

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Torquay Borough.

Contributors

Torquay (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/emvXu3vb>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library



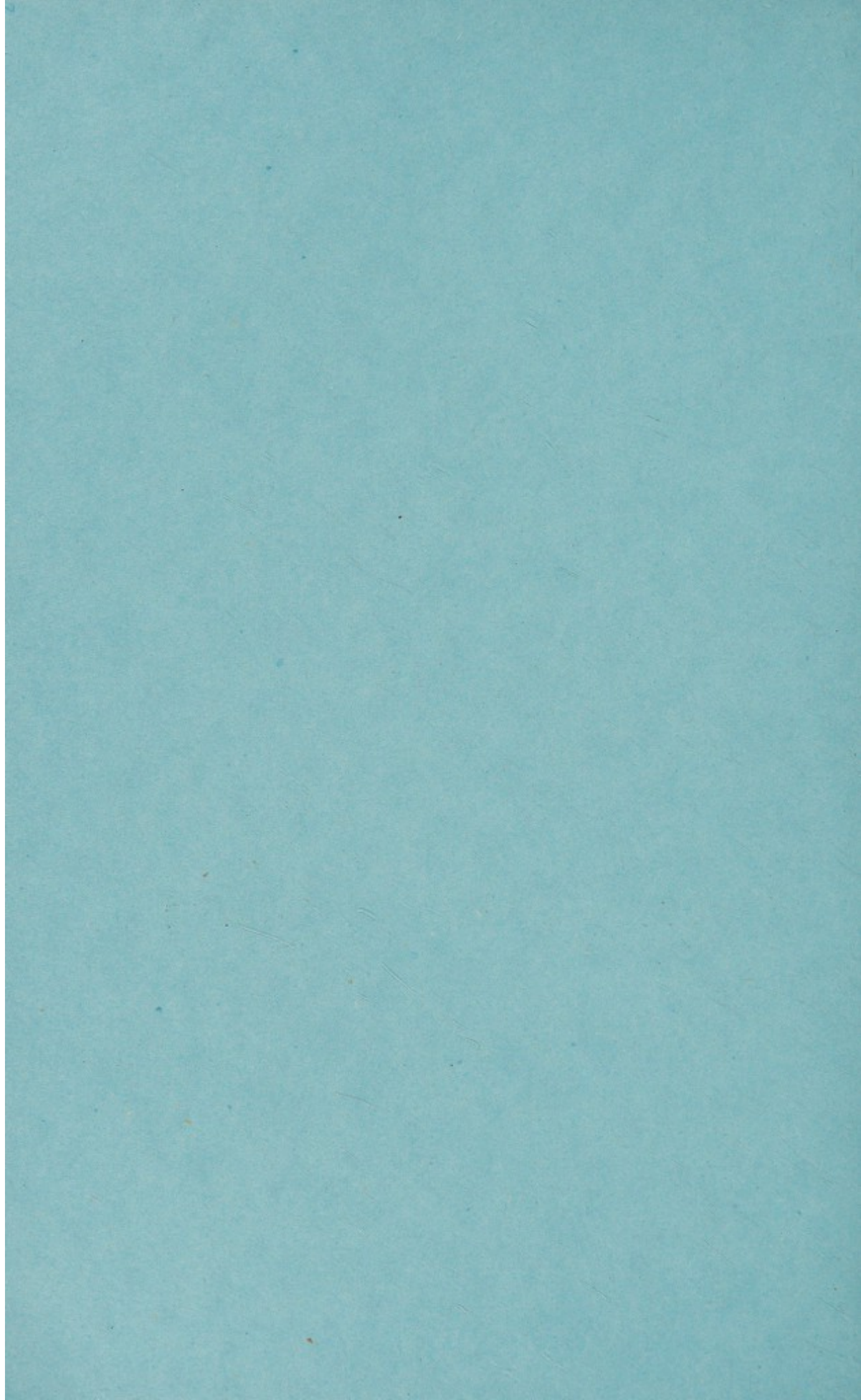
BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954





BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction 	3
Staff 	5
Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 	6
Section B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 	15
Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA ...	18
Section D. HOUSING 	37
Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ...	43
Section F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES ...	58
Section G. PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ...	60

ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The year was marked by exceptional weather conditions, of which the predominant features were what has been described as the worst summer for many years followed by a stormy wet autumn and early winter. In spite of this, and although Torquay is of course more fortunate than other places, it probably comes as a strange paradox to learn that the health of the community has been well maintained, with a very low incidence of infectious disease and with no significant variation in the vital statistics generally.

The full details of the Census held in 1951 were recently published, and are summarised in the first section of the report ; some of the information is new, not having been obtained on previous occasions, and this constitutes a valuable addition to the knowledge of the social conditions of the Borough.

With the completion of the new housing programme in sight, it was possible to start on slum clearance schemes ; and as most of the preliminary work had been prepared in anticipation of the day when this could be done, formal representations were made in respect of five small areas within a few weeks of the day on which the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into force. The complete proposals were thus submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and approval was awaited.

As the end of meat rationing approached, consultations took place with the local Master Butchers' Federation, and subsequently at their request and with the consent of the parties concerned, the lease of the only abattoir operating in the Borough was transferred to the Corporation from the Ministry of Food. The Corporation thus became responsible for administering this and for providing facilities for local butchers. The scheme has so far operated very satisfactorily; and as no further slaughtering facilities were required, this interim measure (for such it is) will pave the way for the permanent scheme of centralised slaughtering for the area of and around Torquay, which is awaited with hopeful anticipation as a substantial advance in the best interests of a most important branch of food hygiene.

The routine of the department has been carried out with quiet efficiency, in spite of some temporary shortage of staff in the Sanitary Inspectors' section; but it is not easy to translate into a vivid readable story the prosaic official returns and tables—indeed much of the best work must remain unseen. And fortunate is the area which has little spectacular news to report.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge the encouraging support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation of the Medical Profession in the association and interchange of the daily round and common task. To the Staff is due great credit for their constant zeal and high standard of work which illumine the way, despite the continuing uneasy times, when so often their efforts "Seem here no painful inch to gain".

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health
(and *Medical Officer, Torquay Isolation Hospital*) :

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

(b) Sanitary

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. J. LOVELESS, T.D., F.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.
Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

E. V. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

(VACANCY)

(c) Other

Public Analyst :

*T. TICKLE, B.Sc., F.I.C.

Chief Clerk :

S. E. R. AUTHERS

Clerks :

E. C. DOBLE

B. L. BROWN

Manager of Abattoir :

G. A. AYRES.

Attendant at Abattoir :

R. BROWN.

Rodent Operatives :

W. LEE.

J. BORLACE.

Disinfectors and Van Driver :

D. J. SMITH

* Part Time

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1954	50,260
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books	15,110
Rateable value (end of 1954)	£607,927
Sums represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1954) ...	£2,447

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

including the chief Industries carried on in the Area and the extent of Unemployment.

Torquay is now a busy holiday resort as well as a residential town; and, with the increase in the number of persons receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming even busier than formerly. This has its effect on unemployment which now shows a more marked seasonal variation. For several years before the war the average minimum of unemployed was about 800 and the maximum about 1,800: and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1954:—

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED						
		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
January, 1954	...	783	441	34	33	1291
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED						
July, 1954	...	176	39	3	2	220

The seasonal variation of unemployment continues, and the number of unemployed had risen progressively from the end of the war to 1953: there was a slight reduction in 1954.

One small light industry (knitwear) was started during the year, and a maximum of 25 men, 2 boys, 40 women, and 18 girls were employed: but this has not affected the general position very much.

Indeed, seaside resort unemployment will not be solved unless there is seasonal work for the winter only, to absorb the summer employees rendered redundant during the winter months; and that appears impracticable, at present, to provide.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1954,
which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward
and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	11.56
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	23.53
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	16.30
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	0.00
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	22.37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	23.77
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	148
„ Measles (all ages) ...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	2

*Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year
which has received or required special comment.*

During the year there has been nothing to report.

Population.

Census Returns, 1951.

The Census was taken and enumerated as at midnight on the 8th/9th April, 1951, and the full results are now available.

The population of Torquay was 53,281 compared with 46,352 in 1931, which gives an increase of 6,929 or 14.9 per cent. compared with 16.4 per cent. from 1921–1931. From 1931–1951 the loss by deaths exceeding births was 5.4 per cent., so that migration into the Borough was 20.3 per cent. during the period. There were 22,921 males and 30,360 females, giving a sex ratio of 1,325 females per 1,000 males, compared with 1,085 females per 1,000 males for England and Wales; and there were 39.2 per cent. single persons, 50.3 per cent. married, and 10.5 per cent. widowed and divorced. The density of population was 8.5 persons per acre, the highest being in Ellacombe Ward (37.9 persons) and the lowest in Cockington with Chelston Ward (4.4 persons).

The marital conditions of 1931 and of 1951 are shown in the following table:—

	1931		1951	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Single ...	8,561	13,605	8,602	12,291
Married ...	10,050	10,398	13,195	13,625
Widowed ...	839	2,836	1,004	4,109
Divorced ...	21	42	120	335

The age distribution shows 6.4 per cent. 0–4 years, 11.3 per cent. 5–14 years, 36.1 per cent. 15–44 years, 28.3 per cent. 45–64 years, and 17.9 per cent. 65 years and over.

The percentage distribution for age of the population in Torquay is shown for 1931 and for 1951, compared with the rates for England and Wales (1 per cent. sample in 1951 Census) :—

<i>Age last birthday</i> All Ages	<i>Torquay</i>		<i>England and Wales</i>	
	1931	1951	1931	1951
	100	100	100	100
0-4 ...	5.53	6.39	7.5	8.5
5-9 ...	5.90	5.90	8.3	7.2
10-14 ...	5.87	5.37	8.0	6.5
15-24 ...	14.78	10.05	17.3	12.8
25-34 ...	14.92	11.66	16.1	14.5
35-44 ...	14.09	14.47	13.7	15.4
45-54 ...	14.29	14.80	12.4	13.7
55-64 ...	12.63	13.49	9.3	10.5
65 and over ...	11.99	17.87	7.4	10.9

This shows the noticeable decrease in the population, both locally and for England and Wales, between the ages of 10 and 34, with the progressive increase above that age, very markedly in the group 65 years and over. In this age-group the considerable increase is maintained right up to the last group of 95 years and over, with an even greater relative preponderance (compared with 1931) of females surviving as the age increases; and it illustrates vividly the ageing of the population, which, while always peculiar to Torquay, is more pronounced at the present time. The following table shows the changes very clearly :—

<i>Age Group</i>	1931		1951	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
65-69 ...	833	1,347	1,208	2,034
70-74 ...	621	1,019	1,056	1,719
75-79 ...	347	642	697	1,263
80-84 ...	165	330	327	703
85-89 ...	59	120	108	299
90-94 ...	11	34	13	77
95 and over	—	5	5	13

Among the population the proportion of those born in Devon was lower in Torquay, 49.6 per cent., than for the County as a whole, 64.2 per cent.; and this again illustrates the extent of migration from other areas into the town.

Dwellings.

Torquay is one of the areas showing the greatest relative increase, 41.9 per cent., in the number of dwellings between 1931-1951; and it has a high proportion of households sharing dwellings, 18.4 per cent., which is above the national average of 15.1 per cent., but below that of 19.4 per cent. for Devon.

There were 15,798 private households with 46,497 population; and there were 14,118 structurally separate dwellings occupied, with 70,909 rooms occupied. There were 2.94 persons per household compared with 3.44 in 1931, and the density of occupation

was 0.66 persons per room ; and the percentage of persons at more than 2 per room was only 1.4, the percentage of households at such a density being 0.9.

Of the 14,118 dwellings which were occupied, 12,965 were occupied by 1 private household, 923 by 2 households and 230 by 3 or more households : 301 furnished dwellings and 211 others were vacant. The total includes 1 houseboat comprising one room occupied by 1 household, and 54 caravans comprising 59 rooms occupied by 54 households.

It was shown that of the total population some 46,497, or 87.2 per cent., were in dwellings occupied by private households, 4,699 or 8.8 per cent. were in hotels, boarding houses, etc., with 10 rooms or more, and 617 or 1.2 per cent. in hotels, boarding houses, etc., with less than 10 rooms. 204 or 0.4 per cent. were in Educational Establishments and Children's Homes, 643 or 1.2 per cent. in Civilian Hospitals and Nursing Homes, 218 or 0.4 per cent. in Homes for Permanently Disabled or Aged, 360 or 0.7 per cent. in Miscellaneous Communal Establishments, 37 or 0.1 per cent. in Civilian Ships, Boats and Barges, and there were 6 (0.01 per cent.) others including Campers, Vagrants, etc.

Among the 14,630 total dwellings occupied and vacant, the greatest number, 6,206, were dwellings with 5 rooms, and there were 2,436 with 4 rooms, 1,191 with 3 rooms, 495 with 2 rooms and 285 with 1 room. Of the larger dwellings, there were 2,149 with 6 rooms, 1,033 with 7 rooms, 608 with 8 or 9 rooms, and 227 with 10 or more rooms.

There were 29 households (0.2 per cent.) with over 3 persons per room, and 107 (0.7 per cent.) with 3 and over 2, 471 (3.0 per cent.) with 2 and over $1\frac{1}{2}$, 1,151 (7.3 per cent.) with $1\frac{1}{2}$ and over 1, and 14,040 (88.8 per cent.) with 1 or less : the percentage of persons living at more than 2 per room was 1.36 compared with 2.30 in 1931.

In connexion with amenities, the following table shows the percentage of households without the exclusive use of a piped water supply, cooking stove, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath, for Torquay and for England and Wales :—

	<i>Torquay</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Piped water supply	21	17
Cooking Stove ...	8	7
Kitchen Sink ...	12	13
Water Closet ...	16	21
Fixed Bath ...	35	45

The percentage of households having exclusive use of all five arrangements was 60, compared with 51 for Devon and 53 for England and Wales.

This information was derived from questions answered by householders on the census schedule rather than from data compiled by the census enumerator; and there was some inconsistency among heads of households as to what constitutes "sharing" and as to the precise meaning to be attached to the somewhat complicated definitions of the arrangements. But the record gives a sufficiently broad picture of conditions in respect of these household arrangements, more especially in illustrating relative differences between different types of households and in different parts of the country.

Social Class Distribution.

The social class analysis is in terms of a summary classification of the occupations of males engaged in, or retired from, gainful employment, and to a large extent is accepted as reflecting the social conditions of the community. The broad description of the five classes of occupations are :

- I Professional.
- II Intermediate.
- III Skilled.
- IV Partly skilled.
- V Unskilled.

In Torquay there are 16,579 males, occupied and retired, aged 15 years and over : of these, 963 were in Class I, 3,398 in Class II, 8,580 in Class III, 1,964 in Class IV, and 1,674 in Class V.

The proportions per 1,000 total compared with England and Wales (1 per cent. sample) are :—

	I	II	III	IV	V
Torquay	58	205	518	118	101
England and Wales ...	33	150	527	162	128
Devon (with Plymouth and Exeter)	42	181	504	156	117

The trend upwards in the social class distribution for Torquay compared with England and Wales is the result of the relatively larger number occupied in, or retired from, activities of a professional, technical or managerial nature included in Classes I and II.

Resident Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1954 is 50,260 ; and this figure is used in calculating the appropriate statistical returns.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 581, of which 311 were male and 270 female ; there were 547 legitimate and 34 illegitimate births. There were 14 stillbirths, 13 legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 11.56 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.2 for England and Wales ; and the stillbirth-rate was 0.20 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 0.35. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 23.53 compared with 24.0 for England and Wales.

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 6.0 per cent., in 1954 ; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent. in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent. in 1945, subsequently falling, and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

A comparability factor, to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the town, has this year been prepared by the Registrar-General for correcting the birth-rate ; the factor is 1.11, and after multiplying the crude rate by this a corrected birth-rate of 12.83 is obtained.

Marriages.

The marriage rate was 4.9 per 1,000 population compared with 5.3 in 1953, 5.1 in 1952, 5.9 in 1951, 5.3 in 1950, and 5.1 in 1949.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 819, of which 381 were males and 438 were females.

The crude death-rate was 16.30 per 1,000 population compared with 14.36 in 1953 ; the death-rate in 1954 for England and Wales was 11.3.

In order to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, with its greater proportion of older people, the Registrar-General supplies an area comparability factor (A.C.F.) with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. The A.C.F. for Torquay is 0.67 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 10.92.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay :—Heart Disease, 279 ; Cancer, 148 ; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 134 ; which between them are responsible for two-thirds of the total deaths.

About half the total deaths occur at ages of 75 years and over, and two-thirds at ages of 65 years and over.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying Table A, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Table B is also included showing the age-distribution of total deaths, together with the deaths from the different causes : this table is compiled from the returns of the Local Registrar, and differs slightly from the list supplied by the Registrar-General who frequently obtains subsequent further information to assist in the more accurate classification.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 22.37 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 25.5 for England and Wales; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 23.77, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 0.0. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated: thus the figures for the preceding five years, 1949-53 inclusive, were 30, 23, 26, 31, 16.

The actual number of deaths in 1954 of infants under 1 year of age was 13 (11 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1953 was 9 (3 being under 4 weeks).

There was no maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1949-53, was 0, 1, 0, 0, 1.

TABLE A.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1954						Males	Females
All Causes						381	438
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	8	5
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	2
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	12	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	17	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	17
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	37	42
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	50	84
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	57	51
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	11	13
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	61	86
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	22	31
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	10	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	16	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	10	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	3	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	4	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	12	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	31	40
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	8	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants { Total						10	3
under 1 year { Legitimate						10	3
{ Illegitimate						—	—
Deaths of Infants { Total						9	2
under 4 weeks { Legitimate						9	2
{ Illegitimate						—	—
Stillbirths { Total						7	7
{ Legitimate						6	7
{ Illegitimate						1	—

TABLE B.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954 (Per Local Registrar).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.											
	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	13	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	1	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	8	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	3	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	79	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	17	28	27
15. Leukemia, aleukaemia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
16. Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	144	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	16	36	84
18. Coronary disease, angina	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	15	39	49
19. Hypertension with heart disease	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	12	12
20. Other heart disease	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	14	34	97
21. Other circulatory disease	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	8	19
22. Influenza	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	12
24. Bronchitis	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	8	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	5	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	64	11	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	10	10	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
34. All other accidents	13	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	3	6
35. Suicide	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	819	11	2	2	4	1	8	18	41	116	215	401

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority, including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.*

Mr. J. Martin, District Sanitary Inspector, resigned his post on 18th October on being appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Borough of Saltash. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining sanitary inspectors, and at the end of the year the vacancy had not been filled.

When the lease of the Abattoir was taken over by the Corporation, Mr. G. Ayres was appointed Manager as from 1st July : and an Attendant, Mr. R. Brown, was also appointed.

It is with regret that the death, on 24th September, is recorded of Mr. M. L. White, Disinfector and Van Driver. He joined the staff as an ambulance driver in 1940, and subsequently transferred to the other post ; he was a good worker and helpful member of the staff and his death at a comparatively early age is much regretted.

Mr. D. J. Smith was appointed to fill the vacancy.

- (ii) *Committees.*

The list of Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are :—

Public Health Committee.
Housing Committee.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

One new Nursing Home was registered during the year, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December :—

Number of Homes on the Register	...	11
Number of Maternity Beds		11
Number of other Beds		101

3. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47.*

If action has been taken under this Section, a brief note of the circumstances of each case is requested. The note should include information as to the reason for the Council's action, period named in the Order of the Court, the type of accommodation to which the person was removed, the ultimate result of the Council's action and any other information on the case which it is considered might be of interest.

This Section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

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

and makes the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts the authorities for dealing with such cases.

To effect the removal the Medical Officer of Health for the district must certify in writing to the Council that he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration, that in the interest of any such person, or for preventing injury to health, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person from the premises in which he is residing ; and the local authority may then apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Section. Before an application can be made, seven clear days' notice must be given to the person concerned or to some person in charge of him, and to the persons managing the premises to which the removal is sought to be made.

When the application is made, it must be supported by all evidence of the allegations in the certificate ; and the Court, if satisfied, may order the removal of the person concerned, by such officer of the local authority as may be specified, to a suitable hospital and may authorise the detention of the person concerned for a period not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any persons on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

On 1st September, 1951, an Amending Act came into force giving Local Authorities powers to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered Medical Practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom Section 47 of the 1948 Act applies, an application (that he should be removed without delay) may be made to the appropriate Court or to a single Justice, without giving the seven clear days' notice required by the main Act. The application may be made by the Local Authority, or by the Medical Officer of Health where the Authority authorises him to make application, in cases to which the Amending Act applies. The order is made for a period not exceeding 3 weeks, and any further application extending this period has to be in accordance with the main provisions of the 1948 Act.

Your Medical Officer is authorised to make application in any case to which the Amending Act applies.

On one occasion only during the year was it necessary to take action and this was under the Amending Act. The case was that of a woman aged 74 years who was infirm and living in insanitary conditions ; her Doctor advised hospital treatment but when the ambulance came she refused to be moved. Subsequently many attempts were made to persuade her to consent, but without success ; and ultimately application was made to the Court for an Order for three weeks. She was admitted to Hospital the next day, and succumbed a fortnight later.

4. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50.*

Under Section 50 of this Act it is the duty of the Local Authority to cause to be buried the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made or are being made.

The Authority may receive from the estate, if any, of the deceased person or from any person who for the purposes of this Act was liable to maintain the deceased person immediately before his death, expenses incurred and not reimbursed under the National Insurance Act.

During the year, 6 burials were carried out under this section, compared with 9 in 1953, 7 in 1952, and 16 in 1951.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water.*

In this report full details are given in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. W. F. White, M.I.W.E., has kindly supplied the following information.

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality ; (b) in quantity.*

(a) The rainfall on the catchment areas during the year has been above average whilst the temperature of the water in the reservoirs has been below average. These conditions to a large extent resulted in a reduction in the biological activity including algal proliferation in the raw water passing on to the filters. In consequence, the load on the filters during the peak summer period whilst being heavy was not excessive, and it has been possible to maintain the coagulation process continuously throughout the year. This has resulted in a much better degree of clarification and the quality of the water supplied throughout the year has been at all times pure and wholesome in character and in every way suitable for public supply purposes.

The work of extending the existing filtration plant, which was started in April, 1954, is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that the installation will be completed and in use by the Summer of 1955.

In May, 1954, the Corporation commenced giving a supply in bulk to St. Thomas Rural District Council and arising from the increase in consumption and other considerations it has become necessary to replace the existing chemical equipment with more adequate plant. Application has been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for consent to proceed with a scheme for installing a new automatic proportioning and injection chemical plant, but the Minister has not yet authorised this work.

(b) There has been an ample quantity of water available for all purposes from the Corporation's four Impounding Reservoirs on Dartmoor, which have a storage capacity of 848 million gallons, or approximately 7 months' supply at the present rate of consumption. As in past years, there was a large number of visitors during the summer season, which considerably increased the population in the area of supply, but no difficulty was experienced in meeting the demand including a peak consumption of 5.3 million gallons per day which occurred in August, 1954.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply ; if so, how many and the results obtained ; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is treated, this comprising coagulation with chemicals, filtration through pressure filters, addition of lime water to neutralise the acidity and increase the bicarbonate alkalinity, and finally sterilisation by the application of gaseous chlorine.

The raw water is normally acid with a pH value in the region of 6.4; after treatment the value is raised to about 9.2, which results in the consumers receiving a water on the alkaline side of neutrality.

The chlorine dosage is normally about one part per million, but is adjusted so as to maintain a residuum in the water passing into distribution from the service reservoirs.

Several chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made of the raw and finally treated water, as follows:—

RAW WATER

A—Chemical and Bacteriological, Fernworthy Inlet at Trenchford Reservoir—Taken 11.3.54.

B—Chemical and Bacteriological, Raw Water Main Feeding Pressure Filters at Tottiford—Taken 11.3.54.

FULLY TREATED WATER

C—Chemical and Bacteriological, Warberry Service Reservoir Inlet—Taken 17.11.54.

D—Chemical and Bacteriological, Great Hill Service Reservoir Inlet—Taken 17.11.54.

E—Chemical and Bacteriological, Chapel Hill Service Reservoir Inlet—Taken 17.11.54.

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES, 66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

A. SAMPLE 11.3.54.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Fernworthy Reservoir inlet at Trenchford Reservoir—Raw water).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Opalescent with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris together with a few diatoms, protozoa and many chlorophyceae.

Colour (Filtered) ...	28	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	5
Reaction pH ...	6.3	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	50	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	4
Chlorine present as Chloride	9	Total solids, dried at 180°C	35
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	3
Hardness : Total ...	7	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	4
		{ temporary 3 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.2	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.091	Metals : Iron ...	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	2.4	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	16 per ml.	18 per ml.	80 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	<i>Present in</i> 10* ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 1 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 25 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... — ml.	100 ml.	

* Intermediate type I.

This sample has opalescence and deposit, the turbidity being appreciable though not marked. The water is acid in reaction, extremely soft in character and practically devoid of alkalinity. Treatment is therefore required to correct corrosive characteristics. The water shows appreciable though not pronounced colour and it carries organic impurity which may be related to this colour. It is free from metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron, and bacterial impurity is confined to the presence of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group in very moderate numbers. Treatment is therefore required to clarify the water, to reduce colour and to obtain a standard of bacterial purity appropriate to a public supply.

B. SAMPLE 11.3.54.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Raw water main feeding pressure filters at Tottiford—near Bovey Tracey.
Source—Trenchford Reservoir).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Opalescent with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris together with a few diatoms, protozoa and many chlorophyceae.

Colour (Filtered) ...	19	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	5
Reaction pH ...	6.4	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	70	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	4
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	4
Hardness : Total ...	14	Carbonate { temporary 4 { Non-carbonate 10 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.063	Metals : Iron ...	0.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	1.9	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	9 per ml.	17 per ml.	70 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> 50* ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 20 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 5 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... — ml.	100 ml.	

* Intermediate type 1.

For practical purposes the quality of the water represented by this sample is the same as that from the Fernworthy Reservoir (Sample A).

C. SAMPLE 17.11.54.

(Warberry Service Reservoir. Treated water—filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford Watershed).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour (Filtered) ...	6	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	8.6	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	80	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	10
Hardness : Total ...	20	Carbonate temporary 10	Non-carbonate permanent 10
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.60	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	0.09
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.043	Metals : Iron ...	less than 0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	0.70	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	2 per ml.
Presumptive Ccli-aerogenes Reaction ...	Present in — ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Probable Number 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

D. SAMPLE 17.11.54.

(Great Hill Service Reservoir. Treated water—filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford Watershead).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour (Filtered) ...	5	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	9.6	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	85	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	60
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	13
Hardness : Total ...	25	Carbonate temporary 13	Non-carbonate permanent 12
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.4	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.005	Residual Chlorine ...	0.12
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.025	Metals : Iron ...	less than 0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	0.55	Other metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> — ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly alkaline in reaction but not excessively so, and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

E. SAMPLE 17.11.54.

CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR—INLET
TORQUAY

(Treated water—filtered, hardened and chlorinated).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with a very slight deposit. Microscopic examination:

Amorphous mineral debris.

Colour (Filtered) ...	6	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	8.7	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	80	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	10
Hardness : Total ...	20	{ Carbonate 10 { Non-carbonate 10	
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.6	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	0.11
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.026	Metals : Iron ...	0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	0.65	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> — ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.
for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples are also taken regularly from a variety of sources within the Borough, such as storage reservoirs, drinking fountains, taps in private houses, dairies, schools, etc. 74 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in all the results were good, viz. :—

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE,
EXETER.

“Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—Nil. This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically”.

(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

The analyses show a minute trace of iron and sometimes a very minute trace of manganese, all other metals being absent.

The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

The 22 acres covering each side of one of the main feeder streams on the Fernworthy catchment, which as stated in last year's report was being polluted by cattle, has now been acquired and fenced off.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses ; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.8 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.2 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

(vi) *Mineral Spring.*

3 samples taken from the mineral spring in Meadfoot Sea Road were submitted for bacteriological examination. (This spring is at present used to supply a public drinking fountain.) All samples gave satisfactory results, viz. : probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—nil.

(vii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given the following details in connexion with drainage, sewerage and public cleansing.

The main Drainage Scheme for the Borough as approved in 1938 has been continued and a contract of approximately £42,000 has been in progress throughout the year. The work has consisted of laying new sewers in the Upton Valley, Hoxton Road and Alexandra Lane areas.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No cases of conversion are known during the year under review.

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

No material change has taken place in street cleansing or cess-pool cleansing; further building in the district has resulted in an increase in refuse collection rounds.

The Refuse Destructor has recently become obsolescent; and, instead of renewing this, it has been decided to change the system of refuse disposal to one of controlled tipping. Land was acquired in Barton Valley, and the system will start during 1955, after the necessary preliminary arrangements have been made.

(x) *Rivers and Streams.*

Any action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

There are no rivers in the area, but several small streams; no complaints have been received during the year concerning pollution. Two small streams, one rising near the railway at Lowes Bridge and the other at Watcombe, are not subject to pollution other than that from surface road washings.

(xi) *Salvage.*

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, and the following are the details of the amounts of salvage recovered:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Paper, Cardboard, Books, etc. ...	521	10	2	18
Bedrails		112 only		
Scrap Iron	58	13	3	—
Baled Tins	32	9	1	10
				(or 2527 bales)
Cast Aluminium		3	2	—
Rolled Aluminium		12	1	—
Brass		12	1	—
Copper Clean,		2	1	—
Copper, Braised		7	2	—
Lead Ingots		3	2	27
Lead Scrap	1	14	3	26
Zinc, Cast		1	2	—
Zinc, Rolled		3	1	—
Rags	4	10	—	—
Woollens		4	—	—
Carpet	2	4	2	—
Bottles, Jars, etc.		2138½ dozen		

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Hats, Ladies	...	...	...			116 only	
Hats, Gents	...	...	...			24 only	
String	...	...	...		8	—	—
Oil	...	...	...			431 gallons	—
Rubber	...	...	...		10	—	—
Cement Bags	...	...	...		12	2	—
Old Rubber Tyres	...	...	...		9	2	—
Batteries	...	...	...			18 only	
Rope	...	...	...		2	14	

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Chief Sanitary Inspector who gives these details :—

The organisation of the work remains unchanged, each of the four Inspectors being responsible for a District of the Borough, while the duties of meat inspection at the Abattoir are shared by three in rotation and the fourth carries out the routine inspection of fish at the Harbour.

The co-operation and work of the individual inspectors have been excellent ; and the high standard in all the wide range of duties, which has been maintained in spite of shortage of staff, reflects the greatest credit on their diligence and ability.

The following inspections were carried out :—

Dwelling Houses

New Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	176
Habitation Certificates signed	...	...	...	...	121
Council House applications—visits	...	...	...	...	234
Council Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	136

Work done in consequence of service of notices :—

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	6	renewed	1
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	3	renewed	—
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	6	renewed	2
Rain Water Pipes repaired	...	...	...	7	renewed	22
External rendering repaired	...	...	...	—	renewed	—
Internal rendering repaired	...	...	...	3	renewed	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	1	renewed	1
Windows repaired	...	...	...	6	renewed	7
Doors repaired	...	...	...	4	renewed	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	7	renewed	3
Stoves and Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	4	renewed	—
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	—	renewed	—
Handrails repaired	...	...	...	—	renewed	—
Copper repaired	...	...	...	—	renewed	—
Walls repaired	...	...	...	1	built	4
Yards cleansed	...	...	...	—	repaved	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ladders provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains and Sewers :						
Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	204
Tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	215
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	69
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	56
Revisits to drainage work	...	...	...	...	...	835

Drainage work carried out :—

Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	9
Fresh Air Inlets provided	...	...	...	11
Inspection Chambers built	...	...	...	49
Iron Frames and Covers provided	...	...	...	51
Soil and Vent Pipes fixed	...	...	...	27
Gullies provided	...	...	...	49
Waste Pipes provided	...	...	...	124
Waste Pipes trapped	...	...	...	117
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	67
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	6
Flushing Cisterns renewed	...	...	...	13
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	7
Water Closets renewed	...	...	...	13
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	65
Water Closet Apartments built	...	...	...	31
Water Closet Apartments ventilated	...	...	...	17
Water Closet Apartments cleansed	...	...	...	1
Lavatory Basins provided	...	...	...	100
Baths provided	...	...	...	34
Sinks provided	...	...	...	14
Urinals repaired	...	...	...	2
Urinals renewed	...	...	...	1
Additional Urinals provided	...	...	...	5
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	...	46
Cesspools and Septic Tanks cleansed	...	...	...	6
Cesspools and Septic Tanks repaired	...	...	...	3
Sanitary Certificates granted	...	...	...	—

*General Public Health**Inspections*

Stables	...	...	...	...	5
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	13
Open Spaces	...	...	...	...	14
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	26
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	31
Factories	...	...	...	...	92
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	6
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	15
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	8
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	10
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	11
Offices	...	...	...	...	—
Ships	...	...	...	...	60
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	18
Offensive Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	12
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	16
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Abattoir	...	...	...	...	745
Meat Depot	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	83

Miscellaneous

Complaints investigated	...	...	...	288
Other visits	...	...	...	662
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	32

NOTICES SERVED.

	Verbal		Written		Statutory		Total	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act ...	98	74	38	26	—	—	136	100
Housing Act ...	2	1	24	14	—	—	26	15
Factories Act ...	7	2	—	1	—	—	7	3
Food and Drugs Act ...	12	4	—	—	—	—	12	4
TOTALS ...	119	81	62	41	—	—	181	122

(Note : Some of the notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act ; any contraventions of those sections under the control of H.M. Inspector which are noticed by your Sanitary Inspectors are notified and this action is reciprocated.

The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and the defects found—and of the Outworkers with the type of work undertaken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

(Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	55	27	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	247	65	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	4	4	—	—
TOTAL ...		306	96	10	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	1	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	5	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	4	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	60	12	3	—	4	—

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc.	13	77					
	14	—					
Basket making	40	14					
TOTAL	70	91	—	—	—	—	—

Marine Store Dealers.

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, was adopted by the Local Authority in 1910, and since that date a register of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores has been maintained, and regular inspections made of the premises. Four premises were on the register, and ten inspections were made.

Smoke Abatement.

In a town like Torquay, the work under this section is not very considerable ; fifteen observations have been made in connexion with alleged nuisances, but nothing has occurred which has justified any formal notice or action.

Common Lodging House.

There is one registered common lodging house in the Borough. Four inspections were made during the year and it was found satisfactory on each occasion.

Offensive Trades.

There is one Tripe Boiler registered in the district. Regular inspections have been made and no complaint of any nuisance has been received.

*Diseases of Animals Act, 1951.**Anthrax Order of 1938.*

Late on 5th November, information was received from the Senior Veterinary Officer of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that meat from a carcass subsequently found to be infected with anthrax had got into the market for sale as dogs meat, and that a quantity had come into the Borough. Subsequently a message was received from the Superintendent of Police to the same effect ; their enquiries showed that approximately 2 cwt. had been sent to a firm in Torquay, and it was ascertained that after having sold portions to about 70 customers there was approximately 70 lbs. of meat left in the shop. This was the only shop which had received infected meat.

The Superintendent served Notice " A " (Declaring the premises an infected place) under the Anthrax Order, 1938, on the Manager of the Shop, a copy of which was sent to your Medical Officer. Your Chief Sanitary Inspector visited the premises and arranged for all the remaining meat to be taken in suitable containers to the Destructor to be destroyed by burning ; the premises and all utensils were disinfected in accordance with the Regulations.

As it was found impracticable to trace persons who had bought the infected meat, a Police Motor Patrol Car fitted with loud speaker equipment for Public Address patrolled the streets of the Borough and broadcast instructions for the guidance of members of the public who had purchased the meat. Information was also broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation and published in the Press on 6th November. Persons were asked to get in touch with the Police Station, at which several hundred telephone calls were subsequently received. Many of these persons had bought meat on dates, or at shops, in respect of which no risk of infection existed ; and ultimately the number of persons traced who had purchased

infected meat was 66. In each case suitable instructions were given for the guidance of those who had handled the meat, and your Chief Sanitary Inspector arranged for the destruction of the remaining meat and for adequate disinfection of the utensils. All the infected meat was accounted for except a small quantity of about 14 lbs. On the 8th November, the Superintendent of Police served Notice " B " on the Manager of the premises, withdrawing the restrictions.

As a precaution your Medical Officer, as soon as the first information was received, sent details of the situation to all the Medical Practitioners in the Borough in case any person showed signs of the disease.

Fortunately no untoward incident subsequently occurred.

Disinfections and Disinfestations.

130 premises were treated during the year and 22 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act requires (a) the registration of premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, carriages and other articles of upholstery (but this does not apply to reconditioning or remaking); and (b) the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises.

Registration should be accorded unconditionally if the premises are used for the purpose stated and the fee is paid; licences should be granted after an officer has inspected and reported on the premises, which are to have such appliances as may be necessary to enable clean rag flock to be manufactured, and licences can only be refused on limited grounds.

The necessary records have to be kept on registered and on licensed premises in the form prescribed; and there are powers of entry, of inspection and of sampling.

The sale of articles with unclean materials is forbidden, although this does not apply to second-hand articles; the word " clean " means compliance with standards laid down by regulations. And the filling materials are defined as rag flock, cotton flock, unwoven wool, jute, unwoven synthetic fibres, hair, feathers, down, kapok, coir fibre, seaweed, straw and such other materials as may be prescribed.

Regulations have so far been made on the type of records, the right to have samples tested, and the standards of cleanliness; the Minister has also prescribed certain analysts to whom samples must be sent for testing.

This Act is of great importance and it is hoped that high standards will be everywhere maintained in the cleanliness of filling materials ; and your Inspectors will do all that they can to encourage the co-operation of manufacturers and traders, with whom they will discuss, and help in, any difficulties that may arise.

There are 5 premises registered under the Act, and one other premises is licensed annually for the storage of rag flock.

Samples of filling materials were obtained during the year, and the results are as follows :—

<i>Type of Material</i>				<i>Satisfactory</i>
3	Samples Rag Flock	...	...	3
1	Sample Kapok Cotton	...	...	1
1	Coir Fibre	...	...	1

Shops Act, 1950.

This was mainly a consolidating act and there were no significant changes in the law. The duties, so far as public health is concerned, are connected with the maintenance of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of reasonable temperature, of lighting, of sanitary accommodation and of the provision of washing facilities.

During the year 14 routine inspections were carried out and 2 contraventions of these sections were discovered :—

Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	...	1
Insufficient Washing Facilities	...	1

And all were remedied by informal action. No exemptions were granted.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Sanitary Inspectors are also responsible for the administration of the other provisions of the Act ; these are not really Public Health matters and include hours of closing, conditions of employment, provisions affecting young persons under 18, Sunday employment and Sunday trading. Copies of a summary of the various enactments have been distributed on the visit of your Sanitary Inspectors, and copies of a schedule have also been distributed showing the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 ; these are especially important for hotels and places of public entertainment, whose owners have the option to apply either this Act or Part I of the Shops Act. The requirements include the permitted weekly hours of employment, overtime, intervals for meals and rest, half-holidays, night and Sunday employment, and the exhibition of Notice C.

In this connexion a number of enquiries have been received from young persons and parents, and also from employers : and the necessary help and advice have been given. In addition, there is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour in dealing with cases brought to his notice.

111 visits were made in connexion with hours of closing, and 14 violations were found and remedied.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act requires shops selling pet animals to be licensed by the Local Authority. Licences are granted subject to certain provisions to ensure that the accommodation shall be suitable in respect of size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that suitable food and drink and care of the animals are provided, and that no animal is displayed in such position as to expose it to interference or annoyance by persons or animals, that entrance and exit from the shop are not rendered difficult in case of emergency, and that there are suitable measures for fire prevention and control.

The administration of the Act is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, and the following shows the number of applications for licences :—

Number of applications for licences	...	...	5
Number of licences granted	...	...	5

The premises licensed have been regularly inspected during the year.

The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

The Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas fires, electric fires, and oil heaters of types so designed that they are suitable for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there is a likelihood of injury by burning or of ignition of clothing by reason of contact with or proximity to the heating element.

The standards to which the guards must comply are prescribed, and the necessary apparatus for testing has been obtained : and your Sanitary Inspectors are carrying out the work of checking new fireguards and of enforcing the Regulations.

Riding Establishments Act, 1939.

This Act is designed to ensure the adequate care and well-being of horses in riding schools and similar establishments.

Arrangements have been made in Torquay for the South-Western Branch of the Royal Veterinary Association to nominate a Veterinary Surgeon to carry out this work on the terms agreed to by the Association. Mr. C. Masson, M.R.C.V.S., was appointed and carries out regular inspections of the horses ; and his reports show that the condition of the horses was found to be satisfactory.

*Swimming Baths and Pools.**(a) Public Swimming Baths.*

The Corporation Swimming Baths are visited weekly and samples of water are taken from both the shallow end and the deep end. A test to determine the adequacy of the chlorine content is also made at each visit.

87 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :—

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	36	8	44
Shallow end	...	...	40	3	43
			—	—	—
			76	11	87
			—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of *Coli-aerogenes* organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 13, and in 7 cases *Bact. coli* of the faecal type was detected.

In November your Medical Officer submitted a report in connexion with the swimming baths, and recommended, in view of the increasing popularity of this important amenity, that break-point chlorination should be installed before next summer season and that the modernisation and enlargement of the baths should be approved in principle and carried out in the immediate future.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths.

There are two privately owned swimming baths in connexion with hotels in the Borough. One is a covered bath constructed before the war with no mechanical system of filtration and chlorination, although this has been recommended to the Management: the present method of chlorination is unreliable.

79 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from this swimming bath, the results being as follows :—

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	29	10	39
Shallow end	...	...	26	14	40
			—	—	—
			55	24	79
			—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of *Coli-aerogenes* organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 110, and in 14 cases *Bact. coli* of the faecal type was detected.

The other is a new open-air swimming bath started during the year : there is a main swimming bath 75 feet by 30 feet, with depths from 3 feet to 7 feet ; coupled with which is a small children's swimming pool 27 feet by 15 feet, with depths from 2 feet to 3 feet. The water is fresh main water heated to 60° Fahr. with a continuous circulation through a sand filter and an oil burning heater, and there is a modern chlorination plant.

14 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :—

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	9	1	10
Shallow end	3	1	4
	12	2	14

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was 2, and in one case Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

The failures in the samples occurred at the beginning when the apparatus was being tested and adjusted.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

(1) *The number of houses infested during the year was :—*

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	1

The number of houses disinfested was :—

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	1

(2) *The methods employed for freeing infested houses from Bed-Bugs.*

Premises are disinfested by spraying with insecticide over all the surfaces or by use of an insecticide powder. If necessary, woodwork is removed from walls, etc.

(3) *The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses :*

Notice is obtained before the transfer of tenants so that the District Sanitary Inspectors can visit and inspect prior to removal ; any belongings of the tenants found to be verminous are dealt with before the transfer is effected.

(4) *Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor.*

All the work is carried out by the Local Authority.

Measures against Rodents.

This work has been carried out, on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details :—

At the request of the Ministry, this section of the Report covers the period of the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955. This has been done in order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities.

One sewer maintenance treatment was completed, when 342 manholes were baited. 47 Complete Pre-Bait Takes, 99 Partial Takes and 196 No Takes were recorded. In addition, the required 10 per cent. test baiting was carried out, and in this connexion 219 manholes were baited and 64 manholes were found to be infested.

In surface control, 749 treatments were made to private premises and 167 treatments to business premises. The co-operation of owners and occupiers has again proved most helpful, and a number of premises have been rat-proofed after successful treatments.

The education in measures of rodent control of the staff of various establishments has continued ; while the subsequent work carried out is supervised by your Rodent Operatives, the arrangement results in a considerable saving of their time.

RODENT CONTROL

(Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1955)

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	46	13,811	2,692	16,549	42
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1954 as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey or (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(a) 13	165	52	230	1
	(b) 1	820	84	905	—
	(c) —	569	1,225	1,794	13
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	28	1,554	2,098	3,680	48
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats { Major	4	8	1	13	Nil
Minor	6	261	38	315	Nil
(b) Mice { Major	1	5	8	14	Nil
Minor	2	96	26	124	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	13	370	73	456	Nil
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	28	749	139	916	Nil
Number of notices served under Sec.4:					
(1) Treatment ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... Nil

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	345
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	743
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	115
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	129
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	42
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	162

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	115
---	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		—

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 11 complaints, only 3 cases were found to be overcrowded within the legal definition. There must, of course, be other cases which only a detailed survey would bring to light, but generally speaking, this problem does not appear to be so acute as is sometimes considered.

New Houses.

The following table shows the new Council houses completed since the war:—

ESTATE	2 bed-room houses	3 bed-room houses	4 bed-room houses	2 bed-room bungalows	3 bed-room bungalows	Flats		3 bed-room flats over shops	Old Peoples Bungalows			TOTAL
						3 bed-room	2 bed-room		bed recess	1 bed-room	2 bed-room	
Cadewell ...	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97
Happaway ...	143	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143
Watcombe ...	—	114	14	—	—	—	—	7	6	4	6	151
Coombe Pafford...	—	272	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	276
Starpitten ...	—	8	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Marldon ...	6	283	—	6	10	—	—	—	—	10	4	319
Sherwell Valley ...	62	240	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	338
Warbro Court ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	—	—	—	—	18
TOTAL ...	308	917	18	12	10	3	51	7	6	14	10	1,356

At the end of the year, a further 72 premises (including 12 houses at Sherwell Valley and 18 flats at Collaton Court) were under construction.

New Housing.

Since the war, the total number of council houses completed is 1,356 and the number built by private enterprise is 612. The total number of inhabited residential houses in the Borough is now 15,110 and the average number of residents per house is 3.3 compared with 3.7 in 1946 and with 3.6 for 1938. Thus the increase in houses has more than kept pace with the increase in population—which is a fact somewhat different from the prevalent popular views on the subject.

Housing Defects.

The work carried out during the year under the Housing Act, 1936, was restricted to essential repairs only, and was generally the result of complaints by tenants. The number of such houses rendered fit for habitation was 115.

In previous reports reference was made to three essential factors upon which future improvement of the general housing position intimately depends: first, the treatment and cure of the creeping paralysis due to Rent Restriction; secondly, the encouragement of owners not only to maintain essential repairs but also to improve the amenities of the property (where this is required) by the installation in gradual stages of such facilities as a larder, wash-basin, bath, hot water system and the like; and, thirdly, the preservation of a good relationship between landlord and tenant. And the attainment of these conditions should in some measure be facilitated by the new legislation.

Underground Room Regulations.

These Regulations were adopted in 1951 and specify a suitable standard for the operation of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—a standard which is not reached by a large number of basement dwellings in the Borough.

It is not practicable at present to deal with all these basements and rehouse the tenants; but whenever possible voluntary undertakings are obtained from owners that the rooms, when vacant, will not again be used for human habitation.

Four such undertakings were obtained during the year, as follows:—

- Basement, 45 Carlton Road.
- Basement, 47 Carlton Road.
- Basement, 51 Carlton Road.
- Basement, 55 Ash Hill Road.

Closure of unfit dwellings.

There was no closure of unfit dwellings during the year.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This Act came into force on 30th August, 1954, and Part I makes further provisions as to clearance and redevelopment, the reconditioning of unfit houses and other amendments of the Housing Acts. Within a year of the Act coming into force, every Local Authority is required to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government proposals for dealing with unfit houses by clearance areas; power is given to retain for temporary accommodation certain houses in clearance areas, and to purchase for temporary accommodation instead of making demolition orders. In addition a Local Authority may license for temporary accommodation houses subject to existing Demolition or Clearance Orders.

Concerning the standard of fitness for human habitation, consideration must be given to (a) repair, (b) stability, (c) freedom from damp, (d) natural lighting, (e) ventilation, (f) water supply, (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences and (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food, and for the disposal of waste water: and the house is to be considered unfit only if it is so far defective in one or more of these items enumerated that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition.

In connexion with houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, if any of the matters (d) to (h) enumerated in the preceding paragraph are so far defective in view of the number of persons on the premises as not to be reasonably suitable for occupation by those persons, the Local Authority may serve a notice specifying the works required to render the premises suitable. Provision is also made to prevent overcrowding in houses let in lodgings, and to fix the maximum number of persons by whom it is suitable to be occupied at any one time: and this does not prejudice the powers under Part IV of the 1936 Act which relates to overcrowding in separate dwelling-houses.

Part II, and the Housing Repairs (Increase of Rent) Regulations, 1954, deal with the repairs increase of rent for dwelling-houses in good repair, which are subject to rent restriction: and the main duty falling upon Local Authorities under this part of the Act is to deal with applications from tenants for "Certificates of Disrepair," in cases where the landlord claims a repairs increase in rent and the tenant feels that the house is not in sufficiently good condition to justify it. The statutory forms and explanatory notes are set out in the Regulations.

On any application for a certificate of disrepair, the inspection and report are made by your Sanitary Inspectors; and as the certificate, if granted, is retrospective in its effect to the date on which the tenant applied for it, records of the dates have to be kept. In considering the condition of the premises, there is to be disregarded any defect due to any act, neglect or default by the tenant; and under the Act where neither landlord nor tenant has

any express liability for internal decorative repairs, the landlord may elect not to be deemed responsible for them. Where such an election has been made on the prescribed form at the proper time, the Local Authority must disregard the state of internal decorative repair unless it is so bad as to make the house unfit for occupation.

In the inspection of the premises the defects of repair include those of (a) external structure, (b) internal structure, (c) external decoration, (d) (internal decoration in certain cases only), (e) fixtures and fittings, and (f) any other defects: the defects as to suitability for occupation are those of (a) instability, (b) condition as to damp, (c) natural lighting, (d) ventilation, (e) water supply, (f) drainage and sanitary conveniences, (g) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food, and for the disposal of waste water. If a certificate of disrepair is granted, the defects in respect of which it is issued must be specified, so that the landlord may see what work is required if he proposes to get the certificate revoked.

There is a definition that "good repair" in relation to any premises, means that, having regard to the age, character and locality of the premises, they are in good repair both as respects structure and as respects decoration. "Repair" includes maintenance but does not include improvement or structural alterations or the provision of additional or improved fixtures or fittings, and "repairs" shall be construed accordingly.

Slum Clearance.

In anticipation of the time when this would be again practicable, a preliminary survey of the Borough was made several years ago, and as soon as the Housing Bill was published preparatory work began on the five small areas which were to be scheduled. When the Housing and Repairs Act came into force the schemes were completed and the necessary proposals under Section 1 (2) were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government; and at the end of the year approval to proceed was awaited.

The problem of slum clearance in Torquay is not large, and it is anticipated that the areas should be cleared within a year.

Certificate of Disrepair.

Up to the 31st December, 3 applications had been received, 2 being granted and 1 refused.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*(i) *Source of Supply.*

Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.
The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2).
Order, 1953.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
(Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

Important changes concerning designated milk came into force on 1st October, 1954. The use of the special designation "Accredited" is no longer permitted, and as Torquay is within a specified area (made under an Order in 1953) all milk in the Borough must be pasteurised or sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

A Producer's licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" may be granted or renewed on and after 1st October, 1954, only if the herd is also registered in the Register of Attested Herds kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Producers' licences issued on 1st October, 1949, expired on 30th September, 1954; those issued after 1st October, 1949, and up to 30th September, 1951, remain valid for five years from the date of issue; and those issued on or after 1st October, 1954, will be valid for only three years from the date of issue.

Tuberculin Tested milk may not be retailed by can and dipper; it must be supplied to the buyer in a properly closed container (e.g. bottle, carton, churn, can). In the case of bottled milk, the cap shall bear the address of the premises at which the milk is bottled and the words "Tuberculin Tested Milk"; where other containers are used, they must be closed with a tightly-fitting cover and suitably sealed and labelled.

Pasteurised Milk.

On 1st October, 1954, pasteurisers were required to fit containers of pasteurised milk with caps or covers which overlap the lips of the containers, to provide better protection for the milk: this applies to churns and cans as well as bottles. From that date, pasteurisers were required to put the milk into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the customer, whether householder, caterer or other consumer. Such milk must be put into the containers by the pasteuriser at the premises where the milk is pasteurised, as soon as possible after pasteurisation.

Retailers who previously bought pasteurised milk in bulk containers and bottle it for delivery to their customers must now purchase from their suppliers pasteurised milk in the necessary containers; i.e. bottled pasteurised milk for household deliveries and a separate churn or can for each caterer, etc., sealed by the pasteuriser, containing the quantity of pasteurised milk required.

Retailers must not sell "Pasteurised Milk" by can and dipper; it must be supplied to the buyer in a properly closed container (e.g. bottle, carton, churn, can). Every container is required to be conspicuously and legibly labelled or marked with the words "Pasteurised Milk" or "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)" as the case may be.

Licences.

Licences are required for each type of specially designated milk produced or distributed. Producers must apply to the county milk regulations officers; pasteurisers and sterilisers to the food and drugs authorities; and dairymen, who buy specially designated milk, to the local authority, for the licences they require.

(ii) *Producers.*

At the end of the year there were 14 Dairy Farms within the Borough. Five of these possess Tuberculin Tested herds, two Accredited herds, the remainder having no special designation. The non-designated farms are visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspectors and occasional samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination; a total of 30 inspections was made.

(iii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Section 20.*

This section refers to the spread of infection by milk; and under it the Medical Officer of Health has power to prohibit the milk from being sold or used until it is heat-treated, if he has evidence, or reasonable grounds for suspecting, that the consumption of this milk may give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

Dairies and Distributors.

15 premises are registered as dairies and 47 persons are registered as distributors of milk. All premises used for the storage, treatment and sale of milk are inspected regularly, and in every case comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 196 inspections were made during the year.

*Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949 and 1950.*

Heat-treated Milk.

There are four licensed Pasteurising Establishments ; three are plants operating the Holder method (in 100 Gallon Batch Pasteurisers) and one is a high-temperature short-time plant. Regular supervision of all these plants is maintained by your Sanitary Inspectors and samples of milk are taken every fortnight from each plant. A total of 106 samples gave the following results :—

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>
Phosphatase test	102	4	—
Methylene Blue reduction test ...	84	2	20*

* The regulations state that on arrival at the laboratory the samples of milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the test is begun. If at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples, as indicated by the maximum thermometer adjusted to below 65°F. at 9 a.m. on each day of sampling, has exceeded 65°F., the test shall be void.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Pasteuriser's Licences	4
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	47
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation "Accredited" (until 30th September, 1954)	2
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	40
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	3

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

This act came into operation on 5th July and Part I is to be construed as if it were contained in Part V of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. It is now the duty of a Local Authority to make use of their powers as they consider expedient, for ensuring that adequate slaughtering accommodation is available for the requirements of their District : and, pending the time when it will be practicable to apply abattoir schemes under the policy of moderate concen-

tration, each Local Authority should continue to keep the matter under review for the requirements of the interim period. A Local Authority has power to provide public slaughterhouses (by purchase, lease or otherwise) and to make charges in respect of the use of the premises or of any services provided : the scale must be published in at least one newspaper of the district and a copy of the scale sent to the Minister of Food. These powers may be used by a Local Authority for the provision of temporary slaughtering accommodation during the interim period ; and the Local Authority may carry out any or all of the operations of a public slaughterhouse and for such purpose may employ staff and provide plant and apparatus.

The responsibility of licensing private slaughterhouses during the interim period will remain with the Local Authority of the district in which the premises are situated ; and before granting or renewing a licence, an inspection and report upon the conditions of the premises must be made. In this connexion the conditions must comply with the requirements of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, which relates to hygiene and cleanliness where food is prepared for sale, and with any regulations made under Section 8 of the Act relating to measures against dangers to health resulting from the preparation and distribution of food. In any licence granted or renewed before 1st July, 1956, the period may be in excess of the maximum of 13 months allowed by the 1938 Act provided that it does not extend beyond 31st July, 1959 ; and any licence after 30th July, 1956, will remain subject to a maximum of 13 months.

Premises not previously used and licensed or registered as a slaughterhouse since 1st October, 1939, must not be licensed without the consent of the Ministry of Food.

In the 1938 Act there is provision for a Local Authority which has provided a public abattoir to close some or all of the private slaughterhouses in its district ; and the new Act extends this power so that it may be exercised by a Local Authority which has not provided a public abattoir but is of the opinion that there is adequate alternative accommodation in a neighbouring district to meet the requirements of its own district. The same statutory provisions under the 1938 Act must be adhered to in this.

In the new Act it is provided that where a Local Authority is satisfied that there is sufficient slaughtering accommodation (public or private) available for their District and that no additional facilities are required, they may by resolution determine that no further licences will be granted or renewed in respect of any premises not licensed on the date when the resolution takes effect. The procedure is laid down of publishing the resolution in one or more newspapers of the district, and representations may be made to the Ministry within two months ; the resolution must be approved by the Minister before it shall have effect.

Claims for compensation may be made in respect of any premises which were licensed and in use as a slaughterhouse on 1st October 1939, but were not licensed on the date of any resolution passed after 1st January, 1954, and before 1st January, 1955, under the provisions of the preceding paragraph. The basis of compensation is set out in the new Act; and the Minister may make a grant not exceeding one half of the amount of compensation.

In Torquay one Abattoir was held under lease by the Ministry of Food since January, 1940, and all other slaughterhouses have remained closed. As the end of meat rationing approached, Circular 4/54 was received in February and Circular 5/54 was received in March detailing some of the provisions of the new Bill; and following consultations with representatives of the Torquay and District Master Butchers' Federation, and at their request, the Corporation asked the Ministry of Food to transfer the lease of the Abattoir. With the consent of the parties involved, this lease was transferred, so that from 1st July the Corporation became responsible for administering the Abattoir and providing facilities for the local butchers.

The Manager who had been responsible for the Abattoir to the Ministry was appointed by the Corporation, and continuity was thus established. It was agreed that the Corporation should provide lairage and slaughtering facilities, and that the slaughtering contractor with his staff of slaughtermen, already registered for the work there, should be responsible direct to the butchers for slaughtering and dressing, and for the collection of killing fees. The charges approved were (a) tolls for lairage, etc., 9/6 per unit and (b) killing and dressing 11/6 per unit (a unit being 1 bullock, 2 pigs, 3 calves or 5 sheep).

Although complete modernisation would be required for a permanent scheme, the arrangements are proving reasonably adequate for the interim period, apart from the need to add a cooling hall, which is being provided. The Master Butchers' Federation was consulted, and it was found practicable to provide the additional accommodation satisfactorily; and at the end of the year tenders were invited so that the work could be completed in 1955, well before the busy summer season starts.

Licensing of Slaughterhouses.

As the facilities at the Abattoir are meeting the requirements, not only of the Borough, but also of some of the adjoining areas, the Corporation in December passed a resolution determining that no further licences will be granted in respect of any premises not licensed on the date when the resolution took effect. Advertisement of the resolution was made and the approval of the Ministry was being sought.

Two applications had been made to open small slaughterhouses

which were previously licensed annually prior to 1939 ; and these were not granted but the applicants will be eligible for compensation in accordance with the provision of the Act. Three other premises, previously licensed in 1939, had been put to a different use and no applications were made in respect of them.

It is hoped that this will pave the way for the permanent scheme of centralised slaughtering for an area to serve Torquay and the surrounding parts of South Devon. With this end in view, both the Corporation and the Newton Abbot Urban District Council sent resolutions to the Ministry of Food stating that the need for a modern abattoir to serve the District is essential and urgent, and asking that the Interdepartmental Committee should give priority to the requirements of the district as to siting and construction. It is felt locally that a site in Newton Abbot would be most convenient for market, road and rail facilities, and would be in the best interests of all concerned.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

This Act came into force on 1st October, 1954, and deals with the licensing of premises for slaughter of animals ; the Ministry of Food is empowered to make regulations for securing humane conditions in slaughterhouses and Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is extended to cover all kinds of animals (this provides that animals must be instantaneously slaughtered, or instantaneously stunned and rendered insensible until death supervenes).

In connexion with the licensing (under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933) by the Local Authority of slaughtermen, the licence must now specify the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned by the holder of the licence, and the type of instrument which may be used.

14 Licences were issued during the year.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954.

These regulations were made by the Minister of Food and came into force on the 1st October, 1954. In general they re-enact from that date certain provisions of the Protection of Animals Act, 1911, in connexion with Knacker's Yards, and of the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951, in connexion with Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards, which were repealed by the Amendment Act, 1954.

Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection.

In connexion with Circular MF 10/54 which drew attention to a number of details under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1952, the arrangements made complied with the requirements

concerning notice of slaughtering, non-removal of carcase prior to inspection, and meat inspection generally. Special provisions have been made in Torquay, instead of Exeter as under previous arrangements, for the cold storage treatment of meat infected with *Cysticercus Bovis* in accordance with Section C of Part IV of Memorandum 3/Meat; and condemned meat is disposed of to a Contractor who has given a written undertaking that it will all be processed by heat (by a method to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) before the products are used for fertilisers and for pig and poultry meals.

In the public interest, the special glands and certain livers required by manufacturing chemists for pharmaceutical products are extracted and made available for this purpose.

(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	2,777	648	1,304	12,564	4,390
Number inspected	2,777	648	1,304	12,564	4,390
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcases condemned	2	3	28	13	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	706	368	10	1,936	376
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	25.5	57.2	2.8	15.6	8.6
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcases condemned	6	6	5	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	313	226	—	—	416
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	11.5	34.2	0.38	—	9.5

(Total weight of meat condemned : 60,557 lbs.)

In addition to the above a further 1,813 lbs. 1 oz. of meat was condemned during the year at butchers shops, the primary cause being bone taint.

The following table illustrates clearly the increase in the number of animals killed after 1st July, and the decrease in the number of carcasses condemned, indicating a higher quality in type of animal. Some of the increase is, of course, seasonal in a health resort, and was unrelated to the end of rationing; but even allowing for this, there was a general increase in the number of animals killed compared with 1953, about one and a half times the number of bullocks and sheep, and nearly three times as many pigs.

1st January, 1954 to 30th June, 1954

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected	435	307	865	6,051	2,152
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	8	31	12	4
Reason for condemnation:—					
Generalised Tuberculosis ...	3	5	3	—	2
Oedema	1	—	—	3	—
Dropsy and Emaciation... ..	—	3	25	7	—
Inflammation	—	—	1	—	—
Immaturity	—	—	2	—	—
Moribund	—	—	—	1	—
Pregnancy Toxaemia	—	—	—	1	—
Pyæmia	—	—	—	—	2

1st July, 1954 to 31st December, 1954

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected	2,342	341	439	6,513	2,238
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	1	2	1	—
Reason for condemnation:—					
Generalised Tuberculosis ...	3	1	2	—	—
Septicaemia	1	—	—	—	—
Dropsy and Emaciation ...	—	—	—	1	—

Cysticercus Bovis.

During the year 59 carcasses were found infected with *Cysticercus bovis*. It is unfortunately apparent that this disease chiefly affects prime young bovine animals of good quality, which makes it very wasteful of high-class meat, for the carcasses have to be subjected for three weeks to a low temperature (less than 20 deg. F) which reduces the best home-killed meat to frozen beef, often only fit for manufacturing purposes. The amount of infection has increased compared with pre-war days, and it is a significant but sad commentary on the amount of fouling of pastures with human faeces—for that is the way the ova from human faeces are ingested by the

animal which acts as an intermediate host of the larval stage, the adult tape-worm being found in man. And there can be no explanation other than the increase in careless hygiene and sanitation from indiscriminate camping, septic tanks, cesspools, and other conservancy forms of sewage disposal contaminating good pasture lands.

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included :—						Weight	
						lbs.	ozs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
Butter, Fats, Lard	...	...	...	...	...	38	8
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	89	14
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	463	5
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	56	0
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
Confectionery, Cake	...	...	...	...	...	145	0
Confectionery, Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	535	10
Eggs, Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	168	0
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	301	0
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	37	8
Fruit, Fresh	...	...	...	...	...	3702	0
Fruit, Bottled	...	...	...	...	...	118	8
Fruit, Dried	...	...	...	...	...	103	9
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	22	0
Jams and Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	170	4
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	120	0
Milk, Dried	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	21	14
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	...	54	0
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	798	0
Pudding Mixtures	...	...	...	...	...	41	0
Sandwich Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	134	8
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	159	3
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
Soup Powder	...	...	...	...	...	49	8
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Vegetables, Fresh	...	...	...	...	...	2982	0
Vegetables, Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	168	0
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	2167	15
„ Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	19	5
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1344	0
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	5654	0
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	119	9
„ Pastes	...	...	...	...	...	52	10
„ Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	52	8
„ Soup	...	...	...	...	...	261	9
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	250	2
„ Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	...	39	11
„ Fruit Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	53	8
„ Cream	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
„ Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	39	0
„ Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
						20,579	9

(Total weight condemned : 9 tons 419 lbs. 9 ozs.)

(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

The following is a record of the samples taken :—

	<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Almonds, Ground	1	—	4	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	—	1	—
Butter	4	—	4	—
Castor Oil	—	—	1	—
Cheese	1	—	1	—
Coffee	1	—	—	—
Confectionery—Chocolate	—	—	1	—
„ —Flour	—	—	1	—
„ —Sugar	—	—	1	—
Cooked Pressed Beef	—	—	1	—
Cooking Fat	—	—	1	—
Cream	—	—	6	—
Dripping	1	—	2	—
Flour	1	—	—	—
Gin	—	—	1	—
Ice Cream	—	—	11	—
Jam, Strawberry	—	—	1	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—	1	—
Margarine	3	—	3	—
Marmalade	—	—	1	—
Meat Paste	—	—	1	—
Milk	30	3	10	—
Milk, Flavoured	—	—	1	—
Mincemeat	—	—	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—	—	—
Orange Drink	—	—	2	—
Rum	—	—	1	—
Saccharine Tablets	—	—	1	—
Sauce	—	—	1	—
Sausages—Beef	1	—	2	1
„ —Pork	1	—	2	—
Tea	2	—	—	—
Veal, Jellied	—	—	1	—
Whisky	—	—	1	—
TOTAL	48	3	66	1

The formal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :—

A sample of milk contained not more than 2.97 per cent. of milk-fat, the analysis thus indicating a deficiency of milk-fat amounting to not less than 1 per cent. of the proper proportion. A warning letter was sent to the producer.

A sample of milk contained not more than 2.31 per cent. of milk-fat, the analysis thus indicating a deficiency of milk-fat amounting to not less than 2.3 per cent. of the proper proportion. A warning letter was sent to the producer.

A sample of milk contained 2 per cent. added water and was 11 per cent. deficient in milk-fat: and a warning letter was sent to the producer.

The informal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :—

A sample of beef sausages was 8 per cent. deficient in the proper proportion of meat: and in this case the vendor was warned.

(d) *Ice-Cream.**The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.*

These came into force in May, 1952, and allow a high temperature (175 deg. F.) short time (15 seconds) heat treatment—as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature (either 160 deg. F. for 10 minutes or 150 deg. F. for 30 minutes). This is somewhat similar to the provisions for pasteurising milk, but ice-cream is really an emulsion of varying viscosity and difficult to propel through metal tubes. The apparatus has therefore to be thermostatically controlled, and must be fitted with a positive displacement pump which shall serve to maintain the flow of the mixture during its retention at the prescribed temperature at an even rate, and also with a device which shall automatically divert the flow of any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is at present no installation of this type in the Borough.

The supervision and registration of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold have been carefully maintained: for ice-cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasised for adequate sterilisation of all apparatus (and unless utensils are properly washed and cleaned first, they cannot be sterilised adequately,) for the development of a “no-touch technique” (which means that hands should not be introduced into an ice-cream mix at any stage), and for the realisation of the greater danger if the hot-mix is not rapidly cooled with special apparatus (for any dangerous organisms introduced after heating have ideal conditions for multiplying during an inefficient cooling process).

There are now registered in the Borough 214 premises for the preparation, storage or sale of ice-cream, and in 159 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. The number of manufacturers has been reduced to three; of these, two use a hot mix. Two manufacturers retail their own product, and there is only one premises registered solely for the storage of ice-cream.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been continued by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter: and following the original work carried out by the Medical Research Council, a simple modified methylene blue test has been suggested for the grading of ice-cream:

<i>Provisional Grade</i>	<i>Time taken to reduce methylene blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
1	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2	2½–4 hours	Fair
3	½–2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4	0	Very bad

The following table gives the results of the samples taken during the year:

	GRADES				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Local Manufacturers ...	7	3	—	—	10
Outside Manufacturers ...	22	14	2	—	38
TOTAL ...	29	17	2	—	48

(e) *Food and Disease.*

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

It is requested that information should be given as far as possible under the following sub-headings:—

- (i) *The number, if available, of food premises in the area, by type of business.*

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Approx. No.</i>
Grocers ...	156
Greengrocers ...	96
Butchers ...	58
Fishmongers ...	18
Fish Fryers ...	18
Confectioners ...	96
Cake Confectioners ...	36
Bakehouses ...	27
Cafés, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.	77
Licensed Premises (including Hotels)	109
Unlicensed Hotels and Boarding Houses	573

- (ii) *The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

(a) *Food Premises registered under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act.*

214 Ice-cream premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business:—

						<i>Wrapped</i>	<i>Bulk</i>
Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	48	—
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	49	1
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	12	3
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	8	33
Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
Ice Cream Kiosks	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Booksellers	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
Amusement Places	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Factory only	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Store only	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						159	55

68 Preserved Food premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business:—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	57
Cooked Meat Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Preserved Food Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1

(b) *Premises and Persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	15
Distributors only	...	...	...	...	47

(iii) *The number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:—*

Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	94
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	11
Other Preserved Food (Butchers)	...	...	...	...	873
Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	196

Other food premises to which registration does not at present apply, were also inspected:—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	330
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	157
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	67
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	27
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cafés, Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	145
Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	116
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	8

(iv) *Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.*

The measures to which reference has been made in previous reports have been continued, including special talks with films to catering organisations; and the Hotels' Association has given active assistance in these arrangements. But there seems little doubt that the most effective way of improving and maintaining standards of hygiene is the regular inspection by your Sanitary Inspectors, in practical advice and informal discussion with both Management and Staff.

While every effort is being made to get all the necessary facilities installed in places where food is prepared, it still remains true that ultimately safety depends on the carefulness of the individual food-handler to make use of these facilities; and it will

take much time and patient unspectacular work year after year to inculcate clean habits in every person connected with the food trade. Even more difficult is the struggle to make sure that the highest standards are maintained during the busy summer season, when even the best intentions tend unconsciously to lapse and the frailty of human nature makes it easy to err.

There is no short cut to success; indeed it has been said that "knowledge advances by steps, not by leaps" and it is equally true that the dissemination of knowledge sometimes takes place at an almost imperceptible speed. But even so there is encouragement in the proverb of the East that "By patience and perseverance, and a bottle of sweet oil, the snail at length reaches Jerusalem".

(v) *The method and disposal of condemned food.*

Condemned meat from the Abattoir is disposed of to a Contractor who has given a written undertaking that it will all be processed by heat (by a method to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) before the products are used for fertilisers and for poultry meal.

Meat from shops is dealt with in the same way.

Other foods condemned are destroyed in the Refuse Destructor, the condemnation notes being checked there with the articles received. In exceptional circumstances, articles such as potatoes, when suitable, are sent for pig food after processing.

(vi) *Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.*

No special examinations have been made.

(f) *Food Poisoning Outbreaks.*

Details of any outbreaks are requested in the following tabular form:—

<i>Total Number of Outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>	<i>Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>
—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of infectious disease for the year is given in the subjoined table, which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	42	22	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	16	3	—
Whooping Cough	116	6	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	20	1	—
Erysipelas	4	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

The number of cases of infectious disease was very low; and, excluding measles and whooping cough which were then not notifiable, the incidence was only about a third of what it was before the recent war.

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence was much lower than in 1953, and the type remained mild clinically. The notification rate was 0.8 per 1000 population compared with a rate of 0.96 for England and Wales.

Measles.

The year was a non-epidemic year and only sixteen cases were notified.

Whooping Cough.

After the epidemic of the previous year, a rather considerable number of cases continued to be notified as if the outbreak was slow to exhaust itself: complicated cases were not numerous and there was no death. The notification rate was 2.3 per 1,000 population compared with 2.4 for England and Wales.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

During the year the incidence throughout England and Wales was much less than in the previous year, the cases notified numbering about half: in the Borough there was no case.

In July a memorandum was received from the Minister of Health detailing the measures which, in the light of the most recent knowledge of the disease, it is recommended should be taken when cases arise in a district.

Influenza.

In recent years, influenza has usually recurred as an outbreak every alternate year, the odd-numbered years of the century. It was thus due early in 1955, but actually the outbreak began late in November reaching its peak during the last week of the year; children were chiefly affected at the beginning, but subsequently all age-groups appeared to be involved. The number of claims received by the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance rose to a maximum of 236 per cent. for the week ending 1st January; about half the claims were attributed to influenza.

The type was Virus B as ascertained by laboratory work in an adjoining area which was affected just before the Borough. Clinically the illness was very mild, and many cases would probably have escaped recognition, apart from the association with the epidemic.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that 1954 was the eighth successive year during which no case of diphtheria was notified.

2. *Tuberculosis.*

Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

No action was required.

New cases and mortality during 1954.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1954 are given in the following table:

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 4 years ...	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 14 years ...	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
15 to 24 years ...	5	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 to 34 years ...	3	3	2	3	-	-	-	1
35 to 44 years ...	1	7	1	-	1	1	-	-
45 to 54 years ...	3	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
55 to 64 years ...	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
65 and over ...	5	-	-	2	5	1	-	-
<i>Totals</i> ...	19	20	4	9	8	5	-	2

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1954

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1954, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 and Circular 22/54.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report were revised, and full details were given in the report for 1952; and the intermediate years will be covered by a shorter report. In the year under review certain sections, marked with an asterisk, are therefore omitted as there has been no change to record; but the sectional headings are retained to ensure continuity.

*SECTION 1—STAFF

TABLE A

NO CHANGE.

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

<i>Ships from</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number Inspected</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health</i>	<i>By the Sanitary Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	28	1,551	1	28	—
Coastwise ...	289	18,280	5	39	—
TOTAL ...	317	19,831	6	67	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 1,223 visits (total tonnage 6,453) to the fish quay and frequent inspections of these have been made.

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	{ Number of passengers INWARDS Number of passengers OUTWARDS	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	{ Principal IMPORTS. Cement, (11 cargoes), Coal (1 cargo) Bog Ore (1 cargo) Timber, (3 cargoes) Principal EXPORTS. Bricks. (1 cargo)	
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1954 :		
London, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Le Havre, Hamburg, and general coastwise.		
FOREIGN PORTS were: Ljusne, Mantyluoto, Kemi, Gothenburg.		

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

NO CHANGE.

*SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

- (2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

(3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. C. Seward of Exeter,

Dr. W. J. Laird of Exeter.

(4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

***SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE**

NO CHANGE.

**SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS**

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports	—	—	—	—

A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.

N I L.

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

N I L .

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

N I L .

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

(2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

(3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

N I L .

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES**TABLE G****Inspections and Notices**

<i>Nature and Number of Inspections</i>		<i>Notices served</i>		<i>Result of serving notices</i>
		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	<i>Other Notices</i>	
General ...	61	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	61	—	—	—

***SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH)
REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948**

NO CHANGE.

***SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS**

(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

NO CHANGE.

*** SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS**

NO CHANGE



UNDERHILL (Plymouth) LTD.
Printers.
Works : Regent Street.