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C.R. 23



BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

*Dem*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1956









**BOROUGH OF TORQUAY**

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**REPORT**

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## 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 ... ..	12
Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA ...	15
Section D. HOUSING ... ..	37
Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ...	40
Section F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES ...	57
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 1956, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The year under review was comparatively healthy, and there is nothing significant in the vital statistics upon which it is necessary to comment; the incidence of infectious disease remained low.

Meteorologically it was exceptional with a deficiency in rainfall especially during the early months which, following a dry previous year, gave rise to some anxiety in the water supply; but fortunately, with temporary minor restrictions only, the peak of the season passed without any untoward incident. The public, accustomed to the ever-running tap, is slow to appreciate that there is a limit to even the most abundant available supplies, which may soon become barely adequate for the present rapidly mounting increase in the national consumption. And yet it is not actual essential consumption, but the associated waste, which needs correcting. It is all too obvious, in this and other spheres, that services apparently free to the user, do not evoke the necessary response of care and thought, which would prevent extravagant misuse and any consequent restrictions; and there should be no need to be reminded that a safe and adequate water supply throughout the land is at the very foundation of the health of the nation.

In matters of housing, with the completion of the post-war housing estates, the position has remained static and there is nothing notable to report; but the solution is awaited with increasing anxiety of the problem of the adequate repair and reconditioning of sub-standard property.

During the year the designation of sanitary inspector was changed by statute to public health inspector; and although this is another break with tradition, it is perhaps not unexpected. The word "sanitary", from its classical derivation relating to fulness and wholeness in health of body and mind, is much more comprehensive than the new term; but by usage it had become restricted and somewhat distorted from the original meaning. The new designation may therefore help in keeping before a forgetful thoughtless public the main object of this important work, which is vital to the community and has been so well exemplified in the consistently excellent record of these inspectors, whatever their name, for over a century.



Even an official report is human, and I may thus be permitted a personal reference that, as I have decided to retire during the coming year, this is the last of a long series of reports which it has been my duty to submit to you. They cover and describe a rather chequered period, from a number of the inter-war years with their steady regular progress, though the turmoil of war with its ceaseless torrent of extraneous duties, to the confused uncertain aftermath with "its sick hurry, its divided aims", and its many extensive, often incomprehensible, changes—in which it still appears that

*"Reformers fail, because they change the letter  
And not the spirit of the world's design"*

During these arduous years it is reasonable to claim that some progress, substantial in some directions, perhaps halting and imperfect in others, has evolved; but much remains to be achieved and it is consequently wise to recall the illustration of Thomas Fuller in his classical work that, if one generation has found glass and made crystal, the next is urged to find crystal and make pearl. For only in this way can incentive be maintained to try and better our heritage.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge the help and encouragement of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation of the Medical Profession in the many associations and interchange of the daily round and common task. To the staff is due the greatest credit for their loyal support and enduring zeal over the years. Even in their work they have experienced that

*"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft a-gley,"*

and they know only too well that, through no fault of theirs, objectives are not always reached, nor can projects invariably materialise; yet they have displayed a constancy of purpose to demonstrate that at these (and indeed at all) times, "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive and the true success is to labour".

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 Public Health Inspector:*

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

*District Public Health 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.

B. A. F. IRWIN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

**(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.

*Disinfector 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-1956 ... ..	50,000
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Books ... ..	15,542
Rateable value (end of 1956) ... ..	£1,079,053
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1956) ...	£1,375

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 large number of persons now receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming increasingly busy. This has an effect on unemployment which has always shown a seasonal variation, and before the war ranged from a minimum of about 800 to a maximum of 1,800.

At the end of the war the number of unemployed was the lowest recorded with a total of 148 in 1945: since then the number has risen gradually each year to reach a maximum of 1,405 in 1953, after which there has been a decline to 1,291 in 1954 and 1,006 in 1955; and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1956:

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED						
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>	
December, 1956 ... ..	625	324	17	23	989	
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED						
July, 1956 ... ..	151	5	1	4	161	

Seaside resorts have a difficult problem in their unemployment, which will not be solved unless there is other seasonal work for the winter only, to absorb the summer employees rendered redundant after the holiday season.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1956.

*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	...	...	11.36
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	27.40
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	16.86
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	1.71
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	19.37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	19.37
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	0.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	132
.. Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
.. Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
.. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0

*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.*

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1956 is 50,000; 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 568, of which 269 were male and 299 female; there were 535 legitimate and 33 illegitimate births. There were 16 stillbirths, 12 legitimate and 4 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 11.36 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.7 for England and Wales; and the stillbirth-rate was 0.32 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 0.36. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 27.4 compared with 23.0 for England and Wales.

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 6.3 per cent in 1956; 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 12.61 is obtained.



### *Marriages.*

The marriage rate was 5.1 per 1,000 population compared with 5.4 in 1955, 4.9 in 1954, 5.3 in 1953; the rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 15.8 per 1,000 population.

### *Deaths.*

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 843, of which 387 were males and 456 were females.

The crude death-rate was 16.86 per 1,000 population compared with 16.55 in 1955; the death-rate in 1956 for England and Wales was 11.7.

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 0.72 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 12.14.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay: Heart Disease, 250; Cancer, 132; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 140; which between them are responsible for almost two-thirds of the total deaths.

The death-rate from cancer of the lung was 360 per million population in Torquay compared with a rate of 407 in England and Wales; and the death-rates from other forms of cancer were 2,280 per million population in Torquay and 1,668 in England and Wales.

The death-rates from Tuberculosis of the lung were 100 per million population in Torquay and 109 in England and Wales; and the rates for non-respiratory tuberculosis were 20 per million in Torquay and 12 in England and Wales.

The local figures have the disadvantage inherent in being calculated from comparatively small numbers.

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 19.37 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 23.8 for England and Wales; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 19.37, 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, 1951-55, inclusive, were 26, 31, 16, 13, 13.

The actual number of deaths in 1956 of infants under 1 year of age was 11 (5 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1955 was 13 (9 being under 4 weeks).

There was 1 maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1951-55, was 0, 0, 1, 0, 0.

The maternal mortality for Torquay was 1.71 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with a rate of 0.56 for England and Wales: but as the local rate is calculated on only one death it is statistically not comparable.



TABLE A

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes ... ..						387	456
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	4	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	1
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	16	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	48	38
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	6	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	52	88
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	65	54
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	11	18
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	49	82
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	22	37
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	18	28
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	22	13
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	5	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	6	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	30	37
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	9	10
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		{ Total ... .. 7 Legitimate ... .. 7 Illegitimate ... .. —				7	4
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks		{ Total ... .. 3 Legitimate ... .. 3 Illegitimate ... .. —				3	2
Stillbirths		{ Total ... .. 7 Legitimate ... .. 7 Illegitimate ... .. —				7	9
						7	5
						—	4

TABLE B.  
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956 (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	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
2. Tuberculosis other	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	5	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	6	2	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	86	-	-	1	-	-	5	9	16	29	26	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	2
16. Diabetes	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	39	87	87
18. Coronary disease, angina	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	47	46	46
19. Hypertension with heart disease	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	22	22
20. Other heart disease	137	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	29	101	101
21. Other circulatory disease	59	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	7	15	33	33
22. Influenza	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
23. Pneumonia	46	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	36	36
24. Bronchitis	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	7	12	13	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	62	4	3	-	1	3	-	1	7	8	33	33
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	10	10
35. Suicide	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	843	5	6	3	2	7	8	13	31	103	231	434



## 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.*

There was no change in staff during the year.

- (ii) *Committees.*

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

Public Health Committee.  
Housing Committee.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

There was no change in registration during the year, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December:

Number of Houses on the Register	...	10
Number of Maternity Beds	... ..	5
Number of other Beds	... ..	98

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 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 three 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.

During the year it was not necessary to take action under either Act.

#### 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 or cremated 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, 14 burials were carried out under this section, compared with 8 in 1955, 6 in 1954, 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 work of extending the existing filtration plant, which was started in April 1954, was completed early in the year and the new plant was brought into use in March. During the summer months the quantity of water in store became very depleted and, arising therefrom, a temporary deterioration occurred in the quality of the raw water passing on to the filters. Despite this, however, the increased filtration capacity enabled a high degree of clarification to be maintained, 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 scheme for replacing the existing chemical equipment, with more adequate plant including the installation of automatically controlled proportioning and injection chemical plant, is now nearing completion; and it is expected that the new plant will be in use by April 1957.

(b) During the first six months of the year there was an overall deficiency of rainfall throughout the British Isles. The rainfall on the Corporation's Tottiford Watershed for the six months ending 30th June was the lowest recorded since 1896, amounting to only 9.15 inches, being less than half the long average rainfall for the period.

In consequence of these drought conditions the quantity of water stored in the Corporation's four impounding reservoirs on Dartmoor became seriously depleted. Although the storage capacity of these four reservoirs is 848 million gallons, the quantity in store on the 30th June amounted to only 575 million gallons, further decreasing by 31st July to 481 million gallons.

As a result it became necessary for measures to be taken to conserve water, including as from 18th June, the placing of restrictions on the use of water by hose and for other domestic purposes. Also, an application was made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an Order for a temporary reduction in the quantity of compensation water discharged from Fernworthy Reservoir.



Fortunately the rainfall on the catchments during July and August was in excess of average and this improved the supply position. As a result the application for an Order was withdrawn on the 13th August and on the 31st August the restrictions were removed.

Nevertheless the drought gave the Corporation unmistakable warning of the insufficiency of the existing sources of supply to meet the growing demands upon their Undertaking and steps are now being taken to seek an additional source of supply.

(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 Sulphate of Alumina and Soda Ash, 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 varying from 6.0 to 6.7; after treatment the value is raised to about 9.0, 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 20.9.56.

B—Chemical and Bacteriological, Trenchford Reservoir Draw-off Valve  
Tower—Representing water conveyed to Pressure Filters—Taken  
20.9.56.

#### FILTERED WATER

C—Chemical and Bacteriological—Filtered Water Main from Pressure  
Filters—With coagulation but prior to alkalisiation with lime and  
sterilisation with gaseous chlorine—Taken 20.9.56.

#### FULLY TREATED WATER

D—Chemical and Bacteriological—Gallowsgate Service Reservoir—Taken  
29.11.56.

E—Chemical and Bacteriological, Great Hill Service Reservoir—Taken  
20.9.56.

F—Chemical and Bacteriological, Warberry Service Reservoir—Taken  
29.11.56.

G—Chemical and Bacteriological, Chapel Hill Service Reservoir—Taken  
29.11.56.



## REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

A. SAMPLE 20.9.56

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

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

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Faint opalescence with a yellow-brown flocculent deposit. Microscopical examination: mineral and organic debris; chlorophyceae, protozoa and diatoms.

Colour (filtered) ... ..	50	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	3
Reaction pH ... ..	6.3	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	45	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	5.0
Chlorine present as Chloride	9	Total solids, dried at 180°C	30
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ... ..	4
Hardness: Total ... ..	7	{ Carbonate 4 { Non-carbonate 3	
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.026	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.120	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.36
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	4.3	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.
	} 2 per ml.	50 per ml.	90 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> ...10 ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 1 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 35 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	...10 ml.	1 ml.	35 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	...100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample shows only slight opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is slightly acid in reaction, very soft in character and has only a small content of alkalinity. It shows distinct colour and carries an equivalent amount of organic matter. It has a low content of mineral constituents in solution and is free from metals apart from a trace of iron. Bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is confined to a very moderate number of Bact. coli. and to the Clostridium welchii reaction in 100 ml. Treatment is required to clarify the water, reduce colour, correct corrosive characteristics, and achieve a standard of bacterial purity appropriate to a public supply.



## B. SAMPLE 20.9.56

## TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Near Draw-off Valve Tower, representing raw water conveyed to pressure filters at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey.)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Faint opalescence with a yellow-brown flocculent deposit. Microscopical examination: mainly organic debris with a few chlorophyceae, and a few siliceous and mineral particles.

Colour (filtered) ... ..	25	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	3
Reaction pH ... ..	6.7	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	63	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	2.0
Chlorine present as Chloride	10	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	40
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ... ..	6
Hardness: Total ... ..	13	{ Carbonate 6 { Non-carbonate 7	
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.6	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.040	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.130	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.22
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Manganese ... ..	0.03
at 27°C. ... ..	2.7	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.	} 1 per ml. 40 per ml. 50 per ml.	
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...			
Bact. coli (Type I)	... 10 ml.*	1 ml.	35 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... 10 ml.	1 ml.	25 per 100 ml.
	... 100 ml.	10 ml.	

\* Irregular Type I.

This sample shows only slight opalescence and deposit, the turbidity being noticeable but not marked. The water is just on the acid side of neutrality, very soft in character and has only a small content of alkalinity. It also carries only a small amount of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a trace of iron and a negligible trace of manganese. Colour is noticeable but not pronounced, and organic impurity is not unduly marked. Similarly, bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is confined to a very moderate number of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group, including Bact. coli, and to the Clostridium welchii reaction in 100 ml. Treatment is required to clarify the water, reduce colour, correct corrosive characteristics, and to achieve a standard of bacterial purity appropriate to a public supply.



## C. SAMPLE 20.9.56

## TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Filtered water main from pressure filters at Tottiford—with coagulation but prior to alkalisation with lime and sterilisation with gaseous chlorine.)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Bright with a few siliceous and mineral particles.

Colour ... ..	3	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ... ..	6.1	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ... ..	70	Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	7.0
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	3
Hardness: Total ... ..	13	Carbonate temporary	3
		Non-carbonate permanent	10
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.6	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.033	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.044	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	0.75	Manganese ... ..	less than 0.03
		Other Metals ... ..	Absent

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	1 per ml.	1 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, acid in reaction and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and manganese. The water is very soft in character and has a 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. Subject to alkalisation and precautionary chlorination, the results are indicative of an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

## D. SAMPLE 29.11.56

## GALLOWSGATE RESERVOIR

(Gallowsgate Service Reservoir: Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Bright with a few particles.

Colour ... ..	7	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ... ..	7.5	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ... ..	82	Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	13	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	54
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	9
Hardness: Total ... ..	23	Carbonate temporary	9
		Non-carbonate permanent	14
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.8	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.023	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.053	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.12
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	0.80	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, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals, apart from a minute 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 indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

## E. SAMPLE 20.9.56

## GREAT HILL RESERVOIR

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

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour (Filtered) ...	...	7	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	...	9.2	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	...	90	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride		11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	60
			Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	15
Hardness: Total ...	...	27	{ Carbonate } Non-carbonate	12
			{ temporary 15 } permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	...	0.6	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	...	0.040	Residual Chlorine ...	0.12
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	...	0.044	Metals: Iron ...	0.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	...	0.85	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.	1 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 but not excessively alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is soft in character and has a low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour and of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

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



## F. SAMPLE 29.11.56

## WARBERRY RESERVOIR

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

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Bright with a few particles.

Colour ... ..	6	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ... ..	9	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	85	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	13	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate ... ..	11
Hardness: Total ... ..	25	{ Carbonate 11 { Non-carbonate 14	
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.020	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.041	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Other Metals ... ..	Absent
at 27°C. ... ..	0.65		

## 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.	1 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ... ..	— ml.	100 ml.	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 but not excessively 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 small 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 indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

## G. SAMPLE 29.11.56

## CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR

(Inlet to Chapel Hill Service Reservoir, Torquay. Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened, and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance:* Bright with a few particles.

Colour (Filtered) ... ..	6	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ... ..	9	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	82	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	13	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	54
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate ... ..	10



Hardness: Total ... ..	24	} Carbonate 10 { Non-carbonate 14 temporary } permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	1.0		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.015	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.040	Residual Chlorine ... ..	0.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	0.60	Metals: Iron ... ..	0.05
		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 Coli-aerogenes Reaction ... ..	
Bact. coli (Type I) ... ..	<i>Present in</i> 100 ml. <i>Absent from</i> 100 ml. <i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ... ..	100 ml. 100 ml. 0 per 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly but not excessively 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 small 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 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.; 87 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in 86 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."

In the remaining sample the probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was 2.

(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 negligible 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.*

No special action has been required.

(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.*

5 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.) 4 samples gave satisfactory results, viz.: probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—nil. In the case of the other sample, examination showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was 8.

(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.

During the year under review, new sewers have been laid in the Upton and Coombe Valleys as part of the main drainage scheme. Work on the contract of approximately £45,000, has now been completed.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

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

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

There has been an increase in collection and disposal due to new housing development. Disposal is now carried out by controlled tipping.

(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.





## Drainage work carried out:

Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	12
Fresh Air Inlets provided	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection Chambers built	...	...	...	...	69
Iron Frames and Covers provided	...	...	...	...	74
Soil and Vent Pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	47
Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	70
Waste Pipes provided	...	...	...	...	112
Waste Pipes trapped	...	...	...	...	103
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	45
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Flushing Cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Water Closets renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	50
Water Closet Apartments built	...	...	...	...	35
Water Closet Apartments ventilated	...	...	...	...	4
Water Closet Apartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Lavatory Basins provided	...	...	...	...	89
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	31
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	31
Urinals repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Urinals renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Additional Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	1
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	108
Sanitary Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	-

*General Public Health**Inspections*

Stables	...	...	...	...	4
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	28
Open Spaces—Nuisances	...	...	...	...	13
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	68
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	320
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	31
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	53
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	7
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	8
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	17
Offices	...	...	...	...	0
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	23
Offensive Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	40
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	44
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	127

*Miscellaneous*

Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	326
Other visits	...	...	...	...	715
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	28



## NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Public Health Act ...	155	113	56	28	1	1	212	142
Housing Act ...	11	5	24	8	1	1	36	14
Factories Act ...	—	—	16	15	—	—	16	15
Food and Drugs Act ...	87	31	4	1	—	—	91	32
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>203</b>

(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 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 Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (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	60	35	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	240	150	12	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	14	14	1	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>		<b>314</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>—</b>

## 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)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)      By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	5	3	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	4	—	3	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ... ..	9	3	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	10	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	11	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	12	5	5	2	2	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>60</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>

## 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	31					
	Cleaning and washing	14	—				
Basket making ... ..	40	—					
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>70</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	



*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. Six premises were on the register, and eight inspections were made.

*Smoke Abatement.*

In a town like Torquay, the work under this section is not very considerable; 26 observations have been made in connexion with alleged nuisances, but nothing has occurred which has justified any formal notice or action.

*Clean Air Act, 1956.*

This Act received the Royal Assent on 5th July, 1956, and comes into force on such date as the Minister of Housing and Local Government appoints.

Under the Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1956, certain provisions of the Act came into operation on 31st December, 1956; and it is understood that, under a further Order to be made subsequently, the remaining provisions will come into force early in 1958.

The provisions in force deal with such matters as the installation of new furnaces, the height of chimneys, smoke control areas, research and publicity, and the making of building bye-laws.

The Act prohibits the emission of dark smoke from the chimney of any building and requires that new furnaces shall be, as far as practicable, smokeless; and the Minister is empowered to make Regulations requiring the provision of meters indicating the density of smoke emitted from any furnace, for making adaptations to any chimney serving the furnace, and for using and maintaining such apparatus and for making available to the Council the results recorded.

All practicable steps must be taken to minimise the emission of grit and dust from any chimney serving the furnace; and notice may be served on the occupier as to the recording of measurements of grit and dust, and making adaptations, providing apparatus and informing the Council of the results obtained.

Smoke control areas may be declared by an Order of the Council after confirmation by the Minister, and subject to certain exemptions, the emission of smoke from a chimney within that area is an offence. Adaptation can be made of existing premises for the purpose of avoiding contravention of this section and the Council must refund seven-tenths of the expenditure incurred; and grants may be made towards adaptations to fireplaces in churches, chapels and buildings used by charitable organisations.



Under the Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations, 1956, the Minister has declared the following fuels for the purpose of the Act: anthracite, briquetted fuels carbonised in the process of manufacture; coke; electricity; gas; low temperature carbonised fuels, low volatile steam coals.

Certain sections apply to new buildings, and the bye-laws may require the provision in new buildings of such arrangements for heating and cooking as are calculated to prevent the emission of smoke.

Your Public Health Inspectors have been appointed authorised officers to carry out the appropriate duties.

#### *Offensive Trades.*

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

#### *Diseases of Animals Act, 1951.*

In connexion with Swine Fever, Notice "A" was received in July in respect of certain premises in which suspected cases had occurred; but the notice was withdrawn three days later as the disease was not confirmed, and the premises were declared free from infection.

#### *Foot and Mouth Disease.*

A circular was received in July from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in connexion with the signposting of roads leading to infected areas: it was considered that this was necessary to prevent drivers inadvertently taking animals into a declared area. Your Authority was willing to co-operate in any such scheme, and ultimately it was arranged by the Devon County Council that the County Police would undertake the signposting of any roads which might be required in an outbreak; metal signs have been prepared to meet ordinary needs and a supply of printed paper signs have been obtained to meet the additional requirements of any exceptional situation.

#### *Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.*

This Act came into force on 5th July, and the Local Sanitary Authority is required to ensure that suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are available for the use of workers employed in an agriculture unit; and power is also provided to secure the maintenance and cleanliness of the conveniences. In addition, the appropriate Minister may also require the provision of suitable and sufficient washing facilities.



Inspections by officers of the Local Authority are to be made and your Public Health Inspectors are authorised to carry out the necessary duties under this Act.

*Disinfections and Disinfestations.*

119 premises were treated during the year and 37 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected. 77 Wasp nests were also dealt with during the year.

*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.

There is only one 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 Coir Fibre	...	...	...	...	1



*Shops Act, 1950.*

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 routine inspections were carried out and 4 contraventions of these sections were discovered.

No exemptions were granted.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Public Health 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 Public Health 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.

22 visits were made in connexion with this Act.

*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 Public Health 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 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 new break-point system of chlorination, to which reference was made in detail last year, has been operating satisfactorily and has maintained consistently good results in the samples of water taken: this is very gratifying, as it is the first complete year it has been working, covering of course the busy summer season during which the baths are usually subjected to a heavy load.

Furthermore, the striking improvement in the clarity of the water (which is sea water) has also been maintained throughout the year, even when the baths were crowded: measurements have been continued with the viewing tube and target described in the last report. The distance between target and the viewing tube when the target just ceases to be visible is taken as a measure of the clarity of the water: and the minimum suggested by the report on "The Purification of the Water of Swimming Baths" issued by the Ministry of Health in 1951 is 30 feet, although with a heavy bathing load the distance may be reduced to 15 feet.

During the year, there was no difficulty in obtaining quite easily a distance of 60 to 65 feet before bathers entered, with very little decline at the end of the daily sessions.



A full daily log is kept detailing the hours during which the plant is working, the number of bathers, the three readings of the pH and chlorine content, and the clarity readings.

The baths were closed for three weeks in November to enable the sand in the filter to be completely renewed and some re-painting to be undertaken.

Although these measures are doing all that is scientifically possible at present to ensure the highest standard of safety and clarity in the water, there still remains the long overdue problem of the reconstruction and modernisation of the Baths; and although the present economic restrictions in capital expenditure may cause this to be delayed still further, it is hoped that this most essential public health project will be kept in the foreground of those schemes which should be started as soon as circumstances permit.

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.

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

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end ... ..	41	0	41
Shallow end ... ..	41	0	41
	—	—	—
	82	0	82
	—	—	—

(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.

86 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 ... ..	35	8	43
Shallow end ... ..	36	7	43
	—	—	—
	71	15	86
	—	—	—

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 25, and in 10 cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.



The other is a modern open air swimming bath in which there is a main swimming bath 75 feet by 30 feet, with depths from 3 feet to 7 feet; coupled with this 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°F. with a continuous circulation through a sand filter and an oil-burning heater, and there is a chlorination plant.

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

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end ... ..	19	1	20
Shallow end ... ..	19	1	20
	—	—	—
	38	2	40
	—	—	—

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 250.

#### *Eradication of Bed-Bugs.*

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

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

*The number of houses disinfested was:*

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

(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 Public Health 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, Fisheries and Food, under your Chief Public Health 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, 1957. This has been done in order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities.

One sewer maintenance treatment was completed, when 294 manholes were baited. No Complete Pre-Bait Takes, 81 Partial Takes and 213 No Takes were recorded. In addition, a 10 per cent test baiting was carried out, and in this connexion 220 manholes were baited and 33 manholes were found to be infested.

In surface control, 597 treatments were made to private premises and 114 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, 1957)

## 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	47	14,372	2,831	17,250	42
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1956 as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey or (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(a) 6	278	70	354	6
	(b) 41	703	159	903	2
	(c) —	1,011	1,264	2,275	26
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	74	1,992	1,493	3,559	34
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats { Major	—	9	—	9	2
Minor	2	235	26	263	Nil
(b) Mice { Major	2	3	4	9	Nil
Minor	1	116	21	138	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	5	363	51	419	2
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	12	597	97	706	5
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. <i>Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :—</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	307
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	723
(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 ...	1
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	3
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(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 ...	248
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	154
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>	
(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 ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(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 ...	—



(3) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force ... ..	—
<i>(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1) Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—
<i>(e) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.</i>	
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ... ..	—
<i>(f) Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.</i>	
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... ..	—

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

During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 9 complaints only 4 cases were found to be overcrowded within the legal definition. There must, of course, be other cases which only a detailed survey would reveal, but, generally speaking, this problem does not appear to be so acute as is sometimes considered.

#### *New Housing.*

No further properties have been erected by the Corporation, as the post-war programme of building had been completed during the previous year; before the war there were 813 council houses, and since the war 1,356 houses and 72 flats have been built.

The number of houses built during the year by private enterprise was 140, bringing the total since the war to 873. A further 79 dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

The total number of inhabited residential houses in the Borough is now 15,542.

#### *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 156.



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 it was hoped that the attainment of these conditions would be facilitated by recent legislation. Unfortunately, the use of improvement grants has so far been limited mainly to owner-occupiers; and the big problem of tenanted property remains unsolved.

#### *Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.*

The details of Part II of this Act and the Housing Repairs (Increase of Rent) Regulations, 1954, were given in a previous annual report; and the main duty of Local Authorities is to deal with applications of tenants for "Certificates of Disrepair" in cases where the landlord claims a repairs increase and the tenant feels that the house is not in sufficiently good condition to justify it.

During the year, no application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair.

#### *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.

No such undertakings were obtained during the year.

#### *Housing Act, 1936—Section 12.*

During the year the following closing order was made in respect of:

"Stamford Cottage", rear of Kents Road—3 Ground floor rooms.



## SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

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

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953. Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.*

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 now be granted or renewed only if the herd is also registered in the Register of Attested Herds kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Producer's licences are now valid for 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.*

Pasteurisers are now 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. Pasteurisers must put the milk into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the customer, whether householder, caterer or other consumer; and milk must be put into the containers at the premises where the milk is pasteurised, as soon as possible after pasteurisation.

*Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1953.*

*Heat-treated Milk.*

There are now three licensed Pasteurising Establishments; two 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 Public Health Inspectors and samples of milk are taken every fortnight from each plant. A total of 69 samples gave the following results:

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>
Phosphatase test ... ..	66	3	—
Methylene Blue reduction test	61	2	6*



\* 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 Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Retailers who previously bought pasteurised milk in bulk containers and bottled 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.

#### *Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954.*

The following licences were issued during the year:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

#### *Tuberculin Tested Milk.*

In connexion with the bottling of this milk, there is one bottling plant in the Borough; during the year 12 samples of milk were taken, of which 10 passed and 2 failed. Three specimens of washings from clean bottles were taken; and in each case there was a satisfactory bacterial count.



*Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956.*

These Regulations came into force on 1st July, 1956, and are enforceable by Food and Drug Authorities. Four descriptions of milk are specified—Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey and South Devon—and the use of these descriptions is limited to milk which has not less than 4 per cent by weight of milk fat. The descriptions will generally need to be used with the special designations Pasteurised, Sterilised, or Tuberculin Tested, as Torquay is a declared area; but as the space on bottle caps is limited, no provision has been made in the Regulations for the container of the milk to carry a declaration that the milk is produced from cows of the appropriate herd.

Following the making of these Regulations, the Milk (Great Britain) Order, 1954, has been further amended; and the new Order specifies maximum prices for Channel Islands and South Devon Milk. As these are in practice maximum retail prices, the sampling of these milks in the course of retail distribution is the most effective way of ensuring that customers receive milk of the quality appropriate to the higher prices paid.

If any sample is found to have less than 4 per cent milk fat by weight, it is necessary for the Local Authority to send particulars to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Regulations are to be welcomed as a step towards the production of milk of good quality, rather than quantity; and it would be equally helpful and beneficial if further measures could be introduced which would encourage producers to consider quality as expressed by fat content, instead of solely the number of gallons of milk—in some of which the fat content often only just exceeds the present legal limit of 3 per cent.

It is understood that, during the coming year, the Milk Marketing Board is to introduce some method in connexion with payment which will take into account the percentage of milk fat of the milk produced.

*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, the remainder having no special designation. The non-designated farms are visited regularly by your Public Health Inspectors and occasional samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination; a total of 38 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.*

Fourteen premises are registered as dairies and 60 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; 149 inspections were made during the year.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.**Abattoir.*

The arrangements at the Abattoir, now administered by the Corporation, have continued on the lines described in the previous report and have remained satisfactory.

During the year some small alterations were carried out to improve the facilities—so far as this can be achieved in the existing premises; these changes, which were not extensive, were agreed upon after consultation with the local Master Butchers' Federation.

*Licensing of Slaughterhouses.*

As the facilities at the Abattoir are meeting the requirements of the Borough, a resolution had been passed by the Corporation in December, 1954, determining that no further licences will be granted in respect of any premises not licensed on the date when the resolution took place. Advertisement of the Resolution was made and the approval of the Ministry was subsequently obtained.



Two applications had been made in 1954 to reopen small slaughterhouses which were previously licensed annually prior to 1939; and these were not granted. During 1955 one applicant applied for compensation under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, and his application was approved during the year: the other owner decided not to proceed with any application for compensation.

*Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses (England and Wales).*

In the previous annual report reference was made to the recommendations of this Committee in proposing a policy of moderate concentration of abattoirs throughout the country: and in this locality it was suggested that an area (No. 78) should be established at Newton Abbot. The Local Authority Districts which this abattoir would serve include, besides Newton Abbot Urban District Council, the Boroughs of Dartmouth, Torquay, Totnes, Urban Districts of Ashburton, Brixham, Buckfastleigh, Dawlish, Kingsbridge, Paignton, Salcombe, Teignmouth and the Rural Districts of Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot and Totnes.

It was expected that such a scheme as this would materialise quickly; for it is on the lines of the Resolution which the Corporation and the Newton Abbot Urban District Council sent to the Ministry of Food in 1954.

During the year under review, another White Paper has been published which modifies these proposals. And it has been decided that the principal aims of slaughterhouse policy can best be achieved by prescribing statutory standards for abattoirs, and by measures which will ensure that these standards are reached within the shortest possible time.

Local Authorities will individually, or jointly, be required to review existing and prospective slaughtering facilities in their Districts and prepare reports; and it is thought that the statement of policy will enable Local Authorities and meat traders to discuss preliminary proposals in their Districts pending the introduction of further legislation.

Your Authority made approaches to the Authorities named in the Area No. 78, mentioned above, with a view to a joint meeting and at the end of the year was awaiting replies. It is very much hoped that, so far as this area is concerned, the original scheme of a Central Abattoir at Newton Abbot will ultimately mature; for it is obviously in the best interests of all concerned—the Local Authorities, the trade, the hygiene of an important food, the adequate efficient inspection of meat, and the humane handling of animals.



It is a disheartening and depressing revelation to look back in previous Reports for more than thirty-five years and see the references again and again to the need for a modern abattoir, without any progress being made.

The Annual Report for 1923 states "The provision of a public abattoir is a sanitary reform long overdue"; and in 1924 there is the reference "I have to record that the provision of a public abattoir is still an unsolved problem. In many reports the necessity for such has been urged, but for various reasons it has not reached concrete shape".

Again in 1927 your Medical Officer reported "The question of a public slaughterhouse and Central Depot for meat inspection is still in abeyance. The necessity for this will undoubtedly become more urgent and costly as time goes on and will eventually have to be faced".

"The necessity for improved slaughterhouse accommodation" is a heading in the Report for 1936, which continues "The provision of an up-to-date public abattoir is urgently required; much of the present overhead gear and other fittings have been in constant use for the past seventy years, and little more need be said to emphasise that a complete modernisation of building and equipment should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity."

And yet, in 1956, the question still remains—How much longer?

*Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.*

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.

Ten licences were issued during the year.

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

These regulations re-enact 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 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.

609 visits were made to the Abattoir in connexion with the inspection of meat.



(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections:

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE  
OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	2,427	71	417	7,895	5,498	—
Number inspected ...	2,427	71	417	7,895	5,498	—
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	4	10	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,416	46	—	431	396	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	58.4%	64.8%	0.96%	5.6%	7.3%	—
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	—	2	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	96	8	—	—	236	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ...	4.1%	11.2%	0.48%	—	4.3%	—
<b>CYSTICERCOSIS:</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	29	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	29	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Total weight of meat condemned: 27,381 lbs.)

In addition to the above a further 2,294 lb. of meat was condemned during the year at butchers' shops, the primary cause being bone taint.



*Cysticercus bovis.*

There are still a number of carcasses found affected with *Cysticercus*—59 in 1954, 34 in 1955 and 29 in 1956. The effects of this infection is greater economically than it appears, in that it affects young prime animals; indeed several prize-winners at the Fatstock Christmas Shows were found affected, which caused considerable concern and disappointment to the butchers. For the treatment by refrigeration at such a low temperature, less than 20°F for three weeks, has the effect of turning good prime beef into meat often only suitable for manufacturing purposes.

There is evidence that the incidence of this infection in some countries is correlated with a low standard of hygiene in sewage collection and disposal; because the adult worm lives in the human intestine, the ova are shed with the faeces, and infection occurs when the cattle ingest the ova. In a previous report it was suggested that the post-war rise in incidence may be due to the indiscriminate camping and casual use of pasture land by a careless public, who, with the increased mobility of transport, have much greater access to what were formerly remote places.

In any event, the problem is sufficiently important to justify some effort to try to trace the source of infection. Incidentally it illustrates the tremendous importance of efficient meat inspection; for, unless carefully and thoroughly inspected, the condition in the carcass may be overlooked.



(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included:	<i>Weight lbs.</i>
Bacon ... ..	40
Butter, Fats, Lard ... ..	45
Butter, Peanut ... ..	1
Cheese ... ..	16
Coffee ... ..	12
Confectionery, Cake ... ..	52
Confectionery, Sugar ... ..	37
Eggs, Frozen ... ..	28
Fish ... ..	426
Fish, Frozen ... ..	41
Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	3,450
Fruit, Bottles ... ..	6
Fruit, Dried ... ..	226
Jams and Preserves ... ..	151
Jelly ... ..	1
Marzipan ... ..	1
Meat Pies ... ..	42
Milk, Dried ... ..	1
Olive Oil ... ..	20
Pickles and Sauces ... ..	65
Poultry ... ..	431
Powder, Custard ... ..	16
Powder, Lemonade ... ..	5
Powder, Soup ... ..	3
Sausages ... ..	210
Vegetables, Frozen ... ..	36
Vegetables, Bottled ... ..	4
Canned Meat ... ..	2,457
„ Meat Puddings ... ..	5
„ Poultry ... ..	10
„ Vegetables ... ..	1,584
„ Vegetable Juice ... ..	1
„ Fruit ... ..	4,265
„ Fish ... ..	54
„ Pastes ... ..	16
„ Spaghetti ... ..	12
„ Soup ... ..	123
„ Milk ... ..	154
„ Fruit Juices ... ..	76
„ Fruit Puddings ... ..	25
„ Cream ... ..	3
„ Sausages ... ..	12
„ Syrup ... ..	2
TOTAL ... ..	14,165 lbs.

(Total weight condemned: 6 Tons 6 cwts. 53 lbs.)



(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

The following is a record of the samples taken:

	FORMAL		INFORMAL	
	No. of Samples	Not Genuine	No. of Samples	Not Genuine
*Almond Paste ... ..	—	—	1	—
Almonds (Ground) ... ..	—	—	4	—
Brandy ... ..	1	—	—	—
*Butter ... ..	—	—	3	—
*Cake Decorations ... ..	—	—	2	—
*Cheese ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Chewing Compound ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Chicken, minced ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Confectionery—chocolate ... ..	—	—	2	—
* „ —flour ... ..	—	—	1	—
* „ —sugar ... ..	—	—	8	—
*Cream, clotted ... ..	—	—	2	—
*Custard, powder ... ..	—	—	1	—
„ prepared ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Dripping ... ..	—	—	4	—
Fat, cooking ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Fruit, dried, mixed ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Ice Cream ... ..	—	—	7	—
*Jam—Apple and Blackberry ... ..	—	—	1	—
* „ —Raspberry and Redcurrant ... ..	—	—	1	—
* „ —Orange Jelly ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Jelly, tablet ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Ketchup, tomato ... ..	—	—	1	—
Lard ... ..	—	—	3	—
*Margarine ... ..	—	—	2	—
* „ —Kosher ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Marzipan ... ..	—	—	1	—
Medicament—Cough Mixture ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Milk ... ..	26	7	36	4
Milk—“Appeal to Cow” ... ..	11	—	—	—
* „ —Channel Island ... ..	4	—	—	—
„ —Yoghourt ... ..	—	—	1	—
Mustard—Prepared ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Orange Squash ... ..	—	—	2	—
*Paste, meat ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Paste, fish ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Pasty, meat ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Pie, pork ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Pudding, black ... ..	—	—	1	—
Rum ... ..	1	—	—	—
*Sausages, beef ... ..	—	—	4	—
* „ pork ... ..	—	—	1	1
* „ liver ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Sherbert ... ..	—	—	1	—
Sugar, demerara ... ..	—	—	1	1
Tapioca ... ..	—	—	1	—
Tea ... ..	—	—	1	—
*Tripe ... ..	—	—	1	—
Tinned, baked beans in tomato sauce ... ..	—	—	1	—
Tinned, mixed vegetables ... ..	—	—	1	—
Tinned, processed peas ... ..	—	—	1	—
Whisky ... ..	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	44	7	113	6

\* All the samples thus marked have been examined for the presence of preservatives.



TABLE OF SAMPLES NOT GENUINE  
FORMAL

<i>Register No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of adulteration or irregularity</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1852	Milk	6% added water. Freezing Point Test indicated 11% added water.	"Appeal to cow" sample—genuine milk. Warning letter from L.A.
1853	Milk	11% deficient in fat	
1854	Milk	6% added water. Freezing Point Test indicated 2% added water.	"Appeal to cow" samples deficient in fat. Warning letter from L.A.*
1855	Milk	6% deficient in fat.	
1856	Milk	6% added water. Freezing Point Test indicated 4% added water.	"Appeal to Cow" samples deficient in fat. Warning letter from L.A.*
1976	Milk	11% Deficient in Fat.	
1977	Milk	10% Deficient in Fat.	"Appeal to Cow" samples deficient in fat, 1; genuine 3. Warning letter from L.A.

INFORMAL

<i>Register No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of adulteration or irregularity</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1831	Pork Sausages	10% Deficient in Meat	Vendor cautioned Warning Warning Warning Vendor cautioned
1863	Milk	7% Deficient in Fat	
1864	Milk	9% Deficient in Fat	
1893	Milk	9% added water	
1911	Demerara Sugar	Contained foreign matter which consisted of wheat flour, mineral and vegetable debris and grease	
1958	Milk	18% Deficient in Fat	Warning

\* Producer was recommended to communicate at once with the County Milk Production Officer for advice in improving the quality of milk from his herd.

In all the informal cases a warning was given to the vendor, and further samples taken. In connexion with the samples of sausages it should be noted that since March 1953, when the Meat Products No. 3 Order, 1952, was revoked, no actual meat content standard for sausages has been in force; but efforts are being made informally to keep the standard at a high level.



(d) *Food and Disease.**Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

This Act was passed during 1955 and came into force on 1st January, 1956; it repeals the Amendment Act, 1954, and consolidates it together with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and certain sections of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, and of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

## FOOD.

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 ... ..	106
Cake Confectioners ... ..	36
Bakehouses ... ..	26
Cafés, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc. ... ..	95
Licensed Premises (including Hotels) ... ..	109
Unlicensed Hotels and Boarding Houses ... ..	577

(ii) *The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.*(a) *Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.*

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

	<i>Wrapped</i>	<i>Bulk</i>
Grocers ... ..	55	—
Greengrocers ... ..	8	—
Confectioners ... ..	53	2
Fishmongers ... ..	2	—
Fish Fryers ... ..	8	—
Bakers ... ..	5	2
General Stores ... ..	14	3
Cafés ... ..	14	32
Restaurants and Snack Bars ... ..	8	11
Ice Cream Kiosks ... ..	1	—
Booksellers ... ..	5	—
Dairies ... ..	9	1
Amusement Places ... ..	2	2
Factory only ... ..	—	1
Store only ... ..	—	1
	—	—
	184	55
	—	—



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

Butchers...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Cooked Meat Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Preserved Fruit Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1

(b) *Premises and Persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.*

Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	14
Distributors only	...	...	...	...	...	46

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

Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	164
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	...	41
Other Preserved Food (Butchers)	...	...	...	...	...	876
Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	149

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

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	332
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	350
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	146
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	92
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	51
Cafés, Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	260
Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	184

(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 Public Health Inspectors, in practical advice and informal discussion with both Management and staff.

While the new Regulations will assist in ensuring that the necessary facilities are 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.



The necessary measures and technique are not difficult to learn; indeed, they are quite simple. But there is such a tendency now-a-days, with ever-increasing meetings, conferences, talks and discussions, to take it for granted that as long as these are held, the problem is solved; whereas they avail very little, unless they are followed by the much greater achievement of each individual worker actually doing his duty properly and well at all times.

(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 at the Refuse Tip, the condemnation notes being checked 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.*

None was required during the year.

(vii) *Ice-Cream.*

*The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-1952.*

These allow a high temperature (175°F.) short time (15 seconds) heat treatment—as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature (either 160°F. for 10 minutes or 150°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 224 premises for the preparation, storage or sale of ice-cream, and in 169 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. The number of manufacturers has been reduced to one, using a hot mix (Torquay Corporation). 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 ...	5	—	—	—	5
Outside Manufacturers ...	9	9	—	3	21
TOTAL ...	14	9	—	3	26



(viii) *The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1956.*

The regulations were made in December under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and came into force on 1st January, 1956 (apart from a delay of six months in some sections). They take the place of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (now repealed) and add a number of new provisions concerning the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., where food is handled. They do not apply to slaughterhouses and cold stores or to a number of other types of premises such as docks, warehouses, etc., except staff canteens or retail stores which may be operating there: and they replace regulations 19-21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, concerning the transport and handling of meat.

The Regulations lay down requirements for (a) cleanliness of food premises and of apparatus and equipment; (b) the hygienic handling of food; (c) the cleanliness of persons engaged in handling food, and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections; (d) the construction of food premises, their repair and maintenance, and the facilities to be provided; and (e) the temperature at which certain foods, particularly liable to transmit disease, are to be kept in food premises.

The higher maximum penalties provided for in Section 106 of the Act are prescribed.

The operation of the Regulations which may require alterations to premises or substantial changes to existing practices is made subject to a delay of 6 months (1st July, 1956). Authority is given for certificates of exemption to be granted if, on account of special circumstances, the requirements of certain regulations cannot reasonably be complied with: and there is an appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction against the refusal or withdrawal of a certificate.

Your Inspectors have continued to give close attention to the hygiene of food premises, and further improvements have been effected: in some cases this amounts to minor alterations, in others considerable reconstruction was involved.

(e) *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 tables, which also include 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 ... ..	25	12	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	15	4	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	43	8	—
Enteric Fevers ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	5	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:—			
Paralytic ... ..	3	3	1
Non-paralytic ... ..	2	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	1	1	—



<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-24 Years	25 Years & over	Ages unknown	Total Cases Notified
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	3	6	15	1	—	—	—	25
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	1	2	6	4	2	—	—	—	15
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	9	10	20	—	—	3	—	43
Enteric Fevers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Ophthalmia Necnaterum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:									
Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Non-paralytic ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria									
(contracting abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever									
(contracting abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis									
(Post Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS ... ..	2	14	22	40	5	1	12	—	96

### *Scarlet Fever.*

The incidence was again very low, only 25 cases being notified, and the type remained mild clinically. The notification rate was 0.50 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 0.75 for England and Wales.

### *Whooping Cough.*

The incidence of this disease was not high, although a slight increase occurred towards the end of the year. There were 43 notifications, and the notification rate was 0.86 per 1,000 population compared with 2.06 for England and Wales.

### *Measles.*

Measles was not epidemic in 1956 and there were only 15 notifications.



*Acute Poliomyelitis.*

The incidence throughout the country during the year was not high, and in the Borough there were 5 notifications. There was an unusual occurrence, however, when 3 cases (2 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic) were notified in April; for this is the period during which the seasonal variation of the disease is normally at its lowest. One case was rapidly fatal, another was a mild paralytic case with ultimate complete recovery, and the third was non-paralytic.

In the Autumn 2 further cases occurred, one in a visitor taken ill on arrival with paralysis, and the other, a resident, had a non-paralytic attack.

*Influenza.*

There was no widespread incidence of influenza during 1956.

*Diphtheria.*

It is gratifying to record that 1956 was the tenth 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 1956.*

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1956 are given in the following table:

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	6	6	2	1	—	—	—	1
45 to 64 years ...	6	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
65 and over ...	3	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>



## BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

### PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1956

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1956, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 sent with Circular 33/52.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report were revised, and the full details are only required every five years; the last quinquennial report was for 1955, 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 Public Health Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	18	2,264	2	18	—
Coastwise ...	47	19,801	8	47	—
TOTAL ...	65	22,065	10	65	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 1013 visits (total tonnage 4431) 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, (12 cargoes), Coal (8 cargoes) Bog Ore (1 cargo) Timber, (6 cargoes) Principal EXPORTS. None. [General. (1 cargo)]	
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1956 : London, Guernsey and general coastwise.		
FOREIGN PORTS were : Hamburg, Stockholm, Gefle, Tunadal, Mantyluoto, Ljusne, Oslo, Delfzijl, Bremen.		

### \*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**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Disease</i>	<i>No. of cases during the year</i>		<i>No. of ships concerned</i>
		<i>Passengers</i>	<i>Crew</i>	
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 .

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

N I L .

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**SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS  
FROM FOREIGN PORTS**

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

Enquiries are made by the Public Health 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 ...	45	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	45	—	—	—

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

NO CHANGE

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**\*SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS  
(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)**

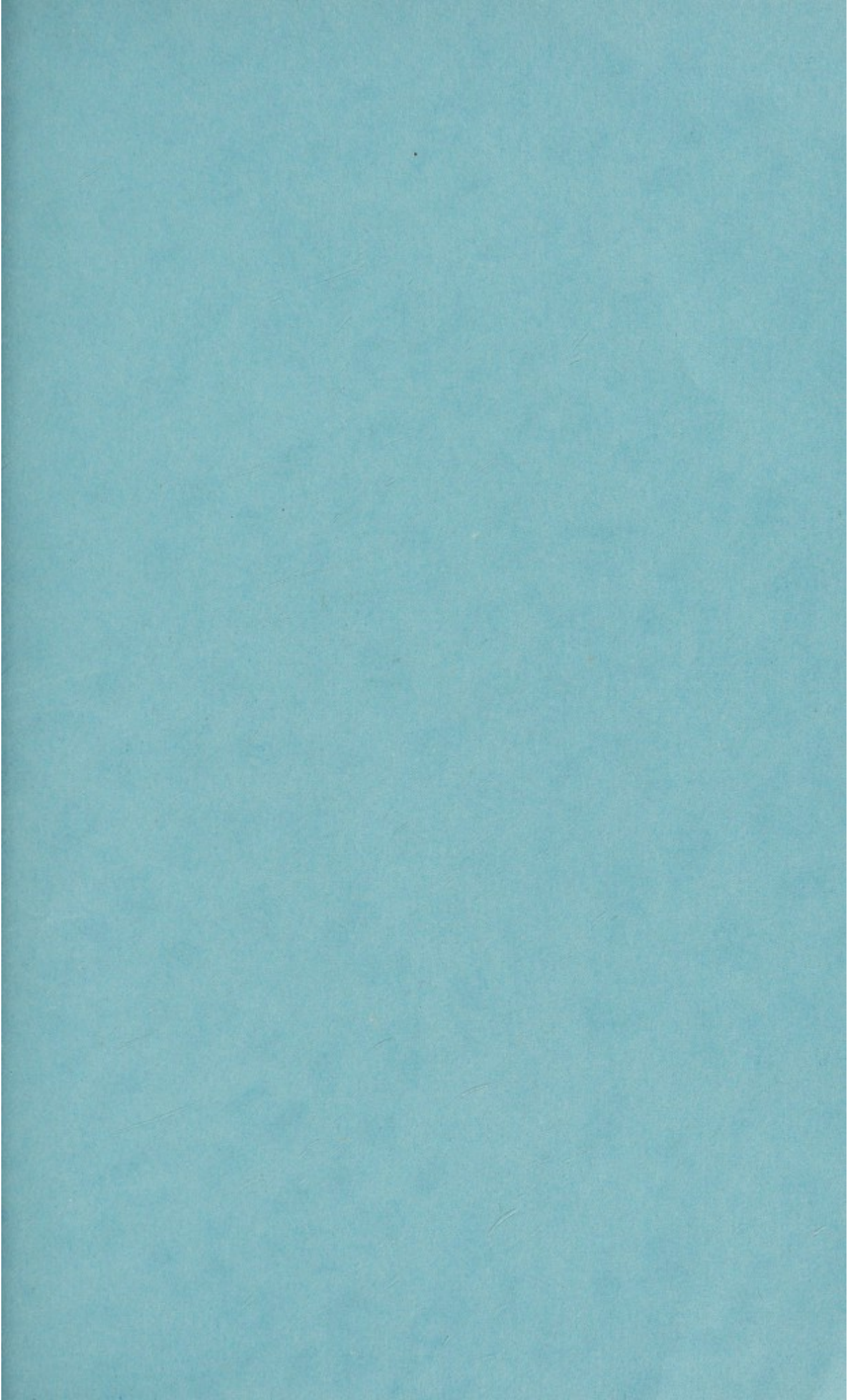
NO CHANGE

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**\*SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS**

NO CHANGE







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