viz. 51%, a response which was disappointing. As a result of Tuberculin Testing, it was found that 172 children had already some protection against tuberculosis and therefore vaccination was not necessary. 506 children were vaccinated with B.C.G.

All these children were followed up six weeks later when a further skin test was carried out to check upon the protection afforded by the vaccination.

Number of children eligible for vaccination ...	1,318
Number skin tested	678 (51%)
Number of negative reactors	506 (74.6%)
Number of positive reactors	172 (25.4%)
Complications of B.C.G. Vaccination ...	Nil

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 1958, 28 examinations of such candidates were carried out by the School Medical Officers in Swindon.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1958

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

During 1958, 25 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.

During the year the following new schools were opened in Swindon:—

The Lawn Infants on the 7th January.

The Lawn Juniors on the 21st August.

Penhill Secondary Modern on the 21st August.

Walcot Secondary Modern on the 21st August.

St. Joseph's Secondary Modern on the 21st August.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES

The amount of dental work undertaken in 1958 was considerably less than in 1957, owing to the absence of a full-time School Dental Officer. Mr. Randerson continued in his part-time capacity, doing 3 sessions weekly. From 12th July, Mr. W. Simkins was appointed as a part-time Dental Officer doing 12 hours per week.

In December a dental officer, Mr. S. House, was appointed and he will be taking up full time duties in January, 1959.

The following shows the work done during 1958:—

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1958

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:

(a) At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	869
(b) At Specials	...	...	...	1,017

Total—1,886

Number found to require treatment ... 1,700

Number offered treatment ... 1,700

Number actually treated ... 1,388

Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment 1,506

Half days devoted to: Periodic (School) Inspection 8

Treatment ... 162

Total— 170

Fillings:

Permanent Teeth ... 507

Temporary Teeth ... 23

Total— 530

Number of teeth filled:

Permanent Teeth ... 484

Temporary Teeth ... 22

Total— 506

Extractions:

Permanent Teeth ... 344

Temporary Teeth ... 893

Total—1,237

Administration of general anaesthetics for
extraction ... 308

Other operations:

Permanent Teeth ... 130

Temporary Teeth ... 18

Total— 148

REPORT OF THE AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

I have much pleasure in submitting the report of the Area Medical Officer for Swindon for the year 1958.

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

It is likely that this will be the last time this report will be submitted in this particular way as the Local Government Act 1958 will probably, before the end of 1959, have altered this scheme of delegation of duties.

Expansion of the town under the Town Development Act continues and during the year 444 new Council houses were built and occupied. During the same time 307 private houses were completed.

Penhill Estate is now, to all intents and purposes, completed, and the number of occupied houses there totals 2,078.

On Walcot, building is proceeding at a steady pace and at 31st December 1958, 2,510 Council houses were occupied.

It is estimated that a total of 3,021 families has now come into the Council housing estate under the expansion programme. The Registrar General's estimate of the mid 1958 population of Swindon was 80,206.

The staff of the Department has been increased to meet the demands on the various services due to the increasing population. The recruitment of staff was satisfactory apart from Health Visitors where, during the year, we were three below establishment. Apart from the normal increasing demands on the Health Visiting Service the extension of the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme strained our resources to the full and necessitated a cutting down of duties in other directions.

At the end of the year the new clinic at Priory Road, Park South, was nearing completion and it is hoped it will be opened early in 1959. At the moment this clinic is isolated, but near it the main shopping centre of the estate will eventually be built. Unfortunately owing to the isolated position, this clinic will not relieve the congestion at the Eastcott Hill Clinic, which is becoming very acute.

During the year there has been no improvement in the provision of dental treatment for the priority classes—pregnant and nursing mothers and children under school age. Provision is made in the new Priory Road Clinic for dental surgeries, but they will not be equipped unless dental officers are recruited.

JAMES URQUHART,

Medical Officer of Health.

Civic Offices,
Swindon.

HEALTH VISITING

We were three Health Visitors short of the establishment of one senior and eleven others during the year, and repeated advertisements failed to produce any applicants for the posts. The health visitors are school nurses for half their time.

With the increasing population and the introduction of an extended scheme of poliomyelitis vaccination, the commitments of the health visitors are very heavy and it is impossible to maintain all their duties at the level which we would desire. In the present year, for example, the increased poliomyelitis vaccinations necessitated the cutting down of school medical inspections.

So far we have tried to maintain the health visiting of old and handicapped people, and the home visiting of families with young children where the standard of living is below average. Health visiting of healthy babies in good homes has had to be reduced, but we do continue visiting homes where home accidents have been reported.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the health visitors in respect of expectant mothers and young children.

Number of visits paid by health visitors (figures for 1957 in brackets) are:—

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
304 (307)	324 (315)	1601 (1533)	4182 (3900)	5216 (3593)	862 (2266)

Included in "Other classes" in this table are 11 visits to cases of infectious disease and 433 visits to cases of tuberculosis.

During the year health visitors paid 324 visits to expectant mothers to investigate their home circumstances.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the following premises on the days stated and the attendances made were as follows :—

Centre	Day and Time 2 — 4 p.m.	Number of consulta- tions with doctor	Number of attend- ances
61 Eastcott Hill ...	Wednesday & Friday	1839	4617
Beech Avenue, Pinehurst	Tuesday	737	1973
Gorse Hill	Wednesday	774	2468
Rodbourne Cheney ...	Monday	714	2245
Bath Road	Friday	715	2119
Penhill	Tuesdays & Thursdays	1054	3771
Walcot	Thursdays	751	2355

On the 10th June, 1958, the Infant Welfare Clinic at Penhill was transferred from the Farmhouse to the new Common Room. These premises are centrally situated on the estate and are much more satisfactory from our point of view.

The new clinic on the Park South Estate at Priory Road was almost completed during the year. It is hoped this clinic will be ready to function in the Spring of 1959. Although at the moment this clinic is in an isolated situation, the main shopping centre of the estate will eventually be built up around it. When the clinic opens here the temporary clinic in Upper Walcot Farmhouse will be closed down.

In addition, arrangements have been made to start another Infant Welfare Clinic in the Common Room in Sussex Square to serve the northern part of the estate.

During the year the attendances at Infant Welfare Clinics increased by 1,744, and consultations with the doctors increased to 1,222.

WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods are distributed at all Child Welfare Clinics and at the Health Centre. Proprietary foods are available at all such Child Welfare Clinics but not at the Health Centre.

The clinic at Eastcott Hill is open each day for the distribution of these foods but at other clinics distribution only takes place during the Child Welfare Session.

It will be noted from the figures given below that there has been a substantial drop in the issues of orange juice during the year. It is generally found that orange juice is in big demand during hot weather, so perhaps the bad weather of last Summer accounts for this fall in its issue! On the other hand, it has become the common practice for milkmen to deliver bottles of orange juice as well as milk, and parents who buy it may think this orange drink supplies the same vitamin content as the Welfare Foods orange juice.

WELFARE FOODS	HEALTH CENTRE ISSUES	CLINIC ISSUES
National Dried Milk	23,946 tins (26,651)	20,854 tins (25,992)
Cod Liver Oil	2,120 bottles (3,063)	3,484 bottles (4,560)
Vitamin Tablets	2,424 packets (2,591)	2,236 packets (1,891)
Orange Juice	23,133 bottles (35,503)	27,945 bottles (40,134)

(Figures for 1957 are shown in brackets).

Proprietary Dried Milks, etc.

1958—16,238 sales realising £2,218 16s. 7½d.

1957—12,120 sales realising £1,626 1s. 10½d.

DAY NURSERIES, AND CHILD MINDERS

The Local Health Authority provides one Day Nursery in Swindon. This nursery is housed in the Gorse Hill Community Centre and provides for a maximum of 25 children. As has been stated in past reports, these premises are far from satisfactory for the purpose, and the future of this nursery is under consideration by the Health Committee.

Priority of admission is given to those parents who require placement of their children on social grounds. The number of children awaiting admission varies from month to month, and during the present year the nursery was almost always working to capacity.

Meals for the children continue to be provided by the Nursing Staff and the menus are kept under review by the Medical Officer, who visits the nursery at regular weekly intervals.

Apart from the Local Health Authority nursery, a private day nursery was registered during the year. This nursery caters for 12 children between the ages of three and five years for week-day mornings only.

The following table summarises the position of the Local Health Authority nursery:—

	Number of Nurseries	Number of Approved Places	Number of children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance	
			0—5	0—2 2—5	0—2 2—5	
Nurseries maintained by the Council ...	1	25	2	23	3	14

MIDWIFERY

The establishment of domiciliary midwives at the beginning of the year was ten, of whom seven were approved as teachers of pupil midwives. As from October, 1958, this establishment was increased by one, but at the end of the year the post had not been filled.

During the year twelve pupil midwives from the Swindon Maternity Hospital and Bradford-on-Avon Maternity Hospital underwent district training.

There were no private domiciliary midwives practising in Swindon. The domiciliary midwives held booking clinics as follows:—

81 Bath Road — 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at 6.0 p.m.

Pinehurst Clinic — 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Penhill Clinic — 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

In addition they attend the Local Health Authority Ante Natal Clinics at Pinehurst on Fridays and at Bath Road on Mondays.

When the Maternity Unit at Wroughton R.A.F. Hospital became available for civilian cases, an additional ante natal clinic for them was started at Bath Road on November 14th, 1958.

In two instances the domiciliary midwives attend the general practitioner ante natal clinics in their districts. Additional ante natal clinics will be established when the numbers of people living on the Walcot estate warrant it.

As in previous years, the liaison between the hospital maternity service and the domiciliary service has been excellent. With the availability of maternity beds at Wroughton Hospital the pressure in the Swindon Maternity Hospital and the domiciliary service has been lessened and hospital confinement is offered to the wives of service personnel and to certain others whose social circumstances would not previously have warranted it.

During 1958 there was a total of 1,938 live births and 34 still-births in Swindon. Allowing for transfers in and out of the borough there was a total of 1,581 live births and 30 still births attributable to Swindon. Of this total, the number of domiciliary births was 767 live births and 10 still births.

Midwives Act, 1951.

In accordance with the provision of this Act, medical aid was summoned in 165 instances during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF ANALGESIA

All the midwives employed by the Local Health Authority in Swindon are qualified to administer gas and air and trilene analgesia and are equipped with the apparatus for either analgesia.

It would appear that trilene has almost entirely replaced gas and air and the latter is now only used when the trilene apparatus is undergoing servicing.

The following table gives the number of occasions on which analgesia was employed:—

			Acting as Midwives	Acting as Maternity Nurses
Gas and Air	...	...	7	0
Trilene	...	...	605	53
		Total	612	53

This means that of the total of 777 births, analgesia was employed in 665 cases.

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	69	705	775	—
(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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1080
(d) Midwives in private practice (in- cluding midwives employed in nursing homes)	—	—	—	—	—	117

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—Fridays ...	1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Bath Road — Mondays ...	1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Bath Road — Fridays ...	9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon

	1957	1958
Number of women who attended these clinics during the period	566	696
Number of attendances made during the period	2353	2549

It is planned to open additional ante-natal and post-natal clinics on the Walcot Estate when the new clinic premises become available.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

A premature baby unit is maintained at the Kingshill Maternity Hospital. When a premature baby is born at home both mother and baby are admitted to the Maternity Hospital if it is considered necessary for the care of the baby. Only those premature infants whose cases do not give rise to anxiety are nursed at home.

It will be seen from the table given below that the neonatal death rate for premature infants is high—of 35 premature infants born during the year, 28 died during the first month of life.

An analysis of all infant deaths in the first month of life over the past four years is being undertaken, but the results are not yet ready for publication. From a preliminary survey it would appear that there has been, during these years, an increasing incidence of toxæmia of pregnancy and the birth weight of the babies who died has been very low—the majority being below 3 lbs. and the length of intra uterine life short. So far it is not apparent why there should be an increasing incidence of toxæmia, and it is disturbing to see that a number of babies whose weight at birth has been over 4 lbs. and who have no congenital abnormality have not survived the first month of life, in spite of being cared for in a unit specially equipped for dealing with such infants:—

	1957	1958
Number of premature babies born:		
(i) At home	32	34
(ii) In hospital or nursing home ...	92	101
Number who died during the first 24 hours:		
(i) Born at home	1	—
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home	10	15
Number who survived at end of one month:		
(i) Born at home	31	33
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home	74	72

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

At the beginning of the year we had only the services of one of the Assistant County Dental Officers for three sessions per week. In July this was augmented by the recruitment of a part time dental officer for a further three to four sessions per week.

With this amount of dental officer time we could only maintain a partial emergency service and we were unable to offer dental treatment to all but a few expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age.

Those treated during the year are summarised as follows:—

		Examined	Treated
Expectant and nursing mothers	...	8	8
Children under school age	...	36	18

HOME NURSING

During the year the full establishment of eight domiciliary nurses was maintained.

The work of the domiciliary nurses has not risen in proportion to the increase in population of the town. The obvious reason for this is that the vast majority of the householders coming into the town are in the younger age groups, and the calls for domiciliary nursing are mostly from the older age groups.

While at the moment this fact is reflected in the increasing demands on the midwifery service and comparatively small demand for home nursing, one cannot but look forward with some misgiving to the years ahead when this large proportion of now young people give us an unusually high proportion of older people.

The domiciliary nurses work in close co-operation with the general practitioners and hospital staff, who contact them either directly or through this department.

The following table summarises the type of cases to which the domiciliary nurses were called during the year:—

	No. of cases
Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) ...	255
Digestive diseases	75
Heart and Arteries	115
Veins and other circulatory diseases	41
Genito-urinary	44
Skin	82
Ear, Eye and other sense organs	20
Cancer (and other neoplasms)	34
Cerebral lesions of vascular origin	45
Infections and parasitic diseases	132
Diabetes	25
Injuries	14
Tuberculosis	12
Bones and organs of movement (Mainly rheumatism)	21
Pregnancy	42
Mental and other nervous diseases	17
Other diseases or ill defined	503
Preparation for X-ray examination	54
Total number of cases ...	1,533

in respect of which 23,205 visits were made.

MEDICAL LOAN APPLIANCES

A large range of nursing and invalid aid appliances is maintained at the Health Centre and are available on loan when required. A small loan charge is levied for such appliances.

The table below shows how much use is made of these appliances:—

STATEMENT OF MEDICAL LOAN APPLIANCES ISSUED

APPLIANCE	NUMBER ISSUED ON PAYMENT (NEW ISSUES)		NUMBER ISSUED ON FREE LOAN (NEW ISSUES)	
	1958	1957	1958	1957
Bed Pans (including 5 rubber pans)	698	566	3	—
Waterproof Sheets	631	519	2	1
Air Rings	84	86	—	1
Bed Rests	69	47	—	1
*Invalid Chairs	33	53	—	—
Urinals	23	25	—	1
Bed Cradles	13	16	1	3
Sick Feeders	9	3	—	—
Crutches (pairs)	5	11	1	—
Bed Slippers	5	13	—	—
Air Beds	2	4	—	—
Commodore	2	4	—	—
Bed Tables	2	1	—	1
Walking Sticks	2	—	—	—
Diabetic Spring Balances	—	2	—	1
Steam Kettles	—	—	—	—
Inhalers	—	—	—	—
Guthrie Smith Chair	—	—	1	—

£ s. d.

Hire payments received on appliances during the
year ended 31/12/1957 ... 89 6 4

Hire payments received on appliances during the
year ended 31/12/1958 ... 93 18 3

*Invalid Chairs

Although there were fewer *new issues* of invalid chairs in 1958, the income from these was slightly higher, as more chairs were retained throughout the whole year and therefore are not included in the figure of *new issues*.

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 12 as compared with 11 in 1957.

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

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Facilities for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation and vaccination against smallpox are available for children attending all Child Welfare Clinics. In addition special immunisation clinics are held whenever the numbers requiring inoculation justify such a clinic.

Parents also have the option of having these inoculations from their family doctor.

The numbers accepting these procedures is lower than one would hope for and it is only by continuing propaganda that parents are persuaded they are still necessary. More and more parents, when they do accept immunisation, request that their children be given the combined whooping cough and diphtheria antigen, and this trend is reflected in the table given below.

It is pleasing to note almost 200 more infants under 1 year of age were vaccinated against smallpox during the year as compared with 1957.

The following table summarises the vaccination and immunisation carried out during the year:—

Vaccination

	Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 14	15 years and over	Total
Primary Vaccination -	827	77	48	50	1002
Re-Vaccination -	—	8	23	106	137
TOTALS - -	827	85	71	156	1139

**Local
Health
Authority General
Practitioner**

Immunisation

Diphtheria alone:

Number of children who have completed course	...	...	...	...	63	23
Number of children given boosters	...	...	...	...	244	65

Whooping cough alone:

Number of children who have completed course	10	33
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----

Diphtheria and Whooping cough combined:

Number of children who have completed course	...	...	...	...	622	627
Number of children given boosters	...	...	...	...	82	49

B.C.G. Vaccination

Vaccination against tuberculosis by B.C.G. vaccine is offered to 13 year old school children, by the Local Health Authority.

Of the children in this age group 51% accepted the offer of vaccination.

During the year a new type of tuberculin—namely freeze dried vaccine was introduced at the request of the Director of B.C.G. vaccination of the B.C.G. Control Centre and Swindon was chosen as one of the control centres for this vaccine. This means that children who are vaccinated are re-tested afterwards to see how many and how quickly they convert from positive to negative re-actors. These results are now being studied by the Director of the service but it is too early yet to draw definite conclusions from the results obtained.

The following table summarises the position during the year:—

Number of children given initial tuberculin test	678		
Number of positive reactors	...	...	172 25.3%
Number of negative reactors	...	...	506
Number of children vaccinated	...	...	506 74.6%

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Up to date, vaccination against poliomyelitis was offered only to children born between 1943 and 1958 and to certain other selected groups of persons such as expectant mothers, general practitioners, and ambulance staffs, and hospital staffs. In September this was extended to include all persons aged between 6 months and 25 years of age.

This, of course, meant that a very large number of people now become eligible for vaccination, and it would be impossible for the Local Authority doctors to carry out this work if their other duties were to continue. As it was, the Ministry of Health urged Local Health Authorities to give priority to poliomyelitis vaccination, and in Swindon this necessitated a reduction in the time spent on school medical inspections.

General practitioners were encouraged to offer vaccination to their patients and the response to this was most encouraging and many hundreds of people were vaccinated by their family doctors.

In addition to the extended range of those acceptable for vaccination, booster doses were introduced for those who had been vaccinated six months previously.

During the year the supplies of vaccine were sufficient to meet all the demands and an all out effort was made to vaccinate all those who accepted the offer.

The response to this offer of vaccination was good except in the 15—25 year old group, where it was disappointingly low. During the coming year it is proposed to arrange vaccination for this group at their places of work and it is hoped that by doing so they will accept it.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1958, was as follows:—

	No. vaccinations with 2 injections	Awaiting vaccination (2 injs.) at 31/12/58
Children born in the years 1943-58 ...	6,139	398
Expectant Mothers ...	112	4
General Practitioners ...	3	—
Ambulance Staff ...	30	—
Totals ...	6,284	402
No. of persons (all groups) who had received 1 injection only on 31/12/58 ...	...	389
No. of persons (all groups) who had received booster injection on 31/12/58 ...	...	2426

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The only main change made in our scheme for the care of old people during the year was that the Local Health Authority became responsible for providing a Night and Evening Attendance service as from the 14th November, 1958. Night Attendance service was used on 127 occasions during the year—eleven times since the Local Health Authority became responsible for it. Up to the end of the year the Evening Attendance Service was not called upon.

Usually the night attendant is required in emergency either while the patient is temporarily ill or is awaiting admission to hospital. Owing to the irregularity of these calls those helpers recruited for this service tend to lose interest and on each occasion on which we have been called upon to provide an attendant, we have had difficulty in finding one willing to work at short notice.

One problem which we have had to face during the year is that of old people falling sick while residents in Voluntary Welfare Homes. These homes have only limited staff who are not nursing staff and are unable to cope with residents requiring day and night nursing. If no hospital bed is available, these old people have to be cared for in the Welfare Home. On one occasion a night attendant was supplied for some weeks in one such home until a hospital bed could be found. Our domiciliary nurses can attend to particular nursing needs if so requested by the general practitioner, but this by no means provides all the nursing attention such patients require.

The demand for the Domestic Help Service for old people continues to increase and help was afforded during the year to all who required it. Regular visits by health visitors are paid to all the old people who call upon us for help and their visits are generally highly appreciated. In addition, the Swindon Old People's Welfare Association with their street visitors bring to my notice many cases where our services are needed.

EVENING AND NIGHT ATTENDANCE SERVICE

A scheme for the provision of Evening and Night Attendants by the Local Health Authority was introduced by the Local Health Authority on the 14th November. Prior to this a scheme for the provision of night attendants was operated by the Swindon Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Local Authority scheme for evening attendants was introduced as an extension of the Domestic Help Service and intended to help aged and infirm people to get settled in for the night.

The Night Attendant scheme is run as a separate entity and its purpose is to supply an attendant to sit up at night with those who are ill and in need of some help during the night.

Up to the end of the year no calls were made for evening attendants. Night attendants were provided on eleven occasions up to the end of the year.

Some difficulty has been experienced in the recruitment of night attendants. Initially eighteen applied to be employed as such but when the calls for the service are made, they are generally at short notice and frequently those called upon for duty find they cannot do duty. I feel sure that if employment as night attendant was more regular, such difficulties would be obviated.

From the time of starting the scheme in November up to the 31st December, night attendants were provided on eleven occasions by the Local Authority. From the beginning of the year night attendants were provided on 116 occasions by the Old People's Welfare Committee.

CHIROPODY

A Chiropody service for old people is run by the Old People's Welfare Committee, but its scope is limited to the most urgent cases. I am convinced that a chiropody service provided through the National Health Service would do much to relieve suffering in old people and by helping to keep them active would considerably reduce the burden of the Local Health Authority and Hospital.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Each year the demands on the Domestic Help Service increase and during the present year an additional sum of £3,400 was approved in Estimates for this purpose. The total cost of the service during the year was almost £17,000, almost seven times as much as was expended on the service in 1950.

As in previous years the majority of the home helps employed are on a part time basis and this enables us to supply help to the homes in the morning when it is most desired. It is pleasing to report that there has been no difficulty in recruiting home helps and we have generally a substantial waiting list of women desirous of employment in the service.

As will be seen from the table given below, the number of households helped during the year and the amount of help afforded to them rose considerably. The loss of domestic help time through sickness was almost two-thirds less than in 1957, when it was abnormally high due to an epidemic of influenza.

There is no doubt that in many instances old and infirm people are only able to continue living at home by reason of the domiciliary services provided. On the whole, this is a good thing, but each year many cases are seen where, although all possible domiciliary help is given, the person cannot be adequately cared for except in a hospital or institution. However, shortage of accommodation for such cases necessitates them staying at home and, indeed, one wonders how much suffering could be alleviated if there were adequate facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of these elderly people.

Problem Families

The scheme whereby a special home help is supplied to problem families is not, in my opinion, as successful as one would hope. Where the scheme is used in potential problem families, i.e., before they have sunk really low in the social structure, it has proved beneficial. However, when one finds a long established problem family the main purpose of rehabilitation is not being achieved. The children in the household do benefit from the presence of the domestic help and although the cleanliness and household management improve as long as she is there, the home soon regresses to the former state when the domestic help is withdrawn. So often one sees the domestic help busily engaged in coping with the household chores while the woman of the house stands by watching in idleness. When asked to help she as often as not reviles the domestic help. This in the end has led to the help requesting to be withdrawn or resigning her post. I am of the opinion that such households are beyond rehabilitation, and all the Authority can do is to provide whatever help it can to make life more satisfactory for the children.

During the year domestic helps were provided for 16 weeks in one household.

A summary of the work of the Domestic Help Service during the year is given below:—

	1958	1957
Number of domestic helps on books at the end of the year	90	63
Number of householders helped during the year: ...		
(a) Maternity cases	132	137
(b) Other cases	376	330
Number of hours of assistance provided during the year:		
(a) Maternity cases	9,604	9,935
(b) Other cases	82,250	61,835
Total	<u>91,854</u>	<u>71,770</u>
Number of cases in which full fee was not charged	490	448
Number of hours lost during year through sickness	5,642	15,115

Home Accidents

During 1957 the names of all persons attending the Great Western Hospital for treatment following injury caused by an accident in their homes, were notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and selected ones were visited by a health visitor, who ascertained how the accident occurred, and gave advice as to the prevention of further accidents. It was hoped that similar information would be available for 1958, so that a comparison could have been made to see if there had been any reduction in the number of home accidents.

Unfortunately, owing to administrative difficulties, the hospitals were unable to supply the necessary information for a complete account of the home accidents for 1958 to be given.

The following table shows details of the 100 persons in Swindon who sustained accidents in their homes during the months of March, May, November and December, 1958:—

Age in Years	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Not kn'wn
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Lacerations	— —	2 1	3 3	1 1	— 3	— 3	— 4	— —	1 1	— —
Sprains and Bruises	— —	1 1	1 —	— 1	1 1	— 1	— 1	— —	— 2	— —
Scalds	1 2	3 4	1 2	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— 1	— 2	— —
Burns	1 1	2 2	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— 1	— —	— —
Other Injuries	1 1	13 6	2 5	— 1	— 2	— 1	1 2	— 1	3 2	— —
Totals	3 4	21 14	7 10	1 3	1 6	2 5	2 7	— 3	4 7	— —

It is noteworthy that 42% of the accidents occurred to children under 5 years of age and a further 17% to schoolchildren. 14% of the accidents occurred to adults over 55 years of age. Of the injured 41% were male and 59% were females. From the health visitors' reports it is shewn that, as in the previous year, most of these accidents could have been avoided, for they were mainly due to carelessness.

The majority of accidents grouped under "other injuries" were head injuries, caused by the child falling off chairs or tripping over mats when running about the house. Fortunately these injuries were only slight, but nevertheless could have been avoided.

Nearly all the burns and scalds occurred in toddlers and school-children, the child usually knocking over a kettle of boiling water or playing near the fire.

HEALTH CENTRE

During the year the rooms at the Health Centre previously occupied by the Orthoptic department of the hospital were converted into a dental surgery with waiting room and recovery room. This is used by a Assistant County Dental Officer and by the County Orthodontist.

For much of the year the pharmacy was understaffed but in July we were able to recruit a Deputy Chief Pharmacist and an Assistant in Dispensing. This brought the establishment up to full strength but in the coming year it is hoped to recruit a third pharmacist in place of one of the "assistants in dispensing." The number of prescriptions dispensed during the year was 98,628.

The demands made on the Syringe Bank by the Health Centre doctors increased enormously since the inception of the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme. It became impossible for the dispensary staff to maintain the syringe bank. The difficulty was overcome by the installation of new syringe and needle cleaning equipment and by training one of the porters in the maintenance and sterilization of the syringes.

The Health Centre dental department retained the same staff as in previous years and a summary of the work carried out is given below. The dental laboratory continued to carry out work for the county dental officers and for various Hospital Management committees.

The amenities at the Health Centre continue to be improved. During the year all the doctors' surgeries and the office have been redecorated and improvements made to lighting, and equipment added. The decoration of the main waiting hall and dispensary is in a poor state and it is hoped the work will soon be put in hand.

In the dental surgeries it is planned to cover the glazed tiles with a type of covering which will give them the appearance of plastered walls.

Dental Department

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

During the year there were 13,254 attendances for treatment and the following work was carried out:—

Scalings & Gum Treat- ments	FILLINGS		Extrac- tions	X-rays	DENTURES	
	Amal- gams	Plastic			Repairs	Manu- factured
409	2451	773	4375	596	1004	988





