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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH
of the
BOROUGH OF SWINDON
1972

JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Principal Borough School Medical Officer.



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BOROUGH OF SWINDON

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF

as at 31st December, 1972

HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

Councillor P. J. Furkins

Chairman : Councillor Miss M. E. Read

Vice-Chairman : Councillor L. Gowing

MEMBERS

Alderman Mrs. G. L. Knapp, M.B.E.
Alderman J. Toomer
Alderman W. H. G. Turpin
Councillor A. J. Bown, M.B.E., D.L.
Councillor R. D. Clarke
Councillor F. Cullen
Councillor D. E. Glaholm
Councillor T. Griffiths

Councillor R. Herring
Councillor D. M. Hobbs
Councillor S. H. Macpherson
Councillor Mrs. F. E. Mortimer
Councillor A. Roberts
Councillor L. A. Wass
Councillor A. N. Palmer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

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

HEALTH STAFF

31st December, 1972

Medical Officer of Health and
Principal Borough School Medical Officer

JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Child Care)

James May, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officers in Department

Douglas Haig-Johnston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Adrian Gerrard Redmond McConnell, M.B.
B.Ch., B.A.O.
Ifan R. Waters, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Area Dental Officer	R.J.F. McFeat, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.
Dental Officer	R. Hitchings (commenced 4.9.72)
Dental Officers (part time)	Mrs. L. M. Swift, B.D.S.) R. V. Swift, B.D.S.) Resigned June 1972
Dental Auxiliary	Mrs. D. Dix
Dental Surgery Assistants	4
Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse	Miss C. J. Thorn, S.R.N., H. V. Cert., D.N. (Lond.) (Appointed Area Nursing Officer, Swindon 1.1.1973.)
Health Visitors and School Nurses	12
Part-time Health Visitors	2
Student Health Visitors	1
Part-time Nurses	6
Domiciliary Midwives	5 + 1 part-time
District Nurses	10 + 1 part-time
Senior Administrative Officer	J. R. Pell
Administrative Assistants	3
Medical Officer of Health's Secretary	1
Clerks	9
Part-time Clerks	3
Health Centre	
Clerk in Charge	E. W. Chamberlain
	2 Pharmacists
	6 Pharmacy Technicians (5 part-time)
	2 Student Technicians
	10 Clerks (5 part-time)
	3 Dental Technicians
Chief Chiropodist	1
Senior Chiropodist	1
Chiropody Receptionist	1

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Housing and Health and Welfare Committee of the Borough of Swindon.

I have pleasure in presenting herewith the Annual Report for 1972 on the work of the Health Department.

This has been a year of planning for the reorganisation of Local Government and the National Health Service which is to be effected in April 1974. Much will have to be accomplished before this date but so far detailed knowledge of many aspects of the changes have yet to be made known. My greatest anxiety is for the administrative and clerical staff whose future has so far not been resolved. In this state of mind one could expect numbers of experienced staff would opt to change jobs where their future would be more assured. The number of present staff, both professional and administrative, who have had places on courses on National Health Service Reorganisation has been disappointingly low, and it is hoped that this will be rectified before April, 1974.

For the purpose of studying the implications of the Health Services reorganisation the Joint Liaison Committee was set up and its first meeting held in August 1972. This committee consists of representatives of the three branches of the National Health Service and Swindon Local Government is represented by myself or my deputy and a member of the Chief Executive's staff. Various working parties are being set up from members of the Joint Liaison Committee to study in depth various aspects of the reorganised services. This, of course, involves time and travel for the staff concerned.

At the same time planning for Local Government reorganisation is also taking place; the decisions made affect health planning and the work of the Joint Liaison Committee. For instance, the new County District of Thamesdown, which includes Swindon and Highworth R.D.C., is being taken out of the Oxford Regional Board Area and being transferred to Wessex with its headquarters in Hampshire. Under reorganisation, however, we still retain clinical affinity with Oxford.

It will be noted that the population has fallen to the mid-June estimate of 90,330 as compared with the 1971 estimate of 90,670. It is anticipated that as people are rehoused in the Dorcan estate this trend will be reversed. It is disappointing to note a rise in the Infant mortality rate from 20 to 26. An analysis of these deaths shows all but eight to be in the early neonatal period and most of these were suffering from extreme immaturity and congenital abnormalities.

Practically no progress has been made in the provision of Health Centres at Fleming Way and Dorcan. Plans for these centres have been modified and discussions are still taking place with the departments concerned.

This year the report on the nursing services has been prepared by Miss Thorn who has now been appointed Area Nursing Officer for the Swindon Nursing Area, which comprises Swindon Borough and the development areas.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members of all branches of Health and Local Government Services for their helpful co-operation during this year of planning for reorganisation, and to the members of the staff of this department who have undertaken so many additional duties. I would, too, thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued help and support.

James Urquhart
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS
and
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

STATISTICS OF THE AREA, 1972

GENERAL

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,109
Population (census 1971) 44,843 males, 46,190 females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91,033
Population (estimated civilian) mid-1972	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90,330
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,670

VITAL

Live births (735 male - 692 female)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,427
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,437
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11%
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.0
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths (all causes) 518 Male, 425 Female)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	943
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Area Comparability Factors	...	...	...	...	Births 1.07	Deaths	1.17	...	...	...	

BIRTHS

The live births registered were 1,427 (1,268 legitimate and 159 illegitimate)

The live birth rate was 15.8 per 1,000 population.

The live birth rate for England and Wales was 14.8

The table below shows the legitimate and illegitimate live births in Swindon with comparable figures for 1971.

The 159 illegitimate births represent 11% of the total, as compared with 154 representing 11% in 1971.

Live births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	662 (705)	606 (597)	1,268 (1,302)
Illegitimate	73 (87)	86 (67)	159 (154)
TOTALS	735 (792)	692 (664)	1,427 (1,456)

(1971 figures shown in brackets).

Table of birth rates for last 10 years.

	Swindon	England and Wales		Swindon	England and Wales
1963	21.27	18.2	1968	16.67	16.9
1964	21.83	18.4	1969	16.0	16.3
1965	20.69	18.0	1970	15.4	16.0
1966	18.64	17.7	1971	16.1	16.0
1967	16.66	17.2	1972	15.8	14.8

Live births rates per 1,000 population

STILLBIRTHS

Ten stillbirths were registered in 1972 giving a rate of 7.0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with 10.0 for 1971. The 1972 rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

Stillbirths	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4 (10)	6 (3)	10 (13)
Illegitimate	— (2)	— —	— (2)
TOTALS	4 (12)	6 (3)	10 (15)

(1971 figures are shown in brackets)

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)

	Swindon	England and Wales		Swindon	England and Wales
1963	21.05	17.3	1968	18.65	14.0
1964	19.81	16.3	1969	14.0	13.0
1965	15.94	15.7	1970	12.0	13.0
1966	20.29	15.4	1971	10.0	12.0
1967	21.59	14.8	1972	7.0	12.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

The following tables give the illegitimate birth rate per cent of total live births in Swindon for the past ten years.

1963	—	6.6	1968	—	8.7
1964	—	6.8	1969	—	10.0
1965	—	7.6	1970	—	11.0
1966	—	8.4	1971	—	11.0
1967	—	9.8	1972	—	11.0

INFANT DEATHS

37 children under the age of 1 year died in Swindon in 1972. This gives an infant mortality rate of 26.0 as compared with a rate of 17.0 for England and Wales.

The table below gives a comparison of the infant deaths in Swindon and England and Wales.

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births

	Swindon	England and Wales		Swindon	England and Wales
1963	22.5	20.9	1968	19.6	18.0
1964	24.4	20.0	1969	21.0	18.0
1965	16.7	19.0	1970	23.0	18.0
1966	22.9	19.0	1971	20.0	18.0
1967	22.7	18.3	1972	26.0	17.0
			<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	
Deaths of infants under 1 year old			37	29	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks old			25	19	
Deaths of infants under 1 week old			21	18	

The certified causes of 37 deaths of Swindon children under 1 year old were as follows:—

Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	9
Birth Injury/difficult labour	...	...	...	8
Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	...	5
All other accidents	...	...	...	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	1
Other diseases of Nervous System	...	...	...	2
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	1

I am obliged to the Consultant Pathologist, Dr. R. Martlew, for the following information on the post-mortem results on infants and stillbirths occurring in the entire catchment area of the Swindon Hospitals in 1972.

Live Births (up to the age of 3 months)

Prematurity with or without atelectasis	...	...	...	...	14
Atelectasis without prematurity	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	...	7
Other major congenital defects	...	...	...	...	13
Respiratory infection	...	...	...	...	8
Erythroblastosis Foetalis	...	...	...	...	3
Birth trauma	...	...	...	...	7
Accidental asphyxia	...	...	...	...	1
Other infection	...	...	...	...	2

Of these, 47 were from Princess Margaret Hospital and 10 were referred by the Coroner.

Stillbirths

Intra-uterine asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Congenital defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Birth trauma	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

These 10 were from Princess Margaret Hospital.

	Swindon	England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	26.0	17.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	18.0	12.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	22.0	22.0

The scheme for notification of congenital defects is working satisfactorily and brings to early notice families and individuals who may be in need of additional help or advice.

MATERNAL DEATHS No maternal deaths occurred during 1972.

DEATHS — The deaths numbered 943 compared with 914 in 1971. For 1972 crude death rate was 10.4 per 1,000 population. When the comparability factor of 1.17 is used, the death rate is:—

Swindon	—	12.2	England and Wales	—	12.1
---------	---	------	-------------------	---	------

Of the 943 deaths in Swindon, the chief causes were, heart and circulatory diseases, 283, cancer 186, vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes and seizures) 122, bronchitis and pneumonia 118. The number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents was 9 in 1972 and 12 in 1971, and the number of suicide deaths decreased from 7 to 5 during the same period.

During the year there were 54 deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus, compared with 58 in 1971.

An analysis of the deaths from this cause in Swindon over the past ten years is given in the following table:—

Year	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	Year	No.	Rate per 1,000 population
1963	42	.436	1968	44	.449
1964	29	.297	1969	52	.529
1965	33	.335	1970	53	.542
1966	45	.457	1971	58	.641
1967	52	.457	1972	54	.598

THE CREMATORIUM

The medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Referee to the Crematorium which was opened in April 1966.

The number of cremations carried out was as follows:—

1966	—	361	1969	—	911
1967	—	589	1970	—	925
1968	—	812	1971	—	1104
		1972	—	1,118	

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONG STAY IMMIGRANTS

	1972	1971
Notices received	51	34
Successfully contacted	43	25
Untraceable	8	9

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Borough of Swindon 1972

	Cause of Death	Total all ages.	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year
1.	Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	—	—
3.	Other infactive and parasitic diseases	2	—	—
4.	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	2	—	—
5.	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	6	—	—
6.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	15	—	—
7.	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	31	—	—
8.	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	4	—	—
9.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	54	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	10	—	—
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	4	—	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostrate	5	—	—
13.	Leukaemia	8	—	—
14.	Other Malignant Neoplasms	47	—	—
15.	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	6	—	—
16.	Diabetes Mellitus	15	—	—
17.	Other Endocrine etc. disease	1	—	—
18.	Other diseases of the blood	1	—	—
19.	Mental Disorders	1	—	—
20.	Other diseases of Nervous System etc.	8	—	2
21.	Multiple Sclerosis	3	—	—
22.	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	4	—	—
23.	Hypertensive disease	15	—	—
24.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	253	—	—
25.	Other forms of Heart Disease	59	—	1
26.	Cerebrovascular Disease	122	—	—
27.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	29	—	—
28.	Influenza	4	—	—
29.	Pneumonia	83	2	3
30.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	35	—	—
31.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	10	1	1
32.	Peptic Ulcer	6	—	—
33.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	4	1	—
34.	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—
35.	Other diseases of Digestive System	16	—	—
36.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	—	—
37.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	3	—	—
38.	Other diseases, genito-urinary system	4	—	—
39.	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	3	—	—
40.	Congenital Anomalies	13	8	1
41.	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	8	8	—
42.	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	5	5	—

Causes of Death etc. (contd.)

	Cause of Death	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year
43.	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	8	—	—
44.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	9	—	—
45.	All other Accidents	13	—	3
46.	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	5	—	—
47.	All other External Causes	1	—	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	943	25	12

AGE IN YEARS

	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
43.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
44.	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	2	1
45.	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	5
46.	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1
47.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1	2	7	6	23	62	158	233	414

MEASLES		WHOPPING COUGH	
Year	Number notified	Number notified	Number of deaths
1967	847	55	-
1968	443	18	-
1969	580	24	-
1970	138	22	-
1971	215	30	-
1972	15	7	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES – NOTIFICATIONS

Diseases	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery, Food Poisoning)	11	11	22	56	21
Shigella Sonne)	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	18	515	136	650	443
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	10	27	26	37	25
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis – Pulmonary	20	24	20	30	34
Tuberculosis – Non Pulmonary	5	5	9	9	20
Whooping Cough	7	30	27	24	16
Menigococal Infection	4	2	1	4	4
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Leprosy	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	3	—	—	—	—
Anieteric Hepatitis	1	—	—	—	—

POLIOMYELITIS – No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH – The number of notifications in 1971 were 30 compared with 7 in 1972.

MEASLES – There were 18 notifications of measles in 1972 compared with 515 in 1971. The following table will illustrate the epidemic pattern of this disease. (For measles immunisations see page 25.

MEASLES			WHOOPIING COUGH	
Year	Number Notified	Number of deaths	Number Notified	Number of deaths
1967	841	—	56	—
1968	443	—	16	—
1969	650	—	24	—
1970	136	—	27	—
1971	515	—	30	—
1972	18	—	7	—

DIPHTHERIA

The last case of diphtheria notified in Swindon was in 1949 and the last death from this cause occurred in 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases notified during 1972 was 25.

Year	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS		ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS	
	Cases Notified	Deaths	Cases Notified	Deaths
1968	34	1	54	1
1969	30	—	39	1
1970	21	1	28	1
1971	20	—	26	—
1972	20	3	25	—

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS

No cases of typhoid or paratyphoid fevers were notified during 1972.

DYSENTERY AND FOOD POISONING

11 cases of dysentery were notified during 1972, and 7 cases of food poisoning; all were individual cases.

LEPROSY

The two cases reported in last year's Annual Report remain on the Leprosy Register maintained by the Department of Health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948****NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951**

No action was necessary under Section 47 in order to remove to suitable premises a person in need of care and attention during 1972.

NURSING HOMES

At the end of the year there was one registered nursing home in the Borough, which provided accommodation of 33 beds for aged and chronically ill people.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations were carried out during the course of the year in connection with new appointments to the Corporation staff, entrants to training colleges, newly appointed teachers and other staff appointed by the Education Committee. During 1972, 348 medical examinations were carried out and 344 Corporation employees completed questionnaires which were subsequently vetted by me.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Every opportunity is taken whenever the staff of the department meet members of the public to spread the gospels of Health Education. Parentcraft talks are given in schools, as well as talks on general health topics. Health talks and discussion groups take place at Child Health Clinics. Talks and lectures in the College are addressed to students, nurses, catering courses, youth leaders and industrial courses of the T.U.C. etc.

Lectures and talks in hospital are given to trainee nurses, student midwives, parents at parentcraft classes, mothers at relaxation classes, etc.

Members of the staff of the department are also frequently called upon to talk to other organisations in the Borough.

LABORATORY SERVICE

Bacteriological and viral specimens are dealt with by Public Health Laboratory, Bristol, and also by Princess Margaret Hospital.

MORTUARY SERVICES

These have been arranged jointly with Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee.

STAFF INFLUENZA VACCINATION

Three hundred staff were vaccinated in November/December 1972.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance Service in the Borough is provided by Wiltshire County Council.

HEALTH CENTRE

The Dental Laboratory which is staffed by one technician in charge and two senior technicians, continues to be administered by Swindon Health Department.

The General Practitioner suites are occupied by eight practices comprising thirteen doctors.

Planning for a new health centre and clinic has been delayed until April, 1974, because of the current economic situation.

Details of the issues of nursing appliances from the medical loans depot are given later in this report.

Pharmacy	1972	1971
Number of prescriptions dispensed	108,913	111,705

Dental Laboratory

Dentures and appliances	1,134	1,119
Repairs and relines	200	237

Chiropody

During the year the department was working under the difficulties consequent upon staff shortage. This is a circumstance by no means peculiar to Swindon, for throughout the country there are insufficient State Registered Chiropodists available to satisfy the needs of Local Health Authorities.

At no time was the department fully staffed and for two months there was only one chiropodist. Consequently, despite all efforts, it was not possible to offer the type of service required and which the department would have preferred to give.

In September, the Chief Chiropodist attended a course at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, on "Management within an integrated service" in preparation for the re-organisation of the Health Service in 1974.

	Borough of Swindon		Hospital Board	
	1972	1971	1972	1971
Number of patients treated	669	808	98	90
Patients under treatment on 31st December, 1972	631	725	98	77
Treatments given (including re-dressings)	3,715	4,374	505	557
Domiciliary treatments (included in above)	684	1,025	1	—
Number of patients on waiting list	212	22	—	—
Number of domiciliary patients on waiting list (included in above total)	32	15	—	—

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Care of Premature Infants

Premature baby units are maintained at the Maternity Unit, Princess Margaret Hospital and Wroughton P.A.R.A.F. Hospital. Where a premature baby born at home appears to require the services of the Unit, both mother and baby are admitted. The Ambulance Station is equipped with a portable incubator for the transport of these babies to hospital.

	Domiciliary Confinements		Hospital or Nursing Home Confinements	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Number of premature babies born	4	1	105	109
Number who died during the first 24 hours	2	—	7	8
Other deaths during the first month	—	—	3	6
Babies surviving at end of one month	2	1	95	95

It will be seen that of the 110 premature babies born during the year, 14 did not survive the first month of life, and of these 8 died within 24 hours of birth.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Details of the Infant Welfare Clinics held and the attendances at each throughout the year are recorded in the table given below:—

	Day and time 2 — 4.30 p.m.	Number of consultations with doctor	Number of Attendances
Central Clinic, Islington Street	Wednesday and Friday	1,177	3,196
Beech Avenue, Pinehurst	Thursday	650	2,406
Gorse Hill	Wednesday	411	1,285
Moredon Road	Monday	563	2,070
Bath Road	Friday	456	1,513
Penhill	Tuesday	601	2,441
Priory Road, Park South	Tuesday and Thursday	740	3,192
Common Room, Walcot	Monday	308	1,177
Rodbourne Road	Thursday	461	1,644
TOTAL — All Centres		5,367	18,924

WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods are distributed at all Child Welfare Clinics and at the Health Centre.

Welfare Foods	Health Centre Issues		Clinic Issues	
National Dried Milk	(1538) tins	2174	(2470)	4880
Vitamin Tablets	(211)	133	(481)	347
Orange Juice	(3550)	1520	(11549)	2841
Vitamin Drops	(148)	304	(1,339)	2407

Figures in brackets — 1971 issues

Orange Juice terminated 30.9.1972

DENTAL SERVICES FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT Number of Visits for Treatment during year	Children 0 – 4 (inclusive)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
First visit	148	11
Subsequent visits	111	40
Total visits	259	51
Number of additional courses of treatment other than the first course recommended during year.	10	1
Treatment provided during the year –		
Number of fillings	214	24
Teeth filled	217	23
Teeth extracted	162	19
General anaesthetics given	50	1
Emergency visits by patients	40	6
Patients X-Rayed	–	3
Patients treated by scaling and/or removal of stains from the teeth (Prophylaxis)	19	7
Teeth otherwise conserved	24	–
Teeth root filled	–	–
Inlays	–	–
Crowns	–	1
Number of courses of treatment completed during the year	99	9
Prosthetics		
Patients supplied with full upper or full lower (first time)	–	2
Patients supplied with other dentures	–	1
Number of dentures supplied	–	5
Anaesthetics		
General anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	–	–
Inspections		
Number of patients given first inspections during the year	182	11
Number of patients above who required treatment	106	10
Number of patients above who were offered treatment	105	10

MATERNITY SERVICES REPORT 1972

The number of Midwives employed remain the same; one retired and was replaced by a new appointment. Five full-time midwives and one part-time were in post at the end of the year. The part-time midwives' main duty is to assess the facilities available for women who wish to have a hospital confinement and desire to return home early.

The number of Domiciliary confinements continues to decrease, but the work of the midwives remains much the same. Earlier transfers of women after confinement back to their own homes creates more post-natal care.

The whole-time midwives are teaching midwives and have therefore been involved with the Integrated training scheme in Community Care of 26 Students, an increase of 10 over the last year.

The present number of midwives is barely adequate to cover the service during periods of holidays, staff in service training, refresher courses and other emergency situations e.g. sickness.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

Births in the Authority's area during the year (as notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act 1936, or Section 255 of the Public Health (London) Act 1936) were as follows:—

	Live births Adjusted.	Stillbirths Adjusted.	TOTALS
(a) Domiciliary	45	—	45
(b) Institutional	1372	9	1381
(c) Total	1417	9	1426

EMERGENCY MATERNITY SERVICES

A "Flying Squad" is maintained at the Maternity Hospital for emergencies arising in domiciliary midwifery. During 1972 all cases requiring emergency services were admitted to hospital.

Two Medical Aid forms were completed by the domiciliary midwives during the year.

REFRESHER COURSES

One Midwife attended an Approved Refresher Course during 1972 and several midwives have attended study days in Maternity Units.

	Number of deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year.			
	Domiciliary Cases		Totals	Cases in Institution.
	Doctor not booked	Doctor Booked		
Midwives employed by the Authority	3	43	46	—
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Board of Governors under the National Health Service Act.	—	—	—	3,075

The "At Risk" Register

The "At Risk" Register was created in 1963 and is intended to provide a note of children who, for a variety of physical and social reasons, are considered to be more liable to the hazards of life than other children.

During 1972, 735 children were placed on the register for the following reasons:—

Family history	34
Prenatal (mostly Toxaemia)	135
Perinatal	181
Premature	250
Congenital abnormalities	121
Social	14
	735

FAMILY PLANNING

A new Clinic was started on 1st May, 1972, in the Ante-Natal Clinic, Maternity Unit, Princess Margaret Hospital, and by the 31st December, 173 patients had been registered there. Also over this period there were 334 visits by patients to see the doctor.

The weekly visit, by a doctor, to patients in the Maternity Unit and the Training of Student Midwives have continued throughout the year.

415 doctor sessions were held, and of 1069 Cervical Smears taken, 2 were atypical after repeats.

Bath Road Clinic

At this clinic there were 887 new patients during the year.

Patient visits to Doctor — 5,858, an increase of 328 visits on 1971.

Priory Road Clinic

There were 115 new patients at this clinic during the year, being an increase of 25 compared with 1971.

Patient visits to Doctor — 641, an increase of 156 on the previous year.

It was decided to extend Clinic hours on Thursday at 81 Bath Road to 2 p.m. — 8 p.m.

VASECTOMY CLINIC

This Clinic is run at Bath Road Clinic, and throughout 1972 held approximately 7 sessions every week (Tuesdays excepted). Men can attend any of these without appointment. For vasectomy the man is given an appointment and brings a note from his doctor. The Waiting List for this is about two months. Local anaesthesia is used.

The number of vasectomies carried out during the year was 2,404.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

The table below gives the age group of women who attended the Cervical Cytology clinic during the year:—

Under 25	72	45 — 49	135
25 — 29	103	50 — 54	102
30 — 34	136	55 — 59	26
35 — 39	141	60 — 64	12
40 — 44	146	65 +	13

Total — 886

Number referred for clinical biopsy	4
Number referred to their own doctors	123

From the beginning of July, women attending this clinic were given the opportunity of being examined for breast cancer, having their blood pressure checked, their urine tested, and a pelvic examination. This opportunity was gladly accepted by practically all who attended, and the findings from these examinations were passed to their own doctors.

HEALTH VISITING

The staff situation has slightly improved over last year. Two health visitors retired from the service, and four were appointed; one, however, resigned to transfer to another part of Wiltshire. Swindon's two students successfully completed their training and joined the full-time staff in September. Thus, at the end of the year the total in office was as follows:—

- 1 Senior Health Visitor (who, on the 1st January, 1973 was appointed as Area Nursing Officer under the Mayston Management Reorganisation)
 - 1 Field Work Instructor (who supervises the training of student health visitors).
 - 11 Health Visitors (whole-time)
 - 2 Health Visitors (part-time)
- Two student health visitors commenced training in September, one being sponsored by Wiltshire County Council and the other by Swindon Borough Council.

A health visitor specialising in the geriatric field — a joint appointment with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, Wiltshire County Council, and Swindon Borough Council — commenced in January 1972. This appointment has improved the relationship between the three authorities and has been of great benefit to the community.

The attachment of health visitors to general practitioners is working reasonably well. Unfortunately, due to insufficient staff, these attachments are not entirely satisfactory; on average one health visitor being attached to four general practitioners. Towards the end of 1972 an attempt was made to try cross boundary visiting i.e. the Wiltshire County Council staff home visiting within the Borough and the Swindon Borough staff outside. In other words in certain practises the attached health visitor visits the homes wherever the patient lives. The full effect of this cannot yet be commented upon.

Refresher Courses

As no health visitors were required to attend Refresher Courses in the year, two in service educational programmes were arranged, one on Geriatrics and one on Mental Health. One health visitor commenced a Field Work Instructors Course in London.

Health Education — Health Visitors took part in various health educational programmes e.g. talks to Women's Groups, Talks, discussions and demonstrations to expectant parents and to school children on many aspects of health.

Due to shortage of staff accommodation, a start was made in 1972 to allow health visitors to operate from general practitioners' premises. Four health visitors therefore transferred their office to the Health Centre.

During the year the health visitors were assisted with some duties by Six State Registered nurses employed part-time as school and clinic nurses. Health visiting time has also been extended by relieving the staff of as many clerical duties as possible.

Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1972

Expectant Mothers	—	—
Children under 1 year	5043	(including 1369 first visits)
Children between 1 - 5 years	5028	
Other visits	1817	
Total visits for 1971	11,973	
Total visits for 1972	11,888	
"No reply" visits paid	2412	

Phenylketonuria

Routine tests were arranged in collaboration with the hospital and laboratory services, for this rare condition which leads to mental subnormality unless discovered and treated early.

The health visitors carried out 850 Guthrie tests during the year 1972.

One Positive result in February, 1971.

HOME NURSING

The work of the District Nursing Sisters continues to increase, both in the house and in the service given in Surgery and/or Health Centre premises.

The number of Sisters employed remains the same — 10 whole time and 1 part-time; two retired and were replaced during the year. This number of staff is woefully inadequate to give the nursing care required by the patients in their own homes. Many patients enjoy and benefit from earlier transfer from hospital back to their own homes. This increases the work and pressure is put on to the Community Staff. Despite this, the staff have worked hard and long hours; absenteeism is minimal.

Two District Nursing Sisters attended Refresher Courses and two were successful in obtaining the District Nursing Certificate, following a training course organised by Wiltshire County Council. To assist in the further district training of the nursing staff, one member attended a Practical Work Instructors Course. As further District Training Courses are arranged, more staff will be able to attend.

Before extension of the services can be contemplated, many more staff must be acquired.

Home Nursing Statistics.

Year	Total of cases	Medical	Surgical	Maternal Complication	Medical / Surgical	Total of visits
1972)	1732	679	965	6	82	26,628
)	1486*	1387*	99*	—	—	5,847**

* First visit by patient to Health Centre or G.P.'s Surgery

** Visits by patients to Health Centre or G.P.'s Surgery

Incontinence Pads

Incontinence pads continue to be supplied to all who need them, and their disposal in polythene sacks is arranged by the Cleansing Department.

The number issued during the year was 16,000.

Primary Immunisation**Number of Persons who have completed Primary Courses — under 16 years of age**

Born in	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965/68	Others under 16	TOTAL
Sabin	89	858	216	28	46	14	1,251

Re-inforcing Doses — under 16

Sabin	—	64	96	14	940	14	1,128
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IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS — 1972

	Local Health Authority 1972	General Practitioner 1972
Diphtheria alone:		
Number of children who have completed primary courses	—	—
Number of children given boosters	—	—
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus combined		
Number of children who have completed primary course	721	442
Number of children given boosters	—	210
Diphtheria and Tetanus combined		
Number of children who have completed primary course	32	71
Number of children given boosters	512	162
Tetanus Alone		
Number of persons who have completed primary course	—	506
Number of persons given boosters	—	331

MEASLES IMMUNISATION

Number of children immunised	676	274
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In summary, therefore, throughout the year, the following children completed primary protection against:—

Whooping Cough	1,163
Diphtheria	1,266
Tetanus	1,772
Poliomyelitis	1,251
Measles	950

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Tuberculosis |) | Reports under these headings |
| (2) Immunisation |) | are made in the relevant |
| (3) Provision of Medical Loan Appliances |) | sections of this report |

LAUNDRY SERVICE

An average of 47 old and infirm people benefit from the cheap laundry service provided by a local laundry on the recommendation of this Department.

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

The Day Hospital at Stratton St. Margaret is now fully functional and is proving most beneficial to the care of the aged who are thus able to receive hospital care but who continue to live at home.

Case Conferences on the problems of the aged are held regularly at Stratton St. Margaret Hospital, and are attended by representatives of all the agencies concerned with this care.

A continuous review of the 'Care of the Elderly' is made, and in connection with the National Health Service Re-organisation a Geriatric Health Care Planning Team was set up at the end of the year by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, formed of representatives from the Stratton St. Margaret Hospital's geriatric team, including Dr. Foote, Miss Gomer, a general practitioner, and representatives from Wiltshire County Council Health Department and Social Services Department, and myself.

The Hermitage, which has 13 beds for short stay patients, and which is financed by the Mayor's Helping Hand Fund, continued to be fully used. During the year it took in 137 patients for a total of 489 bed weeks.

Housing — The Housing Manager has given the following details of accommodation for the elderly as at 31st December, 1972:—

- 25 Flatlets in Elizabeth House (Group Dwelling)
- 25 Flatlets in Chilton Gardens (" ")
- 383 Bungalows
- 140 Two-bedroomed 3 storey flats (could be utilised for old people)
- 1344 Two-bedroomed flats (3 storey flats)
- 790 One-bedroomed flats
- 18 Bed-sitting rooms

HOME DIALYSIS

Four homes in Swindon have now been converted to take Kidney machines. One has been in operation since 1968, one since 1970, one in 1971, and a further one was installed this year. As there was no room in the house suitable for this installation a special cabin was erected in the garden. It took approximately six months from the start of the negotiations for the conversion to the installation being in operation.

BATTERED BABIES

Several cases of children who were admitted to Casualty Departments of the local hospital with unexplained fractures and bruising were subsequently found, on further investigation, to have had injuries inflicted upon them in their own homes, although it is difficult to find conclusive evidence as to the person responsible.

In these cases, the close co-operation of the Health Visitors, the Social Services Department, the National Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, representatives from the Hospital Paediatric and Psychiatric Services, and myself, was used to keep these children under close supervision to prevent further injury.

MEDICAL LOAN APPLIANCES

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

Appliance	Number issued on Payment (New issue) 1972	Number issued on Free Loan (New Issue) 1972
Bed Pans	166	—
Waterproof sheets	47	—
Plastic Disposable Sheets	317	—
Air Rings	78	—
Bed Rests	80	—
Invalid Chairs	156	—
Urinals	72	—
Bed Cradles	63	1
Crutches (Pairs)	23	—
Commodes	87	1
Walking Sticks	48	—
Walking Aids	79	—
Enuresis Alarms	57	—
Bed Tables	1	—
Bedsteads (Hospital Type)	—	4
Dunlopillo Mattresses	1	3
Helping Hand	2	—
Bed Hoists	—	—
Bed Hoists (New type — Bedside)	4	—
Guthrie-Smith Chair	—	—
Sick Feeders	10	—
Lifting Chair	—	—

1,291

9

Hire payments received for appliances during the year ended 31.12.72 — £535.98p

Hire payments received for appliances during the year ended 31.12.71 — £523.52p.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1972.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Housing and Health Committee of the Swindon Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report on the work of the Public Health and Building Inspectors Department of the Environmental Services Group for 1972.

Generally, during the year there was a noticeable increase in the volume of work throughout each section of the Department and the pattern of work became more complex. This can mainly be attributed to the vast amount of new development taking place within the borough. This new development brings with it new techniques in building, the use of new materials and many new problems demanding far reaching decisions which can and has been very demanding on staff time. However, this time is considered well spent as advisory work with owners, management, builders and architects from the planning stage onwards has proved of great benefit in ensuring compliance at an early stage, with the many statutory requirements which the department has under its control.

These essential commitments, coupled with shortage of staff resulted in much less time being available for routine inspections.

Meat and food inspection and the enforcement of good standards of food hygiene has always been considered to be of the highest priority and every effort is made to maintain these inspections at the highest possible level. I am pleased to report that 100 per cent inspection was maintained throughout the year on all animals slaughtered at the Corporation's Public Abattoir and inspection of the town's food premises was maintained at a reasonable level, but some premises such as factories, outworkers premises, houses in multi occupation, caravans, hairdressers etc., were not visited as frequently as they might have been.

Work under the Housing Acts continued and three areas of properties in the Rodbourne area involving twenty four houses, which had become so seriously defective as to be no longer suitable for occupation and, because of their very poor structural condition, were considered not worthy of repair, were declared unfit. Clearance Area action was invoked to deal with these areas, followed by Compulsory Purchase Order procedure under the Housing Acts. The total area comprising twenty seven houses.

These unfit houses adjoined an area of otherwise sound terrace type properties, the majority of which were found to be suitable both for retention and improvement. They are situated in an area of the town which was considered suitable for improvement environmentally and where a number of houses had already been improved with the aid of grants.

A pilot scheme, involving some two hundred houses was considered by the Committee and the area was approved for General Improvement under the provisions of the 1969 Housing Act.

Dwelling houses in the Westcott Place district of the town were also inspected as part of the Council's current housing programme. Twenty nine houses were declared unfit for habitation and action to deal with these and some adjoining properties by Compulsory Purchase Order was commenced, but this action had not been finalised by the end of the year.

It is encouraging to report that improvement and repair for some of the town's older houses continued at a satisfactory rate. A small terrace of houses comprising eight dwellings which were included in the Council's programme for action under the Housing Acts were found on inspection to be structurally sound and capable of being brought to an acceptable standard if substantial repairs and improvements were carried out.

Owners of some of the houses were interested in reconditioning and improving their properties and it was felt that the restriction imposed on these houses could be lifted. Their removal from the Council's programme would allow and encourage owners to undertake reconditioning. The Committee agreed and reconditioning work with the aid of Improvement Grants was approved.

During 1972 808 applications for Improvement Grants, including thirty three standard Grants were received. The total amount of Improvement Grant paid during the year was £138,475 which represents half of the total approved expense, an average grant of approximately £530 per dwelling improved.

1,376 applications under the Building Regulations were also received and dealt with, of which 1,352 were approved during the year.

Regular inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act was maintained, here again your Inspectors make a point of being readily available to meet employers and staff to discuss problems and provide information both in respect of existing premises and new developments.

Restriction on Sunday trading and the enforcement of the General Closing hours under the Shops Act which is also within the department's administration was fully maintained throughout the year.

A number of contraventions were recorded, these were dealt with informally as in each case the traders concerned were quite willing to co-operate and comply with the law on having their attention drawn to the legal provisions, no prosecutions under the Act were, therefore, recommended.

Noise complaints again showed an increase compared with the previous year, forty seven being received compared with thirty three for 1971. Frequent causes for complaint were amplified music from dance halls and social clubs, industrial machinery, laundrettes and the use of pneumatic road breaking equipment.

In most of the cases investigated noise nuisances were confirmed although in almost every instance there was no evidence of deliberate intention to annoy.

Many of the noise problems encountered could have been avoided by a little more consideration on the part of neighbours.

Amplified music from clubs, dance halls and domestic premises accounted for over thirty three per cent of complaints received whilst noisy machinery accounted for some thirty per cent.

One problem which caused much public concern and came to the notice of this department following radio, television and newspaper warnings was about poisonous beads.

The beads in question were used in the making of brooches, necklaces and bracelets, they are a seed, the botanical name being *Abrus Precatorius* and commonly known as the Rosary Pea, Precatory Bean, Crabs Eye Bean and Jequirity Bean. The bean was reported to contain the acute poison Abrin. In appearance, the seed or bean is bright red with a jet black end and is slightly less than ¼ inch in diameter; with age the beans colour darkens and dulls.

Although there was no evidence of the sale of these beads in Swindon, the department received over forty enquiries from local residents who had purchased or obtained beads, resembling the poisonous ones, mainly from sources outside the United Kingdom and two from people who had actually purchased beads in Devon and Cornwall.

The whole question of the beans toxicity seemed to be in doubt with some experts and no directives had been received from the Home Office. Experts opinion was that several beans would have to be crushed and swallowed to be harmful. There is no law on this matter and there seems to be no procedure to deal with this type of problem, whether the substance involved is harmful or not.

It is, however, my opinion that public safety is of first importance, the department, therefore, was organised with this in mind. An Inspector was sent to the Bristol analyst to examine other beads which had been positively identified so that beads arriving at my office could also be properly identified. Any beads handed in which were of the poisonous type were destroyed after obtaining written authority from the owners.

Of the forty two items brought to the office for examination, eighteen items, including brooches, necklaces, bracelets and a considerable number of loose beads were identified as Precatory Beans.

Statistics set out in the report includes the work covered by the department as a whole and incorporates a report from the Controller of Technical Services on Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, information from the Water Engineer on Water Supply and a report from the Recreation Manager on Public Swimming Baths.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation and thanks to the Officers of the Council and members of my staff for their loyalty, co-operation and assistance during the year.

R. A. LAW

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING INSPECTOR

STAFF

The following changes occurred during the year:—

Miss J. C. Cook, formerly a Clerk in the Corporation's Planning Department, commenced duties as a Clerk on 20th January, 1972.

Mrs. L. Lever, Clerk, left the service on 12th March, 1972.

Miss D. le Cappelain commenced employment as a Clerk/Typist on 10th April, 1972.

Mrs. A. Ricks, Administrative Assistant left the service on 21st May, 1972.

Miss R. D. Hillier, formerly a Clerk in the Corporation's Architects Department, commenced duties as Senior Clerk on 17th July, 1972.

Mr. R. Newton, formerly on the staff of Highworth Rural District Council, commenced employment as District Building Inspector on 14th August, 1972.

Mr. M. E. Richardson, formerly on the staff of Highworth Rural District Council was appointed District Building Inspector as from August, 1972, but by agreement due to staff shortage in the Rural District, remained on permanent loan to the Rural District.

Mr. R. G. Simons, as Assistant Building Inspector with Highworth Rural District Council was placed on permanent loan to this department as from 23rd October, 1972. (This agreement terminated early in 1973).

Mr. J. O. Hill, Student Building Inspector, was successful in obtaining the Building Control Officers Ordinary Certificate and was appointed Assistant Building Inspector in November, 1972.

Mr. S. J. Hartshorne, Student Public Health Inspector, was successful in obtaining the Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors Examination Board in December, 1972. (He later left the service to take up an appointment as additional Public Health Inspector to New Sarum Borough Council.)

Mr. W. P. Ledingham, Authorised Meat Inspector, left the service on 31st December, 1972, to take up a similar appointment with Abingdon Rural District Council.

Mr. D. C. Young, Authorised Meat Inspector, left the service on 31st December, 1972, to take up a similar appointment with Towcester Rural District Council.

Staff vacancies

The two posts of District Building Inspector which were vacant at the end of 1971, remained unfilled until August, when two appointments were made but due to the extreme shortage of Building Inspectors in the Highworth Rural District Council one Inspector was loaned to the Rural District in return for an Assistant Inspector.

The posts of Trainee Meat Inspector and Trainee Shops and Offices Inspector were not filled at the close of the year.

One post of Authorised Meat Inspector became vacant on the last day of the year.

One post of Student Building Inspector was also vacant at the end of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Food Hygiene

During the year, 1,529 visits were made to various food premises, as a result of these inspections 656 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were recorded. Following the issue of notices to the traders concerned 495 infringements had been remedied at the end of the year.

There is now a total of 734 premises in the borough which are the subject of inspection under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Good standards are being maintained in most premises but continuing difficulty does arise at many premises due to lack of adequate storage space. On inspection premises are frequently found to be so congested as to make routine cleaning almost impossible. Good and adequate storage accommodation is essential in all food premises, not only for the proper storage of merchandise but also for waste material awaiting disposal, a standard which the department is demanding at the planning stage in all new developments, and endeavouring to secure wherever possible in existing premises.

4 new registrations were issued during 1972 authorising the sale of food from vehicles. A total of 55 persons are now registered as food hawkers under the provisions of the Swindon Corporation Act 1947. 5 contraventions of the Hygiene Regulations were noted during routine inspection of traders' stalls or vehicles which are the subject of regular inspection to ensure that proper standards are maintained in connection with the delivery and sale of food, including food sold in the open air. These infringements were remedied and no legal proceedings were taken during the year.

The following tables give the number of visits made and the number and type of food premises on the registers of the Department for 1972.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Premises	No. of	General and comprehensive inspections	All other visits.
Supermarkets	19	60	120
Restaurants, canteens, cafes, etc.	118	199	85
Other food preparation premises	57	90	40
Dairies	1	2	27
Stalls	40	29	14
Butchers' and cooked meat shops	66	61	35
Wet fish shops	6	14	3
Wholesale food depots	20	28	22
Licensed premises	127	127	121
Other retail food shops and premises	286	240	212
TOTALS:	740	850	679

INFRINGEMENTS OF THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1970

REMEDIED DURING 1972.

Unsatisfactory fixtures and fittings	39
Unsatisfactory premises	1
Unclean or unsatisfactory equipment	23
No protection from contamination	17
Food placed lower than 18" from the ground	2
Smoking whilst handling food	3
Unsatisfactory drainage	1
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	54
Absence of notice requesting washing of hands	9
Absence of wash basins	33
Absence of hot and cold water supply to wash basins	30
Absence of Soap/nailbrushes	18
Absence of towels	16
Absence of first-aid equipment	7
Absence of accommodation for clothing	4
Absence of sufficient sinks	8
Absence of hot and cold water to sinks	11
Unsatisfactory lighting/ventilation	10
Defective/unclean ceilings	41
Defective/unclean walls	69
Defective/unclean windows	3
Defective/unclean doors	3
Defective Woodwork	3
Defective/unclean floors	21
Unsatisfactory protection against rodents, birds, insects, etc.	1
Accumulations	24
Miscellaneous	44
TOTAL	495

INFRINGEMENTS OF THE FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1970

REMEDIED DURING 1972.

Unclean and unsatisfactory stalls or vehicles	1
Absence of name and address on stall	1
Absence of wash basin	1
Inadequate controlled hot water to wash basin	1
Inadequate first-aid materials	1
TOTAL	5

FOOD CONTROL

The sale of unsound or unsatisfactory food resulted in 103 consumer complaints being referred to the Department during the year, all of which were investigated. Of these 103 complaints, which is 9 less than the number dealt with during 1971, 43 were in respect of foreign matter in home produced foods and 6 in respect of imported food. 18 complaints were due to the presence of mould.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the sale of foreign matter in a loaf of bread, mouldy and decomposing fish fingers, a mouldy meat pie, decomposing pre-packed bacon and in two instances of dirt contaminated loaves of bread.

Fines and costs totalling £123 were imposed.

The following list shows the number of complaints, type of food, nature of complaints and action taken by the Department during the year.

FOREIGN MATTER		
Complaint Number.	Type of food and nature of complaint	Action
1	Woollen substance in Steak and Kidney pie	Warning letter to manufacturer Proceedings unjustified.
2	Foreign matter in sliced loaf	Not foreign matter, goods replaced
5	Fly in canned prawns	Imported produce, proceedings not possible.
9	Tape in bag of potato chips	Complainant unco-operative. Proceedings unable to be taken.
11	Chewing gum in Ice Cream	Complaint unjustified, Ice Cream Novelty.
12	Spider in potato chips	Complaint unjustified, identified as potato shoot.
13a	Brillo Pad in loaf of bread	Warning letter to manufacturer. Proceedings unjustified.
14	Foreign matter in sliced bread	Complaint unjustified, not foreign matter.
20	Foreign matter in flour	Warning letter to retailer. Insufficient evidence to prosecute.
21	Foreign matter in packet of peas	Goods replaced.
22	Milk in dirty bottle	Warning letter to dairy. Proceedings unjustified.
26	Foreign matter in Steak and Kidney pie filling	Complaint unjustified, not foreign matter.
28	Foreign body in Beefburger	Warning letter to manufacturer, identified as sinew.
29	Foreign body in bottle of milk	Goods replaced.
31	Dye stained potatoes	Warning letter to supplier. Proceedings unjustified.
32	Insect in tin of plums	Warning letter to canners. Proceedings unjustified.
34	Hair in meal	Verbal warning to restaurant Manager. Identified as mushroom fibre.
36	Cigarette end in Cake	Warning letter to manufacturer. Proceedings unjustified.
37	Splinter of glass in jam	Complainant unco-operative. Proceedings unable to be taken.

Complaint Number	Type of food and nature of complaint	Action
39	Glass in packet of biscuits	Warning letter to manufacturer. Insufficient evidence to prosecute.
40	Insect in packet of chicken casserole	Warning letter to manufacturer. Proceedings unjustified.
41	Foreign matter in bread.	Legal proceedings taken.
42	Insects in milk	Warning letter to dairy. Insufficient evidence.
44	Dirty milk bottle	Complaint unjustified.
46	Foreign matter in packet of crisps	Warning letter to manufacturer. Proceedings unjustified.
51	Mouse droppings in bread roll	Identified as edible oil. Proceedings unjustified.
52a	Metal in bread	Complaint not substantiated.
56	Maggots in ham	Warning letter to retailer. Proceedings unjustified.
61	Foreign matter in sausage	Not foreign matter, goods replaced.
63	Discoloured baked beans.	Warning letter to manufacturers. Proceedings unjustified.
64	Dirty loaf of bread	Legal proceedings taken.
64a	Bolt in meat pie	No evidence produced. Proceedings unable to be taken.
65	Foreign matter attached to potato chip	Verbal warning to retailer. Complainant requested no proceedings.
67	Dirty loaf of bread	Legal proceedings taken.
69	Piece of wood in chocolate	Warning letter to manufacturer. Insufficient evidence to prosecute.
70	Dirty milk bottle	Proceedings unable to be taken. Complainant requested no proceedings.
71	Sediment in whisky	Complaint not substantiated.
72	Fly in cheese	Warning letter to manufacturer. Proceedings unjustified.
74	Foreign body in pastry	Complaint not substantiated.
75	Finger nail in chinese food	Identified as fish shell. No further action.
79	Foreign body in milk	Warning letter to dairy. Proceedings unjustified.
82	Foreign body in corned beef	Warning letter to manufacturer. Identified as hide.
83	Insects in porridge oats	Warning letter to retailer. Proceedings unjustified.
84	Earwig in apple pie	Complaint not substantiated.
85	Worms in fish	Verbal warning to retailer. Proceedings unjustified.
87	Slug in bread roll	Identified as dough. Proceedings unjustified.

Foreign Matter (continued)

Complaint Number.	Type of food and nature of complaint	Action
88	Adhesive tape in milk	Warning letter to dairy. Proceedings unjustified.
91	Foreign matter in tinned meat	Not foreign matter, goods replaced.
92	Foreign matter in sausage.	Warning letter to manufacturer. Complaint not substantiated.
98	Foreign matter in Chocolate Gateau	Complaint not substantiated.
99	Insects in egg noodles.	Warning letter sent to retailer, and manufacturer, proceedings unjustified.

MOULD

Complaint Number	Type of Food	Action
4	Steak and Kidney pie	Warning letter to manufacturer, proceedings unjustified.
6	Sausages	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
8	Sliced loaf	Complaint not substantiated.
23	Raspberry and lemon mousse.	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
24	Fruit malt loaf	Warning letter to retailer and manufacturer, insufficient evidence to prosecute.
35	Butter	Complaint not substantiated, goods replaced.
47	Meat Pie	Legal proceedings taken.
48	Faggotts	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
53	Loaf of bread	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
55	Pastry	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
57	Steak and Kidney pie	Warning letter to retailer, complainant requested no proceedings.
59	Sponge sandwich cake	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
66	Onions	Complaint unjustified.
68	Meat pie	Complainant requests no proceedings.
76	Fish fingers	Legal proceedings taken.
78	Meat pie	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
89	Tin of mixed vegetables	Damaged can, proceedings unjustified.
90	Loaf of bread	Warning letter to manufacturer, proceedings unjustified.
94	Cheese spread	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.

OTHERS		
Complaint Number	Type of food and nature of complaint	Action
3	Coffee alleged to have caused sickness	Complaint not substantiated.
7	Sour cheese and cucumber rolls	Complaint unjustified.
10	Ill tasting lardycake	Verbal warning to manufacturer, proceedings unjustified.
13	Ill tasting chicken	Complaint unjustified.
15	Stale cereals	Letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
16	Frozen meat alleged to be not frozen	Goods replaced, though complaint unjustified.
17	Stale ham	Complaint unjustified.
18	Absence of chicken in chicken fried noodle.	Complaint unjustified.
19	Bad tinned ham	Goods replaced, proceedings unjustified
25	Punctured tin of milk	Proceedings unjustified.
27	Tinned chicken alleged to be not chicken.	Complaint unjustified.
30	Unfit chicken	Goods replaced, proceedings unjustified.
33	Overripe pineapple	Complaint not substantiated.
38	Ill tasting frozen chicken	Complaint unjustified.
43	Undercooked chicken legs	Complaint unjustified.
45	Yeast powder alleged to have caused illness.	Complaint unjustified.
49	Stale babyfood	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
50	Stale Steak and Kidney pies	Letter to manufacturer, proceedings unjustified.
52	Rancide bacon	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
54	Bad corned beef	Insufficient evidence to prosecute.
58	Bad frozen chicken	Undue delay between purchase and complaint, goods replaced.
60	Ill tasting cream dessert	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
62	Bad pork chops	Undue delay between purchase and complaint.
73	Cartons of cream out of date	Complaint unjustified.
77	Bad cooked brawn	Complaint unjustified, goods replaced.
80	Sour sausage roll	Complaint unjustified.
81	Bad frozen scampi	Complaint unjustified, goods replaced.
86	Stale yoghurts	Warning letter to retailer, proceedings unjustified.
93	Bad chicken	Verbal warning to retailer, undue delay between purchase and complaint.
95	Bad ham	Complaint not substantiated.
96a	Inedible Steak and Kidney Pie	Verbal warning to retailer, proceedings unjustified.

Complaint Number	Type of food and nature of complaint	Action
96	Decomposing bacon	Legal proceedings taken.
97	Bottle of cider alleged to be flat	Complaint unjustified.

Milk Distribution

14 licences were issued authorising the sale of pre-packed milk and 14 persons were registered as milk distributors during the year.

A total of 120 Dealer's Milk Licences are now in force within the Borough. One licence, authorising the pasteurisation of milk, which has been in force for a considerable number of years was withdrawn during the year as the dairy ceased to operate as a processing establishment. The dairy is now operating as a distribution depot only for milk which is pasteurised by the same company at a dairy outside the Borough. There are now no licences for the heat treatment of milk in force in the town.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959

No. of Registered Dairies at the close of the year	3
No. of Registered Distributors at the close of the year	97

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1960/63 LICENCES IN FORCE ISSUED BY THE SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dealer's (Pasteurisers) Licences (ceased June, 1972)	1
Dealer's (Pre-Packed Milk) Licences	120

Sampling

58 samples of raw milk arriving for pasteurisation from various farms were taken direct from the churns as they arrived at the local dairy. These samples were tested for presence of Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Antibiotics. In addition 2 samples of 'Untreated' milk were obtained and submitted for similar examination. The number of samples taken during the year are less than previous years due to the closure of the local dairy.

All the samples taken were found to be free from Tuberculosis.

Of the 60 samples of milk taken for Brucellosis 22 samples were found positive to the Ring Test. Whilst a negative Ring Test result indicates that the milk is free from Brucellosis a positive result does not prove the presence of the organism and further Culture Tests must be carried out at the laboratory. Of the 22 samples with positive Ring Test Results all produce a negative result on the Culture Test.

One sample of milk was found to contain a trace of Antibiotic, but the amount present was very small. The Farmer was immediately informed in writing of the result and advised that the milk from cows under treatment must be rejected for at least 48 hours after the last treatment. A repeat sample was taken and found to be satisfactory. 169 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination as prescribed under the Milk Special Designation Regulation. 151 of the samples were entirely satisfactory whilst 16 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test and 2 samples failed both the Phosphatase Test and the Methylene Blue Test. It is significant that both the failures of the Phosphatase Test occurred during the power cuts due to a 'coal strike'. The matter was immediately taken up with the dairy and although extensive investigations were carried out both by the Dairy Management and my Inspectors the exact cause of the failures was never discovered. The failures of the Methylene Blue Tests were investigated and follow up samples were found to be satisfactory.

**SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY
PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, OKUS ROAD, SWINDON, DURING 1972**

(a) For Bacteriological Examination

Designation	No. of samples taken	Entirely satisfactory	Failed	
			Phosphatase Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	124	108	2	16
Untreated (retailed by dairy farmers)	14	12	—	2
Sterilized (Turbidity Test)	31	31	—	—
TOTALS	169	151	2	18

(b) For Biological Examination — Tuberculosis

Designation	No. of samples Taken	Negative	Positive
Raw Milk	58	58	—
Untreated Milk	2	2	—

(c) For Brucella Ring Test

Designation	No. of samples Taken	Negative	Positive
Raw Milk	58	36	22
Untreated Milk	2	—	—

(d) For the presence of Antibiotics

Designation	No. of samples taken	No. in which no antibiotics were indicated.	No. in which antibiotics were detected.
Raw Milk	58	57	1
Untreated Milk	2	2	—

ICE CREAM

A total of 43 samples of ice cream was taken for bacteriological examination. Samples are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and depending on the results of the test are placed in a provisional grading. Generally speaking, grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory whilst grades 3 and 4 are considered suspect; 40 of the samples were placed in Grade 1, 1 sample placed in Grade 2, and 2 samples of soft ice cream from mobile vans were given provisional Grade 3. These two unsatisfactory results indicate that insufficient care was being exercised in the cleaning and sterilizing of the ice cream equipment or possibly lack of personal hygiene during the operation of the ice cream dispensing. The cause of the unsatisfactory results were thoroughly investigated on both occasions and following advice from my Department subsequent samples were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1959

	FROM MOBILE VANS				FROM PREMISES			
	No. Taken	Placed in Grade 1	Placed in Grade 2	Placed in Grade 3	No. Taken	Placed in Grade 1	Placed in Grade 2	Placed in Grade 3 or 4
Soft Ice Cream	31	28	1	2	—	—	—	—
Other Ice Cream	9	9	—	—	3	3	—	—

**OTHER FOOD SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY
PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION**

Canned Fish	5
Minced Beef	1
Frozen Beef	1

All the results were satisfactory.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants situated within the Borough. No samples of liquid egg therefore, were submitted for the Alpha-Amylase test during the year.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

SAMPLING – CHEMICAL

A total of 290 samples of Food and Drugs were procured for chemical analysis and were submitted to the Public Analyst. These comprised 71 samples of Milk, 14 samples of Drugs, and 205 samples of various foods, details of which are given on the following pages. Only one sample was reported irregular and this was a sample submitted as a result of a customer complaint and referred to in the report. Food and Drugs sampling is an important function of my Department and as well as carrying out routine checks on well established basic foods, one is always on the look out for new products which may not conform to the legal requirements. Generally it is my aim to cover the broad spectrum of food one would normally expect to find in the average housewife's shopping.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Commodity	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Almonds — Ground		1	1	
Baking Powder		2	2	
Baked Beans		2	2	
Biscuits		4	4	
Bread		1	—	1*
Butter		8	8	
Cereal Products		12	12	
Cheese		8	8	
Chocolate Products		2	2	
Cider		1	1	
Coffee		2	2	
Colouring Material		2	2	
Cream		7	7	
Dripping (Beef)		1	1	
Drugs		14	14	
Fish		4	4	
Fish Paste		1	1	
Flour		1	1	
Fruit		8	8	
Fruit Drinks		13	13	
Herbs, Spices and Flavouring		11	11	
Honey		1	1	
Ice Cream		6	6	
Jelly		1	1	
Lard		3	3	
Malted Milk		1	1	
Margarine		3	3	
Marzipan		1	1	
Meat Canned		8	8	
Meat Cooked		2	2	
Meat Raw		4	4	
Meat Pastes		1	1	
Meat Pies		2	2	
Milk	69	2	71	
Milk Canned		2	2	
Milk Dried		1	1	
Mince Meat		4	4	
Pesticides		7	7	
Pickled Eggs		1	1	
Preserves		8	8	
Salad Dressings		2	2	
Sauces - Savoury		6	6	

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (CONTD)

Commodity	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Sauces - Sweet		4	4	
Sausages		12	12	
Sausage Meat		1	1	
Shandy		1	1	
Soft Drinks		2	2	
Soup		4	4	
Stuffings		3	3	
Suet		1	1	
Sugar Confection		3	3	
Tea		2	2	
Tomato Puree		1	1	
Vegetables		4	4	
Vinegar		5	5	
Whisky	6		6	
Yeast Extract		1	1	
TOTAL	75	215	289	1

* Only one sample submitted to the Public Analyst was reported as irregular. It concerned a complaint sample of sliced bread in which was embedded some black foreign material, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. In the opinion of the Public Analyst the material was part of a conveyor belt. Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturer, who pleaded guilty, and a fine of £25 with £10 costs was imposed.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

55,273 animals were slaughtered at the Corporation Abattoir during the year. This is a slight decrease in the annual throughput compared with 1971, when 56,692 animals were slaughtered. Full inspection was carried out as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations and for the first time since records have been kept no evidence of tuberculosis in cattle was found. This reflects the success of the Ministry of Agriculture's Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme which has virtually eliminated the disease in cattle. Of the 27,017 pigs inspected 1.47% were found to be affected to some degree with tuberculosis, but no instance of generalised condition of the disease was found in these animals.

During routine inspection for *Cysticercus Bovis* 28 cattle were found to be affected with localised lesions, representing 0.26% of the total cattle inspected. This is a decrease over the previous year.

Nearly 67 tons of unsound meat and offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption and dealt with in accordance with the regulations. Over 10 tons of other food-stuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town and dealt with in the usual way by destruction under supervision at the Rodbourne Tip.

Inspection of meat for export to certain European countries and elsewhere was carried out and 4 export certificates were issued during the year.

In addition 61 export certificates were issued in respect of sausage casings intended for export from private companies in Swindon during 1972.

33 Notifications of consignments from Port Health Authorities were received in respect of imported food which had not been inspected at the port of entry. These consignments were inspected by the department at their destination.

21 Slaughtermen's Licences were issued to remain in force for the year.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY		CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY		CATTLE		PIGS	
Number of animals inspected	27,017	Number of carcasses condemned	1	Number of carcasses condemned	28	Number of carcasses condemned	408
Percentage of animals inspected	100	Percentage of carcasses condemned	0.0037	Percentage of carcasses condemned	0.104	Percentage of carcasses condemned	1.47
Number of animals inspected	27,017	Number of carcasses condemned	1	Number of carcasses condemned	28	Number of carcasses condemned	408
Percentage of animals inspected	100	Percentage of carcasses condemned	0.0037	Percentage of carcasses condemned	0.104	Percentage of carcasses condemned	1.47

UNFOOD FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1972

UNFOOD FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1972		UNFOOD FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1972		UNFOOD FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1972	
Unsound meat and offal from Abattoir	66	Unsound meat and offal from other establishments	10	Unsound food from other establishments	4
Unsound meat and offal from Abattoir	66	Unsound meat and offal from other establishments	10	Unsound food from other establishments	4
Unsound meat and offal from Abattoir	66	Unsound meat and offal from other establishments	10	Unsound food from other establishments	4

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS 1963 - 66

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during 1972 and the incidence of Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.

	Cattle				
	Cows	Others	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
TOTAL KILLED AND INSPECTED	3067	7784	272	27017	17133
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS – whole carcasses condemned	61	14	17	100	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2137	2918	17	4659	1099
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis	71.65	37.61	12.5	17.61	6.54
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	397	—
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1.47	—
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	27	—	—	—
Approximate percentage of number affected with Cysticercosis	0.03	0.35	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	27	—	—	—

UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1972

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	lbs.
Unsound meat and offal from Abattoir	66	15	3	15
Unsound food from other establishments	10	1	1	4

PERCENTAGE OF CATTLE AND PIG CARCASSES FOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS 1964 - 72

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cows	0.83	0.49	0.28	0.37	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.06	nil
Other Cattle	1.7	0.19	0.1	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.03	nil
Pigs	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	2.96	1.88	1.82	1.95	1.47
Calves	0.04	nil	0.03	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

No applications were received for licences authorising the treatment of waste foods for feeding to animals and poultry. There are no premises licensed for this purpose in the Borough at the present time.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

2,867 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. Informal notices under the Public Health Acts were served in 132 instances requiring the carrying out of repairs for the abatement of nuisances. The services of the department were also called for to deal with 129 wasp, bee or hornet infestations which occurred mostly at private dwelling houses.

Informal action resulted in 135 houses being repaired and renovated under the Public Health and Housing Acts and 33 dwelling houses were demolished by the Local Authority.

During the year 364 visits were made in connection with alterations or repairs to drains and 65 drains to existing houses were tested by the department.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Inspections were made at 15 houses known to be used in multiple occupation. No cases of gross overcrowding were found. Some premises were found to be lacking in certain facilities and in a poor state of repair. These were dealt with by informal notice to the owners concerned and no statutory action in respect of unsatisfactory lettings was necessary, during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

OVERCROWDING

One case of overcrowding involving two families was abated during the year, following re-housing by the Local Authority. Two further cases involving two families comprising 16½ persons were outstanding at the end of the year.

UNFOOD FOOD CONDEMNED BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS DURING 1972

	Total	Cwt	Tons	Per cent
Ground meat and offal from Animals	80	16	3	16
Foodstuffs from other animals	10	1	1	4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 AND HOUSING ACT 1957

NUISANCES ABATED AND HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

Defective ceilings	19
Defective walls	42
Damp walls	35
Defective floors	29
Defective skirting boards	10
Defective firegrates	2
Defective windows	31
Defective doors and/or door frames	23
Defective stairs	3
Defective sinks and/or sink waste pipes	8
New sinks provided	1
Water services provided and repaired	3
Defective roofs	31
Defective eavesgutters and/or rain water pipes	10
Defective yard/forecourt paving	2
Defective water closets repaired	1
Defective flushing cisterns repaired	8
Choked drains	20
Drains, new repaired or relaid	7
Inspection chambers repaired or provided	4
Gullies repaired or provided	2
Soil vent pipes repaired or provided	4
Drains tested	65
Offensive accumulations removed	35
Offensive animals	2
Food store provided and ventilated	4
Provision of adequate lighting	1
Provision of hot and cold water supply	2
Means of escape from fire provided	2
Provision of adequate ventilation	1
Overcrowding abated	1
Miscellaneous	75
	483

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES AND BEDDING ETC.

Rooms disinfested in Council owned property	419
Rooms disinfested in other property	453
Verminous bedding disinfested	15
Other articles disinfested	3
Wasps/Bees/Hornets Nests	129

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ETC.

Rooms disinfected	142
Library books disinfected	10
Other articles disinfected	3,700
Bedding disinfected from hospitals	178
Bedding disinfected at or from private premises	1

CLEAN AIR ACT

3 applications for prior approval of the installation of boilers and furnaces were received and approved during the year.

3 applications for approval of chimney heights were also dealt with and these were approved after the necessary requirements had been met.

Daily measurements for the amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the town's atmosphere continued at the three recording stations, namely Ferndale Road, Euclid Street, and Walcot. It is encouraging to report a further reduction in the average monthly concentrations of smoke recorded which was 25 microgrammes per cubic metre for the year – and reduction of 55 microgrammes in the last decade.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

MONTHLY CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE AND SUPLHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

Measured in Microgrammes per Cubic Metre

1972	Station No. 1 4 Euclid Street		Station No. 2 Ferndale School		Station No. 3 Walcot School	
Month	Smoke	SO ₂	Smoke	SO ₂	Smoke	SO ₂
January	28	100	55	112	32	72
February	27	95	58	107	32	73
March	30	104	55	144	31	74
April	14	60	19	61	15	63
May	13	58	21	66	14	41
June	9	33	15	36	9	32
July	8	35	13	34	12	36
August	10	40	16	58	16	36
September	16	65	46	69	31	64
October	No reading	No reading	28	75	23	65
November	No reading	No reading	35	86	26	74
December	40	90	37	97	30	72

NOISE ABATEMENT

47 complaints of excessive or unreasonable noise were received during the year. All were investigated and action by the department resulted in almost all cases of the nuisance being abated or the noise being reduced to an acceptable level.

No legal proceedings were instituted under the Noise Abatement Act during the year.

SUMMARY OF TYPES OF NOISE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING 1972

Commercial Premises	No. of Complaints Received
Operation of noisy machinery	10
Amplified music	2
Industrial Premises	
Motor of mechanical extractor fan	3
Operation of noisy machinery	4
Domestic Premises	
Revvng motor cycle engine	1
Unnecessary banging and thumping by neighbours	3
Parties/musical instruments and amplified music	8
Dogs barking	2
Other premises	
Amplified music from clubs and dance halls etc.	8
Roadworks	2
Noise from patrons leaving club premises, Fish Bars etc.	3
Ice Cream Vans	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

A total of 1,269 complaints were received of rodent infestations at various premises in the Borough. 3,716 visits were made to businesses, Local Authority premises, dwelling houses and other sites.

In addition to visits resulting from complaints, 93 block surveys were made involving the inspection for rats and mice of 375 dwellings, 18 business premises and 56 Local Authority premises. These inspections resulted in 81 infestations being discovered and cleared. Notices were served in 36 instances requiring structural repairs to premises to prevent the ingress of rats or mice. In accordance with our usual practice two treatments of the Corporation Sewers were also carried out for the eradication of rats, in the drains and sewers. Of the total number of manholes in the Borough 2.5% were found to be infested.

In every case where a sewer manhole is found to be infested treatment is continued until there is no further evidence of rats in that particular section of sewer.

Disinfestation for rats or mice was completed at 161 business premises at a total cost of £670.39 which amount is recoverable from the occupiers of the premises concerned.

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949
INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS MADE DURING 1972**

Type of Property	Public Health Inspectors'	
	Visits	Revisits
Local Authority	10	7
Dwelling Houses	108	65
Business	51	35
	169	107

Type of Property	Rodent Operatives'	
	Visits	Revisits
Local Authority	75	184
Dwelling Houses	858	1535
Business	266	770
Various Sites	23	5
	1222	2494
Sewer Manholes	2262	3699

Number of infested properties baited during 1972:—

Type of Property	Number
Local Authority	95
Dwelling Houses	927
Business	417
Sites	3
Sewers	749
Total number of block surveys carried out	93
Total number of sewer defects found	13

Informal Notices given to remedy defects

Local Authority	4
Dwelling Houses	24
Business	9

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

3 licences were granted during the year for the storage of rag flock. 4 samples of filling materials were procured and submitted to the Prescribed Analyst and all were found to be satisfactory and complied with the legal standard of cleanliness.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Number of licences to keep pet shops issued during the year	5
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SWINDON CORPORATION ACT 1951

Number of hairdressers and/or barbers on the Register at the close of the year	130
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SWINDON CORPORATION ACT 1951 – Section 47

Number of registered hawkers	55
Number of premises registered as storage accommodation for food	4

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 cremation of 5 such persons.

CARAVANS

The gypsies in Marlborough Lane are still present and although the numbers fluctuate as families come and go, there has been a downward trend in the number of persons using the site. At the end of the year the position was that about 14 adults and 6 children occupied 5 vans and 1 tent.

No further amenities have been provided during the year, there being only a stand pipe to provide water. The cleanliness of the site is somewhat improved due to the provision by the gypsies themselves of hardstandings round and under their vans, but overall hygiene and sanitation is not satisfactory. Furthermore, an infestation of rats makes big demands on by Rodent Control Team.

Until a properly equipped site with adequate sanitary conveniences and other essential facilities is provided this site will always be a problem.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

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

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	6	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	231	134	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises).	30	15	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Conveniences (Section 7)

Insufficient	1
Unsuitable or defective	5

OUTWORK (Section 133 and 134)

Number of Outworkers at August, 1972:—

Making wearing apparel	39
Making of paper, cardboard etc.	1

SEWAGE DISPOSAL 1972

I am indebted to the Controller, Technical Services for the following information, and give below a copy of his report.

Sewerage

The programme of work of reconstructing defective sewers was continued in several places. Work of relaying defective sewers in the Even Swindon General Improvement Area was started. Stage two of the Northern Stormwater Outfall was commenced. This scheme which starts in the central area of the town includes the construction of a large oil interceptor. Sewers were laid in new areas for industrial and housing development.

To assist with the sewer maintenance and for inspection of new sewers before adoption by the Council, a closed circuit T.V. sewer inspection unit was purchased.

Generally, the sewerage system is adequate for the existing development.

Sewage Treatment

During the year the quality of the final effluent from Rodbourne Water Pollution Control Works was generally within the special standard imposed by Thames Conservancy. Certain difficulties have been experienced in commissioning major plants for sludge treatment and treatment of settled sewage. The former plant has given rise to complaints of smell from residents local to the works.

Work is proceeding, however to overcome this problem.

WATER SUPPLY

I am obliged to the Water Engineer for the following information on water supplies.

The supply throughout the year was entirely satisfactory as regards both quality and quantity and no action was necessary due to any form of contamination. No records of the population served direct to houses or through stand pipes are maintained by the Water Department. The Chemical/Mineral table indicates the fluoride content of the various supplies. Fluoridation of the water supplies has not yet been agreed by the Public Health Authority.

Average pH value is 7.1mg/L and all supplies are high in carbonate hardness. The water is free from metals including lead and there is no reason to expect action on lead from water of this character.

Sampled by the Department of Public Health and Building Inspection

Date of sample	Chlorides	Non Carbonate Hardness	Total Hardness	Nitrate Nitrogen	Nitrite Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Oxygen Absorbed
22.3.72	20	100	300	2.5	< 0.005	0.013	0.011	0.3
22.3.72	30	100	280	3.2	0.008	0.015	0.011	0.4
22.3.72	25	105	280	3.6	0.009	0.017	0.022	0.4
29.3.72	20	105	310	2.9	0.010	0.028	0.015	0.4
7.6.72	22	110	290	2.1	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.012	0.4
7.6.72	20	100	275	2.1	< 0.005	0.011	0.012	0.4
7.6.72	20	110	300	2.4	< 0.005	0.009	0.011	0.3
7.6.72	20	110	290	2.5	< 0.005	0.008	0.012	0.4
28.6.72	35	110	295	2.4	0.009	0.012	0.011	0.6
28.9.72	30	110	300	2.2	0.010	0.011	0.011	0.4
28.9.72	20	110	290	2.6	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.012	0.3
28.9.72	15	100	300	1.8	0.008	< 0.005	0.011	0.02

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER IN 1972

Source	Water	Total No. of samples	Samples in which coliforms were absent in 100 ml. No.	Samples in which E. Coli Type 1 were absent No.
Town's main domestic supply	Final	17	16 94.1 %	17 100 %

SWINDON WATER DEPARTMENT
CHEMICAL AND MINERAL EXAMINATION OF WATER
 Summary of Results on Samples of Final Water taken during the year ended 31st December, 1972
 (parts per million)

Source	Date of sample 1972	Chlorides	Non Carbonate Hardness	Total Hardness	Nitrate Nitrogen	Nitrite Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Permanganate Value	Natural Fluoride
ASHTON KEYNES	19. 1.72	19	55	295	1.7	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.35
	2. 8.72	18	50	290	1.3	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.35
AXFORD	11. 1.72	11	25	250	4.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
	18. 7.72	10	30	255	4.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10
BROAD TOWN	19. 1.72	16	60	350	1.8	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.15
	2. 8.72	16	60	395	2.0	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.15
CLATFORD	1. 1.72	10	30	250	4.0	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
	18. 7.72	9	30	250	3.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
CLYFFE PYRPARD	19. 1.72	13	45	275	1.7	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
	2. 8.72	13	50	275	1.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
GREAT BEDWYN	11. 1.72	17	55	320	7.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.10
	18. 7.72	16	55	315	7.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.10
LATTON	19.1.72	24	50	315	1.6	Absent	0.03	0.00	0.20	0.65
	2. 8.72	27	40	305	0.8	Absent	0.03	0.00	0.10	0.75
MARLBOROUGH	11. 1.72	10	20	240	3.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.10
	18. 7.72	8	15	240	3.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.10
OGBOURNE	19. 1.72	16	70	370	5.1	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.15
	18. 7.72	16	70	370	6.3	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.11
RAMSBURY	11. 1.72	10	15	235	2.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
	18. 7.72	9	16	235	2.7	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
WROUGHTON	19. 1.72	13	60	375	4.3	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.20
	20. 4.72	13	65	375	3.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.12
	28. 7.72	12	50	370	2.4	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10
	23.10.72	13	55	365	3.9	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10

SWINDON WATER DEPARTMENT

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

Summary of Results on Samples taken before (raw) and after (final)
chlorination during the year ended 31st December, 1972

Source	Total Samples taken	Samples in which Coliforms were absent in 100 ml.		Samples in which E Coli type 1 were absent in 100 ml.	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Ashton Keynes, raw	44	44	100	44	100
Ashton Keynes, final					
Axford, raw	11	10	91	11	100
Axford, final	11	11	100	11	100
Broad Town, raw	44	44	100	44	100
Broad Town, final					
Clatford, raw	46	46	100	46	100
Clatford, final	45	45	100	45	100
Clyffe Pypard, raw	45	45	100	45	100
Clyffe Pypard, final					
Great Bedwyn, raw	46	46	100	46	100
Great Bedwyn, final	45	45	100	45	100
Latton, raw	45	45	100	45	100
Latton, final	45	45	100	45	100
Marlborough, raw	43	43	100	43	100
Marlborough, final					
Ogbourne, raw	46	46	100	46	100
Ogbourne, final	45	45	100	45	100
Ramsbury, raw	45	45	100	45	100
Ramsbury, final	44	44	100	44	100
Wroughton, raw	98	22	22	43	43
Wroughton, final	49	49	100	49	100

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

	Number of samples taken with results			
	BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
	No. Taken	Results	No. Taken	Results
Small Bath, Milton Road	4	Coliform count – satisfactory. Faecal coli per 100 mls. absent in all samples.	1	Reported by Public Analyst to be satisfactory for swimming bath water.
Large Bath, Milton Road.	4	ditto	3	ditto
Swimming Bath at Richard Jefferies School	6	ditto	1	ditto
Bath, Post House Hotel	3	ditto		
Swimming Bath, Penhill Junior School	7	6 samples satisfactory. 1 sample contained coliforms and E. Coli Type 1. Follow up samples satisfactory.	1	ditto
Open air Bath, Seven Fields School	7	6 samples satisfactory 1 sample coliforms present.	1	ditto

There were no changes in the facilities at any time of the Council's Public Swimming Baths during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963**Registration of Premises and Inspection**

The number of registered premises in the area shows an overall increase of 54 during the year, this made up of 59 cancellations of registrations previously existing and 113 new registrations either from change of occupier or the completion of new development.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act

This is considered to be satisfactory in this area, regular inspection by full time Inspectors has made employers more aware and conversant with the Legislation. It has been found that increasing numbers of the employers are prepared to seek advice from Inspectors who make a point of being readily available to meet them and discuss problems and provide information.

Generally it appears that contraventions are of a less serious nature than in the earlier days of the Act and are, therefore, more easily rectified. Several of the matters which are most commonly found to need attention are those which have regularly been in this category and include, failure to register until reminded, maintaining first aid boxes, maintaining lighting fittings, exhibition of OSR9, and keeping stairs and passageways unobstructed. The Inspectors are becoming more aware of the premises where such faults occur and consequently more frequent visits are made in these instances until improvement is maintained.

Accidents

This year has shown a considerable increase in the number of accidents reported in the area. It has already been stated that Swindon is in the midst of a tremendous programme of expansion and redevelopment, many large new premises have commenced operating within the last twelve months, several of these are very large warehouses operating the latest methods of high level stacking and are highly mechanised. It is interesting to note that the increase in reported accidents over previous years can be mainly accounted for by the new premises which have contributed almost 50% of the accidents reported during 1972.

However, this increase was not entirely unexpected, as many of the employed persons were new to the work, with little or no experience of the highly mechanised methods of handling merchandise now employed at these modern premises.

Much time was spent by Inspectors during the year in giving advice to both management and employees on safety measures at these premises during their early operation and it is pleasing to report that due to the excellent co-operation which was forthcoming, a marked decrease in the number of accidents reported became apparent during the latter part of the year.

A further factor which may have some bearing on the higher accident figure from these larger new premises is due to the fact that regular checks and strict compliance with the notification of accidents by Safety Officers employed at these premises is now resulting in all accidents being reported forthwith.

In common with most other authorities it is by no means possible to ensure that all accidents are reported so efficiently in the hundreds of smaller less organised premises.

It is appropriate on this subject to state appreciation of the assistance of the Factory Inspectorate, their advice and readily available information has been of great value and it is pleasing to record that a most cordial and helpful working relationship exists between the two Inspectorates.

Hoists and Lifts Regulations 1968

During the year, again due to redevelopment, many new lifts have come into operation, these are of the latest type and have caused few problems having been built and installed to conform with the regulations. Most of the older lifts in the area, which originally caused problems have now gone with the removal of the older buildings. The position under this regulation, can, therefore, be considered satisfactory.

Special Comments — as requested by the Department of Employment

(i) Instances of exceptionally good or bad standards by employers: —

In the maintenance of exceptionally good standards, one nationally known Departmental Store has, in its local branch, set a standard far beyond the requirements of the Act, this high standard has been rigidly maintained by this company since inspections under the Act began.

Compliance in all respects is excellent, but outstanding in this particular firm are the staff canteen, rest rooms, medical facilities, and safety standards with clearly defined and maintained passages and exits and orderly stockrooms completely free of obstruction.

Several other firms now appear to be following a similar pattern and this has resulted in great improvements. There are still, however, some employers who accept the requirements of the Act as their maximum standards.

Problems have occurred at some of the larger establishments where trade has exceeded the expectations of the premises as originally planned. The results of this are that staff facilities suffer because selling area is given preference and storage space is inadequate for the stock which has to be carried to supply the increased sales. Stock tends to overflow into staff facilities, passageways, stairs and every available space, the vast amount of empty cartons and packing tends to be piled up in exits and loading bays. This problem has been vigorously pursued by the Inspectors of this department during the past year and several premises where these practices have been found prevalent have been visited on an almost weekly basis.

The Inspector's insistence on the safety standards of Section 16 has in fact prompted several firms concerned to seek alternative warehousing in order to keep the original premises in compliance. Some smaller premises also suffer from these problems due to the practice of Developers offering a shop shell for sale or lease, leaving the occupier to fit out the shell himself. Due to the high price of selling space this often results in the occupier trying to use as much floor space as possible as sales area with almost total disregard to adequate space for stock or staff facilities.

PROSECUTIONS

No. of prosecutions	No. of convictions
Nil	Nil

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OR PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES 1972	
Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	4630
Retail Shops	4591
Wholesale departments, warehouses	782
Catering establishments open to the public	632
Canteens	54
Fuel storage depots	18
Total	10707
Total : Males	4233
Total : Females	6474

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS 1972			
Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices	41	375	111
Retail shops	56	698	356
Wholesale shops, warehouses	9	64	39
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	7	77	36
Fuel storage depots	0	5	2
TOTALS	113	1219	544

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 (continued)

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS		
Section	Contravention	Found
4	Cleanliness	58
5	Overcrowding	0
6	Temperature	111
7	Ventilation	46
8	Lighting	123
9	Sanitary Conveniences	122
10	Washing facilities	67
11	Supply of drinking water	0
12	Clothing accommodation	20
13	Sitting facilities	) 10
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	)
15	Eating facilities	0
16	Floors, passages and stairs	216
17	Fencing, exposed parts of machinery	)
18	Protection of young persons working at dangerous machinery	) 27
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	)
23	Prohibition of heavy work	0
24	First aid	133
	Hoists and lifts	16
	Other matters	203
	TOTAL	1152

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 (continued)

REPORTED ACCIDENTS

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal warning	Informal advice	No Action
Offices	0	7	7	0	0	3	4
Retail shops	0	25	22	0	4	5	16
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	0	35	32	0	2	13	20
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	0	5	4	0	1	1	3
Fuel storage depots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	72	65	0	7	22	43

ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering estab- lishments open to public, canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery		1	3		
Transport			13		
Falls of persons	2	5	3		
Stepping on or striking against object or person	1	1	2		
Handling goods	2	12	9	4	
Struck by falling object		2	2		
Fires and explosions					
Electricity			1		
Use of hand tools		3	1		
Not otherwise specified	2	1	1	1	

BUILDING CONTROL

1. Improvement Grants

A total of 3,500 visits were made in connection with 808 applications for Improvement Grants including 33 Standard Grant applications, which were received during the year. 426 of these were approved and 9 disapproved, 373 applications were pending and awaiting applicant's instructions at the end of the year.

The total amount of Improvement Grants paid was £137,828 which represents 50% of the total approved expense and an average Improvement Grant of £530.10 per dwelling.

The amount of Standard Grants paid was £647.00 which represents 50% of providing standard amenities at an average cost of £51.84 per dwelling.

Standard Grants

Number of Applications				No. grants paid	Total Amount paid	Number of bathrooms improved	
Received		Approved	Refused			Conversions	Additions
Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted						
32	1	31	2	13	£647.00	13	—

Improvement Grants

Number of Applications				No. grants paid	Total Amount paid	Number of bathrooms improved	
Received		Approved	Refused			Conversions	Additions
Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted						
761	14	395	7	260	£137,828	56	204

2. Building Regulations

Number of applications approved ... 1376

Number of applications rejected ... 14

BOROUGH OF SWINDON

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1972.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (Councillor P. J. Furkins)

Chairman :

Councillor W. J. Wilks

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor A. Roberts

MEMBERS

Alderman J. R. STEVENS

Councillor A. C. G. DURSTON

Alderman W. H. G. TURPIN

Councillor N. H. E. BATEMAN

Alderman C. S. MACPHERSON

Councillor E. J. UZZELL

Alderman Mrs. M. LECKIE, B.Sc.

Councillor J. R. CORDON

Councillor A. J. BOWN, M.B.E., D.L.

Councillor F. CULLEN

Mrs. K. M. TOMKINS

Councillor N. E. FISHER

Mr. R. COLE

Councillor Mrs. E. HANKINS

Miss V. C. M. HOLLICK

Councillor R. HERRING

Councillor B. SMITH

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. J. B. AINSLIE

MR. A. S. MILES

Mr. H. E. DAVEY

TEACHER MEMBERS

MR. J. M. EGAN

MR. J. W. HUMPHRIES

Mr. R. PRAED

BOROUGH EDUCATION OFFICER

G. W. LABRAM, M.A.

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

Report of the Principal Borough School Medical Officer, 1972

During the year routine school medical inspections were carried out on 5056 pupils. 186 were found to require treatment for defects other than dental and infestation with vermin. None was found to be in an unsatisfactory physical condition.

Selective School Medical Examinations

In recent years the primary role of the School Health Service has changed considerably. It is generally agreed that the ascertainment of hitherto undetected defects is no longer the most productive part of the School Medical Officer's work. Improvements in the health service generally and in pre-school child care have meant that most existing serious defects are recognised before school entry, and those which subsequently arise - epilepsy, asthma, respiratory diseases, psychiatric disorders etc., are unlikely to be first diagnosed at routine inspection.

The main care of the School Health Service therefore would appear to be the follow-up of known defects which have important implications for education and psychological development, and the maintenance of communication with schools, interpreting the educational significance of medical information.

Toward this end the routine examination of junior school children has therefore been abandoned and a system of 'selective' examination substituted. The School Medical Officer now visits each school each term, discusses with the staff the children who are known to suffer some degree of handicap and decides with the staff which children should be examined. The system has been well received by the teaching staff. Certain conditions of course, do lend themselves to ascertainment by routine screening methods, such as visual defect, hearing defect etc., and these routine screening procedures will be maintained. Routine examinations at school entry and of school leavers continue as before but it is hoped to institute in 1973 a system of pre-school examinations at age 4½.

Maladjusted Children

Last year I drew attention to the rapid increase in residential placement of maladjusted children. This year I have to report that the situation is even worse.

It would seem to be unlikely, and there is little evidence to suggest that the prevalence of psychosis and psycho-neurosis is in fact increasing amongst school children, and one possible explanation is that the level of tolerance of deviant behaviour is reducing both in schools and in the home. Many of these behavioural disturbances are more evident in the home than at school and a suggestion has been made that hostel accommodation may provide an appropriate half-way house for such children, permitting them to attend normal or special schools in the Borough during the day, whilst exercising greater control and providing respite for parents out of school hours. There would also be some economic advantage in such a system. See graph Page 69.

Rubella Immunisation

The Health Education Campaign would appear to have paid dividends, in that the acceptance rate for Rubella Immunisation for 1972 was 98.1% including 1.3% who elected to be immunised by family doctors.

DENTAL SERVICES

The establishment of Dental Officers has remained at one Area Dental Officer, Mr. R. J. McFeat, 2 Dental Officers, 1 Dental Auxiliary and 4 Dental Surgery Assistants.

One Dental Officer resigned in February and the service relied on the part-time Dental Officers, Mr. and Mrs. Swift and Mrs. Hanbury until the appointment of another full time dentist in September.

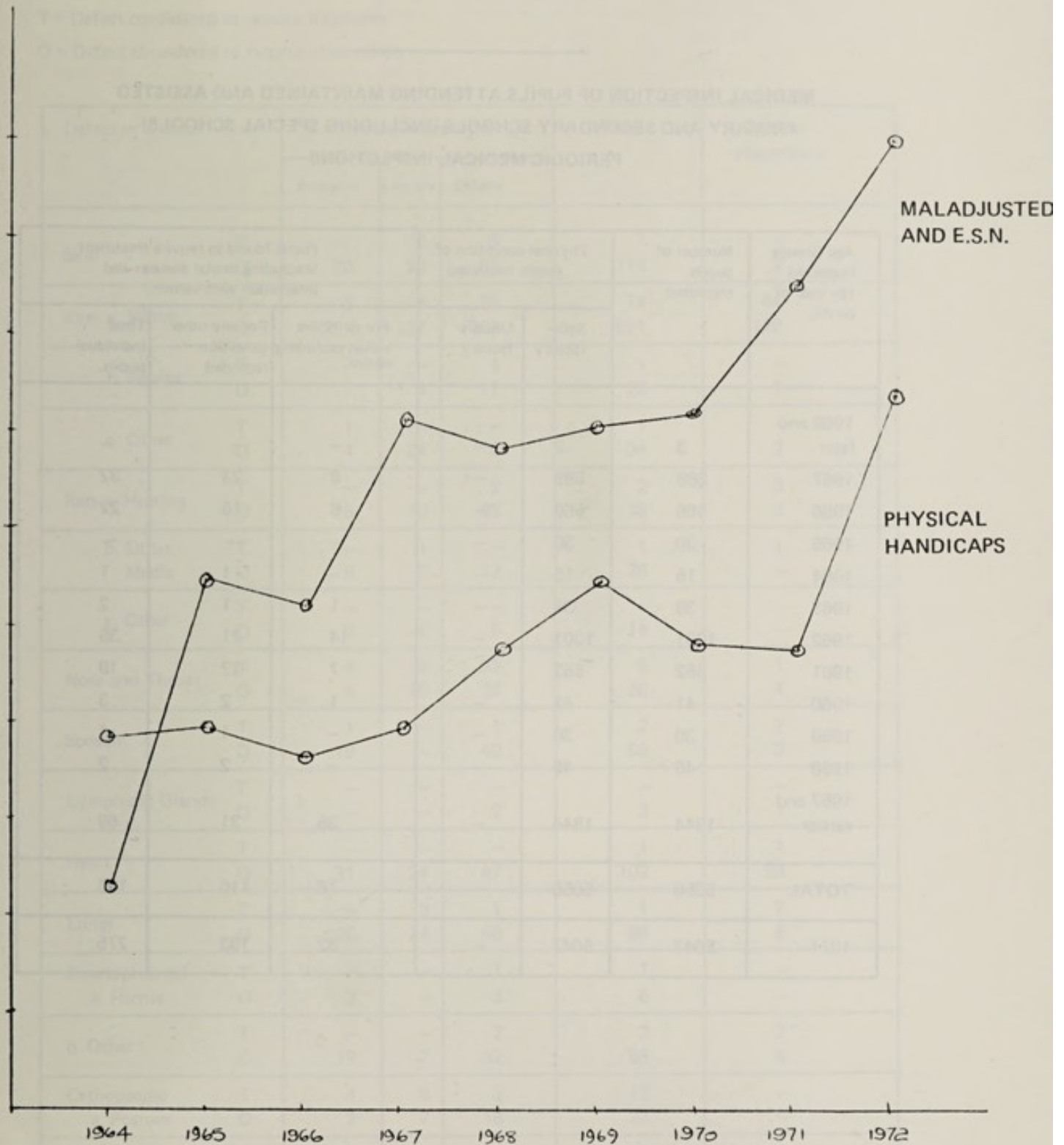
DENTAL TREATMENT

Despite a largely conservative policy the ratio of fillings to extractions was only 2 : 1, showing that many teeth cannot be seen often enough to be treated, when the decay is at an early stage.

The demand for routine regular treatment is at a high level and it is hoped to increase the establishment of Dental Officers in 1974 with the opening of the Dorcan Health Centre.

James Urquhart

Principal Borough School Medical Officer.

CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS**— by categories — per 1,000 of School Population**

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT
RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31st DECEMBER, 1972.

Number of pupils on registers of maintained primary and secondary schools (including special schools) as at 31st December, 1972 – 21,505.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED AND ASSISTED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)
PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age Groups inspected (By year of birth).	Number of pupils inspected	Physical condition of pupils inspected		Pupils found to require treatment (excluding dental diseases and infestation with vermin)		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	For defective vision excluding squint	For any other condition recorded	Total individual pupils.
1968 and later	3	3	—	—	—	—
1967	888	888	—	9	23	32
1966	569	569	—	6	16	22
1965	30	30	—	—	—	—
1964	15	15	—	—	1	1
1963	38	38	—	1	1	2
1962	1001	1001	—	14	21	35
1961	552	552	—	7	12	19
1960	41	41	—	1	2	3
1959	30	30	—	—	1	1
1958	45	45	—	—	2	2
1957 and earlier	1844	1844	—	38	31	69
TOTAL	5056	5056	—	76	110	186
1971	5047	5047	—	82	193	275

**DEFECTS FOUND BY PERIODIC AND SPECIAL INSPECTIONS
DURING THE YEAR**

All defects, including defects of pupils at Special Schools, noted at special and periodic medical inspections are included in this Table, whether or not they were under treatment or observation at the time of inspection.

T = Defect considered to require treatment

O = Defect considered to require observation

Defect or Disease		Periodic Inspections			Total	Special Inspections
		Entrants	Leavers	Others		
Skin	T	—	2	5	7	—
	O	20	28	65	113	2
Eyes a. Vision	T	6	43	25	74	44
	O	261	137	293	691	129
b. Squint	T	—	—	1	1	—
	O	7	4	17	28	1
c. Other	T	1	—	—	1	—
	O	4	24	6	34	2
Ears a. Hearing	T	—	—	2	2	3
	O	5	10	23	38	3
b. Otitis Media	T	—	1	—	1	1
	O	6	8	12	26	—
c. Other	T	—	—	—	—	—
	O	3	6	5	14	—
Nose and Throat	T	4	2	22	8	1
	O	4	10	22	36	4
Speech	T	1	—	1	2	2
	O	19	—	40	59	3
Lymphatic Glands	T	—	—	—	—	—
	O	—	—	2	2	1
Heart	T	—	—	—	1	1
	O	31	24	47	102	33
Lungs	T	—	3	1	1	2
	O	26	24	46	96	6
Developmental a. Hernia	T	—	—	1	1	—
	O	3	—	3	6	—
b. Other	T	—	—	2	2	2
	O	19	7	32	58	6
Orthopaedic a. Posture	T	4	6	3	13	—
	O	2	7	18	27	—
b. Feet	T	31	6	22	59	4
	O	23	10	51	84	2
C. Other	T	—	2	1	3	—
	O	1	12	16	29	1

Defect or Disease		Periodic Inspections			Total	Special Inspections
		Entrants	Leavers	Others		
Nervous System	T	—	—	—	—	—
a. Epilepsy	O	3	6	42	51	—
b. Other	T	—	—	—	—	2
	O	5	7	19	31	31
Psychological —	T	1	—	—	1	—
a. Development	O	5	—	23	28	6
b. Stability	T	—	1	—	1	4
	O	32	5	60	97	20
Abdomen	T	—	—	—	—	—
	O	3	22	9	34	1
Special Tests	T	—	4	—	4	11
e.g. Urine	O	11	75	37	123	41
Other	T	—	—	—	—	—
	O	—	—	—	—	2

OTHER INSPECTIONS

A special inspection is one that is carried out at the special request of a parent, doctor, teacher, nurse or other person.

A re-inspection is an inspection arising out of one of the periodic medical inspections or out of a special inspection.

	1972	1971
Number of special inspections	1,460	1,396
Number of re-inspections	555	446
	2,015	1,842

EYE DISEASE, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with.	
	1971	1972
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	4	5
Errors of refraction including squint	750	401
TOTAL	754	406
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	424	383

DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases known to have been treated.	
	1971	1972
Received operative treatment		
(a) for disease of the ear	34	30
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	197	159
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	10	4
Received other forms of treatment	—	12

It is gratifying to note that at the end of the year there was practically no waiting list of school children for appointments at these departments.

Number of cases known to have been provided with hearing aids — 3

Cases are referred to the Clinic by School Medical Officers at routine medical inspections, Infant Welfare Clinics, Minor Ailment Clinics, Head Teachers, Dental Officers and the School Psychological Service. Other cases are selected at screening sessions in school, revealing a fair proportion of hitherto undiagnosed defects. Group therapy is also in use for certain defects.

10 Borough cases were also treated by the Hospital Speech Therapists.

HOSPITAL REFERRALS

	1971	1972
No. of cases referred to the E.N.T. Consultant	64	35
No. of cases referred to the Paediatrician	23	18
No. of cases referred to the Orthopaedic Consultant	4	5
No. of cases referred to the Dermatologist	18	14
No. of cases referred to the Surgical Consultant	9	8

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

	1971	1972
(a) School Population	21,381	21,505
(b) Total number of examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	37,206	40,614
(c) Number of examinations where infestation was found	886	846
	<u>Boys</u> <u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u> <u>Girls</u>
(d) Number of individuals found to be verminous ...	274 485	305 374
	759	679
(e) % of school population	3.55%	3.15%
(f) Number of individuals in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued under Section 54(3) of the Education Act, 1944	33	nil
(g) Cleansing orders issued	nil	nil

HYGIENE

Visiting of Schools and Home by Health Visitors

Number of inspections in schools	185	167
Number of visits to homes in connection with uncleanliness	496	507

REMEDIAL EXERCISES

During 1972 instruction and supervision in remedial exercises has been given to 332 children who have been referred by the Principal Borough School Medical Officer to the Remedial Gymnast. 200 of these children discontinued exercises as no longer requiring treatment.

The defects fall into the following categories:

(a) Foot defects	270
(b) Postural defects	30
(c) Chest defects where treatment is also given to improve general physique and posture	37
(d) Other defects	6

Minor Ailment Clinics

were held at the Central Clinic on Mondays, at Pinehurst on Tuesdays and at Priory Road on Thursdays.

1,008 cases attended on 2,304 occasions.

At their first attendance 354 were seen by a School Medical Officer and 145 by a School Nurse. Thereafter the following attendances were made for treatment and inspection of:—

Impetigo.....	1
Verrucae.....	1,619
Other skins.....	6
Vision.....	1
Squint.....	—
Other eye complaints.....	—
Hearing.....	—
Otitis Media.....	—
Other ear conditions.....	1
Nose and throat.....	—
Foot defects.....	—
Other Orthopaedic.....	—
Others.....	2

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The number of handicapped pupils in Swindon found to be in need of special educational treatment during 1972 was 51. These pupils were handicapped as follows:—

	1971	1972
Blind	2	—
Partially sighted	—	1
Deaf or Partial Hearing	1	2
Educationally sub-normal		
for special schools	53	33
for special educational treatment at ordinary schools	5	4
Maladjusted	19	6
Physically Handicapped suitable for Spastic Unit	2	—
Physically handicapped	1	1
Delicate	1	1
Suitable for Home Tuition	6	3
	90	51

Number of Swindon pupils attending special schools at 31st December, 1972.	313
Number of Swindon pupils placed in residential special schools or hostels in 1972	15
Number of Swindon pupils awaiting places in residential special schools or hostels at 31st December, 1972	14
Number of handicapped pupils attending the Central School (including 29 Wilts. County Council pupils).	123
Number of handicapped pupils attending the Crowdys Hill School (including 28 Wilts. County Council pupils).	117
Number of handicapped pupils attending the Chalet Special School (including 7 Wilts. County Council pupils)	29

Number of handicapped pupils attending Upham Road Special School (including 13 Wilts. County Council pupils.)

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SPASTIC PARALYSIS UNIT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

Six children including 2 from Wiltshire County Council, of ages ranging from five to thirteen years, attended the unit for education and physiotherapy during 1972. Even this small number places severe demands upon staff and accommodation, and active consideration will have to be given to finding some means of alleviating this situation as well as widening the scope of this service to include other categories of physically handicapped children.

AUDIOMETRY

The Audiometrician attends Swindon one day weekly during school terms in order to test the hearing of children in Infants' Schools.

During 1972, 2,750 pupils were tested, and 26 found to have sub-normal hearing were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant for further advice.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS

During the year 160 children were referred to the Child Guidance Service, the referring agents being as follows:—

General Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Head Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Speech Therapist	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Parents	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Educational Psychologist	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Principal Borough School Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Education Welfare Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Social Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Psychiatric Social Worker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus:—

Number of new cases seen	...	...	...	...	...	107 (Including 8 ref. in 1971)
Number of children seen by Psychiatrist	...	...	...	...	...	107
Number of children discharged	...	...	...	...	...	109
Number of psychiatric interviews of children and parents	...	...	...	...	...	418
Number of visits by Social Worker	...	...	...	...	...	279
Number of children awaiting appointments at the end of 1972	...	...	...	...	...	33
Waiting time for first appointment at the end of 1972	...	...	...	...	...	8 - 12 weeks

PROTECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Heaf Testing/B.C.G. Vaccination was again directed at children in the 13 - 14 age group.

Preliminary Heaf Testing showed that 6.6% were in fact positive reactors, i.e., had acquired previous experience of the Mycobacterium.

All positive reactors are referred for Mass Miniature Radiography and where necessary referred to the Chest Physician.

Weakly positive reactions are now considered to be due to previous infection not with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis but with other antigenically related Mycobacteria, conferring very much less protection than vaccination with B.C.G., and are now vaccinated.

	1971	1972
Number of 13 year old children tested	1,387	1,500
Number of negative and weak positive reactors (without immunity and requiring B.C.G. vaccinations)	1,297	1,350
Number of strongly positive reactors	101 (7.28%)	99
Number vaccinated	1,297	1,336

SCHOOL PREMISES

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

OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

	1971	1972
1. Entrants to Training College	74	120
2. Teachers	28	37
3. Schools Meals Service	60	66

The dental staff as at 31st December, 1972, consisted of:—

- 1 Area Dental Officer
- 1 Full time Dental Officer
- 1 Full time Dental Officer Appointed 1.2.73.
Resigned June 1973.
- 2 Part time Dental Officers
- 4 Dental Surgery Assistants

**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1972**

Number of pupils on the register of maintained primary and secondary schools (including special schools) in December, 1972 — 21,505.

Attendances and Treatment	1972	1971
First visit	2,970	2,745
Subsequent visits	3,428	4,695
Total visits	6,398	7,440
Additional courses of treatment commenced	224	283
Fillings in permanent teeth	3,597	4,832
Fillings in deciduous teeth	3,015	3,303
Permanent teeth filled	3,045	4,220
Deciduous teeth filled	2,047	3,048
Permanent teeth extracted	536	516
Deciduous teeth extracted	2,260	2,497
General Anaesthetics	401	429
Emergencies	782	446
Number of pupils X—Rayed	288	258
Prophylaxis	285	614
Teeth otherwise conserved	383	543
Number of teeth root filled	25	19
Crowns	23	39
Courses of treatment completed	2,482	2,884
 Orthodontics		
 New cases commenced during the year	35	65
Cases completed during the year	51	38
Number of removable appliances fitted	50	73
Cases discontinued during the year	6	3
Pupils referred to Hospital Consultant	1	2
 Prosthetics		
 Number of dentures supplied	5	5

Inspections	1972	1971
(a) First inspection at school. Number of pupils	4,562	5,764
(b) First inspection at clinic. Number of pupils	2,043	2,484
Number of (a) and (b) found to require treatment	3,651	4,448
Number of (a) and (b) offered treatment	3,113	3,971
(c) Pupils re-inspected at school clinic	764	939
Number of (c) found to require treatment	416	381

Sessions

Sessions devoted to treatment	848	919
Sessions devoted to inspection	79	49
Sessions devoted to dental health education	32	2
Sessions devoted to administration	82	93

