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BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

B. C. HALLER, M.A. (Cantab.), L.R.C.P. (Edin.),
D.P.H. (Camb.),

Medical Officer of Health.

G. E. S. SHELDON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
M.R.San.I.

Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,
23, Wellington Road,
Bilston, Staffs.

December 1947.

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STAFF
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
Whole Time Officers.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :

B. C. HALLER, M.A., (Cantab.), L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E.,
D.P.H. (Camb.).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

HELENA M. PHIMISTER, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Glas.).

PART TIME OFFICER (MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE) :

JANE A. NAGLE, M.B., B.Ch.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT,
INSPECTOR UNDER THE CANAL BOATS ACT,
INSPECTOR UNDER THE HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS, 1925,
LODGING HOUSE INSPECTOR AND SHOPS INSPECTOR :

F. BARNETT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.
(Resigned October, 1946)

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

G. E. S. SHELDON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Certificated Meat Inspector.

Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector, October, 1946.

W. L. KAY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.
(Resigned, April, 1946).

J. R. TART, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed, June, 1946).

L. D. ASHWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed December, 1946).

HEALTH VISITORS :

Miss N. R. Hawkins, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.R.C.N.
Miss M. Parker, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. H.V. (R.S.I.)
Miss C. Read, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. H.V. (R.S.I.).

CLERICAL STAFF :

Mrs. A. Mears (resigned May, 1946).
Miss M. J. Corbett.
Mrs. P. Bouckley (resigned June, 1946).
Miss J. A. Lewis.
Miss J. Mosley.
Mrs. R. Stacey (appointed July, 1946).
C. J. Pearce.
A. Dowdeswell (H.M. Forces)
E. R. Whittingham.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area	1,890 acres
Population : 1931 Census	31,248
Estimated Population for Year	31,220
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses for the year	7,875
Rateable Value	£133,881

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	669	378	291	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 21.42
(Legitimate)	649	369	280	
(Illegitimate)	20	9	11	
Still Births	16	13	3	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths) 21.94

	Total	Males	Females	
Deaths	377	206	171	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.08

Comparability Factor : Not available for 1946.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(Headings 29 and 30) of the Registrar General's short list.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	73.24
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	72.42
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	100.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42
„ Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5

Details of the Births in each Ward are given in Table I, and particulars for the last five years in Table 2.

TABLE 1.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	67	48	115
High Town	16	23	39
Town Hall	139	120	259
Bradley	52	43	95
Ettingshall	50	39	89
Out of District	54	18	72
Total	378	291	669

TABLE 2.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000.
1946	378	291	669	21.42
1945	278	275	553	18.23
1944	327	305	632	20.64
1943	329	319	648	21.18
1942	346	296	642	20.94

Table 3 shows the number of deaths in each Ward; Table 4 gives the details for the last five years; and Table 5 the ages at which death occurred.

TABLE 3.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	29	22	51
High Town	10	5	15
Town Hall	28	35	63
Bradley	15	16	31
Ettingshall	29	26	55
Out of District	95	67	162
Total	206	171	377

TABLE 4.

Year.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1946	206	171	377	12.08
1945	172	180	352	11.61
1944	182	147	329	10.74
1943	191	156	347	11.34
1942	193	159	352	9.46

TABLE 5.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	32	17	49
1 and under 2 years	—	4	4
2 and under 5 years	2	1	3
5 and under 15 years	6	4	10
15 and under 25 years	3	7	10
25 and under 45 years	23	24	47
45 and under 65 years	57	30	87
65 and under 80 years	64	54	118
80 years and upwards	19	30	49
TOTAL	206	171	377

The following table shows the causes of death and gives particulars of the number of males and females dying from various diseases :—

TABLE 6.

Causes of Death	Males	Fe- males	Total
Typhoids and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	14	11	25
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	3	6
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	4	4	8
Measles	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	21	21	42
Diabetes	1	3	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	22	22	44
Heart Disease	34	36	70
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Bronchitis	25	12	37
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	8	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	1	6
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	4	—	4
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) —	5	—	5
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	10	3	13
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	—	2
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	8	8	16
Congenital Debility, Malformation, etc.	9	2	11
Suicide	3	2	5
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	2	1	3
All Other Causes	24	28	52
Total	206	171	377

TABLE 7.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases
in the Year 1946. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly
Returns.

	England and Wales	County Boro's and Great Towns including London	Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	BILSTON
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Births :				
Live	19.10	22.20	21.30	21.42
Still	00.53	00.67	00.59	00.51
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.50	12.70	11.70	12.08
Typhoid and Para- typhoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	00.02	00.02	00.02	00.03
Diphtheria	00.01	00.01	00.01	00.03
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	00.01	—	—
Influenza	00.15	00.13	00.14	00.26
	Rates per 1,000 live births			
Deaths under 1 year of age	43	46	37	73
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	7.5
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Notifications :				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	00.2	0.02	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.13
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	0.86
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	0.48
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.45
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.16
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	0.42
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	1.76
	Rates per 1,000 (live and still) Births			
Puerperal Fever) Puerperal Pyrexia)	8.50	10.35	7.63	2.92

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Treatment Centres and Clinic.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternal Mortality :

There were no deaths from Puerperal Pyrexia or from other Puerperal causes.

Ante-Natal Clinics :

Dr. J. A. Nagle conducts these clinics which are held every Friday and every other Thursday.

All the salaried midwives attend with their own cases. A Health Visitor and a clerk assist at each session.

The attendances for 1946 were :—

New Cases	.....	603
Re-visits	.....	2,364

Health Visiting :

All notified births are visited. Close co-operation between the local Registrar and this Department is kept up. Advice as to proper care of the home, mother, baby and toddler is given on every available opportunity. Special attention is paid to nutrition of the individual and the preparation and storage of food in the home.

Visits made by the Health Visitors were as follows :—

	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Children under 1 year	..... 578	1,941
Children over 1 year	..... 1	7,176
Ante-Natal Cases	..... 255	326
Tuberculosis Cases	..... 28	400

Boarded Out Children :

A register is kept of all known cases in the area. The cases are visited monthly and reported on by the Health Visitors who act as Infant Life Protection Visitors.

Welfare Centres :

Welfare Centres are held on three afternoons a week. The Centres are under the Control of the Medical Officer of Health who is assisted on each occasion by three Health Visitors, a clerk and two or three members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

The attendances at the Centres were as follows :—

	<i>District A.</i>	<i>District B.</i>	<i>District C.</i>
Mothers	2420	2160	2617
Babies	2006	1696	2161
Toddlers	234	352	263

New Cases.

Babies	190	129	173
Toddlers	11	29	29

Infantile Mortality :

The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 49 giving an infantile mortality rate of 73.24 per 1,000 births.

Table 8 shows the causes of death and ages at which they occurred and Table 9 the number of deaths in each ward.

TABLE 8.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR	Total deaths	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months
Gastro-Enteritis	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1
Congenital Malformation	5	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	16	9	1	2	2	2	—	—	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	9	—	—	—	1	3	3	1	1
Convulsions	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion of Lungs	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Intersusception	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Peritonitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tubercular Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Prolonged Labour	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	49	17	3	3	4	6	6	6	4

TABLE 9.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	7	4	11
High Town	—	1	1
Town Hall	1	2	3
Bradley	2	2	4
Ettingshall	3	1	4
Out of District	19	7	26
Total	32	17	49

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held on four afternoons each week.

The number of Children immunised is as follows :—

Children under 5 years of age	.....	402
Children over 5 and under 15 years	.....	71
TOTAL	.....	473

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a Full Course of Immunisation at any time up to 31.12.46.

Age at 31.12.46. <i>i.e.</i> Born in year :—	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937- 1941	1932- 1936	Under 15
Number Immunised	—	220	333	305	348	2043	1812	5061

Scabies.

Five Clinics are held weekly at the Cleansing Station rear of 23, Wellington Road. The total number of cases treated was 102, 28 mothers, 61 Toddlers, 6 Girls and 7 Men.

Promotion of Cleanliness and Good Habits and the Elimination of Verminous Conditions :

The Health Visitors and School Nurses co-operate very closely with each other and in the general scheme of this work.

Lethane Hair Oil is used in the Clinic and also is given to mothers for use in the homes when found necessary. Instructions are given at the same time as to its use and for the care and toilet of the hair. Advice on Hygiene and good habits generally is tendered to mothers when routine and special visits are paid to homes, particular attention being paid to those homes most in need of it and all cases are followed up regularly.

Families have been sent to Institutions for cleansing when the need has arisen.

Legal action has been taken when necessary in cases of tenants who have persistently failed to keep themselves and their houses clean in spite of the advice and attention given by the Nurses and repeated visits and disinfestation of the homes by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Day Nursery.

The Day Nursery, situated in Prouds Lane, Bilston, will accommodate 40 children, ages ranging from 0 to 5 years. It is open daily from 7-45 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the average attendance was 26 daily.

The staff comprises :—Matron

Deputy Matron
1 Certificated Nursery Nurse
1 Warden
1 Nursery Assistant
3 Probationers
1 Cook

The Care of Premature Infants.

The three Health Visitors have had a full course of lectures on The Care of Premature Infants, at the Sorrento Maternity Home, Birmingham.

The weight of the baby is entered on the Birth Notification Cards.

Special Cots and equipment are provided for use in the home.

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers :

400 priority dockets were issued to 200 applicants.

Care of Illegitimate Children :

The Council approved a scheme submitted by the Welfare Authority whereby the responsibility for the detailed administration of the scheme shall be in the hands of the Woman Probation Officer of the Staffordshire County Council, the Health Visitors of the Welfare Authority and the Ladies Voluntary Committee as constituted by the Welfare Authority, all acting under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health of the Welfare Authority.

The duties to be undertaken by the persons mentioned shall comprise all those suggested in the Circular.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

The water supply in the area is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year 8 bacteriological samples were taken : 1 from the Rising Main at the Bratch, 3 from the Covered Reservoirs at Coton Road, 1 from Tomhill Waterworks and 3 from private supplies in the town.

Four chemical samples were taken, 2 from the Rising Main, the Bratch, and 2 from Tomhill Waterworks.

In each case the samples were satisfactory.

The water supply has 9 degrees of hardness at Tomhill and 19 degrees at the Bratch before boiling, and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Housing.

The number of applications for houses made to my department were 360. Of this number 307 were found to be overcrowded and recommendations were made to the Housing Department.

Clearance Areas.

No further progress can be reported with regard to the nine areas declared in 1945, affecting 1,504 houses. The Ministry of Health will not permit action under Slum Clearance whilst the acute housing shortage exists.

It is, however, a matter of grave concern as to how much longer these houses will remain inhabited. They were in an advanced state of disrepair before the war and execution of any repair does not provide lasting improvement, indeed it is impossible to do this effectively. Many builders now refuse to undertake any work on such property, due to their inability to make any improvement, and in some cases due to the danger involved to the men in endeavouring to carry out the work. It is a waste of time and material to constantly keep patching up these houses.

If the coming winter is as severe as the last, with its attendant gales and heavy rainstorms, it is practically certain to cause more houses to collapse. The danger to the inhabitants is a responsibility no one is willing to accept.

Overcrowding.

The situation with regard to overcrowding is particularly serious. Due to the increase in marriages during and since the war the need for houses to provide young couples with homes is particularly acute. Whilst the general trend of the size of the family is on the decrease the number of newly married couples is on the increase.

The majority of these young couples are by force of circumstances compelled to live with "in-laws" and in all probability increases the already overcrowded conditions obtaining in such houses. In many cases the man and wife are living apart in their own parents homes, indeed a tragic way of attempting to start married life. The birth of children in all cases only adds complications to the problem.

The only solution is the building of houses, and the speed at which these can be built will decide the length of time this tragic problem will remain unsolved.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The work of food inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Milk Supply and Food Adulteration.

The work under this heading is controlled by the County Council whose officers carry out the necessary work of sampling.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Table 10 shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, cases admitted to Hospital and the known deaths.

TABLE 10

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	27	24	—
Whooping Cough	15	—	1
Measles	13	—	—
Diphtheria	14	14	1
Pneumonia	55	1	15
Dysentery	11	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—

The only knowledge of cases of Pneumonia removed to Hospital are the cases which are treated in the West Midland Joint Hospital Board's Hospitals; other cases are usually treated at the Royal Hospital, or the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Public Assistance cases are taken to Wordsley Institution.

Tuberculosis.

TABLE 11.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and upward	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	2
15	3	7	—	—	—	4	—	—
25	6	8	1	1	6	5	—	—
35	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	1
45	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	21	20	3	2	14	11	3	3

REPORT OF THE ACTING SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946

I submit herewith a report of the Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1946.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors has been considerably handicapped by staff difficulties. The Senior Inspector was absent through illness for six months prior to his resignation. The additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. Kay terminated his services in April and was not replaced during the year. Mr. J. R. Tart returned to the department after demobilisation from H.M. Forces in June, 1946.

Routine Inspections.

Details of the inspections made during the year are as follows :—

1.	Visits in connection with complaints, re-inspections and work in progress	1481
2.	Houses inspected (for minor defects)	806
3.	Houses inspected (detailed inspections under Housing Acts)	48
4.	Houses inspected (cleanliness of tenants)	40
5.	Visits re overcrowding	365
6.	Visits re infectious cases	90
7.	Drains tested	51
8.	Visits to food shops and food preparing premises	256
9.	Visits to bakehouses	26
10.	Visits to fried fish shops	29
11.	Visits re slaughter of animals	119
12.	Visits to factories	16
13.	Smoke—Observations, Inspections and Visits	670
14.	Visits re caravans	175
15.	Visits re rodent control	3262
16.	Miscellaneous, including cleansing	644
17.	Inspections re accommodation over business premises	165
18.	Visits—Census of clearance areas	416
19.	Common lodging houses	3
20.	Visits to cowsheds and dairies	17
21.	Icecream—Samples taken and visits	40
22.	Slaughterhouses	69
23.	Shops—Inspections	165
24.	Visits re canal boats	48
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Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 680 ; 257 in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 423 in connection with choked drains or water closets. All complaints were dealt with.

Notices.

The number of notices served during the year was 1278— Informal Notices 1035, Statutory Notices 243. Notices served on owners 1187, on occupiers 91.

Details of the Statutory Notices served :—

	Issued	Complied	Complied by Council	Justices Order	Not Complied
Sec. 92-93 Public Health Act 1936	235	179	—	—	56
Sec. 75 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1	—	—	—
Sec. 83 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1	—	—	—
Sec. 39 Public Health Act, 1936	6	6	—	—	—
	243	187	—	—	56

Legal Proceedings.

It was necessary to issue summonses in eight cases for court action during the year. In seven instances the cases were withdrawn due to work being in hand on the day of the hearing and in the other case the Magistrates made an order for the work to be done within one month.

It will be noted that the number of notices not complied with at the end of the year was 56. These were complied with during 1947, but the main reason for this number of outstanding notices was the ever increasing difficulty of obtaining materials to execute repairs.

Sanitary Improvements.

The total number of improvements made in compliance with notices served was 1,375 and the number of premises affected by these improvements 638.

Details of the improvements are given below :—

Improvements in connection with :—

1. Drainage	141
2. Sanitary Accommodation	117
3. Washing Accommodation	66
4. Houses internal repairs	283
5. Houses external repairs	435
6. Tenants general cleanliness	23
7. Ashbins provided	87
8. Caravans removed	178
9. Miscellaneous improvements	45

Cleanliness of Tenants in Council Houses.

It has been impossible due to shortage of staff to carry out systematic inspections of Corporation houses for cleanliness, etc. Only 40 such inspections have been made during the year. Of these 5 were found to be dirty and verminous and were disinfested.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The only animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough during the year were pigs (Self Supply). Where such are not for sale for human consumption there is no obligation upon the owner or the slaughterman to report the intended killing of the animal and the Sanitary Inspector has no authority to condemn or seize unsound or diseased meat from such sources.

In the interests of Public Health, however, every effort is made to trace and inspect the animals so slaughtered. If diseased conditions are found the owner is advised to surrender and destroy such portions that are affected.

The number of carcasses inspected during the year was 462.

The number of visits made to food shops, food preparing premises and in connection with the slaughter of animals was 470.

The amount of unsound food destroyed was 4 tons, 8 cwts., 5 lbs.

Details of the foodstuffs destroyed are given below :—

	CWTS.	LBS.
Fish	4	5
Meat	6	71
Rabbits	3	81
Bacon	2	2
Butter and Margarine		23
Cheese		59
Cake and Biscuits		84
Sugar	3	0
Jam		17
Chocolate and Sweets	1	22
Dried Fruits	2	15
Flour	23	10
Tinned Goods	10	86
Dates	29	26
Grapefruit		64

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious cases was 61 and the number of verminous houses disinfested 25.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two registered common lodging houses in the Borough. They are not used for travellers, but are occupied by single persons or small families as permanent residents.

The lodging houses are both included in slum clearance areas. One is well maintained and the other is very dilapidated and in consequence falls far short of the standard desired in such premises.

Canal Boats Act.

Forty visits have been made to the canal for the purpose of boat inspection but no registered boats have been seen.

Obstructions in Drains and Water Closets.

During the year 320 choked drains and water closets have been cleared by employees of the Corporation at Council and private houses, free of charge to the owners or occupiers. These have all been the subject of complaints to the Health Department. Many other drains and water closets have been attended to by Corporation employees at Council houses of which the department has no knowledge.

Factory Act 1937.

No complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

There are 98 registered milk shops selling bottled milk in the Borough.

The only dairy where loose milk is bottled and heat treatment is applied has been regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory. On one occasion results of milk sampled showed an unsatisfactory standard. This was traced to defective machinery in the heat treatment plants and immediate steps were taken to rectify the defects.

The two cowsheds are still very unsatisfactory. Structurally they are unsuitable and whilst the owners make every effort to maintain a satisfactory milk supply, steps will have to be taken to obtain modern sheds and dairies if production is to continue.

Rodent Extermination.

The number of complaints received during the year was 153. The number of premises baited was 1,611 and visits made 5,017.

The number of dead rats and mice found was 1,039 and the estimated kill based on the Ministry of Food formula was 5,128.

In addition to the normal routine treatment of specific complaints the rodent operatives have undertaken special schemes of Block treatment of shops, sewer maintenance treatments and domestic infestation surveys.

The results of these have been very satisfactory and have resulted in a considerable extermination of rodents normally overlooked.

The Block treatment of shops in the main shopping centre resulted in 325 dead bodies actually seen and an estimated kill of 640.

The sewer maintenance has been carried out on two occasions during the year. The following results were obtained :—

	FIRST TREATMENT	SECOND TREATMENT
Manholes baited	467	350
Manholes showing infestation	132	16
Number of rats actually seen dead	96	17
Estimated kill by Ministry formula	290	68

In the Domestic Infestation Survey 4,231 houses had been visited in the 5 areas completed at the end of the year. The remaining areas were completed in 1947.

Total houses visited	4231
Total houses infested rats	27
mice	175
Dead rats actually seen	44
Dead mice actually seen	400
Estimated kill—Rats	204
Estimated kill—Mice	1443

Houses Demolished or Closed.

During the year 24 houses have been rendered vacant by reason of the rehousing of tenants on the grounds of serious overcrowding and total unfitness of the house. All these houses are in declared slum clearance areas or are in intended clearance areas.

Fifteen of the houses have been demolished or partly demolished, 4 have been boarded up, 4 remain void and 1 has been relet.

Every opportunity is taken of soliciting the owner or agents assistance in requesting that such houses should not be relet in accordance with the instructions of the Council. In many cases it is difficult to convince them of the need for the action and in some cases the requests are ignored. In such cases the intending tenants are advised of the folly of their action in occupying an unfit house, which will in all probability be the subject of strong complaints at an early date for improvements to be made thereto, or may even be a means of trying to "jump their turn" for rehousing.

Ice Cream.

Considerable attention has been devoted to manufacture and sale of Ice Cream during the year. 20 samples have been taken and in one case where unsatisfactory results were shown, very careful investigations were made and improvements secured which had the desired result and permitted the production of a satisfactory supply.

The question of standards of cleanliness was seriously considered and suggested standards for bacteriological counts were submitted to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

There is no doubt that standards for both cleanliness and for quality of Ice Cream are urgently needed and should be introduced as soon as possible.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The standard forms of measurement as laid down by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research are still in operation. There is one Deposit Gauge situated in Hickman Park, thirteen Sulphur Deposit Gauges in various sites throughout the Borough and one comparison gauge at Tomhill Waterworks in a rural area. A Volumetric Smoke and Sulphur-Dioxide recorder is in continuous operation in the Health Department Offices. Two Ultra-Violet Ray recorders are in operation, one at the Office and one at Tomhill.

The analytical work for these instruments with the exception of those in the Office is carried out by the Chief Chemist, Mr. L. Starbuck, of Messrs. Stewart & Lloyds, through whose good offices the work is done free of charge.

The results shown by these instruments are submitted monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, where Dr. Meetham, the Superintendent of Observations, collates all reports from co-operating local authorities such as Bilston.

This enables the Department to assess the increase or decrease of pollution in the various centres throughout the country and it is the intention of the Department to seek the co-operation of all local authorities in this work. No one can accurately assess the extent of atmospheric pollution throughout the country until every local authority is carrying out these standard methods of observation.

It is only by such methods that a true picture can be obtained and at the same time know the waste of fuel actually taking place in the form of smoke. In addition the extent of the damage to buildings, vegetation and indeed life as a whole can then be accurately assessed.

So far as Bilston is concerned steps have already been taken to reduce pollution both from industrial and domestic sources.

The Council have agreed to the installation of smokeless coke burning grates for all new houses built on their estates.

Opportunity has been taken in interesting a local firm of boiler makers in the new type of firing door which eliminates smoke from handfired boilers. It is hoped that the doors will be incorporated as a standard fitting on all future boilers of this type.

Municipal Bin Ownership Scheme.

A system of Municipal Bin Ownership was instituted on the 1st April, 1946 and all owners of houses now pay an annual charge per bin per house included in the rates. New bins are then supplied free of charge wherever necessary.

This system obviates the service of notices requiring the renewal of bins and saves considerable time in visits and service of these notices.

This scheme is working satisfactorily, but as expected the demand for supply of new bins is very heavy during the initial period of operation.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Details of refuse collected and disposed of for the year are as follows :—

Dry Refuse—Ashes, etc.	7065 loads.	Approx. 12332 tons.
Miscellaneous—Trade Refuse.	280 loads.	Approx. 232 tons.

In addition to this refuse which was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Lunt Road Tip the following refuse was also delivered by private haulage :—

Trade Refuse	.....	1508 loads.
Butchers Offal	.....	908 loads
Miscellaneous	.....	1743 loads.

266 loads of Wet Refuse and Nightsoil, etc. was also collected during the year and disposed of at the Sewage Works.

Cleansing Depot.

During the year plans were approved by the Corporation for badly needed alterations at the Depot. The alterations include new garages, a modern and well equipped workshop for vehicle repairs, new stables, canteen and mess room for workpeople, and adequate sanitary accommodation and lockers for workpeople's clothing.

The first section had commenced by the end of the year.

Salvage.

The Council is still under direction to collect Paper, Rags, Bones and Kitchen Waste.

The lack of interest and general apathy is reflected in the decreased yield this year. This is a serious position in view of the urgent need to reduce imports and to conserve dollar expenditure.

Efforts are being made to intensify interest in what always was to many an irksome necessity.

The total for the various materials collected and sold are as follows :—

Paper	130 tons
Rags and Sacking	4 „
Bones	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Kitchen Waste	309 „
Ferrous Metals	53 „
Non-Ferrous Metals	10 cwts.
Bottles and Jars	21 tons
Cullet	16 „
Miscellaneous	10 cwts.