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Borough



Swindon

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of

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1959

Report of the

PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959



Report of the

PRINCIPAL BOROUGH SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1959

Report of the

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES

FOR THE YEAR 1959

Copy of Report of the

AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1959

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BOROUGH OF SWINDON
COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF
as at the 31st December, 1959

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
ALDERMAN F. D. JEFFORD

Chairman: Alderman L.C. Mobey

Vice-Chairman: Alderman Mrs. L.R. Lock

MEMBERS:

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

TOWN CLERK

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

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

31st December, 1959

Medical Officer of Health	JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health - -	J. L. EVANS, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., 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	-	-	B. J. DEAN
Dental Surgeons	-	-	S. H. HOUSE W. M. BOYLE (Part-time)
Dental Attendants	-	-	Miss G. ELLIS 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 A. E. JONES Miss N. MACGREGOR Miss W. PARKINS Miss C. J. THORN Mrs. J. D. WALL Mrs. R. WILLIAMS
Domiciliary Midwives	-	-	Mrs. N. BATEMAN Miss J. E. BLOCK Miss N. EVANS Miss D. HARE Miss M. M. KENNEDY Mrs. H. M. MORTIMORE Miss N. NEAL Miss I. POSTON ROBINSON Mrs. G. M. TAYLOR Mrs. C. M. WRIGHT Miss M. ZAJECKA
Matron, Day Nursery	-	-	Mrs. A. DAVIES
District Nurses	-	-	Miss E. E. M. BARKER Mrs. A. B. BUSHNELL Mrs. M. A. DUFF Mrs. E. M. EGGERS Miss C. GEE 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	-	-	Mrs. O. DARLINGTON Mrs. M. FERNANDES Miss P. FULLUCK Mrs. D. HAZELL (Part-time) Mrs. B. HODGES D. JAMES Miss P. A. MOLDEN F. C. MOSS Miss K. PONTING Mrs. P. PUGH (Part-time) Mrs. U. G. ROUSE Miss K. M. S. SHERGOLD Mrs. M. VOCKINGS Miss E. WILLIAMS
Rodent Operatives	-	-	C. EVES H. SNELL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Mayor,

Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Swindon.

I have pleasure in submitting the Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for 1959.

The Registrar General estimated our mid-June 1959 population as 82,660 an increase of 2,400 over last year. This substantial increase is accounted for by the expansion of the town under the Town Development Act and by the high birth rate of 21.29 as compared with the national figure of 16.5.

At 31st December a total of 2,089 houses was occupied at Penhill Estate and 3,049 on the Walcot group of estates. In addition 220 private houses were completed and occupied during the year. Since the inception of the expansion scheme under the Town Development Act a total of 3,715 families from London and elsewhere has been housed in Corporation houses.

The size of the population is appreciably higher than was anticipated at this stage of the development programme, and if the expansion of the town progresses as planned and the birth rate is maintained, then a population of 96,000 which was forecast for 1967 probably will be achieved by 1963. Information supplied by the authorities neighbouring on Swindon shows that their population has increased and is increasing at a proportionately greater rate than the Borough. It is obvious therefore that this profoundly affects all the future planning for amenities and services in the town.

Last year the infant mortality rate gave rise to grave concern. While the picture this year is somewhat better the rate is still higher than that for England and Wales whereas in previous years it was considerably below this figure. Investigations into the reasons for this have yielded no

definite finding as to why more premature and congenitally malformed babies are being born.

During the year a scheme of delegation under the Local Government Act 1958 has been submitted and it is anticipated this will come into effect in 1960. This scheme will considerably increase the responsibility of the Health Department and the Council for the Health and Welfare Services provided and as a result this will probably be the last year in which this report is produced in its present form.

I am indebted to 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. As stated previously, under the Local Government Act 1958 the Borough Council will be responsible for carrying out these functions on behalf of the County Council and the report will in future be directly to the Borough Council. The report on the School Health Services are also appended.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to the staff of this department for their loyal support and encouragement during the year. I also am deeply grateful for the co-operation and help received from the Chief Officers, staffs of the other corporation departments and the voluntary associations who make such a valuable contribution to the health services of the community. It will be noted too that much of the information in the report on the infant mortality is supplied from hospital records. Here again I acknowledge with thanks the willing co-operation and help of the hospital staff and departments concerned.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART,

Medical Officer of Health.

Civic Offices,
SWINDON.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

Area of the Borough (acres)	-	-	-	6,361
Population (estimated for mid-1959)	-	-	-	82,660
Live Births - Legitimate	-	-	-	1,694
- Illegitimate	-	-	-	66
- Total	-	-	-	1,760
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	21.29
Still Births	-	-	-	30
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	.36
Deaths from all causes - male	-	-	-	476
- female	-	-	-	371
- total	-	-	-	847
Death rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	10.25
Deaths of infants under ONE year old	-	-	-	42
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	-	23.86
Deaths from Certain Important Causes:-				
Cancer	-	-	-	149
Respiratory Disease	-	-	-	80
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	3
Vascular and Heart diseases	-	-	-	424
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	1

BIRTHS

Live Births

The table below shows the number of legitimate and illegitimate live births in Swindon each with the comparable data for 1958.

LIVE BIRTHS	1958			1959		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	788	750	1538	858	836	1694
Illegitimate	35	29	64	36	30	66
TOTALS	823	779	1602	894	866	1760

Illegitimate births comprised 3.75% of the total live births in 1959 as compared with 3.99% in 1958 and this figure compares with 5.1% for England and Wales.

The total live birth rate rose to 21.29 in 1959 as compared with 19.96 in 1958. This is the highest birth rate recorded in Swindon since 1920 and is substantially greater than the birth rate for England and Wales as a whole, which is 16.5. It will be seen from the table given below that since the expansion of the town under the Town Development Act started in 1953, the birth rate has risen from 16.6 to the present figure of 21.29 and we can anticipate that the rate will continue to remain high as long as the expansion programme continues and the economic standard of the community is maintained.

	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	
Year	Swindon	England & Wales
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
1959	21.29	16.5

STILL BIRTHS

The following table shows the numbers of legitimate and illegitimate still births in Swindon in 1959 with comparable figures for 1958.

STILL- BIRTHS	1958			1959		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	13	16	29	15	14	29
Illegitimate	1	1	2	-	1	1
TOTALS	14	17	31	15	15	30

The 30 still births give a still birth rate of 0.36 per 1000 population notified as compared with 0.39 for 1958.

The table given below shows the still birth rate in Swindon since 1954 as compared with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

Year	Still-Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1955	0.32	0.35
1956	0.42	0.37
1957	0.41	0.37
1958	0.39	0.37
1959	0.36	0.35

Of the 30 still born babies 19 were examined post mortem and the causes of death are classified as below.

Intra Uterine Asphyxia	9
Birth trauma	3
Congenital abnormality	3
Other causes	4

DEATHS.

It will be seen from the extracts from actual statistics on page 8 that there has been a fall in the death rate from 10.9 in 1958 to 10.25 this year. This table also summarises the chief causes of death and as in past years deaths from vascular and heart diseases, which numbered 424 amount to half the total deaths.

It will be noted too that during the year there was a significant rise in the number of deaths attributed to coronary disease. Cancer remains the next most frequent cause of death and from the table on page 7 it will be seen that the types of cancer remain proportionately as previously. It is particularly noteworthy that over the past few years there has been no rise in deaths from leukaemia.

The table below details deaths from cancer of the lung and the preponderance of the incidence in men as compared with women is worthy of note.

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Death Rate Per 1000 Population
1955	25	5	30	.420
1956	13	1	14	.189
1957	13	2	15	.192
1958	35	7	42	.523
1959	33	1	34	.411

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN SWINDON
during 1958 and 1959

Cause of Death	Male	Female	1959 Total	1958 Total
Tuberculosis - respiratory ...	3	-	3	4
Tuberculosis - other ...	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases ...	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infections ...	1	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	13	11	24	26
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	33	1	34	42
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	13	13	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	4	4	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	41	33	74	81
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	1	3	2
Diabetes ...	-	3	3	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	48	52	100	124
Coronary disease, Angina ...	80	44	124	98
Hypertension with Heart disease ...	7	16	23	30
Other Heart diseases ...	89	88	177	191
Other Circulatory diseases ...	15	11	26	21
Influenza ...	6	4	10	-
Pneumonia ...	21	16	37	54
Bronchitis ...	29	11	40	39
Other diseases of Respiratory system	3	-	3	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	7	2	9	8
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4	1	5	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	-	3	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	6	-	6	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations ...	8	6	14	19
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	36	41	77	67
Motor vehicle accidents ...	11	3	14	8
Other accidents ...	4	9	13	10
Suicide ...	5	1	6	10
Homicide and Operations of War ...	-	-	-	-
TOTALS -	476	371	847	871

The following table shows the death rates per 1,000 population from various infectious diseases in Swindon, and in England and Wales during 1959.

Cause of Death	Death Rate per 1000 Population	
	Swindon	England & Wales
Tuberculosis	.036	0.08
Influenza	.120	0.17
Acute Poliomyelitis	.00	0.00
Pneumonia	.447	0.60

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
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
1959	10.25	11.6

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
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
1959	350	4.23	80	.97	3	.036	149	1.8

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
1959	42	9	3	45	189	559	847

This table illustrates the increasing proportion of deaths in the age group 65 and over.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

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
1955	2	1.70	0.64
1956	-	-	0.56
1957	2	1.22	0.48
1958	-	-	0.44
1959	-	-	0.38

INFANT MORTALITY

The Registrar General's return shows that 42 infants under the age of one year died in Swindon in 1959. This gives an infant mortality rate of 23.86 per 1000 live births as compared with a rate of 22.2 for England and Wales as a whole. From Table 1 given below it will be seen that this infant mortality rate is very considerably less than the rate for 1958 but is still comparatively high as compared with the years before 1957.

Table No. 1.

Year	Swindon			England & Wales		
	Still Birth Rate	Neo Natal Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neo Natal Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1955	0.33	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	16.2	22.5
1959	0.36	16.5	23.9	0.35	15.8	22.2

In last year's report the results of an investigation into infant deaths over the past five years were given in an effort to find reasons why our infant mortality rate suddenly rose from 16 to 35.6 over this period.

During 1959 there was no material change in the Maternity Services provided or in the treatment or care of premature infants yet the infant mortality rate dropped to almost the average for England and Wales just as suddenly as it rose during 1957 and 58. A study of all the information available yields no clue as to why this has happened. It is still more puzzling why the stillbirth rate has not varied with the infant mortality rate.

The certified cause of death in Swindon of infants under the age of one year during 1959 were as follows :-

Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory conditions	5
Diarrhoea Enteritis and other internal disorders	2
Congenital abnormality	11
Birth Trauma	7
Prematurity	10
Other causes	7

The ages at which these children died is as follows :-

Died during the 1st week of life	27
" " " 2nd " " "	2
" " " 3rd " " "	-
" " " 4th " " "	2
Died during 2nd - 12th month "	11

The table below summarises the birth weights of premature infants born in Swindon Maternity Hospital over the past five years.

Table No.2.

Weight in Grammes	1956	1957	1958	1959
1000 - 1500	5 (3)	18 (14)	20 (13)	11 (7)
1501 - 2000	15 (2)	27 (5)	28 (12)	22 (5)
2001 - 2250	27 (2)	21 (0)	25 (2)	20 (0)
2251 - 2500	56 (0)	58 (3)	50 (2)	49 (3)

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

This table shows that the absolute increase in light weight babies in 1957 and 1958 was not maintained in 1959. One of the most remarkable features is, however, the much greater survival rate of light weight babies. One would naturally be inclined to attribute this to a change in the routine care of these babies or to a change of staff in the unit. There was, however, no material change in the methods of treatment and no change of senior staff during the year.

The post mortem cause of death of premature infants dying in Swindon Maternity Hospital are summarised in table 3 below:-

Table No. 3

Cause of Death	Premature			Full-Time		
	1957	1958	1959	1957	1958	1959
Congenital abnormality	3	10	3	1	7	3
Birth trauma	7	4	7	2	0	1
Pulmonary condition	9	14	5	3	1	2
Haemolytic Disease	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other causes	10	3	3	1	0	1

This shows that the reduction in deaths in 1959 is mainly accounted for by a lesser incidence of congenital abnormalities and pulmonary diseases.

The types of congenital abnormality found in the babies which died from these defects in the Maternity Hospital is as follows. These numbers include still-born babies.

Table No. 4.

Cause of Death	1957	1958	1959
Defects of Central Nervous System	2	5	8
Defects of Cardio Vascular System	4	5	2
Defects of Alimentary System	1	2	2
Multiple Defects	0	4	1
Other Defects	0	1	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

There are no outstanding points to be noted for 1959 except the relatively high incidence of scarlet fever. Most of these cases were of a mild nature and at one time it was thought they might be connected with an epidemic of infectious erythema reported from Europe. The Medical Officer of Health therefore visited the cases notified but all seen were typically mild scarlet fever :-

Disease	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Acute Pneumonia	26	16	19	11	20
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	3	3	-	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	4	3	6	5
Dysentery, Food Poisoning	51	152	25	80	71
Measles	860	43	2,186	1,414	478
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	52	55	55	56	43
Scarlet Fever	16	22	31	206	130
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - pulmonary	62	50	35	42	24
Tuberculosis - non-pulmonary	8	12	4	9	6
Whooping Cough	209	57	314	74	119
Meningococcal Infection	5	1	2	2	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	1

Reference has been made above to scarlet fever. The table below shows the number of notifications and deaths over the past 5 years :-

Year	No. of Cases notified	No. of Deaths
1955	16	-
1956	22	-
1957	31	-
1958	206	-
1959	130	-

POLIOMYELITIS.

During 1959 only one case of poliomyelitis was notified; the patient suffered from mild paralysis but made a complete recovery. She had not been vaccinated against poliomyelitis and despite a thorough investigation no source of infection could be traced.

Details of the position regarding poliomyelitis vaccination are given in the Area Health Report but it might be mentioned here that the response to the offer of vaccination is lower than could be desired and the percentage of the population immunised is still too small to preclude the menace of an epidemic.

The table given 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
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	0	0
1959	1	0

DIPHTHERIA

During 1959 no cases of diphtheria were reported. The last case notified in the town occurred in 1949 and the last death from this cause occurred in 1944.

This happy position can only be expected if the percentage of population rendered immune by immunisation is maintained. Combined vaccines against diphtheria and whooping cough are now being used and it is likely that the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus will be used in our clinics in the near future. In the Area Report details of the immunisation position are given and a report on a trial with quadruple vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and poliomyelitis combined. If the number of injections which children have to undergo can be reduced then the more likely we are to achieve a higher acceptance rate to immunisation :-

This table 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
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
1948	6	0	1958	0	0
1949	1	0	1959	0	0

SMALLPOX.

This town is fortunate in that no cases of smallpox have occurred since the outbreak in 1942.

Here again far too small a proportion of our population is vaccinated and the introduction of one infectious case to the community could well prove disastrous.

It cannot be over-emphasised that vaccination, which nowadays is a simple and painless procedure which does not leave unsightly scars, gives protection against this highly dangerous infectious disease and unless a high proportion of children are protected the danger of an epidemic must forever loom over us.

FOOD POISONING.

During 1959 twelve notifications of food poisoning involving five families were received.

In each instance the home was visited by a Medical Officer in an effort to try to trace the source of infection and to advise on the prevention of the spread of infection to other members of the family.

The organism isolated from one family was Salmonella Newport and from the others Salmonella Typhimurium. In no instance was the infection traced to food because the diagnosis in each case was made on bacteriological examination which takes at least 48 hours to complete and by the time notification is received no specimen of food which could have been responsible was available for examination.

From the investigations made it appeared that approximately 50% of cases were infected from other members of the family.

DYSENTERY.

Sixty cases of dysentery were notified in 1959 and the homes of those affected were visited by a Medical Officer. Generally speaking the cases were of a very mild nature and symptoms disappeared within 48 hours. Particular care was exercised to ensure that anyone concerned in the preparation and handling of food was bacteriologically clear of infection before being allowed to return to work. All households infected were advised of the measures to be taken to prevent the spread of infection and of the danger of infection in young babies.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1959 the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified was 24, a decrease of 18 over 1958, and the notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 6 as compared with 9 in 1958.

The table below shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases.

NOTIFIED CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 5 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	1	-	-	1
10 - 15 "	-	1	-	-	1
15 - 20 "	1	1	1	-	3
20 - 25 "	2	1	-	1	4
25 - 30 "	-	2	2	-	4
30 - 40 "	4	4	-	1	9
40 - 50 "	-	1	-	-	1
50 - 60 "	3	1	-	-	4
Over 60 "	2	-	-	1	3
TOTAL	12	12	3	3	30

The following table shows the number of cases of pulmonary and other types of tuberculosis notified, the case rate per 1000 population and the deaths and death rate per 1000 population over the past five years. The decline in the number of cases notified and the deaths in 1959 as compared with 1958 will be noted.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS
1955 - 1959

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.
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	0.50	9	0.12
1958	42	0.52	4	0.05	51	0.64	4	0.05
1959	24	0.29	3	0.036	30	0.36	3	0.036

The explanation of the decrease in the number of cases notified is undoubtedly due to the fact that in 1958 we had a mass radiography survey of the population and the cases discovered during this survey added to the normal notifications of that year.

It is to be expected too that when sources of infection are discovered during a mass radiography survey and are either isolated or rendered non-infective by treatment, they are no longer a danger to contacts so the number of new cases should subsequently fall.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

It will be seen from the table given below that the number of cases of measles notified during 1959 was almost 1000 lower than in 1958. Both the epidemics of measles experienced in 1957 and 1958 were the most severe recorded in the town and a fall in the number of cases in 1959 was to be expected. One can anticipate therefore that during 1960 there will be a substantially greater number of cases notified as compared with this year.

The number of cases of whooping cough notified in 1959 was 119 as compared with 74 in 1958. Looking over the figures for whooping cough the past 10 years or so and taking into account the great increase in the population over these years one must conclude that immunisation against whooping cough is undoubtedly showing its effect in controlling this disease.

Year	Measles		Whooping Cough	
	Number notified	Number of deaths	Number notified	Number of deaths
1955	860	1	209	-
1956	43	-	57	-
1957	2186	-	314	-
1958	1414	-	74	-
1959	478	-	119	-

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	...	137
Candidates for Public Service Vehicle Licences	...	52
Entrants to Training Colleges	...	42
Other	...	109
		<u>340</u>

SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Under this Act the Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the family doctor can obtain a magistrates court order or in emergency a certificate from one magistrate to empower the removal to hospital or welfare home of persons who:-

- a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions.
- b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During this year several such cases were referred to this department but in each instance the patient was persuaded to accept admission without recourse to legal proceedings.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959

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 1959.

STAFF

There were two vacancies for Pupil Public Health Inspectors at the beginning of the year and Mr. B. J. Dean was appointed to fill one of these vacancies with effect from the 20th April, 1959.

Although a number of other candidates were interviewed with a view to filling the remaining vacancy, no suitable applicants were forthcoming who held the necessary preliminary qualifications and the post remained unfilled at the end of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

On the 8th March, 1959, the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, made jointly by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, came into operation. These Regulations, which were made under the Food and Drugs Act, re-enact, with certain amendments, earlier Milk Regulations of 1949-1954.

The new Regulations specify constructional requirements and hygienic practices to be applied to the production, handling and distribution of milk.

Under these Regulations every person engaged in the milking of cows or in a milk room shall at all times when so engaged refrain from the use of tobacco (including snuff).

It is felt that these Regulations and the Food Hygiene Regulations would be more effective if they prohibited smoking (of tobacco or herbal mixtures) and the use of snuff by all persons in premises where food is prepared or processed.

It is pleasing to note that certain firms which sell open food are now requesting their customers to refrain from smoking while in their premises.

Following our usual practice the Public Health Inspectors have, during the year, given talks to the employees of various food traders on the importance of the hygienic preparation and handling of food.

During the year under review one person was prosecuted under Regulation 30 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, for not wearing a suitable head covering when carrying a hind quarter of beef on his shoulder when the meat was in contact with his head and hair, and was fined £5.

Complaints regarding food which were dealt with during the year are summarised as follows:-

For selling two meat pies which were in a mouldy condition one firm was prosecuted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act and was fined £10.

For selling a wrapped sliced loaf containing an insect resembling a beetle a firm of bakers was prosecuted and the Magistrates imposed a fine of £5; for a similar offence concerning a fly embedded in a sliced loaf another firm of bakers was prosecuted and a fine of £5 was imposed.

A similar fine was also imposed on the same firm for selling a currant loaf with a piece of thin wire embedded in the substance.

The sale of an apple pie contaminated with foreign matter including fragments of wood-fibre and dirt and a piece of blackened wood embedded in the side of the pie resulted in a firm of bakers, whose premises are situated outside the district, being prosecuted and a fine of £15 was imposed.

Legal proceedings taken following a complaint from a pupil regarding glass fragments found in a bottle of school milk, resulted in a fine of £5 being imposed on a local dairyman.

The careless use of pins in connection with a cheese display at a local store resulted in a company being fined £5 for the sale of a piece of cheese with a pin embedded in the substance. Investigations into this case revealed that a demonstrator in fixing a display band around the cheese had been unable to secure it by the usual method of an adhesive and had fastened it to the cheese with a pin, apparently failing to remove the pin when the band was removed from the cheese previous to sale.

For selling a chocolate roll which was mouldy a firm was prosecuted and a fine of £5 was imposed.

During the year a complaint was received regarding a portion of cheese spread which was alleged to have contained pieces of glass and these were found on examination to be fair sized transparent crystals varying in length from .1" to .25" and had the characteristic appearance of glass.

The Public Analyst reported that the transparent crystals were tested and found to be crystalline sodium phosphate. Sodium phosphate is used as an emulsifying agent in the preparation of processed cheese and cheese spread, but it should be used as a solution, and thoroughly incorporated in the cheese mixture, and should not be present in the cheese in crystalline form.

Samples of the same cheese product obtained from the shop from which the cheese had been sold were found to contain numerous glass-like particles near the surface of the cheese, similar to those found by the complainant. These crystals were tested by the Public Analyst and also found to be crystalline sodium phosphate.

On investigation it was revealed that the cheese spread was manufactured and packed in Denmark for sale in this country by a firm of high repute. The fullest enquiry was made by the firm and by the suppliers and although as a result of their investigations it was stated that it was evident that crystallisation would not take place within four months of the date of manufacture, a suggested alteration in the method of manufacture was immediately accepted and acted upon by the suppliers.

The firm agreed to withdraw the product from distribution and in the circumstances no legal action was taken.

A total of 2,133 visits was made to 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. During these visits 665 contraventions of the Act or Regulations were found, 615 of which were dealt with by the end of the year.

SAMPLING

103 samples of milk and 186 samples of other food stuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and particulars of these samples together with the action taken in respect of unsatisfactory samples, will be found on pages 28, 29 and 30.

One sample of Tuberculin Tested Channel Island Milk taken in course of delivery from a dairy farmer, whose premises are situated outside the Borough, was found on analysis not to comply with the Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956.

The milk was reported by the Public Analyst to be deficient in fat to the extent of 14.3%.

In this case "Appeal to the Cow" samples of the evening's milking taken at the farm, were found to be entirely satisfactory, with a fat content of over 4%. "Appeal to the Cow" samples from the morning's milking, however, were found to be seriously below the required standard for Channel Island Milk, having a fat content of between 3.46% and 3.62%.

The milk was bottled on the farm and it was the practice of the producer to keep the morning and evening milk separate before bottling.

The case was heard at the Borough Magistrates' Court and a fine of £5 was imposed.

4 informal samples of beef curry, veal curry, steak pudding and scotch broth were found on analysis to contain lead in excess of the recommended limit of 5 parts per million.

Investigations into the reasons for this high lead content carried out in co-operation with the manufacturers were not conclusive and the views of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were sought concerning lead in canned foods. The Ministry's reply indicated that the Ministry were considering the views of interested parties on proposed regulations for lead in food. These included suggestions that so far as canned meats are concerned, the introduction of regulations should be deferred for a period to enable the packing trade to complete their arrangements to change over from lead soldered tins to a sanitary pack and to dispose of existing stocks of soldered cans.

As no final decisions on the proposals had been taken at that time, the Minister was not in a position to say that he considered that the degree of adulteration revealed by the results of the tests on samples procured in the Borough justified either condemnation of the food or a prosecution.

In view of the Minister's reply it was therefore agreed that, as far as possible, the stocks of these particular brands of canned meats should be withdrawn from sale. Examination on a number of similar canned products did not reveal excessive amounts of lead.

128 samples of milk were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination and details of these samples will be found on page 27.

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

ICE CREAM

New legislation relating to ice-cream came into force during the year including provisions relating to composition, heat treatment and labelling. The Food Standards (Ice-cream) Regulations, 1959, revoke and replace the Food Standards Ice-cream Order, 1953. The Regulations prescribe amended standards for ice-cream and "Parev" (kosher) Ice and introduce separate standards for composition for dairy ice-cream and milk ice. Alternative standards are also prescribed for certain descriptions of ice-cream containing fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on the 27th April, 1959, and consolidate, with amendments, the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 to 1952.

The labelling of ice-cream is now controlled under the Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1959 which came into operation on the 27th April, 1959.

At the present time there are only two premises in the Borough where ice-cream is manufactured. Most of the ice-cream sold in Swindon is obtained from manufacturers whose premises are situated outside the town.

12 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year and all were found to comply with the new prescribed standards.

There is no prescribed statutory bacteriological standard of cleanliness of ice-cream. The Methylene Blue Test is used for the routine grading and measurement for the bacteriological cleanliness of this product.

13 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, ten of which were placed in Grade I and three in Grade II.

MEAT INSPECTION

43,272 animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir during the year, this being an increase of 11,912 over the total number of animals slaughtered during the previous year.

100% meat inspection was maintained and resulted in 72½ tons of meat being rejected as unfit for human consumption. This is a considerable reduction in the total quantity of meat found to be unfit as compared with 1958, and can be partly attributed to the reduction in the number of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis as a result of the implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme. Of 4,209 cows inspected only 4.8% were found to be affected with tuberculosis compared with 15.5% in 1958. As will be seen from the graph on page 32 this is the lowest incidence of tuberculosis found in cows since 1938.

The table shown on page 31 gives particulars of the animals slaughtered and the percentage of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis and cysticercosis.

Slaughtering was carried out on eight Sundays during the year.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 came into force on the 1st January, 1959. These Regulations lay down new statutory requirements designed to promote cleanliness both in regard to premises and practices for the prevention of contamination of meat at slaughterhouses. They apply to new slaughterhouses as from the appointed day, but parts of the Regulations will not come into operation in respect of existing slaughterhouses until dates appointed by the Minister following submission of the Council's report on slaughtering facilities which is required under Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. This report must be submitted to the Minister before the 2nd November, 1960.

Regulations designed for the prevention of cruelty in connection with the slaughter of animals also came into operation on the 1st January, 1959, and re-enact, with amendments and additional requirements, the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations 1954/5. Some of these requirements will not apply to existing slaughterhouses until dates to be fixed by the Minister and certain requirements relating to the slaughter of horses in certain existing knackers' yards will not apply until the 1st January, 1960.

Detailed specifications for the necessary works of repair and improvements have been prepared to bring the Swindon Public Abattoir up to the standard now demanded by the new Regulations and it is anticipated that the Abattoir will conform in every respect with the new requirements before the date on which the Council's report on slaughtering is submitted to the Minister in 1960.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

At the beginning of the year two Compulsory Purchase Orders relating to eleven houses were awaiting confirmation by the Ministry. Following a public local inquiry by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in respect of one of the Compulsory Purchase Orders, both Orders were confirmed without amendment. Two Clearance Orders relating to seventeen houses submitted to the Minister during the year were confirmed.

1731 primary inspections were made to dwelling-houses on application or as a result of complaints, and repairs were carried out at 352 houses as a result of informal action under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Five statutory notices were served in respect of five houses and three of these notices had been complied with by the owners at the end of the year.

Four statutory notices in respect of four dwelling-houses requiring the conversion of closets to water closets served in November under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, had not been complied with at the end of the year but the necessary instructions had been given by the owners for the work to be carried out.

THE HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958, provides that an annual exchequer housing subsidy is payable for houses provided for the purpose of slum clearance or redevelopment and Sub. Section 4 of Section 3 of the Act restricts the subsidy to houses provided for families displaced as a consequence of the demolition of insanitary houses and Closing Orders, under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1957, houses in Clearance Areas, or the demolition of insanitary houses belonging to the local authority.

114 dwellings were inspected in connection with the re-housing of families from the Local Authority owned property and ten Certificate of Unfitness were issued by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of seventy-six dwellings which were found on inspection to be unfit for human habitation and from which the tenants have since been re-housed.

308 persons, of whom 307 were re-housed by the Corporation were displaced from unfit houses during the year.

OVERCROWDING

The records of the department show that at the commencement of the year there were 11 cases of overcrowding affecting 82 persons outstanding. 6 new cases affecting 53 persons came to the notice of the department and 5 cases affecting 44½ persons were abated during the year, leaving 12 cases of overcrowding affecting 85½ persons outstanding at the close 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 ½ of a unit.

DRAINAGE WORK

The drains of 291 premises were relaid or overhauled during the year under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors.

RENT ACT, 1957

A total of 26 visits were made to dwelling-houses in connection with the Rent Act, 1957. Four applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received but in each instance undertakings were given by the landlords to carry out the necessary repairs therefore no Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

In every case where the landlord has failed to carry out his undertaking within a reasonable period of time, appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Public Health Act to ensure essential repairs being carried out.

Particulars of applications together with action taken under the provisions of the Rent Act will be found on page 38.

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 its 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 four such persons.

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.

Six 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

Twenty-two Certificates of Temporary Exemption were granted in April under Section 2 (2) of the Clean Air Act in respect of 23 furnaces used for heating steel or iron ingots. In each instance the certificate was issued for a period of six months. At the end of the six months' period four of these furnaces had been converted to gas or oil firing and nineteen of the certificates were renewed for a further period of six months.

Proposals were in hand to carry out the necessary modifications to enable the remaining furnaces to be converted to oil firing or for certain existing waste heat boilers operated in conjunction with heating furnaces to be taken out of service and be replaced by new package type boilers.

In accordance with Section 3 (3) of the Clean Air Act, 1956, notice was received in respect of the installation of four new furnaces and in these instances details of the type of furnace together with the firing arrangements, were submitted, and all were found to comply with modern requirements.

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

A number of complaints regarding smoke nuisances were received during the year. These complaints resulted mainly from excessive smoke emissions from industrial chimneys and on investigation were found to be due in many instances to the misuse of plant or the use of the wrong type of fuel. Advice was given on the proper management of these furnaces or the necessary measures to abate and prevent nuisances.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

815 primary inspections and 1350 revisits were made to premises in connection with rat or mouse infestations during 1959. 337 of these inspections were made as a result of complaints received and treatment was carried out at 431 premises for the eradication of rodents.

Test baiting of the sewer manholes was carried out as a result of which it was necessary to treat systematically 314 manholes for rat infestation.

The results obtained by systematic baiting of the sewers over the past twelve years are clearly shown on the chart on page 36.

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. As a result of permanent baiting points which have been provided at the Salvage Depot at Rodbourne, the depot has remained practically clear of rats throughout the year.

Disinfestation for rats or mice was carried out at 78 business premises at a total cost of £227. 9. 1d. which is recoverable from the occupiers of the premises concerned.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Swimming facilities for the public are provided at the Corporation covered baths in Faringdon Road, Swindon, and at the Corporation open-air swimming pool at Coate Water.

There are two baths at Faringdon Road; the small bath with a capacity of 30,000 gallons, is open to the public all the year round while the large bath of 105,000 gallons capacity is only available for swimming during the summer months from April to September inclusive.

Both baths are supplied from the town's mains and the water supplied to each bath is subject to continuous circulation, filtration and chlorination. The supply to the two baths is maintained by three electrically operated centrifugal pumps of equal capacity, two of which are in continual operation when the baths are open and one is used as a stand-by for emergency purposes, producing a rate of flow of 500 gallons per minute and a turn-over rate of 4 to 5 hours. Four - 8 ft. diameter vertical pressure filters with three grade filter beds (air scoured) maintain continuous filtration.

The small bath is completely emptied and refilled twice per year and the large bath is emptied at the end of the summer season; both baths are equipped with foot baths.

The Baths Superintendent carries out tests every two hours for free chlorine, combined chlorine and pH. The water is tested for alkalinity, at least once each day.

At Coate Water the open-air swimming pool with a capacity of 60,000 gallons, is open for swimming to the general public from May until September.

The pool is supplied from the town's mains and the water supply to the pool is subject to continuous circulation, filtration, aeration and chlorination. An 8 h.p. electrical motor operating a centrifugal pump produces a flow of 272 gallons per minute giving a turn-over rate of the water every 3 to 4 hours.

Three - 8' 6" diameter vertical pressure filters with single grade filter bed (air scoured) maintain continuous filtration and the pool is emptied once per year at the end of the summer season.

Samples of all swimming bath water are taken for bacteriological and chemical examination, and the results of the examination of these samples are as follows:-

DETAILS OF SWIMMING BATH WATERS SUBMITTED FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL AND/OR CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

BATH WATER SAMPLED	Number of Samples Taken with Results			
		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL
	No. taken	Results	No. taken	Results
Small Bath Faringdon Road	6	24/48 hr. Plate Count at 37°C in One Millilitre Water - Satisfactory. Presumptive Coli per 100 mls. - NIL. Faecal Coli per 100 mls. Absent in all samples.	4	One sample reported by Public Analyst to contain 3.6 p.p.m. of Residual Chlorine; a larger amount than is desirable. Other samples satisfactory.
Large Baths Faringdon Road	4	ditto	2	Both samples satisfactory.
Open Air Swimming Pool, Coate Water	3	ditto	2	Both samples satisfactory.

The bacteriological reports show that the swimming bath waters were maintained at a satisfactory standard of purity, the results, with one exception, returned total bacteriological counts below 12 organisms per millilitre of water at 22°C and 37°C with presumptive coli test negative in each instance. In four samples total bacteriological counts were NIL.

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 - 1959

Premises	Primary Inspections	Revisits
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936</u>		
Dwelling houses on complaint ...	730	1063
Dwelling houses - no nuisance found ...	246	3
Other Premises ...	250	197
Caravans ...	169	83
Hide & Skin Depot ...	15	10
Stables & Piggeries ...	8	9
Theatres, Cinemas, etc. ...	6	1
Licensed Premises ...	8	2
Public Sanitary Conveniences ...	20	29
Verminous Premises ...	56	58
Infectious Disease Enquiries ...	185	16
Drainage Work under supervision ...	345	1019
<u>CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956</u>		
Dwelling-houses ...	1	-
Factories and other premises ...	86	40
Smoke Observations ...	280	-
<u>HOUSING ACT, 1957</u>		
Dwelling-houses ...	110	121
Houses inspected and recorded ...	90	1
Overcrowding ...	31	28
<u>HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958</u> ...	114	8
<u>RENT ACT, 1957</u>		
Dwelling-houses inspected in connection with applications for Certificates of Disrepair etc.	4	22
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955</u>		
Bakehouses ...	23	6
Butchers' Shops ..	192	70
Dairies ...	43	19
Fish Shops & Fish Friers ..	82	18
Food preparation and Food storage premises ..	78	18
Food Shops/premises ...	683	164
Ice-Cream premises ...	99	37
Licensed premises ...	62	32
Markets and Food stalls ...	92	1
Restaurants, cafes, canteens etc. ...	195	124
Slaughterhouse ...	597	4
Merchandise Marks Order ...	92	3
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING</u>		
Food samples - Bacteriological ...	7	-
Food and Drug samples - Chemical ...	186	-
Ice-Cream - Methylene Blue test ...	13	-
Milk samples - Chemical ...	103	-
Milk samples - Methylene Blue/Phosphatase/ Turbidity tests ...	128	-
Milk samples - Biological ...	37	-
Carried forward	5466	3206

Premises				Primary Inspections	Revisits
Brought forward				5466	3206
<u>OTHER SAMPLES</u>					
Water samples - Bacteriological	...	...	...	49	-
Water samples - Chemical	...	...	...	14	-
Water samples from Swimming Baths/Bathing Pools, etc.	...	...	...	24	-
Sewage Effluent samples	...	...	...	12	-
<u>FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1959</u>					
Factories - mechanical	...	...	...	268	46
Factories - non-mechanical	...	...	...	35	-
Building sites, Electrical stations etc.	...	...	...	34	5
Outworkers	...	...	...	130	-
<u>SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS, 1947 and 1951</u>					
Hairdressers' Premises	...	...	...	78	15
Hawkers Vehicles, Premises etc.	...	...	...	20	2
Inspections in connection with noise nuisances				11	18
<u>AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS)</u>					
<u>REGULATIONS</u>	...	...	...	18	-
<u>DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER</u>					
	...	...	...	20	1
<u>NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948</u>					
	...	...	...	7	2
<u>PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949</u>					
	...	...	...	125	130
<u>RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951</u>					
Inspection of premises	...	...	...	4	-
Samples of Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials				6	-
<u>SHOPS ACTS, 1950</u>					
	...	...	...	13	13
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>					
	...	...	...	3183	129
TOTAL				<u>9517</u>	<u>3567</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered for the Preparation or manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food	109
Premises registered for the Manufacture, Sale or Storage of Ice-cream	308
Premises registered for carrying on a Wholesale Margarine business	8
Registered Dairies	15
Registered Distributors of Milk	31
Wholesale Grocery/Confectionery premises ..	8
Grocery and Provision shops	98
General Food shops	143
Bakehouses	13
Bakers and Confectioners' premises ..	26
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	59
Works' Canteens	33
School Meals Service Premises	30
Wholesale Greengrocery premises	8
Greengrocers and Fruiterers' premises	48
Wholesale Meat stores	3
Butchers' Shops	78
Wholesale Fish Depots	2
Fishmongers' and Fish Friers' premises	37
Wholesale Wine and Beer premises	3
Licensed Hotels, Public Houses and Off Licences	104
Licensed Clubs	35
Chemists' and Drug Stores	22
Mineral Water Works and Wholesale Depots ..	4
Sweet shops	87
Wholesale Ice-cream premises ..	2
Travelling-shop warehouses	5
W.V.S. Kitchen	1

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	64

INFRINGEMENTS OF THE FOOD HYGIENE
REGULATIONS, 1955, REMEDIED DURING 1959

	<u>Remedied</u>
Unsatisfactory premises	1
Unclean or unsatisfactory equipment	48
No protection from contamination	1
Food placed lower than 18" from the ground	2
Unsatisfactory personal cleanliness	-
Smoking and taking snuff	4
Unsatisfactory carriers or wrapping	-
Unsatisfactory drainage	-
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	48
Absence of Notice requesting washing of hands	19
Absence of water supply	-
Absence of wash basins	21
Absence of hot and/or cold water supply to wash basins	42
Absence of soap and/or nailbrushes	43
Absence of towels	18
Absence of First Aid equipment	20
Absence of accommodation for clothing	23
Absence of sufficient sinks	12
Absence of hot and/or cold water to sinks	28
Absence of soap or detergents for sinks	5
Absence of clean wiping cloths	5
Unsatisfactory lighting and/or ventilation	2
Food rooms used as or communicating with sleeping places ..	1
Defective/unclean ceilings	85
" " walls	100
" " windows	6
" " doors	5
" " woodwork	14
" " floors	20
Unsatisfactory protection against rodents/birds/insects, etc. entering food rooms	4
Accumulations of rubbish etcetera	19
Unsatisfactory temperature of food for immediate consumption	-
Absence of name and address on stalls or vehicles	9
Absence of covering of sides and backs of stalls or vehicles	-
Absence of covered receptacles for waste and trimmings ...	2
<u>MEAT VANS</u>	
Absence of impervious floor or duckboards	-
Absence of receptacles for offal	1
Offal not covered in receptacle	-
Absence of cleanliness	-
Absence of clean head covering/overalls	1
Miscellaneous infringements	6
TOTAL	<u>615</u>

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) AND
(PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

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

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	28
Dealers' Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	7
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	31
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, 1959

Designation	No. of Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	8	8	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	58	57	1 *
Pasteurised	60	60	-
Sterilised	2	2	-
TOTALS	128	127	1

* This sample failed the Phosphatase Test - follow-up samples were entirely satisfactory.

SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BIOLOGICAL
EXAMINATION TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
GORSE HILL, SWINDON, DURING THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1959

Designation	No. of Samples taken	Negative results	Positive results
Tuberculin Tested	32	32	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	3	3	-
Pasteurised	2	2	-
TOTALS	37	37	-

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959

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
13	10	3	-	-

SEVEN Other Food samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Gorse Hill, Swindon, and particulars of these samples are shown in the table below:-

Description	No. taken	Result of examination
Water Cress	5	No. 1 Staphylococcus Aureus (Coagulase positive) isolated " 2 Staphylococcus Aureus (Coagulase positive) and B. Coli type 1 isolated " 3 B. Coli type 1 isolated " 4 No Pathogens isolated " 5 B. Coli type 1 isolated
Saveloys	1	Gram positive coli - scanty. No pathogens isolated
Bottle of Cream	1	Methylene Blue test - Not decoloured after 4½ hours at 37°C.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Samples procured	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Milk	79	24	98	5 (a)
Cough Mixtures	-	1	1	-
Pink Pills	-	1	1	-
Camphorated Oil	-	5	5	-
Amm. Tincture of Quinine	-	5	5	-
Tincture of Iodine	-	5	5	-
Syrup of Hypophosphites	-	4	4	-
Cream Cheeses (Cheese Spread)	1	12	8	5 (b)
Beef Sausages	8	-	8	-
Pork Sausages	4	-	3	1 (c)
Bread	-	5	3	2 (d)
Portion of Currant Loaf	-	1	-	1 (e)
Pickles	7	-	7	-
Sauces	5	-	5	-
Orange Drinks	4	-	4	-
" Squashes	1	-	1	-
Carried Forward	109	63	158	14

Samples procured	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Brought forward	109	63	158	14
Orange Juice	-	4	4	-
Lemon Squash	1	-	1	-
" Juice	1	-	1	-
Grapefruit Squash	1	-	1	-
Pork & Sage Croquettes	1	-	-	1 (f)
Cornish Pasties	1	-	1	-
Sausage Rolls	2	-	2	-
Steak & Kidney Pies	1	-	1	-
Stewed Beef etc. (tinned)	-	8	8	-
Luncheon Meat	1	-	1	-
Faggots	1	-	1	-
Haslet	1	-	1	-
Pork Brawn	1	-	1	-
Fish Cakes etc.	2	-	2	-
Pork Pies	1	-	1	-
Clotted Cream Caramels	1	-	1	-
Raspberry & Apple Fruit Pie	-	1	-	1 (g)
Chicken Croquettes	1	-	-	1 (h)
Chicklettes	1	-	-	1 (i)
Liver Sausage	1	-	-	1 (j)
Ice Lollies	-	3	1	2 (k)
Ice-cream	-	12	12	-
Butter	-	6	6	-
Margarine	-	2	2	-
Lard	-	5	5	-
Dripping	-	1	1	-
Chocolate covered Cadby Roll	-	1	-	1 (l)
Coffee	4	-	4	-
Parsley & Thyme Stuffing	2	-	2	-
Sage & Onion "	2	-	2	-
White Pepper	3	-	3	-
Ground Nutmeg	1	-	1	-
Curry Powder	1	-	1	-
Ground Ginger	1	-	1	-
Coffee and Chicory	2	-	2	-
Mincemeat	2	-	2	-
Lemon Cheese	2	-	2	-
Jams (various)	8	-	7	1 (m)
Marmalade	1	-	1	-
Soups (various)	-	6	6	-
Carried Forward	157	112	246	23

Samples procured	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Brought forward	157	112	246	23
Veal Curry	-	1	-	1
Scotch Broth	-	1	-	1
Beef Curry	-	1	-	1
Steak Pudding	-	1	-	1
Whisky	4	-	4	-
Gin	4	-	4	-
Rum	4	-	4	-
Beer	3	-	3	-
Carraway Seeds	-	1	1	-
TOTALS	172	117	262	27

- (a) Legal proceedings taken in respect of Channel Island Milk found to be deficient in fat. See remarks included in narrative of the report.
- (b) These samples were taken following a complaint alleging that the cheese spread contained pieces of glass. Glass-like particles on analysis found to be chrystalline sodium phosphate. Product withdrawn from sale. No legal action taken. See remarks included in narrative of the report.
- (c) This sample contained 62.9% meat. Slightly below figure usually accepted for pork sausages. No legal proceedings taken.
- (d) Samples submitted to the Analyst following complaint from the purchasers. Legal proceedings taken in each instance.
- (e) Sample submitted to the Analyst following a complaint from the purchaser regarding piece of wire embedded in the substance of the loaf. Legal proceedings taken.
- (f) This was a formal sample found on analysis to contain sulphur dioxide as a preservative. Investigations proved that a small quantity of meat intended for pork sausages, and containing the permitted quantity of preservative, had been inadvertently included in the manufacture of this product. No legal proceedings were authorised and a suitable warning was sent to the manufacturers in this instance.
- (g) Legal proceedings taken in this instance following a complaint from the purchaser regarding foreign matter embedded in the pie.
- (h) This sample contained 26% chicken meat and the vendor was approached with a view to increasing the meat content of this product, but as there is no legal standard, no statutory action was taken in this case.
- (i) This sample contained 20% chicken meat and the vendor was approached with a view to increasing the meat content of this product, but as there is no legal standard, no statutory action was taken in this case.
- (j) This sample contained 42% meat and liver and in the opinion of the Public Analyst the meat content should be at least 50%. A suitable warning was given to the manufacturers in this instance.
- (k) These samples were found on analysis to be low in sugar content, but having regard to the price paid, namely, 1d., no statutory action was authorised. The attention of the manufacturers was drawn to the low sugar content of these products.
- (l) Sample submitted to the Analyst following complaint from the purchaser regarding the mouldy condition of this product. Legal proceedings taken.
- (m) This sample was found to be slightly deficient in soluble solids. No legal proceedings authorised in this case.
- (n) These samples were found on analysis to contain lead in excess of the recommended limit of 5 p.p.m. See comments in the narrative of the report.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924

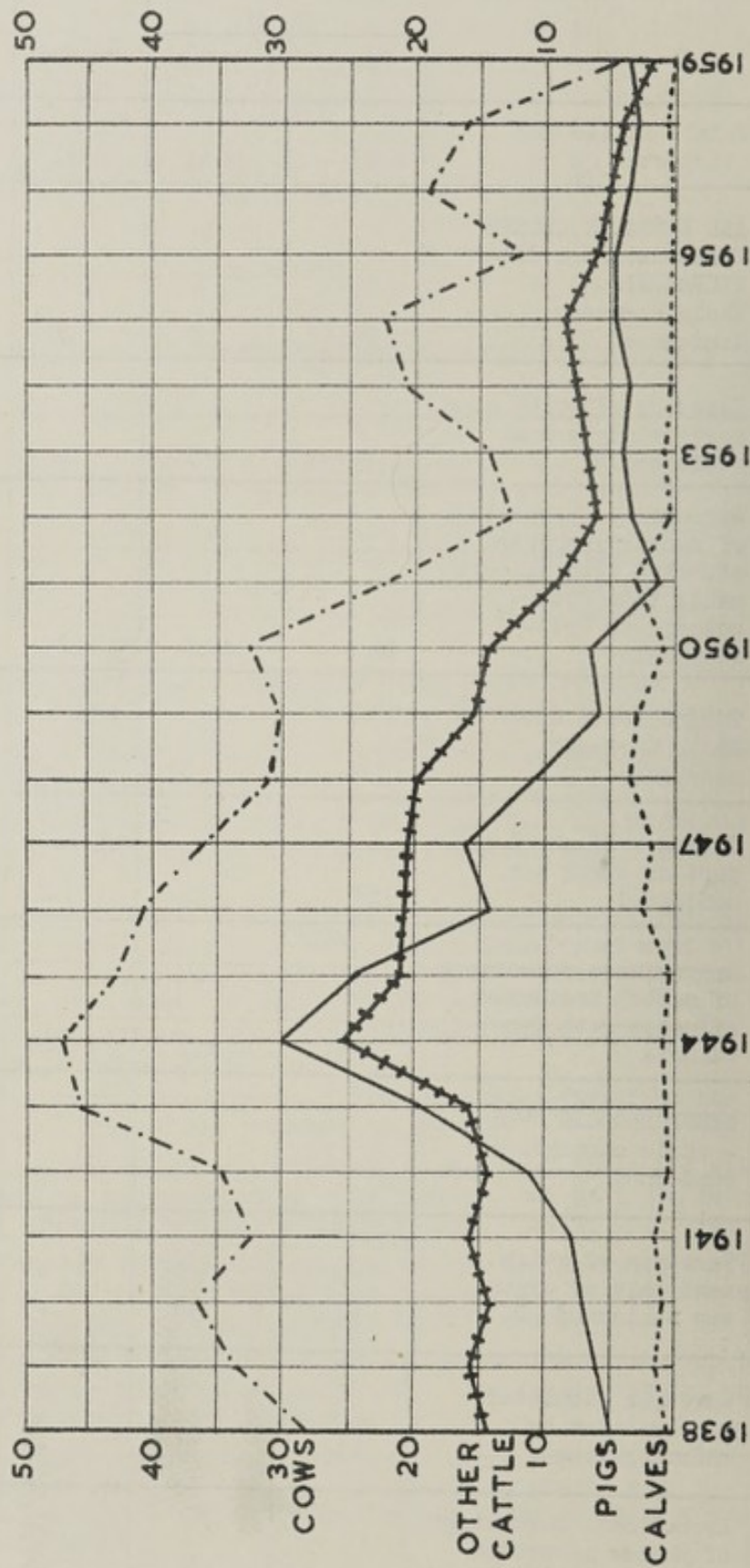
The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during 1959, and the incidence of Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:-

	Cattle		Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
	Cows	Others			
Totals killed and inspected	4209	2653	2341	15920	18149
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCOSIS Whole carcasses condemned	25	1	20	36	1049
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2190	652	16	2780	7516
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis	52.6	24.6	1.5	17.7	47.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned	5	3	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	197	43	2	587	-
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.8	1.7	.08	3.7	-
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY - whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	18	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	13	21	-	-	-
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	.28	.67	-	-	-

**PERCENTAGE OF
CATTLE & PIG CARCASSES
FOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH
TUBERCULOSIS
FROM 1938 TO 1959**

**CATTLE & PIG
CARCASSES INSPECTED IN 1959**

COWS	4209
OTHER CATTLE	2653
CALVES	2341
PIGS	15920
TOTAL	25123



UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1959

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Unsound Meat and Offal	72	11	1	2
Other Unsound Food	4	5	3	14
TOTAL	76	17	-	16

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	38	35	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	196	268	21	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	42	34	2	-
TOTALS	276	337	26	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	4	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) insufficient	7	4	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	74	39	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	88	46	1	-	-

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111.)

Numbers of Outworkers at August, 1959 :-

Making, cleaning, etc. of wearing apparel ...	109
Making of curtains, furniture hangings, etc. ...	8
Making of receptacles of paper, cardboard, etc. ...	2
Furniture and Upholstery ...	3
	<u>122</u>

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Inspections and Revisits during 1959 :-

<u>Type of Property</u>				Public Health Inspectors' Inspections and Revisits	
Local Authority	...	...	...	6	6
Dwelling-house	...	...	...	64	59
Business ...	...	...	...	39	65
Agricultural	...	...	...	16	-
Other Premises	...	...	...	-	-
Inspectors' Totals	...	...	...	<u>125</u>	<u>130</u>

<u>Type of Property</u>				Rodent Operative's Inspections and Revisits	
Local Authority	...	...	...	50	138
Dwelling-house	...	...	...	465	760
Business ...	...	...	...	161	304
Agricultural	...	...	...	5	5
Other Premises	...	...	...	9	13
Sewer Manholes	...	...	...	<u>801</u>	<u>1387</u>
Operative's Totals	...	...	...	<u>1491</u>	<u>2607</u>

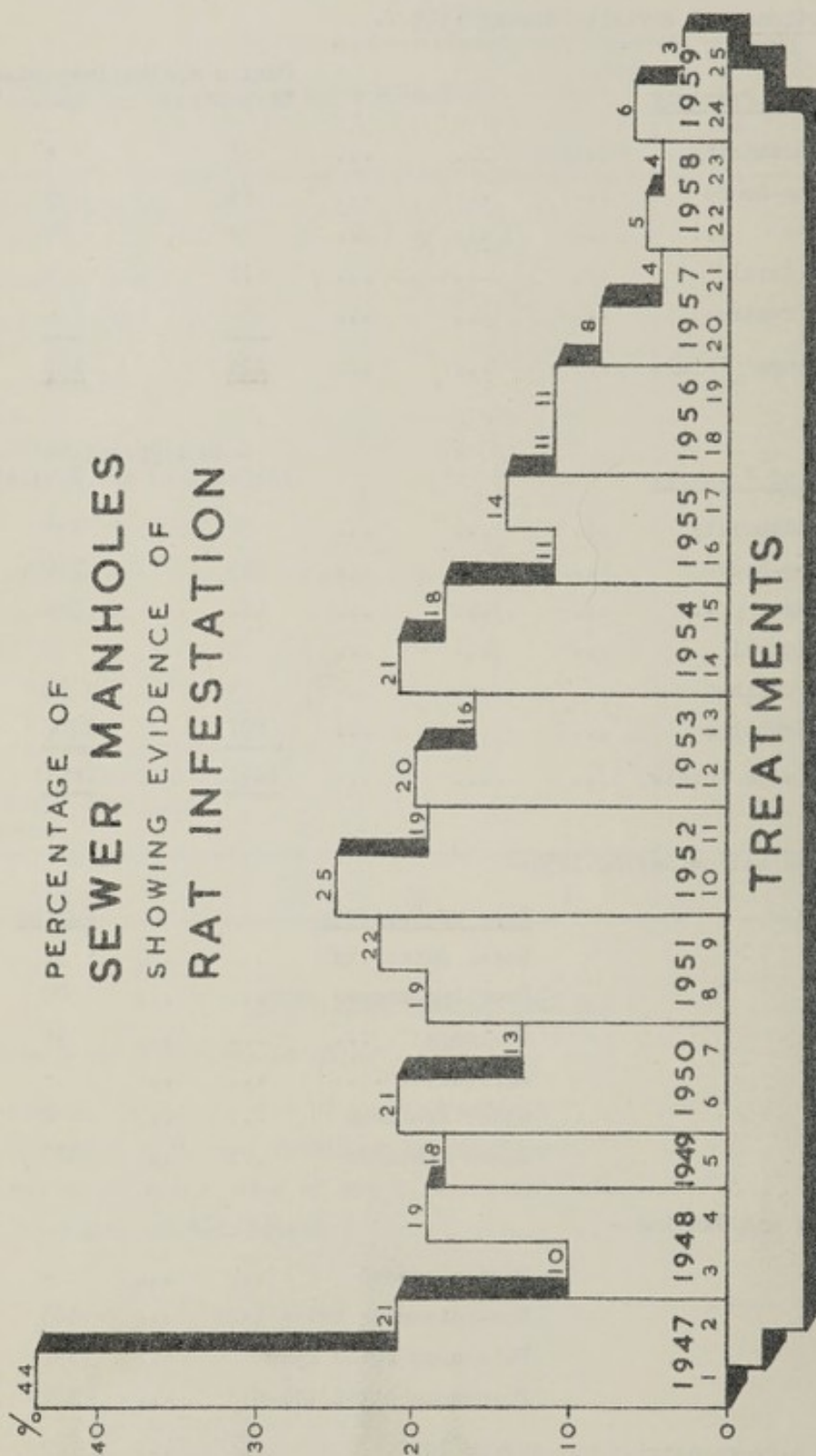
2. Premises baited during 1959:-

<u>Type of Property</u>			<u>Number</u>
Local Authority	...	...	31
Dwelling-houses	...	...	300
Business ...	...	...	96
Agricultural ..	...	...	-
Other Premises	...	...	4
Sewer Manholes	...	...	314

3. Baiting and Gassing:-

Buries gassed	...	...	-
Non-poisonous baits laid	...	...	443
Poisonous baits laid	...	...	3599
Poisonous baits taken	...	...	2326

4. Block surveys carried out during 1959 ... 122



PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 and HOUSING ACT, 1957NUISANCES ABATED and HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

Defective ceilings	...	...	...	...	28
Defective walls	...	...	...	...	132
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	84
Dirty rooms	...	...	...	...	28
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	31
Defective firegrates	..	...	...	...	14
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	76
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	18
Defective stairs	...	...	...	...	5
Defective coppers	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	-
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	9
Water services provided or repaired		...	...	...	5
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	11
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	51
Defective eavesgutters and/or rainwater-pipes			...	...	63
Defective yard paving	..	...	...	...	3
Defective forecourt paving	...	...	...	...	1
Defective water closets repaired			...	...	9
New pedestal pans fixed	...	...	...	...	156
Defective flushing cisterns repaired			...	...	13
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	144
Additional water closets provided			...	...	63
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	102
Drains, new, repaired or relaid			...	...	293
Defective traps	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection chambers repaired or provided			...	...	177
Gullies repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	202
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	603
New baths fixed	...	...	...	...	163
New lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	166
Offensive accumulations removed			...	...	19
Offensive animals	...	...	...	...	-
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	5
Food stores provided or ventilated			...	...	-
Rent books made to comply with the Housing Act			...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	77
Total					<u>2,760</u>

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	1731
Houses found to be defective	...	...	...	...	544
Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	358
Houses rendered fit by formal action	...	...	...	...	3
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	104
Informal notices complied with	..	...	...	...	101
Statutory notices, Public Health Act (S. 47 and 92)					
Served	...	...	...	...	9
Complied with by owners	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory notices, Housing Act:					
Served	...	...	...	...	-
Complied with by Owners	...	...	...	...	-

HOUSING ACT, 1957, Section 77Overcrowding

Houses overcrowded at end of 1958	...	...	...	...	11
Number of persons affected	...	...	...	...	82
New cases of overcrowding found during 1959	...	...	...	...	6
Number of persons affected	...	...	...	...	53
Cases of overcrowding abated during 1959	...	...	...	...	5
Number of persons affected	...	...	...	...	44½
Cases of overcrowding not abated at end of 1959	...	...	...	...	12
Number of persons affected	...	...	...	...	85½

RENT ACT, 1957 - STATISTICS

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	...	...	...	...	4
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	-
Number of decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair:					
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	...	4
(b) in respect of all defects	..	...	...	...	-
Number of Undertakings received from Landlords	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Undertakings refused by Local Authority	..	...	...	...	-
Number of Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects issued:					
(a) to the landlord	...	...	...	...	1
(b) to the tenant	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	-
Number of applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	4
Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	2
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	...	...	...	...	-
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	5

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PROPERTY

Rooms disinfested in Council owned property	...	...	219
" " " Other property	...	...	215
Lots of bedding disinfested	...	...	67
" " bedding destroyed	...	...	48
Other articles disinfested	...	...	4
WASPS' NESTS DESTROYED	...	...	117

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE, etc.

Rooms disinfected	...	...	272
Articles disinfected	...	...	19,082
Library books disinfected	...	...	218
Bedding from hospitals disinfected	...	...	-
Bedding from private premises disinfected .	...	...	141
Infected bedding destroyed	...	...	17
Other bedding and miscellaneous articles destroyed .	...	...	44

FREE DISINFECTANTS ISSUED

Fluid -- 117 pints

SWINDON CORPORATION ACT, 1951

Number of Hairdressers and Barbers on Register 100

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Matters requiring attention - 5 found - 5 remedied

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

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

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BOROUGH OF SWINDON
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 as at 31st December, 1959.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman F.D. JEFFORD)

Chairman: Councillor C.S. MACPHERSON

Vice-Chairman: Councillor D. JONES

MEMBERS

Alderman A.J. BOWN	Councillor H.W. GARDNER
" A.W.J. DYMOND	" I.W.J. HOMER
" T.G. GAY	" L.J. NEWMAN
" R.S.J. HONEY	" T.I. THOMAS
Councillor A.M. BENNETT	" H. THORPE
" F.E. BISHOP	" R.E. WHITE
" G. BOND	Mr. F.W. HAWKSWORTH
" A.E. CAMDEN	" J.G. MASON
" P.J. FURKINS	" S.P. WOODLEY
	Miss I. MOORE

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. JELlicoe, M.A. (Oxon.)

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF
SWINDON

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

From the statistics given in this report it will be noted that with the Borough expansion under the Town Development Act the school population is increasing substantially each year. At the end of 1959 the number on the school registers was 16,154, an increase of 688 over last year.

Since the expansion programme started the birth rate in the town has increased steadily from 16.12 in 1955 to 21.29 in 1959. This latter figure compares with the rate of 16.5 for England and Wales as a whole. The influx of families to the town and the increasing birth rate is reflected in the number of children of five years of age admitted to our schools. Since 1955 the number has risen from 1100 to 1632 in 1959. During the same period 12 new schools have been opened and three others are under construction. In spite of this most of our schools are overcrowded and if this high birth rate continues - as it is likely to do for some years yet - the rate of school building will have to keep pace with it.

The increasing school population has naturally increased the work of the School Health Service and during 1959 the number of periodic examinations of school children rose by approximately 30%. Unfortunately the position with regard to the recruitment of School Nurse/Health Visitors did not improve and at the end of the year we were six under our establishment.

The Child Guidance Clinic continued to function at 81 Bath Road but the report of their work during the year is incorporated in the report of the Principal County School Medical Officer.

The School Dental Service was able to function more satisfactorily with the appointment of a full-time School Dental Officer at the beginning of the year. Although the number of school dental inspections and attendances for treatment showed a threefold increase over 1958 the total work is only a fraction of what is required to attain a reasonable standard of dental fitness in our school children.

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 1959 with comparable figures for 1958 is given below :-

	1958	1959
Number of primary and secondary school children on register at end of December 1959	15,466	16,154
Number of children examined at routine medical inspection	3,105	4,054
Number found to require treatment for diseases and defects	478	792
Number of dental inspections	1,886	5,669
Number referred for dental treatment	1,700	4,839
Number of children treated	1,388	4,561
Number of children examined for part-time employment	116	144

SCHOOL POPULATION

The estimated total population of the Borough of Swindon at mid-year 1959 was 82,660 - an increase of 2,400 compared with the previous year. 1959 also showed a comparable increase in the number of Swindon school children. At the end of 1959 there were 16,154 children on the registers of Swindon's primary and secondary schools (including the Central School) - 688 more than at the end of 1958.

STAFF

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

1. MEDICAL

Dr. W.M. Hiscock	resigned	25. 9.59.
Dr. J.L. Evans	commenced	12.11.59.

2. DENTAL

Mr. S.H. House	commenced	5. 1.59.
Miss G. Ellis	commenced	12. 1.59.
Mr. W. Simkins	resigned part-time	3.10.59.
Mr. W.M. Boyle	commenced part-time	5.10.59.

3. SPEECH THERAPISTS

Mrs. M. Watt	resigned part-time	28. 2.59.
Miss A. Self	commenced	2. 3.59.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year periodic medical examinations were carried out in accordance with the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations 1953 (and, since 1st April 1959, with the new School Health Service Regulations 1959).

As in previous years, the majority of the periodic medical examinations of Grammar School pupils were carried out at school clinics during the summer holidays in order to avoid interfering with school work as far as possible.

YEAR	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
No. of children examined	4,054	3,105	4,330	3,084	3,519
No. of children found to have defects needing treatment	792	478	1,184	852	1,121
Percentage of children examined needing treatment.	19.53	15.39	27.3	27.6	31.8

It will be seen that 949 more children were medically examined during 1959 than in 1958. This was achieved despite the fact that the number of injections against poliomyelitis given by the department's staff rose by more than 50% compared with 1958.

It should also be noted that the medical staff was one below establishment for seven weeks during the Christmas term.

The drop in the percentage of children found to have a defect requiring treatment during 1959 was not fully maintained. Nevertheless the figure (19.5%) showed a definite decrease over the year 1957 (27.3%) and previous years.

Details of the findings at periodic medical inspections are given in the following table, together with the comparable data for 1958.

DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1959, WITH COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1958

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections No. of defects			
	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Skin	34	84	39	55
Eyes:- (a) Vision	215	329	210	167
(b) Squint	29	22	28	18
(c) Other	5	3	7	3
Ears:- (a) Hearing	19	11	26	26
(b) Otitis Media	13	21	20	18
(c) Other	2	5	4	2
Nose or Throat	32	93	84	66
Speech	17	25	27	19
Lymphatic Glands	3	4	10	18
Heart and Circulation	14	36	92	125
Lungs	25	51	95	101
Developmental:- (a) Hernia	1	3	2	2
(b) Other	9	19	46	28
Orthopaedic:- (a) Posture	31	52	27	24
(b) Feet	15	58	23	16
(c) Other	26	40	42	53
Nervous System:- (a) Epilepsy	4	4	10	16
(b) Other	11	9	24	1
Psychological:-				
(a) Development	4	7	6	22
(b) Stability	9	21	47	46

Removal of Tonsils

At the request of the Ministry, we continued to keep records of the number of children who had undergone tonsillectomy prior to their periodic examinations.

The results are tabulated below and show no significant change from the figures for 1958. Nowadays, tonsillectomy is only carried out when there are strong indications for it, where there is doubt the Surgeon usually prefers to delay operation and see the child later, when symptoms may have subsided rendering tonsillectomy unnecessary.

Age Group	Sex	No. Examined	No. undergone Tonsillectomy	Percentage with Tonsils removed
INFANTS	Boys	402	36	8.95%
	Girls	361	21	5.82%
JUNIORS	Boys	682	127	18.62%
	Girls	665	117	17.59%
SECONDARY AND GRAMMAR	Boys	857	143	16.68%
	Girls	878	194	22.34%
TOTALS	Boys	1941	306	15.76%
	Girls	1904	332	17.22%

CLASSIFICATION OF PHYSICAL CONDITION

As in the past three 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% were assessed as "satisfactory", 0.27% of the total number of children examined being found to be "unsatisfactory,"

In 1958 0.13% were found to be "unsatisfactory" so that a very slight deterioration has been observed.

AGE GROUP	No. Examined	No. Satisfactory	% Satisfactory	% Unsatisfactory
School Entrants 1959	820	816	99.5%	0.5
10-11 year old 1959	1377	1374	99.8%	0.2%
School leavers 1959 (14 years and over)	1759	1755	99.8%	0.2%
Others	98	98	100%	0%
Total	4054	4043	99.73%	0.27%

CLEANLINESS

During 1959 the School Nurses carried out a total of 22,059 inspections for uncleanness, and a total of 223 individual children were reported as infested (1.32% of the school population) compared with 253 in 1958 (1.63% of the school population).

Although small this is a change in the right direction. Looking over the figures for the past ten years, it can be seen that there was a decided improvement from 5.2% infested in 1951 to 1.39% in 1952. Since then, however, the percentage has varied only within narrow limits, the highest being 2.37% in 1954 and the lowest 0.98% in 1957.

It seems, therefore, that this small percentage represents the "hard core" of cases that, although treated successfully, become re-infested again from other members of the family. The eradication of this persistent source of infestation will require a great deal of hard work and valuable time from the school nurses who have been, and still are, in short supply.

SCHOOL CLINICS

Eastcott Hill and Pinehurst are still the main clinics in Swindon, but on the 4th June, 1959, a new clinic was opened at Priory Road, Park South.

The three clinics are used as follows :-

Eastcott Hill Clinic

Minor Ailment Clinics are held on Monday and Friday mornings each week.

Speech Therapy Clinics are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays all day.

Dental Clinics - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (Saturday alternate)

Child Guidance - Two Sessions monthly.

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

Pinehurst Clinic

Minor Ailment Clinics held each Tuesday morning.

Speech Therapy - on Mondays all day.

Dental - Wednesday and Thursday (all day) Friday a.m.

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

Priory Road Clinic

Speech Therapy - all day Fridays.

Speech Therapy - all day Mondays (Wilts. County Council)
(from 1st Sept. 1959).

From the above, it can be seen that several changes have occurred. The number of Speech Therapy sessions has increased following the appointment of Miss Self on a full-time basis. The number of Dental Clinics has increased following the appointment of Mr. House as full-time School Dentist.

The Minor Ailment Clinics have been reduced in number from 6 to 2 each week, owing to a steady reduction in the number of children attending.

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 1959 - 542 consultations were held at these clinics.

OTHER MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Special medical inspections and re-inspections were carried out on 1,170 primary and secondary school children. The figures for 1959 and 1958 as follows:

	1958	1959
Number of inspections	1,279	1,170
Number of re-inspections	715	718

An analysis of the 1959 and 1958 figures is shown in the following table of special examinations.

DEFECTS FOUND AT SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959, WITH
COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1958.

Defect or Disease	Special Examinations No. of defects			
	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Skin	855	480	109	35
Eyes:- (a) Vision	116	112	92	73
(b) Squint	5	5	1	1
(c) Other	95	46	7	11
Ears:- (a) Hearing	16	11	7	6
(b) Otitis Media	3	5	1	-
(c) Other	51	27	14	11
Nose or Throat	53	40	36	25
Speech	20	24	9	12
Lymphatic Glands	-	-	-	-
Heart and Circulation	5	5	21	28
Lungs	32	20	35	46
Developmental:- (a) Hernia	-	-	-	1
(b) Other	4	3	10	19
Orthopaedic:- (a) Posture	13	10	14	8
(b) Feet	58	32	27	26
(c) Other	259	49	56	25
Nervous system:- (a) Epilepsy	-	1	-	1
(b) Other	33	-	19	-
Psychological:-				
(a) Development	2	1	2	1
(b) Stability	11	38	3	26

It should be noted that these figures for "special" inspections include examinations for physical or mental handicap, examinations at the special request of teacher or parent, juvenile employment examinations and all first examinations at minor ailment clinics.

PLANTAR WARTS

No one school had a particularly high incidence of plantar warts in 1959 and the special treatment clinics were discontinued, treatment being provided instead at the ordinary Minor Ailment Clinics. 194 cases were treated in 1959 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 during the year.

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Number of Clinics held	178	255
Number of attendances	2,415	2,412
Number of new cases referred during the year	294	287
Number of old cases	976	1,064

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

During 1959, 11 school children were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic held in the G.W.R. Hospital as compared with 18 in 1958.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINICS

40 children were referred in 1959, as compared with 45 in 1958. 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 1959 :-

(a) for diseases of the ear	41
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	295
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	47
No. of cases known to have received other forms of treatment	16
No. of cases known to have been provided with hearing aids during 1959	18

PAEDIATRIC CLINIC

40 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers in 1959 as compared with 34 in 1958. As in 1958 the children were seen with little delay, the full reports were sent to the School Medical Officer by Dr. N.R. Butler, the consultant paediatrician. Dr. Butler also sends us a report on any school child referred to him from other sources.

OTHER SPECIALIST CLINICS

The following number of children have been referred for specialist opinion :-

Skin Specialist	...	27
Surgical Specialist	...	6
Chiropodist	...	2

SPECIAL CLINICS

REMEDIAL EXERCISES. Number of children receiving treatment at the end of 1959:-

Infant School Children	...	40
Junior School Children	...	87
Secondary Modern and Secondary Grammar School Children	...	142
		<u>269</u>

These 269 received treatment for the following defects :-

Poor Posture	...	73
Foot and Leg defects	...	114
Breathing exercises	...	82

A number of these children received treatment for more than one defect.

Overweight children seem to benefit a lot from intrinsic foot exercises, especially when these are started early in the child's school life. Games, and physical education lessons are also of great help to this type of child.

Poor posture is seen mostly in children of secondary school age, especially girls. A big factor in producing this poor posture is the child's mental attitude, as it is uncommon to find any physical cause. Teachers and parents can be, and often are, of great help in encouraging a more optimistic view of life.

Although many children with chest trouble, such as asthma, grow out of it, breathing exercises appear to speed up the recovery and prevent permanent chest deformity or lung damage.

During 1959 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 151 children being referred during the year. The progress of the children was supervised closely, 290 children being seen for review and reassessment during the year. Of these, 192 children were discharged from treatment either because their condition had improved sufficiently or because it was considered further treatment would not benefit them.

SPEECH THERAPY

In 1959 the County Council speech therapist, Miss Hall, devoted two sessions each week to Swindon children until the end of April.

Mrs. Watt continued her duties as speech therapist on a part-time basis, devoting five sessions each week to Swindon children, until 27.2.59. Miss Self commenced full-time on 2.3.59.

Of the cases treated a large number showed stammering symptoms, and the rest were speech defective, (dyslalic), because of general backwardness or emotional disturbance.

There was one case of cleft palate, and one of partial deafness.

Speech consciousness is lacking in the schools generally, and there does not appear to be enough consideration for the problems of the stammerer, possibly due to a shortage of teachers and overcrowded class-rooms.

A long waiting list necessitated that school visits be cut to a minimum; however, in those cases where meeting with the teachers was possible, and parental co-operation enlisted, results were more rapid.

Unfortunately, speech therapy is denied to children below a certain level of intelligence, because of the large number of speech defectives of normal intelligence who claim priority.

A number of children have been referred to the E.N.T. Department of the Regional Hospital, and the help received has been of the greatest value.

The table below gives details of the service provided in 1959:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of children seen	88	28	116
Number of attendances	1,364	317	1,681
Number of children discharged	30	9	39

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 1959 the number and type of handicapped pupils in Swindon remained substantially similar to the findings of 1958.

The number of handicapped pupils ascertained to be in need of special educational treatment in 1959 was 29. The number of pupils placed in special schools was 24 in 1959 and there were 2 children still awaiting places in boarding special schools at the end of the year. There were 3 on the waiting list for the Central Primary School at the end of the year.

At the end of 1959 there were 80 children in the Central Primary School (75 in 1958) and 25 children in boarding special schools (27 in 1958).

One physically handicapped child was receiving Home Tuition at the end of the year (2 in 1958), and 7 were attending the Spastic Unit, including 1 County child.

During 1959 6 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 2 were notified under Section 57 (5).

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	...	...	...	...	Nil
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:-

One girl (aged 8 years) at the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym.

One boy (aged 14 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	...	...	...	1
Total number of partially sighted pupils in Special Schools for Partially Sighted Children	...	...	...	4

The following 3 children attend the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils:-

One boy aged 13 years has been attending since January, 1953.

One boy aged 11 years has been attending since September, 1953.

One boy aged 12 years has been attending since February, 1956.

The fourth child, a girl aged 6 years (transfer in), was admitted to Barclays School for Partially Sighted Girls, Little Paddocks, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berks.

(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 acquired 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	9

These are as follows:-

One boy aged 11 years has been attending St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke, since May, 1953.

One boy aged 13 years has been attending St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke, since January, 1954.

One girl aged 9 years has been at The Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby, since January 1956.

One girl aged 16 years has been at the Royal School for Deaf and Dumb, Margate since June, 1956.

One boy aged 8 years was transferred from Donnington Lodge School for the Deaf, Newbury, to St. Thomas' School, Basingstoke during 1959.

One boy aged 12 years is attending St. John's Residential School for the Deaf.

One boy aged 12 years is attending the Royal West of England School for the Deaf.

One girl aged 13 years has been at the Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby, since September, 1953.

One girl aged 15 (transfer in) is at the Nutfield Priory Boarding School for the Deaf, Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey.

(d) Partially Deaf Pupils

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

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	18

Special Class for Partially Deaf School Children

During the year approval in principle was given to the establishment of a special class for young partially deaf children in one of our infant schools.

The object of this class is to train these partially deaf children to make the optimum use of their remaining hearing, so that they may, with the help of deaf aids, eventually take their place in the normal school and in Society.

The class-room chosen will have to be modified to eliminate extraneous noise and echo and will be equipped with the apparatus necessary for teaching a group of partially deaf children. A teacher specially trained in the teaching of such children will have to be appointed and she will work in close collaboration with the school medical officer, the consultant ear, nose and throat surgeons and the head mistress of the school.

The number of children in the class will have to be limited up to a maximum of 10 as each child will require individual attention. To start with the children will be taught in the special class most of their time but will join the other children for subjects which do not require hearing. As they progress in the use of their hearing they will be gradually integrated with the normal classes in the school.

It is hoped this class will be established during the coming year and will cater for the partially deaf children not only in Swindon but in the surrounding country areas.

(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 1959, 41 new cases were examined and were grouped as follows:-

Number of E.S.N. children recommended for admission to the Central School	8
Number of E.S.N. children recommended for Special Educational treatment at the Ordinary School ..	26
Number of E.S.N. children recommended for education at a Residential School for E.S.N. pupils ...	1
Number of children reported to the Local Authority as being ineducable during the year	6
Total number of E.S.N. children on the register at the Central School	80
Total number of E.S.N. children at Ordinary Schools	83

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

- 2 were notified as requiring statutory supervision after leaving school (under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act 1944)
- 2 continue to receive special educational treatment within the ordinary school.
- 5 were placed under the friendly supervision of the Local Health Authority after leaving school.
- 7 were recommended for education at a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.
- 3 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.
- 3 were recommended for return to the ordinary school system.
- 1 no longer classified as Educationally Sub-normal.

(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	...	...	...	...	...	1
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.	...	...	...	...	Nil
One boy aged 12 years was discharged from The Mount Special School, Chepstow during 1959.					
One boy aged 9 years was discharged from Southfields Hostel Ilminster during 1959.					

(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	...	...	...	...	3
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 treatment."

Number of pupils with speech defect ascertained during the year	...	...	...	...	One
(this boy is also educationally subnormal)					
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 school."

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 	Nil

One boy aged 16 years left Park Place School, Henley-on-Thames, in December 1959.

One boy aged 16 years left The Hatchford Park Special School in March, 1959.

SPASTIC PARALYSIS

The Spastic Unit continued to function in the Regional Hospital Board's premises at the Physiotherapy Department, Community House, Faringdon Road, but at the end of the year plans were well advanced for transferring the Unit to Princess Margaret Hospital.

At the end of 1959 there were, as in 1958, 7 pupils on the roll, 6 being Swindon children; the other one was a County child. For teaching purposes, they have gradually been separated into two age groups, viz. three five year olds and four who are between 10 and 12 years.

During the year each Swindon child was examined in his or her own home by a Medical Officer and an assessment of their progress made. The amount of progress made varied with the child but in general it was good.

Dr. J.B. Stewart, the Consultant-in-Physical-Medicine, and his staff, arranged regular physiotherapy and speech therapy was provided daily by the hospital Speech Therapist.

School meals and milk were provided by the School Meals Service with the help of a subsidy from the 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, 7,835 representing 92% of children attending school at the time (7,636 representing 92.2% in 1958).

Total number secondary children taking milk, 5,361 representing 82.8% of children attending school at the time (4,863 representing 80.1% in 1958).

Total number Central Primary children taking milk, 62 representing 87.3% of children attending school at the time (68 representing 87.2% in 1958).

Number of school departments supplied is 52.

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

	1958	1959
Number of school canteens	53	52
Number of school children taking meals	3503	4112
Number of children taking free meals	145	277

PROTECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST
TUBERCULOSIS

The vaccination of children of the 13-14 year age group against Tuberculosis continued in 1959, 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 1,258 children were eligible for B.C.G. Vaccination, only 708 acceptances were received, viz. 56%, a response which was disappointing. As a result of Tuberculin Testing, it was found that 139 children had already some protection against tuberculosis and therefore vaccination was not necessary. 569 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	1,258
Number skin tested	708 (56.2%)
Number of negative reactors	569 (80.36%)
Number of positive reactors	139 (19.64%)
Complications of B.C.G. Vaccination	Nil

All these figures are comparable with those of last year.

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 1959, 42 examinations of such candidates were carried out by the School Medical Officers in Swindon.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948

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

During 1958, 24 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.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES

The amount of school dental work undertaken showed a marked increase over the previous year, due largely to the appointment of a full-time dental officer, Mr. S.H. House, on 5th January 1959.

Mr. W. Simkins continued with 3 sessions weekly until his resignation in October 1959. Mr. W.M. Boyle was appointed to fill the part-time vacancy, doing 5 sessions a week for two months, and, since December, one session per week. Mr. Randerson continued in his part-time capacity doing 3 sessions weekly.

There is enough school dental work in the Borough to occupy at least five full-time dental officers. The new Priory Road clinic contains two dental suites, but because we have been unable to recruit dental officers these suites have not been equipped.

The following shows the work done during 1959:-

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
DURING THE YEAR 1959

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

(a) At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	2,464
(b) As Specials	...	...	...	3,205

Total - 5,669

Number found to require treatment 4,839

Number offered treatment ... 4,839

Number actually treated ... 4,561

Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment . 5,367

Half days devoted to: Periodic (Schools) Inspection 25

Treatment ... 708

Total - 733

Fillings:	Permanent Teeth	...	1,664
	Temporary Teeth	...	112

Total - 1,776

Number of teeth filled:	Permanent Teeth	...	1,540
	Temporary Teeth	...	110

Total - 1,650

Extractions:	Permanent Teeth	...	1,133
	Temporary Teeth	...	1,526

Total - 2,659

Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	587
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Other operations:	Permanent Teeth	...	598
	Temporary Teeth	...	772

Total - 1,370

REPORT OF THE AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

I have much pleasure in submitting herewith the report of the Area Medical Officer for Swindon for the year 1959.

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.

The scheme of delegation of powers under the Local Government Act 1958 has now been submitted and it is likely that it will come into effect in 1960. One can assume therefore that this is the last time this report will be presented in this way.

Swindon's population continues to rise rapidly and the Registrar General estimated the mid-June 1959 population as 82,660, an increase of 2,254 over last year. The birth rate remains considerably higher than that for the country as a whole and as long as the expansion programme continues as planned one can anticipate the population will continue to increase at this rate.

At 31st December a total of 2,089 houses was occupied on the Penhill Estate and 3,049 on the Walcot group of estates. In addition 220 private houses were completed and occupied during the year. Since the inception of the expansion scheme under the Town Development Act a total of 3,715 families from London and elsewhere has been housed in corporation houses.

Our major difficulty in providing services for this large population is due to our shortage of health visiting staff. I have referred to this elsewhere in the report, otherwise staff and facilities have been provided to meet the demands made on them. I would particularly refer to the new clinic at Priory Road, which became available for use during the year. This clinic provides a much needed amenity and as the estate continues to be built up around it more and more use will be made of it. At present this clinic is used for infant welfare, immunisation, speech therapy, child guidance and ante-natal clinics. Unfortunately we have been unable to recruit dental officers so the dental suites in the clinic have not been furnished. It will be seen from elsewhere in the report that the dental position was somewhat better during the year but until more whole-time dental officers are appointed the dental services for the Priority Classes will continue to be totally inadequate to meet the demands of the rising population.

JAMES URQUHART,

Area Medical Officer.

Civic Offices,
Swindon.

HEALTH VISITING

During the year we were constantly below strength in health visitors and at the end of the year we had only eight of our total establishment of fifteen. When one considers that for half their time the Health Visitors act as School Nurses one realizes how serious the position is, and how this restricts the work of the department in so many aspects.

With the increasing population, both by virtue of the expansion programme and the high birth rate, the shortage of health visitors has necessitated a reorganisation of their duties to maintain as far as possible the basic services.

Thus it has been impossible to maintain anything but selected home visiting, and this is reflected in the table given below. As far as possible visiting of the aged has been maintained, as are visits to newly born babies. Where the mother is capable and the baby is healthy and attends regularly at a Child Welfare Clinic, home visiting is to all intents and purposes discontinued. Visiting problem families has also been maintained at as high a level as possible but it is impossible to devote as much time as we would wish to them.

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 1958 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
235 (304)	238 (324)	1714 (1601)	4111 (4182)	3927 (5216)	642 (862)

Included in "Other classes" in this table are 11 visits to cases of infectious disease and 306 visits to cases of tuberculosis.

During the year health visitors paid 238 visits to expectant mothers to investigate their home circumstances.

In the past we visited homes where accidents had occurred but the information about these accidents from the hospital authorities was discontinued. I feel this is a retrograde step as in the homes the health visitor was able to spread the gospel of accident prevention and the lessons we feel were most effective when the incident was fresh in the minds of the householders.

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 - 4.30 p.m.	Number of consultations with doctor	Number of attendances
61 Eastcott Hill	Wednesday & Friday	2071	5287
Beech Avenue, Pinchurst	Tuesday	726	1893
Gorse Hill	Wednesday	923	2524
Redbourne Cheney	Monday	594	2000
Bath Road	Friday	773	2485
Penhill	Tuesdays	770	2762
Walcot - Priory Road	Thursdays	714	2456
" - Common Room	Monday	161	1574

The new clinic at Priory Road was officially opened on 4th June, 1959 by the Chairman of the Wiltshire County Council, although clinics were held there from the 14th May, 1959.

Apart from Pinehurst Clinic, this is the only clinic in Swindon which was designed and built for clinic purposes.

The Clinic is spacious, attractively decorated and furnished. At the moment it is rather isolated on the estate but in the near future it will form an important feature of the main shopping area which is to be built. Although included in the building are two dental suites, they have not been furnished as no dental officers were recruited to work there. It is indeed a pleasure for the staff to have such wonderful surroundings in which to work and the mothers who attend are also highly appreciative of the amenities provided.

On the opening of the clinic the temporary premises at the farm-house were no longer needed. An additional clinic was held in the Common Room, Walcot, which started on 16th February, 1959, and the Thursday clinic at Penhill was discontinued. A doctor attends this clinic and Rodbourne clinic on alternate Mondays.

During the year the attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics increased by 1433 and the consultations with the doctors increased by 148.

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.

Welfare Foods	Health Centre Issues	Clinic Issues
National Dried Milk	21,462 tins (23,946)	20,352 tins (20,854)
Cod Liver Oil	1,999 bottles (2,120)	3,393 bottles (3,484)
Vitamin Tablets	2,486 packets (2,424)	2,573 packets (2,236)
Orange Juice	23,014 bottles (23,133)	30,936 bottles (27,945)

(Figures for 1958 are shown in brackets).

Proprietary Dried Milks, etc.

1959 - 18,008 sales realising £2,493. 5s. 5d.

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

DAY NURSERIES, AND CHILD MINDERS

The day nursery at Gorse Hill Community Centre, which provides places for 25 children, was full up during the year and there was usually a waiting list of six children.

Priority is given to parents who require placement of their children for social reasons. Meals are provided by the nursery staff and a medical officer inspects the children and the premises weekly.

As has been stated previously, the premises are unsatisfactory but the demand for nursery places does not at this stage warrant the provision of new premises.

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
Nurseries maintained by the Council	1	25	5	20	3	11

During the year two persons have registered as child minders, one caring for 26 children and the other for 20 children between the ages of 3 and 5 years for mornings only. In both instances these homes are most satisfactory and there is a waiting list for placement.

MIDWIFERY

During the year we had our full establishment of eleven domiciliary midwives, nine of whom are approved as teachers of pupil midwives. Eight pupils from Swindon Maternity Hospital and nine from Bradford-on-Avon Maternity Hospital completed their district training during the year.

There are no private domiciliary midwives practising in Swindon.

When Priory Road clinic became available midwives booking clinics were held there and now the midwives hold booking clinics in the town 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 Wednesdays in the month at 2.0 p.m.
Priory Road Clinic	- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 6.0 p.m.

Local Health Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held at 81 Bath Road on Mondays and Fridays, and at Pinehurst Clinic on Fridays, and are staffed by domiciliary midwives. The Friday morning clinic at Bath Road is for mothers who expect to go to Wroughton R.A.F. Hospital for confinement.

In two instances domiciliary midwives attend ante-natal clinics run by general practitioners in this district.

Last year I was able to report some lessening of the pressure on the Swindon Hospital and Domiciliary Maternity Services by the opening of the Wroughton R.A.F. Hospital to civilians. By the end of the year it became obvious that during the spring of 1960 the bookings then in hand would strain all our resources to the full. It is likely that the intake of families under the Borough expansion scheme will continue for a number of years yet and if the birth rate continues at its present level then it is obvious that the provision of further maternity beds will become an urgent necessity in the very near future.

In November 1959 the only private maternity home in Swindon - the Cheriton Nursing Home, ceased to take maternity cases. In previous years this home accommodated an average of about 100 maternity cases per year, so its closure will throw an additional load on the existing services.

Considering the scarcity of maternity beds it is good relationship which exists between the hospital and domiciliary service which allows the service to run smoothly although under pressure.

During 1960 there was a total of 1876 live births and 37 stillbirths in Swindon, of which 1735 live births and 29 stillbirths were attributable to the town. Of this number the domiciliary births numbered 788 live births and 4 stillbirths.

In accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act 1951, medical aid was summoned in 89 instances during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF ANALGESIA

All the domiciliary midwives employed by the L.H.A. in Swindon are qualified and equipped to administer gas and air and trilene analgesia.

The following table shows that trilene has almost completely superseded gas and air analgesia and is preferred by both patients and midwives.

		Acting as Midwives	Acting as Mat. Nurses
Gas and Air		5	-
Trilene		<u>627</u>	<u>31</u>
Total		<u>632</u>	<u>31</u>

This means that of a total of 792 domiciliary births, analgesia was administered in 663 cases.

	Number of Deliveries Attended by Midwives in the Area During the Year					
	Domiciliary Cases					Cases in Institution
	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 ...		2	47	737	786	-
(b) Midwives employed by voluntary organisations :-						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Sec. 23 of the Nat. Health Service Act, 1946.	-	-	-	-	-	-
(ii) Otherwise (including hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the Nat. Health Service Act) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Midwives employed by hospital management committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	-	-	-	-	-	1015
(d) Midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in nursing homes) ...	-	-	-	-	-	93

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.		
					1958	1959
Number of women who attended these clinics during the period					...	...
					696	703
Number of attendances made during the period					...	...
					2549	3349

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

A premature baby unit is maintained at Kingshill Maternity Hospital and there are also facilities for the care of premature babies in Wroughton R.A.F. Hospital.

When a premature baby is born at home it is our practice to admit mother and child to the Maternity Hospital, except where it is considered there is no risk in nursing them at home.

It will be seen from the table given below that all the premature babies born at home survived the first month of life. Of the 92 premature babies born in hospital 9 died within 24 hours of birth and 9 died during the first month.

Compared with last year, when of 135 premature babies born 28 died during the first month of life, this year's record is much more satisfactory.

					1958	1959
Number of premature babies born:						
(i)	At home	...	...	...	34	19
(ii)	In hospital or nursing home	...	...	...	101	92
Number who died during the first 24 hours:						
(i)	Born at home	..	...	...	-	-
(ii)	Born in hospital or nursing home	.	...	...	15	9
Number who survived at end of one month:						
(i)	Born at home	..	...	...	33	19
(ii)	Born in hospital or nursing home	.	...	...	72	74

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

On 5th January, 1959, we were fortunate enough to recruit a whole-time dental officer to augment the seven sessions per week given by two part-time dental officers, one of whom is an assistant county dental officer normally working in the Swindon area. One of the part-time dental officers terminated his services on 3rd October, 1959, but in December another dental officer was recruited for four sessions per week. Thus although we were vastly below our requirements of dental officer time the position was an improvement on the previous year and the numbers treated rose accordingly, as follows :-

		<u>Examined</u>		<u>Treated</u>	
		1958	1959	1958	1959
Expectant and nursing mothers	...	(8)	104	(8)	81
Children under school age	...	(36)	217	(18)	192

HOME NURSING

During the previous years it was noted that the demand for domiciliary nurses did not rise in proportion to the increase in population. The obvious reason for this is that the vast majority of families coming into the town are young, whereas it is the older people who require more home nursing.

Thus the establishment of home nurses was retained at eight during the year and although the total number of visits paid by these nurses increased by 400 during the year they were able to absorb this number.

The following table summarises the type and number of cases to which the domiciliary nurses were called during the year.

	No. of cases
Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) ...	244
Digestive diseases	69
Heart and Arteries	77
Veins and other circulatory diseases	156
Genito-urinary	50
Skin	38
Ear, Eye and other sense organs ..	28
Cancer (and other neoplasms)	38
Cerebral lesions of vascular origin	50
Infections and parasitic diseases	127
Diabetes	26
Injuries	22
Tuberculosis	10
Bones and organs of movement (Mainly rheumatism) ...	25
Pregnancy	38
Mental and other nervous diseases	13
Other diseases or ill defined	407
Preparation for X-ray examination	36
Total number of cases	<u>1454</u>

in respect of which 23,601 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)	
	1959	1958	1959	1958
Bed Pans (including 5 rubber pans)	608	698	-	3
Waterproof Sheets	582	631	-	2
Air Rings	50	84	-	-
Bed Rests	53	69	-	-
Invalid Chairs	26	33	-	-
Urinals	21	23	-	-
Bed Cradles	15	13	1	1
Sick Feeders	9	9	-	-
Crutches (pairs)	1	5	1	1
Bed Slippers	8	5	-	-
Air Beds	2	2	-	-
Commodore	2	2	-	-
Bed Tables	2	2	-	-
Walking Sticks	4	2	-	-
Diabetic Spring Balances	2	-	-	-
Steam Kettles	-	-	-	-
Inhalers	-	-	-	-
Guthrie Smith Chair	-	-	-	1
Dunlopillow Mattresses	3	-	-	-

			£	s.	d.
Hire payments received on appliances during the year ended 31/12/1958	...	...	93.	18.	3
Hire payments received on appliances during the year ended 31/12/1959	...	...	88.	8.	9

PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER CARE

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

During the year convalescent or recuperative holidays were provided for 9 as compared with 12 in 1958.

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 smallpox vaccination are available at all Child Welfare Clinics. In addition, special immunisation clinics are held whenever the number of requests justifies holding one.

Similar facilities are also available to parents through their family doctors.

The acceptance rate for these procedures is much below what is desired. Although all parents are circularised when their children reach the appropriate age and publicity is given by means of newspaper advertisements and posters and handbills, the response is still poor. I feel that more parents are persuaded to have their children protected as a result of a personal talk with the health visitor rather than by reading literature. Here again our shortage of Health Visitors may well be an important factor in this low acceptance rate.

Another factor which tends to lower the acceptance rate is the multiplicity of injections which our 'pin cushion' babies have to undergo. Not only do they have to be vaccinated against smallpox but they have to have a series of injections to immunise them against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and poliomyelitis and these have to be followed by "booster doses" of these vaccines.

Any measure which could reduce the number of injections would not only be appreciated by parents and their children but would reduce the time and cost of these procedures.

To this end certain pharmaceutical firms have been working to produce a vaccine which would combine protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis. During June a batch of this vaccine was made available for Swindon and with the co-operation of the hospital paediatrician and the L.H.A. Services, a special clinic was started in the Health Centre to test this vaccine. An appeal was made to parents whose children were of the right age group to consent to this new type of vaccine being used and another group to acting as controls for injection with poliomyelitis vaccine alone. It says much for the good sense and pioneering spirit of these Swindon parents that when the whole procedure was explained to them a sufficient number of volunteers was quickly recruited. In fact these parents rightly deserve the gratitude of the whole community.

It is necessary in these children to have samples of blood before and after the quadruple or poliomyelitis vaccination to assess the reaction to it.

As the whole procedure occupies four months the results of this work will not be available until some time in the spring of 1960.

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	778	81	38	35	932
Re-Vaccination	-	8	8	109	125
TOTALS - -	778	89	46	144	1057

	Local Health Authority	General Practitioner
Immunisation		
Diphtheria alone:		
Number of children who have completed course	56	48
Number of children given boosters	215	69
Whooping cough alone:		
Number of children who have completed course	4	14
Diphtheria and Whooping cough combined:		
Number of children who have completed course	650	629
Number of children given boosters	35	66

B.C.G. VACCINATION

On 30th April, 1959 the Ministry of Health circular 7/59 extended the scheme for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis to school children and other special classes of person.

During the year the acceptance rate for this procedure rose to 56% as compared with 51% in 1958.

Swindon is still acting as a control centre for the freeze dried vaccine and the results of all vaccination procedure are sent to the Director of the B.C.G. Control Scheme.

The following summarises the position for the current year:-

Number of children given initial tuberculin test	708	
Number of positive reactors	...	139 19.64%
Number of negative reactors	...	569
Number of children vaccinated	...	569 80.36%

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

In September 1958 poliomyelitis vaccination was offered to persons between the ages of six months and 25 years and to certain other special groups.

The response to this offer was regrettably low, so during the year arrangements were made with the major employers of labour in the town to vaccinate their employees at their places of work. I am happy to report that the co-operation received from the employers was excellent and the response from the employees was much better than expected. In the Railway Works the vaccination was carried out by one of their medical officers on a sessional basis and in other factories and offices by the L.H.A. staff. In all over 6,500 injections were given at work to approximately 2,300 people.

Local practitioners also responded very well to the task of vaccinating their patients and in all the fees paid to them amounted to £2,336. This was much higher than was budgeted for and a supplementary estimate had to be voted to meet the cost.

Special clinics were also arranged in L.H.A. clinic premises and were held in the evenings and Saturday mornings for the convenience of those in employment. All those clinics were run on an appointment system as opposed to an "open clinic" and the number of defaulters was surprisingly low.

As might be expected the work involved in these arrangements was very considerable and I would here like to pay tribute to the medical, nursing and clerical staff for their unselfish response to the challenge.

The table below summarises the position at the end of the year:-

Total number of persons vaccinated with two injections during 1959

<u>Age Groups</u>		
1943 - 1959	7051	
1933 - 1942	8512	
Expectant Mothers	398	
Others	20	Total 15,981

Total number of persons vaccinated with a third injection during 1959 ... 10,488

Total number of persons vaccinated with two injections since the commencement of the scheme ... 23,194

Total number of persons vaccinated with a third injection since the commencement of the scheme ... 12,917

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

During the year there has been no major development in schemes for the care of old people. Each year the demands for domestic help for old people increase and we have been able to supply some help to every needy case. There is no doubt that many of these elderly people require more help than we can supply but every case is judged on its merits and help is given up to the limit of our financial resources.

Undoubtedly there is urgent need for more hospital beds for old people in this area and it is often only by straining our domiciliary services to the limit that we are able to afford a modicum of the care needed to those awaiting hospital admission.

Our health visitors try as far as the limited staff allows to pay regular visits to old people who have been brought to our notice as needing help. In this respect we must pay tribute to the work of the street visitors from the Old People's Welfare Committee who regularly notify us of cases requiring our services.

EVENING AND NIGHT ATTENDANCE SERVICE

The scheme for the provision of evening and night attendance service was introduced by the L.H.A. in November 1958.

The demands for this service are surprisingly low but when they do come it is generally to meet an emergency. In these circumstances it has proved very difficult to retain a panel of persons willing to undertake such work. I feel quite sure that if regular employment was available we could recruit staff. When the calls are so few and far between and then asked for at a moment's notice, it is difficult to find one willing to undertake the work.

However, often after considerable effort we have been able to supply a night attendant on each of the eight occasions on which one was asked for.

In addition one evening attendant was supplied to one case twice weekly for nine weeks.

CHIROPODY

A chiropody service for old people, organised by the Old People's Welfare Committee has been in operation in Swindon for some years.

Now the Minister has given Local Health Authorities power under Section 28 of the N.H.S. Act 1946 to organise a chiropody service. The service is intended in the first instance for the elderly, physically handicapped and expectant mothers.

Under the County Council's scheme it has been proposed that during 1960 the chiropodist employed in the hospital service and housed in the Health Centre should be taken over by the L.H.A. Negotiations to this effect are at present taking place and it is likely that the change will come into effect in the summer of 1960.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The sum allocated for the domestic help service during the financial year 1959-60 was £18,165, an increase of £1,765 over last year.

Only 28 domestic helps are employed whole-time - the remainder doing part-time work. The number employed at any one time depends on the demand for the service and the money available. Naturally the demand for the service is greater during the winter months and during epidemics. As the domestic helps are regularly employed part-time workers they do qualify for sickness payment and the sickness rate among them is greatest when the demand for the service is at its peak.

It will be seen from the table given below that during the year the time lost through sickness was 8145 hours - about 8% of the total time given. This is a matter of some concern as the time lost through sickness cannot be estimated and cannot be made up to those receiving the service within the budget estimate.

During the year three short courses of five lectures each were arranged by the Household Arts Section of the Further Education Organisation for our domestic helps. Thirty-seven of the regular home helps attended these courses during their own time. The instruction dealt with simple household management and the Medical Officer of Health gave a talk on the administration and organisation of the service. Should the demand warrant it, further such courses will be repeated in the future.

During the year two problem families were given special domestic help. In spite of the additional pay given to the helps doing this work it is exceedingly difficult to get recruits for it. With the established problem family the work is uncongenial, little co-operation is received and the help usually asks to be relieved of this unrewarding task after a few weeks.

203 hours given to problem families.

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

	1959	1958
Number of domestic helps on books at the end of the year	79	90
Number of householders helped during the year:		
(a) Maternity cases	122	132
(b) Other cases	459	376
Number of hours of assistance provided during the year:		
(a) Maternity cases	9,239	9,604
(b) Other cases	<u>95,127</u>	<u>82,250</u>
Total	<u>104,366</u>	<u>91,854</u>
Number of cases in which full fee was not charged	515	490
Number of hours lost during the year through sickness	8,145	5,642

HEALTH CENTRE

In January 1959 the large vacant office on the first floor was taken over by the County Mental Health department. Plans are in hand for the necessary structural alterations required to convert this large room into three smaller offices which will prove more convenient for private interviews.

The dental department, dispensary and offices have been redecorated during the year and the proposed plastering over the discoloured glazed tiles in the dental surgeries which was referred to in the last report, has been carried out. This has proved successful and has enhanced the appearance of the dental department. It is hoped to treat the remainder of the tiled walls in the Health Centre in a similar way when opportunities occur.

A notable improvement to the appearance of the waiting hall was made by removing the protruding wooden partitions around the walls of the dispensary and by modernising the dispensing windows.

In June a special immunisation clinic was arranged using the Quadruple Prophylactic vaccine. This clinic is held weekly and is progressing satisfactorily.

For the first time for several years the dispensary was fully staffed and 106,246 prescriptions were dispensed. This increase of 7,618 over the previous year's total is mainly attributable to the epidemic of mild influenza which made exceptionally heavy demands upon the dispensary in February, March and April.

Apart from a few changes among the manual workers, the Health Centre staff remained fairly constant throughout the year. A senior dental technician specialising in orthodontic appliances, was appointed in December and it will now be possible to deal with a greater proportion of the Orthodontist's requirements. A summary of the work carried out in the dental department during the year is given below.

Dental Department.

Dental Surgeons	...	2	Dental Receptionists	...	1
Dental Technicians	...	4	Dental Attendants	...	2

During the year 1959 there were 12,076 attendances for treatment and the following work was carried out :-

Scalings & Gum Treat- ments	FILLINGS		Extrac- tions	X-Rays	DENTURES & APPLIANCES	
	Amal- gams	Plastic			Repairs & Relines	Manufac- tured
524	2633	406	3172	579	979	1036