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BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1959

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ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

Telephone: Torquay { 88204
88205

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 1959, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The Vital Statistics show that the health of the Borough continues on the same level without any marked changes. The Birth Rate shows a slight decrease from 11.89 per 1,000 population in 1958 to 10.44, whilst the Death Rate rose from 15.94 in 1958 to 16.15 per 1,000. When these Returns are adjusted to allow for the age and sex distribution of the population in Torquay to admit of more accurate comparisons, the death rate becomes 11.46 which is slightly lower than the rate for the country as a whole, which was 11.6. The adjusted birth rate was 11.48, which is very much lower than the national figure of 17.46, and this after due allowance has been made for the large number of women beyond child-bearing age in the local population. The most notable factor about the vital statistics was the Infant Mortality Rate which was 14.98 per 1,000 live births and is the lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough. The national rate for infant deaths was 22.2 which is also a record low figure. It is also pleasing that for the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths in Torquay.

Infectious diseases also continued to show a low incidence, there being a total of 376 cases notified apart from Tuberculosis and of these, 319 were cases of Measles which is a very low figure, as 1959 was a year when an epidemic of measles was expected. Active immunisation against certain of the infectious diseases is one of the most potent weapons in the armoury used in their prevention and control; and it is through this means that Diphtheria has almost disappeared from the community. For the thirteenth successive year there was no case of this disease in the Borough. A more detailed account of this type of protection against disease is given in the section of this report devoted to infectious diseases.

Whilst on the subject of infectious diseases, I feel that a word on the contamination of bathing beaches by sewage would not be inappropriate in view of the widespread publicity which has been given to the topic and which has aroused an intense interest on the part of the general public who, in my opinion, have a right to know the facts with regard to this subject.

The normal method of sewage disposal of coastal towns is merely to discharge it, untreated, into the sea, as this is usually the easiest and is certainly the cheapest, means. However, owing to the growth of these seaside towns and the great increase in the number of holidaymakers due to the present day social system and the modern ease of travel, those sewage systems have now to carry a greater load than when they were originally installed many years ago. This means that the amount of sewage pollution in some cases is reaching a point where it is visible to the eye and, aesthetically, extremely unpleasant. In 1953, a committee was set up by the Medical Research Council to investigate the medical and bacteriological aspects of sewage contamination of bathing beaches and it completed its studies during the year, issuing its report on 1st December. This department, along with those of many other resorts, took part in the investigation, supplying the committee with clinical histories and other details of cases of certain selected diseases and by selecting controls for comparison purposes. The main substance of the final report was that, on the evidence available, although such contamination may be aesthetically unpleasant, the risk to health of bathing in sewage contaminated sea water can for all practical purposes be ignored

This report caused some little stir in Public Health circles and is still the subject of frequent argument and debate. The operative phrase is "on the evidence available" and I feel there is a need for further investigations before one can dismiss so lightly this subject as a public health risk. For myself, I should certainly not be happy about bathing in polluted sea water or to allow my family to do so, and with regard to conditions found on our own local bathing beaches, I am happy that no such restriction is necessary. The Torquay sewage system discharges through one outfall only – at Hopes Nose, which was selected only after exhaustive tests had proved that any discharge from this site was swept out to sea and up channel. Further float tests were made here recently, again proving satisfactory, and having personally inspected the outfall and conditions there, I am quite satisfied that no sewage from this source contaminates the beaches. Naturally, the water in the immediate vicinity of the outfall will be polluted but, due to its rather inaccessible situation, the likelihood of anyone bathing in the effluent is remote. Under normal conditions, the beaches at Torquay are completely free from contamination by sewage.

There have been occasions when evidence of some contamination has been observed but these have been at times of severe storm when storm overflows are in operation, or due to the presence of naval ships lying off shore and, on one occasion, due to a breakdown at the main pumping station. But these occasions are very rare and can be disregarded as an undue risk to health. Holidaymakers

and residents alike can be assured that they can enjoy the pleasures of sea bathing off the beaches free from any unpleasantness or any danger to their health.

To continue on a similar subject, I should like to draw your attention to the Public Swimming Baths at the Marine Spa. This pool was constructed almost fifty years ago and although a modern "break-point" chlorinating system was installed in 1955 so that the treatment plant provides a high standard of safety and clarity in the water, there are many other aspects in which the bath falls short of present day standards of health, safety and convenience. The reconstruction and modernisation of the baths is long overdue and although this has been delayed by economic restrictions on capital expenditure, I hope that this most essential public health project will be kept to the forefront of those schemes which are under the consideration of the Council.

One of the major legislative changes during 1959 in the field of Health was the passing of the Mental Health Act on 29th July. Its purpose is to repeal the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890–1930 and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913–1938; and to make new provisions for the care and treatment of the mentally sick, and for the management of their property and affairs. The principal aim of the Act is to bring the treatment of mental illness into line with that of physical illness, so that, as far as possible, persons suffering from mental disorder can be cared for in the community rather than in institutions, and when hospital treatment is necessary, to enable a person to be admitted as easily and informally as in the case of general hospitals. In cases where compulsion is still necessary, there will no longer be formal certification by a magistrate, but a somewhat simplified process with adequate safeguards to the liberty of the person. Much of the work under this Act will fall on the County Council who have already established a junior Training Centre in Paignton to which subnormal children from Torquay may go and they hope to enlarge this still further to give greater accommodation.

The problem of slum-clearance once again concerned the officers of this department. There are many parts of Torquay where the houses are of sufficient antiquity to have outlived their normal useful life and which do not match up to the standards of modern living, convenience and health, while they are not of a sufficient age to be of any historical merit so as to warrant the excessive cost of putting them in a state of repair to bring them into a proper habitable condition. A survey of the whole town was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors which brought to light some 268 properties which it was felt should be dealt with, affecting 313 families. Before proceeding with any action under a slum clearance programme, it was first necessary to ascertain whether the Corporation would be in a position to re-house their families and to this end a joint meeting was held between the Public Health (General) Sub-Committee and

the Housing (General and Production) Sub-Committee. It was then decided that this would be possible if spread over a period of 7 years and the sites of the cleared areas redeveloped. Accordingly, the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector was agreed in principle and a decision was made by the Council to proceed with the first part of the scheme which is to be a Clearance Area comprising 44 properties in Braddons Street, Stentiford Hill Road and Madrepore Road.

In the meantime, action has been taken with regard to an area in Melville Lane, consisting of a row of 15 dilapidated properties, five of which were inhabited, and some of the remainder used as stores and garages. A Compulsory Purchase Order was made, so that the land could be redeveloped by the Council after demolition and, after a Public Inquiry, the Order was confirmed by the Minister.

Finally, I should like to draw your attention to the practice of indiscriminate camping on the roadside verges, lay-bys and car parks which reached a peak during 1959, and to my comments on this subject to be found on page 34 of this report.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the able work and loyal support of all the staff in the Department, and my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration which I have received from them.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MacTAGGART,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health
(and Assistant County Medical Officer):

D. K. MacTAGGART
M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary

Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. PARTRIDGE, A.R.S.H., C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

District Public Health Inspectors:

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.

F. HOLLOWAY, 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

Shorthand-Typist
Mrs. K. E. A. PARTRIDGE
(Commenced 9.11.59)

Manager of Abattoir
G. A. AYRES

Rodent Operator
W. LEE

Attendant at Abattoir
D. LEWIS

Female Cleansing Attendant
*Mrs. I. LIBBY
(Commenced 12.1.59)

Disinfector, Van Driver and Cleansing Attendant
R. FORD

* Part time

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1959	51,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to Rate Books	16,410
Rateable Value (end of 1959)	£1,028,416
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1959)	£4,200

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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

Torquay is 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, 1,006 in 1955 and 989 in 1956; since then there has been a slight increase, the figures being 1,198 in 1957 and 1,113 in 1958.

The following shows the extent of unemployment in 1959:

	Men	*Women*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
January, 1959 ..	733	298	30	22	1,083
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
July, 1959	179	54	—	—	233

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 1959

which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births:	
Number	534
Rate per 1,000 population	10.44
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.6%
Stillbirths:	
Number	7
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	12.94
Total Live and Stillbirths	541
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	8
Infant Mortality Rates:	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14.98
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.75
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	33.33
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	14.98
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	14.98
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	27.73
Maternal mortality (including abortion)	0
Number of deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	0
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	16.15
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	167
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from 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 1959 is 50,160, and this figure is used in calculating the appropriate statistical returns.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year was 534, of which 275 were male and 259 female. This represents a live birth rate of 10.44 per 1,000 population compared with 11.89 in 1958 when there were 601 live births. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 17.6.

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 1.10 and, after multiplying the crude rate by this, a corrected birth rate of 11.48 is obtained.

Of the total live births, 504 were legitimate and 30 illegitimate, giving an illegitimacy rate of 56 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 49 in 1958 and 51 for the Country as a whole. This figure had risen from 64 in 1939 to 177 in 1945, subsequently falling and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

There were 7 stillbirths during the year giving a rate of 12.94 per 1,000 live and stillbirths compared with 21.17 in the previous year and a rate of 19.7 for England and Wales.

BIRTHS (including Stillbirths) REGISTERED IN TORQUAY

PLACE OF CONFINEMENT

	Domiciliary Confinement	*Hospital Confinement*	*Total*
Residents of Torquay ..	138	368	506
Residents of other areas ..	6	244	250
Total Births registered in Torquay	144	612	756

This table shows that 80.77 per cent of confinements among Torquay residents took place in hospital. The large number of hospital confinements in the Borough of residents of other areas is due to the fact that the major maternity unit for the South Devon area is situated at the Torbay Hospital in Torquay. In addition to these figures, 35 confinements of Torquay residents took place outside the district, and of these 15 are known to have taken place in hospital. It is not known whether the remaining 20 births were hospital or home confinements.

TABLE A

Causes of Death in 1959		*Males*	*Females*
	All Causes	359	467
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	15
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	24	6
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	15
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	9
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	43	44
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	51	101
18.	Coronary disease, angina	93	67
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	8	14
20.	Other heart disease	32	57
21.	Other circulatory disease	17	33
22.	Influenza	4	8
23.	Pneumonia	9	17
24.	Bronchitis	20	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	9	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	39
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	—
34.	All other accidents	6	9
35.	Suicide	5	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total	5	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate	5	2
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate	—	1
	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks — Total	5	3
	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks — Legitimate	5	2
	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks — Illegitimate	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 week — Total	5	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 week — Legitimate	5	2
	Deaths of Infants under 1 week — Illegitimate	—	1
	Stillbirths ... — Total	4	3
	Stillbirths ... — Legitimate	4	3
	Stillbirths ... — Illegitimate	—	—

TABLE B

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959 (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	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	1
2. Tuberculosis other	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3. Syphilitic disease	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
4. Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5. Whooping Cough	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
6. Meningococcal infections	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
8. Measles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	3	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	10	14
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	12	8	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	15	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	6	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	3	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	85	–	–	–	2	–	1	1	10	7	31	33
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
16. Diabetes	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	152	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	18	40	91
18. Coronary disease, angina	164	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	11	19	73	60
19. Hypertension with heart disease	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	16
20. Other heart disease	89	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	6	17	65
21. Other circulatory disease	47	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	8	37
22. Influenza	12	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	1	7
23. Pneumonia	26	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	1	7	15
24. Bronchitis	31	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	10	7	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
31. Congenital Malformations	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	50	6	–	–	1	–	–	3	3	1	9	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	1	–	–	1
34. All other accidents	14	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	1	1	1	8
35. Suicide	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	3	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Totals	826	8	–	1	6	3	6	15	40	93	237	417

Marriages.

The marriage rate was 4.53 per 1,000 population compared with 5.26 in 1958, 5.6 in 1957, 5.1 in 1956, 5.4 in 1955 and 4.9 in 1954; the rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 15.0 per 1,000 population

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 826, of which 359 were males and 467 were females.

The crude death rate was 16.15 per 1,000 population compared with 15.94 in 1958; the death rate in 1959 for England and Wales was 11.6.

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 0.71, and the adjusted death rate is therefore 11.46.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay: Heart Disease, 321; Cancer, 167; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 152, which between them are responsible for over three-quarters of the total deaths. These proportional death rates are given in greater detail in Table C.

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.

TABLE C

PROPORTION OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES, 1959

Cause of Death	*Number*	*% of Total Deaths*
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	321	38.86
Cancer	167	20.22
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	152	18.40
Respiratory Diseases	73	8.84
Violence (including suicides)	28	3.39
Tuberculosis	6	0.73
All other Causes	79	9.56
	826	100%

Infant Mortality.

During the year 8 infants died in the first year of life, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 14.98 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 22.2 for England and Wales. This is the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in Torquay. The death rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births was 13.75, and the death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births was 33.33. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated; thus, the actual numbers of infant deaths for the preceding eight years, 1951–1958 inclusive, were 26, 31, 16, 13, 13, 11, 20 and 15.

All 8 infant deaths took place in the first week of life, so that the neo-natal mortality rate was identical to the infant mortality rate, 14.98. The perinatal mortality rate was 27.73 per 1,000 total (live and still-) births, that for England and Wales being 34.2.

The following table (Table D) gives the details of the total deaths registered under 1 year:

TABLE D

Cause of death	*Age in weeks*					*Age in months*					*Total all infant deaths*
	Under 1 week	*1 to 2*	*2 to 3*	*3 to 4*	*Total under 4 wks.*	*1 to 3*	*3 to 6*	*6 to 9*	*9 to 12*	*Total 1–12 mths.*	
Pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Prematurity	4	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	4
Congenital Malformations	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
Infection	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Haemolytic Disease ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Atelectasis	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Gastro-Enteritis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS	8	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	8

Maternal Mortality.

There was no maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding years 1951–58, inclusive was 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0.

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.

Mrs. K. E. A. Partridge was transferred to the Public Health Department on the 9th November, 1959, from the Town Clerk's Department, as Shorthand-Typist.

(ii) *Committees.*

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

Public Health Committee
Housing Committee
Water Committee
Highways Committee

2. *Nursing Homes.*

There was one change in registration during the year, one home being registered for the first time, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December:

	No. of Homes	*Number of beds provided for*		
		Maternity	*Others*	*Totals*
Homes first registered during the year	1	–	14	14
Homes whose registrations were withdrawn during the year ..	–	–	–	–
Homes on the register at the end of the year	10	5	105	110

Routine inspections were carried out by your Medical Officer.

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 persons 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, 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 7 cases were investigated and, of these, 5 eventually consented to enter hospital voluntarily, and Orders were obtained for the other 2.

Details of the 2 cases were as follows:

The first case was a woman vagrant who was found in a semi-collapsed state in a bus shelter in January. She was in a filthy and verminous condition and had been sleeping in the open. She refused to go to hospital or an institution and an Order was obtained for her to be taken to a Devon County Council Home in North Devon where she died two days later.

The second case was an elderly woman living on her own in a cottage and quite unable to look after herself or her home or to do any cooking or shopping. She was dependent on neighbours bringing her food. She was removed, on an Order, to Newton Abbot Hospital (Geriatric Section) where she settled down quite happily and is still there.

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, 13 burials were carried out under this section, compared with 5 in 1958, 8 in 1957, 14 in 1956, 8 in 1955, 6 in 1954, 9 in 1953 and 7 in 1952.

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*) Throughout the year the quality of the water supplied has been maintained at its usual high standard, being pure and wholesome in character and suitable in every way for public supply purposes.

(*b*) Owing to the abnormal drought conditions during the summer, the like of which have not occurred for over fifty years, 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 31st August amounted to only 414 million gallons. Further depletion of storage continued throughout the months of September and by the 17th October the amount in store had sunk to 231 million gallons, which was the lowest quantity recorded. After this, storage increased slightly to 243 million gallons by the 12th November, following which, increasing rainfall improved the supply position and the reservoirs began to fill.

As a result of the exceptionally prolonged drought conditions it became necessary for measures to be taken to conserve water, and restrictions were imposed as from 25th July prohibiting the use of water by hosepipe for gardens, lawns and greens, washing of vehicles and washing down of yards, courts and pavements, which restrictions were extended on 20th August prohibiting the use of water for any of these purposes. The almost complete absence of rain in August and September made it essential to extend further the economy measures and as from 10th September, the water supply was shut off wherever practical each night.

In addition to these economy measures, the Corporation applied to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an Order to enable them to reduce temporarily the amount of compensation water discharged from Fernworthy reservoir into the South Teign river by 750,000 gallons per day, which Order was made on the 2nd October.

Consequent upon an improvement in the water supply position following an increase in rainfall commencing on the 12th November the quantity of compensation water discharged from Fernworthy reservoir was increased to the full statutory amount of 1,250,000 gallons per day as from the 16th November and on the following day all restrictions placed on the use of water were removed including the nightly shut-off of the supply.

The Corporation has been aware for some time that the consumption was approaching the yield of the resources, and to meet increasing demand promoted a Bill in the 1958–59 Session of Parliament for new sources of supply from the East Dart and North Teign rivers, together with the raising of the Fernworthy Dam, but unfortunately the Bill was rejected by the House of Commons Select Committee.

The rejection of the Corporation's Bill made it necessary to look for some long-term alternative source of supply and the Corporation now propose to seek powers to take water from the lower reaches of the River Teign so as to increase the yield of its resources from the present figure of 4,500,000 gallons per day to 7,500,000 gallons per day.

(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 Sodium Aluminate, filtration through pressure filters, addition of Milk-of-Lime 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 application of all the chemicals is automically controlled in proportion to the quantity of water passing through the filtration works. In the case of the chlorine, the dose is normally about one part per million, but it 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 treated water, and the following copies are typical of the reports received.

RAW WATER

(A)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Fernworthy Reservoir – Taken 15.12.59

(B)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Raw water main feeding – Filtration Works at Tottiford – Taken 15.12.59

FILTERED WATER

(C)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Filtered water main from pressure filters at Tottiford (with coagulation but prior to alkalisation with lime and sterilisation with gaseous chlorine) – Source: Fernworthy and Tottiford catchments – Taken 24.6.59.

FULLY TREATED WATER

(D)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Trunk mains at Tottiford – Taken 15.12.59

(E)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Great Hill Service Reservoir – Taken 15.12.59

(F)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Gallowsgate Service Reservoir – Taken 24.6.59

(G)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Warberry Service Reservoir – Taken 15.12.59

(H)—Chemical and Bacteriological – Chapel Hill Service Reservoir – Taken 15.12.59

Reports by The Counties Public Health Laboratories

66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

A. Sample 15.12.59.

Fernworthy Reservoir

Raw Water Inlet at Trenchford Reservoir – Fernworthy Catchment

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a light brown deposit.

Microscopical examination: Mainly mineral matter and organic debris with a very few diatoms and chlorophyceae.

Colour	25	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	6.0	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	50	Free Carbon Dioxide	5
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Dissolved Solids dried at 180 C	38
Hardness: Total	10	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	2
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Carbonate .. 2 Non-Carbonate	8
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.069	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.063	Oxygen Absorbed	2.5
Metals: Iron	0.10	Residual Chlorine	—
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of developing Colonies on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 30 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 70 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 116 per ml.

	Present in	*Absent from*	*Probable Number*
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	1 ml.	0.1 ml.	80 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type1)	1 ml.	0.1 ml.	80 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample is bright in appearance and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is acid in reaction, extremely soft in character and has a very low content of mineral constituents. It is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. Colour is appreciable, but not marked, and organic quality is satisfactory for a raw water. Similarly, bacterial impurity is not unduly marked.

B. Sample 15.12.59.

Raw water main feeding pressure filters at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey Devon. Source: Tottiford and Fernworthy Catchments.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a very slight deposit.
Microscopical examination: Mineral matter and organic debris with diatoms and protozoa.

Colour	21	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	6.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	105	Free Carbon Dioxide	3
Chlorine present as Chloride	16	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	75
Hardness: Total	25	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	5
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.8	Carbonate 5	Non-Carbonate 20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.059	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.077	Oxygen Absorbed	1.7
Metals: Iron	0.10	Residual Chlorine	—
Manganese	0.05		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 15 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 22 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22 C. 65 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	*Present in* *10 ml.	*Absent from* 1 ml.	*Probable Number* 25 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	20 ml.	10 ml.	8 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	

* Aerogenes (Type 1)

This sample is bright in appearance and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is acid in reaction, very soft in character, has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron and manganese. Colour is not marked, and organic quality is satisfactory. Bacterial impurity is very moderate.

C. Sample 24.6.59.

Filtered water main from pressure filters at Tottiford (with coagulation but prior to alkalisation with lime and sterilization with gaseous chlorine). Source: Fernworthy and Tottiford Catchments.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a few particles.

Colour	4	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	5.9	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	68	Free Carbon Dioxide	10
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	50
Hardness: Total	15	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	4
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.7	Carbonate 4	Non-Carbonate 11
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.005	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.044	Oxygen Absorbed	1.0
Metals: Iron	0.08	Residual Chlorine	—
Aluminium	0.07		
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 3 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ..	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent from* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1) ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and aluminium. The water is distinctly acid in reaction, very soft in character and has a low content of mineral constituents. It shows only a trace of colour and is of satisfactory organic quality. Bacterial purity is of the highest standard. These results are indicative of an efficiently coagulated and filtered water.

D. Sample 15.12.59.

Trunk mains at Tottiford.
Fully treated water – coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated.
Source: Fernworthy and Tottiford Catchments.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Colour	5	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity ..	110	Free Carbon Dioxide ..	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	17	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	75
Hardness: Total	30	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	8
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.9	Carbonate .. 8	Non-Carbonate 22
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.040	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.038	Oxygen Absorbed	0.65
Metals: Iron	0.03	Residual Chlorine	0.20
Aluminium ..	0.07		
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese ..	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 1 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 1 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 4 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ..	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent from* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1) ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron and aluminium. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents. 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 15.12.59.

Great Hill Service Reservoir, Torquay.
Fully treated water – coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated.
Source: Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Colour	7	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.3	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	110	Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	17	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	75
Hardness: Total	30	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	9
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.6	Carbonate 9	Non-Carbonate 21
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.023	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.033	Oxygen Absorbed	0.65
Metals: Iron	0.03	Residual Chlorine	0.15
Aluminium	0.06		
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 1 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 1 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 1 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent in* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from traces of iron and aluminium. 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.

F. Sample 24.6.59.

Gallowsgate Service Reservoir, Torquay.
Fully treated water – coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated.
Source: Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a very slight brown deposit.
Microscopical examination: Mineral matter, ferruginous mineral matter and organic debris.

Colour	10	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	8.7	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	85	Free Carbon Dioxide	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	13	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	60
Hardness: Total	25	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	12
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.7	Carbonate 12	Non-Carbonate 13
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.007	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.012	Oxygen Absorbed	0.40
Metals: Iron	0.07	Residual Chlorine	0.15
Aluminium	0.06		
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Managanese	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 16 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent from* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from traces of iron and aluminium. The water is very soft in character and has a low content of mineral constituents. It is practically free from 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 15.12.59.

Warberry Service Reservoir, Torquay.
Fully treated water – coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated.
Source: Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Colour	6	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	110	Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	17	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	75
Hardness: Total	30	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	9
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.8	Carbonate 9	Non-Carbonate 21
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.049	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.035	Oxygen Absorbed	0.55
Metals: Iron	0.08	Residual Chlorine	0.14
Aluminium	0.07		
Manganese	0.04		
Zinc, Copper, Lead	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 0 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ..	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent from* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1) ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron, manganese and aluminium. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constitutents. 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.

H. SAMPLE 15.12.59.

Chapel Hill Service Reservoir, Torquay.
Fully treated water – coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated.
Source: Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Colour	4	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.9	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity ..	110	Free Carbon Dioxide ..	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	17	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	75
Hardness: Total	30	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	8
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.8	Carbonate .. 8	Non-Carbonate 22
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.044	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.038	Oxygen Absorbed	0.25
Metals: Iron	0.04	Residual Chlorine	0.14
Aluminium ..	0.05		
Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese ..	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.	3 days at 20°–22°C. 1 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ..	*Present in* — ml.	*Absent from* 100 ml.	*Probable Number* 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1) ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and aluminium. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents. 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.; 70 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in 64 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 6 samples the probable number of coli aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was 5.

These samples were taken during the period of water shortage when the supplies were shut off each night, and these substandard results are a direct consequence of this.

Such an intermittent flow of water through the distribution system produces conditions favourable to bacterial growth and the introduction of contaminants.

(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 negligible traces of iron, manganese and aluminium, 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, other than a close watch on the situation during the period of water shortage.

(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.*

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

(vii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. F. T. W. Nixon, M.C., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.MUN.E., A.M.T.P.I., has kindly given me the following details in connection with drainage, sewerage and public cleansing:—

During the year work has been in progress on carrying out extensions to the sewerage system in the Greathill area and Moor Lane. Relief sewers are being constructed in part of Union Street and St. Marychurch Road. In addition, normal extensions are taking place on Estates being developed throughout the Borough.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

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

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

There has been no alteration during the year in the cleansing and emptying of cesspools and septic tanks.

Two new Compressmore vehicles were purchased during 1959, and put into service on 25th May, 1959, which permitted the reduction of refuse collection rounds from nine to eight. There has been an increase in collection and disposal due to new private housing development. Disposal is carried out by controlled tipping.

(x) *Salvage.*

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

	Tons	*Cwts.*	*Qrs.*	*Lbs.*
Paper, cardboard, books, etc.	514	15	3	0
Wrought Aluminium	1	3	3	27
Cast Aluminium		3	0	4
Zinc		9	0	15
Rags	11	0	2	0
Carpet	2	2	2	0
Woollens	1	0	3	1
Felt		1	3	0
Scrap Iron	23	2	0	0
Copper, clean		9	0	22
Lead	1	10	3	19
Brass		14	0	24
Pewter			1	21½
Burnt Copper Wire		4	3	24
Unclean Cable		6	2	0
Bottles, Jars, etc.				28 dozen
Oil				390 gallons
Batteries				10 number
Bedsteads				2 number

(xi) *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 there are a number of small streams. Complaints of oil pollution were received in respect of one of the streams which rises near the railway at Lowes Bridge and flows through Torre, along Avenue Road and through Kings Drive to the sea.

Investigations were carried out and revealed that a certain amount of oil was escaping from an oil engine via a sump in the nearby brickworks and a suitable interceptor was recommended for fitting between the sump and the drain which led to the stream. This Works may not be the only source of oil pollution and observations are being maintained on the stream to ascertain its quality.

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

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

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

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

The following inspections were carried out:—

Dwellinghouses

New Houses inspected	258
Habitation Certificates signed	178
Council House applications – visits	92
Council Houses inspected	93

Work done in consequence of service of notices:—

Roofs repaired	8 renewed ..	2
Chimneys repaired ..	1 renewed ..	2
Eaves gutters repaired ..	4 renewed ..	2
Rainwater Pipes repaired	3 renewed ..	12
External rendering repaired	6 renewed ..	2
Internal rendering repaired	11 renewed ..	1
Ceilings repaired	2 renewed ..	2
Windows repaired ..	8 renewed ..	8
Doors repaired	2 renewed ..	10
Floors repaired	7 renewed ..	2
Stoves and Fireplaces repaired	– renewed ..	2

Stairs repaired	1 renewed	–
Handrails repaired	1 renewed	–
Yards cleansed	– repaved	20
Rooms cleansed		2
Larders provided		2
Dustbins provided		2
Miscellaneous defects remedied		14
Drains and Sewers:		
Inspected		339
Tests applied		288
Drains repaired or relaid		132
Cesspools inspected, repaired, etc.		73
Revisits to drainage work		775

Drainage work carried out:

Interceptors fixed	5
Fresh Air Inlets provided	8
Inspection Chambers built	44
Iron Frames and Covers provided	50
Soil and Vent Pipes fixed	33
Gullies provided	41
Waste Pipes provided	77
Waste Pipes trapped	78
Flushing Cisterns provided	42
Flushing Cisterns repaired	3
Flushing Cisterns renewed	6
Water Closets repaired	2
Water Closets renewed	13
Water Closets provided	48
Water Closet Apartments built	20
Water Closet Apartments ventilated	4
Water Closet Apartments cleansed	–
Lavatory Basins provided	64
Baths provided	32
Sinks provided	20
Choked Drains cleared	78
Hot Water Supplies provided	11

General Public Health	*Inspections*
Stables	4
Piggeries	22
Open Spaces – Nuisances	7
Public Conveniences	18
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	72
Outworkers	1
Atmospheric Pollution	18
Cinemas, Dance Halls	8
Marine Stores	4
Shops – Shops Act	8
Schools	21
Offices	2
Keeping of Animals	10
Offensive Accumulations removed	17
Noise nuisances	1
Fish Quay	54

Miscellaneous	
Complaints investigated	278
Other Visits	774
Infectious Diseases	66

FACTORIES ACT, 1937–1959.

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	55	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	260	84	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding outworkers' premises)	3	14	6	—	—
TOTAL		329	99	7	—

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

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel — Making, etc. ..	13	25	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel — Cleaning and Washing	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	70	25	—	—	—	—	—

Factories Act, 1959.

This Act amends the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 and makes further provision as to the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in factories or in premises or operations to which these Acts apply. In the main, the provisions are related to fire escapes and the prevention of fire; the duty placed on District Councils to ensure that the regulations as to fire escapes are carried out, is now to be the function of the Fire Authority. In addition, there are two sections which deal with improved washing facilities and first aid.

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 four inspections were made.

Smoke Abatement.

In Torquay, little work has been undertaken under this section as there is no great concentration of industrial premises. However, atmospheric pollution is also caused by smoke from domestic chimneys and it is probable that the Department will have to investigate the extent of this in Torquay in the future. Eighteen observations have been made during the year in connexion with alleged nuisances but nothing has occurred which has justified any formal notices or action.

Offensive Trades.

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

Diseases of Animals Act, 1951.

No action was taken during the year under this Act.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

This Order, which came into force on the 1st June, 1957, prohibits the feeding of unboiled waste foods to certain animals or to poultry. Waste foods may, if not boiled for one hour, spread foot-and-mouth and other diseases. It also provided that, where a person has collected from the premises of other persons onto his own premises any waste foods for feeding to animals or poultry, the waste foods shall not be used on or moved from his premises unless they have first been boiled for one hour in a plant licensed by the local authority. The Order also prohibits the carriage of animals, poultry, or feeding-stuffs in a vehicle that is carrying unboiled waste foods; and it requires the disinfection of vehicles and containers after each occasion in which they are used for the carriage of unboiled waste foods before they are again used for the carriage of animals, poultry or feeding-stuffs.

Eleven licences were issued by the Department for the operation of boiling plants.

Disinfections and Disinfestations.

218 premises were treated during the year and 32 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected. 108 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:—

Type of Material	*Satisfactory*
2 Samples Rag Flock	2
1 Coir Fibre	1
1 Cotton Felt	1

Camping Sites.

There are five licensed camping sites in the Borough, four of which are used during the summer months only. The other is a small residential site which has been licensed on a temporary basis. There are several other small sites which are unlicensed, but this state of affairs is likely to be rectified when the new caravan camping legislation becomes law.

There has also arisen during the past few years, the practice of holiday makers camping overnight in their cars either on roadside verges, in lay-bys, and even in car parks in the centre of the town. This practice was very noticeable during the summer of 1959 due to the wonderful weather conditions which favoured this style of living. The peak was reached in the period around the August Bank Holiday, as might be expected. Public health problems inevitably arise from the behaviour of these people, as they make camp where there is no sanitation or water supply and no refuse disposal facilities. The consequence is, as was disclosed by visits of inspection, that excreta, rubbish and food scraps are deposited in the hedgerows and bushes, leading to unpleasant odours, encouragement of flies, rodents and other disease-carrying vermin, as well as rendering these public places disgusting to the public. Camping in an isolated place without the amenities mentioned when practised by campers who appreciate the beauties of the countryside surrounding them and the importance of good hygiene in a camp is one thing, but this indiscriminate polluting of the roadsides and open spaces by undisciplined persons in not inconsiderable numbers, within the Borough which, like any other modern community depends on good sanitary practices as its first defence against

disease, is quite another. It is difficult to prevent these occurrences with the legal powers at present at our disposal, but it must be remembered that these people are a danger to themselves and to everyone else as long as they are permitted to behave in this way.

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 two contraventions of these sections were discovered.

No exemptions were granted.

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.

At the request of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Corporation resolved that licences issued by the Local Authority should be endorsed that proprietors of pet shops issue leaflets with each animal sold, giving details of feeding, care, etc., of such animal.

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	6
Number of licences granted	6

The premises licensed have been regularly inspected during the year.

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. J. A. Dall, 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 Public Swimming Bath at the Marine Spa measures 90 feet in length by 30 feet in breadth and has a depth ranging from 4 feet 6 inches at the shallow end to 7 feet 6 inches at the deep end. It is a sea water bath, the water being pumped direct from the sea in Beacon Cove and being changed approximately four times a year. The water is heated by a steam jet to a temperature of 75°F. and is treated by continuous circulation through pressure sand filters with alum precipitation and chlorination by a modern break-point system which was installed in 1955. This break-point chlorinating system has been operating satisfactorily and has maintained consistently good results in the samples of water examined. However, the swimming bath was constructed nearly fifty years ago, being completed in 1916, and although these measures are doing all that is scientifically possible at present to achieve high standards of safety and clarity in the water, there are many aspects in which these baths fall short of present day standards of health, safety and convenience. The reconstruction and modernisation of the baths is long overdue and although this has been delayed by economic restrictions in capital expenditure, it is hoped that this most essential public health project will be kept in the foreground of those schemes which are under the consideration of the Council.

The Corporation Swimming Baths are visited weekly and samples of water taken for bacteriological examination from both the shallow and deep ends. Tests to determine the pH level, or acidity of the water, and the chlorine content are also made at each visit.

Complaints are occasionally received about eye smarting which is occasionally experienced by bathers. This can be due to too acid a water. Sea water is naturally alkaline, but acidity can be produced by the addition of chlorine which is a very acid substance. To neutralise this, the water is dosed with soda ash, and it is essential to maintain a pH level on the alkaline side of neutrality if this discomfort is to be avoided. Eye smarting can also be caused by a too heavy or too frequent dosage of alum, which is added to increase the efficiency of the filter and which can also lower the pH level. Again, chlorine in insufficient amount can cause this trouble due to its combining with ammonia to form nitrogen trichloride (Agene) which has an unpleasant odour and irritating effect. If more chlorine is added, then this compound is destroyed by the release of its nitrogen so that only free and uncombined chlorine, which is not an irritant, is present in the water. It can be seen, therefore, that the control of swimming-pool water is a complicated task which requires care and skill on the part of the operator, who must maintain a satisfactory pH and an adequate free chlorine residual which will fluctuate with the number of bathers using the pool.

In the Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects No. 71—*The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies*—2nd Impression published in January, 1957, it states in reference to swimming-bath water the following:

> "Swimming-bath water is exposed not only to faecal contamination but also to contamination with organisms from the skin and nasopharynx of the bathers. It is therefore recommended that no sample from the bath should contain any coliform organisms in 100 ml. of water; and that in 75 per cent of the samples examined from that bath the 24-hour plate count at 37°C. from 1 ml. of water should not exceed 10 colonies and the remainder should not exceed 100 colonies. In any instance in which coliform organisms are present or the plate count is above 100 colonies per ml. the bath should be re-examined, and adjustments made in the methods of its treatment. More attention is paid to the 37°C. plate count in the examination of swimming-bath water than in that of drinking water, because, as just explained, swimming-bath water is liable to be contaminated with organisms coming from the human nose, mouth and skin as well as from the bowel. Moreover, because swimming-bath water is chlorinated, it is justifiable to set an upper limit to the plate count, whereas in drinking water, which is not always chlorinated, this cannot be done. It must be pointed out, however, that the failure of an occasional sample of swimming-bath water to comply with the suggested standards does not necessarily indicate that the water is dangerous; it does, however, call for an inspection to see whether there are any unusual sources of contamination, and an examination of the processing technique to ensure that filtration is proceeding satisfactorily, and that the correct strength of free chlorine is being maintained in the bath water."

Samples were submitted for bacteriological examinations from the Corporation Swimming Bath, the results being as follows:—

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM COUNTS:

	Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*
Deep End	45	2	47
Shallow End ..	44	3	47
	89	5	94

PLATE COUNTS:

	0–10		11–100		*over* 100		*Total*	
	No.	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%
Deep End ..	43	91.49	3	6.38	1	2.13	47	
Shallow End ..	41	87.24	3	6.38	3	6.38	47	
	84	89.36	6	6.38	4	4.26	94	

(*b*) *Privately-owned Swimming Baths.*

There are three privately-owned swimming baths in connection with hotels in the Borough. The first of these is a covered bath constructed before the war with no mechanical system of filtration and chlorination. The bath measures 45 feet by 18 feet and its depth is 3 feet 6 inches at the shallow end and 7 feet at the deep end. The water which is fresh water drawn from the town's main supply is heated to a temperature of 74°F. It was built as a "fill and draw" pool, the bath being emptied and refilled with water once a week. Due to the drought conditions and water shortage in 1959, the pool had to be closed completely for over two months from mid-September. The system of treatment, consisting of adding a chlorine solution to the bath by hand, was completely unreliable and had been the source of concern to this department for many years. However, I am pleased to report that our recommendations have been adopted by the hotel management and during the period of enforced closure in 1959 a completely up-to-date system of treatment by means of pressure filters and automatic chlorination was installed and after initial "teething" troubles has greatly improved the clarity and quality of the water as shown by the bacteriological tests.

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

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM COUNTS:

	Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*
Deep End	34	7	41
Shallow End ..	34	7	41
	68	14	82

PLATE COUNTS:

	0–10		11–100		*over* 100		*Total*	
	No.	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%
Deep end ..	34	82.93	5	12.19	2	4.88	41	
Shallow end ..	30	73.17	9	21.95	2	4.88	41	
	64	78.05	14	17. 07	4	4.88	82	

Of the others, one 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 mains water heated to 60°F. with a continuous circulation through a sand filter and an oil-burning heater, and there is a gas-injection chlorination plant. This pool is used during the summer months only.

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from these baths, the results being as follows:—

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM COUNTS:

	Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*
Deep End	9	–	9
Shallow End ..	7	2	9
	16	2	18

PLATE COUNTS:

	0–10		11–100		*over* 100		*Total*
	No.	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%	*No.*
Deep End ..	7	77.78	1	11.11	1	11.11	9
Shallow End ..	8	88.89	1	11.11	–	–	9
	15	83.00	2	11.11	1	5.56	18

The third privately owned swimming bath was only constructed during the year and was opened for use on 25th July. It, too, is a modern, open-air pool, 50 feet in length by 20 feet in breadth, with a depth of 4 feet in the shallow end and 8 feet in the deep end. The water is sea water, pumped into the bath at the beginning of each season, and continuously circulated through a pressure filter. Losses due to evaporation are made up with fresh water from the town mains. The water is heated to 70°F. and there is a chlorinating plant. The bacteriological results from this pool have been good and are summarised below. The pool is open from April to October.

Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination from this bath, the results being as follows:—

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM COUNTS:

	Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*
Deep End	11	4	15
Shallow End ..	14	1	15
	25	5	30

PLATE COUNTS:

	0–10		11–100		*over* 100		*Total*
	No.	%	*No.*	%	*No.*	%	*No.*
Deep End ..	11	73.33	3	20.00	1	6.67	15
Shallow End ..	13	86.66	1	6.67	1	6.67	15
	24	80.00	4	13.33	2	6.67	30

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

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

(*a*) Council houses .. .. –

(*b*) Other houses 2

The number of houses disinfested was:

(*a*)	Council houses	–
(*b*)	Other houses	2

(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 insecticidal 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 disinfestation 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 nine months from 1st April, 1959, to the 31st December, 1959.

Following the loss of grant for rodent control the Committee decided to reorganise the rodent control service by reducing the operators from two to one and providing the remaining operator with a motor-cycle. It was not possible during the year to say with certainty, whether or not this scheme will work satisfactorily as the operator took several months to learn to drive the motor-cycle and consequently did not have the benefit of his own personal transport around the Borough during that time.

The sewer treatment carried out during the year took longer than usual due to the fact that a man had to be hired from the Borough Engineer's Department to assist in the work whereas, in previous years, the two operators did the job together and, being experienced men, were naturally faster in operation.

It is gratifying to note that the rat population in the sewers has greatly diminished since the introduction of sewer baiting some years ago and, whilst we shall never be able to eradicate the rat completely from the sewers, any relaxation in the treatment would lead to an increase in the number of rats harbouring there and give rise, consequently, to increased surface damage by them.

Rodent Control

(Report for 1st April to 31st December, 1959)

Type of Property

		Local Authority	*Dwelling Houses*	*All other (including business) premises*	*Total*	*Agricultural*
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District		48	15,023	2,923	17,994	42
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1958 as a result of (*a*) notification, (*b*) survey or (*c*) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(*a*)	4	126	28	158	Nil
	(*b*)	44	383	81	508	1
	(*c*)	Nil	1,209	1,364	2,573	41
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections		48	1,718	1,473	3,239	42
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :— (*a*) Rats	Major	2	1	Nil	3	1
	Minor	5	154	21	180	Nil
(*b*) Mice	Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor	1	49	4	54	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority		8	204	25	237	1
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments		16	277	34	327	2
Number of notices served under Sec.4: (1) Treatment ...		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legal Proceedings ...		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :—

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

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	708
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,156
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	268
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	454
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	450

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

Number of Defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	182

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

(*a*)		Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:	
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses 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 dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
		(*a*) By owners	—
		(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(3) Number of Undertakings not to use unfit houses accepted	0
(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	10
(5) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	0
(6) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which schemes to render fit accepted	0
(7) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit following acceptance of scheme	0

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	0
(3) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which schemes to render fit accepted	0

A survey of the town disclosed that 268 properties should, in the opinion of the officers of this department, be dealt with under a slum clearance programme. These houses are inhabited by 313 families and, after ensuring that they could be rehoused by the Council if the programme was spread over a period of seven years and the demolished sites redeveloped, permission was given by the Council for the first part of the programme to be commenced. This is to be a Clearance Area of 44 houses in Braddons Street, Stentiford Hill and Madrepore Roads.

During 1959 a Compulsory Purchase Order was made and approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government after a public inquiry for a Clearance Area in Melville Lane, comprising 15 houses of which 5 were inhabited, and some of the remainder utilised as garages and stores. In addition, several individual unfit houses were dealt with by Demolition and Closing Orders, details of which are given in the above table.

4. *Housing Act, 1957, Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	—
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	—
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	—

(*b*)	Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year ..	5
(*c*)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	—

*During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 10 complaints 5 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 224, bringing the total since the war to 1,354. A further 153 dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

The total number of inhabited residential houses in the Borough is now 16,410.

Housing Defects.

The work carried out during the year under the Housing Act, 1957, 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 182.

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; this big problem of tenanted property has been partially solved by the introduction of the Rent Act, 1957.

Rent Act, 1957.

During the year the following action was taken under this Act:

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	11
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	1
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates:	
	(*a*) in respect of some but not all defects	1
	(*b*) in respect of all defects	8
(4)	Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	3
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	–
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	8
(7)	Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	14
(8)	Objections by Tenants to cancellation of certificates ..	4
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	–
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	11

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. Producers' 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 regularly from each plant. A total of 27 samples gave the following results:

	Passed	*Failed*	*Void*	*Total*
Phosphatase test	26	1	–	27
Methylene Blue reduction test	18	–	9*	27

The following samples were taken from milk supplied from Pasteurising plants outside the District:

	Passed	*Failed*	*Void*	*Total*
Phosphatase test	4	–	–	4
Methylene Blue reduction test	4	–	–	4

* 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" 62

Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" 3

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" 62

Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" 3

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

The following samples were taken from milk supplied by Producers residing outside the District:

	Passed	*Failed*	*Void*	*Total*
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	5	6	–	11

The 6 failures covered two farms producing farm bottled Tuberculin Tested milk, both situated outside the Borough. One farm has now given up bottling and the milk goes for pasteurisation whilst the other farm received the attention of the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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 ensuing 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.

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 6 inspections was made.

(iii) *The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations*, 1959.

These Regulations replace the Milk and Dairy Regulations, 1949–1954, under which the Medical Officer of Health had power to prohibit milk from being sold or used until it was heat-treated if he had evidence or reasonable grounds for suspecting that the consumption of this milk might give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

The principal changes are as follows:

(*a*) the definition of notifiable disease has been extended to include food poisoning;

(*b*) the registration of distributors is now required only with the local authority in whose area the premises from which the milk is distributed are situated;

(*c*) provision is made for the local authority to pay compensation to a person who sustains damage or loss through being debarred from certain employment connected with cows or milk because he is suffering or has been in contact with a person suffering, from a disease liable to cause infection of milk;

(*d*) where milk is infected, or suspected of being infected with disease, the appropriate notice may be served by the Medical Officer of Health on the occupier of registered premises outside (as well as inside) his district, and in the case of tuberculosis, it will operate until it is withdrawn; conditions as to compensation have been considerably modified;

(*e*) there are new provisions as to personal cleanliness, precautions against contamination or infection of milk, and the provision of first aid equipment;

(*f*) there are new provisions relating to the misuse of milk churns, the cleansing of vessels and appliances, the storage of cartons and non-returnable containers and the use of bottle-washing machines for cleansing glass bottles.

No action was necessary under these Regulations during the year.

Dairies and Distributors.

Fourteen premises are registered as dairies and 62 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. 78 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.

Licensing of Slaughterhouses.

As the facilities at the Abattoir are meeting the requirements of the Borough, a resolution has 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.

Slaughterhouses.

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 carcases 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.

584 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

	Cattle, excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Horses*
Number killed (if known) ...	1,885	64	69	11,306	5,304	—
Number inspected	1,885	64	69	11,306	5,304	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI: Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	34	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	645	52	1	792	339	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.9%	81.25%	1.45%	7.33%	6.48%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	1	—	—	156	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.53%	1.56%	—	—	2.79%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	13	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Total weight of meat condemned: 8 Tons 13 Cwt. 3 Qrs. 9 Lbs.)

In addition to the above a further 2,105 lb. of meat was condemned during the year at butchers' shops, the primary cause being bone taint.

WHOLE CARCASES CONDEMNED – REASON FOR CONDEMNATION

	Cattle	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*
Dropsy and Emaciation	–	–	–	30	1
Septicaemia	–	–	–	1	–
Septic Pneumonia	–	–	–	1	–
Septic Pleurisy	–	–	–	2	–
Peritonitis	–	–	–	–	2
Swine Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	1
Salmonella Poisoning	–	–	–	–	1
TOTALS ..	–	–	–	34	5

Generalised Tuberculosis.

It is interesting to note that this is the first year in which there has been no case of a whole carcase being condemned for generalised tuberculosis. It is due mainly, I am sure, to the eradication policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and should, in years to come, render cattle free from this particular disease and thus further protect human life.

Cysticercus Bovis.

It is also encouraging to note that this year only 13 carcases were refrigerated for Cysticercus Bovis compared with 33 in 1958 and 44 in 1957. It is too much to hope that the disease is in danger of being eradicated at this stage, but what I must emphasise is the importance of the thorough inspection of carcases made by your Meat Inspectors. The life cycle of Cysticercus Bovis is a complete circle. The viable cyst in cattle when eaten by man becomes a tapeworm which grows to an enormous size. The tapeworm in turn produces eggs which are voided with man's own excreta and, if eaten by the cattle, produce in the cattle cysts and so it goes on. Somewhere in the circle a complete severance must be made to halt the life cycle and, by detecting and condemning affected meat in the slaughterhouse and refrigerating the rest of the carcase for three weeks, this severance is brought about. It may be that research in the future will reveal other ways of preventing the spread of the eggs, such as improved sewage treatment plants, but in the meantime the only certain destruction for these cysts lies in the knife of the Meat Inspector.

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food Condemned included:	*Weight lbs.*
Butter, Fats and Lard	38
Bacon	25
Cheese	46
Chocolates	17
Coffee	6
Confectionery, Cake	56
Cream	40
Cod Roe, Frozen	56
Fish	133
Fruit and Vegetables	2,308
Jams and Preserves	361
Jelly	6
Marzipan	10
Meat Pies	12
Pickles and Sauces	104
Poultry	767
Sausages	183
Walnuts	205
Canned Meat	2,103
,, Puddings	42
,, Poultry	73
,, Vegetables	2,207
,, Fruit	2,560
,, Fish	46
,, Pastes	14
,, Spaghetti	12
,, Soup	136
,, Milk	70
,, Fruit Puddings	14
,, Sausages	32
Total	11,682

(Total weight condemned: 5 Tons 4 Cwts. 1 Qr. 6 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*
Apples	–	–	1	1
Barley, Seed Pearl	–	–	1	–
Beef	–	–	1	–
Butter	–	–	1	1
Cake Decorations	–	–	5	–
Condiment, non-brewed	–	–	1	–
Confectionery – sugar	–	–	6	–
Coffee, ground	–	–	1	–
Cream	–	–	1	–
Currants	–	–	1	–
Farinoca	–	–	1	–
Fish Cake	–	–	1	–
Food Flavouring	–	–	3	–
Food Colouring	–	–	1	–
Gee's Linctus	–	–	1	–
Ice Cream	–	–	4	–
Ice Cream Powder	–	–	1	–
Jam	4	–	2	–
Jelly, Quince	–	–	1	–
Lentils	–	–	1	–
Medicaments, various	–	–	7	–
Milk	–	–	69	–
Milk Shakes	8	–	–	–
Mincemeat	–	–	1	–
Pasty, Meat and Potato	–	–	1	–
Pie, Pork	–	–	1	–
Pie, Steak and Kidney	–	–	1	–
Rice,	–	–	2	–
Rice, ground	–	–	1	–
Sago	–	–	2	–
Sausages, Beef	–	–	5	–
Sausages, Pork	–	–	4	–
Sausage Roll	–	–	1	–
Soft Drinks	–	–	5	–
Tapioca	–	–	1	–
Vinegar	–	–	2	–
Whisky	1	–	–	–
TOTAL	13	–	138	2

Details of the adulterated samples follow on the next two pages.

The Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959.

These Regulations were made under sections 4 and 123 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and came into operation on 10th August, 1959. They provide that, subject to certain exceptions, it shall be an offence to sell, consign, deliver or import into the country, any food which contains more than 1 part per million of arsenic. There are slightly lower limits for certain beverages, and higher limits for specified foods, which are mainly essences.

These regulations have some point, because for the second year in succession, a consignment of apples, which was grossly contaminated with arsenic, was received in Torquay. In 1959, a consignment of Golden Delicious apples, consisting of 1,600 boxes, was discharged at Southampton on 11th November and 800 of these cases were transferred to Bristol. On 17th November information was received from the Bristol Public Health Department that 100 cases had been despatched to a Wholesaler in Torquay and that samples had proved that the apples were contaminated in varying degrees with lead, to the extent of 9 parts per million and with arsenic to 3 parts per million. Further samples in Bristol showed contamination of up to 17.4 parts per million for lead and 5.0 parts per million for arsenic, whilst samples taken by this Department and submitted to our Public Analyst yielded figures of 5.0 parts per million of lead and 21 parts per million of arsenic. The recommendation of the Food Standards Committee for the upper permissible limit of lead contamination is 2 parts per million and the above Regulations lay down 1 part per million for arsenic.

By the time the information reached the Department, the fruit had been distributed to retailers throughout the whole of South Devon from Plymouth to Dawlish and a great deal of time-consuming detective work was necessary, tracing them and informing the Public Health Departments of the relevant Authorities. Eventually, all the apples with the exception of a few pounds which had been eaten by purchasers, were recovered and as it was found that cleansing was impracticable and, in any case, of doubtful value, the whole consignment was condemned and buried at the Refuse tip.

These chemicals are present in the skin of the apple only as they are derived from a Lead Arsenate Insect Spray which is necessary in the countries of the Middle East from where these apples are imported; and in the degree of contamination present, they are visible to the naked eye in the form of crystals, especially around the stalks. Peeling the apple, which is the normal reaction of most people when they see these crystals, minimises the risk of any deleterious effects, but I am happy to report that all the apples distributed within the Borough's boundary were speedily and successfully traced before any were consumed.

The other sample of food which was found not to be genuine was of butter. This sample contained a dark brown granular substance which, when examined in the laboratory, was found to consist of amorphous debris containing yeast cells and fragments of mould. Culture yielded a growth of yeast. The matter was taken up with the manufacturer.

(*d*) *Food and Disease.*

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

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.*

Type of Business	*Approx. No.*
Grocers	156
Greengrocers	96
Butchers	59
Fishmongers	18
Fish Fryers	18
Confectioners	106
Cake Confectioners	36
Bakehouses	26
Cafes, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.	95
Licensed Premises (including Hotels)	109
Unlicensed Hotels and Boarding Houses	577
Milk Distributors	66

(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 and Drugs Act, 1955.*

279 ice cream premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business:

	Wrapped	*Bulk*
Grocers	66	–
Greengrocers	12	–
Confectioners	56	–
Fishmongers	2	–
Fish Fryers	10	–
Bakers	5	1
General Stores	20	2
Cafes	24	15
Restaurants and Snack Bars	14	23
Ice Cream Kiosks	1	–
Booksellers	8	–
Dairies	10	–
Amusement Places	4	–
Caravan Camp	2	–
Garage	2	–
Factory only	–	1
Store only	–	1
	236	43

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

Butchers	61
Cooked Meat Dealers	5
Bakehouses	8
Grocers	7
Preserved Fruit Factory	1

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

Dairies and Distributors	14
Distributors only	48

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

Ice Cream Premises	62
Cooked Meat Premises	25
Other Preserved Food (Butchers)	202
Dairies and Distributors	78

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

Fish Quay	54
Grocers	328
Greengrocers	111
Fishmongers	44
Fish Fryers	17
Confectioners	44
Bakehouses	66
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	280
Hotels and Boarding Houses	143
Meat Depots	47
Houses visited on food complaints	24

(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 illuminated by films and film strips to catering organisations and various other bodies given both by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector; 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 Regulations 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 nowadays, 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.*

A consignment of apples, imported from abroad, was found to be contaminated from a lead arsenate insecticide. It was found necessary to condemn the apples as analyses showed that their skins contained a concentration of 5 parts per million of lead and 21 parts per million of arsenic.

The Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

These Regulations amend the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, by inserting new provisions relating to ice cream. They prohibit the labelling or advertising of ice cream in a manner suggestive of butter, cream or milk unless the ice cream contains no fat other than milk fat, but permit the presence of skimmed milk solids to be declared.

(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 has been carefully maintained: for ice cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasized 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 279 premises for the preparation, storage or sale of ice cream, and in 236 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. There are two manufacturers of ice cream. One (Torquay Corporation) using a Hot Mix, the other using a Cold Mix. And there is only one place registered solely as a store for 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.

Provisional Grade	*Time taken to reduce methylene blue*	*Interpretation*
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					
Hot Mix	6	–	–	–	6
Cold Mix	6	1	–	1	8
Outside Manufacturers ..	18	6	4	4	32
Total ..	30	7	4	5	46

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

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.

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:

Total Number of Outbreaks	*Number of Cases*	*Number of Deaths*	*Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each*	*Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each*
One	9	Nil	Salmonella Typhi-Murium	Pork Pie

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:

Disease	*Total cases notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	42	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	319	14	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	5	26
Erysipelas	4	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:—			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	—	—	—
TOTALS	379	29	27

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

	Scarlet fever		*Whooping cough*		*Acute Poliomyelitis*				*Measles (excluding rubella)*		*Diphtheria*		*Dysentery*		*Meningococcal infection*	
					Paralytic		*Non-paralytic*									
Numbers originally notified	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
TOTAL (all ages)	17	25	2	1	–	–	–	–	150	169	–	–	1	–	–	–
Final numbers after correction																
Under 1 year ..	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
1 year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 years	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	22	–	–	–	–	–	–
3 years	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	23	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 years	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	16	19	–	–	–	–	–	–
5–9 years	12	18	2	–	–	–	–	–	75	87	–	–	–	–	–	–
10–14 years ..	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	6	–	–	1	–	–	–
15–24 years ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 and over ..	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age unknown ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL (all ages)	17	25	2	1	–	–	–	–	150	169	–	–	1	–	–	–

	Ac. pneumonia		*Smallpox*		*Acute encephalitis*				*Enteric or Typhoid fever*		*Paratyphoid fevers*		*Erysipelas*		*Food poisoning*	
					Infective		*Post-infectious*									
Numbers originally notified	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
TOTAL (all ages)	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	1	5
Final numbers after correction																
Under 5 years ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5–14 years ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15–44 years ..	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1
45–64 years ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
65 and over ..	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Age unknown ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
TOTAL (all ages)	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	1	5

REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF FOOD POISONING

On 27th January, 1959, at about 11.30 a.m., information was received by telephone from a family doctor that an outbreak of suspected food poisoning had occurred at a private house in the Borough. The house was immediately visited and full enquiries made.

Extent of the Outbreak.

These enquiries showed that of eleven people attending a private party at the house on the evening of Saturday, 24th January, nine had been ill with symptoms of food poisoning the following afternoon or within a short time afterwards. Visits were then made to each of the cases except three who lived outside the Borough in a neighbouring Urban District. The Medical Officer of Health of that District was contacted and he undertook the enquiries with regard to these three cases. It was ascertained that of the two persons who had been at the party but had no symptoms, one had left before the meal was served and so was not really at risk, and the other, although he developed no symptoms, was found to be excreting the organism in his fæces. It was also found that two other persons, living in an upper flat of the house where the party had taken place could also be considered to be at risk as they had consumed some of the food left over from the party, on the following day. Hence, there were twelve persons at risk, nine of whom actually developed the illness, one of the remainder becoming a symptomless excreter, and two had neither organisms in their fæces nor symptoms.

Clinical Features.

The symptoms, which started between 1 p.m. on Sunday, 25th January and 6 p.m. on Monday, 26th January (the suspected food being consumed at 9 p.m. on Saturday, 24th January) were vomiting, diarrhoea, headache; abdominal and back pain and pyrexia up to 102°F. together with a fair degree of prostration. The symptoms were generally severe and lasted for up to five days.

Evidence implicating particular food.

Details of all food eaten at the meal were obtained and this was as follows:

1. Pork Pie.
2. Beetroot, tomatoes, Russian salad and pickled onions.
3. Bread and butter.
4. Trifle.
5. Fresh cream.
6. Clotted cream.

All these foods were consumed by the nine persons who developed symptoms and by the person who became a symptomless excreter. The two people who lived in the upper flat and consumed the left over food and who were neither cases nor excreters, had eaten only the trifles and the two sorts of cream. Suspicion then lay on the other foods, in particular the pork pie. Samples of this and of the trifle which were the only things left over, were taken to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Exeter. In addition, specimens of fæces from each of the ten persons who had consumed the pork pie, were obtained and sent for examination.

Identification of agent contaminating or infecting food.

From the symptoms and the length of the incubation period it was felt that the cause of the infection was one of the Salmonella group of organisms and on 4th February, 1959, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, was able to report that *Salmonella Typhi-Murium* was isolated on culture from the pork pie and that no pathogenic organisms could be isolated from the trifle. This organism was also isolated from the fæces of each of the ten persons who consumed the meal on the Saturday night.

Source and means of contamination of food.

The pork pie was specially made for this party by a local bakery, where enquiries were immediately made. Only two members of the bakehouse staff handled the pie, and neither proved to be carrying the organism in several successive examinations of their fæces. Samples were obtained of all the raw ingredients of the pie, but these proved to be sterile. The most heavily infected portion of the pie was the gelatine which was added after the pie was cooked, and it was felt that the organism was introduced to the pie in the gelatine. The raw powdered gelatine was sterile on culture, but on the day on which the pie was made, it was mixed with hot water at about 12 noon and was not used until about 5 p.m., being allowed to stand exposed in a none too clean bakehouse all this time. I felt that there was every opportunity for contamination during this time, either directly from the hands of a carrier, or from a contaminated utensil.

As examination of the pie-makers had proved fruitless, a sewer swab was next placed in position in the drain from the bakery. Salmonella Typhi-Murium was isolated from this swab on culture, proving that there was a carrier among the bakehouse staff. Fæces samples were then taken from all the employees of the bakery but proved negative. However, when a second set of samples were taken, one of the bakers was found to be carrying the organism. He was immediately excluded from work and treatment was arranged for him with his family doctor. During his absence from work, three further sewer swabs were placed in position, and these

proved negative. After treatment with Streptomycin, the carrier's fæces soon became free of the organism, and he was permitted to return to work after four consecutive specimens had proved negative.

One of the victims of the outbreak worked in a local milk depot and creamery, where clotted cream is manufactured. He was also excluded from work and was only permitted to return after three consecutive negative specimens. All the persons suffering from the infection made complete recoveries.

Repeated visits were made to the bakehouse in question to ensure that a higher standard of hygiene was achieved in the premises and their methods than had formerly obtained; and a very great improvement was attained.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that 1959 was the thirteenth successive year during which no case of diphtheria was notified.

Influenza.

There was no widespread epidemic of influenza during 1959, although there were twelve deaths attributable to this disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis during 1959.

Measles.

There was a small epidemic of Measles in 1959 with 319 cases notified, which is less than half the usual number of cases in an epidemic year.

Scarlet Fever.

There was a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever during the year, with 42 cases notified, but clinically the infection was of a mild type. This is probably not a true reflection of the amount of streptococcal infection present in the community, as many cases were probably not notified to the department and streptococcal sore throat, of which there was probably a high incidence, is not a notifiable disease. There were four cases of Erysipelas which is caused by the same organism.

Pneumonia.

Only four cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, although in 26 cases the cause of death was attributable to this disease.

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 1959.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1959 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 ...	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
5 to 14 years ...	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
15 to 24 years ...	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 to 44 years ...	2	7	–	1	–	–	–	–
45 to 64 years ...	1	2	2	–	3	–	–	–
65 and over ...	1	–	–	–	2	1	–	–
Totals ...	5	12	2	1	5	1	–	1

The most important thing about the notifications of new cases of this disease is that it is the lowest number ever recorded in one year in Torquay. In this respect it is interesting to compare the notifications over the last decade, which are as follows:

Notifications of Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary	*Non-Pulmonary*
1949	45	6
1950	42	7
1951	42	5
1952	33	4
1953	34	4
1954	39	13
1955	32	7
1956	32	8
1957	31	8
1958	28	–
1959	17	3

The number of persons dying from this disease has improved in a similar fashion, as the following table shows:

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary	*Non-Pulmonary*
1949	22	4
1950	24	3
1951	16	1
1952	15	2
1953	12	–
1954	13	2
1955	14	1
1956	4	1
1957	2	1
1958	4	–
1959	6	1

The cause of this improvement has been, without doubt, the great advances in treatment and facilities for earlier diagnosis which have occurred during this period and which, with the passage of time, have reduced the numbers of deaths and the infector pool in the community. I feel that, with these measures, the improved social conditions now pertaining in the "Welfare State" together with the continued betterment of sanitary and environmental conditions as a result of the work of this department in slum clearance and the abatement of overcrowding, we can look forward to the disappearance of this disease within the foreseeable future.

3. *Other Infectious and Contagious Diseases.*

There are many other infectious diseases which are not referred to the Medical Officer of Health as they are not notifiable diseases, these being designated by Statute. It is, consequently, difficult to assess the incidence of these infections and the sources of our knowledge of this are meagre.

(*a*) *Claims for Sickness Benefit.*

A certain amount of information can be obtained from new claims to sickness benefit received by the Ministry of National Insurance but your Medical Officer has no access to these certificates. However, the local National Insurance Officer informs the department whenever new sickness benefit claims in any one week show an increase of 30% above the figure for the preceding week or reach 250% of the average weekly number of new claims for the previous 35 weeks. This is a very useful indication of the development of epidemics of influenza. This state of affairs was reached in only one week in 1959, that ending 28th February, and 70% of these new claims were on account of influenza. Unfortunately, the actual numbers are not known.

(*b*) *Infectious Disease in Schools.*

A second source of information of non-notifiable infectious diseases is the weekly return of cases of infectious disease occurring among school children attending Local Authority schools. This is made to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Teacher and, of course, the information is not always complete or accurate as the returns are made on the basis largely of letters and messages from parents rather than medical certificates. Nevertheless, they provide a useful addition to our knowledge.

The following is a summary of these returns:

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED FROM HEAD TEACHERS

Disease	*Number of Cases*
Measles	96
Whooping Cough	6
Scarlet Fever	27
German Measles	5
Mumps	6
Chicken-pox	22
Scabies	1

(*c*) *Isolation Hospital.*

The notification of admissions and discharges from the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is made to the Medical Officer of Health by the Hospital Authorities can also be utilised to give additional information on the situation with regard to non-notifiable infectious diseases, as the following table shows:

EXTRACT OF ADMISSIONS TO TORQUAY ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Disease	*Number of Cases*
Staphylococcal Infection	7
Stomatitis	3
Tonsilitis	7
Tracheitis	1
Common Cold	1
Influenza	5
Virus Pneumonia	1
Impetigo	2
German Measles	1
Chicken-pox	4
Shingles	2
Glandular Fever	2
Malaria	1
Infectious Hepatitis	3
Dysentery	3
Gastro-Enteritis	18

4. *Immunisation and Vaccination.*

Active immunisation and vaccination against specific diseases is the duty of the Local Health Authority, in this case Devon County Council, but the importance of these procedures is so great in the control of infectious diseases which is the function of this department that I feel a brief report on this is desirable and necessary.

Vaccinations against Smallpox and inoculation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis are carried out by the Medical Officers of Devon County Council Medical Department, who in Torquay are Dr. L. Solomon, Dr. M. Epstein and your own Medical Officer in his capacity as part-time Medical Officer on the County Medical staff; and also by all the general medical practitioners in the area. B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis is carried out by Dr. Wyndham Lloyd, the Chest Physician, Dr. Solomon and your Medical Officer. These immunisations, except B.C.G., are offered to all infants from the age of 3 months approximately either at the local Infant Welfare Clinics or at General Practitioners' surgeries. B.C.G. vaccinations are only offered to infants who are contacts of cases of tuberculosis and to all school children aged 13 years and over. Special clinics were held in Torquay to provide polio vaccinations to young people over school leaving age and below the age limit which was then 25 years (it is now 40 years). These clinics were held in various parts of the town, e.g. Chelston, the Town Hall, Castle Road Clinic, Watcombe Housing Estate, St. Marychurch Town Hall and at various times of the day, including mornings, lunch-time sessions, afternoons and evenings to provide an opportunity for as many as possible to have the inoculations no matter what their hours of work. These special facilities for poliomyelitis vaccination culminated in a campaign which was organised by your Medical Officer in order to stimulate enthusiasm in this age group, in which the response had been rather poor.

In April there had been a sudden increased interest taken by these young people as a result of the death from poliomyelitis of a well known footballer, and it was decided to take advantage of this by running a poliomyelitis week from 11th to 16th May. The campaign was run with the co-operation of Messrs. Pfizer Ltd., of Folkestone, Kent, who offered to supply, free, materials for a complete publicity campaign, and with a grant of £10 from Devon County Council.

The campaign material supplied by Messrs. Pfizer comprised:

1 booklet showing how to organise a complete campaign.

2 gramophone records	2 film strips
100 large posters	100 small posters
100 window stickers	100 car streamers
1,000 large leaflets	4,000 hand-out leaflets

An approach was made to Messrs. J. F. Rockheys Ltd. and, as a result, they very kindly offered accommodation for a special clinic, free of charge. This was done in order to provide facilities in the main shopping centre and business area.

Approximately two weeks before the special clinic was opened, all the posters and leaflets were issued and exhibited in all parts of the Borough. Advertisements were placed in the local press. The gramophone records, with a recorded message from BBC personality Eamonn Andrews, were issued to places of entertainment and dance halls, etc., and also played at football and rugby matches. The film strips were exhibited at the local cinemas.

During the week when the Vaccination Centre was open a loudspeaker van toured the streets and the beaches playing records, and broadcasting details of the vaccination centre.

The Clinic was open from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. daily and was manned by Dr. Solomon and myself, two health visitors and two clerks, with W.V.S. personnel assisting.

A total of 1,319 first injections were given, and a similar series of clinics was held in June for the second injections.

This campaign was held with a view to encouraging the young people working in the town to have vaccinations and the result was most encouraging, although addresses on record cards showed that a high percentage of people living outside the Borough attended the clinic.

In addition to the above special campaign, regular poliomyelitis vaccinations were carried out at the weekly Mother and Child Welfare Clinics and at the Health Department each month. In addition to the large number of first and second injections given, the following numbers received their third injections during the year:

1/4 *years*	5/14 *years*	15/25 *years*	*Expectant Mothers*	*Total*
336	1,369	491	6	2,202

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1959

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1959, 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

NO CHANGE

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

St. Marychurch Town Hall, Torquay

Tel. No.: Torquay 88204 (Office)
83154 (Home)

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

TABLE B

Ships from	*Number*	*Tonnage*	*Number Inspected*		*Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board*
			By the Medical Officer of Health	*By the Public Health Inspector*	
Foreign Ports	2	248	—	1	—
Coastwise ...	33	18,261	—	16	—
TOTAL ...	35	18,509	—	17	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 1,336 visits (total tonnage 6,336) to the fish quay and frequent inspections of these have been made. 821 tons of fish were landed during the year.

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	Number of passengers INWARDS	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920
	Number of passengers OUTWARDS	
CARGO TRAFFIC ..	Principal IMPORTS.	Bog Ore (1 Cargo). Coal (1 Cargo).
	Principal EXPORTS.	None.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1959: Cherbourg, Amble, Guernsey, and general coastwise.
FOREIGN PORTS were: Esbjerb (Denmark).

The wharves at Torquay are approved by the Customs for the import of timber (incl. Plywood, Hardboard and Wallboard) Slates and Bog Ore, and for the export of Bricks and Roofing Tiles.

*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

(1) *List of infected areas.* (*Regulation* 6)

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

The list of infected ports and areas supplied by the World Health Organisation Geneva, in the form of a weekly epidemiological record is noted at the Public Health Department and is then taken by the District Public Health Inspector to the Customs Officer who retains it for the week; when each new list is taken, the list for the previous week is returned to the Health Department.

(2) *Radio Messages.*

(*a*) *Arrangement for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the District.* (*Regulation* 13.)

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless messages, if required.

(*b*) *Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon.* (*Regulation* 14 (1) (*a*) *and* (2)).

These messages are received through the Post Office, and would in the first instance be to the Local Shipping Agents, thence to the Customs Officer and subsequently to the Medical Officer of Health.

(3) *Notification otherwise than by radio.* (*Regulation* 14 (1) (*b*)). *Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.*

Messages are received or sent by the Customs Officer communicating with the Coast Guard Station at Berry Head for signals either of flags or flash lamps in morse; Berry Head commands the whole Bay for shipping.

Detailed notices on the Maritime Declaration of Health instruct Masters of vessels to fly the International signals as given in the Regulations. Any notifications to the Customs Officer are communicated at once to the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) *Mooring Stations.* (*Regulations* 22 *to* 30)—*Situation of Stations and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.*

The quarantine mooring buoy which was situated 1,000 yards South-West out to sea from the end of Haldon Pier, painted yellow and black, and lighted at night, was washed away in a storm, and it was decided that this should not be replaced, but a Quarantine Anchorage established in its place.

This anchorage has been established in a position Latitude 50 Degs. 27′ 00″ North and Longitude 03 Degs. 31′ 30″ West in 5½ fms. water at M.L.W.O.S., extending in a North South-East and West direction (TRUE), each way 750 feet forming the diagonals of a square having sides each 1,000 feet.

This position is some 3 cables, 162 Degs. (TRUE) from the original Quarantine Buoy position, and 4 cables from Torquay Harbour in what is marked as TORQUAY ROADS on Admiralty Chart No. 26.

This anchorage is easily verified by Mariners by cross bearings on some seven prominent landmarks all of which are within 3½ nautical miles and include four which are lighted.

(5) *Arrangements for:*

(*a*) *Hospital accommodation for infectious cases* (*other than Smallpox—See Section VII*).

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is the Hospital for the Torquay District Management Committee area.

(*b*) *Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.*

Surveillance and following-up of contacts are undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors.

(*c*) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other Articles.*

There is a Cleansing Station for persons at St. Marychurch Town Hall. Disinfection of any Quarters aboard ship is dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors, and the disinfection of clothing and other articles takes place at the Isolation Hospital, where there is a modern Thresh Disinfector, together with facilities for articles which cannot be put through steam under pressure.

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. J. Macrae, Ham Green Isolation Hospital, Bristol.
Dr. W. A. Lister, 7, The Crescent, Plymouth.
Dr. D. F. Johnstone, The Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

(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.

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*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

NO CHANGE

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

TABLE D

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

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

NIL.

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

NIL.

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

NIL.

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.

NIL.

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

Nature and Number of Inspections		*Notices served*		*Result of serving notices*
		Statutory Notices	*Other Notices*	
General ...	17	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	—	—	—

*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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