

**[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Bewdley Borough.**

**Contributors**

Bewdley (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1955

**Persistent URL**

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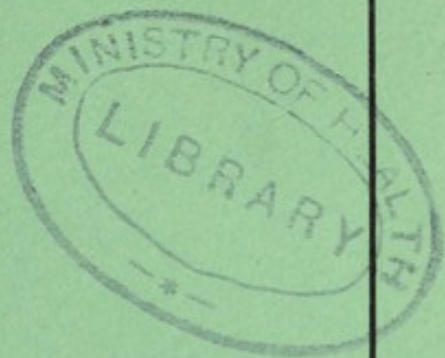
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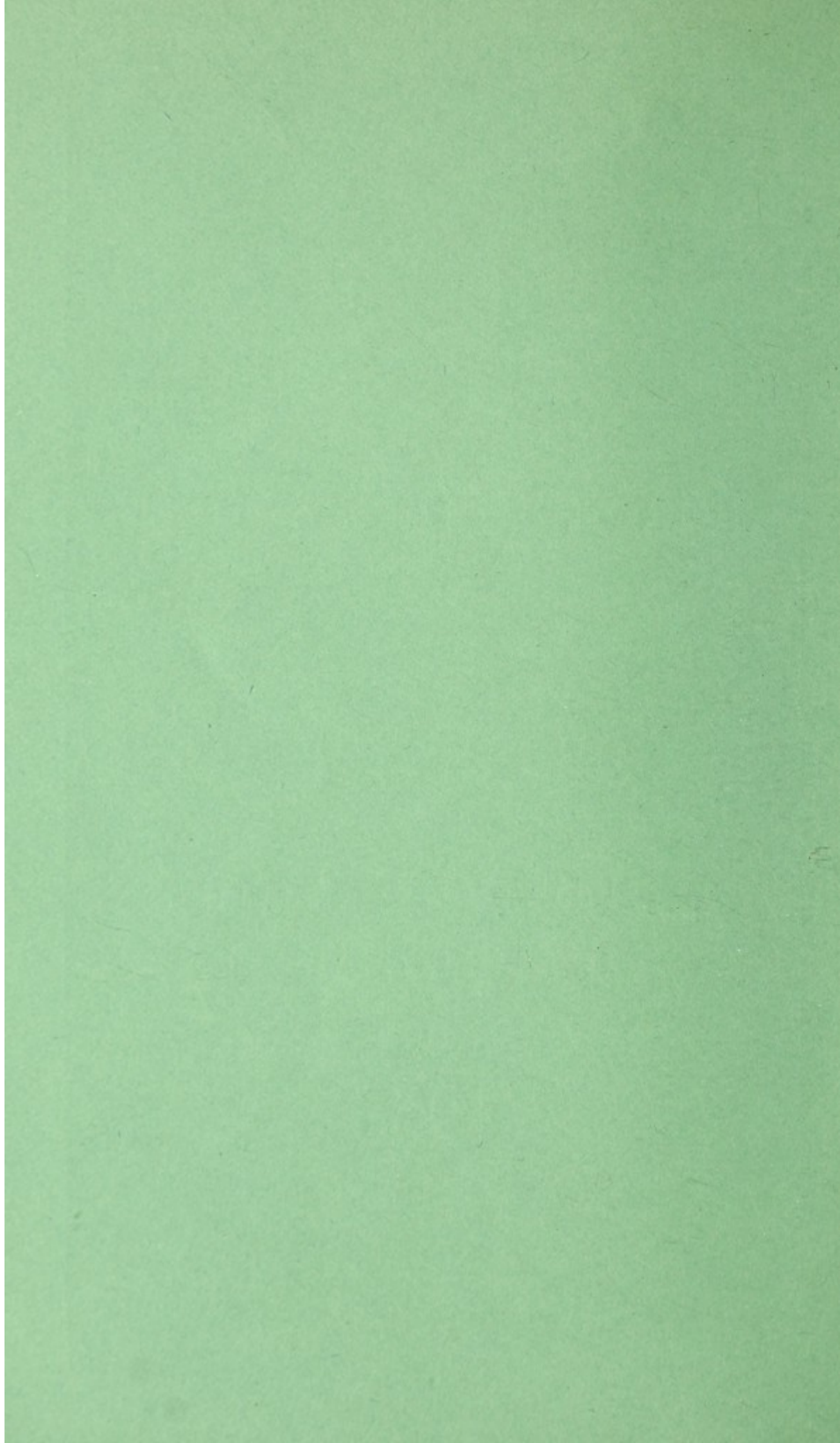


**BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY**



**Annual Reports**  
of  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
and **Sanitary Inspector**  
for  
**1955**

Printed by The Telford Press, Bewdley. Telephone: 2164





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# BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

YEAR 1955

## **Mayor**

Alderman W. E. JAMES, J.P.

## **Chairman of Water and Health Committee:**

Councillor A. J. HOWELL

## **Vice-Chairman of Water and Health Committee:**

Councillor R. FELLOWS

## **Water and Health Committee:**

Alderman H. N. FROST, J.P., C.A.

Alderman P. W. PALMER

Councillor Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE, C.C. (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor E. J. FINCH

Councillor Mrs. F. S. PRITCHARD

Councillor B. INCE

Councillor R. W. COLES

Councillor R. FELLOWS

Councillor J. HINTON

Councillor G. H. DALLEY

## **Medical Officer of Health:**

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

## **Sanitary Inspector:**

Mr. J. E. SHEEN, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.  
and S.I.E.J.B., Cert.R.S.I. Meat & Other Foods

BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
YEAR 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
WATER AND HEALTH COMMITTEE  
BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1955.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the report is divided into the following sections :—

- “ A ” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ” Housing.
- “ E ” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

## SECTION "A"

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,681
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1955) ... ..	4,820
Population (Census 1951) ... ..	4,756
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Books ... ..	1,605
Rateable Value ... ..	£23,707
Sum represented by One Penny Rate ... ..	£86 6 11

Industry within the Borough of Bewdley is on a small scale, the principal source of local employment being a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc., and where 70 persons were employed during 1955.

Other sources of employment include a Saw Mill, and, remaining from the traditional Bewdley industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works, and Leather Works.

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

#### *Live Births*

		1955			1954		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	67	36	31	65	36	29	
Illegitimate ...	3	3	—	3	—	3	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	70	39	31	68	36	32	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was : 1955, 14.5 (1954, 14.02).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was : 1955, 15.0 (1954, 15.2).

#### *Still Births*

		1955			1954		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	2	1	1	3	3	—	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	2	1	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	2	1	1	5	4	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was : 1955, 27.7 (1954, 68.5).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was : 1955, 23.1.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was : 1955, 0.41 (1954, 1.03).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales was. : 1955, 0.35 (1954, 0.37).



## Deaths

	1955			1954		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	54	27	27	66	35	31

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was: 1955, 11.20 (1954, 13.61).

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1955, 11.7 (1954, 11.3).

## Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	1955			1954		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	2	1	1	4	2	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	1	1	4	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

One of these infants was under 4 weeks' old.

The Infant Mortality rate was: 1955, 28.56 (1954, 58.8).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1955, 25.0 (1954, 25.5).

## Zymotic Deaths

During the year there were no deaths from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea.

## Causes of Death

Ref. No.		Male	Female
10, 11, 14.	Cancer ... ..	5	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	3
18, 19, 20.	Heart Disease ... ..	7	13
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ...	2	1
22.	Influenza ... ..	—	1
23.	Pneumonia ... ..	2	—
24.	Bronchitis ... ..	3	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	3	3
34.	All other accidents ... ..	1	—
35.	Suicide ... ..	—	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total ... ..	27	27
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## SECTION "B"

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory of the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

#### *Ambulance Service*

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority, and is based on Kidderminster.

#### *Home Nursing and Health Visiting*

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one each for Bewdley and Wribbenhall. There is also one whole-time Health Visitor.

#### *Clinics*

An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held fortnightly, with a doctor in attendance monthly, when Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

#### *Hospitals*

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board are available :

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Blakebrook Hospital.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

#### *Tuberculosis*

(1) Treatment.—A dispensary is held twice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital, and there are Sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstans, Malvern.

(2) Prevention and After-Care.—Preventive measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-care Sub-Committee administers this service in this district in conjunction with the other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

#### *Venereal Disease*

A treatment centre is operated at the Kidderminster General Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board.

#### *Domestic Help Service*

Under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority, Home Help Service has been established in the district and is administered locally by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end

of the year, 4 full-time, 20 part-time and 2 occasional home helps were employed, and 55 Chronic, 30 General and 8 Maternity cases received attention. This has proved a most valuable service to the community in cases of need in the various types of domestic emergency.

*Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948*

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during the year.

## SECTION "C"

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### *Water Supply*

1. The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
2. Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are taken monthly and for complete chemical analysis twice yearly.
3. The water is not plumbo-solvent.
4. No action was necessary for any form of contamination of the piped water supply.
- 5a. The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to houses is 1,545. Population served approximately 5,051.
- 5b. 41 houses are supplied from standpipes; population served approximately 134. 17 houses obtain water from private supplies; population served approximately 56.

#### *Extension of Supply*

A new 20" x 361' borehole, delivering 60,000 gallons per hour, came into operation in October, 1955. This additional source adds to the security of the Undertaking by ensuring an adequate supply, in case of a breakdown of either pump, to meet the needs of the Borough and Stourport U.D.C. Supply mains are now being extended to parts of Droitwich R.D.C., and the Council is capable of supplying other areas if desired.

#### *Drainage and Sewerage*

The greater part of the district has a sewer available. Sewage flows partly by gravitation and partly by pumping from three compressed air ejectors to the Sewage Pumping Station, where, after screening, it is pumped to the Kidderminster Joint Outfall Works for treatment. No serious nuisance has occurred during the year concerning the drainage system in general.

Negotiations concerning mains sewerage facilities to properties in the Bark Hill area proceeded satisfactorily, but it did not prove possible to include all dwellings originally intended. A 4" drain was extended approximately 100 yards up the Racks Steps and two houses were connected. There is every probability that a third house will also be connected in the near future.

## SECTION "D"

### Housing

Sixty new houses were completed by the Corporation during the year. Seven new houses were completed and one large old house was converted into three flats by private enterprise.

The preliminary survey of all sub-standard property within the district was completed during the year and resulted in a total number of 108 dwellings being shown on the Ministry return as requiring clearance within the first five years. The Council has been unable to decide upon the number of unfit properties to be dealt with under the Housing Acts in the first and subsequent years of the five year period. The difficulty appears to be the method of financing the building of suitable type dwellings for the persons displaced by the Slum Clearance programme. Further action by the Health Department must await resolution of this difficulty by the Council. Considerable delay seems inevitable before any such accommodation is, in fact, available.

#### *Caravan Sites*

There are now four sites authorised under The Town & Country Planning Act, 1947. These are at:—

- (1) The Brant Farm, Upper Blackstone;
- (2) Hursts Meadow, Northwood Lane;
- (3) Council Hill Camp, Cleobury Road;
- (4) Riverside Caravan Park, Dowles Road;

and allow a combined total of 360 Caravans.

The site of the Riverside Caravan Park was acquired by the County Council during the previous year, and, after having planned the site and provided modern conveniences, sub-let the Park to Messrs. Becketts of Bromsgrove.

An excellent water carriage system of toilet accommodation was provided at the Brant Farm Caravan Site during the year. It is to be hoped that the only site now without this type of accommodation (at Hursts Meadow) will be so provided within the near future.

It is considered desirable that all sites should operate under Public Health Act licences, in addition to any planning permission that may obtain.

County Council action has continued, whenever possible, to secure the removal of unsuitable structures.

## SECTION "E"

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955*

These Regulations were issued during the last few days of the year, and came into force less than a week later. Such short notice, unfortunately, did not allow time for personal visits to those concerned, but every encouragement is now being given to the proprietors of these establishments to comply with the Regulations.

#### *Meat Inspection*

Three slaughterhouses were re-licensed in July, though two only are in regular use. Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SECTION " F "

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

#### *Diphtheria Immunisation*

The number of children immunised during the year either at Clinics, Schools or by the General Practitioners, was as follows:—

1. Aged 0 - 4 years inclusive	...	...	39
2. Aged 5 - 14 years inclusive	...	...	5
3. Reinforcing doses	...	...	53
Total			97

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

#### *Notifications*

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shewn in the following table:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	20	1	—
Measles	66	—	—
Whooping Cough	36	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	11	—	—

There were no cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning notified during the year.

#### *Tuberculosis*

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>NEW CASES</i>				<i>DEATHS</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5		—		—		—	



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## For the year ending 31st December, 1955

### HOUSING

As reported by the Medical Officer of Health, the preliminary survey of sub-standard property was completed during the year. The figures thus provided were submitted to, and approved by, the Minister of Housing and Local Government in July as required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Further details of housing inspections are contained in the Summary of Work of the department.

#### *Squatters Camps*

Regular maintenance work is still necessary to keep the Dog Lane Camp in a habitable condition, in spite of the fact that several families were re-housed during the year. It is hoped that the present rate of re-housing will be continued and the whole site vacated and cleared in the near future.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A total number of 236 visits were made to food premises during the year. This included 170 visits made for the purpose of meat inspection at slaughterhouses, etc. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon practicable afterwards. A detailed register is kept of all animals slaughtered and inspected within the Borough, together with details of meat condemned and the reasons therefor.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcasses inspected as against the number slaughtered.

#### *Carcasses Inspected and Condemned*

	<i>Cattle</i> (excluding			<i>Sheep</i> and	
	<i>cows</i> )	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ... ..	152	Nil	38	1,020	329
Number inspected ... ..	149	Nil	31	736	268
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	57	—	2	17	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	35.2	—	6.4	2.30	5.2
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	2.7	—	Nil	Nil	0.74

The high percentage of cattle as shown affected with disease other than tuberculosis was due mainly to the high incidence of distomatosis.

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year ended 31st December, 1955, was 9cwt. 8½lbs.

Method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the cast of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

### *Milk Distribution*

Dealers (principal) licences, in connection with the distribution of milk, were issued as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	1
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	1

Dealers (supplementary) licences issued were:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	3
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	2

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

35 samples of milk, heat treated within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were as follows:—

<i>Phosphatase Test</i>			<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>		
<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Void</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Void</i>
34	1	—	34	—	1

The defect causing the failure to pass the Phosphatase Test was a faulty gasket in the separating mechanism. The County Sampling Officer agreed that, though regrettable, it was almost unavoidable. Subsequent tests proved satisfactory.

### *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949*

No action was necessary regarding cessation of supplies from infected premises (Reg. 20). In this connection, the Borough is now a Specified Area in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 2 Order) 1954.

### *Ice-Cream*

No applications have been received during the year for registration of premises for the manufacture of Ice-cream, and only one dealer remains on the register as such. Twenty-four retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

Four samples were taken during the year and submitted for Bacteriological Analysis, and these proved satisfactory.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

House refuse is collected weekly in the town and fortnightly in the more outlying areas. The present method of disposal is by controlled tipping, the site used being approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the town centre. A dual purpose is served here, in that valuable agricultural land is being reclaimed by the infilling of a deep ravine, and it is estimated that approximately 2,000 square yards of this land will be handed back to the owner in the near future after the necessary soil coverage, etc., has been completed.

In addition to house refuse, trade refuse is collected and disposed of, the average collection amounting to approximately 2 tons per week. A limited amount of trade refuse is retained for salvage (cartons, containers, etc.) and a total quantity of 15 tons 2 cwt. was collected and sold during the year.

The issue of municipal ashbins commenced in April, and by the end of the year 98 of these bins had been distributed. It was particularly unfortunate that the Government decided to apply Purchase Tax to these goods as, owing to the fixed amount being allotted for this service, the number of bins available is thereby reduced by one third.

## RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries :

Corporation Property (excluding dwelling houses) ... ..	34
Private dwellings ... ..	256
Business premises ... ..	31
Agricultural, etc. ... ..	2
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>323</b>

32 complaints received attention.

### *Sewers*

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year in compliance with Ministry requirements and this enabled the local authority to qualify for financial assistance with this service.

## SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,528 visits were distributed as follows:—

Dwelling houses (Survey) ... ..	314
Housing defects, overcrowding, etc. ...	153
Houses let-in-lodgings ... ..	5
Verminous premises ... ..	9
Infectious disease ... ..	18
Factories (Part I only) ... ..	12
Food premises (including licensed premises)	66
Meat inspections ... ..	170
Water supply ... ..	6
Rodent control (excluding operators visits) ...	9
Caravan sites ... ..	39
Drains and sanitary fittings (old property) ...	164
Drains and sanitary fittings (new property, including Council owned) ... ..	68
Refuse complaints, ashbins, Tip, etc. ... ..	99
Miscellaneous ... ..	22
	1,154
Rodent treatments ... ..	374
	1,528
Total ... ..	1,528

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES E. SHEEN,

*Sanitary Inspector.*





