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BOROUGH OF WATFORD



Annual Report

of the

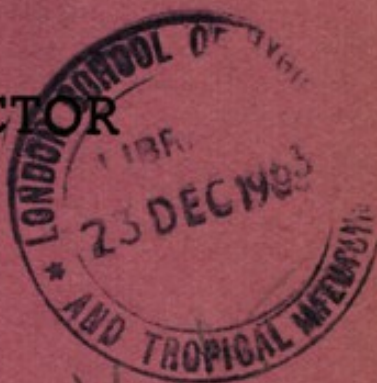
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1956



W. ALCOCK

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

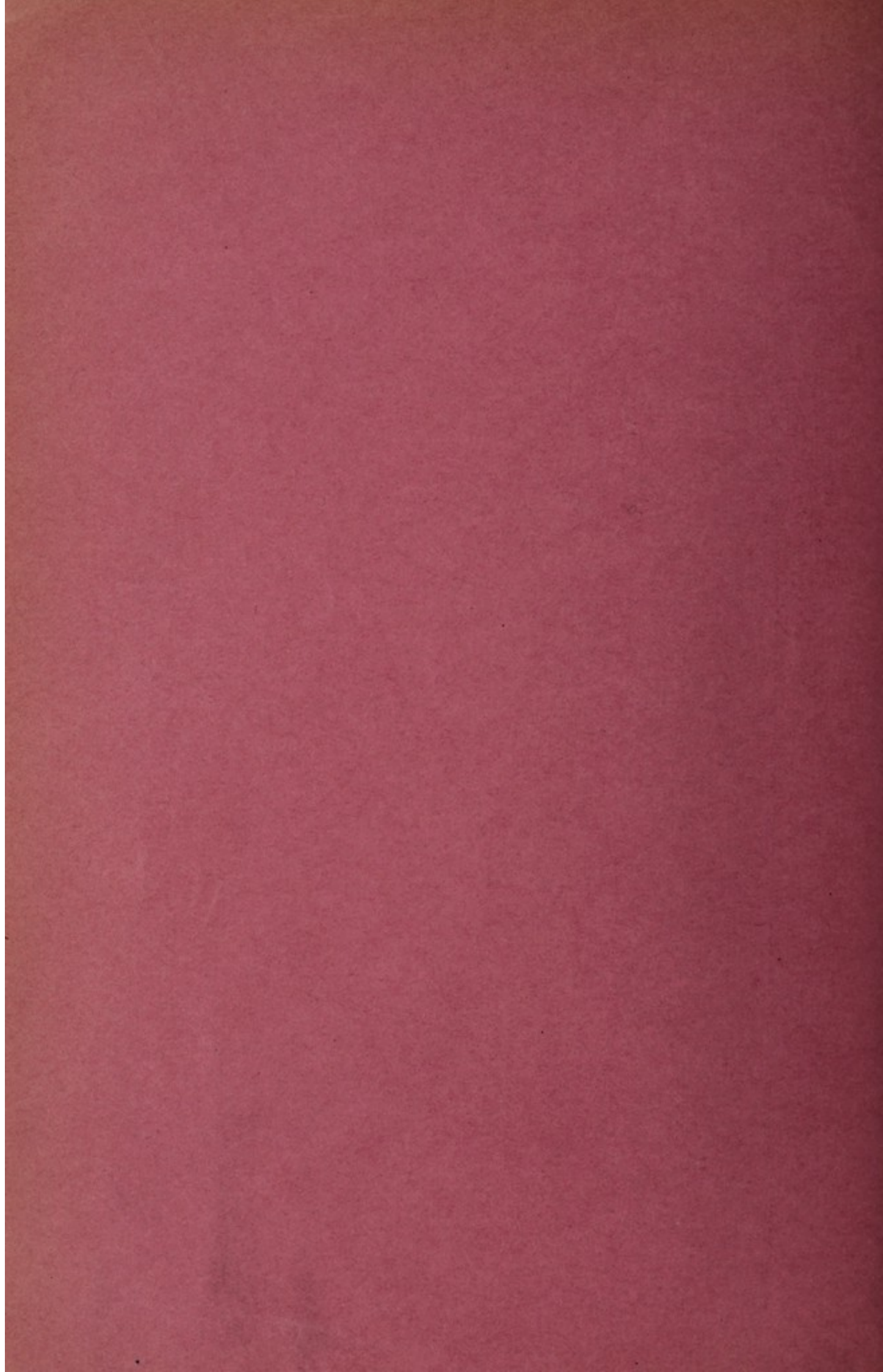
Medical Officer of Health

K. H. MARSDEN

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C.W.



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Members of the Health Committee

1955 - 1956

Chairman:	Alderman G. A. Musk
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor G. W. Smith
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Alderman E. C. Amey
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor A. Abbott

Alderman L. C. Johnson	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Alderman Mrs. A. Primett	Councillor Mrs. E. A. Mewis
Councillor A. Arkinstall	Councillor H. A. E. Mounter
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Councillor J. S. Oliver
Councillor J. P. Cook	Councillor Miss D. M. Scawen
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins	Councillor J. Seymour
Councillor T. Johnson	
Councillor G. W. Knox	

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.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K. H. Marsden

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. F. Willcox

District Public Health Inspectors:

E. Ellerington.

J. L. Willoughby.

T. B. Rosamond.

G. E. Hayne.

Inspector under Shops Act: -

A. Corke. (Died 6th February 1956)

Clerical Staff:-

* Miss M. Sherlock

Miss M. Johnson

Miss M. Coughlan, resigned 25th July 1956

Miss M. James

Miss E. Jerrett, commenced 23rd July 1956

* Part time officer.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

8th October 1957.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1956.

The Department sustained a serious loss by the death, in February, of our Assistant Shops Inspector, Arthur Corke.

Mr. Corke was the kind of man who is always ready to give a helping hand and it is not surprising that he came to be actively associated with so many enterprises, notable among which were the Gift Parcels Scheme for Old Age Pensioners and the Mayor's Christmas Fund. He was a founder member of the Watford & District Old People's Housing Association and took a keen practical interest in the Watford Darby & Joan Club. During the late War Mr. Corke worked very hard in the Home Guard and as Watford's Billeting Officer. He will long be remembered in Watford for his kindly acts, particularly by the old people.

During the year a public health measure was introduced which we profoundly hope will be effective in reducing both the incidence and the severity of poliomyelitis. A generation or more ago, this disease, better known at one time as infantile paralysis, was comparatively uncommon, but in the intervening years it has developed into a scourge from which hardly any part of the inhabited globe is exempt. News that an effective vaccine against poliomyelitis had been produced in America received considerable enthusiasm as was to be expected; an enthusiasm which was subsequently tempered, however, by reports that a number of children who had been given the vaccine had developed poliomyelitis and some had died. Investigations showed that certain batches of vaccine had not been subjected to adequate safety tests and contained living virus. Since more rigid tests have been imposed no adverse reactions have occurred among the many millions of children vaccinated. Profiting by American experience our own laboratories subject the British vaccine to extremely severe tests, which, although they have greatly limited the supply of vaccine have ensured that it is as safe as it is humanly possible to make it. A start was made during the year and in the short space of two

months (May and June) allotted to us, over 800 children in South-West Herts were given anti-poliomyelitis vaccine. About half of these were Watford children. During the year the incidence of poliomyelitis was low, there being only four notified cases in the Borough. This period of comparative freedom enabled us to improve considerably our figures for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, compared with the previous year when, owing to the prevalence of poliomyelitis our immunisation programme was seriously curtailed in accordance with the practice in recent years of suspending immunisation procedures in areas where poliomyelitis is prevalent.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was very low as will be seen from the tables.

A study of the list of causes of death is illuminating. Apart from deaths from tuberculosis which show a marked and unexplained increase during the year deaths from infections are insignificant. Easily the largest single cause of death, amounting to 60% of the total is the group associated with degenerative conditions of the heart and blood vessels and these are on the increase, alarmingly so in the case of coronary disease. Clearly some of the increase is due to the fact that people are living longer - twenty three years have been added to the expectation of life during the present century - living to an age, in fact, when their blood vessels would be expected to show signs of wear. But this is not the whole story. There are many who think that modern living conditions are a contributory factor in hastening the onset of degenerative vascular disease. The ever-increasing use of the motor car, the introduction of electronic devices, automation and the rest have resulted in a greater proportion of the population leading a less active life. At the same time the greatly improved living standards which many people now enjoy permit unrestricted consumption of certain foodstuffs of which fats, and particularly fats of animal origin are thought to play a part in the causation of coronary heart disease, but so far there is no conclusive proof of this.

A further substantial proportion of deaths (20%) is due to cancer. There is a growing feeling that the time has arrived when the public should be more widely informed on the subject of cancer and on the part they may play in its prevention and early diagnosis. With regard to lung cancer, for example, there is now conclusive evidence that cigarettes smokers run a greater risk of contracting lung cancer than non smokers; that this risk mounts with the number of cigarettes smoked and that giving up smoking reduces the risk.

During the month of November we held an Accident Prevention Week in the Borough. In organising this the aim was to take the exhibition to the people as an alternative to the usual method of holding an exhibition in a public hall, often with disappointing results. Stands were placed in many of the shops, schools and other buildings and through the combined enthusiastic efforts of the road safety, health visitor, public health inspector, education, gas, electricity, fire and ambulance sections, I believe really useful publicity on accident prevention was achieved. Such exhibitions, however, can hardly be expected to have permanent value unless followed up by active propaganda

and I hope we shall be in a position to do this in the near future.

Following the housing survey conducted in the latter half of 1955 a programme designed to eliminate the remaining unfit houses was instituted and in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector will be seen the results of a very satisfactory year's work thereon. As will be seen from a perusal of the food section your Inspectors continue their zealous prosecution of an active food hygiene campaign and highly satisfactory progress in this direction has been achieved.

From a perusal of the general vital statistics it will be seen that the principle rates, whilst differing but slightly from those of previous years give cause for general satisfaction. Set out in tabular form are the birth rates and principle 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
1956	14.9	11.1	13.9	0.00	0.22	2.01

The remarkable low infantile mortality rate will be noted. It is again substantially below the national figure. It is also gratifying to be able to record that no maternal deaths occurred during the year. There has been a slight increase in deaths from tuberculosis, these have occurred mainly in the older age groups in patients whose disease was of long-standing.

It is always a pleasure to record how harmoniously and cheerfully we work together in the health department in spite, at times, of the pressure of work and I am most grateful to all for their loyal co-operation.

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 1956	72,520
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	21,672
Rateable value at 1. 4. 56	£1,489,954
Sum represented by a penny rate	£6,150

Number of Live Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	512	509	1021
Illegitimate	<u>33</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>58</u>
	<u>545</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>1079</u>

Number of Still Births -			
Legitimate	18	12	30
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	1,109
Total number of Deaths	807

Causes of Death of Watford Residents:-	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	6	13
Tuberculosis, other ...	1	3
Syphilitic disease ...	1	1
Diphtheria ...	-	-
Whooping cough ...	-	-
Menigococcal Infections ...	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	-
Measles ...	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease ...	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	21	26
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	33	21
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	15	16
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	9	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	66	74
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	5	4
Diabetes ...	7	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	116	126
Coronary disease, angina ...	138	126
Hypertension with heart disease ...	10	15
Other heart disease ...	138	132
Other circulatory disease ...	41	27

		1955	1956
Influenza	...	3	3
Pneumonia	...	50	54
Bronchitis	...	40	42
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	6	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	6	10
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	4	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	10	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	9	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	-
Congenital malformations	...	10	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	50	37
Motor vehicle accidents	...	11	13
All other accidents	...	21	21
Suicide	...	5	8
Homicide and operations of war	...	1	-
All cases	...	<u>836</u>	<u>807</u>

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	6	15
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1956

	Watford	London Administrative County	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 civilian population.				
LIVE BIRTHS	14.9	15.9	15.6	15.6
STILL BIRTHS (per 1,000 total live and still births)	27.1	20.2	23.0	22.9
Death Rate				
All Causes	11.1	11.7	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	0.04	0.04	0.06
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.7	0.67	0.57	0.52
Tuberculosis	0.22	0.14	0.14	0.12
Malignant Neoplasms, Lung, Bronchus	0.29	0.58	0.47	0.41

	Watford	London Admini- strative County	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns	England and Wales
Coronary Disease				
Angina Pectoris	1.74	1.70	1.68	1.67
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00			0.13
Other Puerperal Causes	0.00			0.43
All puerperal Causes	0.00			0.56
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year)				
ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births	13.9	21.4	24.0	23.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	14.7			
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	0.0			
NEONATAL MORTALITY (deaths of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	8.3			16.9

COMPARATIVE RATES

	Watford 1956	England and Wales 1956	Watford 1955	England and Wales 1955
Birth Rate (Live births)	14.9	15.6	14.4	15.0
Death Rate	11.1	11.7	11.5	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	13.9	23.8	13.4	24.9
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.64

REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS - CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	2lbs & under	2-3lbs	3-4lbs	4-5lbs	5-5½lbs	TOTAL
Number	-	1	4	18	27	50
Number surviving after 24 hours	-	1	3	17	26	47
Number surviving after 8 days	-	1	3	15	26	45
Number surviving at 4 weeks	-	1	3	15	26	45

Prematurity rate of 4.6%, 6.3% - 1955 5.7% - 1954

CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS (SOUTH WEST HERTS)

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Prematurity and Toxaemia	3	5	1	2	1	1	5
Prematurity and other causes	1	2	4	4	4	6	4
Toxaemia	4	3	14	19	12	4	22
Malformation	7	8	10	8	5	13	11
Birth injury	14	14	16	9	9	10	5
Placental Disease	2	4	2	2	3	3	3
Erythroblastosis	2	7	6	4	10	4	3
Maternal Disease	3	5	5	-	7	1	3
Abnormality of Cord	4	10	10	6	6	3	3
Cause unknown	6	3	4	-	3	2	6
Disproportion	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	<u>46</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>71</u>

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>	<u>1956</u>
Prematurity	5	5	6	3	4	2	3
Malformation	5	3	6	5	6	5	5
Birth injuries	4	4	2	4	-	3	-
Collapse of lung	2	2	3	6	4	1	2
Respiratory diseases	2	1	4	6	2	1	4
Other diseases of infancy	3	2	1	-	1	1	-
Infectious disease	3	-	1	-	-	1	-
Accidents	-	2	3	1	1	-	1
Not traced	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>

Of the 15 infant deaths occurring in 1956 3 died within 24 hours, a further 6 less than a week old and 3 whilst still under three months old, and 3 under 8 months.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 8.3 compared with 15.3 in 1955.

Sex of Infants

The sex ratio of 1,021 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is lower 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
1956	46	52

Laboratory Services

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Chief Public Health 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 three occasions (two in 1955).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1956 (Corrected)

Disease	Under										Over Age un-		
	1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65	Known	Totals	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	15	27	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	3642	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poliomyelitis													
-Paralytic	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Poliomyelitis													
-Non-paralytic	-		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	3	9	3	-	22	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	2	-	-	-	17	
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	3	13	9	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	
Measles	10	76	78	194	3	4	-	-	-	-	1	366	
Food Poisoning	-	1	2	1	-	6	2	-	2	-	-	14	
Dysentery	1	13	29	1	1	7	4	-	-	-	-	56	
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Encephalitis (infective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Acute Encephalitis (Post Vaccinal)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
	15	103	129	245	12	29	20	5	16	3	1	584	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1956

(1955 figures in brackets)

	Under 5	Over 5	Total	Reinforcing
a. <u>County Staff</u>	5			
1. Watford Borough	532 (275)	98 (78)	630 (353)	822 (457)
2. Remaining Area of S. W. Herts	954 (581)	140 (290)	1094 (871)	803 (968)
b. <u>General Practitioners</u>	729 (579)	8 (31)	737 (610)	163 (191)
	<u>2215 (1435)</u>	<u>246 (399)</u>	<u>2461 (1834)</u>	<u>1788 (1616)</u>

Whooping Cough Immunisation

The figures for Watford Borough were as follows:

Completed Cases - 529

Anti - Poliomyelitis Vaccination

South West Herts - from May to December:

Completed Cases - 868

Smallpox

No smallpox contacts were investigated.

Vaccination against Smallpox

1397 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 1955 (1345)

TUBERCULOSIS

	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	5	5	-	3	1	-	-	-
25 - 34	7	4	-	-	1	-	-	1
35 - 44	7	3	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 54	5	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 64	3	2	-	-	5	-	-	-
65 and over	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	32	22	2	4	10	3	1	2

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1920 - 1956

Year	Population	NEW CASES			Rate per 1, 000 pop	DEATHS			
		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Rate per 1, 000 pop.
1956	72520	54	6	60	0.83	13	3	16	0.22
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

The report of the Unit has now been received and I have extracted information with regard to the visit to Watford in the Autumn of 1955.

Number X-rayed	22, 252
Number requiring further investigation	221
Number of cases of active tuberculosis	35

The incidence of active cases for the whole area was 2.2 per 1, 000 men and 1.1 per 1, 000 women. Amongst the men the greatest yield was in the age group over 55, whilst the predominance in women occurred in those of young adult age and up to 44 years.

W A T E R

Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply

In May 1956, the fluoridation plant installed at both The Grove and Watford Fields pumping stations commenced operation, by which fluoride salts were introduced into the water supply to an amount closely approximating to 1 part per million of fluoride.

This is the amount which when added to water deficient in fluoride has been conclusively shown in America to reduce the incidence of dental decay by about 60%.

The apparatus installed was designed to ensure very accurate delivery of the fluoride salts to the supply and the many tests subsequently carried out are eloquent testimony to its efficiency in this respect.

Watford is one of four such study areas, the others being, Andover, Anglesey and Kilmarnock. Each area is paired with another which resembles it, inter alia, by lacking fluoride in the local water supply. Watford's control area is Sutton (Surrey) and whilst the water supply of the former is being fluoridated, that of the latter is not.

Detailed examinations of samples of children at various age levels are being made annually in all eight areas, in order to find what effect the addition of fluoride to the drinking water has had upon the children's teeth.

The results of the trials are eagerly awaited for should they parallel those already achieved in America, fluoridation of drinking water will justly rank as one of the most important public health measures ever introduced, for dental caries is a disease from which scarcely any of us escape.

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 1956. 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 1,047 million gallons, or 2,861,000 gallons per day.

2. The supply from Watford Fields Pumping Station, which is about one third of the total supply, was softened by the lime softening process.

It was anticipated that softening of the other two thirds of the supply i. e. the supply from the Grove Pumping Station, would be in operation towards the end of 1956, but this expectation was not fulfilled owing to delays in the completion of the contracts, commenced in May 1955, for the erection of the necessary buildings and structures and the installation of the base exchange softening plant and aeration plant.

Although outside the scope of this report, softening at the Grove Pumping Station commenced in April 1957. Since that date therefore the whole of the supply throughout the Corporation's statutory area has been softened water.

3. The Corporation's water undertaking is one of four selected by the Ministry of Health to carry out the initial fluoridation of the public water supply in Great Britain. The fluoridation plant was put into operation at both sources of supply in May 1956 and a close approximation to a fluoride content of 1 part per million, the content prescribed by the Ministry, has been satisfactorily maintained since that date.

Colorimetric tests of the fluoride content of water going into supply are carried out twice daily at both pumping stations and once daily of samples drawn from four points in the distribution system. In addition, four samples (one from each pumping station and two from the distribution system) are taken weekly and sent to the Government Chemist's Department for test by the distillation process, which in addition to being a test of the fluoride content is also a check on the accuracy of the colorimetric tests carried out by the Water Department personnel. Finally, a monthly report is made to the Government Chemist setting out the weight of fluoride used each day allied to the quantity of water treated, and the resultant fluoride content by calculation and as found by the tests.

4. 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 4 - hourly intervals and twice daily respectively.

The Grove Pumping Station Supply:-

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

The chlorine residual of the water going into supply is indicated and continuously recorded on a residual recorder installed in 1956.

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

5. There is no plumbo solvency.
6. 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).

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING

1. CLEARANCE OF "SLUM" HOUSES

It is the Council's policy to enforce the demolition or closure of the 110 unfit houses in Watford before the end of 1960. In furtherance of this policy the following houses were represented to the Council during 1956 as being unfit for human habitation.

Clearance Areas

- (i) West Street Clearance Area: Comprising the 13 houses Nos. 1 - 17 and 12 - 18 West Street. The Council resolved to deal with this Area by way of a Clearance Order which was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government on 27th November 1956 for confirmation.
- (ii) Watford Field Road Clearance Area: Comprising the 3 houses Nos. 20, 24 and 25 Watford Field Road and other buildings. The Council resolved on 1st January 1957, that these properties form a Clearance Area.

Individual Unfit Houses represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

*	No. 2 New Street)	These 9 houses
	No. 66 Riverside Road		
	Nos. 3, 4, and 6 Terrace Gardens.		
	Nos. 1, 3 and 5 Beechen Grove)	owned by the Watford Corporation.
*	Nos. 258, 258A and 258B High Street)	
*	Nos. 59 and 61 Horseshoe Lane)	
	No. 7 Hempstead Road)	

Six of the above houses (marked *) had been vacated by the end of the year.

Four houses - Nos. 141, 143, 145 and 147 Queens Road which were owned by the Council and which were unfit for human habitation were demolished during March 1956.

2. REPAIR OF UNFIT HOUSES

For many years it has not been possible for the Public Health Inspectors to carry out routine "house to house" inspections. Nevertheless, complaints from tenants have led to the enforcement of a considerable amount of housing repair and other works. Altogether during 1956 235 houses were made reasonably fit for human habitation as a result of action under the Housing and Public Health Acts. It is worthy of note that 180 of these houses were made fit by informal action on the part of the Public Health Inspectors and that in only 13 cases was it necessary for the Council to enforce Statutory Notices by carrying out the specified works in default of the owners.

The owner of 28, Watford Field Road appealed to the County Court against a notice served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, on the grounds that the house could not be made fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost. The agreed post-repair value of the house was £200 and the Council stated that it could be made fit by an expenditure of £110. After hearing the evidence the Judge dismissed the Appeal and made no variation in the terms of the notice.

The provision of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which deal with Repairs Increases appear to be little used in Watford. The number of Certificates of Disrepair granted and revoked since the inception of the Act are set out in Table II of the Appendix.

3. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer. 32 grants were authorised by the Council during 1956: all of which were made to owner-occupiers.

4. MOVABLE DWELLINGS

It is an offence under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, to place a caravan (as living accommodation) on land within the Borough without the previous consent of the Council.

Throughout the year movable dwellings of all kinds - ranging from rough hessian tents to television equipped caravans - have been placed without authority on land adjoining Tolpits Lane and the Watford Bye-Pass.

No less than 99 summonses were issued and 78 convictions obtained in respect of these offences, the fines imposed amounting to £325. But no sooner had the removal of one caravan been achieved than another one or two took its place.

In general the occupiers of these movable dwellings are not significantly deterred by the fines imposed by the Magistrates - even when these are daily penalties. One family man who has been on the same site for over two years was committed to prison for non-payment of fines.

The land at Tolpits Lane is owned by the Council and most of this was fenced during the year (at considerable expense) to exclude these trespassers. An embankment will be formed on the road boundaries of the remaining land.

A serious nuisance is being caused to the tenants of dwelling houses adjoining land at the junction of the Watford Bye-Pass and High Road, Leavesden. The caravans are without water supply or sanitary conveniences and the land has become increasingly fouled by animal and human excrement and by accumulations of domestic and other refuse. By the end of the year these accumulations constituted a Statutory Nuisance necessitating the service of an Abatement Notice on the owner

of the land and a campaign by the Council for the destruction of rats.

The advisability of establishing a properly controlled caravan site within the Borough has been investigated by the Council who were unable to adopt the proposal.

The Council have used their statutory powers to the fullest extent but little success has attended their efforts; more direct methods of dealing with this problem are being considered by the Council.

FOOD

5. FOOD HYGIENE

The making of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, certain provisions of which came into force on January 1st and the remainder (relating to food premises and equipment) on July 1st, gave a fresh impetus to the campaign for improved standards of food handling which the health inspectors have conducted since the end of the war. Leaflets and posters were sent to all food traders and re-inspections of all food premises, in the light of the Regulations, were commenced. The majority of premises had been inspected by the end of the year. Generally speaking conditions were found to be satisfactory and the trade generally showed an anxiety to comply with the law. Many difficulties had been foreseen in interpreting the regulations but their practical application proved to be less difficult than had been feared. In one case only was it necessary to report to the Council premises in which there was failure to comply with the Regulations; here the defects were remedied without the necessity for legal proceedings.

It was somewhat embarrassing that the kitchen attached to the Town Hall assembly halls and the food stalls in the Council owned public market fell short of the standards required by the Regulations. At the end of the year improvements to the market had been authorised and proposals for the installation of new equipment in the Town Hall kitchen and cloakroom facilities were before the Council.

Education in food hygiene of food trade staffs has proved difficult for a number of reasons, the chief of them being the constantly changing personnel engaged in food handling. It was therefore decided to approach the local education authority with a view to lectures being given by a public health inspector to secondary school children in their last year at school. The Chief Health Inspector met the Divisional Education Officer, head teachers and housecraft teachers from local schools. He explained to them the importance from the public health point of view of such education and invited their co-operation. Interest was aroused and it is hoped that as a result the Department will be able to carry out more effective work in this field.

6. FOOD INSPECTION

(i) MEAT

Although about a thousand fewer oxen were slaughtered than in 1955, the number of pigs killed increased by over ten thousand. Each of the four district inspectors worked an average of eight hours per week outside office hours during the weeks (one in four) when he was engaged on meat inspection. Slaughtering took place on nearly half the Sundays during the year. It is the Council's practice, when possible, to allow time off in lieu of work done outside office hours; pressure of other work, however, resulted in the position that, at the end of the year, ninety hours of overtime had been worked by the inspectors for which they had been unable to take the corresponding time off duty. The work of inspection ran more smoothly than in 1955, however, and tribute must be paid to the co-operation of the slaughterhouse manager and his staff which brought about this improvement.

The arrangement whereby numbered iveroid tickets are stuck in offals corresponding with carcasses for identification proved impracticable in the case of pigs when the numbers killed in one day rose to hundreds. Alternative arrangements were discussed with the slaughterhouse manager who was instructed to adopt a better system. When the relevant byelaw mentioned elsewhere has been confirmed it will be possible, for the first time, to enforce this requirement.

A new development during the year was the export to France and Italy of beef from one slaughterhouse. It was necessary to place an identification mark on the quarters and to issue a certificate of fitness. The Council authorised the making of a charge for the additional work falling to the Public Health Inspector in this connection. This trade continued for about two months during which 444 quarters of beef were exported.

A condition not previously met arose when a request was received from a local firm of multiple butchers to inspect a consignment of quick-frozen turkeys, all from the same Norfolk farm. The birds were of the highest quality but the skin on the backs of some dozens of them bore a blue-black stain which at first sight resembled mould. Closer examination of the affected turkeys, after thawing, showed that the staining affected only the outer skin, which was trimmed off. It appears that the condition is known in the trade as "blue-back turkeys" and that the staining is caused by pigment from the feathers.

Work carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 is dealt with more fully under that heading. Here it may be mentioned that all vehicles operating within the Borough for the transport of meat were modified, where necessary, to comply with the appropriate regulation by the end of the year.

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 7 tons in 1956.

Cysticercus Bovis

173 cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were discovered in the 4,643 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1956. This gives an incidence rate of 3.7% compared with 2.6% in 1955, 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
Viable Cysts	35	9	1	4	1
Degenerate Cysts	65	13	-	61	7

The cysts in 48 cases (27.8%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compared with 22% for 1955.

Slaughterhouses

Model Byelaws in respect of private slaughterhouses

The Council agreed to adopt the model byelaws, series III, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, relating to sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses. They have secured the Minister's informal approval to the addition of a byelaw, to be inserted between model byelaws 5 and 6, which, on account of its importance and general interest, is set out fully below.

"The occupier of a slaughterhouse shall ensure that organs, viscera and blood intended for human consumption shall remain identifiable with the carcase of the of the animal from which they came until such carcase with its organs has been inspected by an authorised officer of the Council or has been removed from the slaughterhouse in accordance with any Regulations or statutory requirements for the time being in force; whichever shall first occur."

Slaughterhouse policy

Following the publication of the White Paper "A policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses in England and Wales", the Public Health Committee arranged for

consultations between the Council and the following authorities and trade interests:-

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Local authorities owning public slaughterhouses.

The proprietors of the two existing local slaughterhouses.

The local butchers.

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (representing the
slaughtermen.)

Neighbouring local authorities.

At the end of the year most of these consultations had been concluded and dates fixed for the remainder. The Public Health Committee expect, therefore, to be in a position to make a recommendation to the Council early in the new year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts

Seventeen 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 this legislation.

Diseases of Animals Act

Fourteen cases of Swine Fever were notified to the Police (the authorised officers for purposes of the Act), who supervised the destruction of the carcasses and disinfection of the slaughterhouse concerned.

(ii) MILK

Close supervision has been maintained on the purity of milk sold within the Borough and 109 samples have been submitted to the Bacteriologist at the Public Health Laboratory, Watford. All these samples complied with the statutory standards.

Three cases of dirty milk bottles arose from milk bottled in a local dairy. The Manager of the dairy was invited to meet the Public Health Committee to discuss the problem. In all such cases misuse of bottles by the public was the primary cause of unsatisfactory cleansing at the dairy. Gross examples of such misuse were brought to the notice of the Committee; over a hundred bottles had been returned from a building site so grossly soiled with cement as to be unfit for further use. Again, during the week commencing November 5th fifty bottles were withdrawn after filling because of contamination by fireworks; many other bottles having been rejected for the same cause either before or after washing.

The Committee took two constructive steps towards a solution of the problem. Posters produced by the Central Council for Health Education bearing the legend "Rinse and return clean" were brought to the notice of dairies delivering milk in the Borough with a request that they should display them on delivery vehicles; and the Association of Municipal Corporations were asked to examine the possibility of re-

introduction of the war-time regulation which prohibited the return of dirty bottles to dairies.

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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) UNSOUND FOOD

Sixteen complaints of unsatisfactory foods purchased by members of the public were reported to the Council, as follows:-

Staleness, decomposition or mould: Meat (1) bacon (1) pork pies (3) Apple turnover (1) Chocolate swiss roll (1)

Foreign bodies in bread and cakes: Blackboard chalk (1) string (1) nail (1) lubricating grease (1) beetle (1) paper (1) dead fly (1).

Foreign matter in milk: lead toy (1) glass (1) dirt (1)

Dirty milk bottles: cement (1) "home perm neutraliser" (2) dirt (1)

Food not of the quality demanded: Potato chips consisting of one-third by weight of "cracklings".

No offender was prosecuted; the Council instructed warning letters to be sent in all but two cases, where evidence of responsibility for the condition was incomplete. Apart from those listed above, twelve similar complaints were investigated by the officers and action taken where appropriate; the most remarkable of these was the case of a live spider found in the base of a biscuit cone containing ice cream

7. FOOD POISONING

Three outbreaks of food poisoning involving eleven persons and four single

sporadic cases were notified during the year - none of these was fatal.

Careful investigations were made into all these cases and I must again pay tribute to the Public Health Laboratory Service for their valuable co-operation.

A summary of the cases will be found in Table XIII in the Appendix.

8. MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS, 1887 & 1926

As a Food & Drugs Authority, the Council is charged with the enforcement of these Acts so far as they relate to foodstuffs. It is a responsibility which the Inspectors keep in mind when they visit food shops but no serious infringements were found during the year.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOODS & DRUGS

Following an informal meeting between sampling officers of Food & Drugs Authorities in Hertfordshire to discuss the integration of sampling within the County, sampling in Watford has been principally of products manufactured locally.

The report of the Public Analyst, Mr. C. W. McHugo, on the samples submitted for examination during the year 1956 is as follows:-

Number of samples examined: 37 Formal (35 Milks, 2 Sausages) and 95 Informal.

(i) Milk Samples

The Milks were of good quality and complied with the Regulations in respect of their composition and freedom from Preservatives.

(ii) Other Samples

(a) Foods

Sausages and other meat products.

Ice cream, ice lollies and soft drinks.

Sweets and Biscuits.

Flour and cereal foods.

Preserves and canned foods.

(b) Drugs

Medigree Brain Food Tablets

Tri-Sulph Tab. Ferr. Sulph Co.

Aspirin

D.D.D. Prescription

Saccharin Tablets

Mist. Ferr. et Ammon Cit.

Emulsio Alkalina, and

Soluble Benzoic Acid.

The great majority of the Food products were of good quality in a sound, edible condition, and complied with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and with their respective Statutory standards where applicable. The samples of drugs complied with the British Pharmacopoeia.

(c) Sausages

Twenty two samples of Sausages, 15 consisting of Pork and 7 of Beef, were examined.

In most cases the Meat content of these Sausages was satisfactory in relation to the price charged. In two cases, however, the Meat content of Pork Sausages was only 50% and the price charged 2/10d and 2/9d per lb. respectively, which I considered excessive. This matter was brought to the notice of the Public Health Committee.

Several samples of Sausages were found to contain Sulphur Dioxide Preservative, which was not declared by the Vendors. This omission constitutes an offence under Section 4 of the Preservative Regulations.

(d) Ice Cream

Five samples from local manufacturers fully complied with the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, No. 828.

(iii) Special Samples

(e) Dried Milk

A complaint was made that this Dried Milk contained a number of dark coloured particles, found to consist of very small pieces of Dried Milk which had become slightly charred during the evaporation process. The dried milk was quite suitable for consumption.

(f) White Bread

Three slices taken from a loaf of Bread were found to contain thick viscous Oil, together with a proportion of Oxide of Iron. The general character of these particles suggested that they had been derived from the lubricating grease and rust from some portion of the machinery used at the Bakery.

(g) Tinned Raspberries

The Manager of the firm selling this product suspected that the lacquer lining of the tins was defective, but it was found to be in quite good condition and the evidence of metallic corrosion was very slight indeed. The iron content of the syrup in which the Raspberries were preserved amounted to only 3.0 parts per million, which is a quite insignificant trace and the Raspberries were in a satisfactory and edible condition.

(h) Tinned Tomato Soup

The consumption of this Tomato Soup was alleged to have been responsible for sickness and pains experienced by the consumer. The amount of metallic contamination was found to be negligible and a bacteriological test indicated that the Soup was entirely free from any infection with gas producing or pathogenic organisms. This Tomato Soup was, in my opinion, in a sound condition and I could see no reason why its consumption should have given rise to illness.

(i) Milk Bottle

A pint milk Bottle contained a brown deposit consisting entirely of organic matter having the character of Milk protein. It was probably derived from a film of Milk originally left on the surface of the bottle which had subsequently dried and had resisted the normal washing treatment of the bottles.

(j) Pineapple Cubes

Pineapple Cubes with some of the accompanying juice contained a number of very small black particles. The purchaser also alleged that the Cubes possessed an unpleasant metallic taste. The black deposit consisted of particles of metallic iron. These had not been derived from the tin itself and the flavour of the Pineapple was not unpleasant. The total amount of Iron contamination was quite small and the Cubes were fit for consumption.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

10. INDUSTRIAL CHIMNEYS

For several years a vigorous campaign has been conducted in Watford to reduce to an absolute minimum the fouling of the atmosphere by industrial smoke. Towards this end we are receiving the increasing support of smoke conscious members of the public who notify the Health Department whenever they notice an excessive emission of smoke from a factory chimney.

Although there are 61 industrial boiler plants within the Borough statutory smoke nuisances have been recorded from only 3 of them during 1956.

One of these concerned a heavy deposit of smuts in the vicinity of a printing factory and an emission of black smoke from the chimney. Warning letters which were sent to the firm resulted in the Management appointing a consultant to advise them on their boiler plant and arrangements being made for regular visits to the factory by technical officers of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service.

A more serious case was a particularly troublesome nuisance caused by the intermittent emission of smuts over a long period from the chimney of a modern boiler plant at a sweet factory. Observations and recordings of deposits were continued throughout the year and several representations were made to the factory Manager.

Despite the technical advice received from the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and the various improvements which were made to the plant and the manner in which it was operated the nuisance, although mitigated, was not abated. The Council therefore, in December 1956, authorised the service of an Abatement Notice.

In addition to the above, excessive smoke was emitted from the boiler plant of an aircraft factory outside the Borough boundary. Action was taken in collaboration with the Public Health Inspector of the neighbouring authority for the abatement of this nuisance.

11. CLEAN AIR POLICY

The stronger legislation for eliminating smoke, which has been awaited so impatiently by progressive Councils, at last reached the Statute Book in July 1956 when the Clean Air Act received Royal Assent. Certain provisions of the Act, including those relating to Smoke Control Areas, came into force on 31st December 1956.

In September the Council considered the implementation of this important new health measure and an enquiry was instituted into the advisability and practicability of establishing one or more smoke control areas in Watford.

No decisions had been made by the end of the year but, subject to the Council being satisfied on various pertinent matters, the first areas to be dealt with will probably be two estates which are predominantly owned by the Council.

12. EMISSION OF FUMES FROM A GLASS FACTORY

The emission of hydrofluoric acid fumes from a glass factory has caused a serious nuisance for several years. The factory manager accepted the advice of the public analyst that soda ash be used in the "scrubbing box" of the fume stack and the necessary alterations to the plant were carried out at the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS

13. INDUSTRIAL NOISE NUISANCES

An increasing number of people in Watford who live close to factories in which noisy industrial processes are carried on are no longer prepared, without strong protest, to accept the noise as an inevitable consequence of their environment.

During the year complaints have been received concerning noise nuisances from five factories within the Borough.

The Watford Corporation Act, 1937, provides that under certain circumstances a noise nuisance shall be liable to be dealt with as a statutory nuisance. It was not necessary for the Council to use their statutory powers to enforce the abatement of these noise nuisances. The Managements of the factories concerned acted on the

informal representations of the Council and adopted the following measures to abate the nuisances:

(i) Rubber Factory: The noise was caused by 90 braiding machines on two floors of the factory. Both floors were soundproofed at considerable expense in accordance with the recommendations of acoustic experts.

(ii) Electrical Machinery Factory: An extraction fan was excessively noisy. The nuisance was abated by the reconstruction of the trunking and outlet.

(iii) Wire Spring Factory: Noisy machinery was moved to another building inside the factory.

(iv) Sawmills: The management agreed to sound-proof the building which housed the noisy machinery.

(v) Bakery: The management agreed to keep closed the factory windows and roller shutters overlooking nearby houses.

14. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I. Health Provisions

Certain health provisions of the Factories Acts are enforced by the Council; a summary of the work carried out during 1956 will be found in tabular form in the Appendix.

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

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the Corporation's authorised officer for this work. Fourteen 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 10 new certificates were issued.

There is close co-operation between the Borough Engineer, the County Fire Prevention Officer and the Chief Public Health Inspector on all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the various aspects of fire safety can be agreed before constructional work commences.

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 99 outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XIV.

15. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as the authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

142 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". Altogether the total quantity of petroleum spirit which is licensed to be stored within the Borough is 509,410 gallons. Two licences have been granted for the storage of 1070 lbs. in total of carbide of calcium.

A careful survey was made of all the licensed premises and following this the Council completely revised the conditions subject to which licences are granted. The new conditions are based on the recommendations of the Home Office; H. M. Inspector of Explosives; and the "Bristol Enquiry" and they come into force on 1st January 1957. One of the new conditions requires that all underground tanks and pipe lines shall be subjected to prescribed tests 20 years after installation and at specified intervals thereafter. A start was made on this work during the year when 62 installations were tested at 35 premises. The necessity for this new condition is demonstrated by the fact that 6 tanks were found to be leaking, were condemned and made safe and 11 other minor defects were found in pumps and pipe lines.

16. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Reference has been made in the introductory letter to this report of the untimely death of the Assistant Shops Inspector, Mr. Arthur Corke.

During his long illness Mr. Corke's duties were carried out by the District Public Health Inspectors and it appeared to the Council that there were several advantages to be gained by a continuance of this arrangement instead of the vacancy being filled by another specialist officer. This policy was adopted until such time as an Organisation and Methods team had reported on the staffing and administration of the Department.

Some 800 inspections were made during 1956 by the Public Health Inspectors in the enforcement of this legislation. At several "mixed" shops it was found that prohibited goods were being sold on Sundays. It appeared that many of the shopkeepers were uninformed on the restrictions on Sunday trading and the early closing day so all of them were circularised with an abstract of the provisions of the Act.

17. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Nine premises in Watford are registered for upholstery work and two premises are 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.

18. HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

The Public Health Inspectors have been appointed to inspect and test appliances under the above legislation.

Following the withdrawal of all new appliances which did not conform with the Regulations no unsatisfactory new appliances have been found. A second-hand fire which did not comply with the Regulations was withdrawn from sale and the vendor was warned.

19. PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

The Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, came into operation at the beginning of the year and these contain a provision designed to improve the sanitary accommodation at places of public entertainment which are licensed by the County Council. The Borough Council can now object on sanitary grounds to the grant or renewal of a licence. In common with other Councils within the County a standard was adopted for Watford which would provide some uniformity in the application of the Regulation.

During the year all the licensed places of public entertainment within the Borough were inspected and a detailed report was submitted to the Council who decided that before making an objection to the renewal of licences they would give the occupiers of the premises the opportunity of making good any deficiencies in relation to the Council's standard.

20. ABOLITION OF PAIL CLOSETS

There are 29 pail closets remaining in the Borough and these are emptied weekly by the Council at a cost of some £280 per year. Seventeen of these are at cottages which are scheduled for demolition before 1960. Three others are at premises which are not used for human habitation.

The Council decided to use their powers under the Public Health Act to require the conversion into water closets of the pail closets at seven of the remaining 9 houses. This will leave two houses with pail closets and these will be dealt with when a new sewer is laid.

21. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The Public Health Inspectors have been appointed as officers under Section 4 of the Act and for its enforcement 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 and these have been conducted satisfactorily.

22. 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.

Regular twice yearly treatment of the town's sewers (in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) over a period of years has revealed a heavy and apparently permanent infestation in the Watford Fields area and part of Queens Ward. In an endeavour to eliminate these "black spots" a special treatment of these areas was carried out in December i.e. between the normal September and March treatments. The period of prebaiting has also been extended in accordance with the recommendations of the Minister's Officer in Charge of Rodent Research. The success or otherwise of the December treatment in reducing the infestation will not be apparent until the 1957 treatments are carried out. The co-operation of the Borough Engineer in these operations enables them to be carried out smoothly and efficiently.

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

A summary of the work carried out in 1956 is set out in the prescribed form in the appendix (Table XV)

23. DUSTBINS

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Council 27 statutory notices were served during 1956 on the owners or occupiers of premises requiring the provision of dustbins. In 9 cases the notices were enforced by the supply of dustbins in default.

APPENDIX

RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1956

TABLE I

<u>Houses -</u>				
Public Health Act	...	...	...	391
Housing Act	...	...	...	148
Overcrowding	...	...	...	43
<u>Factories</u>				
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	194
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	16
Workplaces	...	...	...	17
Outworkers	...	...	...	49
<u>General -</u>				
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	...	100
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	665
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	20
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	65
Public Houses	...	...	...	23
Schools	...	...	...	11
Smoke Observations and Industrial Nuisances	...	...	...	477
Vacant Land and Refuse Tips	...	...	...	33
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	19
Fly Prevention	...	...	...	52
Other Insect Pests	...	...	...	32
Drainage Inspections and Tests	...	...	...	459
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act	...	...	...	8
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	108
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	11
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	472
Shops Act	...	...	...	800
Pests Act	...	...	...	121
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	17
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	545
Unclassified Visits	...	...	...	1,198
<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice</u>				
Public Health Act - Houses	...	...	...	464
Public Health Act - Other	...	...	...	177
Housing Act	...	...	...	1,653
Other Revisits	...	...	...	61

<u>Meat and Foods -</u>			
Slaughterhouses	. . .	. . .	1, 990
Visits re Food Inspection	. . .	. . .	367
Butchers Shops	. . .	. . .	96
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	. . .	. . .	46
Sugar and Flour Confectionery Shops	. . .	. . .	122
Grocers, Greengrocers and Fruiterers	. . .	. . .	232
Dairies and Milk Shops	. . .	. . .	21
Ice Cream Premises	. . .	. . .	127
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	. . .	. . .	246
Preserved Food Rooms	. . .	. . .	32
Public Market	. . .	. . .	206
Bakehouses	. . .	. . .	54
Other Food Premises	. . .	. . .	49
Food Hygiene Lectures	. . .	. . .	10
Milk Samples (Bacteriological)	. . .	. . .	103
Ice Cream Samples(ditto)	. . .	. . .	76
Food (Adulteration) Samples	. . .	. . .	149
(Bateriological) Samples	. . .	. . .	6
			12, 381

HOUSING

TABLE II

NEW HOUSES

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1956.

- (a) Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority 83
- (b) Number of new houses erected by private enterprise 102
- Total number of houses built since 1945:-
- (a) By the Local Authority 2, 831
- (b) By private enterprise 896

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 1956 = 4, 543 plus 99 prefabricated bungalows.
- (b) Number of requisitioned premises . . . 39
- (c) Number of families housed in requisitioned premises . . . 57

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1956 RE HOUSING DEFECTS - TABLE IV

ACT	INFORMAL	STATUTORY
Housing Act, 1936	103	33
Public Health Act, 1936	116	21

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR - TABLE V

6 month period ending	No. of Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	No. of Certif. Granted	No. of applications for revocation of Certificates	No. of Certif. Revoked
31st March 1955	30	30	3	2
30th Sept. 1955	5	5	10	10
31st March 1956	1	1	3	3
30th Sept. 1956	1	1	1	1
30th Dec. 1956 (3 months)	-	-	2	2
Total	37	37	19	18

FOOD

TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE BOROUGH AT 1ST JANUARY 1956

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
Wholesale Grocers	3
Wholesale Greengrocers	3
Wholesale Meat Salesmen	5
Cafes and Restaurants	69
Industrial and Commercial 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 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	7
Ice Cream Dealers	158
Preserved Food Manufacturers	46

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

Dairies	3
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MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949

The Council has granted two Dealers Licences to pasteurise milk and one Dealers Licence to sterilise milk at dairies within the Borough. Licences 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	25	3	28
Sterilised Milk	23	1	24

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1956 - TABLE VII

HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL

(a) Condemned at Slaughterhouses

	lbs
Beef (including 21 carcasses)	15,575
Lamb (including 5 carcasses)	223
Pork (including 45 carcasses)	5,454
Veal (including 1 carcasses)	100

Offal from Bovines -

294 Heads	8,815
250 Tongues	1,250
1,041 Lungs	10,402
87 Hearts	427
766 Livers and 925 part Livers	47,289
89 Spleens	181
40 Skirts	82
22 Tails	46

Offal from Pigs -

309 Plucks	1,720
1,183 Livers	2,465

Offal from Pigs (Continued)

	lbs
1,647 Lungs	3,496
501 Heads	6,374
299 Other Organs	189

Offal from Sheep -

49 Plucks	207
615 Livers	1,220
118 Lungs	236
1 Other Organ	1

Offal from Calves -

1 Head	6
1 Pluck	4
1 Other Organ	3

(b) Condemned in Retail and Manufacturing Premises

Pork	170
Beef	1,370
Lamb	67

IMPORTED MEAT AND OFFAL

Beef	841
Kidneys and Liver	55
Lamb	67
Lambs' livers	144

OTHER FOODS INCLUDING CANNED GOODS

12,160

90,639

Total weight of food condemned = 40 tons 9 cwt. 1 qtr. 3 lbs.

Of the above food 83.6% comprised meat and offal condemned in the slaughterhouses.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD DURING 1956TABLE VIII

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4,030	613	268	9,972	34,984
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	1	5	40
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,464	187	-	652	3,151

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	36.3	31.0	0.4	6.6	9.1
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	13	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	245	112	-	-	391
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2	20.4	-	-	1.1
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses in which cysticercosis was found	161	12			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	87	5			
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	94	7			
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
1956	36.3	31.0	0.4	6.6	9.1
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
1956	6.2	20.4	-	-	1.1

BACTERIOLOGICAL MILK SAMPLES - TABLE X

Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Sterilised
60	24	25

All the samples were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES - TABLE XI

No. of Samples	Satisfactory - Grades 1 & 2	Unsatisfactory - Grades III & IV
68	65	3

95% of the samples were satisfactory.

CHEMICAL SAMPLES

The statutory minimum content for ice cream is 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat.

TABLE XII

Sample Number	Fat Content	Sugar Content	Milk Solids
1	8.4	13.0	12.2
2	11.2	13.3	10.8
3	11.3	12.5	10.3
4	10.9	12.4	9.2
5	11.2	13.1	8.6

FOOD POISONING 1956

TABLE XIII

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food Suspected
1	4	Nil	Salmonella typhi-murium	Unknown
1	1	Nil	Unknown	Unknown
1	4	Nil	Unknown	Unknown
1	1	Nil	Shigella Sonnei	Probably water drunk from a trough on the Continent.
1	3	Nil	Salmonella typhi-murium	Beef dripping

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food suspected
1	1	Nil	Salmonella typhi-murium	Unknown
1	1	Nil	Salmonella typhi-murium	Unknown

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

TABLE XIV

Part 1 - Health Provisions

	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	47	16	1	"
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	351	194	3	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	8	-	-
Total	413	218	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. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(Sec 7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	4	-	1	-

PART VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Number of out-workers as required by section 110 (1) (c)
Wearing apparel making	16
Artificial flowers	40
The making of paper boxes	1
Brush making	23
Christmas crackers etc.	19
	99

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 1957

TABLE XV

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agricul- tural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. 1, 2, & 3	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2)	68	21773	2884	24725	-
II. Number of properties inspect- ed as a result of:					
(a) Notification	14	303	65	382	-
(b) Survey under the Act	24	1052	100	1176	-
(c) Otherwise (e. g. when visited primarily for some other purposes)	2	624	1255	1881	-
III. Number of properties inspec- ted (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major 20+)	16	222	22	260	-
(a) Rats (Minor)	2	128	11	141	-
(b) Mice (Major 20+)	-	64	38	102	-
(b) Mice (Minor)	-	5	2	7	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. 1, 2, & 3	(5) Agricul- tural
IV. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L. A.	18	354	71	443	-
V. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
VI. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	2	140	5	147	-