

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Watford U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

Watford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cehpdgt7>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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

C.4421(1)

*The O'Connell & 53
2 Liberty*

WATFORD

JAN 57



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1955

W. ALCOCK
M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

K. H. MARSDEN
F. S. I. A.
Senior Sanitary Inspector



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Members of the Health Committee

1954 - 1955

Chairman:	Alderman L. C. Johnson
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Alderman J. Davis
The Deputy Mayor:	Alderman A. G. Dillingham.

Alderman J. Wright	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Councillor A. Abbott	Councillor Mrs. E. A. Mewis
Councillor T. D. Bathurst	Councillor H. A. E. Mounter
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Councillor G. A. Musk
Councillor J. P. Cook	Councillor Miss D. M. Scawen
Councillor T. Johnson	Councillor J. Seymour
Councillor G. W. Knox	Councillor G. W. Smith.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, and Divisional Medical Officer for South-West Hertfordshire:

W. Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

K. H. Marsden.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

G. F. Willcox.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

E. Ellerington,
J. L. Willoughby,
T. B. Rosamond,
G. E. Hayne.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke.

Clerical Staff:-

*Miss M. Sherlock
Miss M. Johnson
Miss M Coughlan
Miss M. James.

* Part time officer.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

October, 1956.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1955.

A survey of some of the principal vital statistics gives grounds for satisfaction. The infantile mortality rate fell to the remarkably low level of 13.4 per thousand related live births. This figure is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough and is considerably lower than the figure for England and Wales (24.9). It is even more remarkable when one recalls that at about the beginning of this century the national figure was in the region of 150. It still exceeded 50 in 1938. This decline in infant deaths is eloquent testimony to the efforts of all who work in the field of child care, but it must not be forgotten that improved social and economic conditions have also played an important part in bringing it about.

There were no maternal deaths during the year. There were no large scale outbreaks of infectious disease and it is satisfactory to record that there were no cases of diphtheria. The last case recorded in the Borough was in 1951. This disease has almost, but not quite, been conquered. The need therefore to press on with our immunisation campaign is as great as ever it was - in fact we may have to increase our efforts in order to counteract a tendency to complacency in the generation now growing up which has never known the horror of diphtheria.

There were eight cases of poliomyelitis during the year, seven being of the paralytic form and one a non-paralytic case. One death occurred. In a year when, over the country as a whole, the incidence of this disease was unduly high, we may consider ourselves fortunate in not having had a higher incidence. It is sad to reflect that notwithstanding the spectacular successes of preventive medicine in so many other directions we have so far in the case of poliomyelitis, been powerless to check the progress of this disease which so gravely menaces the health of our young people. Happily research appears to have produced an effective antidote and hopes are high that the new vaccines when available will convey a substantial immunity against this disease.

The remarkable decline in the death rate from tuberculosis of recent years was halted somewhat during the year under review, seven deaths having occurred compared with four the previous year.

The number of new notifications, however, remains at about the usual average of 80 cases per annum and we must continue to regard this as a matter for serious concern and a stimulus to further efforts to overcome this essentially preventable disease which still presents a serious medical and social problem.

Set out in tabular form are the birth rates and principal mortality rates from 1939 and as will be seen they indicate a generally favourable trend:

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Tuberculosis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate
1939	15.3	10.7	36.1	0.00	0.57	1.88
1940	15.1	11.7	44.3	5.90	0.59	1.35
1941	13.8	10.9	55.06	0.90	0.58	1.62
1942	17.4	10.9	28.4	1.50	0.56	1.75
1943	16.5	12.4	40.0	1.74	0.32	1.75
1944	19.7	14.8	32.0	3.69	0.50	1.59
1945	17.4	11.6	28.2	0.84	0.58	2.04
1946	18.6	10.1	23.3	1.51	0.36	1.68
1947	19.6	10.8	28.6	0.69	0.23	1.94
1948	15.7	10.3	24.2	0.00	0.37	1.81
1949	14.7	10.8	18.5	0.00	0.36	2.06
1950	13.9	10.8	23.1	0.00	0.24	1.61
1951	14.0	11.4	18.7	0.00	0.22	1.66
1952	14.1	11.1	25.2	0.00	0.15	1.98
1953	13.3	11.9	25.9	3.05	0.17	1.90
1954	14.0	10.5	18.7	2.89	0.05	1.94
1955	14.4	11.5	13.4	0.00	0.10	2.06

During the year a noteworthy step was taken to deal with the relatively small number of unfit houses in the Borough. In accordance with requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a schedule of such houses was prepared and in the light of the findings there should be no difficulty in dealing with the few remaining pockets of sub-standard property within the next five years.

It is my pleasure to record the loyal, willing and cheerful co-operation I have received from all members of my staff despite the heavy and unrelieved pressure of work under which the department has laboured during the year. I am moreover most grateful for the co-operation of staff of the County Health Authority, the local Hospital Management Committee and the general practitioners,

Finally I desire to thank the members of the Council, especially the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the support they have given me during the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant

W. ALCOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1955	72,420
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	21,574
Rateable value at 1.4.55	£701,013
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 2,756

Number of Live Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	505	481	986
Illegitimate	25	34	59
	<u>530</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>1045</u>

Number of Still Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>

Total number of Births (Life and Still)	1,058
Total number of Deaths	836

Causes of Death of Watford Residents:-	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	4
Tuberculosis, other	1	1
Syphilitic disease	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	21	27
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	33	19
Malignant neoplasm, breast	15	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	9	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	66	74
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	5	1
Diabetes	7	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	116	97
Coronary disease, angina	138	116
Hypertension with heart disease	10	16
Other heart disease	138	130
Other circulatory disease	41	39
Influenza	3	1
Pneumonia	50	26
Bronchitis	40	48
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	9
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	C/Fwd 719	643

	B/Fwd	719	643
Nephritis and Nephrosis	. . .	10	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	. . .	9	10
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	. . .	-	3
Congenital malformations	. . .	10	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	. . .	50	49
Motor vehicle accidents	. . .	11	8
All other accidents	. . .	21	23
Suicide	. . .	5	11
Homicide and operations of war	. . .	1	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
All cases	. . .	836	758

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) ..	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	6	14

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1955

	Watford	London Admini- strative County	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 civilian population.				
LIVE BIRTHS	14.4	15.1	14.9	15.0
STILL BIRTHS	(0.18	-	-	0.34
(per 1,000 total live and still births)	(12.3	20.0	23.2	23.2
Death Rate				
All Causes	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.7
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.69	0.63	0.53	0.49
Tuberculosis	0.10	0.17	0.17	0.15
Malignant Neoplasms, Lung, Bronchus	0.46	0.57	0.45	0.39
Coronary Disease Angina Pectoris	1.90	1.57	1.60	1.59
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00			0.54
Other Puerperal Causes	0.00			0.10
All Puerperal Causes	0.00			0.64
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year)				
ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births	13.4	23.2		24.9

	Watford	England and Wales
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	13.2	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	17.0	
NEONATAL MORTALITY (deaths of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	15.3	17.3

COMPARATIVE RATES

	Watford	England and Wales	Watford	England and Wales
	1955	1955	1954	1954
Birth Rate (Live births)	14.4	15.0	14.0	15.2
Death Rate	11.5	11.7	10.5	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	13.4	24.9	18.7	25.5
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.64	2.89	0.69

REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS - CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	2lbs and under	2-3lbs	3-4lbs	4-5lbs	5-5½lbs	TOTAL
Number	-	2	7	26	32	67
Number Surviving after 24 hours	-	2	5	26	32	65
Number Surviving after 8 days	-	1	4	26	32	63
Number Surviving at 4 weeks	-	1	4	26	31	62

Prematurity rate of 6.3% 5.7% -1954 6.1% - 1953.

CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS (SOUTH WEST HERTS)

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Prematurity and Toxaemia	3	5	1	2	1	1
Prematurity and other causes	1	2	4	4	4	6
Toxaemia	4	3	14	19	12	4
Malformation	7	8	10	8	5	13
Birth injury	14	14	16	9	9	10
Placental Disease	2	4	2	2	3	3
Erythroblastosis	2	7	6	4	10	4
Maternal Disease	3	5	5	-	7	1
Abnormality of Cord	4	10	10	6	6	3
Cause unknown	6	3	4	-	3	2
	---	---	---	---	---	---
	46	61	72	54	60	47
	---	---	---	---	---	---

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Prematurity	5	5	6	3	4	2
Malformation	5	3	6	5	6	5
Birth injuries	4	4	2	4	-	3
Collapse of lung	2	2	3	6	4	1
Respiratory diseases	2	1	4	6	2	1
Other diseases of infancy	3	2	1	-	1	1
Infectious disease	3	-	1	-	-	1
Accidents	-	2	3	1	1	-
Not traced	-	-	-	-	1	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>

Of the 14 infant deaths occurring in 1955 5 died within 24 hours, a further 1 less than a week old and 5 whilst still under one month old, leaving 3 during the next eight months.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 15.3 compared with 14.7 in 1955.

Sex of Infants

The sex ratio of 1029 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is higher than last year.

Illegitimate Births (per 1,000 total births)

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	51	52
1949	50	56
1950	51	36
1951	51	49
1952	46	49
1953	46	43
1954	46	56
1955	45	56

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>20-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>41-60</u>	<u>61-70</u>	<u>71-79</u>	<u>80 and over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Suicide	-	1	3	1	-	-	5
Road Accidents	1	-	2	1	2	5	11
Home Accidents	-	1	1	1	1	10	14
Other Accidents (Misadventure)	-	1	1	1	2	2	7
Homicide or Operations of War	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>38</u>

Laboratory Services

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report help was willingly given when it was necessary to investigate small outbreaks of food poisoning.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention)

Several cases were investigated but no legal action was taken.

Section 50 (Burials)

Arrangements were made on two occasions (three in 1954).

Health Education

The work of consolidating the gains brought about by the introduction of bye-laws under the Food and Drugs Act has again been the main feature of the work during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1955 (Corrected)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under</u>										<u>Over Age un- known</u>	<u>Totals</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65</u>		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	14	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	22
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis -Paralytic	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	7
Poliomyelitis -Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infections	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	8	5	-	16
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	7
Jaundice	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	6	15	24	46	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	95
Measles	13	140	183	529	9	2	4	-	-	-	3	883
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	8
Dysentery	-	7	12	7	2	2	2	-	1	1	-	34
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	21	164	224	603	19	11	19	3	16	7	4	1091

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1955

(1954 figures in brackets)

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Over 5-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reinforcing</u>
<u>a. County Staff</u>				
(1) Watford Borough	275 (561)	78 (135)	353 (696)	457 (832)
(2) Remaining Area of S.W.Herts.	581 (783)	290 (181)	871 (964)	968 (1544)
<u>b. General Practitioners</u>	579 (749)	31 (36)	610 (785)	191 (241)
	<u>1435 (2093)</u>	<u>399 (352)</u>	<u>1834 (2445)</u>	<u>1616 (2617)</u>

Whooping Cough Immunisation

The figures for 1955 were as follows:-

Completed Cases	283
Total Injections	889.

Smallpox

No smallpox contacts were investigated.

Vaccination against Smallpox

1345 children under five years were vaccinated in South-West Hertfordshire, with the probability that approximately half of them lived in the Borough. This represents a slight increase over the figure for 1954 (1241).

TUBERCULOSIS

	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	5	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 34	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	10	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	4	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 64	6	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over	5	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
Untraced	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	48	26	5	2	5	1	1	-

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1920 - 1955

Year	Population	NEW CASES			Rate per 1,000 pop	DEATHS			Rate per 1,000 pop.
		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	
1955	72420	74	7	81	1.12	6	1	7	0.10
1954	72490	77	5	82	1.13	4	-	4	0.05
1953	72610	79	2	81	1.12	12	-	12	0.17
1952	73200	73	11	84	1.15	9	2	11	0.15
1951	72700	97	9	106	1.46	14	2	16	0.22
1950	74380	66	12	78	1.05	16	2	18	0.24
1945	67070	88	12	100	1.49	34	5	39	0.58
1940	67430	52	4	56	0.83	37	1	38	0.59
1935	63200	91	20	111	1.76	39	5	44	0.70
1930	55870	116	11	127	2.27	44	-	44	0.79
1925	48990	93	23	116	2.37	51	4	55	1.12
1920	48027	124	19	143	2.98	40	8	48	1.00

Mass Radiography Unit

A visit was made to the area during the latter part of the year, there are however no statistics available for inclusion in the report.

Venereal Diseases

These cases are treated at Shrodells Hospital Special Clinic.

W A T E R

Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

Watford is one of four areas selected for the purpose of adding controlled amounts of fluoride salts to the public water supply with the object of reducing the incidence of dental decay. The other three areas are Anglesey, Andover and Kilmarnock. These studies were initiated after a United Kingdom Mission, which went to the United States in 1952, to study fluoridation in all its aspects had reported favourably upon the effectiveness of fluoridation without any evidence of harmful effect when carried out at the recommended level of one part per million of fluoride. The work upon which the report of the Mission was based was the result of a series of investigations over many years showing a definite relationship between the element fluorine and the incidence of dental decay. Several well-planned field surveys, both in this country and in America have shown conclusively that where the amount of fluoride actually present in a water supply is in the region of one part per million there is a reduction of about 60% in the incidence of dental decay compared with areas where the water supply is deficient in this substance.

The natural outcome was to ascertain if an adjustment of the fluoride of a water supply low in fluoride to an optimum level of one part per million would produce the same beneficial effects without hazard to health. In order to test this hypothesis a series of controlled experiments was started in North America in 1945 and by the end of 1955 a fully documented report was published upon the results of the Newburgh-Kingston study. This report is a complete vindication of the position relating to fluoridation. The object of the trials to be carried out in this country is to confirm the findings of the work done in America and implements the recommendation of the Mission that certain areas should be selected as study centres for the purpose of investigating, under strictly controlled conditions, the effect of adding fluoride to water supplies deficient in this substance.

During the year approximately 1700 children residing in the Borough between the ages of three and fifteen inclusive were submitted to a detailed dental examination by a dental officer on the staff of the Ministry of Health. The findings of this dental inspection represent a base-line study. Similar inspections will be carried out each year during the progress of the fluoridation trial and the findings compared with those found at the initial inspection.

Of all the diseases which afflict mankind, dental caries is by far the most prevalent, indeed throughout the civilised world few escape its ravages. It is in fact described as a "curse of civilisation" for undoubtedly one of the prime factors in causation is the artificial nature of the food we eat, so much of it being of a sticky, starchy or sugary nature. The belief is now firmly held that it is the acids produced by the fermentation of sugary or starchy residues in the mouth which is the main cause of dental decay. The extent to which this occurs however, is also related to the structure of the teeth and their ability to resist acid erosion and this is where the element fluorine comes into the picture. There is a body of expert opinion which regards dental caries as a deficiency disease; that one of the causative factors is deficiency of fluorine and that fluorine is one of the trace elements such as iron, copper, cobalt and probably many others, small amounts of which are essential for sound nutrition.

If this theory concerning the role of fluorine is correct then there could be no more natural procedure than to devise a means of adjusting the deficiency and this in fact is the very basis of the fluoridation of public water supplies, for it is only by this means that an adequate intake can be

assured for all. The results of the American work have proved beyond all reasonable doubt, the value of fluoridation of the public water supply as a public health measure and we look forward to the trials about to commence in the four areas in Great Britain, which will be studied with the greatest interest for if they show the same beneficial results as the American trials have shown - and there appears to be no reason why the results should be different - fluoridation will deserve to rank as one of the most important public health preventive measures ever introduced for the benefit of mankind.

Report on the Water Supply

Mr. L. C. Kimberlin, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information:-

1. The Supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality throughout the year 1955. The total quantity of water supplied for all purposes to the Corporation's statutory water area, which comprises the Borough of Watford (except the Oxhey area to the south of the River Colne, served by the Colne Valley Water Company) and approximately 1.50 square miles of the Watford Rural District, mostly to the north of the Borough, was 1,064 million gallons or 2,915,000 gallons per day. Of this quantity, approximately one third was softened at the Watford Fields Pumping Station.
2. Work commenced in May 1955 on the contracts at The Grove Pumping Station for the erection of the necessary buildings and structures and the installation of base-exchange softening plant and aeration plant, deferred by the Government since the early days of the war. It is anticipated that softening of this supply will commence in the late autumn of 1956, thereby enabling the whole of the supply throughout the statutory area to be softened.
3. Bacteriological examinations of the supply were made regularly, by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, as follows:-

Watford Fields Supply:-

Raw Water	Monthly
Treated Water	Weekly
High Level Reservoir	Monthly
Low Level Reservoir	Fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the pumping station were taken hourly, and the supplies from the High Level and Low Level Reservoirs were similarly tested, at four-hourly intervals.

The Grove Pumping Station Supply:-

Raw Water	Fortnightly
Treated Water)	
Reservoir)	Monthly, staggered fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the pumping station were taken at hourly intervals.

With the exception of a slight abnormality of short duration in three samples from the Watford Fields Pumping Station supply caused by bacteria of a non-faecal type and which were eliminated before going into supply, all the analyses showed the supply to be of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Bacterial analyses of samples taken quarterly from the Oxhey Area of the Borough, served by the Colne Valley Water Company, have also proved satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the raw water at Watford Fields and The Grove have shown that the water from both these sources is hard in character but of the highest standard of organic purity.

4. There is no plumbo solvency.

5. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings, and also to the few permanent dwellings which have no main supply within the premises, revealed the following position:-

(a) Temporary dwellings at:-

106, Leavesden High Road	Caravan dwellers have a standpipe in yard (population 3)
Rear of 82, Leavesden High Road.	One caravan dweller uses a standpipe supply.
275, Sheepcot Lane.	6 persons occupying 2 caravans share one standpipe.

(b) Permanent Dwellings at:-

Leavesden High Road (112-118 even numbers)	4 families share one standpipe supply (population 13)
Leavesden High Road (120-124B - 5 houses)	5 families share one standpipe supply (population 28)
Forge Cottages, Leavesden Nos. 5 & 6.	2 families use 2 standpipe supplies (population 4)
Waterdell Farm Cottage.	One family uses standpipe supply (population 5).

WHERE MY CARAVAN.....



HAS RESTED



IN NEED OF.....



Photograph by courtesy of A. C. Horne, Esq., Chief Public Health Inspector, Borough of Hemel Hempstead.

CARE AND PROTECTION



Photograph by courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

H O U S I N G

I. CLEARANCE OF "SLUM" HOUSES.

The Survey was completed early in the year of all the houses within the Borough which appeared to be so unfit that their demolition could be considered in the foreseeable future.

The findings of the Survey were examined by the Insanitary Areas Subcommittee whose recommendation that a total of 110 unfit houses should be dealt with as follows was accepted by the Council:-

(i) Number of houses which are to be included in Clearance Areas	75
(ii) Number of individual unfit houses to be demolished or closed.	35

The Council also decided to complete this programme within five years and this scheme was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The first year's programme comprising 29 houses to be demolished or closed (of which 6 are vacant) has been agreed by the Council. In addition, the following unfit houses which were purchased by the Council several years ago for highways improvement purposes are to be demolished immediately:-

Nos. 141, 143, 145 and 147, Queens Road.
Nos. 258, 258a and 258b, High Street.

One cottage - No. 47 Horseshoe Lane - was officially represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation. The owner gave an undertaking to close the cottage and this undertaking was accepted by the Council.

II. REPAIR OF UNFIT HOUSES.

In my last Annual Report I referred to the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which were intended to encourage owners of rent-controlled houses to put them into a good state of repair.

It was hoped that the increase in rent to which the owner of a well maintained house is, in general, entitled would serve as an incentive to the voluntary repair and improvement of many unfit houses.

No statistics are available on the number of notices of increase of rent which have been served on tenants within the Borough, but if the number of applications we have received for the issue of Certificates of Disrepair - and their revocation - can be used as a guide the figures in Table IV in the Appendix indicate that, after the first rush, these provisions of the Act have been little used.

During 1955 the following notices were served requiring the repair of dwelling houses:-

A C T	INFORMAL	STATUTORY
Housing Act, 1936	148	28
Public Health Act, 1936	82	13

It is pleasing to report that most of the owners and estate agents recognise the necessity of carrying out the works specified in the Notices and that only 3 Public Health Act Abatement Notices and 12 Housing Act Notices have been enforced by the Council executing the works in default.

APPEALS AGAINST NOTICES

1. The owner of No. 1 St. John's Road appealed against a Notice served under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the renewal of an insanitary water closet. This Appeal was withdrawn during the hearing and the Council carried out the works in default.
2. The Council served notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, on the owner of Nos. 1 to 13 St. John's Road requiring him to carry out works which the Council considered to be necessary to make Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7 reasonably suitable for occupation. The Appeal by the owner against these notices was viewed by the Council as a test case on their interpretation of the standard of fitness for habitation prescribed by Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. After hearing the evidence the Judge dismissed the Appeal and made no variation in the terms of the Notices. The Judge was requested to give a ruling on the requirement in the Notices that the owner provide a food store ventilated to the external air. He found that this was a perfectly proper requirement.

The owner was advised to take advantage of the "Improvement" provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, to put this terrace of seven substantially built houses into good order. He rejected this advice.

To prevent these houses deteriorating further the Council purchased them at an agreed price.

3. The owner of 71/71A Queens Road appealed against a notice served on him under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. The hearing of the Appeal was adjourned pending a decision on an application by the owner for a Possession Order.

III. HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

One notice was served during the year under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The owner elected not to provide the additional facilities required for the four families occupying the house but obtained a Possession Order against three of them (one of whom was the "statutory tenant").

IV. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer. 27 grants were authorised by the Council during 1955.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The unauthorised placing of caravans within the Borough is a problem which has taxed the Council throughout the year.

The most serious aspects of this problem from a public health point of view are the absence of a water supply and sanitary conveniences, the fouling of the land by the caravan dwellers and the considerable amount of litter they accumulate by their livelihood of dealing in rags and scrap metals. The nuisance they

cause to nearby residents has provoked a petition to the Council.

It is an offence under the Hertfordshire County Council Act to place a caravan (as living accommodation) within the Borough without the consent of the Council. In enforcing this legislation no less than 118 summonses were issued; 32 of these were not served but convictions were obtained in the other 86.

The land at Tolpits Lane is owned by the Council and on two occasions Corporation workmen have towed off the caravans after 24 hours notice - but this was found to be ineffective. Efforts have been made to let the land for cultivation as a long term solution but these were unsuccessful.

Towards the end of the year a special Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate the problem and their recommendation that the land be fenced was accepted by the Council.

F O O D.

The strengthening of the law foreshadowed by the passing of the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954, had not taken effect by the end of the year, that measure having been superseded by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. This Act and Regulations to be made thereunder will come into force on January 1st, 1956.

HYGIENE.

Regular inspections of all food premises have been maintained and the steady improvement in the general standard in the town continues. It has not been found necessary to report to the Council for prosecution any cases of unsatisfactory food premises. In the Public Market, however, failure by traders in sugar and flour confectionery and biscuits to take any precautions to protect food from contamination (in contravention of the relevant byelaw) has given cause for concern. The Council resolved to assist by the provision of covers and side screens to the food stalls and instructed the appropriate officers to prepare a scheme.

Open-air trading in the Borough takes place from mobile shops, ice cream stalls and shellfish barrows. It is hoped that new regulations will enable the Council to bring the last mentioned up to the standard of the other two forms of trading.

All the butchers shops have glazed fronts but at the beginning of the year there were three fish shops with open fronts. Plans have been approved for the reconstruction of two of these; the future of the third is so uncertain as not to warrant high capital expenditure.

UN SOUND FOOD.

Six complaints concerning the condition of foodstuffs were reported to the Council during the year. Two related to bottles in which milk was sold; one had a transparent film believed to consist of "home perm neutraliser", the other a fungus growth. A nail in a cake, a piece of steel in a meat pie, glass in a buttered roll and putrid chitterlings comprised the other four items. In each case warning letters were sent to the traders concerned.

In thirty-eight other cases purchasers were advised as to the fitness or otherwise of food brought to the Department. Where appropriate, investigations were made at the place of production by a sanitary inspector. Twenty-two such investigations were made locally and three by inspectors of other authorities and faults in production or handling were corrected. Apart from those mentioned in

the previous paragraph there were six cases of dirty milk bottles; seven of mouldy bakers products; four of various maggots in food; three of bread containing lubricating oil (indicating the extent to which bread-baking is now mechanised) and eight of contamination by foreign matter, all harmless, but indicating faults or carelessness in production. In this connection the assistance of the Public Analyst, the Bacteriologist at the local Pathological Laboratory and the director of the department of Natural History at the British Museum is gratefully acknowledged.

MEAT HYGIENE.

Bearing in mind their situation and design, the two private slaughterhouses in the Borough continue to maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene. Disposal of condemned meat is permitted only in such circumstances as will ensure its sterilisation and use for animal feeding, or for non-edible purposes. The meat from all animals slaughtered is inspected, involving a considerable amount of evening and Sunday work for the sanitary inspectors. Killing at one slaughterhouse, run by a firm of pork butchers, has settled down to a regular rhythm and little difficulty is experienced. At the other, where all classes of stock are slaughtered and the cooling hall also serves as a wholesale meat market, the volume of work fluctuates widely and at times overcrowding of the carcasses and offals has led to difficulties in carrying out efficient inspection.

In a separate room in this slaughterhouse the boning-out of cow-beef, some slaughtered on the premises and some brought to the slaughterhouse for the purpose, has been instituted to satisfy recent trade trends. Overloading of this beef in a cold storage room resulted in some loss through decomposition, but improvement of storage and handling methods which followed has produced satisfactory results.

Statistics relating to meat inspection at the slaughterhouses will be found in the appendix. Table IX shows that considerable success attends the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to eradicate bovine tuberculosis. One noteworthy outcome of this campaign is the marked decrease in the weight of carcase beef condemned - i.e. from 36½ tons in 1947 to 13 tons in 1955.

For many years the Council and its officers, the Police and members of the public have been concerned about the practice of driving animals through the streets from the railway station to the two local slaughterhouses. Serious traffic congestion resulted. There were allegations of cruelty and it was oftentimes the subject matter of press reports and letters of complaint to local newspapers and to the Council. In the absence of statutory powers neither the Council nor the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been able to compel the persons responsible to transport the animals in vehicles. The local inspector for the R.S.P.C.A. (Mr.H.A.Slater) has never ceased in his efforts to bring about a cessation of the practice and when slaughtering was restored to private industry in 1954 he made a fresh approach to the owners of the slaughterhouses. It is very satisfactory to report that early in 1955 he secured the agreement of both slaughterhouse managements to transport all the animals by vehicle. The Council were pleased to instruct the Town Clerk to express to the R.S.P.C.A. their appreciation of Inspector Slater's efforts in this matter.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

145 cases of Cysticercus Bovis were discovered in the 5618 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1955. This gives an incidence rate of 2.6% compared with 2.8% in 1954 and 3.8% in 1953.

All the infections were very light and the following table shows the sites of the cysts in the infected carcasses. No carcasses showing viable infections were released for human consumption until they had been sterilised by retaining the carcasses for 3 weeks at a temperature not exceeding 20°F.

	External Masseter Muscle	Internal Masseter Muscle	Tongue	Heart	Diaphragm	Other sites
Viable Cysts	20	8	3	1	-	-
Degenerate Cysts	56	20	-	51	1	2

The cysts in 32 cases (22%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compares with 35% for 1954.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Twenty-seven licences have been issued by the Council authorising persons to slaughter animals. It has not been necessary to report to the Council any infringements of the provisions of the legislation.

MILK SUPPLY

Close supervision has been maintained on the purity of milk sold within the Borough and sixty-three samples have been submitted to the Bacteriologist at the Public Health Laboratory, Watford. All these samples complied with the statutory standards although on fifteen occasions the methylene blue test (the test for keeping quality) on pasteurised milks were declared void by reason of the atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°F. These samples were taken in June, July and August and serve as a reminder of the unusually hot Summer of 1955. Details of the samples taken will be found in the appendix.

The Council was concerned to learn of several complaints relating to foreign matter inside milk bottles, three of which concerned a local bottling plant, although the number involved was very small in relation to the output of the dairy (which sends out approximately one million bottles of milk every three weeks). The fullest co-operation was received from the Dairy Manager in efforts to eliminate, so far as is humanly possible, the filling of improperly cleaned bottles. To assist the viewer, whose task it is to inspect the bottles after washing, light coloured screens have been fixed behind the conveyor from the washing machine to show up dirty bottles more clearly. No further complaints of dirty bottles have since been received from the dairy.

Details of dairies and distributors of milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, will be found in the appendix.

SPECIFICATION OF AREAS.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has specified that milk of a special designation only may be sold in Watford and adjacent districts.

ICE CREAM.

There are six premises within the Borough in which ice cream is manufactured; they are kept under close supervision although the producers are well aware of the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene throughout their processing, storage and distribution.

Samples of ice cream are submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and the table in the appendix shows that the samples which were taken during 1955 were quite satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING.

One outbreak of food poisoning involving four persons and six single sporadic cases were notified during the year. Bacteriological examinations revealed the causative organism to be *Salmonella typhimurium* in all the cases. Careful investigations failed to establish a link between any of the cases or to discover the foods which had caused the illnesses. The time which elapses in this type of food poisoning between the ingestion of the affected food and the notification of the illness makes it very difficult to identify the source of infection.

Fortunately there were no fatal cases.

I must again pay tribute to the Public Health Laboratory Service for their valuable and willing co-operation in all the investigations.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS, 1887 and 1926.

As a "Food and Drugs" authority, the Council is authorised to execute the provisions of these Acts so far as they relate to foodstuffs. Orders in Council made under the Acts were suspended during the War and were not fully re-imposed until 1953. There is a widespread ignorance of the provisions of the Orders among retail traders and a distribution of leaflets summarising them was commenced during 1955. The Orders are not directly of public health significance and are designed to protect the interests of home producers and to inform consumers of the origin of produce. While it is a simple, but time-consuming, matter to check that items affected by the Orders bear labels ("Empire", "Foreign" or the name of the country of origin) it is very difficult to detect cases where foodstuffs are deliberately labelled incorrectly.

COMPOSITION OF FOODS AND DRUGS.

The report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1955 is as follows:

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review amounted to 136, of which 27 were Formal and 109 Informal.

Of the 27 Formal samples, 26 consisted of Milk and one of Pork Sausages.

The following table shows the average composition of the Milk samples, as compared with those examined during the previous year.

				<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids, non Fat</u>
1954	-	-	-	3.63%	8.91%
1955	-	-	-	3.56%	8.82%

From these figures it will be seen that there has been a slight decrease both in the Fat and Solids - non Fat constituents of the Milks examined this year, as compared with those of 1954.

The Milks were, however, generally of good quality and all of them complied with the Regulations in respect of their composition. They conformed, moreover, to the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, in respect of their freedom from Preservatives.

Your Chief Inspector, Mr.K.H.Marsden, has also submitted to me for examination during the year, a selection of different varieties of Foods, Drugs, etc. the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings.

FOODS.

Pork and Beef Sausages.
Meat and Fish Pastes.
Sardines and Brislings.
Fish Cakes.
Beef Suet.
Butter.
Margarine.
Condensed Milk.
Double and Single Cream.
Lemon Curd.
Mincemeat.
Cake Mixtures.
Tea.
Self Raising Flour.
Saltpetre.
Fibrosol.
Sausage Colour Powder.
Polony Skin Dye.
Jetolin Black Powder.
Smoke Powder.
Mono-Sodium Glutamate.
Sweetmeats.
Fruit squashes, etc.

CONDIMENTS.

Tomato Ketchup.
Sauce.
Curry Powder.
Pickles.
Salad Cream.
Vinegar.
Mixed Spice.
Coriander.

DRUGS.

Teething Powders.
Tartaric Acid.
Liquid Paraffin.
Olive Oil.
Borax.
Junior Aspirin.
Virol.
Glycerine.
Bronchial Emulsion.
Epsom Salts.
Glauber Salts.
Syrup of Figs.
Yeast-Vite Tablets.
Glucose-D.
Bemax.

The great majority of the Food products and Condiments, on examination, were found to be of good quality and in a sound, edible condition.

During the past year I have examined twenty samples of Sausages, sixteen consisting of Pork and four of Beef.

The Meat content of these Sausages was as follows -

<u>Pork Sausages</u>	<u>Meat Content</u>	<u>Price per lb.</u>
1	62%	2/8d
2	60%	2/6d
3	66%	2/4d
4	60%	2/5d
5	66%	2/10d
6	60%	2/6d
7	60%	2/6d
8	62%	2/8d
9	75%	2/8d
10	55%	2/7d
11	64%	3/0d
12	59%	2/8d
13	58%	2/6d
14	55%	3/0d
15	68%	2/6d
16	50%	3/0d

<u>Beef Sausages</u>	<u>Meat Content</u>	<u>Price per lb.</u>
1	54%	1/10d
2	60%	1/10d
3	68%	1/6d
4	65%	2/0d.

In most cases the Meat content of these Sausages was, in my opinion, satisfactory in relation to the price charged, There were, however, one or two exceptions and on referring to the table it will be seen that Pork Sausages Nos. 14 and 16, contained only 55% and 50% of Meat respectively, and the price charged for these, in each case, was 3/0d per lb., which I considered excessive, and this matter was brought to the notice of your Public Health Committee.

Several samples of the Pork Sausages were found to contain Sulphur Dioxide Preservative, but I was informed that no declaration to this effect was displayed by the Vendors. This omission constitutes an offence under Section 4 of the Preservative Regulations.

I am pleased to be able to state that all the samples of Food and Condiments, as set out on Page 23 of this report, complied with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, and also with their respective Statutory Rules and Orders.

The samples of Drugs examined during the year were also found to comply with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia in respect of their strength and general composition.

Five samples of Ice Cream were submitted to me for analysis during the year, and my findings are set out in Appendix X of this report.

Your Chief Inspector also submitted to me during the year under review, a number of special samples, the majority of which were connected with complaints in respect of their condition, etc., and I will now refer to these under their separate headings.

WHITE BREAD

This consisted of a portion of a long loaf of White Bread, the middle slices of which had been cut out and were alleged to have the odour of contamination by cats. Special chemical tests were applied to this loaf, but no evidence could be obtained of the presence of Ammonia or of Urea. The Bread, in fact, appeared to be quite free from any taint.

Under these circumstances, therefore, I was unable to confirm the presence of any animal contamination in this loaf.

COCONUT MACAROON

This Coconut Macaroon was alleged to have an objectionable smell and an unusual colour. When inspected it was found to possess a somewhat bluish grey tint and it also had a strong, rank odour.

A chemical analysis indicated that this macaroon contained about 7.0% of Oil and this Oil, when tested for rancidity, gave positive results. I considered, therefore, that the purchaser's complaint was justified and that this Coconut Macaroon should not have been sold in this unsatisfactory condition.

MILK BOTTLES

Three complaints were received in respect of dirty Milk Bottles. In one case the bottle, when emptied, was found to contain a deposit consisting of Oxide of Iron and Lime, together with a little dried Oil.

In the second complaint the foreign matter consisted of a thin, semi-transparent film which was adhering to the inside surface of the bottle. This film, on examination, was found to be some kind of cellulose material.

In the case of the third bottle, a fungus growth, admixed with some amorphous debris was adhering to the inside surface of the glass and it spread over a fairly large area of the whole bottle.

I was informed by your Chief Inspector, that these dirty bottles all came from one Dairy Company, which would suggest that insufficient care was being taken in inspecting the bottles after they had passed through the washing machine. I understand that this matter was reported to your Public Health Committee.

GINGER CRISPS.

A formal sample of Ginger Crisps was submitted to me by Mr. G.F. Willcox, following a complaint that their flavour was excessively strong and, in consequence, not considered suitable for sale to children. I submitted the sample to a chemical analysis and the following results were obtained -

Cane Sugar	90.0
Moisture	4.0
Ash	1.6
Ginger Extractives	3.3
Ginger Fibre	1.1
	<hr/>
	100.0

This analysis indicated that these sweets contained about 5.0% of Ginger, mainly in the form of extract. They were carefully tasted by several members of my staff and the concensus of opinion was that the Ginger flavour was by no means excessive. The complaint, therefore, would appear not to have been justified.

DEMARARA SUGAR

Mr.K.H.Marsden submitted to me two samples of Demarara Sugar concerning which, I was informed, he had received a complaint that the Sugar contained an excessive amount of Insoluble Residue.

These two samples were carefully examined in respect of their general quality against a standard brand of Demarara Sugar. The following results are of interest

	<u>Sugar No.1</u>	<u>Sugar No.2</u>	<u>Standard Brand</u>
Ash	0.30%	0.32%	0.48%
Iron	13 parts per million	13 parts per million	5 parts per million
Insoluble Residue.	96 millegrammes per 100 grammes	320 millegrammes per 100 grammes	15 millegrammes per 100 grammes.

From these results I was of the opinion that the condition of this Demarara Sugar was unsatisfactory and that it contained an excessive quantity of insoluble debris. The purchaser's complaint was entirely justified.

JAM AND CREAM SPONGE.

This Jam and Cream Sponge was submitted following a complaint that it contained some foreign matter admixed with the jam.

A careful inspection revealed that a number of small dark particles were present in the jam layer, and some of these were actually embedded in the sponge itself. These dark particles were removed and submitted to a microscopical examination, which showed them to be composed of fragments of tissue and, when special tests were applied, these tissues were found to be lignified, thus indicating that they consisted of particles of wood and very closely resembled fine sawdust, with which they were compared.

I was subsequently informed that sawdust was actually laid out on the floor of the bakery concerned, and I advised Mr.Marsden that strong representation should be made to the Proprietor of these premises that greater supervision must be exercised in future to avoid contamination of this kind.

This, I think, completes my summary relating to the various samples taken in the Borough of Watford during the past year, and, in submitting my report, I would like, at the same time, to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance that I have received from your Chief Inspector, Mr.K.H.Marsden, your Deputy Inspector, Mr.G.F.Willcox, and their Colleagues in the Public Health Office at Watford.

(signed)

C.W.McHugo.

Public Analyst for the Borough
of Watford.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are no industrial processes in Watford which are the cause of major atmospheric pollution. There are, however, many industrial boiler plants which, in furtherance of the clean air policy, must be kept under close observation.

357 observations were made by the sanitary inspectors during the year in connection with emissions of smoke and noxious fumes. In three more factories conversions have been made to burn fuel oil instead of coal. The unvarying quality of this fuel coupled with the automatic controls now fitted to most new installations eliminate many of the human errors which from time to time cause smoke nuisances.

Smoke abatement and boiler house efficiency are matters of intimate relationship and this is again demonstrated by the outcome of the measures which were adopted to abate three statutory smoke nuisances which were reported to the Council during 1955:-

1. A serious emission of smuts and grit from the Lancashire boilers at a sweet factory was not mitigated by the overhaul of the grit arrester. Day and night observations established that the nuisance was mainly caused whilst the fires were banked at night (when the grit arrester and fan draught were out of action). Steps were taken to abate the nuisance by improving the combustion efficiency during the night operation of the boilers. This has led to a saving in fuel of some 7%.
2. Black smoke was being emitted from the chimney of a factory where two Cochran multitubular boilers with underfeed stokers had recently been installed. It was found that this nuisance was caused by the use of unsuitable strongly caking coal. When a more suitable fuel was obtained the nuisance was abated and the heat demand could easily be met by one boiler instead of the two - with no mean saving in fuel.
3. It is very difficult to burn bituminous coal smokelessly in a vertical boiler. At one factory where this was attempted a serious smoke nuisance was being caused. This was alleviated by burning coke instead of coal and a considerable saving in fuel costs resulted.

EMISSION OF FUMES FROM A GLASS FACTORY.

The emission of hydrofluoric acid fumes from a glass factory has continued to cause a nuisance. The fume washing plant has been overhauled and the fume stack improved but these works have not been completely successful.

The Public Analyst advised the use of soda ash in the scrubber for washing the gases before they are emitted from the chimney. Representations to this effect were made to the Management of the factory who have agreed to instal the necessary plant.

MISCELLANEOUS

INDUSTRIAL NOISE NUISANCES.

The Watford Corporation Act, 1937 provides that under certain circumstances a noise nuisance shall be liable to be dealt with as a statutory nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936.

In my last Annual Report I reported on the informal action being taken by the Council in respect of noise from two factories. Early in 1955 the Chairman and members of the Health Committee met representatives of the two firms and obtained their co-operation. One firm immediately lessened the noise by attention to methods and practice and the fitting of new diesel engines to transport vehicles. The other firm, on the advice of accoustic experts, soundproofed one "braiding" floor of the factory at considerable expense. If this is successful the other braiding floor will be soundproofed similarly.

Complaints regarding noise from two other factories have also been considered by the Health Committee. Investigations did not support one of these complaints. In the other case the Management agreed to remove the noisy machinery.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I - Health Provisions.

The Council are responsible for the enforcement of certain health provisions of the Factories Acts but it is a responsibility of significance only in those factories where mechanical power is not employed. A summary of the work carried out by the sanitary inspectors is set out in tabular form in the appendix.

Part II - Safety. Section 34 - Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Corporation's authorised officer for this work. 22 Factories were surveyed during the year in connection with the issue of certificates as to adequate means of escape in case of fire and as a result 14 new certificates were issued.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises are submitted for approval to the Fire Prevention Officer and the Chief Sanitary Inspector. This procedure benefits both the developer and the officials.

Part IV - Special Provisions - Section 54 - Underground Bakehouses.

A Certificate of Suitability has been issued in respect of the one remaining underground bakehouse, which is situated at 24 Langley Road.

Part VIII - Homework - Section 110.

The nature of the work undertaken by the 39 outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XII.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is appointed by the Council as the authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

143 premises are licensed for the storage of inflammable liquids of various kinds which in view of their "flash point" come within the definition of "petroleum spirit". One licence has been granted for the storage of carbide of calcium.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The sanitary inspectors and the shops inspector have been appointed as officers under Section 4 of the Act and they work in close co-operation with the local inspector of the R.S.P.C.A.

Fourteen persons are licensed to keep pet shops within the Borough. It has not been necessary to report to the Council any offences under the provisions of this Act.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) REGULATIONS, 1953.

The sanitary inspectors have been appointed to inspect and test appliances under the above legislation. Following the complete survey which was made in 1954, when all unsatisfactory appliances were withdrawn from sale, no new fires have been found which do not comply with the Regulations. On two occasions the sale of unsatisfactory second-hand fires was stopped and the vendor was warned.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Nine premises in Watford have been registered for upholstery work and two premises have been licensed for the storage of rag flock.

It has not been necessary during the year to report any infringements of the Act to the Council.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

There are two rodent operatives employed in the Department and they are provided with a light van for the transport of poison baits etc.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer the public sewers were subjected to two rodent destruction campaigns in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Council has continued its policy of providing a free service for domestic dwellings.

A summary of the work carried out in 1955 is set out in prescribed form in the appendix.

DUSTBINS.

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Council 42 statutory notices were served during 1955 on the owners or the occupiers of premises requiring the provision of dustbins. In 8 cases the notices were enforced by the supply of dustbins in default.

The owner of 282 St. Albans Road appealed against a notice served on him requiring the provision of a dustbin at this dwelling house. The Magistrates allowed the Appeal although they considered that the Council's policy on this matter was generally sound.

RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1955.

TABLE I

<u>Houses -</u>						
Public Health Act	-	-	-	-	-	324
Housing Act	-	-	-	-	-	209
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	37
Housing Survey	-	-	-	-	-	270
<u>Factories -</u>						
Factories with Mechanical Power	-	-	-	-	-	257
Factories without Mechanical Power	-	-	-	-	-	29
Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	12
Outworkers	-	-	-	-	-	18
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>						
Premises Inspected	-	-	-	-	-	69
Other Visits	-	-	-	-	-	48
Sewer Baiting	-	-	-	-	-	17
<u>General -</u>						
Refuse Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-	185
Tents, Vans and Sheds	-	-	-	-	-	418
Keeping of Animals	-	-	-	-	-	23
Public Houses	-	-	-	-	-	31
Smoke Observations and Industrial Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	357
Vacant Land and Refuse Tips	-	-	-	-	-	63
Verminous Premises	-	-	-	-	-	21
Fly Prevention	-	-	-	-	-	9
Other Insect Pests	-	-	-	-	-	33
Drainage Inspections and Tests	-	-	-	-	-	332
Cesspools	-	-	-	-	-	30
Infectious Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	102
Petroleum Acts	-	-	-	-	-	94
Shops Act	-	-	-	-	-	25
Interviews with Owners	-	-	-	-	-	402
Pet Animals Act	-	-	-	-	-	11
Miscellaneous Visits	-	-	-	-	-	835
<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice -</u>						
Public Health Act - Houses	-	-	-	-	-	473
Public Health Act - Others	-	-	-	-	-	141
Housing Act	-	-	-	-	-	1,338
Other Revisits	-	-	-	-	-	96
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>						
Slaughterhouses	-	-	-	-	-	2,031
Visits re Food Inspection	-	-	-	-	-	366
Butchers Shops	-	-	-	-	-	31
Fishmongers, Fried Fish Shops and Poulterers	-	-	-	-	-	16

<u>Meat and Foods (Continued)</u>					
Grocers, Greengrocers and Fruiterers	-	-	-	-	28
Dairies and Milk Shops	-	-	-	-	39
Ice Cream Premises	-	-	-	-	167
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	-	-	-	-	158
Preserved Food Rooms	-	-	-	-	61
Milk Samples (Bacteriological)	-	-	-	-	64
Ice Cream Samples	-	-	-	-	59
Food (Adulteration) Samples	-	-	-	-	130
(Bacteriological) Samples	-	-	-	-	46
Public Market	-	-	-	-	258
Bakehouses	-	-	-	-	70
Other Food Premises	-	-	-	-	18
Food Hygiene Lectures	-	-	-	-	3
					9,854

HOUSING.

TABLE II

NEW HOUSES.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1955.

(a) Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority	-	-	-	204
(b) Number of new houses erected by private enterprise.	-	-	-	117
Total number of houses built since 1945:-				
(a) By the Local Authority	-	-	-	2,805
(b) By private enterprise	-	-	-	794

COUNCIL HOUSES AND REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES - TABLE III

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:-

(a) Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December 1955	4,471 plus 99 Prefabricated Bungalows
(b) Number of requisitioned premises	- - 41
(c) Number of families housed in requisitioned premises	63

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR - TABLE IV

3 month period ending	No. of Applications for Certifs. of Disrepair.	No. of Certifs. granted	No. of applications for Revocation of Certificates.	No. of Certifs. revoked.
31st Dec. 1954	17	17	Nil	Nil
31st Mar. 1955	13	13	3	2
30th June 1955	1	1	4	4
30th Sept. 1955	4	4	6	6
31st Dec. 1955	1	1	1	1
Total	36	36	14	13

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED 1955 - TABLE V

<u>Houses -</u>				
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	77
Walls Repointed, Rendered or Repaired	-	-	-	46
Dangerous Walls Rebuilt	-	-	-	1
Wall Plaster Repaired	-	-	-	108
Floors Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	34
Ceilings Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	32
Windows Repaired or renewed	-	-	-	114
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	11
Cooking Ranges Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	1
Coppers Provided or Repaired	-	-	-	-
Sinks Provided or Renewed	-	-	-	8
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	16
Interior Water Supplies Provided	-	-	-	8
Repairs to Water Supplies	-	-	-	18
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	50
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	61
Food Stores Provided or Repaired	-	-	-	11
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	2
Handrails Repaired or Provided	-	-	-	1
Doors Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	23
Coalhouses Provided or Repaired	-	-	-	-
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired or Abolished	-	-	-	30
Yards, etc. Paved or Repaired	-	-	-	11
Damp Proof Courses Provided	-	-	-	31
Rooms Cleansed and Redecorated	-	-	-	6
Overcrowding Abated	-	-	-	-
Additional Lighting Provided	-	-	-	8
Additional Ventilation Provided	-	-	-	4
Sub-floor Ventilation Improved	-	-	-	2
<u>Drainage -</u>				
Drains or Sewers Cleared of Obstructions	-	-	-	37
Drains or Sewers Repaired or Reconstructed	-	-	-	23
Cesspools Abolished	-	-	-	-
Cesspools Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	3
Inspection Chambers Provided	-	-	-	6
Soil Pipes, Vent Shafts, etc. Repaired or Renewed	-	-	-	6
<u>Water Closets -</u>				
Additional Provided	-	-	-	3
W.C.'s Repaired or Cleansed	-	-	-	53
<u>Miscellaneous -</u>				
Dustbins Provided	-	-	-	59
Offensive Accumulations Removed	-	-	-	8
Animals - Nuisances Abated	-	-	-	1
Verminous Rooms Disinfested	-	-	-	6
Dirty Premises Cleansed	-	-	-	-
Stagnant Water Removed	-	-	-	-
				919

F O O D.

TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE BOROUGH AT 31st DECEMBER 1955

TABLE VI

Bakehouses	-	-	-	-	21
Bakery and Flour Confectionery Shops	-	-	-	-	41
Sweetshops	-	-	-	-	62
Butchers	-	-	-	-	54
Fishmongers and Fried Fish	-	-	-	-	26
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	-	-	-	-	51
Grocers	-	-	-	-	101
General Shops where food is sold	-	-	-	-	68
<hr/>					
Wholesale Grocers	-	-	-	-	3
Wholesale Greengrocers	-	-	-	-	3
Wholesale Meat Salesmen	-	-	-	-	5
Cafes and Restaurants	-	-	-	-	69
Industrial and Commerical Canteens	-	-	-	-	54
School Canteens	-	-	-	-	36
Hotels and Public Houses	-	-	-	-	63
Unclassified Food Factories	-	-	-	-	10
Public Market	-	-	-	-	1
Slaughterhouses	-	-	-	-	2

Food Premises Registered by the Council.

1. Under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Ice Cream Manufacturers	-	-	-	-	8
Ice Cream Dealers	-	-	-	-	148
Preserved Food Manufacturers	-	-	-	-	45

2. Art. 8 of Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies	-	-	-	-	3
---------	---	---	---	---	---

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The Council has granted two Dealers Licenses to pasteurise milk and one Dealers Licence to sterilise milk at dairies within the Borough. Licenses for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were granted as follows:-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences	Supplementary Licences	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	10	2	12
Pasteurised Milk	18	3	21
Sterilised Milk	20	1	21

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1955 - TABLE VII

HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL

lbs.

Beef (including 41 carcasses)	29,028
Lamb (including 5 carcasses)	162
Pork (including 35 carcasses)	3,151

Offal from Bovines -

381	Heads	-	-	-	11,133
347	Tongues	-	-	-	1,735
1320	Lungs	-	-	-	13,200
90	Hearts	-	-	-	431
1026	Livers and 947 part livers	-	-	-	21,378
183	Spleens	-	-	-	366
65	Skirts	-	-	-	132
36	Tripes	-	-	-	1,080
36	Manifolds	-	-	-	720
26	Udders	-	-	-	259
36	Sets Intestines	-	-	-	1,080
31	Mesenteries and other fat	-	-	-	423
40	Tails	-	-	-	86
36	Sets feet	-	-	-	840
	Blood	-	-	-	130

Offal from Pigs -

176	Plucks	-	-	-	1,039
797	Livers	-	-	-	1,603
1854	Lungs	-	-	-	3,497
353	Heads	-	-	-	4,046
280	Other organs	-	-	-	180

Offal from Sheep -

11	Plucks	-	-	-	48
556	Livers	-	-	-	1,086
90	Lungs	-	-	-	158
1	Head	-	-	-	5
8	Other organs	-	-	-	3

Offal from Calves -

1	Pluck	-	-	-	5
1	Other organ	-	-	-	2

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED IN RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING PREMISES.

Pork	-	-	-	834
Beef	-	-	-	4,678
Pork fat	-	-	-	50
Offal from bovines	-	-	-	827
Offal from pigs	-	-	-	93
Offal from sheep	-	-	-	199

IMPORTED MEAT -

Beef	-	-	-	1,235
Veal	-	-	-	110
Lamb	-	-	-	233
Lambs' livers	-	-	-	30
Pigs' kidneys	-	-	-	140

Carried forward 105,435

<u>OTHER FOODS -</u>		Brought forward	<u>lbs.</u>
			105,435
350	Cans Various Meats	- - -	620
67	Cans Fish	- - -	46
1,499	Cans Fruit	- - -	10,933
1,087	Cans Milk	- - -	957
485	Cans Vegetables	- - -	795
9	Cans Jam	- - -	15
40	Cans Soup	- - -	34
74	Cans Fruit Juices	- - -	68
11	Cans Cereals	- - -	10
237	Cans Tomatoes	- - -	275
70	Cans Ham	- - -	820
110	Cans Corned Meats	- - -	385
	Dried Fruit	- - -	62
	Confectionery	- - -	68
	Cheese	- - -	213
	Cured Fish	- - -	119
	Wet Fish	- - -	439
	Smoked Fish	- - -	38
	Sausages	- - -	535
	Cooked Meats	- - -	13
	Liquid and frozen egg	- - -	73
2	Cans Chicken	- - -	7
13	Cans Tongue	- - -	78
	Bacon	- - -	14
2	Cans Pudding	- - -	1
	Miscellaneous	- - -	4
			<u>122,057</u>

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned = 54 tons, 9 cwts, 3 qtrs, 5 lbs.

Of the above unsound foods 79.3% comprise diseased meat and offal condemned in the slaughterhouses.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD DURING 1955.

TABLE VIII

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4,361	1,257	315	10,582	24,225
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	-	5	31
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,578	386	2	624	2,739
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	36.2	30.9	0.6	5.9	11.4
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	12	26	-	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	267	217	-	-	315
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	6.4	19.3	--	--	1.3
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses in which cysticercosis was found	123	22			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	71	12			
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	71	12			
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil			

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the post-war years are set out below:-

TABLE IX

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis:					
1947	38.6	35.8	0.8	8.7	16.8
1948	39.3	37.0	0.9	5.2	27.9
1949	42.4	37.5	0.8	4.5	20.6
1950	42.5	39.8	0.9	7.3	14.3
1951	40.9	40.4	0.9	4.5	14.5
1952	41.3	43.0	1.2	6.7	15.4
1953	34.5	35.2	1.9	9.6	20.8
1954	34.4	29.6	3.2	6.9	14.6
1955	36.2	30.9	0.6	5.9	11.4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:-					
1947	12.3	48.7	0.07	-	3.1
1948	12.4	44.5	0.5	-	7.9
1949	10.0	38.6	0.2	-	5.1
1950	10.5	36.5	0.4	-	5.5
1951	8.0	29.3	0.3	-	3.0
1952	7.6	26.8	0.2	-	3.7
1953	8.1	22.8	0.1	-	3.7
1954	7.0	22.1	0.5	-	2.4
1955	6.9	19.3	-	-	1.3

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES - TABLE X

No. of Samples	Satisfactory - Grades I & 2	Unsatisfactory - Grades III & IV
61	53	8

CHEMICAL SAMPLES.

The statutory minimum content for ice cream is 5 per cent fat; 10 per cent sugar and 7½ per cent milk solids other than fat.

TABLE XI

Sample Number	Fat Content	Sugar Content	Milk Solids
1	10.8	14.7	9.7
2	12.3	13.1	11.0
3	12.8	12.5	7.6
4	10.2	13.6	9.1
5	6.5	14.3	11.9

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Part 1 - Health Provisions

TABLE XII

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	48	29	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the the Local Authority	348	257	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	20	5	-	-
Total	416	291	4	-

Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M Insp. Insp.		
Want of cleanliness (Sec.1)	2	1	--	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	2	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	22	9	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	27	11	-	-	-

Part VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) - TABLE XIII

Nature of Work	Number of out-workers as required by Section 110 (1) (c)
Wearing apparel making	10
Furniture hangings	1
The making of paper boxes	-
Brushmaking	2
Christmas Crackers etc.	22
Fireworks	1
Leather Goods	2
Artificial Flowers	1
	39

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH 1956.

TABLE XIV

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols.1, 2 & 3. (4)	Agricultural. (5)
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District. (Notes 1 & 2)	66	as at 21294	1.4.55 2485	23845	-
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	(a) 9	308	51	368	-
(b) Survey under the Act	(b) 28	918	5	951	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	(c) 4	803	1294	2101	-
III. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major)	7	5	6	18	-
(b) Mice (Major)	7	380	8	395	-
(c) Mice (Minor)	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Mice (Major)	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Mice (Minor)	7	83	34	124	-
IV. Number of infested properties (in Sect. III) treated by the L.A.	21	468	48	537	-
V. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling House (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. 1, 2, & 3. (4)	Agricultural (5)
VI. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
VII Legal Proceedings (see overleaf)	-	-	-	-	-
VIII Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	-	137	5	142	-