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*The Health  
of Luton*

1956



BOROUGH



OF LUTON

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF LUTON

1956

R. M. DYKES

M.A., M.D., D.P.H.





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**MR. MORLEY PARRY SPEAKING AT CONFERENCE OF RESTAURANT AND CAFE PROPRIETORS**

BOROUGH



OF LUTON

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**BOROUGH OF LUTON**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
(as at end of year 1956)

*Mayor*

COUNCILLOR F. W. BATES, J.P.

*Chairman*

ALDERMAN MRS. R. O. ANDREWS

ALDERMAN SIR HERBERT JANES

COUNCILLOR MISS M. E. REDMAN, M.B.E.

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. R. CAMP

COUNCILLOR W. T. RICHMAN

COUNCILLOR F. GOODYEAR

COUNCILLOR G. C. SOUSTER

COUNCILLOR C. JEPHSON

COUNCILLOR L. W. WHITING

COUNCILLOR H. S. LAMB

COUNCILLOR D. WYNNE

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**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**LUTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman*

COUNCILLOR MISS M. E. REDMAN, M.B.E.

*Deputy Chairman*

COUNCILLOR G. C. SOUSTER

*Representing Luton Borough Council*

ALDERMAN MRS. R. O. ANDREWS

COUNCILLOR H. S. LAMB

COUNCILLOR F. GOODYEAR

COUNCILLOR D. WYNNE

*Representing Bedfordshire County Council*

COUNTY ALDERMAN MRS. A. URWIN

COUNTY COUNCILLOR F. A. JARVIS

COUNTY ALDERMAN H. R. WALLER,  
M.B.E., J.P.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR F. C. LINES

COUNTY COUNCILLOR T. E. S. LLOYD

*Representing Local Medical Committee*

DR. N. M. MUNRO

*Representing Hospital Management Committee*

MR. K. L. JONES, O.B.E.



## BOROUGH OF LUTON

### STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health*  
*Divisional Medical Officer*

R. M. DYKES, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health*

W. EDGAR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.

*Assistant Medical Officers*

WINIFRED M. HISCOCK, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

GWENDOLYN R. TAPP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. A. ROBERTS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector*

G. F. MACEFIELD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector*

R. LORD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.S., A.M.I.P.H.E.

*Specialist Inspectors*

*Food Hygiene*

P. A. FREESTONE, M.A.P.H.I.

*Housing*

S. G. COCKS, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

*District Public Health Inspectors (7)*

All Public Health Inspectors hold the Statutory qualifications and the Certificate of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health for Meat and Other Foods Inspector. Additional qualifications include R.S.H. Certificate for Smoke Inspector, R.S.H. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, and the Certificate of Associateship of the Institute of Public Health Engineers.

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## LUTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

### STAFF

*Senior Administrative Officer*

H. TOWLE

*Superintendent Health Visitor*

MRS. A. E. LANGFORD, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.H.V.

*Health Visitors (10)*

*State Registered Nurses (6)*

*Day Nursery Matrons*

MRS. J. M. GREEN, S.R.N. MISS D. HAFFIELD, S.R.N. MISS D. HOBBS, S.R.N.

*Divisional Nursing Officer*

MISS E. M. LEE, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.H.V., Q.Ns.

*Domiciliary Midwives (8)*

*District Nurses (13)*

*Home Help Officer*

MISS E. A. PARSONS

*Chief Clerk*

J. W. A. LINDLEY

Public Health Department,  
63-69 Guildford Street,  
LUTON.

*February 1957.*

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the annals of Public Health the year 1956 will undoubtedly be remembered because it heralded the general use of poliomyelitis vaccine as a public health measure in this country. It was anticipated that supplies of vaccine would be limited in the early stages, and registration for vaccination was accordingly confined to children between two and nine years of age. About 36% of Luton children in this age group were registered by their parents, but so restricted in amount did the vaccine ultimately prove to be that only 534 (10%) of the children registered were in fact vaccinated.

Poliomyelitis itself did not assume major epidemic form in this country in 1956, though there were ten *confirmed* cases of the disease in Luton. Hitherto in my annual reports it has not been possible to relate the term "confirmed" to the diagnosis of poliomyelitis in the absence of an accompanying paralysis, but by 1956 the techniques of the Public Health Laboratory in Bedford had become so highly developed that we were able, for the first time, to have routine confirmation of the presence of poliomyelitis virus in specimens sent for examination. Some idea of the importance of this advance can possibly be gained from the following summary of case notes. "*On the 25th August a child aged 10 years developed a febrile illness which appeared, clinically, to be early poliomyelitis. A specimen of stool from the child yielded type I poliomyelitis virus. Specimens from the child's parents were negative. The child had been closely associated with three children of a medical practitioner, one of whom, on the 29th August, developed a febrile illness which, clinically, was not recognisable as poliomyelitis. A specimen of this child's stool also yielded type I virus. The virus was demonstrated in one other member of the doctor's family and the doctor himself was also heavily infected, although neither had had any recent illness.*" Thus, from the point of view of the clinician in Luton, the diagnosis of non-paralytic poliomyelitis emerged from the realm of conjecture in 1956, and, from the point of view of the epidemiologist, control of the infection became practicable in that year.

The improvement that has taken place in the tuberculosis death rate in recent years has been noted in previous annual reports, but the figure of 0.03 per 1,000 population for 1956 is the lowest yet recorded. In simple terms this means that only four people died in Luton from pulmonary tuberculosis last year. Only ten years ago—in 1946, there were 59 deaths in Luton from respiratory tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.56 per 1,000. The tuberculosis notification rate, on the other hand, has hitherto not shown a similar degree of improvement, but it is pleasing to record that this too has now fallen to a new low level of 0.54 per 1,000 population.

It will be recalled that Dr. G. T. Crook in the appendix to the report for 1955 described an enquiry which he made into infective hepatitis on the Farley Hill Estate. Dr. Crook concluded his report by saying "it is expected that the high incidence of hepatitis will be maintained in Luton during 1956". This proved to be an underestimate of the true position, for the number of notified cases in 1956 reached 101—the highest since 1944. Dr. Crook also estimated that only about 10% of cases were ever notified and if this is correct we can only conclude that there were about 1,000 cases of infective hepatitis in Luton last year. Some indirect evidence in support of this conclusion is forthcoming when notified cases are related to notifying practitioners. Here, for instance, we find that although infective hepatitis was fairly prevalent throughout the town, a group of three doctors in practice together, out of a total of forty-seven doctors practising in Luton, notified 44% of the cases in 1955 and 28% in 1956.

Towards the close of the year Luton experienced another outbreak of Sonne Dysentery. The last occasion of high incidence was in 1953 when it reached 3 per 1,000 of the population. In the last quarter of 1956 there were 131 infective cases. Anxiety was first aroused in one of the Nursery Schools where the incidence of infection was so high that the school had to be closed. An analysis of the 131 cases for the last quarter of the year is given on page 23 and the incidence of infection is illustrated graphically on page 22.

The birth rate in Luton, which had been falling steadily from the peak of 21·3 per 1,000 population in 1947, reached its lowest level of 13·9 in 1954, but rose again in 1956 to 15·4. From a study of the table on page 14, showing the distribution of births as between institutional and domiciliary confinement, we learn that midwives attended 665 home confinements—81 more than the year previously. Had there been a full complement of midwives this additional number would have presented no real difficulty, but because of sickness and resignations, the midwifery staff was most depleted at a time when the volume of work was at its greatest. At the same time, staffing difficulties were being experienced by the maternity hospital units and patients were being discharged earlier than was customary. I should like, therefore, in expressing my thanks to the staff of the whole department for their loyalty and service throughout the year, to pay special tribute to the midwives who, over a very difficult period, showed great devotion to duty and to the Health Visitors who, by taking on additional duties, lightened to some extent the extra load carried by the midwives.

In conclusion I also wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration that have been extended to me throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. DYKES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



**STATISTICS**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL CONDITIONS**  
**OF THE AREA**



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (from 1st April, 1939) ... ..	8,773 acres
Population (Census, 1951) ... ..	110,381
Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1956 ... ..	114,500
Number of inhabited houses, 1st April, 1956 ... ..	33,685
Rateable value (1st April, 1956) unreduced ... ..	£2,150,872
Rateable value (1st April, 1956) reduced ... ..	£1,740,663
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ..	£7,000

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notified live births	Legitimate ...	1,173	1,076	2,249
	Illegitimate ...	64	53	117
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All ... ..		1,237	1,129	2,366
Notified stillbirths	Legitimate ...	24	31	55
	Illegitimate ...	3	2	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All ... ..		27	33	60
Total Live and Stillbirths (Notified) ...		1,264	1,162	2,426
Registered live births*	Legitimate ...	836	830	1,666
	Illegitimate ...	52	40	92
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All ... ..		888	870	1,758

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (provisional) 15·4

Registered stillbirths\* ... .. 17 20 37

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births\* ... .. 20·6

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Registered Deaths*	... ..	576	558	1,134

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (provisional) ... 9·9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

		<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 registered total births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil	Nil	
Other Puerperal causes ... ..	1	0·5	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ... ..	1	0·5	

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 registered live births (provisional) 25·6

Neo-natal all infants (provisional) ... .. 19·3

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births (provisional) ... 25·8

Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births (provisional) ... 21·7

\* Corrected for inward and outward transfers

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1956**

(England and Wales, London, 160 Great Towns and 160 Smaller Towns)  
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

(Gummed slip to follow)



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1947-1956

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	LIVE BIRTHS			STILLBIRTHS			DEATHS			INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
		Number	Rate per 1,000 esti- mated Popula- tion	Compara- bility factor	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Compara- bility factor	Number	Rate per 1,000 esti- mated Popula- tion	Compara- bility factor	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks —12 months	TOTAL	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
1947	108,250	2,303	21.3	—	50	21.2	1,036	9.5	—	47	38	85	37	1	—	1	0.42	
1948	108,400	1,902	17.5	—	40	20.6	989	9.1	1.13	27	27	54	28	—	2	2	1.03	
1949	109,240	1,821	16.7	0.95	49	26.2	1,064	9.7	1.13	32	16	48	26	—	1	1	0.5	
1950	110,210	1,706	15.5	0.95	50	28.5	1,056	9.6	1.13	21	17	38	22	—	1	1	0.6	
1951	109,600	1,727	15.8	0.95	45	25.3	1,075	9.8	1.12	41	16	57	33	—	—	—	—	
1952	110,500	1,653	14.9	0.95	37	21.8	1,044	9.4	1.12	29	14	43	26	—	2	2	1.2	
1953	111,200	1,651	14.8	0.95	46	27.1	1,032	9.2	1.12	30	17	47	28	—	1	1	0.6	
1954	112,500	1,569	13.9	0.99	40	24.8	1,033	9.1	1.13	35	14	49	31	—	—	—	—	
1955	113,800	1,597	14.0	0.99	34	20.8	1,080	9.5	1.13	18	7	25	14.9	—	2	2	1.2	
1956	114,500	1,758	15.4	—	37	20.6	1,134	9.9	—	34	11	45	25.6	—	1	1	0.5	

STILLBIRTHS AND NEO-NATAL DEATHS		1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
STILLBIRTHS	Rate per 1,000 total births	24.1	23.2	22.7	22.7	23.0	22.7	22.5	23.5	23.2	23.0
	...	21.2	20.6	26.2	28.5	25.3	21.8	27.1	24.8	20.8	20.6
NEO-NATAL DEATHS	Rate per 1,000 live births	22.7	19.7	19.3	18.5	18.8	18.3	17.7	17.7	17.3	—
	...	20.4	14.2	17.5	12.3	23.7	17.5	18.6	22.3	10.7	19.3

## DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED LIVE BIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Year	Institutional			Domiciliary				Grand Total
	Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Homes	Total	District Mid-wives	Private Mid-wives	Doctors and Parents	Total	
1951	927	129	1,056	652	—	19	671	1,727
1952	844	170	1,014	634	1	—	635	1,649
1953	852	166	1,018	585	—	6	591	1,609
1954	832	156	988	567	—	5	572	1,560
1955	843	177	1,020	584	—	5	589	1,609
1956	915	173	1,088	665	—	5	670	1,758

## DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED STILLBIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Cause	Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Home	Domiciliary	Grand Total
Maternal Toxaemia ... ..	2	—	—	2
Foetal malformation ... ..	4	1	—	5
Prematurity ... ..	—	—	—	—
Complications of labour ... ..	1	1	1	3
Accidental haemorrhage ... ..	12	—	—	12
Other ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unknown causes ... ..	10	1	4	15
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year ...	2
(ii) Number of cases in which:—	
(a) Vision lost ... ..	Nil
(b) Vision impaired ... ..	Nil
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year ...	Nil

## DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1956

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
2. Tuberculosis—Other forms	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
4. Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Scarlet Fever and Strep. Sore-throat ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Measles ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Typhus and Rickettsial Disease ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward ... ..	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	1

## DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1956 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Brought forward ...	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	1
17. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	10	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	2
18. Malignant Neoplasms Lymph and Haematopoietic tissues	215	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	13	38	59	62	39
19. Benign and Unspec. Neoplasms ...	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—
20. Diabetes Mellitus ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
21. Anaemias ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Vascular Lesions ...	166	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	20	53	86
23. Non-Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Rheumatic Fever ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
25. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	—	2
26. Arteriosclerotic and Degen. Heart ...	337	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	23	48	85	172
27. Other Diseases of Heart ...	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	6	17
28. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9	11
29. Hypertension without Heart Disease ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	2
30. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Pneumonia ...	63	—	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	11	35
32. Bronchitis ...	48	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	9	12	20
33. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	5	4
Carried forward ...	959	3	8	11	4	3	—	2	4	32	90	168	254	391

## DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1956 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Brought forward ...	959	3	8	11	4	3	—	2	4	32	90	168	254	391
34. Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Intest. Obstruc. and Hernia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
36. Gastritis Ent. and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
38. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	5	4	1
39. Hyperphasia of Prostate ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8
40. Pregnancy — Birth and Abortion ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
41. Congenital Malformations ...	6	4	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
42. Birth Injury Asphyxia ...	5	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
43. Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
44. Infections of Newborn ...	23	22	1	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45. Immaturity—Other Diseases ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46. Senility ...	63	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	5	2	10	9	1	15
47. All Other Diseases ...	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	—	1	15	20
48. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	2	—
49. All Other Accidents ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	3	—	3
50. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50. Homicide and Oper. of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1,134	34	11	45	4	5	—	7	15	41	110	189	278	440

## DEATHS OF LUTON INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE DURING 1956

Cause of Death	under 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days	14 days	21 to 28 days	28 days to 2 m'ths	2 m'ths m'ths	3 m'ths m'ths	4 m'ths m'ths	5 m'ths m'ths	6 m'ths m'ths	7 m'ths m'ths	8 m'ths m'ths	9 m'ths m'ths	10 m'ths m'ths	11 to 12 m'ths	All	
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mal. Neopl. Lymph and Haem. Tissues ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vascular Lesions ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malforma- tions ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Birth Injury, Asphyxia Atelectasis ...	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Immaturity — other Diseases ...	14	4	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
All other diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total ...	17	7	5	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	2	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	45

**DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEARS 1947-1956  
FROM CARCINOMA OF THE LUNGS OR BRONCHUS**

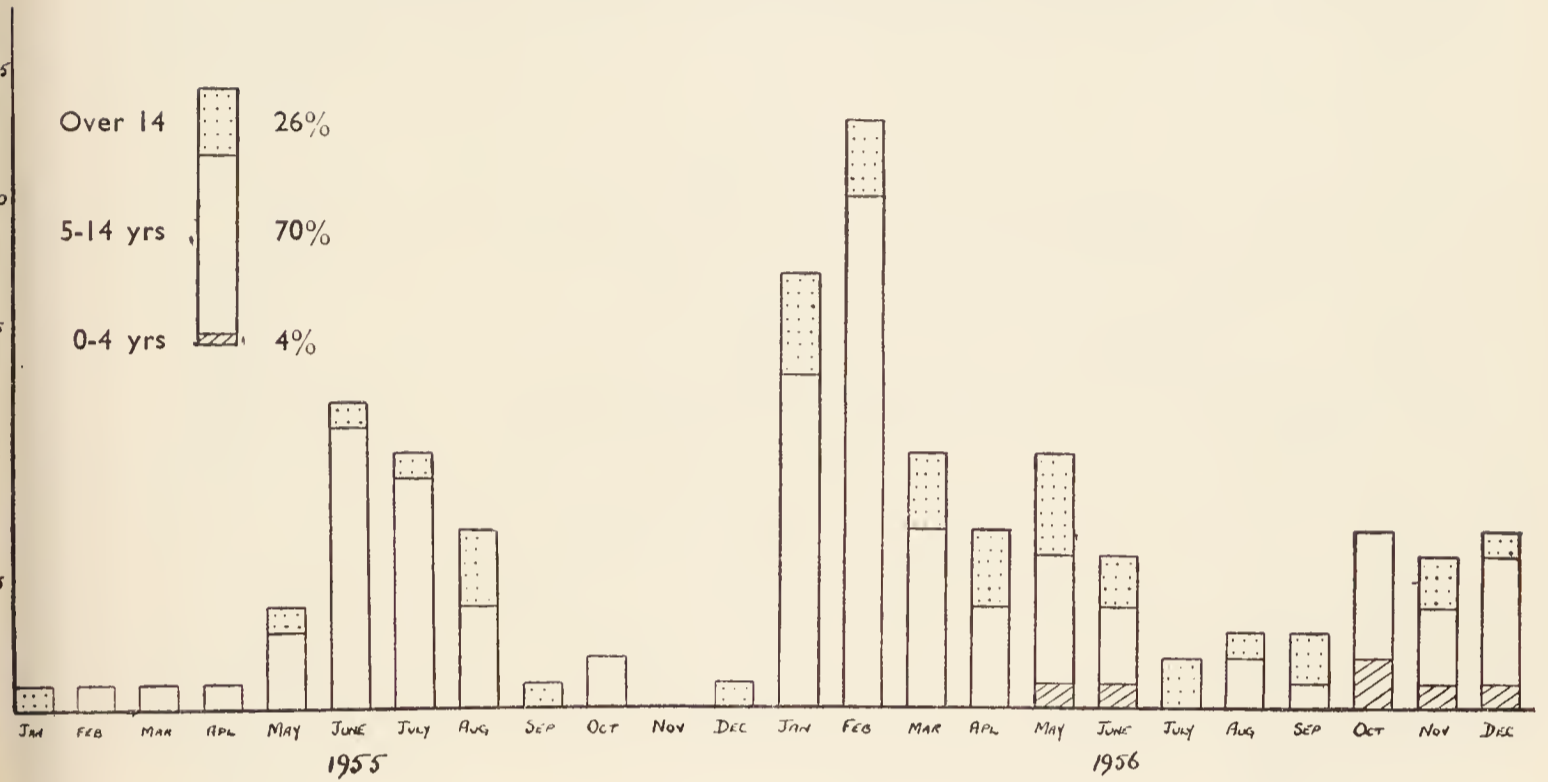
Year	AGE GROUPS													
	All Ages		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 +	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1947 ...	12	3	-	-	1	1	2	1	6	1	2	-	1	1
1948 ...	26	3	-	-	4	2	5	2	11	-	6	1	-	-
1949 ...	22	3	-	-	2	1	5	-	9	1	5	-	1	1
1950 ...	24	5	-	-	1	-	5	-	14	3	2	2	2	-
1951 ...	31	5	-	-	2	2	7	2	11	1	11	2	-	-
1952 ...	38	3	-	-	2	2	5	1	17	1	11	1	3	-
1953 ...	24	2	-	-	2	2	4	-	13	-	5	-	-	-
1954 ...	42	8	-	-	2	2	10	1	14	5	12	1	3	1
1955 ...	42	3	-	-	1	-	6	-	21	1	11	1	3	1
1956 ...	40	8	-	-	4	2	10	1	13	2	8	2	5	1
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>344</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>23</b>						

## NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956, Civilian (Corrected in cases of revised diagnosis)

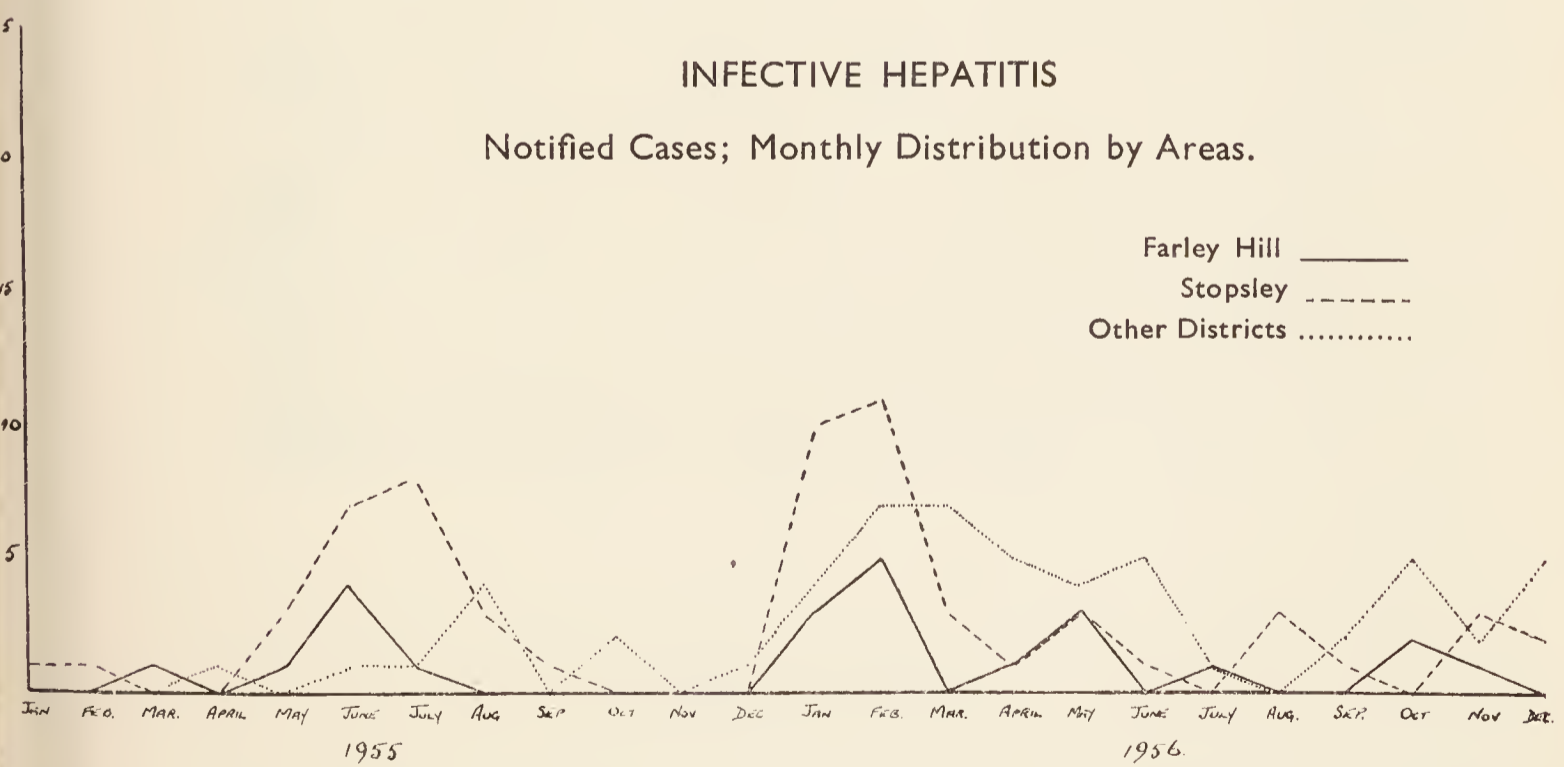
	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-65	Over 65	TOTAL
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	4	6	18	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	35
Whooping Cough ...	13	12	23	40	28	80	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	201
Measles ...	26	74	97	162	130	504	12	3	3	1	2	—	—	1,014
Pneumonia ...	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	2	4	7	23
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (non- Paralytic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	8
Dysentery ...	2	8	11	17	19	51	11	7	4	22	9	1	1	163
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	22	21	2	—	—	54
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	5
Jaundice ...	—	—	1	2	3	44	23	9	1	10	2	4	2	101
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	4	2	3	1	17
ALL ...	47	95	136	228	187	709	51	32	33	61	20	15	12	1,626



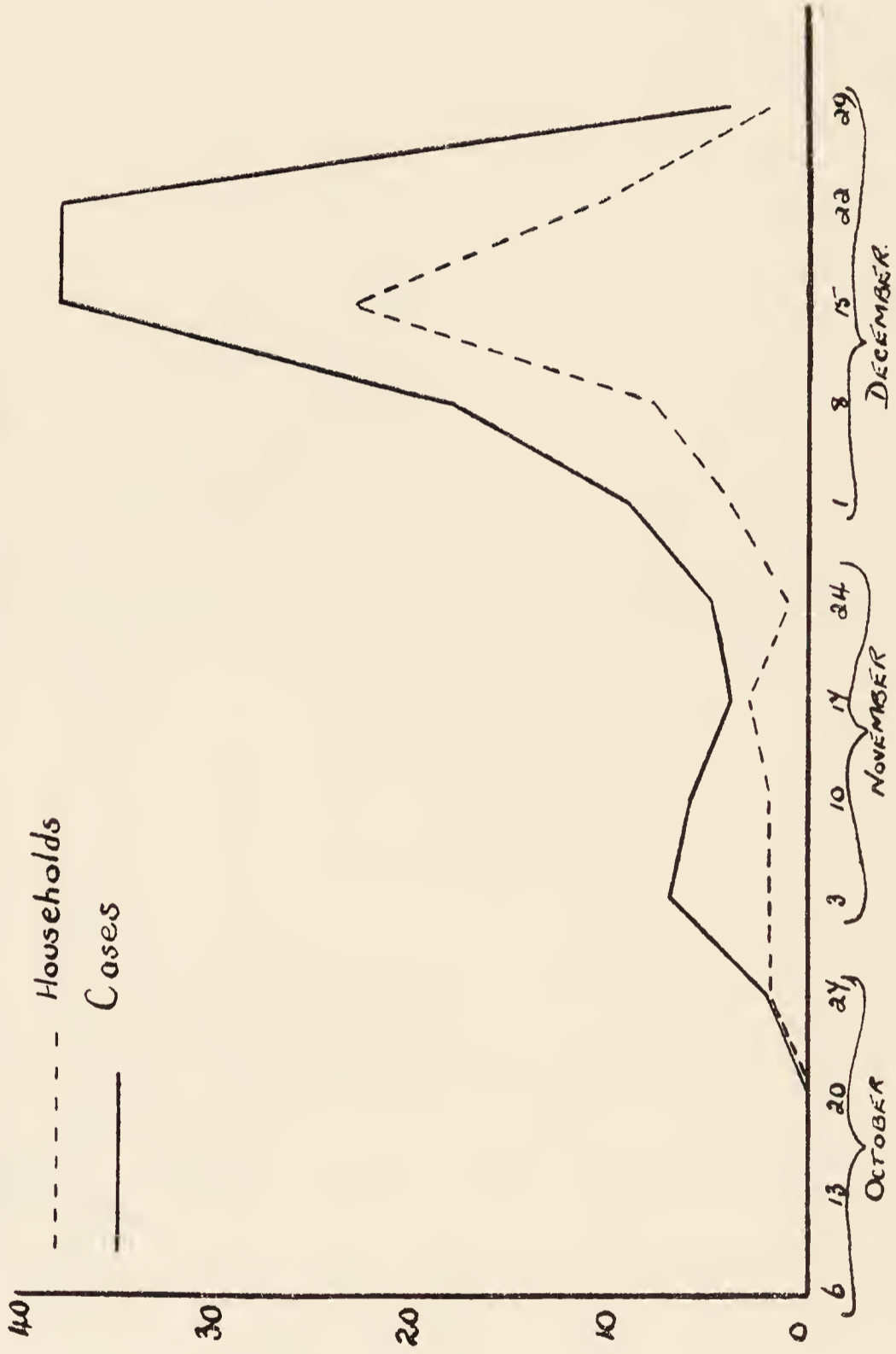
INFECTIVE HEPATITIS, LUTON  
Age Distribution of Notified Cases, 1955 and 1956



INFECTIVE HEPATITIS  
Notified Cases; Monthly Distribution by Areas.



DYSENTERY, October - December 1956.



### SONNE DYSENTERY

During the period 1st October to 31st December, fifty-seven confirmed cases were reported to the Health Department. Faeces specimens were obtained from all contacts of positive cases and of the 213 contacts examined 74 were found to be positive. It was found necessary to close down the Dallow Road Nursery School in December, and during the course of the investigation it was also necessary to exclude from employment 8 adults employed in food trades.

Age in Years	0-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65 +		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Positive cases ...	17	11	12	14	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	29	28
Positive contacts	7	9	18	13	3	4	5	15	-	-	-	-	33	41

Total number of cases and contacts ...	...	...	131
Total number of households affected	...	...	58
Average Number per household	...	...	2.26
Average duration of outbreak in each household	...	...	3.63 weeks
Greatest number in any one household	...	...	8
Number of children excluded from day nurseries	...	...	2
Number of children excluded from nursery schools	...	...	76
Number of children excluded from infant schools	...	...	21
Number of children excluded from junior schools	...	...	31
Number of adults excluded from food trades	...	...	8

### TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified for the first time during 1956 was 62, giving a notification rate of 0.54 per 1,000 population. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in Luton.

Only four people died from pulmonary tuberculosis, giving a mortality rate of 0·03 per 1,000 population. This, also, is the lowest rate ever recorded for Luton. In the past one associated respiratory tuberculosis with adolescence, but the change in pattern of incidence and mortality that has taken place in recent years is made clear when we observe that more than half of the 62 notified cases in Luton were over 40 years of age, and that no one under 25 years of age in Luton has died from pulmonary tuberculosis since 1952.

**PARTICULARS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ALL DEATHS FROM THE DISEASE DURING 1956**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 " ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 " ...	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " ...	2	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
25 " ...	6	5	2	4	—	—	—	—
35 " ...	11	6	1	2	—	1	—	—
45 " ...	3	3	1	1	2	—	—	—
55 " ...	5	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
65+ ...	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	39	23	8	14	3	1	—	1

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified in Luton during each of the last five years together with the number of deaths:—

Year	Notified		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1952 ...	164	17	14	3
1953 ...	144	18	21	4
1954 ...	110	16	10	1
1955 ...	116	17	10	—
1956 ...	62	22	4	1

The following table shows the number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1956, together with the numbers added to the register and those removed during the year.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
No. of cases on the Register of Notifications on 1st January ... ..	609	470	24	75
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year ... ..	39	23	8	14
No. of cases transferred from other districts ... ..	26	13	—	2
No. of cases reinstated to the Register ...	7	5	—	—
	681	511	32	91
No. of cases removed from the Register during the year on account of having:				
(a) recovered ... ..	21	6	1	5
(b) removed from the district ... ..	24	24	1	2
(c) died from Tuberculosis ... ..	3	1	—	1
(d) died from other causes ... ..	7	2	—	—
(e) diagnosis not established ... ..	1	—	—	2
(f) lost sight of ... ..	5	2	1	—
No. of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December ... ..	620	476	29	81

### FOOD POISONING

No. of Notifications ... ..	17
Outbreaks due to identified agents:—	
(i) No. of outbreaks ... ..	4
No of cases ... ..	5
" " ... ..	3
" " ... ..	2
" " ... ..	2
(ii) Single cases ... ..	5
TOTAL ... ..	17

(Agent identified—Salmonella organisms in all cases.)

### NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION, Public Health Act, 1936

The registration of nursing homes is governed by the Public Health Act, 1936, and the responsible authority is the County Council. The County Council have, however, delegated their powers to the Borough Council.

Nursing Homes are inspected monthly and during 1956 no contraventions were found.

Name of Nursing Home	Date of Registration with Luton Borough Council	DIVISION OF BEDS			
		Maternity	Surgical	Medical	Total
The Chase ...	3.4.46	7	—	—	7
Inglewood ...	8.2.50	6	—	—	6
Totals ...		13	—	—	13

During the year 174 women were delivered in the Chase Nursing Home. The Matron of the Inglewood Nursing Home relinquished her Certificate on 1st April, 1956. No deliveries had occurred in the Home.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AND NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951**

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of care and attention.

It was not found necessary during the year to take action under the provisions of the National Assistance Acts for the removal to hospital of any persons requiring care and attention. Several cases were, however, brought to notice, but by introducing a District Nurse, or Home Help into the home or by referring the case to the Welfare Officer, it was possible to improve the circumstances and so enable the patient to remain at home.

### **HEALTH EDUCATION 1956**

As has always been the custom in Luton, considerable importance is attached to Health Education methods as envisaged in section 24 of the National Health Service Act. It is still a major function of the Health Visitor's duties to make every home visit and every consultation at a Child Welfare Centre an opportunity for Health Education. In addition to this, talks were given by the Health Visitor, during the year to small groups of mothers at Child Welfare Centres on a variety of subjects, e.g. during one week the film "Your Children's Feet" was shown at five different Welfare Centres. The film was shown more or less continuously for the whole two-hour session, numerous relevant posters were on display, and a Health Visitor was in attendance to give advice on shoe fitting and to give out leaflets. The routine displaying of posters and leaflets was continued throughout the year. A close liaison exists between the department and the local press, resulting in frequent "statements" by the Medical Officer of Health. The subject of these statements varies considerably and consists normally of advice or information on Health matters of local interest.

Greater attention was paid this year to the Youth within the town, the object being to inculcate the principles of sound Health practice in the parents of tomorrow. With this aim in view a series of six talks followed by an examination was given to a group of 30 St. John Ambulance Brigade Cadets on the

subject of Child Welfare. The talks were given by members of the Health Visiting staff and the examination was conducted by the Superintendent Health Visitor.

### Home Safety

The close liaison between the Home Safety Committee and the department was again in evidence throughout the year, and the same principle of approaching the youth was employed. The St. John Ambulance Brigade Cadets were given a talk on Home Safety followed by an examination, and a course of six lectures was given to 75 cadets of the British Red Cross Society followed once again by an examination. In this connection it is gratifying to note that in all cases a 100% pass was achieved, which would seem to indicate that the youth of the town are alive to such matters and are prepared to take an intelligent interest in them. Talks on Home Safety were also given in Luton schools, the audiences, some 3,500 children in all, ranged from 5 to 15 years of age. It was hoped that by giving these lectures in schools it would be possible to reach, through the children, parents who are normally beyond the field of Health Education activities.

### Food Hygiene

With the inception of the new Food Hygiene Regulations an opportunity was presented to introduce these regulations whilst giving a refresher course on hygienic food handling. In early June an intensive lecture tour was organised which embraced nearly all the large industrial canteens in the town. Each lecture consisted of a short talk by the Specialist Inspector for Food Hygiene on the requirements set upon employees by the new Act. The talk was followed by the showing of the film "Food without Fear". Talks were also given on the same subject to the local Industrial Catering Association, the local Grocers' Association and the School Meals Service employees. Extensive use was made at various times of the Gas Council's film "Keep it Clean".

### "Public Health Inspection in Luton"

Early in the year a film with the above title was made in and by the department with the technical assistance of Mr. T. J. Olney. This film, which is silent but had a recorded commentary, runs for 25 minutes and shows various aspects of the work of the Public Health Inspector. The film has since been shown to a number of local organisations and has been very well received. The impact of local views and everyday scenes has been considerable and has helped to make these audiences realize that, unseen, a considerable amount of work is being done by the Health Department to ensure an increasingly high standard of Environmental Health.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

The offer by the Ministry of Health of free publicity in the local press was again made use of in conjunction with film slides in the local cinemas and poster displays.

In all during the year, 92 lectures were given to audiences totalling over 5,700:—

Child Welfare	...	...	27 lectures
Food Hygiene	...	...	24 lectures
Health Services	...	...	5 lectures
Home Safety	...	...	36 lectures





**PERSONAL  
HEALTH  
SERVICES**

**(LUTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE)**

**NATIONAL  
HEALTH  
SERVICE  
ACT, 1946**

## SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

### (a) Provision of Clinics

No additional child welfare centres were provided during the year. Thirteen sessions continued to be held weekly at the eleven centres situated in the various parts of the town. Diphtheria immunisation is also carried out at seven of the centres.

There was again an increase in the total number of attendances when compared with the previous year:—

### NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS, WEIGHINGS, ETC., AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES, DURING THE YEAR 1956

	Number of Sessions	Attendances				Medical Officer's Consultations	
		0-1 years		1-5 years		Under 1 year	1-5 years
		1st	Sub.	1st	Sub.		
Dallow Road ...	49	180	3,139	6	552	892	291
Stopsley ...	103	233	3,709	9	1,087	566	321
Leagrave High St.	51	73	1,246	4	314	227	124
Leagrave Marsh Road ...	51	152	3,164	7	718	557	179
Round Green ...	51	100	2,081	—	528	430	186
Castle Street ...	51	117	2,197	2	583	379	119
Beechwood ...	102	216	3,516	5	901	642	286
Limbury ...	102	150	2,865	3	682	392	187
St. Anne's ...	49	98	1,953	2	476	269	135
Farley Hill ...	52	123	1,944	1	554	412	272
Park Street ...	51	59	1,164	—	607	175	145
	712	1,501	26,978	39	7,002	4,941	2,245

### ATTENDANCE BY SOCIAL CLASS DISTRIBUTION

The following table shows the attendance at child welfare centres of *children who were born in 1956*. The figure 70·4% in the last column understates the percentage of children attending. Thus, of the total 1,758 children born in 1956, 130 were born in December of that year and only a small proportion of this number could possibly be regarded as attenders. Also, of the 50 illegitimate children who failed to attend there were 14 who were discharged from hospital directly to homes outside Luton. Indeed, we do know that only about 300 children out of 1,600 who could reasonably have been expected to attend failed to do so, giving a percentage attendance of over 80%.

1956		SOCIAL CLASS						Total
		I	II	III	IV	V	Illeg.	
No. of Births	...	42	194	1,020	270	140	92	1,758
No. attending	...	30	130	732	218	90	42	1,240
% attending	...	71.4	67.0	71.7	80.7	64.3	45.6	70.4

### (b) Premature Infants

A premature infant is defined as one weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth. The term includes, therefore, somewhat small, but healthy babies who require little more than ordinary care and management, and, on the other hand, infants who are so small that they have little chance of surviving however much care they are given.

Between these extremes are infants who, with expert attention, have a good chance of becoming healthy, vigorous babies, but who would probably not survive the ordinary rigours of early life which the normal baby meets without harm.

Special arrangements for the care of premature infants in their homes are made within the midwifery service, and infants who cannot be cared for at home are admitted to hospital.

Premature births which were registered during the year are analysed in the table overleaf according to place of birth, and birth weight.

**REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS\*  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT**

	2 lb. 3 oz. or less			Over 2 lb. 3 oz. to 3 lb. 4 oz.			Over 3 lb. 4 oz. to 4 lb. 6 oz.			Over 4 lb. 6 oz. to 4 lb. 15 oz.			Over 4 lb. 15 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.			All			Total	
	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I		
																				D
Number ... ..	1	—	3	2	1	7	7	1	23	4	3	20	25	2	2	32	39	7	85	131
Number surviving after 24 hours	—	—	3	2	1	5	5	—	19	4	3	19	25	2	2	30	36	6	76	118
Number surviving after 8 days ...	—	—	1	2	1	2	5	—	15	4	3	19	25	2	2	28	36	6	65	107
Number surviving at 4 weeks ...	—	—	1	2	1	2	5	—	15	4	3	19	25	2	2	28	36	6	65	107

\* Corrected for inward and outward transfers.

D—Domiciliary.    NH—Nursing Home.    I—Institutional.

**Place of Birth***Registered Births*

Born in Maternity Institutions:—

(a) Under control of North-West Regional Hospital Board	85
(b) Other ... ..	7
Born at home ... ..	39
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>131</b>

**(c) Contraceptive Clinic**

All patients are referred to the contraceptive clinic by medical practitioners.

Fifty-four sessions were held and there were 194 new patients. Subsequent attendances totalled 702.

**(d) Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic Clinics**

Children under the age of five years requiring Orthopaedic or Ophthalmic treatment are referred to the ordinary School Clinic sessions.

(i) <i>Orthopaedic Clinic</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-5 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of NEW cases ... ..	3	26	29
No. of first attendances in year ... ..	—	34	34
No. of subsequent attendances ... ..	1	29	30
<b>Total attendances ... ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>93</b>

<i>Classification</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	2
Bow Legs ... ..	7	10
Knock Knees ... ..	21	31
Metatarsus Varus ... ..	1	1
Gait ... ..	2	6
Congenital Deformities ... ..	6	9
Intoeing ... ..	5	7
Torticollis ... ..	2	3
Other ... ..	18	24
	<b>63</b>	<b>93</b>

*Disposal*

No. of cases referred for exercises	...	...	...	...	6
No. of cases referred for X-ray examination	...	...	...	...	5
No. of cases referred for admission to hospital	...	...	...	...	4
No. of cases referred to Hospital Out-Patients Dept.	...	...	...	...	1
No. of cases discharged	...	...	...	...	15

(ii) <i>Ophthalmic Clinic</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>Over 1 year</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of NEW cases	15	46	61
No. of first attendances in year	3	41	44
No. of subsequent attendances	27	92	119
Total attendances	45	179	224

	<i>Errors of Refraction and Squint</i>	<i>Other diseases or defects</i>	<i>Prescription for Spectacles</i>
No. of NEW cases	48	13	—
No. of first attendances in year	41	3	2
No. of subsequent attendances	73	46	22

Three children were referred to Hospital for advice or treatment.

**(e) Dental Clinic**

Children under 5 years requiring dental treatment are referred to the ordinary School Clinic sessions and during the year 45 children made 45 attendances.

No expectant or nursing mothers received treatment.

**(f) Day Nurseries**

The three day nurseries in Luton provide accommodation for 140 children—50 at each of the Alder Crescent and Manor Road Nurseries and 40 at the Stopsley Nursery.

Admission to the nurseries is now limited to priority cases—illness of mother, mother obliged to work, bad home environment, straitened financial circumstances, etc., and except in the most urgent cases, all cases are approved by the special sub-committee before their admission to the nursery.

All three day nurseries are recognised by the Ministry of Health as being suitable for the training of nursery students, and during the year two students were successful in obtaining the Certificate of the National Nursery Examination Board. At the end of the year, two second-year students and five first-year students were undertaking their training.

	<i>Manor Road</i>	<i>Alder Crescent</i>	<i>Stopsley</i>
No. of Children on Register 1.1.56 ...	47	49	40
No. added to Register ... ..	99	75	73
No. removed from Register ... ..	97	89	68
No. remaining on Register 31.12.56	49	35	45
No. of Sessions ... ..	256	256	256
Attendances—0–2 years ... ..	1,307	2,562	1,770
2–5 years ... ..	7,595	4,888	5,938
<b>Total attendances ... ..</b>	<b>8,902</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>7,708</b>
Average daily attendances ... .. (Monday–Friday)	34	29	30

The following table shows the reasons for admissions to the nurseries during 1956:—

Categories	No. on Register 1.1.56	No. admitted during 1956	No. on Register 31.12.56
Illness of Parents ... ..	17	49	20
Debilitated Children ... ..	8	9	2
Confinement ... ..	6	20	5
Illegitimacy ... ..	13	17	14
Children of Widows/Widowers ...	3	7	6
Parents separated ... ..	28	35	24
Father in H.M. Forces ... ..	7	11	6
Adverse housing conditions, poor financial circumstances, etc. ...	54	99	52
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>129</b>

The following table shows, by categories, the average number of days (Monday to Friday) each child was in the nursery.

Categories	No. of Children	No. of Days	Average number of days
Illness of Parents ... ..	66	2,935	44
Debilitated Children ... ..	17	1,195	70
Confinement ... ..	26	1,430	55
Illegitimacy ... ..	30	2,332	78
Children of Widows/Widowers ...	10	1,056	106
Parents separated ... ..	63	4,837	76
Father in H.M. Forces ... ..	18	883	49
Adverse housing conditions ... ..	28	1,743	62
Poor financial circumstances ... ..	112	7,377	66
Other ... ..	13	272	21
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>24,060</b>	<b>63</b>

The charge for admission to a nursery is calculated on remaining income after deducting normal household expenses from total income.

The following table shows the fees charged during 1956.

Assessable Income	Charge per day	Attending during 1956			
		Alder Crescent	Manor Road	Stopsley	Total
Up to £2 ...	1/6d.	72	82	64	218
£2—£5 ...	1/9d.—3/0d.	32	44	28	104
£5—£8 5s. 0d.	3/3d.—5/9d.	17	17	15	49
£8 5s. 0d.—£10	6/3d.—9/3d.	3	3	6	12
Total ...	... ..	124	146	113	383

### (g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948

There were no new registrations or cancellations during the year. Therefore at the end of the year there remained two registered Child Minders to receive eleven children and one registered day nursery to receive twenty-five children.

## SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

The establishment provides for nine domiciliary midwives for the Luton division, but owing to resignations and the difficulty of recruiting midwives, except during the month of January there was never a full complement of midwives. Indeed at the end of the year, the number of staff was 33% below establishment.

In spite of these difficulties, the midwives attended 665 domiciliary confinements—the highest number since 1951 and an increase of 80 over the previous year. There was also a corresponding increase in the number of domiciliary visits which totalled 25,445, an increase of nearly 2,000 over the previous year and the highest number paid during any year by the midwives in Luton.

Included in the total visits are 879 made to 111 hospital booked patients who were discharged home within 10 days of hospital confinement.

Five hundred and ninety-five (89·4%) of the patients received some form of relief from pain (gas and air or pethidine). It was not possible to administer any analgesia in the remaining 70 cases for the following reasons:—

Precipitate labour ... ..	68
Analgesia refused by patients ...	2

Part II pupil midwives from the Luton Maternity Hospital continued to receive their three months' district training with the domiciliary midwives and during the year 24 pupil midwives undertook their domiciliary training in Luton.





**NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES DURING THE  
YEAR 1956**

	Nursing Homes	Domi- ciliary Midwives	Maternity Hospital and Extension	Inde- pendent Practice	Total
(a) Intention to practice	4	10	31	—	45
(b) Intention to cease practice ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Change of address	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Change of name ...	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Sending for medical help ... ..	—	56	—	—	56
(f) Stillbirths occurring in practice ...	2	2	—	—	4
(g) Deaths occurring in practice—					
(i) Mothers ...	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Infants ...	—	—	—	—	—
(h) Laying out the dead	—	4	—	—	4
(i) Liability to be a source of infection	1	4	—	—	5
(j) Substitution of arti- ficial feeding ...	28	33	100	—	161

**Distribution of Midwives, 31st December, 1956**

(a) In Private Nursing Homes ... ..	4
(b) Domiciliary Midwives ... ..	8
(c) Maternity Hospital and Ext. ... ..	22
(d) Private Practice (Independent) ... ..	Nil

**SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING**

The recruitment of health visitors proved to be slightly easier. The actual number of health visitors on the staff was ten full-time and one part-time visitor as compared with an equivalent of 8·5 last year. The two health visitors who joined the staff completed their training under the Local Health Authority's Student Health Visitor Training Scheme. Two further students were accepted for training. The policy of employing State Registered Nurses to supplement and to work under the direction of individual health visitors was continued.

## HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

	Children under 1 year		Children 1-5 years		Expectant Mothers		Special Visits Infectious Disease, etc.	Infant Life Protection	Total Visits
	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits			
1947	2,832	4,194	359	7,072	68	—	4,439	119	19,083
1948	2,167	3,780	224	7,037	41	—	4,386	122	17,757
1949	2,013	3,794	316	8,008	39	—	3,122	117	17,409
1950	1,748	3,274	175	7,987	2	—	4,473	169	17,828
1951	1,782	5,226	80	13,709	1	—	984	152	21,934
1952	1,756	6,881	25	13,163	63	—	1,346	61	23,295
1953	1,683	6,801	30	13,157	62	—	963	75	22,771
1954	1,536	7,010	30	16,363	22	16	345	10	23,812
1955	1,690	6,796	101	15,261	55	—	1,151	15	25,069
1956	1,869	7,471	122	14,216	—	—	1,089	7	*24,774

\* In addition, 2,638 non-effective calls, not included above, were made.

The total visits do not include the non-effective calls.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

During the year the Inspectors were responsible for dealing with 9 cases at the request of the Department. All were in the nature of neglect and involved a total of 31 children, and 116 visits of supervision were made.

### SECTION 25—HOME NURSING SERVICE

The staff establishment of 12 district nurses (11 female and 1 male) in the home nursing service was increased during the year to 14 nurses (12 female and 2 male). It was not possible, however, to fill one male nurse vacancy.

The number of patients visited who were over 65 years increased to 799 and accounted for over 67% (29,334) of the total visits (43,350) made to all patients. Of the 799 patients over the age of 65 years, 642 were over 70 years old, 386 being in the 70-79 age group, 223 in the 80-89 age group and 33 in the 90-101 years.

During the course of their duties the nurses gave 12,754 injections (mainly to diabetic and tuberculous patients) and 379 enemas, mainly to patients attending hospitals for X-ray.

Four hundred and eleven patients received more than 24 visits each, accounting for 35,151 of the total visits paid.

Nursing requisites and sick room equipment are available through the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society and during the year 584 articles were issued by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and 95 by the British Red Cross Society.

## NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED

Type of Case	District												All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Acute Medical	33	47	70	29	35	30	32	78	21	64	31	52	522
Chronic Medical	34	38	48	51	74	56	44	25	57	39	53	49	568
Surgical ...	20	21	26	17	18	16	10	15	27	25	19	19	233
Tuberculosis ...	4	3	10	3	9	6	8	7	5	3	5	10	73
Infectious disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other ...	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	10
Totals ...	92	110	156	100	136	110	94	128	112	131	108	131	1,408

## NUMBER OF VISITS

Type of Case	District												All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Acute Medical	428	521	1,214	611	511	788	256	1,196	686	978	652	762	8,603
Chronic Medical	1,805	1,862	1,194	2,168	2,461	2,146	1,349	332	2,334	1,744	3,523	2,678	23,596
Surgical ...	649	550	604	555	690	546	279	915	1,027	576	657	1,195	8,243
Tuberculosis ...	159	23	299	230	323	309	461	215	75	236	111	310	2,751
Infectious disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	27
Other ...	6	—	7	—	—	32	—	71	14	—	—	—	130
Totals ...	3,047	2,971	3,318	3,564	3,985	3,821	2,345	2,729	4,136	3,534	4,943	4,957	43,350

## CASES ATTENDED BY TYPE, AGE AND SEX

Type	Male						Female						All
	Ages in Years						Ages in Years						
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Cardio-vascular Lesions	—	—	—	1	16	57	—	—	—	6	15	69	164
Genito-urinary Condi- tion ...	—	—	1	—	1	7	—	1	2	11	11	9	43
Neoplasm ...	—	—	—	—	14	15	—	—	—	2	14	23	68
Respiratory T.B. ...	—	1	3	11	11	2	—	—	7	16	4	1	56
Surgical T.B. ...	—	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	6	3	1	17
Other Respiratory In- fections ...	2	1	3	2	8	27	—	—	1	9	11	47	111
Other Infections ...	1	2	1	4	2	—	—	1	2	11	2	4	30
Gastro-intestinal Dis- orders ...	3	4	—	2	10	19	2	4	5	6	16	42	113
Preparation for X-ray	—	—	1	10	24	18	—	—	—	23	42	21	139
Post Operative Treat- ment ...	—	1	3	4	27	42	1	3	6	12	32	27	158
Rheumatism and Arth- ritis ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	2	—	7	20	34
Blood Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	7	10	17	44
Diabetes ...	—	—	1	—	1	8	—	—	—	1	4	40	55
Accident and injuries ...	1	1	—	3	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	14	31
Senility ...	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	75	97
Skin Diseases ...	—	1	—	2	2	4	—	—	1	—	2	3	15
Gynaecology ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	6	29	40
Hemiplegia ...	—	—	—	—	3	29	—	—	—	—	7	59	98
Ear, Nose and Throat	—	2	1	4	2	—	3	2	4	3	—	—	21
Varicose Ulcers ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	10
Disorders of Nervous System ...	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	2	3	4	14
Other Conditions ...	—	—	—	2	4	5	1	1	7	7	7	16	50
Total ...	8	16	14	48	133	271	9	13	44	126	198	528	1,408

## DURATION OF NURSING CARE (Completed cases only)

Type of Cases	7 days or less	8-28 days	1-3 months	3-6 months	Over 6 months	All
Acute Medical ...	266	133	34	21	15	469
Chronic Medical ...	153	109	53	41	49	405
Surgical ...	55	56	22	16	17	166
Tuberculosis ...	5	20	19	8	14	66
Infectious Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other ...	5	3	1	—	—	9
Total ...	484	323	129	86	95	1,117

## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### Vaccination

#### (a) *Smallpox*

Vaccination against smallpox in the normal way is carried out entirely by the family doctor. Although the figures for primary vaccinations show a decrease of 13 over the previous year, there was, nevertheless, an increase of 65 re-vaccinations.

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary vaccination	500	51	31	63	113	758
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	5	25	197	227
Totals ...	500	51	36	88	310	985

#### (b) *Poliomyelitis*

Early in the year, the Ministry of Health intimated that limited supplies of vaccine, which would confer some degree of protection against paralytic poliomyelitis, would be made available in the spring.

The scheme was completely voluntary and in the initial phase only included children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive. Letter cards were sent to all parents with children in the age groups concerned informing them of the scheme and inviting them to register their children for vaccination. No child was vaccinated against poliomyelitis unless the written consent of a parent or guardian had first been obtained.

Owing to the limited supplies of vaccine available only children born in selected months were offered vaccination.

#### *Selected Months*

November 1947 to 1954

March 1951 to 1954

#### *Reserve Month*

August 1947 to 1954

Year of Birth	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
No. invited ...	2,204	1,840	1,779	1,694	1,762	1,594	1,548	1,453	13,874
No. registered	993	806	826	743	518	439	413	405	5,143
% registered	45.0	43.8	46.4	43.8	29.9	27.5	26.6	27.9	36.4
No. vaccinated	69	62	55	42	91	80	73	62	534

## Immunisation

Immunisation sessions for both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are held monthly at seven of the Child Welfare Centres in addition to the session held each month at the central clinic at Dallow Road.

Immunisation against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough may be carried out separately or it may be combined. In the case of Whooping Cough or Whooping Cough/Diphtheria combined, immunisation usually takes place when the child is 5–6 months old, whereas for Diphtheria alone it is not carried out until the child is at least 8 months old. Re-inforcing courses for Diphtheria take place when the child commences school.

The number of children who received immunisation for whooping Cough, i.e. Whooping Cough alone or Whooping Cough/Diphtheria, was 1,466, and for Diphtheria, i.e. Diphtheria alone or Whooping Cough/-Diphtheria, was 1,617. It should be remembered that whereas Whooping Cough immunisation is limited to children under 2 years (preferably 5–6 months old) Diphtheria immunisation is carried out at any age after 8 months.

No. of immunisation sessions held at Clinics ...	...	...	...	103
No. of children immunised at clinics				
Diphtheria only ...	...	...	...	136
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	830
Whooping Cough only ...	...	...	...	38
			—	1,004
No. of children immunised by general practitioners				
Diphtheria only ...	...	...	...	81
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	570
Whooping Cough only ...	...	...	...	28
			—	679
Total number of children immunised against Diphtheria ...				1,617
Total number of children immunised against Whooping Cough				1,466
No. of re-inforcing sessions held at school ...	...	...	...	34
No. of re-inforcing courses at clinics ...	...	...	...	25
No. of re-inforcing courses at schools ...	...	...	...	778
No. of re-inforcing courses by general practitioners			...	293
Total number of re-inforcing courses ...	...	...	...	1,096

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1956.

(According to Health Department Records)

Age at 31.12.56	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	Total under 15
Number Immunised	182	1,172	1,322	1,321	1,596	8,351	6,102	20,046
Estimated mid-year Population, 1956	9,162					17,577		26,739

Immunisation state of the child population at 31st December, 1956.

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total under 15
Estimated percentage immunised	20.1%	65.5%	82.2%	74.9%

## SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Seven hundred and thirty-four households received home help assistance during the year, an increase of fifteen over the previous year.

The increasing demand for help from aged persons continued, and of the total householders assisted, 45.6 were from aged persons. It should be borne in mind, however, that but for this help in the home together with the regular visit from the District Nurses, many of these persons would require to be admitted to Homes or Hospitals.

A larger number of maternity cases was attended than hitherto, the number of 170 representing 23.1% of the total.

Three hundred and sixty-seven nights' assistance was provided by the Sitters-Up Service to 28 cases.

It is interesting to note that of the 79 Home Helps employed at the end of the year, ten have been with the service for over 8 years, six for over 7 years, nine for over 6 years and thirteen from 3-5 years.

### AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WEEKLY

Type of Case	Up to 8 hours	8-12 hours	12-20 hours	20-30 hours	Over 30 hours	Total	% of Whole
Pregnancy and Confinement	14	20	71	25	40	170	23.1
Tuberculosis ... ..	10	1	—	—	—	11	1.5
Chronic Illness ... ..	27	8	3	—	—	38	5.2
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital ...	47	14	15	—	—	76	10.4
Emergency, or other Illness	71	12	21	—	—	104	14.2
Aged Persons ... ..	283	44	8	—	—	335	45.6
Total ... ..	452	99	118	25	40	734	—
Percentage of whole ...	61.6%	13.5%	16.1%	3.4%	5.4%	100%	100%

### LENGTH OF TIME ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Type of Case	Up to 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	Total
Pregnancy and Confinement	150	19	1	—	—	170
Tuberculosis ... ..	—	1	2	3	5	11
Chronic Illness ... ..	1	6	3	8	20	38
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital ...	28	30	7	9	2	76
Emergency, or Other Illness	60	25	9	7	3	104
Aged Persons ... ..	26	46	30	47	186	335
Total ... ..	265	127	52	74	216	734
Percentage of whole ...	36.1%	17.3%	7.1%	10.1%	29.4%	100%

### AVERAGE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PER CASE

Type of Case	No. of Cases	Total No. of Weeks Assistance	Average Duration of Assistance	Total No. of Hours Assistance	Average Weekly Assistance
Pregnancy and Confinement	170	430	2.5 weeks	7,832	18.2 hours
Tuberculous ...	11	297	27.0 weeks	1,147	4.0 hours
Chronic Illness	38	1,160	30.5 weeks	7,816	6.7 hours
Hospital or Ex-Hospital ...	76	726	9.5 weeks	4,082	5.6 hours
Emergency or other illness	104	793	7.6 weeks	5,320	6.7 hours
Aged Persons	335	8,180	24.4 weeks	53,781	6.5 hours
Total ...	734	11,586	—	79,978	—



## INCOME GROUPS

Gross Income	Up to 8 hrs.			8-12 hrs.			12-20 hrs.			20-30 hrs.			Over 30 hrs.		
	Free	Assd.	Full rate	Free	Assd.	Full rate	Free	Assd.	Full rate	Free	Assd.	Full rate	Free	Assd.	Full rate
Pensions, etc.	139	120	—	24	15	—	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others under															
£5 ...	—	11	—	—	10	—	—	5	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
£5-£6 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
£6-£7 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
£7-£8 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
£8-£9 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
£9-£10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
£10 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	—
Income not disclosed ...	—	—	182	—	—	50	—	—	94	—	—	19	—	—	29
Total ...	139	131	182	24	25	50	10	14	94	—	6	19	1	10	29

Number of cases in which full fee was not charged:

(a) Maternity cases ...	27
(b) Tuberculous cases ...	4
(c) Other cases ...	329
— Total ...	360

Cost to local authority of assessed cases ... £6,956

Number of Home Helps employed at end of year:

Full-time ...	22
Part-time ...	57
Total ...	79

## PROBLEM FAMILIES

The Co-ordinating Committee set up to prevent the deterioration of problem families, as urged by Ministry of Health Circular 27/54, met on only one occasion during 1956. Three families were dealt with at this meeting.

Three more cases were brought to the notice of the Divisional Medical Officer, but these were dealt with without having recourse to a meeting of the Committee. In each case the family was re-housed by the Luton Borough Council.



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES**

**REPORT**  
of the  
**Chief Public Health Inspector**

Public Health Department,  
63-69, Guildford Street,  
LUTON.

*February, 1957.*

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Burgesses of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another step towards the cleaner handling of food was taken when the Food Hygiene Regulations were introduced on the first day of the year. The provisions relating to structural requirements did not become operative until the 1st July, thereby giving food traders an opportunity to put their premises in order. Their response to the Regulations was gratifying and this was due in no small measure to the campaign for the better handling of food which commenced with a successful conference held in the town six years ago. In March of this year another conference was held to mark the introduction of the Regulations and this was attended by 163 local restaurant and cafe proprietors. They were addressed by Mr. Morley Parry, Food Hygiene Advisory Officer to the Ministry of Health, whose intimate knowledge of the new law helped considerably to bring home its requirements to a large section of the catering trade.

Another important health measure was the Clean Air Act, part of which came into operation on the last day of the year, though certain of its provisions do not become operative until a later date. The Council have decided that a survey of the town should be made to determine the practicability of defining smoke control areas. This survey should not only reveal the full implications of the Clean Air Act, but should also make the townspeople aware of the seriousness of the Council's intention to protect them from the dangers of air pollution.

In September a further Act of Parliament changed the designation "Sanitary Inspector", which had been used since 1926, to "Public Health Inspector". The new title is generally considered to be more appropriate to the present-day duties attached to the post and to give a clearer indication to the public of the type of work undertaken.

The High Town Compulsory Purchase Order, which contained six clearance areas of 71 houses, was the subject of a Public Inquiry in September, and the Order was confirmed by the Minister during January, 1957. Four more houses were dealt with by clearance area procedure, the action being unopposed. Two clearance areas of 27 houses in Elizabeth Street, Chapel Street and Lea Road were also represented to the Public Health Committee

and 14 houses were dealt with individually by demolition or closing order. By this action approximately half the houses contained in the first five-year stage of the clearance programme were represented. Some delay occurred because the Housing Inspector who had been engaged on this work left the service of the Council in September and his position was not filled until three months later.

In the second half of the year the work at the municipal slaughterhouse increased to its full capacity and, indeed, for some months there has been difficulty in coping with the numbers of animals sent in for slaughter. Should the demand continue at this level it may be necessary to consider the enlargement of the premises as there is no indication that the Council's intention to provide a modern abattoir will be realised in the near future. As is customary 100% inspection was carried out on all animals slaughtered in the borough. A disturbing feature was the remarkable increase in the incidence of Cysticercosis. During the year 67 cases were diagnosed and in the last three months the incidence rose to almost 2% of the bovines slaughtered.

For a number of years anxiety had been expressed at the manner in which the Dallow Road and Chaul End open spaces were being fouled by itinerant caravan dwellers. In the spring of 1956 the indiscriminate dumping of all kinds of rubbish was such as to constitute a public health nuisance. With the co-operation of the land owners and the assistance of the police the van-dwellers were removed from the area, and the whole site was cleared by the removal of 150 loads of rubbish by the Corporation Cleansing Department. The town was thus rid of a source of danger to the public health and the Council's action received the approbation of the South Bedfordshire Preservation Society.

To meet the continued demand for lectures on the work of the Department a silent film was made entitled "Public Health Inspection in Luton". This film, the production of which was made possible by the facilities afforded by the firm of W. H. Cox, has a running time of 25 minutes and shows some aspects of the work of the Public Health Inspector. It has proved a valuable contribution to the health education programme and is being shown in the secondary modern schools and to various voluntary organisations.

The Public Analyst, Mr. Harcourt Wordsworth, has kindly prepared a report on samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act and analysis of samples in connection with Atmospheric Pollution.

I wish to express my thanks to officers of the Corporation for their ready advice and assistance, and to Inspectors and Staff for their loyalty and hard work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. F. MACEFIELD.

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### GENERAL

The area of the borough is 8,773 acres and the present estimated population is 114,500. The surface is undulating, the town having been built substantially in a valley in the Chiltern Hills, usually described as the "Lee Gap". The surface level varies from some 330 feet above sea level to a little more than 600 feet above sea level.

The principal industries are the manufacture of private and commercial motor vehicles and associated trades, chemicals, electric cookers, gas and electric refrigerators, and hats.

*Meteorology.*—The Luton Meteorological Station, which is under the control of the Borough Engineer, is situated in Wardown Park, New Bedford Road. During the year the following observations were taken:—

*Sunshine.*—1,253·3 hours of sunshine were recorded, the sunniest day being 25th July, 1956, when 13·4 hours were recorded.

*Rainfall.*—The total rainfall recorded was 22·71 inches, the wettest day being 8th July, 1956, when 1·05 inches of rain were recorded.

*Temperatures.*—The maximum temperature was 80°F., recorded on 26th July, 1956, and the minimum temperature was 9°F., recorded on 2nd February, 1956.

*Wind.*—The prevailing wind was South-West.

### WATER SUPPLY

The following information has been kindly supplied by the Engineer and Manager to the Luton Water Company.

	1955 <i>million gallons</i>	1956 <i>million gallons</i>
(1) Estimated total consumption for Borough ...	2,123	2,154
(2) Estimated unmetered consumption for Borough ... ..	1,182	1,243
(3) Estimated industrial consumption for Borough	941	911
(4) Average Chlorination ... ..	0·25 p.p.m.	0·25 p.p.m.

“Based upon an estimated population in the Borough of 114,500 the above figures represent an average daily consumption per head for domestic and unmetered trade purposes of approximately 30 gallons, for metered industrial purposes of approximately 22 gallons, a total of 52 gallons.

## Resources

“During 1956 the Friars Wash Scheme has been completed for the joint use of Luton and Dunstable. This makes available 3 m.g.d. for use in the two towns, Luton’s share being 2 m.g.d.

“Following the decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government regarding the future development of Luton and Dunstable, the Eastern Gas Board (as water undertakers for Dunstable), in conjunction with the Luton Water Company, have sunk a trial borehole at Shafford Farm in the Ver Valley, to prove its suitability for the establishment of new source works to meet increased demands for water, consequent upon the new development. It is anticipated that application will be made in the near future, for an Order for the permanent development of this site to the extent of 6 m.g.d.

## Developments

“During the year a 12 in. link main has been laid from the Dunstable Road/Chaul End Lane junction to Leagrave High Street to improve supplies in the Leagrave area.

“Construction of a one million gallon service reservoir near Butterfield Green has been commenced during the year and, with its 12 in. feeder main from Ashcroft Road, is expected to be completed in the summer of 1957. Its function is to cater for new development in the high-lying areas of Stopsley, Round Green and Vauxhall Park Estates, where development has outgrown the 50 year old Hart Lane Water Tower.

## Distribution

“During 1956, 6½ miles of distribution mains were laid at the following sites:—

Toddington Road	Sundon Park	Vincent Road
Felix Avenue	Hilary Gardens	Wellgate Road
Runfold Avenue Estate	Dallow Road	Putteridge Estate
Byron Road	Hayhurst Road	Abingdon Road
Vauxhall Park	Barton Road	Belper Road
Selbourne Road	Turners Road	Green Lane
Riddy Lane	Fieldgate Road	Cannon Lane
Kingsdown Avenue		

## Sampling of Water

“All sources of supply are analysed by the Local Public Health Laboratory Service at weekly intervals, the Public Analyst making a more detailed analysis of each source at monthly intervals.

## Plumbo-Solvency of Water

“Although chalk waters of the type supplied by the Luton Water Company are not generally plumbo-solvent, tests indicate that Luton water may be very slightly plumbo-solvent. For this reason no lead service pipes are installed and the Water Company advises that service pipes of other material than lead are used.”

The following is a copy of the Public Analyst's latest report on the mains supply submitted by the Luton Water Company on 18th December 1956:—

No. 1/146	Crescent Road No. 5 Well, Unchlorinated.
No. 2/146	Crescent Road No. 5 Well, Chlorinated.
No. 3/146	Runley Wood (Chalk), Chlorinated.
*No. 4/145	Runley Wood, Greensand, Filtrate.
No. 5/146	Friars Wash (Chalk), Chlorinated.

\* No analysis in December, the report for November is given.

### Chemical Analysis

*Parts per 100,000*

	No. 1-2/146	No. 3/146	No. 4/145	No. 5/146
Free Ammonia ... ..	0.0006	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.0004	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.064	0.052	0.042	0.060
Nitrites ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	0.824	0.464	0.012	0.535
Chlorine ... ..	2.9	1.9	2.2	1.8
Hardness, Total ... ..	36.0	45.0	27.0	31.0
Hardness, Permanent ... ..	11.5	15.5	5.0	4.0
Total Solids ... ..	44.8	57.2	34.2	35.7
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> ... ..	4.0	12.5	4.9	0.4
pH value ... ..	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9

All samples were clear and free from smell.

The microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral and vegetable fragments and debris.

### Bacteriological Examination

	No. 1/146	No. 2/146	No. 3/146	No. 4/145	No. 5/146
Number of organisms per ml. growing at 22°C. in 3 days ... ..	20	1	Nil	2	Nil
Liquefying organisms ... ..	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of organisms per ml. growing at 37°C. in 48 hours ... ..	1	1	2	4	1
Bacillus Coli ... ..	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.

### Opinion

These samples are in satisfactory condition and suitable for dietetic use.



No. of dwellings supplied from piped water mains direct to the houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,632
No. of dwellings sharing piped water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
No. of dwellings supplied from wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of samples of water submitted by Local Authority for examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service for free chlorine and Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	...	...	...	209

Number of samples of water obtained from:—

Crescent Road Pumping Station	...	...	...	...	...	86
Runley Wood Pumping Station	...	...	...	...	...	79
Friars Wash Supply	...	...	...	...	...	39
Other Sources	...	...	...	...	...	5
						— 209

Classified results of the above samples:—

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	208
Class 2—Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Class 3—Suspicious	...	...	...	...	...	0
Class 4—Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	0
						— 209

The system of bi-weekly sampling of the various sources at the Luton Water Company's stations was maintained throughout the year. All results proved satisfactory.

One water sample was taken from each of the two private wells supplying dwellinghouses and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Both samples proved satisfactory, but the Analyst's report indicated the need for them to be kept under observation.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The drainage of the Borough is on the separate system, except in the Stopsley area and the old part of the Borough where it is combined.

The soil water sewage is dealt with at the New Mill End Sewage Purification Works by sedimentation followed by bio-aeration and bacterial filtration. Before its final discharge to the river, it receives additional treatment through sand filters and micro-strainers. The final stage of treatment is necessary because of the lack of dilution in the river and also because the river is later used as a source of water supply. Some sludge is treated with lime and sulphate of iron, dried and sold for manurial purposes. During the year however it was learned that some sludge was being deposited on agricultural

and pasture land in a raw state. As the rise in the incidence rate of bovine cysticercosis diagnosed in the slaughterhouses was causing some concern, representations were made to the officers of the Department concerned and the practice of discharging raw sludge on to pasture land was discontinued.

### CESSPOOLS

Eleven cesspools were abolished and seven constructed during the year. At the 31st December, 1956, there were 105 in use in the Borough.

Cesspools are emptied by means of mechanical plant as and when required. Four hundred and eleven emptyings were carried out during the twelve months.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING—REFUSE DISPOSAL

The following information is supplied by the Director of Public Cleansing:—

“Labour shortages were again experienced and although the labour turnover showed some improvement the refuse collection service was maintained with difficulty.

“The method of refuse disposal is controlled tipping, and during the year 1956 the weight of refuse dealt with was 54,197 tons.”

The Public Cleansing Department is also responsible for emptying the pail and chemical closets used by caravan dwellers in the town. The closets are emptied either two or three times weekly and the number of fittings so serviced is 199.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE

Complaints reported to Public Health Department ... ..	1,226*
Primary Inspections:—	
Where nuisances were found ... ..	1,933*
Where complaint was received and no nuisance found ... ..	130
Under Housing Acts ... ..	224
Where Infectious Disease has occurred ... ..	213
Bakehouses ... ..	84
Canteens ... ..	320
Caravans, Tents, etc. ... ..	36
Cowsheds ... ..	3
Dairies ... ..	319
Factories ... ..	136
Fish Frying Premises ... ..	63
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	200
Food Storage Premises ... ..	270
Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	28
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	82
Markets and Shops ... ..	114
Milkshops ... ..	127
Offensive Trades ... ..	5
Outworkers Premises ... ..	23
Overcrowding ... ..	55
Public Houses ... ..	41
Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	770
Slaughterhouses primarily for meat inspection ... ..	1,757
Schools ... ..	109
Shops Act, 1950, Section 38 ... ..	43
Stable and Piggeries ... ..	2
Theatres and Amusement Halls ... ..	8
Urinals—Public and Private ... ..	36
Other Visits or Inspections:—	
Number of drains tested or exposed ... ..	77
Food Inspection (excluding Slaughterhouses) ... ..	257
Interviews ... ..	990
Lectures ... ..	37
Insect Pests Investigations (excluding bugs) ... ..	114
Bug Infestations ... ..	30
Atmospheric Pollution ... ..	473
Visits to Boiler Houses, etc. ... ..	69
Smoke Observations ... ..	95
Merchandise Marks Acts ... ..	17
Pet Animals Act ... ..	18
Visits to obtain Water Samples for Analysis ... ..	458
Visits under the Food and Drugs Act, for samples, etc. ... ..	2,245
Visits to property under notice or work in progress ... ..	4,405
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	849
Visits—No access ... ..	655
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	17,920

\* These figures do not include 529 complaints and 835 primary visits in connection with Rats and Mice, which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report.



## STATUTORY NOTICES

### NUMBER OF LEGAL NOTICES ISSUED FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Number of Outstanding Notices, 31st Dec., 1955 ...	21	21
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 24 ... ..	70	64
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 39 ... ..	57	52
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 44 ... ..	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 45 ... ..	21	17
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 93 ... ..	100	83
	<u>270</u>	<u>238</u>
No. of Outstanding Notices at 31st December, 1956	32	

Following the failure of one property owner to comply with a notice served under Section 93, application was made to Court for an abatement order. This was duly made, a fine of £2 being imposed with costs of £9 2s. 6d. the work to be completed in 28 days, otherwise a further fine of £5 plus a daily penalty of £2 per day. The work was carried out in the time allowed.

In six instances owners made applications for work required under the Public Health Act, 1936, to be carried out by the Council on their behalf in accordance with Section 275 of the Act. In each instance the Council agreed to this course and to the repayment of costs by instalments. In two further cases the replacement of broken w.c. pans was a matter of urgency and the Council carried out the work in default and recovered the costs.

The maintenance of sewers vested in the Corporation (formerly combined drains) demanded considerable work during the year. Repairs to drainage systems of this type serving 54 houses were carried out by the Corporation under Section 24, the costs of these works being recovered from the various owners.

In the earlier part of the year the condition of the land at Runley Wood was the cause of some anxiety. Widespread dumping of disused bedding and old metal had occurred following the illegal occupation of the area by itinerant caravan dwellers. A report was submitted to the Public Health Committee in which it was proposed that the Council should themselves clear the site in accordance with Section 93(b). This was approved and the land was cleared at a cost of £169.

## DISINFECTION

Premises visited where notifiable diseases have occurred ... ..	207
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital ... ..	21
Rooms disinfected after infectious, contagious or other disease ...	62
Rooms disinfected by occupiers ... ..	26
Articles disinfected by steam ... ..	137
Articles disinfected by fumigants ... ..	317
Articles destroyed at request of owners ... ..	138
Premises visited tracing infectious disease ... ..	213

Five hundred and twenty-one library books were withdrawn from circulation and were disinfected before they were returned.

## DISINFESTATION

Rooms disinfested for vermin or other insects pests	...	...	226
Articles disinfested by steam	...	...	190
Articles disinfested by insecticides	...	...	40
Articles destroyed at request of owners	...	...	37
Wasps nests destroyed	...	...	6

Where serious infestation by the larvae of the common furniture beetle (woodworm) was reported, spraying with an insecticide containing DDT was carried out. In this connection five premises involving twelve rooms were treated. Effective treatment for this complaint is a long and tedious process however, and can only be properly carried out by the occupier.

Thirty infestations by bed bugs were found during the year, and in all instances disinfestation was carried out. The use of liquid vermicide was relied upon for treating the infestations, and proved satisfactory. In one instance further treatment was necessary.

The following table shows the number of premises and rooms dealt with during 1956:—

	Number of Premises		Number of Rooms	
	Found to be infested	Disinfested	Found to be infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	6	6	19	19
Number of other Houses	24	24	80	80
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out prior to removal from Clearance Areas, etc., into new Council Houses	12	12	66	66
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out by Corporation Disinfesting Officer	30	30	99	99
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out by Occupants or Contractors	—	—	—	—
Number of complaints of infestation received	24	24	72	72
Number of cases found by Public Health Inspectors	6	6	27	27

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Baiting and poisoning treatments of the sewers for rat infestation were carried out in February and November. The first treatment was preceded by test baiting when 400 manholes were dealt with and 132 takes observed. The full scale treatment involved 1,163 manholes from which there were 193 complete and 457 partial takes. In November, 1,640 manholes were baited with 192 complete and 309 partial takes.

The majority of rodent infestations dealt with were again treated by an anti-blood coagulent rodenticide. This method is economical of labour and does not induce bait shyness.

Assiduous attention has been paid to the few sites in the Borough which are frequently infested by rats. At no time did the infestations get out of hand and the Corporation's Refuse Tip has been maintained in a condition virtually free from rats.

An analysis of the work is detailed below:—

		Com-plaints received		No. of premises involved		Treatment com-pleted		Treatment in progress		Bodies found	
Private Dwellings	{ Rats	337		484		491		13		2	
	{ Mice		54		47		48		3		67
Business Premises	{ Rats	77		87		83		9		—	
	{ Mice		61		66		69		2		118
Totals	{ Rats	414		571		574		22		2	
	{ Mice		115		113		117		5		185

In dealing with the above-mentioned infestations, the rodent operatives paid a total of 3,157 visits. Two hundred and four visits were also made to infestations by the Public Health Inspectors.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Baths Superintendent has kindly supplied the following information:

“There are two Public Swimming Baths in the Borough, both owned by the Corporation.

“The Public Baths are situated in Waller Street, Luton, and consist of a covered Swimming Pool and 46 Slipper Baths. The Vapour Baths which were available have unfortunately had to be closed to the public because it became impossible to keep them at the high sanitary standard necessary for this type of bath. The Open Air Pool, situated off New Bedford Road, Luton, caters for swimming and bathing only.

“During the season of 1956, the following numbers attended:—

						<i>Waller Street Baths</i>	<i>Open Air Swimming Pool</i>
Swimmers	...	...	...	...	...	51,808	31,870
Spectators	...	.....	...	...	...	1,704	4,284
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	12,126	—
Slipper and Vapour Baths	...	...	...	...	...	58,199	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	20,589	11,979
						<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	144,426	48,133
						<hr/>	<hr/>

“Chloroscope examinations of the water are carried out by the attendants twice a day, and in addition, samples of the water are sent to the Borough Chemist for examination each month. During the past year, reports have been satisfactory.”

In addition eight samples of baths water were taken from the Public Baths by Public Health Inspectors and sent to the Borough Chemist for examination. All were satisfactory.

## PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Inspection of sanitary accommodation in the cinemas and theatres has been made during the year. Where minor sanitary defects were found, they were attended to. An annual inspection was carried out for the purpose of satisfying the Licensing Authority that the sanitary accommodation was adequate and had been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The four recording stations maintained by the Department continued to operate throughout the year. Three of these consisted of a standard deposit gauge and lead peroxide candle, and one of lead peroxide candle only.

The contents of the various instruments are forwarded monthly to the Public Analyst for examination. Results are sent to the Director, Fuel Research Station, East Greenwich, for inclusion in the National Bulletin which is published monthly.

A volumetric apparatus for recording sulphur dioxide and suspended matter is operated at the Town Hall. From this, daily readings are taken. These results are also forwarded to East Greenwich for inclusion in the National Bulletin.

The report of the Public Analyst contains his observations on the results obtained from the various instruments.

The coming into operation of the Clean Air Act, 1956, on the 31st December, attaches even greater importance to this work. Statistical details built up over the past years will be of value in assessing any improvements achieved in the future.

During the year, 95 smoke observations were made on industrial premises in the Borough and 6 warnings issued about the excessive emission of smoke.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

Section 38 of this Act is administered by the Public Health Department.

Forty-three visits were paid to shop premises during 1956 investigating the sanitary accommodation provided. Two notices were served respecting contraventions found.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are





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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—RECORDING STATION



sold and empowers a local authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

During the period under review 19 visits were paid to the seven premises so licensed to ensure that the requirements of the Act were complied with.

One firm discontinued business during the year and at the 31st December six licences were in force. A departmental store made application during the year for a licence but this was refused by the Council on the grounds that the premises were unsuitable for this type of trade.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

The two offensive trades were conducted satisfactorily during the year and a total of six inspections of the premises were made.

### THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

#### INSPECTIONS

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	556
Premises inspected and found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	541
Premises inspected and found unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Factories where defects were found and referred by H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Reports on action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of defects remedied as a result of H.M. Inspector's notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

#### LIST OF DEFECTS FOUND

Cleanliness, want of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No intervening ventilated lobby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation, want of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Closet, unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ not lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ not screened	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ without indication	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rat or mouse infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

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The one remaining underground bakehouse was allowed to continue during the year in consideration of the particular personal hardship involved.

At 31st December, 1956, there were 753 factories (mechanical power) and 42 factories (non-mechanical power) on the register. These figures include 195 hat manufacturers and 63 allied trades.

# OUTWORKERS RETURNS

NATURE OF WORK	OUTWORKERS LISTS Sections 110, Factories Act, 1937			Outworkers in Unwholesome Premises Section 111, Factories Act, 1937			Outwork in Infected Premises Sec. 153, P.H.A. 1936		Lists forwarded to other Authorities				Lists received from other Authorities							
	Lists received from Employers and Other Authorities			No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to Supply Lists	No. of Instances of Work in Unwholesome Premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions	Instances	Orders made Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936	Prosecutions Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936	No. of Local Authorities to whom Lists of Outworkers have been Forwarded	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors	No. of Local Authorities from whom Lists have been Received	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors	
	Lists	Workmen	Contractors																	
Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel	105	1,251	2	—	—	—	—	—	Where cases have arisen work has been withheld by verbal arrangement. No separate records kept.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	1	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshade Making	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leather and Fancy Goods	3	201	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Mounting	1	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plastic Goods	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Button Carding	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	113	1,546	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	16	249	—	3	3	4	1	—	—
Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel	106	1,465	3	—	—	—	—	—	Where cases have arisen work has been withheld by verbal arrangement. No separate records kept.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshade Making	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leather and Fancy Goods	3	181	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Mounting	2	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plastic Goods	1	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Button Carding	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	115	1,735	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	115	124	649	—	3	3	10	1	—	—

Total number of firms employing outworkers who live in the Borough ... 134  
 Total number of outworkers employed who live in the Borough ... 1,683  
 The homes of outworkers are visited by the Public Health Inspectors who deal with any nuisance or other irregularity.

## HOUSING

Two thousand, two hundred and nineteen houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts during the year, for which purpose 6,490 inspections were made.

One thousand, three hundred and one houses were found to have defects which necessitated action under the Public Health Acts; subsequent informal action resulted in 1,150 houses being rendered fit. It was found necessary to serve Statutory Notices in respect of 206 houses, following which 134 were repaired by the respective owners. A further 61 were repaired by the local authority on behalf of, or in default of, the owners.

The second year's phase in the first five-year stage of the Council's clearance programme resulted in a Public Inquiry being held in September in connection with the proposed High Town Compulsory Purchase Order. The Alfred Street Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed unopposed. Further areas in Elizabeth Street, Chapel Street and Lea Road were also represented during the year, a total of 27 houses. Progress was made towards the clearance of the New Town Area which was confirmed during the previous year. Thirty-five families comprising 104 persons were rehoused by the Corporation and a further eight families comprising 23 persons found their own accommodation. Of the 41 houses thus vacated at the end of the year 26 had been demolished at the 31st December. Four persons in two families were rehoused by the Corporation from two houses in the Alfred Street area.

Fourteen houses were represented under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936; eight were the subject of Demolition Orders, five Closing Orders were made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and one undertaking not to relet was given by the owner. During the year six houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. A further 15 houses were acquired informally by the Corporation and demolished.

The demand for Certificates of Disrepair continued to be small; nine were issued and seven revoked where the defects detailed in the Certificates were satisfactorily remedied. Two hundred and forty-five enquiries were made by intending purchasers respecting the estimated life of dwelling-houses.

During the year a survey of overcrowded houses on the register was carried out when it was found that the majority had ceased to be overcrowded. Two new cases of overcrowding were reported and at the 31st December there remained 12 houses overcrowded involving 21 families. Four cases of overcrowding in Council houses were relieved and there were no Council houses overcrowded at the year's end.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

#### MILK

##### **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954**

No. of persons registered as Distributors	...	...	...	233
No. of premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	13

##### **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953**

No. of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	...	3
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	62
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	3
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	218
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	3

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

No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	38
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	3

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Luton is a specified area under Section 41 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and all milk sold in the Borough must be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. Four hundred and eighty-seven samples of these categories of milk were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory (see table on page 65). The percentage of Pasteurised milks satisfying the phosphatase test was 99·39 (98·21 in 1955), and 100% of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised milks passed the test (96·97% in 1955).

Only 77·42% of the Tuberculin Tested farm bottled milks passed the statutory test and this was due to the low standard maintained on one farm. Representations were made to the Area Milk Production Officer and the producer was interviewed in the Department. Towards the end of the year results indicated that the trouble had been overcome.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Designation of Milk	Total Samples Submitted	Methylene Blue Test		Samples Cancelled Statutory Minimum Temperature not reached	Per-centage Satisfactory	Phosphatase Test		Per-centage Satisfactory	Turbidity Test		Per-centage Satisfactory
		Passed	Failed			Passed	Failed		Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised ...	328	326	2	—	99.39	326	2	99.39	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	0	100.00
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	118	118	0	—	100.00	118	0	100.00	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested ...	31	24	7	—	77.42	—	—	—	—	—	—

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WASHED CHURNS AND MILK BOTTLES

Twenty-two batches consisting of 239 washed milk bottles were taken for examination during the year. On three occasions the results were below satisfactory and in each instance these were in respect of the same dairy. Close attention was paid to the maintenance of the washing machine and satisfactory results were then achieved.

One batch of six churns was tested and proved satisfactory.

## REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD

(FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 16)

	Premises on Register 31st Dec., 1955	Conditional Approvals outstanding 31st Dec., 1955	No. of Applications received during 1956	No. of Certificates issued	No. of Conditional Approvals cancelled	No. of Conditional Approvals outstanding 31st Dec., 1956	No. of Applications refused	No. of Premises removed during 1956	Total on Register at 31st Dec., 1956
Sale and storage of Ice Cream ...	321	7	10	11	—	6	—	4	328
Manufacture of Ice Cream ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Manufacture of Preserved Food ...	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
Fish Frying and Curing ...	31	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	31

Visits were made to all registered premises during the year for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. A total of 3,090 visits was paid to food premises for all purposes and this figure includes special inspections of registered premises as follows:—

Sale, storage and manufacture of Ice Cream ...	82
Manufacture of Preserved Food ...	200
Fish Frying and Curing ...	63



## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force on the 1st January, 1956, although those provisions relating to structural alterations were postponed for six months. In order to familiarise the food industry with their new obligations and to explain the policy of the Department in securing the implementation of the Regulations, a series of lectures and film shows was arranged in the early months of the year during which all the principal Food Traders' Associations were addressed by a senior officer of the Public Health Inspectors' Section. There is no doubt that by these activities the co-operation of the various traders was obtained.

All the food shops and storage premises in the town were visited by the Public Health Inspectors and the occupiers supplied with an abstract of the new law and its purport explained. Inspections of the premises were carried out and action instituted to secure compliance. The co-operation shown by practically all sections of the food trades has been gratifying and most of the alterations required were carried out willingly. A total of 3,090 visits were paid to food premises during the year and 551 informal notices were served or arrangements made. At the year end, 321 had been complied with. In many other cases orders for the necessary work had been placed.

The following table shows the type and number of food shops in the Borough:—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Provision Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cooked Meats Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Off Licence Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Margarine Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
			Total	...	...	...	714
							—

In November, a prosecution was taken against a food handler for smoking whilst handling open food at a market stall. The defendant pleaded guilty and a fine of £1 was imposed, the Chairman of the Magistrates stating that a small fine had been imposed because this was the first offence under the new Regulations.

## FOOD HYGIENE IN CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

During the year 23 new premises were established and 13 closed, and at 31st December the number of establishments serving meals and snacks was 378, comprised as follows:—

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	76
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	34
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	32
School Kitchens only	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	49
Canteens serving Snacks only	...	...	...	...	...	34
Commercial Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Social Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	17
Mobile Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	3
Public Houses including those serving Snacks	...	...	...	...	...	112

During the year the undermentioned work was carried out:—

Number of visits and re-visits made	...	...	1,175
Number of interviews held	...	...	154
Number of letters sent or arrangements made	...	...	184
Number of letters or arrangements complied with	...	...	107
Number of Lectures given	...	...	24
Number of Persons attending Lectures	...	...	598

Work carried out:—

Premises completely redecorated	...	...	...	16
Premises partly redecorated	...	...	...	28
Water heaters installed	...	...	...	11
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	5
Wash-basins provided	...	...	...	25
Sinks provided	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous work	...	...	...	38
				129
				—

All plans concerning food premises submitted to the Borough Engineer were examined and amendments obtained where necessary before being submitted to the Planning Committee; the premises were visited and the proprietors advised of the equipment required to maintain a good hygienic standard.

Twenty-four lectures with the aid of films and film strips were given during the year. Students from Ceylon and Nigeria visited the Department and studied local authority educational methods in connection with clean food.

Utensil swabbing was carried out in 37 different food establishments. The following items of equipment were tested:—

Plates	...	...	...	...	160
Cups	...	...	...	...	236
Beakers and Mugs	...	...	...	...	24
Glasses	...	...	...	...	10
Total					...
Total					430

Out of the 430 swabs taken, 265 returned a total bacteriological count of less than 100 colonies per utensil. Of the remaining 165, 45 returned a count of between 100–200 colonies, 23 between 200–300, 27 between 300–500, 23 between 500–1,000 and 47 over 1,000. In six cases faecal coli was found, but following investigation and advisory action, subsequent tests were satisfactory.

A special conference was held on 5th March, presided over by the Mayor and addressed by Mr. Morley Parry, the Food Hygiene Advisory Officer to the Ministry of Health, which 163 representatives from catering establishments attended. The conference was a considerable success and was supplemented by a showing of two new food hygiene films.

### ICE CREAM

The more stringent requirements for the manufacture of ice cream first introduced in the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, have resulted in a progressive annual reduction in the number of manufacturers in the Borough. In 1947, 21 premises were registered for this purpose, whilst at the 31st December, 1956, out of a total of 337 ice cream premises on the register only nine of these were registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Five of the latter number manufactured their own product, whilst four manufactured ice cream from a pasteurised cold mix. Eighty-two visits were paid to ice cream premises and eight samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination, all being reported upon as satisfactory.

The Public Health Laboratory Service grading is set out below.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE GRADING			
Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
6	2	—	—

### MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Slaughtering of food animals was carried on throughout the year in three slaughterhouses, two of which were owned by private firms. The third was the temporary slaughterhouse owned by the Council at Windmill Road and it is pleasing to record that during the latter half of the year considerably greater

use was made of the premises than at any time since it was opened. This has been largely due to the favourable prices for the purchase of fat stock which obtained during the autumn. The result was that for the last three months of 1956 the slaughterhouse was used at a rate beyond the capacity for which it was designed. Whether this will be maintained during the spring and autumn of 1957 remains to be seen, but if it does, consideration will have to be given to the enlargement of existing facilities.

Towards the end of the year it was found necessary to raise slaughtering charges because of the increased costs of fuel, electricity and building maintenance.

One hundred per cent. meat inspection was again maintained in the three establishments, at the expense of a considerable amount of week-end and overtime working by the meat inspectors.

### CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ... ..	5,691	292	954	10,109	7,465	24,511
Number inspected ... ..	5,691	292	954	10,109	7,465	24,511
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	3	3	2	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,938	76	2	280	478	2,774
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	34.05%	26.03%	0.52%	2.80%	6.43%	11.35%
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	16	4	—	—	—	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	393	49	—	—	160	602
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	7.19%	18.15%	—	—	2.14%	2.54%
<b>Cysticercosis:</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	67	—	—	—	—	67
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	67	—	—	—	—	67
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

The most noticeable feature during the year was the remarkable increase in the incidence of Cysticercosis. The number of cases found rose to 67, an increase of 200% over 1955. The average incidence of 1.12% is well above the latest known national average of 0.21%.

The total number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year showed an increase of 979 or some 4% over 1955. It was not found necessary to condemn any whole beef carcasses for any condition other than Tuberculosis, but 20 were rejected from this cause as compared with 18 from all causes during the previous year. The percentages of the numbers of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis again fell, with one exception, in accordance with the trend shown in recent years, the figure for cows increasing from 13.77% to 18.15%, but this figure is still well below those of recent years. It should be noted that the number of cows slaughtered fell from 523 to 292. The low incidence of Tuberculosis and other diseases fairly reflects the general high quality of meat produced in the Borough.

The following table effectively illustrates the decreased incidence of Tuberculosis found in the slaughterhouses in recent years.

#### PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER INSPECTED AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs
1951	12.43	35.21	0.20	5.27
1952	10.42	26.89	0.17	4.96
1953	9.42	26.45	0.15	4.97
1954	9.03	23.39	0.10	2.40
1955	7.49	13.77	0.13	2.27
1956	7.19	18.15	—	2.14

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-1954

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1955	...	21
Applications for Licences considered during 1956	... ..	20
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1956	...	20

#### MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDERS

The supervision of food shop premises to enforce the labelling provisions of the various Orders is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the course of their multifarious duties. Seventeen special visits were made in connection with the Orders and no contraventions were observed. The standard of marking maintained by the food traders generally in the town is high and where an occasional omission is found it is quickly remedied when brought to the notice of the proprietor.

Explanatory pamphlets setting out the shopkeepers' obligations under the Merchandise Marks Orders are available upon request.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The amount of unsound food condemned and destroyed during the year comprised:—

<i>No. of Condemnation Notes</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Weight in lb.</i>
1,847	Beef ... ..	59,257
	Pork ... ..	4,888
	Mutton ... ..	896
	Meat other than from Slaughterhouses ...	855
	Meat—Canned ... ..	2,234
	Meat Pies and Pastes ... ..	20
	Bacon ... ..	200
	Sausages ... ..	39
	Chicken—Fresh and Canned ... ..	7
	Fish—Fresh and Canned ... ..	1,621
	Fruit—Canned and Fresh, and Fruit Juices	2,067
	Fruit—Dried ... ..	60
	Preserves—Canned ... ..	93
	Vegetables—Fresh and Canned, and Soups	1,409
	Milk—Canned, Evaporated and Dried ...	672
	Cream—Fresh and Synthetic ... ..	12
	Cheese—Fresh and Processed ... ..	980
	Eggs—Frozen ... ..	51
	Flour, Bread, Cakes and Puddings ... ..	171
	Cereals ... ..	22
Sauces and Pickles ... ..	38	
Suet ... ..	18	
Miscellaneous ... ..	19	
1,847	33 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. 1 lb.	75,629

The above statement includes the weight of the entire carcasses and organs of 16 cattle excluding cows, 4 cows, 3 calves, 3 sheep and lambs and 2 pigs.

Offal condemned at the slaughterhouses in the town and at butchers' shops in the Borough is collected by an approved contractor who subjects this material to a steam digestion process. Carcasses of beef are sent to Whipsnade Zoo where they are used for feeding the animals. The remainder of the condemned food is disposed of by supervised burial on the Corporation's Airport Tip.

In connection with the tracing of food poisoning incidents, 4 samples of food were delivered to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

An investigation was carried out on the extent of the use of egg albumen in the baking industry and on the incidence of food poisoning organisms in it. It was found that egg albumen and similar products were in common use throughout the trade. Very little was of Chinese origin which is known to be frequently infected, most of that in use being from Britain and the Dominions. Thirty samples were taken during the investigation and food poisoning organisms of the Salmonella group were isolated from three of them. In each case the remaining stock was surrendered for destruction by the Department.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR THE YEAR 1956

**Food and Drugs Act**

During the year 343 samples were submitted for analysis of which 22 were found to be "not genuine". The figures are similar to those of 1955 when out of a total of 320 samples 20 were reported against.

The average fat content of all samples of milk examined has shown a slight increase, the solids-not-fat remaining much the same as in the previous year. Samples are still received which show that although they do not reach the presumptive minimum standards for solids-not-fat, the deficiency is natural and not caused by the addition of water. In such instances it might be said that the cow is not complying with the Regulations.

A summary of the foods found to be below standard and the action taken is to be found below.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force during the year. Further regulations which came into force were the Butter and Margarine Regulations, 1955, and the Labelling of Food (Amendment) Order, 1955.

The Food Standards Committee have issued a Supplementary Report on Colouring Matters in Food in which it is suggested that the presence of colouring matters in certain specified foods should not be disclosed. The identification of food colourings will be difficult and will increase the time which must be spent on a sample of food. It does appear that with each step forward in the system designed to protect the consumer, the complexity of the work involved in food analysis increases.

**Atmospheric Pollution**

Great interest is now taken in the pollution of the atmosphere and the methods proposed for its reduction. Further interest was stimulated by the Report of the Government Committee on Air Pollution published in 1954 and the introduction of "Smokeless Zones" in some areas. The Clean Air Act will doubtless have a great effect upon the whole problem.

The figures giving the results of the amount of soot and dirt, and of sulphur compounds, deposited from and contained in the air are very similar to those of last year. Some of the more gross forms of air pollution have been eliminated and it is to be hoped that, in the future, the great charge upon both health and wealth will be reduced.

C. HARCOURT WORDSWORTH,

*Public Analyst*

## SAMPLING OF FOODS AND DRUGS

Nature of Sample	Formal	Informal
Butter ... ..	1	3
Meat and meat products ... ..	—	5
Confectionery, sweets, etc. ... ..	—	17
Fish—canned, and fish and meat paste ... ..	—	7
Fruit—fresh, preserved and canned ... ..	—	14
Groceries—miscellaneous ... ..	—	49
Jam, marmalade, honey, etc. ... ..	—	10
Lard, cooking fat and suet ... ..	—	11
Margarine ... ..	—	6
Milk and milk foods (canned) and cream ... ..	—	8
Milk ... ..	23	147
Patent medicines and chemical substances ... ..	—	9
Sausages and sausage meat ... ..	—	5
Temperance drinks and non-alcoholic wines ... ..	—	9
Wines, spirits and beers ... ..	10	—
Ice-Cream ... ..	—	9
Totals ... ..	34	309
	343	

## SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF MILK SAMPLES

Period	No. of Samples Examined	AVERAGES	
		Fat %	Solids not Fat %
January ... ..	12	4.47	8.91
February ... ..	13	3.39	8.64
March ... ..	22	3.39	8.46
Quarter ended 31.3.56 ...	47	3.65	8.61
April ... ..	23	3.44	8.51
May ... ..	10	3.25	8.55
June ... ..	13	3.14	8.59
Quarter ended 30.6.56 ...	46	3.31	8.54
July ... ..	15	3.35	8.53
August ... ..	10	3.64	8.58
September ... ..	9	3.58	8.57
Quarter ended 30.9.56 ...	34	3.44	8.55
October ... ..	14	3.81	8.77
November ... ..	15	3.61	8.71
December ... ..	14	4.22	8.94
Quarter ended 31.12.56 ...	43	3.88	8.81
Year ended 31.12.56 ...	170	3.59	8.64



Of the samples analysed, 22 were reported to be not genuine, details of which, and the action taken in regard thereto, are appended. All milk samples mentioned form parts of consignments taken in transit from dairy farms.

Sample No.	Formal	In-formal	Article	Adulteration or other Irregularity	Action taken
943		1	Milk	Fat deficient 23%	Average fat contents of total consignments did not fall below statutory minimum in any instance. Appropriate action taken where necessary.
944		1	Milk	Fat deficient 14%	
948		1	Milk	Fat deficient 4%	
955		1	Milk	Fat deficient 4%	
957		1	Milk	Fat deficient 3%	
965		1	Milk	Fat deficient 34%	
1030		1	Milk	Fat deficient 5%	
1035		1	Milk	Fat deficient 5%	
1042		1	Milk	Fat deficient 5%	
1045		1	Milk	Fat deficient 3%	
1047		1	Milk	Fat deficient 6%	
1087		1	Milk	Fat deficient 14%	
1206		1	Milk	Fat deficient 4%	
926		1	Milk	{ Extraneous water 7% Fat deficient 6%	Formal samples subsequently obtained and found to be genuine.
937		1	Butter	Excess moisture. Moisture 16.2%	Formal sample subsequently obtained and found to be genuine.
978		1	Milk	Extraneous water 3.7%	Formal samples subsequently obtained and found to be genuine.
1020		1	Cream Puffs	Puffs containing imitation cream Buns containing imitation cream Buns containing imitation cream Doughnuts containing imitation cream	Samples did not satisfy the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into force on 1st January, 1956, and as the samples were taken only four days after the Act came into operation, individual action was not taken.
1022		1	Cream Buns		
1023		1	Cream Buns		
1026		1	Cream Doughnuts		
1028		1	Rum and Butter Toffees	Deficient in butter fat to extent of 1.46%	The title "Rum and Butter" was qualified by the word "Flavoured", and after investigation no further action was taken.
1214		1	Suet	At least 9% deficient in beef fat	Suet manufactured locally. Warning letter sent.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

DEPOSITED MATTER  
EXPRESSED AS  
TONS PER SQUARE MILE  
PER MONTH

1954-1955

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School
Summer Average April-Sept. 1954 ...	11.25	14.82	11.31
Winter Average Oct. 1954-Mar. 1955	18.49	24.73	15.85
Year's Average ...	14.87	19.78	13.58

1955-1956

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School
Summer Average April-Sept., 1955 ...	11.96	14.92	9.79
Winter Average Oct. 1955-Mar. 1956	16.50	24.31	16.46
Year's Average ...	14.23	19.62	13.13

SULPHUR COMPOUNDS BY LEAD  
PEROXIDE METHOD EXPRESSED  
AS MILLIGRAMS SO<sub>3</sub>/DAY/100 CM<sup>2</sup>  
LEAD PEROXIDE

1954-1955

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Con-naught Road
Summer Average April-Sept. '54	1.01	0.97	0.79	2.36
Winter Average Oct. '54-Mar. '55	2.56	1.93	1.87	3.50
Year's Average	1.79	1.45	1.33	2.93

1955-1956

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Con-naught Road
Summer Average April-Sept. '55	1.03	0.94	0.77	1.67
Winter Average Oct. '55-Mar. '56	2.63	1.64	1.82	2.64
Year's Average	1.83	1.29	1.30	2.16

SUSPENDED MATTER AND SULPHUR  
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC METHOD  
Suspended Matter expressed as milligrams  
per 100 cubic metres  
Sulphur Dioxide expressed as parts  
per 100 million

1954-1955

	Suspended Matter	Sulphur Dioxide
Summer Average April-Sept. 1954 ...	3.8	0.7
Winter Average Oct. 1954-Mar. 1955	12.1	2.3
Year's Average ...	8.0	1.5

1955-1956

	Suspended Matter	Sulphur Dioxide
Summer Average April-Sept. 1955 ...	3.5	1.2
Winter Average Oct. 1955-Mar. 1956	13.3	4.9
Year's Average ...	8.4	3.1

Deposited Matter (tons per sq. mile per month)  
Jan.—Dec., 1956

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School
January ... ..	23·64	35·62	18·08
February ... ..	10·95	18·46	12·60
March ... ..	12·22	17·56	11·19
April ... ..	6·03	15·01	11·33
May ... ..	15·00	24·71	13·67
June ... ..	17·42	21·36	14·62
July ... ..	14·84	19·17	13·10
August ... ..	17·39	19·00	10·96
September ... ..	20·43	17·16	11·35
October ... ..	13·05	18·73	11·39
November ... ..	16·22	15·68	10·34
December ... ..	29·05	48·52	44·88

Sulphur Compounds by Lead Peroxide Method  
(milligrams SO<sub>3</sub>/day/100 cm<sup>2</sup>)  
Jan.—Dec., 1956

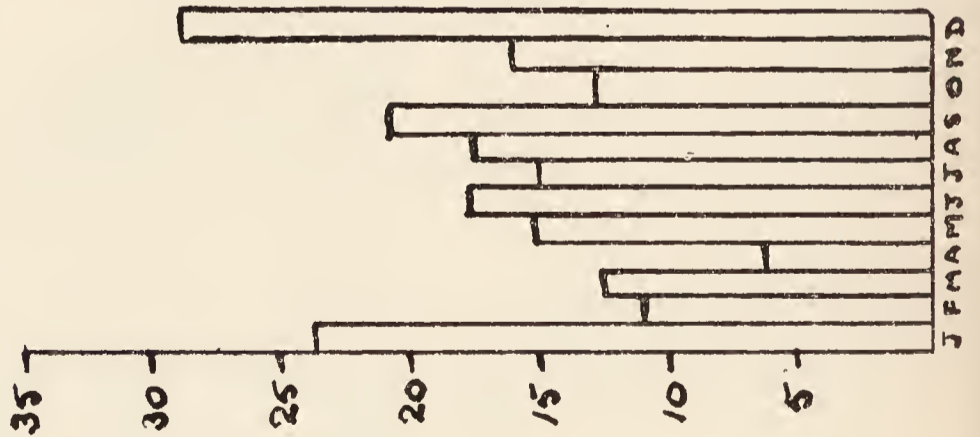
	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Connaught Road
January ... ..	3·68	1·98	2·53	3·29
February ... ..	2·20	1·34	1·49	1·93
March ... ..	2·61	1·62	1·68	2·29
April ... ..	1·76	0·77	1·01	1·52
May ... ..	1·33	1·05	0·85	1·89
June ... ..	1·12	0·74	0·84	1·89
July ... ..	0·72	0·74	0·61	1·36
August ... ..	0·62	0·88	0·45	2·02
September ... ..	0·76	0·62	0·64	2·61
October ... ..	2·05	1·20	1·39	2·51
November ... ..	2·87	1·45	1·64	2·62
December ... ..	2·33	1·39	1·76	3·39

Summer Averages 1956.

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Connaught Road
Deposited Matter (tons/sq. mile/month) ... ..	15·19	19·40	12·51	—
Sulphur Compounds (Milligrams SO <sub>3</sub> /day/100 cm <sup>2</sup> .)	1·05	0·80	0·73	1·88

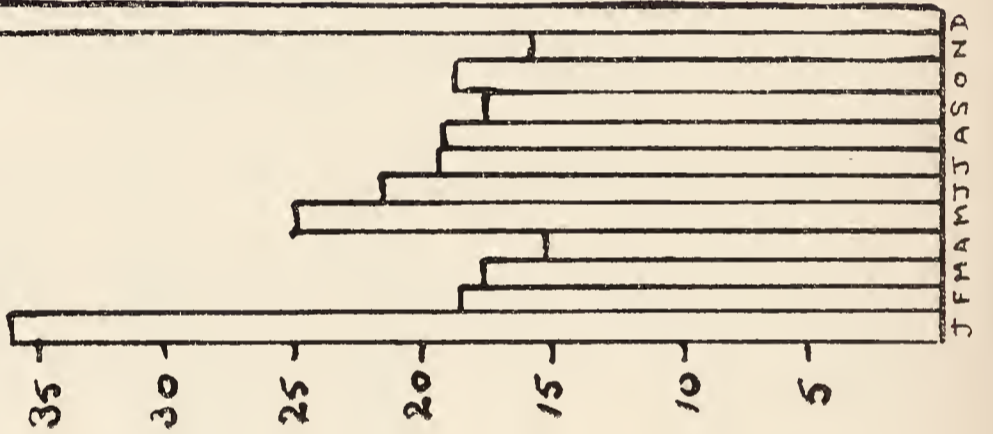
MONTHLY DEPOSITS IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE 1956.

TOWN HALL.



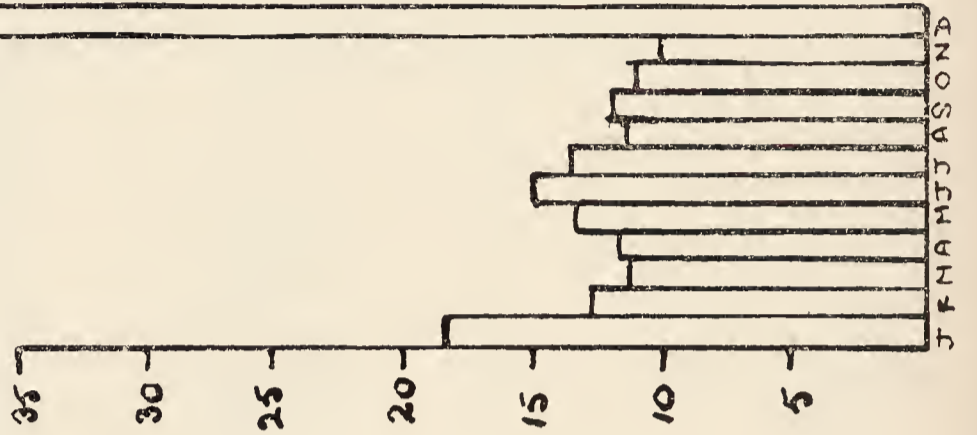
BEECH HILL.

48.52



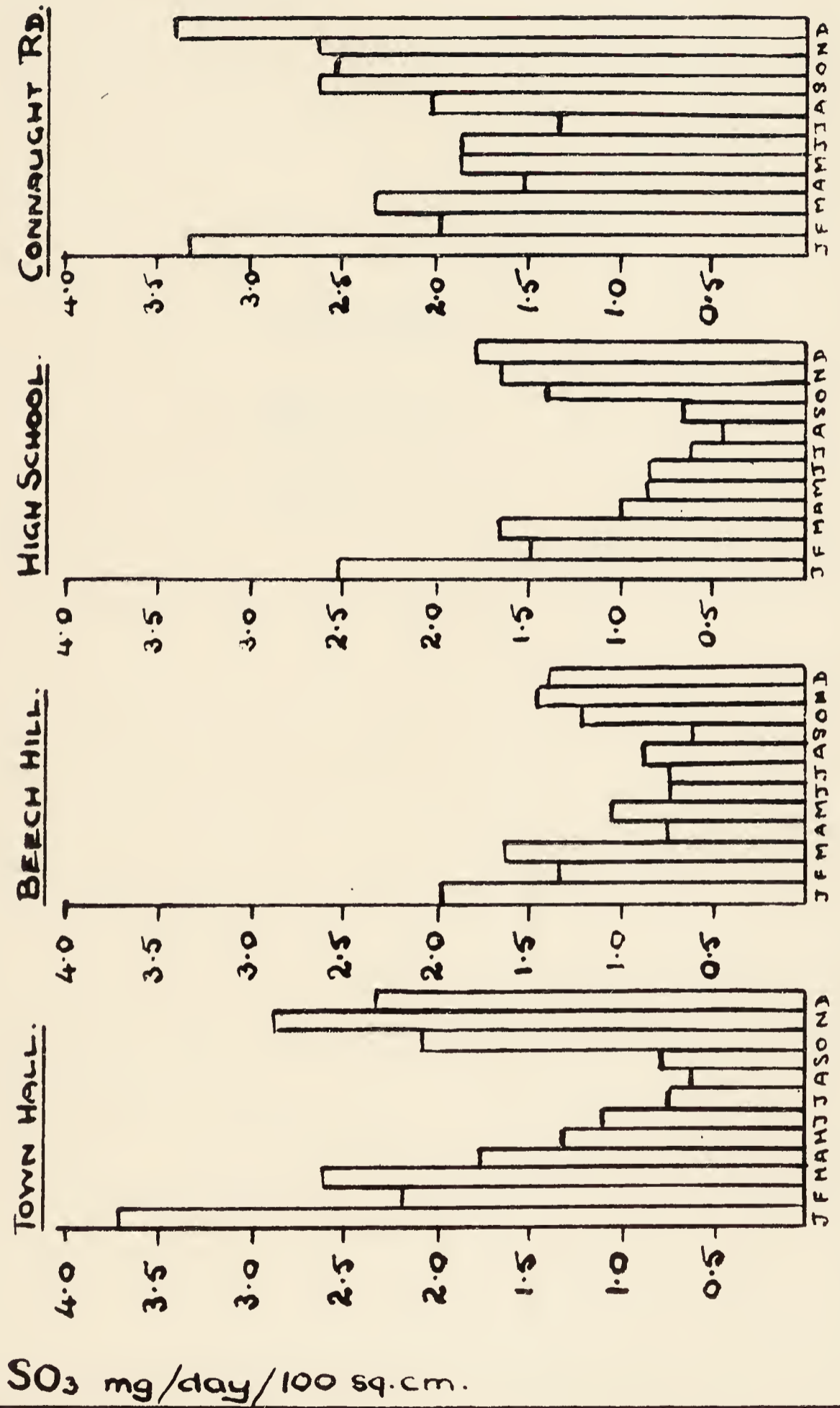
HIGH SCHOOL.

44.88



TONS/SQ. MILE PER MONTH.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE BY THE LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD. 1956





**SCHOOL  
HEALTH  
SERVICE**





## LUTON COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

### MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE

(as at end of 1956)

*Mayor*

COUNCILLOR F. W. BATES, J.P.

*Chairman*

COUNCILLOR G. C. SOUSTER

ALDERMAN G. L. MATTHEWS

ALDERMAN MRS. K. M. MILNER,  
M.B.E., J.P.

ALDERMAN C. A. SINFIELD, J.P.

COUNCILLOR F. BECKETT, B.E.M.

COUNCILLOR L. G. BOWLES

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. R. CAMP

COUNCILLOR S. GONSHOR

COUNCILLOR C. J. HARRIS

COUNCILLOR H. S. LAMB

COUNCILLOR H. G. LAWRENCE

COUNCILLOR J. I. MACDONALD

COUNCILLOR J. MCGRATH

*Co-opted*

SIR JOHN BURGOYNE, O.B.E.

MR. E. J. WALLER

*County Council*

COUNTY COUNCILLOR T. J. JONES

COUNTY COUNCILLOR F. C. LINES

J. A. CORBETT, B.A., Ph.D., *Borough Education Officer*

## STAFF

*Principal School Medical Officer*

R. M. DYKES,  
M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

*Deputy Principal School Medical Officer*

W. EDGAR,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.

*School Medical Officers*

WINIFRED M. HISCOCK,  
L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. A. ROBERTS  
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

GWENDOLYN R. TAPP,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Ophthalmic Surgeon*

W. HADDEN GORDON,  
M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.O.M.S.

*Orthopaedic Surgeon*

D. LEVI,  
M.S., F.R.C.S.

*Dental Surgeons*

THREE POSTS VACANT

*Part Time*

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.                      M. H. ROBINSON, L.D.S.

*Orthoptist*

MISS E. C. WILD (*Part Time*)  
D.B.O.

*Remedial Gymnast Masseur*

H. J. GODFREY (*Part Time*)  
C.S.M.M.G.

*Speech Therapist*

MISS C. M. COALES,  
L.C.S.T.

*Psychiatric Social Worker*

POST VACANT

*Superintendent School Nurse*

MRS. A. E. LANGFORD,  
S.R.N., S.C.M., CERT. H.V.

*Senior Clerk*

MISS G. A. SHANE

**BOROUGH OF LUTON**  
**Committee for Education**

63-69, Guildford Street,  
LUTON.

*February, 1957.*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Committee for Education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year 1956.

The report gives details of the pupils examined, the nature and incidence of defects found, and the attendances at the special clinics. The section dealing with defective vision has been dealt with in rather more detail. It is gratifying that no less than 98·88 per cent of the pupils examined were found to have a satisfactory state of physical fitness.

Uncleanliness has ceased to be a serious problem, and centres round a small number of children who are reinfested at home. Although attendances at the Minor Ailment Clinics have been maintained, attendances for treatment have shown a steady fall during the past seven years.

A short report is included on the results obtained during the second year of tuberculin testing of infant school entrants. It will be seen that in spite of examining some 2,428 children over a period of two years no new case of active tuberculosis has been discovered.

During the year there were several staff changes. On 30.6.56 Dr. G. T. Crook was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health, West Hartlepool, and on 13.8.56 this vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. G. A. Roberts. On 19.7.56 the Council approved the appointment of one additional full-time Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, owing to the increasing commitments of the Health Department and School Health Services. Dr. G. R. Tapp was appointed to this post on 7.8.56.

I should like to express my personal appreciation of Drs. Gwyneth MacPherson and Sylvia Munro who, as part-time medical officers, have in the past so ably undertaken the duties of the department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. DYKES,

*Principal School Medical Officer.*

## POPULATION AND DEPARTMENTS

The school population increased from 18,080 on the 31st December, 1955, to 18,658 on the 31st December, 1956. The number of pupils on the registers at 31st December, 1956, was as follows:—

Primary Schools	...	...	...	11,075
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	5,213
Grammar and Technical Schools	...		...	2,283
Special School	...	...	...	87

## MEDICAL AND OTHER INSPECTIONS

*(a)* **Medical**

The medical inspection of school children was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, in which a minimum of three inspections is prescribed during the period of school life. Infant School Entrants were examined at five years of age within their first year at school, junior pupils at 10 years of age in their last year at junior school, and senior pupils at 14 years of age during their last year at secondary modern school. At the Grammar and High Schools, 14-year-old pupils and all school leavers between the ages of 16–19 years were examined.

Pupils who miss their Periodic Inspection are examined the following year, and all children who are found to have some defect or who require observation are re-examined the following year. Pupils in Residential Schools outside Luton are seen before they return to school.

The number of inspection sessions averaged 9·5 per week during the school terms; 5,693 children were examined at Periodic Medical Inspections, 1,995 at Special Inspections and 1,747 at Re-inspections at the schools.

Of the 5,693 children examined at Periodic Medical Inspections 1,131 (19·86 per cent) were found to have defects requiring treatment compared with 17·68 per cent in 1952, 17·32 per cent in 1953, 19·04 per cent in 1954, and 20·40 per cent in 1955.

*(b)* **Dental**

The objective of the School Dental Service is to inspect the teeth of every pupil at least once a year—preferably more frequently—and to offer prompt treatment to such children as are found to require it.

Routine dental inspections at schools have not been possible since 1949. The principle of regarding the dental clinic as an emergency relief centre is fundamentally unsound and runs counter to the conception of school dentistry as part of a carefully co-ordinated plan of regular supervision of the health of the school children. In this respect it is discouraging to have to report that the present Dental Service compares most unfavourably with that provided by the School Health Service 20 years ago, when 50·5 per cent of the children received routine dental inspection.

During the year no periodic dental inspections were possible. A total of 1,109 teeth were extracted and 211 fillings completed by the School Dental Officers. Further details are given in Table V of the Medical Inspection Returns.

### (c) Cleanliness

All children attending primary and secondary schools were inspected by the school nurse at least once each term. In the Primary and Secondary Departments 49,136 inspections were carried out during the year. The number of children found to be verminous was 287 (1.53 per cent). This compares with 3.72 per cent in 1952, 2.50 per cent in 1953, 2.1 per cent in 1954 and 1.45 per cent in 1955. Details are given in Table II of Medical Inspection Returns.

This represents a small nucleus of children who are continually being re-infested at home. Powers for compulsory cleansing of school pupils exist, but are seldom required, since the unclean child is excluded from school for cleansing purposes. The problem lies in the reinfestation of the child by other members of the family over whom no control exists. The problem, however, is a diminishing one as shown by the above figures.

## GENERAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN INSPECTED

At the time of inspection the examining Medical Officer forms a general impression of the child's physical fitness and classifies him according to the following scale:—

S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory

This system of classification was introduced on 1st January, 1956, and assesses physical condition of the child rather than general condition as in previous years. The results cannot therefore be compared with the assessments of previous years. The figures of 1956 are as follows:—

Satisfactory	98.88 per cent
Unsatisfactory	1.12 per cent

### Attendance of Parents

The attendance and co-operation of parents at periodic medical inspection is most gratifying as shown in the following table, although the attendance in the third age group is less satisfactory. It is a common experience that many of the older children prefer not to be accompanied by the parent.

Entrants	...	...	...	...	94 %
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	81 %
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	32.6 %

## WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSING STAFF

The work of the school nurse includes:— (1) preparation of pupils for medical inspection, i.e. weighing, vision testing; (2) assisting the School Medical Officer at medical inspection, e.g. obtaining history from parents, details of home conditions, etc.; (3) routine inspections of pupils for cleanliness; (4) assisting at special clinics, e.g. ophthalmic, orthopaedic, and (5) home visitation.

Owing to the shortage of health visitors these routine duties have, for a number of years, been mainly carried out by State Registered Nurses.

The school nurses carried out the following work during the year:—

1. Number of attendances at clinics:	
Minor Ailment ... ..	501
Special ... ..	370
2. Number of attendances at School Medical Inspection ... ..	290
3. Number of visits to schools for:	
(a) Head Inspections:	
First Visits ... ..	261
Re-inspections ... ..	68
(b) Other purposes ... ..	227
4. Number of visits to Nursery Schools ...	72
5. Number of Home Visits ... ..	50

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT

All the special clinics are held at the School Clinic, Dallow Road, excepting the Child Guidance Clinic, which is held at Gordon Street.

Minor Ailments Clinic—Medical Officers' Sessions—Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday a.m.

Treatment Sessions—daily.

Dental—Monday p.m. Tuesday a.m. and p.m.

Ophthalmic—Wednesday and Friday (15 sessions per month).

Orthoptic—Monday and Friday a.m. and p.m.

Orthopaedic—1 Ascertainment Session per month. Treatment sessions Monday and Thursday p.m.

Child Guidance—Wednesday a.m. and p.m.

Speech Therapy—2 sessions daily.

Medical Officers' Special Sessions for the examination of Physically Handicapped and Educationally Subnormal Children are held as required.

### Minor Ailments

The treatment of minor ailments is carried out at the School Clinic, Dallow Road. Six Minor Ailment dressing sessions and four Medical Officers' sessions are held each week.

The attendances during the past 5 years are shown on the following table:

### ATTENDANCES AT M.A.C. 1952-1956

Year	MEDICAL OFFICERS			NURSES		
	No. of Sessions	New Cases	Subsequent Visits	No. of Sessions	New Cases	Subsequent Visits
1952	212	1,747	1,906	384	3,008	3,021
1953	230	1,666	2,262	420	2,803	3,637
1954	229	1,609	2,039	411	2,430	2,780
1955	220	1,747	2,360	304	2,292	2,800
1956	235	1,623	2,314	304	1,996	2,455

It will be seen that the number of new cases seen by the medical officers has remained fairly constant while the number seen by the nurses at treatment sessions has fallen by 30%. This is partly due to the fact that more children are now referred to their family doctors for treatment.

Two cases of scabies were diagnosed and treated compared with 22 cases in 1954 and 18 cases in 1955. Facilities for bathing and treatment are available at the Clinic.

For the first time in six years ring-worm was confirmed in two school children. They had returned from Glasgow following a holiday with their grandmother. They were referred to University College Hospital, London, for treatment and x-ray therapy.

Fifty-three cases of impetigo were diagnosed and treated, compared with 35 cases in 1953, 43 cases in 1954 and 78 cases in 1955.

In addition to the treatment of minor ailments, special examinations were also undertaken by medical officers at the School Clinic of children referred from School Medical Inspections, and children referred by school nurses, teachers, welfare officers and parents. The total number of attendances during the year, excluding those attending for dental care was 13,255, of which 2,747 were primary visits.

The cleansing of children referred by the school nurses on account of head infestation was also undertaken at the School Clinic, where advice and help in the management of these children are given to parents.

### Visual Defects

#### (1) *Ophthalmic Clinic*

Mr. W. Hadden Gordon, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, conducted 15 sessions each month at the School Clinic.

				<i>Examined by</i>	
				<i>Ophthalmic Surgeon</i>	<i>School Pre-School</i>
				<i>Children</i>	<i>Children</i>
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	2,034	163
Number of new cases seen	...	...	...	389	61
Number of return cases seen	...	...	...	966	44
Number of prescriptions issued	...	...	...	637	44
Number referred for operative treatment/or investigation	...	...	...	5	3

The percentage of pupils found to require treatment for defective vision at periodic medical inspections during the past four years was as follows:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Entrants ... ..	—	—	0·87%	4·37%
Second Age Group	11·7%	14·2%	13·19%	12·12%
Third Age Group ...	16·9%	21·2%	18·61%	16·46%
Additional Periodic Inspections ...	21·8%	21·3%	18·44%	16·82%

Vision testing is an essential part of school medical inspections. At routine and additional periodic medical inspections only visual acuity of 6/6 in each eye is accepted as normal when tested on Snellens test card. Pupils with 6/9 vision in one or both eyes are re-examined each year, and pupils with visual acuity poorer than 6/9 are referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

During 1955 the early testing of vision in all 5 year old entrants was recommenced. This testing of every child as soon as possible after entry is regarded as important. If a child of this age is unable to read the letters on a Snellens test card, use is made of the letter "E" test. The use of pictorial charts designed for non-readers was discarded as unsatisfactory. If the child proves unco-operative, or if any doubt exists about his visual acuity, he is re-tested a few weeks later at the School Clinic, and if the results are still unsatisfactory, he is referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon. The principal causes of defective vision at this age are astigmatism and squint. All children with squint or suspected of having a squint, are referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

Seven year old children who did not receive a vision test as five year old entrants during 1954, were tested during 1956. Of 1,250 children tested in this group, 54 were found to require treatment. This does not take account of those already receiving treatment, either from the Ophthalmic Surgeon or privately. It is at the age of seven years when more formal reading begins that hypermetropia (long sight) emerges as a cause of defective vision. From ten to twelve years of age onwards the further rise in incidence of defective vision, shown in the table above, is accounted for by the increasing frequency of myopia (short sight).



The principal causes of defective vision in school children are, therefore, astigmatism, squint, hypermetropia and myopia (the latter two being due to abnormality in the length of the eye itself). As noted above they tend to occur at well recognised age periods in childhood.

Astigmatism is usually a congenital defect, due principally to the difference in curvature of the cornea, i.e. its surface is usually flatter from side to side than from above and downwards. This defect may be superimposed upon a hypermetropic, myopic or emmetropic (normal sight) eye, and, therefore, occurs as a constant at all ages irrespective of the shape of the eye.

The new born infant is invariably hypermetropic, but during the first decade of life there is a markedly diminishing incidence of the condition and by the age of twenty years only every other person has some degree of hypermetropia. The incidence remains at about this level throughout adult life.

Myopia on the other hand, is extremely rare in the newborn child but increases in incidence during the first two decades to reach an incidence of 10–15% by 20 years of age, thereafter remaining fairly constant.

In young children these conditions may cause no symptom. The healthy child has ample power of accommodation and if he is hypermetropic, he accommodates near and distant objects without being conscious of the fact. If his power of accommodation is weak and he indulges in much near work the continual action of the ciliary muscles, which control accommodation, may produce symptoms usually referred to as “eye strain”.

These symptoms are frequently noticed after reading or sewing especially in a poor light. The eyes ache and burn and may feel dry so that the child blinks more and the eyes may water. If near work is persisted in, headaches may also appear. Any child presenting these symptoms is referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

## (2) *Orthoptic Clinic*

Miss E. C. Wild, Orthoptist to the Bedfordshire County Council, held four sessions weekly.

During the year 70 school, and 35 pre-school children referred by the Ophthalmic Surgeon were seen, and the conditions ascertained as follows:—

Convergent Strabismus	...	...	65	} Amblyopia 27
Divergent Strabismus	...	...	4	
Heterophoria	...	...	23	
No abnormality	...	...	11	

School children made 740 attendances, and 118 attendances were made by pre-school children; 473 tests were performed on school and 83 pre-school children.

Fifty-five children were discharged during the year as shown in the following table:—

Cured	...	...	...	...	19
Improved	...	...	...	...	12
No improvement	...	...	...	...	5
No abnormality	...	...	...	...	10
Unsuitable for treatment				...	6
Good cosmetic results	...	...	...	...	3

Thirty children were on the waiting list for treatment on 31.12.56.

### 3. Colour Vision

There are considerable differences between individuals in their ability to distinguish one colour from another. In the great majority of cases defective colour vision is congenital and although women are frequently carriers of the defect, without they themselves necessarily having defective colour vision, the incidence is much greater in males.

Colour vision testing was introduced during 1956 as part of the 2nd and 3rd routine medical inspections, i.e. at 10 years and 14 years.

The test used is the "Ishihara". This test is not considered sufficiently accurate as a guide to a pupil's suitability for the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force or other occupations, where normal colour vision is required. It should be appreciated however, that the Ishihara test errs on the safe side in that it will detect degrees of defective colour vision which might not be sufficient to exclude the boy from a particular occupation where normal colour vision is required.

The results of colour vision testing during 1956 were as follows:—

Seventy-nine boys and 4 girls were found to have defective colour vision—an incidence of 5.01% and 0.32% respectively.

### Orthopaedic Defects

Children found at periodic medical inspection or at the Minor Ailment Clinic to have some orthopaedic or postural defect were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.

Mr. D. Levi, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, held ascertainment clinics on the first Wednesday of each month.

Mr. H. J. Godfrey, Remedial Gymnast Masseur, held three treatment sessions weekly throughout the year.

Number of attendances at Ascertainment Clinics	...	...	292
Number of new cases during the year	...	...	86
Number of cases on register on 31.12.56	...	...	143
Number of attendances at treatment sessions	...	...	899

Particulars of the cases seen and the work undertaken are given below:—

DEFECTS	No. of Cases	No. of Attendances	No. for Exercises	No. for Appliances	No. for X-Ray	No. for Hospital	No. Discharged
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	3	10	—	4	—	—	—
Congenital Defects ...	10	15	—	4	—	—	3
Everted Feet ...	12	17	—	—	—	—	1
Flat Feet ...	9	10	1	—	—	1	2
Hallux Valgus ...	4	4	—	—	—	1	2
Hammer Toes ...	4	6	—	—	—	1	2
Knock Knees ...	57	87	2	1	—	—	16
Perthés' Disease ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Postural Defects ...	36	41	16	—	—	—	9
Tight Hamstring Tendons	9	21	4	6	1	—	2
Other Defects ...	49	80	6	9	5	8	13
Totals ...	194	292	29	24	6	11	51

In addition 93 attendances were made by 63 pre-school children referred by Medical Officers at the Child Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries.

### Ear, Nose and Throat Defects

Children suffering from these defects are treated in the first instance at the Minor Ailment Clinic.

Children found at routine school medical inspection to require observation on account of their tonsils and adenoids are reviewed every three months at a special E.N.T. clinic; 5 sessions were held during the year for this purpose and 41 children were examined. Of these only nine were referred by the School Medical Officer for operative treatment of tonsils and/or adenoids, compared with 11 children in 1954 and 5 in 1955.

### Physical Defects and Delicate Children

Thirty sessions were held during the year for the examination of physically defective and delicate children at which 25 new and 47 return cases were seen. Recommendations for special treatment were as follows:—

Home tuition ...	9
Provision of Transport ...	14
Convalescent Home or Open Air School ...	31

In addition 17 home visits were made by medical officers in the course of ascertaining handicapped pupils and in assessing the progress of those receiving home tuition.

## Backward and Difficult Children

During the year 141 sessions were held for the ascertainment of children referred on account of backwardness or behaviour problems. Ninety-two new and 73 return cases were seen and appropriate recommendations regarding extra tuition at school, special educational treatment, further supervision or referral to the Child Guidance Clinic, were made in each case.

The number of children ascertained during the year under Section 34 of the Education Act, 1944, as educationally sub-normal and requiring special educational treatment was 14, of whom 13 were admitted to Osborne Road Day School.

The number of children reported during the year under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, as incapable of benefiting from education at school was 4, and 2 children were reported under Section 57 (5) as requiring supervision after leaving school.

Of the two classes commenced during 1954 to provide special educational treatment for pupils of normal intelligence who were educationally retarded because of missed schooling, one was discontinued at the end of the year owing to the diminishing number of pupils ascertained in this category.

The child whose intelligence is above average has good powers of recovery following absence from school, but the child who is dull or backward (I.Q. 80-90) finds it difficult to make up lost ground. The differentiation of this type of child from a borderline Educationally Subnormal child may only be possible by observing his response to individual tuition in a special class.

## Child Guidance

As the Psychiatrist attends for only two sessions per week it was impossible for her to see all 47 children referred by the School Medical Officers and family doctors. Her work is mainly diagnostic, but during the year she was able to undertake courses of treatment on a number of children and parents. The referral of children from Juvenile Courts by magistrates requesting special reports has frequently interrupted with the routine work of the clinic. During the year 11 children were referred from the Juvenile Courts, 6 from Luton and 5 from Bedfordshire. The numbers of attendances totalled 196.

### Classification of New Cases:—

Anxiety states	...	...	...	...	...	12
Behaviour problems	...	...	...	...	...	14
Delinquency	...	...	...	...	...	12
Educational difficulties	...	...	...	...	...	3
Psychosomatic conditions	...	...	...	...	...	6

### The results of treatment were as follows:—

Discharged as improved	...	...	...	...	9
„ to Heathwood	...	...	...	...	3
„ to School for Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	4
Removed from area	...	...	...	...	3
Still under treatment	...	...	...	...	29

## Speech Defects

During the year 148 children were seen who were treated for the following conditions:—

<i>Condition</i>				<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stammering	...	...	...	47	5	52
Articulatory Defects			...	57	32	89
Cleft Palate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Others	...	...	...	4	2	6

None are awaiting treatment, and thirty-six children were discharged during the year.

## HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The early ascertainment of handicapped pupils is one of the most important functions of the School Health Service.

The Education Authority is responsible for the ascertainment of all handicapped children over the age of two years who require special educational treatment.

As a general principle, handicapped children attend ordinary schools provided they are able to profit by the education offered, and that they do not disturb other children by their presence.

Children are not removed from their homes to residential institutions unless it is considered they will clearly benefit from the transfer, or unless their presence in a day school is prejudicial to other children.

A few are ascertained in early infancy and referred to the School Health Service when they reach the age of two years. Some are ascertained at the first periodic medical inspection, others are referred by head teachers shortly after admission to school, and a number of pupils are brought to notice after illness or prolonged hospital treatment.

Details regarding the categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment are contained in the "School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953", as follows:—

### (a) Blind Pupils

*"Pupils who have no sight or whose sight is or is likely to become so defective that they require education by methods not involving the use of sight."*

Number of blind pupils ascertained during the year	...	Nil
Number of blind pupils admitted to Special School during the year	... ..	Nil
Total number of blind pupils in Special Schools for the Blind, as at 31.12.56	... ..	Nil





*health or educational development, be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools."*

Number of delicate pupils ascertained during the year ...	31
Number of delicate pupils admitted to Special Open Air Schools during the year ... ..	27
Total number of delicate pupils in Residential Open Air Schools as at 31.12.56 ... ..	20

### **Audiometry**

Since acquiring a Pure-tone Audiometer in 1953, regular sessions have been held at the School Clinic for testing the hearing of pupils found at school medical inspection to have some degree of hearing loss. During 1956, 15 sessions were held and 65 children examined, as a result of which 5 pupils were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist for further investigation.

There are 7 partially deaf pupils attending ordinary schools in Luton with the assistance of hearing aids.

### **Special Class for the Partially Deaf**

Deafness in children is nowadays more frequently diagnosed during infancy. Following diagnosis, instruction is given to the parents regarding their approach to and management of the child and his handicap. Early ascertainment of the partially deaf child is of paramount importance. The earlier that auditory training is begun, hearing aids provided and lip reading taught, the sooner the child becomes accustomed to his deafness and more readily accepts it. Every effort is made to detect these children early so that they are not allowed to lose the use of what hearing ability they may have.

Before admission to an ordinary school can be considered some proficiency in lip reading and the use of a hearing aid is necessary.

During the past two years we have been fortunate in having the services of a part-time teacher of the deaf who conducts two lip-reading sessions per week. The children attending this class have in the first instance been seen by the consultant at the Audiology Unit, been supplied with a suitable hearing aid, and are recommended by the consultant for attendance at this special class. (The children attend individually with the mother.)

Of the 4 children attending, three have attended since 2-3 years of age. Two were attending the ordinary school, one was attending a nursery school, and the fourth was admitted during the year to a Residential School for the Deaf. Only a partially deaf child of good or above average intelligence can be expected to compete with hearing children and make satisfactory progress in an ordinary class, and even these children require instruction in the use of a hearing aid and in lip-reading. A great deal depends upon the attitude of the parents and the instruction of the parent in the special class, and the approach to and management of the child is an essential aspect of training the child if success is to be achieved.



## TUBERCULIN TESTING OF INFANT SCHOOL ENTRANTS

The tuberculin testing of infant school entrants was continued during 1956. The scheme was carried out as part of the medical inspection of five year old entrants in the presence of their parent. The Heaf multiple puncture test was again used.

From the 1,370 pupils examined, 1,122 acceptances were received, and of these 1,103 actually received the test, the others being absent from school at the time of the examination. Of the 248 remaining there were 228 refusals and 20 who failed to return the form.

Of the 1,103 children who were tested only 13 (1·18%) gave a positive reaction, and of these there were two already known to the Chest Clinic as having received B.C.G. vaccination. The other 11 children and 31 contacts relating to them attended the Chest Clinic for examination, but no case of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered.

The findings during 1955 and 1956 are compared in the following table:—

	1955	1956
Total acceptances ... ..	1,420 = 71·6%	1,122 = 81·9%
Total children tested ... ..	1,325	1,103
Positive reactors ... ..	21 = 1·59%	13 = 1·18%
No. of contacts examined ...	31	31

It is not without interest that although the acceptance rate has risen by over 10% since 1955, the percentage of positive reactors to the test has fallen from 1·59% to only 1·18%.

One of the principal reasons for introducing this scheme was to detect through positive reactors, cases of infective tuberculosis within the household. Despite the testing of some 2,428 children over a period of two years, only 34 positive reactors were found, 11 of whom were already known to the Chest Clinic. Examination of 62 family contacts related to the 23 cases not already known to the Chest Clinic failed to lead to the discovery of a single case of active tuberculosis.

As a means of detecting active disease amongst family contacts of children who show a positive reaction, tuberculin testing of infant school entrants in Luton has not proved very productive, since no case of tuberculosis was found amongst the contacts of the positive reactors. The failure to discover by this means a single case of tuberculosis is, on the one hand, most gratifying, but represents on the other hand a poor return for time and expense involved and it would be difficult, in view of the figures obtained, to justify the continuation of the routine tuberculin testing of infant school entrants in Luton.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of confirmed cases of Infectious Disease in school children during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever ... ..	83	153	66	40	19
Whooping Cough ... ..	144	73	149	41	83
Measles ... ..	490	1,197	8	597	516
Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic ... ..	2	—	2	2	1
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	2	—	—	7
Dysentery ... ..	1	115	40	3	62
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	—	—	—	32	67
Other Infectious Dis- eases ... ..	10	9	2	3	5

**Infective Hepatitis**

The investigation of an outbreak of this disease on one of the new housing estates in the town was described in the Report for 1955. During 1956 the disease spread to other parts of the town and by the end of the year cases were occurring sporadically throughout the town. Seventy-three cases in children under 15 years of age were notified during 1956, and the age distribution and month of notification of the cases are shown in the following table:—

**INFECTIVE HEPATITIS IN CHILDREN 1956****Month of Notification**

Age Groups	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Total for Year	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	4
5-9	4	4	7	8	6	—	—	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	22	23
10-15	3	2	2	3	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	12	13
All Groups	7	6	9	11	7	—	—	4	1	5	—	4	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	6	5	1	3	2	35	40

It is noteworthy that of the 73 notified cases only 6 (8.2%) occurred in children under 5 years. This is in keeping with our previous observation that clinical jaundice is uncommon in pre-school children, although it is unlikely that they actually escape infection.

In order to determine the incidence of infection in the siblings and particularly in those under 5 years of age the first cases occurring in the early part of the year were followed up for a period of four months. Nineteen families were visited in which there occurred a total of 28 confirmed cases, as shown in the following table:—

	<i>Persons at Risk</i>		<i>Clinical Cases</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	M	F	M	F	<i>Persons at Risk</i>	<i>Clinical Cases</i>
0-4	5	3	—	—	8	—
5-9	11	12	7	9	23	16
10-15	11	11	5	6	22	11
16-25	3	4	—	1	7	1
over 25	19	21	—	—	40	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	49	51	12	16	100	28
	—	—	—	—	—	—

The number of families is small and no conclusions can, therefore, be drawn. The findings illustrate again however that the major incidence of this disease is in children aged 5-15 years and that infective jaundice is uncommon in people over 15 years and under 5 years of age.

### Dysentery

On the 8th December, six children attending Dallow Road Nursery School were found to be suffering from Sonne Dysentery. The children were excluded and specimens obtained from the other 64 children in the Nursery. Of these, 37 proved to be positive, and on the 10th December it was decided to close the Nursery School owing to the number of children affected. Further specimens were obtained from other members of the families involved and a further 35 positive cases were discovered.

This is the only educational establishment in which an outbreak of dysentery was present during the year, but it is anticipated that the infection will become more widespread in the early part of 1957.

### NURSERY SCHOOLS AND NURSERY CLASSES

The two Nursery Schools, Dallow Road and Hart Hill, provided 165 places for children aged 2-5 years. The Nursery Classes at Beechwood Infants' School provided a further 60 places for children aged 3-5 years. The Nursery Schools and Classes are visited regularly by school nurses and the children are examined at least twice each term by a medical officer.

## PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK IN SCHOOLS

There are at present 21 kitchens and 17 dining centres. The general arrangements for the provision of meals for dining centres are as follows:—

From Surrey Street School Kitchen to—

Surrey Street and Hitchin Road Schools

From Stopsley C.S. School Kitchen to—

Stopsley C.S. and Stopsley C.P. Junior and Infants' Schools

From Challney C.S. School Kitchen to—

Challney C.S., Denbigh Road Schools, Maidenhall Annexe and the Technical School Annexe

From Ickniel C.S. School Kitchen to—

Ickniel, Chapel-Langley C.S., Limbury, Norton Road, Old Bedford Road, Osborne Road and the \*Luton Grammar Schools

From Maidenhall C.P. School Kitchen to—

Maidenhall C.P. Primary and Dunstable Road C.P. Junior and Infants' Schools

From Hart Hill C.P. School Kitchen to—

Hart Hill and St. Matthew's Schools

\* Temporary arrangement only.

Self-contained kitchen-dining rooms are now established at the following schools:—

Beech Hill C.S.	Leagrave Infants'	Ramridge C.P.
Beechwood C.P.	Leagrave Junior	St. Joseph's R.C.
Dallow Nursery	*Luton Grammar	Whipperley C.P.
Farley C.P.	Luton High	William Austin C.P.
Hart Hill Nursery	Luton Technical	

\* New and larger kitchen and dining room in course of erection.

Tennyson Road Kitchen-dining room serves not only pupils from Tennyson Road School but also pupils from Christ Church Junior and Infants' and Queen Square Junior Boys' School; arrangements are made for the conveyance to and from this school kitchen of pupils attending the latter schools.

During the financial year 1955-56, 1,431,130 meals were served to scholars, including 29,976 free meals and 134,556 meals supplied to teaching and canteen staffs. The following statistics have been submitted to the Ministry of Education in connection with the provision of meals and milk:—

	<i>October</i> <i>1955</i>	<i>October</i> <i>1956</i>
Number of children in attendance at school	17,187	17,709
Number of children receiving meals in payment ... ..	7,184	7,217
Number of children receiving free meals ...	147	175
Number of children receiving free milk ...	13,040	12,970
Percentage of children receiving meals ...	42.65	41.74
Percentage of children receiving milk ...	75.87	73.24

The permitted daily quantity of milk allowed for school children has remained at one-third of a pint throughout the year, but since September, 1956, scholars at Nursery Schools have also been allowed only one-third of a pint of milk per day instead of two-thirds of a pint as previously.

The Milk in Schools Scheme was extended on the 1st September, 1956, to include independent schools within the Borough of Luton.

#### CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL WELFARE OFFICERS

The efficient conduct of the School Health Service depends in large measure on the close co-operation of doctors and nurses with the teachers and children in the schools. In this way teachers are encouraged to bring to the notice of the School Medical Officer children whose general condition, behaviour, lack of progress in school, etc., indicates the need for medical advice.

The co-operation of teachers and others connected with the welfare of children has been greatly appreciated.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Before or within 14 days from the date when a child begins employment he must be medically examined to ensure that the employment will not be prejudicial to his health or physical development, and that it will not render him unfit to obtain proper benefit from his education. Re-examination every six months is required during the course of employment.

Number of children examined by School Medical Officer and passed ... ..	358
Number of children re-examined by School Medical Officer and passed ... ..	132
Number of children examined by School Medical Officer and refused certificates ... ..	2
Total ... ..	<hr/> 492 <hr/>

Number of children licensed during 1956 was 349, and the nature of the employment was as follows:—

Newspaper deliveries	...	...	...	...	...	227
Errand Boys, Shop Assistants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	122

The number of children examined under the Children's and Young Persons' Act, 1933, in connection with employment of children in entertainment was as follows:—

Admission to Luton Girls' Choir	...	...	...	...	26
Employment in pantomimes, etc.	...	...	...	...	12

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS AND ENTRANTS TO TRAINING COLLEGES

The Ministry of Education Circular 249, 1952, requires that all candidates applying for admission to training colleges and university departments of education, and all entrants to the teaching profession, be medically examined. An X-ray examination of the chest is also compulsory for those entering the teaching profession. During the year 71 examinations were made in accordance with the provisions of the above circular and X-ray examinations were arranged where necessary.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

### (A) PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

**Table I**

Entrants ... ..	1,370
Second Age Group ... ..	1,650
Third Age Group ... ..	1,282
Total ... ..	4,302
Additional Periodic Inspections ... ..	1,391
Grand Total ... ..	5,693

### (B) OTHER INSPECTIONS

Special Inspections ... ..	4,018
Re-inspections ... ..	4,680
Total ... ..	8,698

### (C) PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table III (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants ... ..	60	165	203
Second Age Group ... ..	200	117	288
Third Age Group ... ..	226	79	291
Total (prescribed groups) ... ..	486	361	782
Additional Periodic In- spections ... ..	234	130	349
Grand Total ... ..	720	491	1,131

**Table I (D)**

CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED  
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	No. of Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Entrants ... ..	1,370	1,347	98·32	23	1·68
Second Age Group	1,650	1,628	98·66	22	1·34
Third Age Group ...	1,282	1,277	99·61	5	0·39
Additional Periodic Inspections ...	1,391	1,377	98·99	14	1·01
TOTAL ... ..	5,693	5,629	98·88	64	1·12

**Table II**

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ... ..	49,136
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested ...	287
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) ...	124
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) ...	—



Table III

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1956

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease  (1)	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
		(2) Requiring treatment	(3) Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	(4) Requiring treatment	(5) Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
4	Skin ... ..	59	17	429	1
5	Eyes—(a) Vision ... ..	720	442	63	26
	(b) Squint ... ..	82	9	5	1
	(c) Other ... ..	34	1	149	1
6	Ears—(a) Hearing ... ..	11	54	20	1
	(b) Otitis Media ... ..	11	35	49	—
	(c) Other ... ..	3	2	32	—
7	Nose or Throat ... ..	105	235	104	5
8	Speech ... ..	27	31	17	4
9	Lymphatic Glands ... ..	—	96	1	—
10	Heart ... ..	2	20	—	6
11	Lungs ... ..	8	98	18	2
12	Developmental—				
	(a) Hernia ... ..	8	7	—	—
	(b) Other ... ..	6	155	1	1
13	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture ... ..	36	114	3	—
	(b) Feet ... ..	35	52	5	3
	(c) Other ... ..	57	109	50	10
14	Nervous system—				
	(a) Epilepsy ... ..	2	6	3	1
	(b) Other ... ..	1	12	2	1
15	Psychological—				
	(a) Development ... ..	—	13	2	1
	(b) Stability ... ..	16	71	18	3
16	Abdomen ... ..	1	10	—	—
17	Other ... ..	8	76	660	18

**Table IV****GROUP 1.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT**

	Number of cases dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint ... ..	195	—
Errors of refraction (including squint)	1,341	—
TOTAL ... ..	1,536	—
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were—		
(a) Prescribed ... ..	637	—

**GROUP 2.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT**

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment—		
(a) for diseases of the ear ... ..	—	7
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	570
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ... ..	—	—
Received other forms of treatment ...	92	—
TOTAL ... ..	92	577

**GROUP 3.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS**

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals ... ..	—	—
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments	194	—

GROUP 4.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN  
(excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table II)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	
Ringworm— (i) Scalp ... ..	1	
(ii) Body ... ..	2	
Scabies ... ..	2	
Impetigo ... ..	53	
Other skin diseases ... ..	85	
TOTAL ... ..	143	

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ... ..	47	—

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapist ... ..	148	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	
(a) Miscellaneous Minor Ailments ... ..	1,581	
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements ... ..	42	
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination ... ..	—	
(d) Other— (1) Orthoptics ... ..	43	
TOTAL ... ..	1,666	



HANDICAPPED PUPILS REQUIRING EDUCATION AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS  
OR BOARDING IN BOARDING SCHOOLS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Blind	Partially Sighted	Deaf	Partially Deaf	Delicate	Physically Handicapped	Educationally Subnormal	Maladjusted	Epileptic	Total
In the calendar year, 1956—										
A Handicapped Pupils <i>newly placed</i> in Special Schools or Boarding Homes ... ..	—	—	—	—	27	1	16	3	1	49
B Handicapped Pupils <i>newly ascertained</i> as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ... ..	—	—	—	—	31	1	14	2	1	50
On or about 31.1.57—										
C Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area—										
(i) attending Special Schools as—										
(a) Day Pupils ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—	86
(b) Boarding Pupils ... ..	—	3	6	—	19	7	11	5	3	54
(ii) attending Independent Schools under arrangements made by the Authority ... ..										
(iii) boarded in Homes and not already included under (i) or (ii) ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	9	—	13
TOTAL C ... ..	—	3	6	—	20	8	99	17	3	156
D Number of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944—										
(i) in hospital ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) in other groups (e.g. units for spastics) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) at home ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	6
E Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in Special Schools (including any such children who are temporarily receiving home tuition or whose parents have not yet consented to their attending a Special School)—										
(i) Day ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
(ii) Boarding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3

Number of children reported during the year as ineducable or requiring supervision after leaving school—

(a) Under Section 57(3) (excluding any returned under (b)) ...	4
(b) Under Section 57 (4) ... ..	—
(c) Under Section 57(5) ... ..	2

of the Education Act, 1944.

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils otherwise than at school, in the financial year ended 31st March, 1956 ... ..

£560 0 0

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*Henry Burt & Son Ltd, Mill Street, Bedford*