



COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

R E P O R T

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

on the

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

County of Aberdeen

for the year

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(For the Landward Area and all the Burghs)

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
1. Population (Estimated Civilian)	143,233	143,775	143,181
2. Persons Married per, 1,000 Population	6.8	6.5	6.8
3. Number of Live Births (Corrected)	2,518	2,613	2,562
4. Number of Still Births (Corrected)	42	43	45
5. Birth-rate per 1,000 Population	17.6	18.2	17.9
6. Still Birth-rate (per 1,000 Total Births)	16	16	17
7. Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births	6.2	5.5	6.7
8. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	22	25	28
9. Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	1.35	1.82	0.91
10. Number of Deaths from all Forms of Tuberculosis	12	19	17
11. Number of Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	10	15	17
12. Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 Population	0.07	0.10	0.12
13. Number of Deaths from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	2	4	-
14. Death-rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 Population	0.02	0.03	0.00
15. Number of Deaths (corrected) All causes	1,634	1,701	1,519
16. Death-rate - All causes	11.4	11.8	10.6

SECTION I. A

Local Health Authority Functions

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children

There has been no alteration in the schème for the care of mothers and young children which, as in former years, covers the whole county including the Burghs.

(a) Infant Mortality

In 1955 there were 56 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 65 in 1954. Of these, 42 occurred within 4 weeks of birth and 14 from 4 weeks to 1 year.

The infant mortality rate as expressed per 1,000 live births was 22 compared with a rate of 30.4 for Scotland as a whole.

The causes of deaths of children under 4 weeks were as follows:-

Birth Injuries, Asphyxia and Atelectasis	14
Congenital Malformations	6
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	3
Other diseases of Early Infancy	16
Other infections of the Newly Born	1
Violence	2
Total	<u>42</u>

The causes of deaths of children aged from 4 weeks to 1 year were as follows:-

Congenital Malformations	3
Pneumonia	5
Malignant Neoplasms	1
Other diseases of nervous system	1
Other digestive diseases	1
Other diseases of Early Infancy	1
Violence	2
Total	<u>14</u>

Deaths of Children between 1 and 5 years

The number of children dying between the ages of 1 and 5 years was 9. The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Congenital Malformations	2
Pneumonia	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1
Diseases of Nervous system	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Violence other than Road Transport Accidents	1
Total	<u>9</u>

(b) Still Births

The number of still births registered and corrected for transfers during the year was 42, giving a rate of 16 per 1,000 total births compared with a rate of 16 for the year 1954. The still-birth rate for the whole of Scotland in 1955 was 24.6

(c)/

(c) Maternal Mortality

During 1955, 3 deaths in women from causes associated with pregnancy and child-birth were recorded. 2 deaths took place in hospital and 1 at home. The causes of death were as follows:-

Post Partum Haemorrhage	1
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Ruptured Ectopic Gestation	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>3</u>

(d) Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

1 case of Puerperal Fever and 4 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. All cases were treated in the Puerperal Ward of Aberdeen City Hospital.

(e) Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No case was notified during the year.

(f) Child Welfare Clinics

Eight Child Welfare Clinics are provided as follows:-

Ballater, Bucksburn, Culter, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Turriff.

With the exception of Ballater and Fraserburgh, which are staffed by General Practitioners, the County Council's Medical Staff conduct all these clinics, assisted by Health Visitors or Health Visitor/District Nurses and voluntary workers. These ladies give the medical and nursing staff most valuable help and their services are very much appreciated.

Attendances at Clinics were as follows:-

Under 1 year of age

749 children made 5,894 attendances

One year of age and over

491 children made 2,853 attendances

(g) Ante Natal Clinics

The Local Health Authority does not provide Ante Natal Clinics.

(h) Day Nursery, Peterhead

The accommodation provided is still limited to 50 children and, as in previous years, was filled to capacity during the summer months. The average daily attendance for the year was 68%. The total number of attendances during the year was 8,670.

The proposal that the Day Nursery should become a combined Day Nursery and Nursery School is still under consideration by the Education Authority.

(i) Welfare Foods

1955 was the first full year of operation of the Welfare Foods scheme by the Local Health Authority and by the end of the year a number of smaller centres had been closed, especially those in which a full range of Welfare Foods was not carried. The/

The system of distribution to outlying parts by the District Nurses in the course of their ordinary duties was continued and appeared to give satisfaction to all concerned.

During the year there was little variation from the previous year in the quantities of Welfare Foods taken up by beneficiaries.

(j) Dental Care

The authorised establishment of Dental Officers is at present 6. Of this establishment it has only been possible to fill 4 posts which is insufficient even to provide a satisfactory Dental Service for school children. Under these circumstances, therefore, it was felt unwise to attempt to impose a further strain on the service by including a systematic scheme for dental care of either mothers or young children.

(k) Prevention of Break-up of Families

The various departments of the County Council are fully aware of their responsibilities in this respect and every effort has been made, either by providing the services of a Domestic Help or by means of advice given by a Health Visitor, to keep a temporarily disrupted home together for as long as possible.

In respect of Domestic Help, it has been fairly easy to provide the necessary service in the Burghal or more populous areas, but difficulty has undoubtedly arisen in the more remote parts.

In respect of problem families, it is felt that they are now diminishing considerably in number, although the inevitable hard core still and probably will always remain. Much has been done in the landward and Burghal areas towards re-housing these families when it has been felt that there was any chance at all of affording them rehabilitation. By means of liaison with the Probation Department, the Children's Department, the National Assistance Board and Voluntary Organisations such as the British Red Cross and W.V.S., it has often been possible to provide furniture and furnishings for problem families entering new housing accommodation and in the majority of cases the experiment has proved to be successful. Much still remains to be done, however, especially in respect of the problem families which are problem families by reason of mental retardment or deficiency and it is felt that their problem can only be overcome by complete ascertainment of mental subnormality in the community and by having the means to deal adequately with those persons so found to be defective. This envisages not only an extension of the boarding-out scheme for mental defectives, but also greatly increased accommodation in certified institutions for the type of defective that cannot be absorbed into the community.

2. Midwifery

The general arrangements for the provision of a Domiciliary Midwifery Service have remained unchanged. Again there has been a reduction in the number of domiciliary confinements and of a total of 2,518 live and still births, only 443, or 17.59%, took place at home compared with 18.14% for the year 1954. 7,334 visits were paid to maternity cases.

Gas and air analgesia apparatus is available for any expectant mother who wishes to have it during her confinement and all midwives are fully trained in its use. This does not mean that each midwife has in her possession an analgesia apparatus but, nevertheless, she is able to obtain the use of one as and when required. No arrangements have been made for providing midwives with Trilene apparatus although all midwives have attended a course of lectures in its use.

3. Health Visiting

There has been no material change in the arrangements for Health Visiting during the year 1955. In the more populous areas of the county, i.e. in the Burghs of Peterhead and Fraserburgh and in the areas immediately surrounding the City of Aberdeen, 6 full-time Health Visitors have been employed for the sole purpose of Health Visiting. In the remainder of the County, Health Visiting has been undertaken as a combined duty and by and large has proved to be satisfactory. Occasionally during times of the year when purely nursing duties have placed a heavier burden than usual on the services of the combined District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor, the preventive aspect of the work has sometimes fallen behind but, on these occasions, it has usually been possible to provide assistance either from a neighbouring Nurse or from the full-time Health Visiting staff.

The Domiciliary Nursing Staff paid home visits as follows:-

Number of Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1958										Total Visits paid
Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 & 5		Tuberculous Cases		Other cases		
First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	
982	7,084	2,367	31,182	8,859	30,771	235	1,490	204	204	70,731

4. Home Nursing

At the end of 1955 the Nursing Staff was as follows:-

1. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent	2
2. Nurses performing combined duties	49
3. Health Visitors - Full-time	6
4. Nurses performing general duties and midwifery	3
5. Midwives - Full-time	3
6. Nurses performing general duties only	1
7. Relief nurses	1
Total	<u>65</u>

Of these, 46 nurses are living in premises set apart as nurses' houses, 14 are living in their own homes and 5 are in lodgings.

In the course of the year 96,442 visits were paid to 6,020 general cases.

No special provision has been made for nursing of sick children and indeed no special arrangements have been necessary. An increased proportion of the work of the Domiciliary Nurse is devoted to the general care of the elderly and consideration has been given to the possibility of utilising the services of partially trained nursing staff for this purpose. In an area such as Aberdeenshire, however, it is extremely doubtful if such dilution would serve any useful purpose.

The extent to which nurses are required to pay special visits for the purpose of giving injections varies enormously from district to district and within districts, according to the location of the patient relative to that of the family doctor and of the nurse.

Domestic Help

During/

During the year, 51 Domestic Helps were employed to attend to 174 cases, as compared with 37 Domestic Helps attending to 165 cases during the previous year. Of these 174 cases, 48 were in respect of confinements and 48 in respect of aged or chronic sick, as compared with 51 confinements and 38 chronic sick cases during the previous year. These figures show a considerable increase in the scope of the service, not so much in respect of the total cases dealt with as in the number of Home Helps available and it is hoped that, if this trend continues, it will be possible to extend still further the Domestic Help Service to meet the undoubted need for it which exists in the community.

To date it has not been possible to provide "sitters-in" or night help but in this connection an approach has been made to the W.V.S., who are prepared, in so far as their resources allow to provide the service in certain districts.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation

(a) Smallpox

During the year, 1,556 persons were vaccinated for the first time and 214 re-vaccinated. Of the primary vaccinations, 1,469 were in respect of children born during the years 1954 and 1955. This is not a satisfactory vaccination rate.

In an endeavour to improve the situation, a meeting was held with the Local Medical Committee, where it was suggested that many more vaccinations were being carried out by general practitioners than were being notified to the Medical Officer of Health. The question was further discussed at a meeting of the Joint Advisory Co-ordinating Committee and, as a result of these discussions, it is hoped that the recorded vaccination state will show material improvement.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

No confirmed case of diphtheria or death from the disease occurred during 1955, which means that for the second year in succession the county has been without a diphtheria case. Similarly, no death from diphtheria has been recorded since 1947.

It was possible during the year 1955 to resume the immunisation programme of routine immunisation at schools carried out by a whole-time Medical Officer. The following table gives a summary of the work carried out at schools and clinics by the County Council's medical staff, or carried out privately by general medical practitioners in the county. The table shows a considerable and welcome increase both in the number of completed immunisations and particularly in the number of maintenance inoculations.

Year of Birth	Number of completed Immunisations	Number of Maintenance Inoculations
1955	298	-
1954	1,247	16
1953	281	35
1952	108	23
1951	58	52
1950	159	476
1949	204	655
1948	173	720
1947	112	864
1946	72	872
1945	56	659
1944	45	510
1943/		

Year of Birth	Number of completed Immunisations	Number of Maintenance Inoculations
1943	13	293
1942	11	159
1941	1	79
1940 or earlier	10	45
Totals	2,848	5,458

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

(a) Tuberculosis

As reported in previous years, the local authority has no scheme for providing B.C.G. vaccination on a large scale, although arrangements have continued in conjunction with the Chest Physician for skin testing and for inoculation of contacts and other persons considered to be at special risk.

The general scheme for the provision of extra nourishment still operates, as do the arrangements for the loan of special articles of nursing equipment.

The County Council still possesses a small number of tuberculosis shelters which in the past were extensively used. The need for these, however, has diminished greatly as, owing to changed housing conditions, patients who are adequately housed do not require shelters and those who are inadequately housed have no space on which a shelter can be erected. With reference to housing, it is gratifying to record that all housing authorities within the county are sympathetic towards the re-housing of active cases of tuberculosis and allot considerable priority to such cases.

Preliminary arrangements were made for a Mass Radiography campaign in the County of Aberdeen but owing to the unexpected withdrawal of the Mass Radiography Unit to an area where the incidence of tuberculosis was much greater than that of the County of Aberdeen, the arrangements were not finalised and the proposed campaign was postponed.

(b) Epileptics and Spastics

The situation remains substantially as reported last year and there is nothing of interest to add to what was said then.

(c) Chiropody

The Local Health Authority has made no direct provision for the establishment of a Chiropody Service, but the British Red Cross, Aberdeenshire Branch, has established clinics at Bucksburn, Culter, Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The Secretary of the Association has maintained constant liaison with the Local Health Authority and it is proposed gradually, and as rapidly as circumstances permit, to extend the service to all areas of the county. The service is primarily for old people who are admitted to the clinics on the recommendation of the family doctor and who receive treatment free of charge, although voluntary contributions from the patients are welcomed. The Local Health Authority, under its existing powers, proposes to afford financial assistance year by year to the Red Cross Chiropody scheme.

Similarly/

Similarly, in the Burgh of Inverurie, a Chiropody Service has been established by the Local Old People's Welfare Council.

(d) Health Education

Health Education has proceeded as in former years, mostly on a domiciliary basis, in the shape of talks and giving of advice by the Domiciliary Nursing staff. Where applicable, suitable posters have been displayed in clinics and other buildings frequented by members of the public, and in certain selected schools talks have been given from time to time on matters relating to maintenance of health.

In respect of prevention of home accidents, insufficient information is available to assess the extent of the problem but it is felt that in the County of Aberdeen the incidence of home accidents is not very high. It is proposed to attempt to examine the problem statistically and thereafter to decide on what action may be most appropriate.

8. Control of Infectious Diseases

Apart from Dysentery, where 197 cases were notified as opposed to 46 cases for 1954, no disease showed an unusual incidence or assumed epidemic proportions. Over the past 5 years notifications of cases of dysentery have varied enormously, having been as high as 213 in 1951 and as low as 16 in 1953. It is possible that these figures are associated with the good summers which occurred in these years but there are other factors such as completeness or otherwise of notifications which must inevitably be taken into consideration. No case of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague or Typhus Fever was reported during the year, but 1 case of Para-Typhoid Fever B was notified. No case of Food Poisoning was notified in 1955, but it is possible that in the Dysentery notifications there may be one or two atypical cases. In respect of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, only 2 cases were notified. Both were paralytic and both occurred in the age group 25-35 years, 1 being male and the other being female. The following table gives for comparative purposes the number of notifications of infectious diseases received year by year for the past 5 years.

Disease	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Whooping Cough	869	348	41	432	353
Scarlet Fever	199	166	196	136	96
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	-
Erysipelas	51	50	43	36	23
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia - Acute Influenzal	24	15	10	7	9
- Acute Primary	135	198	110	103	78
- Not otherwise notifiable	178	115	183	152	112
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	3	2	-	-
Puerperal Fever	5	6	2	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	3	6	5	3
Typhoid	-	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid - A	-	-	-	-	-
- B	2	4	-	2	1
Dysentery	213	20	16	46	197
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	23	24	5	23	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	6	-	5	5	-
Encephalitis	-	1	-	1	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	55	74	72	52	52
- Non-respiratory	43	55	48	30	18
Leprosy/					

Disease	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Leprosy	1	-	-	-	-
Malaria	4	4	4	7	2
Undulant Fever	5	4	4	2	3
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	1	-
Others (not notifiable)	-	-	-	2	2
Total (Excluding Tuberculosis)	1730	962	628	963	883
Total (Including Tuberculosis)	1828	1091	748	1065	953

9. Mental Health Service

There has been no major change in the constitution of the Mental Health Service, the bulk of the work again being undertaken by the Council's Area Officers who are authorised for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy Acts. As previously reported, it is becoming more difficult year by year to obtain suitable guardians, especially at short notice but, despite this, 137 mental defectives were boarded out with 131 guardians. During the year, 102 psychotic cases were removed to the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen, by the County Council's staff of Authorised Officers and in respect of these 102 cases, petitions were presented by the Local Health Authority to the Sheriff.

The services of Dr. Moore Taylor, one of the Regional Hospital Board's Consultant Psychiatrists, has remained available to the Local Health Authority. Much use has been made of these services and Dr. Taylor's co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated.

10. Work under Nurseries and Child-Minders' Regulation Act

Again it was not necessary during the year to take any action under this Act.

SECTION I. B

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

1. Staff Changes

Mr. George Howie was appointed a full time Assistant Dental Officer and commenced duties in the Garioch area on 1st October, 1954. Mr. Peter Edington who has been School Dental Officer in the Huntly area for the past two and a half years resigned on 15th May, 1955, to take up a post in Morayshire.

2. General Statistics

Number of Schools:-

(a)	(Nursery)	1
	(Primary)	136
(b)	(Secondary)	78
(c)	(I) Special Schools	1
	(II) Special Classes at ordinary schools ...	-
(d)	In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under Medical Inspection	216

Number of children on the registers 25,146

3. Sanitary conditions of Schools

During the year under review, approved schemes of work at schools designed to improve the (a) sanitary arrangements (b) heating (c) artificial lighting (d) surface of playgrounds (e) furnishings and (f) internal and external paintwork progressed satisfactorily. St. Andrew's School, Inverurie, a new school for mentally handicapped children, opened after the commencement of the winter term. A few of the other major building projects completed during the year were those at the Bridge of Don, Methlick and Tarves Schools while work was in progress in (a) the building of new schools at Aboyne, Auchnagatt, Ballater and Bucksburn and (b) the school extension schemes at Culter, Fyvie, Inverurie Market Place, Meldrum and Tarland schools; at Ellon and Inverurie Academies and the Gordon Schools, Huntly. The general standard of cleanliness, internally and externally, of the County School buildings noted at the routine medical inspection visits was satisfactory and well maintained despite the continued difficulties experienced in a few areas in obtaining the services of school cleaners.

4. Organisation and Administration

A. System and Extent of Medical Inspection and Treatment

The scheme of medical inspection during the school year 1954 - 55 was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in D.H.S. Circular No. 45/1954. This consisted of the systematic medical inspection of the four routine age-groups of children namely infant entrants, 9, 13 and 16-year old pupils; the examination of the 7-year old pupils for acuity of vision and hearing; the medical examination of children attending the Fraserburgh Nursery School and St. Andrew's School, Inverurie and the ascertainment and assessment of the degree of defect present amongst pupils handicapped by physical and mental defects all continued as in previous years. Special cases not falling within the above specified age-groups and referred to the visiting School Medical Officers, were also examined. Pupils, who at the previous inspection were found to have defects requiring to be kept under observation or requiring to be treated, were re-examined. The usual cordial invitation was extended to parents or guardians to be present at the medical inspection of their children. Another audiometric group test of 9-year old pupils was carried out during the summer term, a statement on which appears under heading 10 of this report

The scheme for hospital and specialist services, approved of and adopted by the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, functioned satisfactorily during the year. In accordance with an amendment to Circular R.H.B.(S)(49)20, the Hospital Optician appointed by the Board has not only the duty of dispensing spectacles prescribed for children of school age but also has the subsequent work of fitting and adjusting the spectacles provided for these pupils.

The Special Educational Treatment (Scotland) Regulations 1954 came into operation on 1st October, 1954. These regulations define the nine categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment and the special educational arrangements that require to be provided for such pupils.

B. System and Extent of Dental Inspection and Treatment

Renewed efforts to increase the School Dental Staff have met with no success. The number of Dental Officers remain at four, which is two short of the authorised establishment. Details of the work completed under the school dental scheme will be found in Section 7 of the report.

C. School Nursing and Arrangements for "Following-up"

All nursing duties in connection with the School Health Service are undertaken by the 55 nurses employed by the County Council. Their duties in respect of medical inspection, treatment and "following-up" of children at school and at their homes, as well as those in respect of diphtheria immunisation and assistance at Dental and Eye Clinics, are detailed in memoranda circulated to each of them. The two Health Visitors in the Burgh of Fraserburgh are in attendance daily on school days at the Minor Ailments Clinic. During the year the nurses spent a total of 3,614 hours at schools and at children's homes. The number of school children visited at home was 429, the total number of visits paid to these being 1,824.

D. Co-ordination with the Public Health Services and other Local Authority Departments

There is nothing further to add under this heading to that contained in the 1951 Annual Report.

E. Co-operation with Other Bodies or Outside Agencies

Details under this heading can be found in the 1951 Annual Report.

F. Co-operation with Teachers and Parents

As in former years, excellent relations continued to exist between the teaching staff and the School Medical, Dental and Nursing Staffs. Grateful acknowledgement is made of their willing co-operation and assistance at the routine medical and dental inspections, audiometric group testing, visits made under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme and in other matters pertaining to the health and welfare of pupils.

The attendance of parents at the systematic inspections of their children at school is still an unsatisfactory feature of the County School Health Service. The number of parents who attended this year, namely 799, equal to 11.3% of the children examined, was a decrease of 0.7% as compared with last year. The presence of parents at a routine examination is of value, particularly amongst younger children, where further information regarding the medical history of the child is required. Moreover, such an interview affords the School Medical Officer an opportunity to proffer advice as to the treatment of any defect found, and to discuss simple rules of health from which the child would likely benefit.

5. The findings of Medical Inspections

The total number of children in the four age-groups examined systematically at the routine medical inspection was 6,584 - a decrease of 641 as compared with the previous year. Of this total, 3,324 were boys and 3,260 girls; to this number have to be added (a) 10 boys and 10 girls routinely examined at the Fraserburgh Nursery School (b) 10 boys and 5 girls examined at St. Andrew's Special School and (c) 1,288 boys and 1,163 girls, born in the year 1947, examined for acuity of vision and hearing only, making a grand total of 9,070 pupils - a decrease of 497 from last year.

The number of children who were presented to the School Medical Officers as special cases by Head Teachers during the routine visits was 266, while the number of re-examinations was 5,715. Compared with last year, these totals show a decrease of 63 in the number of special cases and a decrease of 419 in the re-inspections. Of the children systematically examined, 1024 were notified to parents as having defects requiring treatment. Details of the number of children examined and the number of children recommended for treatment in the various age-groups will be found in Table I of this report.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of boys and girls measured in the routine age-groups of pupils examined:-

Age Group	Number Measured	Average Age		Average Height (Ins.)	Average Weight (lbs.)	
		Years	Months			
Boys	Nursery	9	2	11	36.9	31.5
	Group I	1,222	5	5	43.2	44.7
	Group II	1,043	9	4	51.7	66.3
	Group III	973	13	5	58.9	98.4
	Group IV	46	16	8	66.4	134.0
Girls	Nursery	7	3	1	37.0	33.0
	Group I	1,162	5	5	43.0	43.7
	Group II	1,003	9	5	51.4	64.8
	Group III	946	13	5	59.9	102.5
	Group IV	87	16	8	63.2	124.9

By and large, the average heights and weights of the boys and girls measured in the various age-groups show only a little variation either way from the results recorded last year, the exceptions of note being: (1) a decrease of 1.2" in height and of 5 lbs. in weight amongst boys in the Nursery age-group. This result may be due partly to the fact that the average age of boys in this group was only 2 years 11 months as compared with 3 years 1 month last year and (2) an increase of 1.1 lbs. and of 2.0 lbs. in weight amongst boys and girls respectively in age-group III. The height and weight findings this year therefore can again be viewed with satisfaction.

The following is a tabulated statement showing the number and percentage of children recorded at the routine medical inspections as suffering from specific defects, diseases or disabilities. The percentages for the previous year are also given for the purpose of comparison. The detailed results and sex distribution of the defects found in each of the four age-groups are shown in Table II at the end of this report.

Table/

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1953-54
1. Clothing unsatisfactory	6,584	81	1.2	1.6
2. Footgear unsatisfactory	"	4	0.06	0.1
3. Uncleanliness: (a) Head	"	64	0.9	1.2
(b) Body	"	87	1.3	1.3
(c) Head and body	"	-	-	-
4. Skin: (a) Head - Ringworm	"	1	0.01	0.01
Impetigo	"	3	0.04	0.02
Other diseases	"	83	1.2	1.5
(b) Body - Ringworm	"	5	0.07	0.01
Impetigo	"	5	0.07	0.08
Scabies	"	6	0.09	0.05
Other diseases	"	273	4.1	3.5
5. Nutritional State -				
Slightly defective	"	236	3.5	3.9
Bad	"	15	0.2	0.2
6. Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	"	190	2.8	3.4
7. Naso-pharynx:				
(a) Nose - (1) Obstruction requiring observation	"	155	2.3	2.7
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	"	28	0.4	0.3
(3) Other conditions	"	37	0.5	0.5
(b) Tonsils - (1) Requiring observation	"	298	4.5	6.3
(2) Requiring treatment	"	90	1.3	1.5
(c) Glands - (1) Requiring observation	"	195	2.9	4.7
(2) Requiring treatment	"	49	0.7	0.9
8. Eyes:				
(a) External diseases -				
Blepharitis	"	50	0.7	0.9
Strabismus	"	87	1.3	1.9
Other diseases	"	94	1.4	1.3
(b) Visual acuity with/without glasses -				
(1) Fair	9,035	782	8.6	9.04
(2) Bad	"	84	0.9	1.2
(c) Recommended for refraction	"	609	6.7	7.3
9. Ears:				
(a) Diseases - Otorrhoea	"	29	0.3	0.6
Other	"	49	0.5	0.9
(b)/				

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1953-54
9. Ears:				
(b) Defective hearing -				
Grade I	9,035	47	0.5	0.7
Grade IIIa.	"	35	0.3	0.4
Grade IIIb.	"	1	0.01	-
Grade III	"	-	-	-
10. Speech - Defective articulation	6,584	67	1.01	0.8
Stammering	"	20	0.3	0.2
11. Mental and Nervous Condition -				
(a) Backward	"	44	0.6	0.6
(b) Dull	"	37	0.5	0.7
(c) Mentally deficient (educable)	"	16	0.2	0.1
(d) Mentally deficient (ineducable)	"	4	0.06	0.05
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	"	31	0.4	0.5
(f) Difficult behaviour	"	20	0.3	0.1
12. Circulatory System -				
(a) Organic Heart Disease -				
(1) Congenital	"	30	0.4	0.5
(2) Acquired	"	13	0.1	0.1
(b) Functional	"	60	0.9	1.4
13. Lungs - Chronic bronchitis	"	44	0.6	0.8
Suspected tuberculosis	"	23	0.3	0.2
Other diseases	"	70	1.06	1.6
14. Deformities -				
(a) Congenital	"	89	1.3	1.09
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	"	14	0.2	0.1
(c) Acquired (Probable rickets)	"	16	0.2	0.2
(d) Acquired (other causes)	"	65	0.9	1.6
15. Infectious Diseases	"	4	0.06	0.1
16. Other diseases or defects	"	246	3.7	3.6

After perusal of the above table, it will be seen that, on the whole, the percentages of the various defects enumerated vary less than 1% either way compared with the findings recorded last year. Exceptions to this general statement are found in items 7b and 7c, where there is a decrease of 1.8% each in the number of pupils (1) with tonsils requiring observation and (2) with glands requiring observation.

Among the other diseases or defects under item 16 above, the following is a statement of the nature and frequency of the main conditions found:-

Enuresis - 31; Obesity - 20; Anaemia - 26; Epilepsy - 14;
 Undescended testicle - 13; Enlarged thyroid Gland - 11;
 Hernia - 11; Sprains, injuries, etc. - 11; Rheumatism - 8;
 Hydrocele - 5; Pes planus - 4; Asthma - 2; Cleft palate - 2;
 Cretinism - 1; Chorea - 1; Encephalitis - 1.

Two routine medical inspections and several re-inspection visits were made to Fraserburgh Nursery School during the year. The number of/

of defects found among the 20 children - 10 boys and 10 girls - routinely examined was as follows:-

Herpes - 1; Acute bronchitis - 1; Knock knee - 1; Glands (observation) - 1; Strabismus - 1; Paronychia finger - 1; Uncleanliness (head) - 2; Footgear unsatisfactory - 1.

The number of children re-examined at the Nursery School was 55.

The examination of the seven-year old age-group was confined to testing the acuity of vision and hearing. Of the 1,288 boys and 1,163 girls examined in this group, 124 boys and 147 girls were found to have visual defects and these were classified as follows:-

	<u>Fair Vision</u>	<u>Bad Vision</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boys	107	17	124
Girls	<u>134</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>147</u>
Totals	<u>241</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>271</u>

The number of boys and girls recommended for refraction was 80 and 98 respectively.

The acuity of hearing in the 7-year old age-group was tested by the Conversational Voice Test and in doubtful cases by the Gramophone Audiometer and any hearing loss found was classified into three grades defined in N.M. & C. Circular No. 60/1938. Of the 1,288 boys tested, six had a Grade I and thirteen a Grade IIIa deafness. The findings for the 1,163 girls tested were ten Grade I and five with a Grade IIIa hearing loss.

With the opening of St. Andrew's School, Inverurie, for the mentally handicapped, pupils in attendance there will be medically examined annually, irrespective of their age-group. Of the 10 boys and 5 girls examined, the following is a note of the diseases or defects found in addition to their being mentally subnormal:-

Alopecia - 1; Scabies (body) - 1; Mouth unhealthy - 2; Tonsils (requiring observation) - 1; Tonsils (requiring treatment) - 1; Strabismus - 1; Blepharitis - 1; Visual acuity: Fair - 4; Bad - 1; for refraction - 2; Defective articulation - 3; Mongolism - 4; Highly nervous or unstable - 1; Behaviour difficulties - 2; Spastic diplegia - 2; Kyphosis - 1.

Table III shows that 67.8% of the pupils routinely examined were found to be free from defects - an increase of 3.3% compared with last year. By and large, the findings of medical inspection indicate that the health and physical development of Aberdeenshire school children has been well maintained during the year under review.

Examinations conducted by the Medical Staff other than routine school examinations

In addition to the routine school work, a large number of special visits and examinations was made by the Medical Staff. Those examinations were of a varied character and their nature and extent are indicated in the following table:-

(1) Absentee children or irregular attenders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Necessitous children	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3) Examination of handicapped pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Physically handicapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
(b) Mentally handicapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
(c) Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(d) Deaf and partially deaf	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
(e) Epileptic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(f) Speech defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

(4) Certification of ineducable children to the General Board of Control	11
(5) Examinations under Children and Young Persons Acts -	
(a) Juvenile Delinquents	5
(b) Guardianship Cases	208
(6) Disabled Persons (Employment) Act	2
(7) Examination of Students in preliminary training for the teaching profession	5
(8) Examination of pupils prior to stay in Holiday Camps ...	152
(9) Examination of County Council Staff - (Teachers, janitors, school cleaners, clerical staff, etc.)	279
(10) Examination of children for admission to Linn Moor Home ...	49
(11) Examination of children at Rudolf Steiner Schools for other local authorities	19
(12) Diphtheria Immunisation -	
(a) Number of initial inoculations administered to -	
(i) School children	672
(ii) Pre-school children	598
(b) Number of re-inoculations administered to school children	3021

6. Medical Treatment

A. Minor Ailments

The Minor Ailments Clinic at Fraserburgh continued to serve a useful purpose in the treatment of minor ailments amongst school children in that burgh. During the year under review, 96 new cases were treated involving a total of 289 attendances. The particulars of the conditions treated at the clinic are shown in the under-noted table.

The establishment of a similar clinic in Peterhead is now in sight. Plans have been submitted to build a Local Authority Clinic on a central site in that burgh. The practice of referring to the family doctor for treatment pupils suffering from minor ailments, except those in the Burgh of Fraserburgh and those who could be suitably treated by the Council's Nursing staff at schools or at their homes, was continued as in the past.

Details of the conditions treated through the Local Authority or through private agencies are as follows:-

Nature of Defect	Fraserburgh Minor Ailments Clinic	Nurses Follow-up		Totals	
	Local Authority	Local Authority	Private	Local Authority	Private
(1) Cuts, bruises, sprains and minor injuries	21	14	1	35	1
(2) Diseases of the ear	15	7	2	22	2
(3) Diseases of the eye (excluding defective vision)	2	6	-	8	-
(4)/					

Defects	Fraserburgh Minor Ailments Clinic	Nurses Follow-up		Totals	
	Local Authority	Local Authority	Private	Local Authority	Private
4. Diseases of the skin -					
(a) Ringworm (Scalp)- X-ray treat- ment	-	-	-	-	-
other treat- ment	-	-	2	-	2
(b) Ringworm (Body)	-	1	2	1	2
(c) Scabies	-	2	4	2	4
(d) Impetigo	26	4	1	30	1
5. Other Diseases	40	75	43	115	43

B. Defective Vision and Squint

The visual acuity of 7, 9, 13 and 16-year old pupils are routinely tested by the Snellen Chart at the annual school medical inspection along with other pupils referred as special eyesight cases. Any pupil found having a visual defect requiring further investigation is put on the School Oculist's list for examination and the parent notified that the child will be seen at one of the 20 School Eye Clinic Centres at a subsequent date, intimation of which the Head Teacher will duly receive from the appropriate Education Area Officer to whom has been delegated the duty of making the necessary arrangements, including the provision of transport to the centre if required, on receipt of a fortnight's notice from the Medical Officer of Health of the holding of a School Eye Clinic in his area. By arrangement with the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, the services of a School Oculist of consultant status are available to the County School Health Service one day per week (Tuesday) to examine pupils attending the School Eye Clinics arranged. Two weeks prior to the holding of a School Eye Clinic, the School Oculist receives an intimation from the Medical Officer of Health, stating where the clinic is to be held and enclosing a list of pupils to be examined there. This list, annotated as requested, is immediately returned to the Medical Officer of Health when the examinations are completed. In cases of emergency the School Oculist also examines pupils by appointment at one of the Hospital Board's Eye Clinics in Aberdeen. Also by arrangement with the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, the Board's Hospital Optician accompanies the School Oculist to the various County School Eye Clinic Centres for the purpose of measuring pupils for whom spectacles have been prescribed. To the Hospital Optician also falls the duty of supplying, through the Board's contractors, Butterworth, Edinburgh, the spectacles ordered as well as effecting repairs to glasses when required. When the new glasses are received, the Hospital Optician visits and fits the pupils concerned at their respective schools. Repaired spectacles, when received by the Hospital Optician, are sent to the Medical Officer of Health for dispatch to the recipients. Pupils suffering from a squint are referred to the Orthoptic Clinic, Aberdeen, either for operative treatment or orthoptic training. In order to avoid duplication of supply of glasses to children via the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service, a copy of the names, dates of birth and addresses of the pupils examined at the various School Eye Clinics and supplied with glasses is sent for the information of the Clerk to the Local Executive Council.

The/

The following is a statistical summary of the pupils examined by Dr. Fiona Bennett, County School Oculist and of the nature of the eye defects found during the year under review.

Number of pupils examined - Boys 388
 Girls 449
 Total 837

Number of spectacles supplied - Boys 145
 Girls 180
 Total 325

One artificial eye was also supplied to a boy.

Analysis of Refractive Errors:-

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	129	140	269
Myopic Astigmatism	22	47	69
Mixed Astigmatism	46	63	109
Myopia	49	51	100
Hypermetropia	75	77	152

Pathological Conditions met with were:-

Right convergent strabismus	18	8	26
Left convergent strabismus	18	17	35
Alternating strabismus	2	7	9
Right Divergent strabismus	3	2	5
Left Divergent strabismus	1	6	7
Other pathological conditions	25	31	56

Highly Myopic Children

A list of children with high degree of myopia is maintained by the School Oculist. It is essential that such children should be kept under supervision and examined annually.

C. Nose and Throat Operative Treatment

School children requiring operative treatment for nose and throat defects were referred to the family doctor. There is a long waiting list for tonsil and adenoid operations and despite an increase in surgical staff, there is still much delay before cases recommended for operation are treated. The number of nose and throat operative treatments carried out privately was 5.

D. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

The monthly Orthopaedic Clinics held at Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Huntly and conducted by the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, continued to function as in the past. Hospital and Specialist treatment, as well as orthopaedic appliances, special boots and artificial limbs, where required, were all provided for by the Board. The number of school children who attended and were examined at these Clinics during the year was as follows:-

	<u>No. of children</u>
Fraserburgh Orthopaedic Clinic	79
Peterhead Orthopaedic Clinic	51
Huntly Orthopaedic Clinic	31

Advice and instruction in remedial exercises for correcting postural defects found in school children were undertaken by trained physical instructors on the County Education Staff, who also gave special/

special instruction in physical exercises to selected cases suffering from severe attacks of asthma.

7. Dental Inspection and Treatment

Staff

Commencing the school year with four full-time dental officers and one dental attendant, the dental staff was augmented by one full-time dental officer in October, 1954, and one part-time dental officer who started duty in October, 1954. Unfortunately, the services of one full-time dental officer were lost in March, 1955, thus making the average staff over the school year about four and a half full-time dental officers. This is about 60% of the staff required to carry out all the obligations of the dental service under the National Health Service Act.

The dental attendant has now been on the staff a full year and from figures available, the dental officer in question has been able to increase his operative work by about 20%.

There is no doubt that further appointments of this kind would be of great benefit to the dental service in the County, especially in view of the present shortage of man power in the dental profession as a whole. This shortage is likely to last a considerable number of years and it may be that no increase in the number of dental officers in the County will be possible for some time.

For this reason, the employment of a dental hygienist should be considered. A dental hygienist is a person trained to do the scaling and cleaning of teeth under the supervision of a dental officer and is also trained to give talks on dental health, both to children and adults. It would seem that this type of ancillary worker will become almost necessary in the much understaffed school dental service to offset the shortage of qualified dental officers. They are in fact already employed to great advantage in the forces and in a number of local authority clinics where they have been found to be of great help in the treatment of mothers and young children.

Clinics

With the loss of the dental officer in the Huntly area, it has been expedient to close the clinic in Huntly for the present. This leaves only two permanent clinics in use - the major percentage of inspection and treatment being done on school premises - roughly about 95%.

The days of dental treatment performed in odd corners in schools with bad lighting and antiquated equipment is past, or should be. Apart from being a bad advertisement for the school dental service, these conditions do not nowadays attract the young dental surgeon to school dentistry. Further, the school child of today is being conditioned by the free treatment provided by the General Dental Service, to having dental treatment in the hygienic and up-to-date surroundings of private practitioners' surgeries and will prefer to have work done in the more suitable conditions obtaining there.

In a County such as Aberdeenshire, in which the dental service has always been understaffed, it should be apparent that proper working conditions are necessary nowadays to obtain and keep an effective dental staff and to fulfil the obligations of the authority under the National Health Service Act.

Accommodation

The accommodation provided in many schools is still far below what is reasonable and many difficulties face the dental officer at treatment sessions. Improvements have been and are being made, but there are schools where it is literally impossible to get accommodation for treatment now and in many schools the accommodation provided is anything but hygienic. For these reasons and in view of the fact that the treatment/

treatment of pre-school children is being stressed more strongly by the powers that be, the use of a mobile clinic may again have to be considered.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

It has been apparent for some time now that some of the dental officers' time will have to be given to the examination and treatment of pre-school children. An increasing number of young children are now entering school with a large percentage of caries.

This type of work can only be done in properly equipped premises and it is hoped that with the completion of the clinic at Inverurie and the equipping of the clinic at Bucksburn, it will be possible to make a start in this direction.

Early loss of the temporary teeth is responsible for a large proportion of the dental conditions which are treated by the orthodontist. The school dental service cannot at present include orthodontics as a routine measure, but much can be done in the preventive field by advice to parents and an attempt to save the temporary teeth in the pre-school child, and it is here that the school dental service can play a very important part.

Orthodontics

No orthodontic work is undertaken by the dental officers at present owing to the staffing position but cases which, in the opinion of the dental officers, require treatment are referred to a private practitioner or the local consultant.

Dental Health

It has eventually been appreciated that dental health requires to be advertised and taught on a national scale.

Efforts are now being made in a number of directions to bring this subject to the notice of parents as well as children. It will be necessary to back this up with the efforts of other bodies such as teachers, nurses, health visitors and the school medical and dental services.

Although not able to fulfil all its obligations and many children have to be treated by private dentists, the school dental service, by offering treatment, as far as facilities permit, bring treatment to the notice of the parents and children and may induce them to have more regular treatment by the private dentist, if not by the school service.

There has been a decided increase in the amount of caries in children in the last few years, due mainly to excessive consumption of sugar in various forms. Much can be done to prevent gross caries if parents will endeavour to exercise some discipline in the eating of sweets and in the use of the tooth brush after meals and before bed-time.

Fluoridation

Some time will elapse before information is available on the pilot schemes already being carried out in various parts of the country.

Statistics

Table V which is attached shows that a greater number of schools received routine dental service during the past year.

138 schools out of a total of 246 schools in the County were inspected and 136 schools were treated, a little more than half the school population being concerned.

Last year's figures for comparison were 109 schools inspected and

104 treated.

The schools in the Garioch area received attention for the first time for a number of years and as was expected the ratio of fillings to extractions in permanent teeth in this area was low - causing the overall ratio to be slightly lower this year than last. This ratio 180:100 is still higher than two years ago, when it was 140:100.

As the majority of the pupils in the Garioch area had not been previously examined by a dental officer, the amount of time spent on issuing and completing dental record cards was considerable and allowance must be made for this when calculating the amount of operative work done.

Normal routine work was interrupted for some time owing to the abnormally bad weather during the winter. The acceptance rate, which has fluctuated since children received free dental treatment under the National Health Service Act, is slightly lower than last year, being 60%. About 35% of the total number of children who required treatment opted for private treatment, but a great number of these children do not have any dental treatment whatsoever and many are subsequently treated by the dental officers as emergency or casual cases. For this reason the acceptance rate as shown does not give a true account of the percentage of children treated. There is still a small percentage, about 4%, of children who apparently do not have any treatment except in dire distress. During the year, 42 children under school age received dental treatment.

8. Special Schools and Classes

St. Andrew's School, Inverurie - the County's first special school for the special educational treatment of mentally handicapped children - was opened for the enrolment of pupils in August, 1954. This is a day school and will cater for the education of mentally handicapped pupils in the surrounding areas who can conveniently be transported to and from school daily. One class of 17 pupils has been enrolled and more will follow as and when the necessary teaching staff are available. No further provision has been made by the Council for a residential Special School for the treatment of pupils similarly handicapped. A communication in this connection, however, was received from the County Council of Ross and Cromarty, stating that they were opening in the Autumn of 1955, a residential school for 26 pupils at Raddery House in the Black Isle and that they were prepared to allocate two of the residential places to Aberdeenshire. Steps have been taken to fill the two vacancies offered. The number of mentally handicapped children for whom special educational provision is at present made is as follows:-

Domiciliary Education	...	...	...	...	...	4 children
Baldovan Institution, Dunce	...	...	...	...	...	7 children
Rudolf Steiner Schools, Milltimber	...	...	...	...	...	1 child
Beechwood School & Rubislaw Occupational Centre,						
Aberdeen	...	...	...	...	...	22 children
Woodlands Home, Cults	...	...	...	...	...	1 child
Bicton Croft School, Surrey	...	...	...	...	...	1 child
St. Joseph's Special School, Cranleigh, Surrey	...	...	...	...	...	1 child

A few special classes for retarded or backward pupils have been formed in some of the larger schools where the numbers warrant such a provision and the teaching facilities are available.

Apart from 15 children who are receiving domiciliary education, the special provision made for the education of physically handicapped pupils is shown in the following statement:-

<u>Nature of Defect</u>	<u>Institution or Special School</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
Blind	The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh.	3
Partially/		

<u>Nature of Defect</u>	<u>Institution or Special School</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
Partially Sighted	Beechwood School, Aberdeen	1
Partially Sighted	Sight Saving School, Dundee	1
Deaf	Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Edinburgh	4
Deaf	Polmuir Road Special School, Aberdeen	18
Epilepsy	The Colony for Epileptics, Bridge of Weir	5
Other Physical Defects	Beechwood School, Aberdeen	2
Other Physical Defects	East Park Home, Largs	1
Other Physical Defects	Linn Moor Home, Culter	1

Speech Therapy

Work under the scheme for the treatment of speech defects among County school children, outlined in last year's annual report, was continued but still under under-staffed conditions. Approval, however, has been given for the appointment of an additional Speech Therapist to assist in overtaking the considerable amount of work in hand. An additional number of cases with speech defects were referred for treatment during the year and it was decided to accept and to add to the waiting list, those recommended by Head Teachers rather than interviewing them individually and to utilise the time thus gained in actual treatment.

The following is a tabulated statement submitted by Mrs. Murray, the County Speech Therapist showing (a) the number of new cases accepted for treatment, (b) the number of pupils under treatment and (c) the number discharged for the period 1st October, 1954, to 31st May, 1955, at the six Clinic Centres:-

Clinic Centre	Number of new cases accepted	Number under treatment	Number Discharged
Fraserburgh	4	11	7
Huntly	2	10	3
Inverurie	3	12	7
Peterhead	4	17	4
Turriff	6	11	6
Aberdeen	4	26	11
Totals	23	87	38

It will be noted from the above table that the number of cases undergoing treatment is 87, which is 21 fewer than that recorded in last year's report, but still 7 in excess of the maximum weekly case load of 80 recommended in the report of the advisory Council on Education in Scotland.

9. Arrangements for Physical Education and Personal Hygiene

The general arrangements made under this heading were detailed in the 1947 Annual Report. At present there are 27 fully trained specialist teachers of physical education and 16 uncertificated teachers on the County staff. All schools with Secondary Departments have regular visits from these specialist teachers and all pupils receive instruction in accordance with the Scottish Education Department's Syllabus for Physical Education, as well as talks on Health Education from them.

In/

In Primary Schools the bulk of the physical instruction is carried out by class teachers and the specialist teachers give demonstration lessons whenever they are available. The facilities at schools for physical education continue to improve and these will be greatly enhanced with the completion of the building of new gymnasias at Aboyne, Ballater, Fyvie, Tarland and Inverurie. Special remedial exercises for bad asthmatics and for postural defects are also carried out by the specialist teachers on the instructions of the Senior Medical Officer. Swimming instruction is given at three centres, namely, Peterhead Swimming Pool, Aberdeen Bon-Accord Baths and Elgin Swimming Pool. The weekly attendance at Peterhead varied between 107 and 621, depending on weather conditions, school exams., etc. Pupils from Kennay and Kintore Schools attend the Aberdeen Baths for their swimming instruction, while those from the Gordon Schools, Huntly, go to Elgin. Proficiency Certificates for swimming are awarded by the Education Committee and this has stimulated interest amongst pupils to practise rescue and life-saving methods to make them more proficient to deal with cases who have got into or are overcome by swimming difficulties.

The District Inter-School Athletic Meetings and five-a-side football and netball competitions mentioned more fully in last year's report continued with unabated rivalry and keenness.

10. Other Activities in Relation to Health of School Children

(a) Audiometric Survey

An Audiometric Survey was again carried out during the summer term of 1955 in 38 of the larger County Schools. The age-group selected for survey was pupils born in the year 1946. Excellent hearing conditions again prevailed at the schools selected and this factor had a bearing on the improved results obtained during the past six years, as the following statement will show:-

Year	No. of 9-year old pupils tested	Retested	Hearing Grade				
			Normal	Grade I	Grade IIa	Grade IIb	Grade III
1949	883	23.4	63.1	34.9	2.0	-	-
1950	1163	28.5	91.5	7.2	1.3	-	-
1951	1174	26.7	90.5	7.8	1.7	-	-
1952	1202	22.4	92.5	6.8	0.7	-	-
1953	1175	9.9	97.4	2.0	0.6	-	-
1954	1088	14.9	95.9	3.0	1.1	-	-
1955	1489	18.0	94.0	5.2	0.8	-	-

At the 38 schools visited, 1,489 pupils - 754 boys and 735 girls - born in the year 1946 - had their hearing tested by the Gramophone Audiometer (G.A.) Of this number 280 or 18.0% were retested as their initial test result was considered unsatisfactory. This represents an increase of 3.1% of children retested compared with last year. The following table shows the incidence of pupils with normal and defective hearing found as a result of the audiometric group tests carried out at the schools visited in 1955.

Table/

Hearing Grade	Boys		Girls		Both Sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Normal	706	93.6	693	94.3	1399	94.0
Grade I	44	5.9	33	4.5	77	5.2
Grade IIa	4	0.5	9	1.2	13	0.8
Grade IIb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade III	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	754	100.0	735	100.0	1489	100.0

It will be seen from the above table that, of the pupils tested, 77 or 5.2% of them were classified as having a Grade I defect in hearing, while 13 or 0.8% had a Grade IIa hearing loss. There were no pupils found with Grade IIb and Grade III hearing losses in the age-group tested.

Of the 754 boys tested, 48 were found to have hearing defects, 5.9% and 0.5% of these being classified as Grade I and Grade IIa respectively. The corresponding figures for the girls were 735 tested, 42 defective with 4.5% and 1.2% having Grade I and Grade IIa hearing losses respectively. Sixteen pupils in whom a marked hearing defect was found were referred to the Regional Deafness Clinic for further investigation and treatment.

Fifty-eight other pupils - not of the survey age-group - were tested as special cases because some doubt had been expressed concerning their hearing acuity. Nine of them subsequently were referred to their family doctor for treatment.

It may be of interest to note that 7 pupils suffering from severe degrees of deafness have been fitted with hearing aids.

(b) Sex Education in Schools

One course on sex education was given by Mrs. Duncan during the period 2nd to 16th September, 1954. The Schools at which this course was conducted and the number of senior girls attending the lectures were as follows:-

Peterhead Academy	475 girls
Peterhead North School	65 girls
Boddam School	10 girls

(c) Courses in First Aid and Home Nursing

Intensive courses of instruction in First Aid and Home Nursing for senior pupils attending the senior Secondary Schools were held as usual during the summer session. Local medical practitioners and trained nurses conducted the courses in First Aid and Home Nursing at five centres. Two hundred and three boys and girls attended the systematic and practical course in First Aid, while 121 girls took the Home Nursing Course. These figures represent increases of 5 and 19 respectively in the number of pupils who attended the above courses last year.

(d) School Meals Service

The School Meals Service in Aberdeenshire is now a well-established integral part of the ordinary school routine. The success of the Scheme depends in no small measure to the help given by Head Teachers and their assistants who give up part of their luncheon interval for supervisory duties before and during meals.

The following is a statement showing the present number of kitchens and dining halls in use:-

(a) Kitchens -

Number of kitchens supplying meals to more than one school	50
Number of individual kitchens	23
Number of domestic science rooms used as kitchens	-

(b) Dining Halls -

Number of Ministry of Works Dining Halls in use	25
Number in course of erection	5
Number of conversions	78
Number of classrooms in use	80
Number of hired halls in use	8

The number of schools at which two-course meals were served was 200, which is an increase of 2 schools over last year. In addition to these, light meals and soup meals were served at 6 schools, making a total of 206 schools where meals of one kind or another were served.

In the rural areas, the demand for school meals continues to be high, over 90% of the school roll being quite a common percentage. The average number of two-course meals served daily was about 10,388 representing 41% of the school population - a decrease of 2% from the previous year. The standard charge per meal, which became operative from 1st June, 1953, was 9d. per head and in cases of large families partaking meals, 8d. for the second child and 7d. for the third and subsequent members. Six hundred and eighteen two-course meals were supplied free of charge to necessitous children on medical grounds. Besides this, 87 pupils had light meals - cocoa and sandwiches - and 113 pupils had soup meals daily during the winter months. The number of employees in the School Meals Service was 416.

(e) Milk-in-School-Scheme

A minimum of a third of a pint of heat-treated milk or tuberculin tested milk from a source approved of by the Medical Officer of Health was supplied free to those pupils attending grant-aided primary and secondary schools who desired it. Where suitable supplies of liquid milk were not available, the Education (Meals Service) (Scotland) Regulations, 1946, provide for the supply of dried full cream milk.

The number of schools supplied with (a) liquid milk, (b) dried milk and (c) the number receiving no milk at all, in each of the nine areas, is shown in the following table:-

School Area	Number of Schools in area supplied with		Number of Schools in Areas where no milk is supplied
	Liquid Milk	Dried Milk	
Aberdeen	29	-	-
Alford	19	-	3
Deeside	17	-	-
Ellon	26	-	-
Fraserburgh	26	-	-
Garioch	21	-	-
Huntly	22	-	-
Peterhead	31	-	-
Turriff	22	-	-
Totals	213	-	3

It will be noted from the above table that 213 schools were supplied with liquid milk, leaving only three County schools in the Alford area where no liquid or dried milk is supplied. The number of pupils taking liquid milk was 20,105.

(f) National Survey of the Health and Development of Children

It will be recalled that in last year's Annual Report, the Joint Committee conducting the above survey decided to reduce the number of visits to the homes of the survey children by school nurses to once a year in the month of October. The relative forms were duly received and completed by the school nurses for the 19 Aberdeenshire children included in the survey.

(g) Residential School Camps

The facilities for Aberdeenshire pupils to attend Residential School Camps which commenced last year was continued during the period under review. Arrangements were made for children to attend three camps, their names, dates and the number of pupils attending them being as follows:-

<u>Name of Camp</u>	<u>Date of Camp</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
Broomlee Camp, West Linton	5th October to 2nd Nov., 1954	46
Glengonnar Camp, Abington	31st March to 28th April, 1955	66
Middleton Camp, Gorebridge	31st May to 30th June, 1955	83

Favourable reports were received concerning the educational and social benefits the pupils derived from attendance at these camps.

TABLE I

Total Number of Children examined at:-

<u>(a) Systematic Examinations</u>					<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Other systematic Examinations</u>
	(Entrants	...	...	...	2,422	-
Primary	(Second age-group	...	...	...	2,059	-
Schools	(Third age-group	...	...	...	175	-
Secondary	(Third age-group	...	...	...	1,762	-
Schools	(Fourth age-group	...	...	...	<u>166</u>	-
Total					6,584	-
	Nursery School	...	...	...	20	-
	Special School	...	...	...	15	-
	Age 7 group (Visual acuity and hearing only)				<u>2,451</u>	-
Grand Totals					<u>9,070</u>	-
 <u>(b) Other Examinations</u>						
	Special cases	...	...	...	266	
	Re-inspections by Medical Officers				<u>5,715</u>	
Total					<u>5,981</u>	

Number of children inspected at systematic examinations who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental caries):-

Entrants	...	...	...	301
Second age-group	...	...	...	378
Third age-group	...	...	...	306
Secondary age-group	...	...	...	<u>39</u>
Total				<u>1,024</u>

TABLE II

Number and Percentage of Children in each Group suffering from particular defects

Nature of Defect	Entrants		Second Age-group		Third Age-group		Fourth Age-group		All Ages	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	No. 1242	No. 1180	No. 1042	No. 1017	No. 983	No. 954	No. 57	No. 109	No. 3324	No. 3260
1. Clothing unsatisfactory	19	17	13	15	11	15	-	1	33	48
	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.5	-	0.9	0.9	1.4
2. Footgear unsatisfactory	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1
	0.08	0.08	0.09	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.09	0.03
3. Uncleanliness	10	20	3	14	4	13	-	-	17	47
(a) Head	18	11	17	9	15	16	-	1	50	37
(b) Body	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Head and Body	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Skin: Ringworm	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
(a)(Head) Impetigo	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Other diseases	15	18	8	9	11	19	1	2	35	48
	1.2	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.05	1.4
(b) Body:										
Ringworm	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	4	1
Impetigo	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4	1
Scabies	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4	2
Other diseases	60	62	38	31	31	39	6	6	135	138
	4.8	5.2	3.6	3.04	3.1	4.08	10.5	5.5	4.06	4.2
5. Nutritional State -										
Slightly defective	44	55	32	40	35	26	2	2	113	123
Bad	3	4	3	2	3	-	-	-	9	6
	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	-	-	-	0.2	0.1
6. Mouth and Teeth unhealthy	50	44	23	22	27	17	3	4	103	87
	4.02	3.6	2.2	2.1	2.7	1.7	5.2	3.6	3.09	2.6

TABLE II (Contd.)

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-group				Third Age-Group				Fourth Age-Group				All Ages			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
11. (e) Highly nervous or unstable	3	0.2	13	1.1	3	0.2	9	0.8	2	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	8	0.2	23	0.7
(f) Difficult behaviour	8	0.6	2	0.1	3	0.2	2	0.1	4	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	15	0.4	5	0.1
12. Circulatory System																				
(a) Organic Heart:																				
(1) Congenital	3	0.2	6	0.5	5	0.4	4	0.3	6	0.6	6	0.6	6	0.6	6	0.6	6	0.6	16	0.4
(2) Acquired	-	-	1	0.08	2	0.1	3	0.2	6	0.6	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	8	0.2	5	0.1
(b) Functional	8	0.6	9	0.7	8	0.7	13	1.2	9	0.9	9	0.9	9	0.9	2	3.5	27	0.8	33	1.01
13. Lungs -																				
Chronic bronchitis	14	1.1	13	1.1	6	0.5	5	0.4	4	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	24	0.7	20	0.6
Suspected tuberculosis	8	0.6	5	0.4	4	0.3	3	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	13	0.3	10	0.3
Other diseases	27	2.1	12	1.01	11	1.05	4	0.3	9	0.9	5	0.5	5	1.7	1	1.7	48	1.4	22	0.6
14. Deformities -																				
(a) Congenital	26	2.1	18	1.5	16	1.5	12	1.1	13	1.3	3	0.3	-	-	-	-	55	1.6	34	1.04
(b) Acquired	3	0.2	2	0.1	2	0.1	4	0.3	3	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0.2	6	0.1
(c) Acquired (Probable rickets)	4	0.3	3	0.2	2	0.1	1	0.09	4	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	11	0.3	5	0.1
(d) Acquired (Other)	13	1.04	7	0.5	7	0.6	7	0.6	11	1.1	14	1.4	4	7.01	4	7.01	35	1.05	30	0.9
15. Infectious Diseases																				
Other Diseases or Defects	71	5.7	5	4.3	48	4.6	35	3.4	46	4.6	35	3.6	3	5.2	3	5.2	168	5.05	78	2.3

TABLE III

Systematic Medical Examinations

Classification	Entrants		Second Age-Group		Third Age-Group		Fourth Age-Group		All Ages	
	No. 2422	Percentage	No. 2059	Percentage	No. 1937	Percentage	No. 166	Percentage	No. 6584	Percentage
1. Children free from defects	1493	61.6	1474	71.6	1391	71.8	107	64.4	4465	67.8
2. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from:										
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses: or	8	0.3	135	6.6	145	7.5	20	12.1	308	4.7
(b) Oral sepsis etc.	60	2.5	33	1.6	23	1.2	2	1.2	118	1.8
(c) Both (a) and (b)	-	-	-	-	4	0.2	1	0.6	5	0.1
Total	68	2.8	168	8.2	172	8.9	23	13.9	431	6.6
3. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks.	622	25.7	290	14.1	254	13.1	28	16.9	1194	18.1
4. Children with defect less remediable than defects in 2 or 3:										
(a) Where complete cure is considered possible	182	7.5	70	3.4	60	3.1	2	1.2	314	4.8
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible.	57	2.4	57	2.7	60	3.1	6	3.6	180	2.7
Total	239	9.9	127	6.1	120	6.2	8	4.8	494	7.5
Total number of children examined	2422	100.0	2059	100.0	1937	100.0	166	100.0	6584	100.0

TABLE IV

Return of all exceptional children of school age in the area

Disability	At ordinary Schools	At special Schools or Classes	At no school or Institution	Total
1. Blind	-	3	1	4
2. Partially sighted -				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	-	2	-	2
(b) Other conditions of the eye, e.g. cataract, ulceration, etc. which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in an ordinary school.	-	-	1	1
3. Deaf -				
Grade I	335	-	-	335
Grade IIa	55	-	-	55
Grade IIb	-	8	-	8
Grade III	-	13	-	13
4. Defective Speech -				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	483	15	-	498
(b) Stammering requiring special educational measures	79	72	-	151
5. Mentally defective (Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable - (I.Q. approx. 50 - 70)	67	43	11	121
(b) Ineducable - (I.Q. generally less than 50)	-	7	25	32
6. Epilepsy -				
(a) Mild and occasional	47	-	-	47
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	-	12	3	15
7. Physically defective - (Children between 5 and 16 yrs.)				
(a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding glands)	8	-	3	11
(b) General orthopaedic conditions	165	3	15	183
(c) Organic heart disease	136	1	-	137
(d) Other causes of ill health	8	-	-	8
8. Multiple defects -				
(a) Mentally defective and physically defective	5	4	4	13

TABLE V

Dental Inspection and Treatment

The number of children who were:-

(1) Inspected by the Dental Officers:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	1,291	15	1,306
6	1,484	14	1,498
7	1,557	19	1,576
8	1,478	31	1,509
9	1,275	19	1,294
10	1,264	27	1,291
11	1,274	33	1,307
12	1,182	17	1,199
13	986	22	1,008
14	993	11	1,004
15	236	16	252
16 and over	<u>69</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>73</u>
	<u>13,089</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>13,317</u>

	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>
(2) Found to require treatment	7,313	-
(2a) Accepting treatment	3,414	-
(3) Actually treated by School Dental Officers	3,506	228
(4) Number of attendances made by children for treatment	4,563	247
(5) Fillings:		
(a) Permanent	1,849	22
(b) Temporary	98	3
(6) Extractions:		
(a) Permanent	1,028	64
(b) Temporary	4,043	147
(7) Number of administrations of a General Anaesthetic for extractions	-	-
(8) Other operations:		
Permanent	572	10
Temporary	148	34
(9) Half-days devoted to inspection	285	-
Half-days devoted to treatment	974	-
(10) Number of children treated under private arrangements	2,566	-

SECTION I C.

Port Health Administration

The only ports of any size in Aberdeenshire are at Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The bulk of vessels calling at these ports are either fishing vessels based on the ports themselves or vessels engaged in coastal trade. Neither port is an approved port in terms of the Port Health Regulations.

SECTION I D.

Food Supply

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

Nutrition

There has been nothing of interest to report.

The remaining items arising under this heading have been dealt with fully in the annual report of the County Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION I E

National Assistance Act, 1948

Residential accommodation under the above Act is provided by the Local Welfare Authority and does not fall within the province of the Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health, however, has a duty to supervise in general the suitability or otherwise of the accommodation and to advise on matters concerning the community health of the Welfare Home. General medical services are provided by General Practitioners of the patient's own choice, although of necessity this usually means that they are provided by the nearest General Medical Practitioner.

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, dealing with the compulsory removal of a person in need of care and attention.

SECTION I F

Work done under the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act, 1938

No Nursing Home was registered under the above Act during the year.

SECTION I G.

General Sanitation

This section has been fully covered in the report of the County Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION II

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Milk

During 1955 there were 470 registered dairies in the County, and of that number, 435 held Designated Milk Licences, as follows:-

Certified -	35
Tuberculin Tested	398
Pasteurised	2

3,579 samples of milk were taken; of these 3,005 were satisfactory and 574 were unsatisfactory. The following table shows the number of samples taken under each designation and subjected for bacteriological analyses:-

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised	23	2	25
Certified	258	46	304
Tuberculin Tested	2,564	474	3,038
Ordinary	138	50	188
T.T. Pasteurised	22	2	24

No samples were taken for biological examination.

Three Special Designated Licences were suspended during the year.

During the year the following improvements to dairy premises took place:-

Total Reconstructions	1
New Byres	3
Byre Extensions	2
Reconstruction of Byres	11
New Dairy Premises	8
New Dungsteads	2
Water Closets	7
Wash-hand basins	3
Other improvements	11

The District Sanitary Inspectors carried out 1,025 inspections of dairy farms and the Milk Officers carried out 2,304 inspections.

Food

The total amount of food condemned was 3 tons, 13 cwts., 18 lbs., 5½ ozs.

Factories Act

No. of premises on register	856
No. of inspections carried out	565
No. of written notices	4

Particulars of the defects found were as follows:-

Want of cleanliness	3
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	8
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	7

Housing

The number of houses built was 253 - 241 Traditionals, 12 Agricultural Workers' houses.

74 houses were erected by private enterprise.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Section 3

No. of new houses erected - 23

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Sections 7 and 9

No. of houses represented under Section 9 - 17
No. of houses represented under Section 7 - 2

Building Byelaws

No. of Improvements carried out - 790

Complaints

773 complaints were investigated.

Nuisances

487 nuisances were found to exist. The nuisances consisted principally of:-

- Defective houses
- Sanitary defects in houses
- Defective water supplies
- Defective drainage
- Choked drains
- Rat infestation
- Polluted burns and ditches
- Deposit of refuse
- Defective w.cs. and privies

Offensive Trades

As the year came to an end, several major improvements were in progress at the Herring By-Products Factory, Fraserburgh, including the installation of new plant whereby it is hoped that the throughput per day will be increased to 2,750 crans, so mitigating the risk of long pre-processing storage. It is promised that chlorine gas, if necessary, will be admitted to the exhaust stacks and drum-washing facilities will be increased to an extent sufficient to cope with any emergency.

The fish processed in the year 1955 consisted of 235,933 crans - about 235,900,000 herring.

Sanitary Accommodation

No. of new w.cs. installed	736
No. of new bathrooms provided	715
No. of new sinks provided	799

Meat Inspection

Dyce Bacon Factory

No. of animals killed	178,552
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	756
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	4,641

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 166 tons, 19 cwts. 3 qrs., 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Fraserburgh Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	10,947
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	175
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	206

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 33 tons, 16 cwts., 12 lbs.

Inverurie Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	24,154
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	347
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	300
No. of carcasses passed	23,507

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 52 tons, 14 cwts., 5 lbs.

The above-mentioned includes 306 cattle, 528 sheep, 163 pigs and 405 calves which were slaughtered as casualties.

Turriff Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	1,784
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Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 11 tons, 9 cwts. 2 qrs., 22 lbs.

Peterhead Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	11,179
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Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 38 tons, 6 cwts.

Water

411 new water supplies were installed during 1955. Samples were taken with the following results:-

Chemical

Satisfactory -	229
Unsatisfactory -	21

Bacteriological

Satisfactory	274
Unsatisfactory	129

Drainage

26,785 yards of new drains were laid during the year. 656 drains were smoke-tested.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1956

The number of samples taken was as follows:-

Formal

Satisfactory	125
Non-Genuine	16
Convictions	12
Warnings	4

Informal

Genuine	194
Non-Genuine	12

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948

Number of improvements carried out to premises	21
Number of samples taken	36
Number of premises proposed to register	-

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

The/

The number of samples taken was as follows:-

Satisfactory	43
Unsatisfactory	7

Cleansing

During the year 1955 no further area was included in the County Special Scavenging District, although reports were prepared on the proposed inclusion of four areas and the extension of one existing district. It is anticipated that these areas will be incorporated in the County Special Scavenging District at May, 1956.

Refuse is collected twice weekly, except in certain isolated areas where, by arrangement with the householders, a once-weekly service is provided. Streets were swept and gullies cleaned in all villages within the County Special Scavenging District.

Two public conveniences were erected - one at Strichen and one at Inch - during the year. The provision and maintenance of public conveniences during the year under review amounted to approximately £1,300, while the income derived from the coin machines was £87.

Waste paper is principally collected along with the normal household refuse collections. Special collections are made from the suburban area and in certain instances where the amount of paper to be collected is too much for the lorry in the course of its normal duties.

The market for waste paper improved during the year under review and a total of 421 tons, 17 cwts. was sold to the Northern Waste Paper Co. Ltd.

REPORTS BY BURGH SANITARY INSPECTORS

Water Supplies

Ballater

Work was completed towards the end of the year on the major alterations to the filters and reservoir. The modernisation of the filters particularly should lend itself to much better purification.

Ellon

The low temperatures during the early part of the year accompanied by rain, gales and snow, gave no indication of the long dry summer yet to come and often hoped for but seldom seen, and certainly not enjoyed since 1947. However, when the year ended, there were few places where the long drought had not brought its after effects of near-empty reservoirs. Even at the year end at least one small Burgh within the County had difficulties in maintaining a water supply.

It is of special interest to note that the copious supply of water obtained from the spring sources at Ardgrain, Harewell and Ardarg, and measured at the reservoir inlet, was found to maintain the 108,000 gallons per 24 hours as shown during previous years.

The reservoir was cleaned out by the Burgh workmen during the month of April and an inspection by members of the Town Council was made during the month of September. On the latter occasion, samples were drawn at the reservoir inlet for chemical and bacteriological analyses. The sample for chemical analysis was found to be clear and gave only a very small deposit on standing. The proportions of free and albuminoid ammonia were both very low. The water was very slightly acid in reaction and was free from poisonous metals and nitrites. From the chemical standpoint the water was found to be of good quality. When tested separately on lead, copper and zinc, the water was found to have a very slight solvent action on each of these/

these metals. The result of analysis of the bacteriological examination was reported as excellent.

Samples of water were drawn from the spring at Arthrath, a source not yet connected to the main supply, and while the chemical analysis was reported as good, the bacteriological examination results were unsatisfactory. It may well be that with the source of the supply cleaned and properly built up, and the approach of animals restricted, this water supply could be improved and a further 5,544 gallons per 24 hours obtained.

The replacing of the section of 2" cast-iron water main by a 4" spun-iron water main within Union Street has removed the cause for complaint regarding lack of volume of water in that area. A new 3" cast-iron main, approximately 300 yards in length was laid in Castle Road at a cost of £640. Four new connections were made to water mains.

Fraserburgh

Rainfall for the year, as measured at Fedderate Reservoir was 31.01 inches, while the average rainfall over the past ten years has been 35.80 inches per annum. Despite the long continued dry spell during the summer months, when the total rainfall from June to August inclusive amounted to only 4.46 inches, the level of water in Fedderate Reservoir only fell to 1'-10" below the overflow level, leaving approximately 43 million gallons in storage.

Samples were taken at intervals during the year from both Fedderate and Hillhead supplies for bacteriological and chemical analysis and all reports showed satisfactory results.

An adequate supply has been maintained in all distribution areas and water consumption during the year, including all water used for trade purposes, harbour supplies and sewer flushing, etc. has averaged:-

Fedderate 12" main	....	....	620,000 gallons
Hillhead 9" main	....	....	145,000 gallons
Hillhead 6" main	....	....	<u>61,000 gallons</u>
Total	...		<u>826,000 gallons per 24 hours.</u>

The booster pump on Fedderate trunk main was operated for 1548 hours and the booster on Hillhead for 3,454 hours.

420 yards of 6" main were laid in extensions of the distribution system to serve new housing areas while 178 yards of 6" main and 340 yards of 4" main were laid in replacement of old mains.

Huntly

Owing to the tropical summer experienced in the year under review many Burghs and communities suffered from an acute shortage of water, but Huntly was in the fortunate position of having no worry regarding water supply which always remained of sufficient quantity to meet the demands of the population. No restrictions were ever placed on the public water supply.

The source of supply continued to come from the twenty acre catchment area, and also from the springs in the Collonach valley. The water from these sources was carried to the reservoir at the Craighead without any wastage, due to the renewal of certain sections of the main 12" pipe-line on the farm of Wellheads. The renewing of this pipeline in 1954 certainly proved its usefulness in the year under review.

The treatment of the water supply with chloros at the Craighead Reservoir was continued during 1955, while copper sulphate was added to/
to/

to the open reservoir during the summer months. The rotary filter, which has been working continuously for over twenty years, commenced to give frequent trouble, and from an inspection and report by Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock, it was discovered that this type of machine was now obsolete and beyond repair. The Council had considered this matter from all angles, including the financial one, and decided to replace this old machine with a modern micro-filter. This will be of great advantage in improving the quality of the water and should make a vast difference when it is installed. It can also be used in conjunction with sand filters if and when the Council decide to instal such equipment.

In the distribution services throughout the town, periodical inspections were carried out for defective fittings, while flushing of certain sections of the water mains was carried out to cleanse the pipes. This was necessary owing to no filtration being available at the reservoir, and certain deposits ultimately arrive in the Burgh mains. However, a careful watch was maintained, and samples taken from various house taps throughout the year, and no complaints were received regarding the quality of the water supply.

The Department laid one hundred and thirty yards of 4" diameter Stanton water mains in the Torry Housing Development in preparation for the construction of twenty-four three-apartment houses in this area.

Peterhead

With an average rainfall of only 1.95 inches, at no time during the year did the storage reservoirs fall below $24\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons reserve. This happy state of affairs is due solely to the never failing supply from the river Ugie. Although low at times, the amount of water running in the river was always sufficient to allow pumping throughout the whole summer. The yield from the catchment area reached a very low level and the amount of water derived from this source was on an average approximately 300,000 gallons per day, representing 25 per cent of the daily consumption. The industrial demand continues on the increase and the daily consumption varies from 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons.

Both the reducing valve at Grange and the 95 H.P. stand-by pump at Forehill have been installed and put into operation. The work in connection with the micro-strainer is well advanced and should be in operation in January of 1956. This strainer will relieve the over-taxed filters and allow all water to be passed over the sand filters at the proper rate and at the same time ensured that during periods of frost when the filter beds are out of commission, all water reaching the consumer will be micro-strained.

The undertaking as a whole worked with little or no interruption or complaint during the year. The supply to H.M. Prison and Boddam has been maintained without difficulty or restriction.

Complaints were received of lack of pressure in industrial premises at the lower end of Windmill Street. On investigation, this was found to be due to the poor condition of this section of main which was so corroded that the carrying capacity was reduced from the original 4" diameter to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter. This section of some 220 lineal yards has now been relaid with a 6 inch diameter cast iron main which connects with the recently laid 6 inch main on the top section of the street. The result has been excellent and further complaints of lack of pressure should be removed for all time. 800 lineal yards of new 6 inch diameter cast iron main was laid during the year.

Rosehearty

Despite the exceptionally dry summer, the supply proved quite satisfactory and it was never thought necessary to issue warnings for its conservation.

Drainage

Ballater

Apart from occasional local flooding at times of storm, the main drainage system offered no trouble. The Irrigation Farm, controlled by the Corporation of Aberdeen, worked satisfactorily.

Ellon

To meet the requirements of the Castle Road building site, a new 6" fireclay sewer, approximately 330 yards in length, and septic tank with 7" fireclay outlet to the River Ythan, was constructed at a total cost of £950.

There are now nine sewers, five of which discharge direct into the River Ythan. The remaining four first discharge into septic tanks. The water level of the River Ythan was exceptionally low as the result of the very dry summer; nevertheless, unlike previous years, no complaints were received regarding the sewage from public sewers which discharge into the river in a crude state. The lack of complaint was no doubt due to the watchful eye of the Burgh Surveyor who, in addition to the normal regular cleaning of sewer outfalls, gave weekly attention to this matter during the driest period.

Four new connections were made to the public sewers.
No. of smoke tested carried out - 7
Approximate length of drainage smoke-tested - 210 yards.

The difficulties arising from faulty surface drainage at Station Road was given attention at the time of re-levelling and re-surfacing of the road and has proved satisfactory.

Fraserburgh

The sewage system has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The engineering survey for the proposed replacement of the old culvert on the Esplanade is well advanced.

Five defective manholes were rebuilt and 296 yards of 9" sewer and 386 yards of 6" sewer were laid in extensions for new housing developments.

162 choked drains in housing scheme property required to be rectified and 21 choked drains were cleared for private parties on repayment of cost.

Huntly

The year under review will long be remembered in the history of Huntly as the year when the town took a great step forward in the advancement of the Burgh sanitation and purification of the River Bogie. For two years work had been carried on with the construction of a Sewage Disposal Works, and in the closing months of 1955, the Scheme was completed and officially opened by Mr. H. R. Spence, O.B.E., M.P.

The Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Jenkins & Marr, Aberdeen, and the Contractors, Messrs. Lewis Middleton, Ltd., Aberdeen, produced the Works, which have been credited as being one of the finest in the area, and every effort is now being made by this department to have the Works maintained at the highest state of efficiency possible, and a plant of which the Burgh can be justly proud. Even at this early stage, visits have been made by other Councils and public bodies to inspect the Scheme.

The main sewers within the Burgh were well maintained throughout the year and during the hot summer months, certain sections of the main sewers were flushed to abate any nuisance.

The/

The Department carried out by direct labour the laying of one hundred and seventy yards of 9" sewers in the Torry Housing Development to service twenty-four houses about to be built in that district, while a section of one hundred and fifty yards of 6" sewers were laid in the East Park Street and Park Street North area to service the two-apartment houses being erected in Park Street North.

The testing of all new house drains and also the alterations to existing drainage systems were carried out by this department. On every occasion the drains passed the smoke test and were found to be satisfactory. These good results proved that the tradesmen certainly observed the need for care and attention in carrying out drainage work.

Peterhead

700 lineal yards of new drains were laid within the Burgh during the year. The usual tests and inspections were carried out and the workmanship proved to be of a very high standard.

Rosehearty

Slight flooding at Murison Drive gave rise to some anxiety and with the prospect of sewage from the proposed school extension being diverted to this area, it is hoped that positive action may soon be taken on the scheme submitted by the County Engineer to alleviate the conditions.

Cleansing

Ballater

The system of refuse removal and street sweeping suffered no change and there would appear to be no complaint thereanent.

Ellon

Cleansing of the Burgh is carried out with the aid of a "Karrier Bantam" vehicle. Last year a new "Karrier Bantam" was purchased and found to be giving good service. There is a thrice-weekly collection of domestic refuse and a special once-weekly collection of waste paper is made, which amounts to approximately 2 tons, 10 cwts. per month. In addition to the collection of refuse, the vehicle, which is a multi-purpose one, is also in use in connection with water supply undertakings, housing schemes, etc.

There is in addition a Ferguson tractor, purchased two years ago, for the purpose of attaching the mower for the cutting of the Public Park grass and for use in other works to relieve the employment of the Karrier Bantam vehicle.

This year there were no complaints regarding the condition of the refuse dump and the disused quarry-hole near Cassiegills Farm, Ellon, continues to be used from time to time by the Burgh Staff and will assist in extending the "life" of the Burgh refuse dump.

Approval was given to the Burgh Surveyor to employ casual labour for snow clearing of pavements, etc., but such employment has not so far been found necessary.

Fraserburgh

Street cleansing is carried out on the "beat" system, the town being divided into eight districts, one of which is only on a half time basis but is being gradually extended by the expansion of new housing areas.

Domestic refuse collection is provided to all districts of the town on every alternate day, two motor vehicles being engaged and all work being carried out by direct labour.

The/

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Lochpots, situated close to, but outside the Burgh boundary.

The salvage of waste paper has continued to be poor business for the local authority, the average price per ton received being only £5:4/4d. for the total of 53 tons, 2 cwts. despatched.

Huntly

The cleansing services were well maintained throughout the year. The alternate day collections of household refuse proved satisfactory, while the shop collection, which was made one day per week, always produced a heavy yield of salvage. The service of collecting garden refuse during the spring and summer months always remained as popular as ever.

The system of controlled tipping at the old quarry situated at Corvichen was well maintained, and no complaints were received regarding the refuse disposal. Constant watch was also kept for rat infestation and this was always under control.

Owing to additional streets gradually being made with the erection of new houses, three street orderlies were continually employed in street cleansing, and an endeavour was always made to have the Burgh streets in a high state of cleanliness.

Salvage

This branch of the cleansing department makes more favourable reading this year, as it can claim to show a profit of £229:9/7d. from the sale of waste paper and scrap metal. In 1953 and 1954, losses of £95 and £35 respectively were recorded but, during the year under review, the price of waste paper per ton was increased, and 80 tons, 19 cwts., 1 qr. of mixed waste paper, and 1 ton, 7 cwts. 3 qrs. scrap metal were collected. This resulted in a gross income of £574:-:6d., while the expenditure on workmen's wages and baling materials amounted to £344:10/11d., making the large profit of £229:9/7d.

Public Conveniences

With the ever-increasing road traffic and the town being a favourite stopping-place for 'bus tours, constant supervision was kept on the maintenance and cleanliness of the four public conveniences situated throughout the Burgh.

Daily cleansing, including Sundays, was carried out by the Cleansing staff but despite these efforts, occasional complaints were received during the height of the tourist season and were immediately remedied, even if it meant two or more visits daily to the conveniences.

Peterhead

No alteration has been made in the system of refuse collection. Three collections are made weekly by 2 S. & D. Freighters, one motor lorry and one horse drawn vehicle.

This arrangement works smoothly, although it is becoming exceedingly difficult to cope with the ever increasing volume of refuse and the clearing of all bins by noon. The quantity of garden refuse has increased considerably during past years but it has been our practice to lift this type of refuse along with the domestic collection and thus avoid a special collection.

Roseheartly

Cleansing is carried out very satisfactorily by a private contractor making three weekly collections of household refuse with a special weekly collection of garden refuse during the period March to November. The refuse is disposed of at the municipal tip controlled by the burgh workmen/

workmen and the method of disposal meets with no complaints.

No salvage scheme is in operation.

Housing

Ballater

Eighteen Council houses were completed in the course of the year but no private building took place.

Ellon

There were no local authority houses erected during the year, but the proposal to erect twelve 2-apartment houses at Old Tennis Court site was approved and at the time of writing plans are in course of being drawn up.

Five four-apartment new bungalow-type private dwellings were completed.

One application was received for Grant Aid under Part VII Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1950-1952 and was not approved.

One application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair in terms of Housing (Repairs and Rents)(Scotland) Act, 1954, but this application was, after negotiations with the landlords, subsequently withdrawn.

In accordance with Section 1 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954, there required to be submitted to the Secretary of State before the Autumn a statement of proposals for dealing with unfit houses. To meet this requirement a preliminary Housing Survey was carried out and the conditions of the 452 dwelling houses, excluding 15 temporary pre-fab. houses. were sub-divided into three classifications - (a) houses (333) wholly up to modern standards; (b) houses (84) of good structure but without inside water-closet and/or bathroom; (c) houses (35) in bad repair, badly situated and without inside water supply and/or water-closet or bathroom.

Fraserburgh

During the year under review, 45 houses were completed by the Town Council and three were completed for the Scottish Special Housing Association, making a total completed since the end of the war of 614 houses, of which 100 have been built by S.S.H.A. Four shops to serve the needs of the expanding housing area were constructed by the Town Council. At 31st December, 1955, there also remained 15 houses of the Northfield Scheme to be completed.

Applications for housing accommodation on the local authority's lists number 570, which represents an increase of 21 over the figure for the previous year. Of these, 303 are prepared to accept a "dear rent" house under the Town Council's differential rents scheme.

The report submitted to the Department during the year under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1954, also showed 133 houses which should be demolished as uninhabitable so that the families occupying these houses can also be said to be in the "homeless" category.

Private enterprise has made a very welcome contribution to house building and a further 27 houses were completed during the year, while another 14 were under construction at the year end.

Grants for the improvement of dwelling houses were approved in respect of nine houses and eight certificates were issued in respect of the completion of improvement works.

Huntly

Huntly

As the building of new houses progressed, the number of Council houses increased and this department is now responsible for the maintenance of approximately four hundred and twenty-eight houses. A plumber and painter are employed by direct labour with this department on the maintenance of these houses while other repairs are executed by various tradesmen selected annually. During the winter months a large number of tenants reported defects and burst pipes and it is becoming noticeable that the repairs to the non-traditional type of house are on the increase yearly.

Private enterprise building continued within the Burgh and two semi-detached bungalows and two bungalows were commenced during the year, while five existing properties were reconstructed by private individuals. Advice was frequently given to owners wishing to improve property. Eleven minor warrants were issued for the introduction of bathrooms and w.cs. in existing properties.

Peterhead

The number of private houses completed during the year gets fewer. Two houses were completed and occupied and five were under construction at the end of the year.

Eighty-four local authority houses were completed and occupied during the year, leaving thirty houses under construction at Catto Drive and Clerkhill.

The number of applicants on the housing register has been greatly reduced and with the completion of the Clerkhill Site, should go a long way in satisfying the housing demand. Further development will be of a smaller order such as the cleaning up of the built-up area and the filling up of gap sites.

Rosehearty

Tenders for the erection of four two-apartment houses for Old People failed to find approval with the Department of Health because of high costs. In view of successive increases in rates of interest adding further to the costs and attracting rents far beyond the means of those for whom the houses were intended, the Council decided to abandon the scheme.

In the statement required under Section 1 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents)(Scotland) Act, 1954, it was disclosed that there are 43 unfit houses which should be demolished. The housing list contains the names of 26 applicants.

Factories Act

Ballater

Seven inspections of these premises were made and conditions were generally found satisfactory.

Fraserburgh

There are 154 factories and workshops within the Burgh, including 56 fish processing premises. Fifteen cases were dealt with in respect of defects, chiefly lack of cleanliness, choked drainage and accumulation of rubbish, and two written notices were served.

Huntly

No serious complaints were discovered during inspections and in one instance, lavatory accommodation was introduced into a workshop, and in two factories structural alterations were carried out. The
bake/

bake houses within the Burgh were well kept and the owners are to be congratulated on their endeavours.

Peterhead

The number of factories and workshops in the Burgh remains fairly static. New industry is expected in the near future in the form of engineering. The premises for these works will be constructed to comply with regulations and the comfort of the workers.

There are 121 factories of various types and sizes within the Burgh.

Nuisances

Ballater

During the year, seventeen nuisances were discovered or complained of and thirty visits of enquiry were made.

Ellon

A number of written and verbal complaints were received, all of which were given attention.

There were several verbal complaints of down-smoke, all of which were remedied by having the chimney flues swept.

Fraserburgh

During the year, 42 nuisances, chiefly choked drains and insanitary premises, were dealt with and 7 written notices were served.

Huntly

No serious nuisances were discovered during the year under review. One hundred and sixty-seven inspections were carried out by this department and the remedial work in all instances was executed with the co-operation of the property owners. No action was necessary on any occasion under the Public Health Act

Peterhead

Twenty-one nuisances were reported during the year and the necessary steps taken to have them removed. The nuisances consisted mainly of choked drains in the older properties.

