

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Bilston Borough.

Contributors

Bilston (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/g8e6ad5r>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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

November 1948.



BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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

November 1948.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bilston.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1947.

The outbreak of smallpox which commenced early in March and continued into July occupied most of my time and that of the members of my staff during that period.

The original case was a sergeant in the Army who was granted compassionate leave and was flown home from India. He left India on the 20th February and arrived in Bilston on the 24th February. He first felt slightly ill on the 1st March and developed a rash on the 6th March. He was seen by his own doctor who notified the case to me at about 4-30 p.m. on the 7th March as one of smallpox. I at once went to see the patient with his medical practitioner, and in view of the history and clinical signs also considered it as a case of smallpox. I immediately reported the case, by telephone, to the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health with a request that the patient be removed to hospital. Meantime precautions were taken in dealing with it as a case of smallpox. Later that night I was informed that it was impossible to remove the case. Arrangements were made for a Consultant to visit the case next morning to confirm the diagnosis. On the 8th March the case was seen by the Consultant who made a confident diagnosis of chickenpox. The case was treated at home. The second case was the mother of the first patient. She developed a rash on the 21st March. The case was reported by me and a Consultant visited the patient with me and he diagnosed it as chickenpox. This case was also treated at home.

The third case was a young man of 21 years, who had been in contact with the 1st case. He developed a rash on the 25th March. The case was reported as usual and consultants visited him with me. Specimens were taken from this case and also from Case No. 2 and were sent for laboratory investigation. A preliminary report sent by telegram from the laboratory on 1st April suggested that the condition was smallpox. Further experts were called in and at a conference held on 3rd April it was decided on reliable clinical opinion that all three cases were chickenpox.

The fourth and fifth cases occurred on the same day. The mother and brother of the 3rd case developed rashes on the 8th April. The consultant who was called in diagnosed both these cases as smallpox.

The confirmatory reports on the laboratory investigations on the 2nd and 3rd cases left no doubt that these were also smallpox.

The smallpox hospital was opened on the 9th April and the 3rd, 4th and 5th cases were removed to it. The first two cases had recovered by this time.

The sixth case was the grandmother of the original case. She had been in close contact with the first and second cases and developed a very severe form (haemorrhagic) smallpox. The rash appeared on the night of the 10th April. Her condition deteriorated so rapidly that she died before removal to hospital.

The seventh and eight cases were taken ill on the same day. They were the father and sister of the original case and developed rashes on the 11th April. They were removed to hospital after a confirmatory diagnosis was made by a consultant.

There were eight cases in this first group.

Despite careful investigations as to contacts and the daily surveillance of the known ones subsequent groups of cases developed.

The second group was made up of 4 cases.

The first was a man aged 70 years. The rash appeared on the 29th April. He was removed to hospital on the 30th April after the diagnosis was confirmed by a Consultant.

He was gravely ill and died on the 2nd May.

The source of infection in this case was unknown.

The other three cases were all residents in the same house as the original case in this group. His wife and son-in-law developed rashes on the 11th May and were removed to hospital the same day. Another resident in this house developed a rash on the 13th May. She was also removed to hospital after a confirmatory diagnosis had been made by a Consultant.

The third group consisted of 4 cases. The first case in this group was a woman aged 27 years who developed a rash on the 12th May which was diagnosed and notified as scarlet fever. She was admitted to hospital on the 16th May as a severe type (haemorrhagic) smallpox and died the same day. The source of infection in this case was unknown. The remaining three cases were the mother and two younger sisters of the previous case. The mother's rash appeared on the 31st May and she was removed to hospital that day. The final diagnosis in this was haemorrhagic smallpox. She died on the

5th June. The next case was a girl aged 14 years. Her rash appeared on the 31st May and she was removed to hospital. The youngest girl aged 12 years developed a rash on the 1st June and was admitted to hospital.

The fourth group was limited to one case. This was a girl of 11 years whose rash appeared on the 19th May. She was immediately removed to hospital. The source of infection was unknown. The patient was seen by me at about 1 p.m. on the 19th May when she had only two small suspicious looking spots, but when seen by the Consultants and myself between 4 and 4-30 p.m. that day presented a typical picture of smallpox. The interesting feature in this case was although she lived in grossly overcrowded conditions yet there were no known contact cases from this source.

The fifth group was also limited to one case. The patient was a woman aged 39 years. Her rash appeared on the 4th June and she was removed to hospital that day. The source of infection in this case was unknown. Her elderly parents who had been in close contact with her and had not been vaccinated since infancy, were successfully revaccinated on the 4th June and did not contract the disease.

The sixth group was made up of two cases. The first was a man aged 61 years. His rash appeared on 13th June. The case was first seen on the 15th June by a consultant and myself. The diagnosis was in doubt and he was visited daily. On the 17th June the rash developed rapidly and he was admitted to hospital that day. The final diagnosis was copious discrete smallpox. The source of infection was unknown. The other case was the wife of the previous patient. Her rash appeared on the 28th June and she was removed to hospital.

The seventh group consisted of three cases. The first case was a boy aged 7 years. His rash appeared on the 20th June and he was admitted to hospital that day. The patient was very ill and developed a severe form of smallpox. He died on the 2nd July. The source of infection was unknown. The other two cases in this group were a brother aged 11 years and a sister aged 2 years of the former case. These two had a modified form of smallpox and both recovered.

The eighth group was confined to one case. The patient was a boy of 10 years who developed a rash on the 2nd July and was removed to hospital on the 3rd July. The final diagnosis was a highly modified form of smallpox. He was discharged from hospital on the 15th July. The source of infection in this case was unknown.

The number of cases notified as smallpox was 29. 24 cases were confirmed as smallpox.

A list of the confirmed cases is given in Table II, page 19.

All possible steps were taken to obtain lists of contacts, who were kept under daily surveillance for a period of 21 days to cover any possibility of a prolonged incubation period in vaccinated or modified cases.

The number of contacts gradually increased to such an extent that it was impossible for our staff of Sanitary Inspectors to deal with them. Dr. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health, very kindly sent us one of his Sanitary Inspectors to help in this work. In the later stages of the outbreak the contacts numbered between 1,000 and 2,000 and to cope with this, considerable help was given by the Army Authorities who sent a field hygiene unit to help in the daily visitations.

Vaccination was offered to all known contacts, and a special clinic was opened to facilitate the work of the public vaccinators. All contacts received three incisions. No endeavour was made to advocate mass vaccination, as it was felt that the protection of known contacts was the important factor. However, by the middle of May the public became alarmed at the continued incidence of cases, and the demand for vaccination became so great that assistant Medical Officers of Staffordshire County Council had to be called upon to act as deputies for the public vaccinator.

All Staff in any way connected with the cases were vaccinated at six-weekly intervals, as it was felt that a virus of very high virulence was responsible for the outbreak.

Chickenpox was made a notifiable disease from 19th May through Section 147 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, being brought into operation. All cases were visited by Dr. C. Simpson Smith and myself and several adult cases remained suspect until proved negative.

A small disused infectious diseases hospital was opened by the Smallpox Board and staffed by volunteers. Although the hospital was situated in Bilston the distribution of the cases gave no evidence of aerial spread.

The difficulties experienced at the beginning of the outbreak would have lead one to expect even further cases to have arisen owing to the overcrowded conditions and the comparatively large number of unvaccinated persons in this area. The early removal of patients as well as the vaccination and daily surveillance of contacts were probably contributory facts in limiting the outbreak. Mild missed cases would probably explain the unknown factors in the spread of the outbreak.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health for their kindness, help and advice. I am indebted to Dr. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy, Dr. Settle, for their willingness in giving me every possible assistance. I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. C. Simpson Smith, County Assistant Medical Officer, for his able services rendered me while on special duty in Bilston. I could have asked for no better colleague. I am deeply grateful to the Army Authorities through the A.D.M.S. at Mid-West District Headquarters for their help at a very trying time. I wish to record my thanks to the Wednesbury Health Department for their co-operation in undertaking the steam disinfection of the bedding and clothing of patients. I am also grateful to the Medical Superintendent, Matron and Staff of Moxley Hospital for their help and consideration given me at all times. I must also thank the Medical Practitioners for their co-operation during this very worrying period.

I do appreciate the assistance given by the Works Managers in the district in notifying absences from duty of contacts.

I am very conscious of the great and willing help given me by Councillor R. Abbott, Chairman of the Health Committee.

I have nothing but praise for every member of my loyal staff who voluntarily assisted in every possible way. Mr. Sheldon, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, did excellent work and was untiring in his efforts which were of invaluable help to me.

It must be pointed out that the members of the staff worked very long hours and for practically seven days a week over this long period.

I have not had an opportunity before of expressing my regret at the retirement through illness in 1946 of my colleague, Mr. F. Barnett, and do hope he enjoys better health and happiness in the future.

I thank you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, most sincerely for the courtesy and consideration which you have shown me during the year.

I extend my thanks to the Town Clerk and all officials of the Corporation for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. C. HALLER,

Medical Officer of Health

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.)

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

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :
J. R. TART, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
L. D. ASHWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
H. T. HODGSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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 :
Miss M. J. Corbett.
Miss R. P. Sheffield, (Appointed 1.4.47).
Mrs. J. A. Bright.
Miss J. Mosley (Resigned December, 1947)
Mrs. R. Stacey.
C. J. Pearce.
A. Dowdeswell (H.M. Forces)
E. R. Whittingham.

PART TIME OFFICERS :
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :
JANE A. NAGLE, M.B., B.Ch.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC :
H. CAMPBELL ORR, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow).

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area	1,890 acres
Population : 1931 Census	31,248
Estimated Population for Year	31,710
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses for the year	7,948
Rateable Value	£137,059

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Live Births	887	445	442	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 27.97
(Legitimate)	860	436	424	
(Illegitimate)	27	9	18	
Still Births	14	7	7	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths) 28.41

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Deaths	375	226	149	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.82

Comparability Factor : Not available for 1947.

Deaths from Puerperal Cases :—

(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	59.75
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	59.30
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	74.07
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49
,, Measles (all ages)	1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	6

Details of the Births in each Ward are given in Table 1, and particulars of the last five years in Table 2.

TABLE 1.

Ward	Males	Females	Total
New Town	72	52	124
High Town	25	20	45
Town Hall	145	130	275
Bradley	53	53	106
Ettingshall	61	63	124
Out of District	89	124	213
Total	445	442	887

TABLE 2.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000
1947	445	442	887	27.97
1946	378	291	669	21.42
1945	278	275	553	18.23
1944	327	305	632	20.64
1943	329	319	648	21.18

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	33	62
High Town	8	4	12
Town Hall	34	31	65
Bradley	27	9	36
Ettingshall	38	23	61
Out of District	90	49	139
Total	226	149	375

TABLE 4.

Year	Deaths			Death Rate per 1,000
	Males	Females	Total	
1947	226	149	375	11.82
1946	206	171	377	12.08
1945	172	180	352	11.61
1944	182	147	329	10.74
1943	191	156	347	11.34

TABLE 5.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	36	17	53
1 and under 2 years	2	3	5
2 and under 5 years	1	2	3
5 and under 15 years	6	1	7
15 and under 25 years	5	5	10
25 and under 45 years	22	17	49
45 and under 65 years	58	30	88
65 and under 80 years	74	53	127
80 years and upwards	22	21	43
Total	226	149	375

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	13	8	21
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	3	1	4
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	1	4	5
Measles	1	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	32	17	49
Diabetes	2	3	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	5	17	22
Heart Disease	51	32	83
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	4	11
Bronchitis	20	5	25
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	8	24
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	1	6
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	5	—	5
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	5	1	6
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	3	6
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	4	3	7
Congenital Debility, Malformation, etc.	10	6	16
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents	1	2	3
Other Violent Causes	4	3	7
All other Causes	32*	26†	58
TOTAL	226	149	375

*—includes 2 smallpox.

†—includes 3 smallpox.

TABLE 7.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1947. 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	20.5	23.3	22.2	27.97
Still	0.5	0.62	0.49	0.44
Deaths :				
All Causes	12.0	13.0	11.9	11.82
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	0.03
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.16
Smallpox	—	—	—	0.16
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
Rates per 1,000 live births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	41.00	47.00	36.00	59.75
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	0.19
Rates per 1,000 Population				
Notifications :				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.31
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	2.40
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.33
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.09
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.06
Smallpox	—	—	0.01	0.75
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	11.82
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	1.48
Rates per 1,000 (live and still) Births				
Notifications :				
{ Puerperal Fever —				
{ Puerperal Pyrexia—	7.16	8.99	6.27	0.06

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 on Friday morning and afternoon.

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

The attendances for 1947 were :—

New Cases	.....	570
Re-visits	.....	2,114

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	..... 662	2,060
Children over 1 year	..... —	5,644
Ante-Natal Cases	..... 208	230
Tuberculosis Cases	..... 57	394

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	2,348	1,642	2,647
Babies	2,047	1,264	2,269
Toddlers	157	233	182
New Cases			
Babies	169	129	193
Toddlers	11	19	18

Infantile Mortality :

The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 53 giving an infantile mortality rate of 59.75 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
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteritis	6	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	—
Congenital Malformation	11	4	—	1	3	2	—	—	1
Premature Birth	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	14	—	—	—	1	4	6	3	—
Convulsions	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sinus Thrombosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Precipitated Labour	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Want of Attention at Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	53	16	3	1	4	12	10	5	2

TABLE 9.

Ward	Males	Females	Total
New Town	7	5	12
High Town	—	1	1
Town Hall	2	1	3
Bradley	5	1	6
Ettingshall	7	1	8
Out of District	15	8	23
Total	36	17	53

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held on three afternoons each week.

The number of Children immunised during the year is as follows :—

Children under 5 years of age	405
Children over 5 and under 15 years	153

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who had completed a Full Course of Immunisation at any time up to 31.12.47.

Age at 31.12.47	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15
<i>i.e.</i> Born in year :—	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-1942	1931-1937	
Number Immunised	—	156	248	343	300	2,058	1,761	4,866

Scabies.

Five Clinics are held weekly at the Cleansing Station rear of 23, Wellington Road. The total number of cases treated was 239, 27 adults, 32 toddlers, 180 school children.

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 disinfection 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—5 years. It is open daily from 7-45 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the average daily attendance was 39.

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.

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

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers :

190 priority docketts were issued to 380 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 10 bacteriological samples were taken : 2 from the Rising Main at the Bratch, 2 from the Covered Reservoirs at Coton Road, 2 from Tomhill Waterworks and 4 from private supplies in the town.

Housing, Clearance Areas and Overcrowding.

Referred to in Joint Housing Report.

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	Total Cases Confirmed	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	76	76	42	—
Whooping Cough	74	74	2	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	—
Measles	377	375	1	1
Diphtheria	3	3	3	1
Pneumonia	48	47	3	24
Dysentery	2	2	1	—
Smallpox	29	24	21	5
Erysipelas	2	2	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	66	66	—	—

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.

TABLE II.
SMALLPOX CASES

Case No.	Sex	Age	Source of Infection	Removed to Hospital	Final Diagnosis	Result
Group 1 (8 cases)						
1	M	23	India	No.	Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
2	F	50	Son (Case 1)	No.	Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
3	M	21	Case 1	Yes	Semi-confluent Smallpox	Recovered
4	F	48	Son (Case 3)	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Recovered
5	M	17	Brother (Case 3)	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Recovered
6	F	79	Grandson (Case 1)	No (Died before removal)	Haemorrhagic Smallpox	Died
7	M	51	Son or Wife (Case 1 or 2)	Yes	Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
8	F	19	Brother or Mother (Case 1 or 2)	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 2 (4 cases)						
9	M	70	Unknown	Yes	Haemorrhagic Smallpox	Died
10	F	64	Husband (Case 9)	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Recovered
11	M	30	Case 9	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Recovered
12	F	41	Case 10	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 3 (4 cases)						
13	F	27	Unknown	Yes	Haemorrhagic Smallpox	Died
14	F	49	Daughter (Case 13)	Yes	Haemorrhagic Smallpox	Died
15	F	14	Sister (Case 13)	Yes	Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
16	F	12	Sister (Case 13)	Yes	Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 4 (1 case)						
17	F	11	Unknown	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Recovered
Group 5 (1 case)						
18	F	39	Unknown	Yes	Moderate discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 6 (2 cases)						
19	M	61	Unknown	Yes	Copius. discrete Smallpox	Recovered
20	F	61	Husband (Case 19)	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 7 (3 cases)						
21	M	7	Unknown	Yes	Confluent Smallpox	Died
22	M	11	Unknown	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
23	F	2	Unknown	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered
Group 8 (1 case)						
24	M	10	Unknown	Yes	Very Mild discrete Smallpox	Recovered

Tuberculosis.

TABLE 12.

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 " 	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 " 	2	1	-	2	-	1	1	1
15 " 	6	6	3	-	2	1	1	-
25 " 	10	4	-	-	3	3	-	-
35 " 	4	1	-	-	3	3	-	-
45 " 	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 " 	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 " 	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	30	16	3	3	13	8	3	1

**JOINT HOUSING REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH AND THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1947.**

The number of occupied houses or flats at the 31st December, 1947 was estimated to be 7,994, of which 2,906 have been built or adapted by the Council. Included in this figure of 2,906 houses or flats built or converted by the Council, are 100 prefabricated Arcon bungalows and 27 premises either requisitioned or converted premises which have been adapted as flats for use as living accommodation.

The number of new houses built in 1947 was 110. 94 of these were built by the Council. Contracts for 488 new houses were in hand by the end of the year, of which 432 houses had been commenced and 94 completed.

Houses Demolished or Rendered Uninhabitable.

Only 4 houses were demolished or rendered void and uninhabitable during the year.

These houses were rendered vacant by the rehousing of the tenants due to unsatisfactory housing conditions and/or serious overcrowding, which placed the occupants high in the priority grouping system in operation for the allocation of new houses.

The houses demolished or rendered uninhabitable are in declared slum clearance areas and it would have been impossible at reasonable expense to make them at all habitable even for a limited period.

Demolition Orders in respect of 15 houses have been made during the year, but the rehousing of the tenants in order that demolition or rendering the house completely uninhabitable could proceed has not taken place. The houses were considered in each case to be unfit for occupation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense.

Clearance Areas.

No further progress has been possible with the nine Clearance Areas, affecting 1,504 houses declared in 1945.

It is tragic to realise that these and hundreds more houses in equally bad conditions, but not yet in Declared Clearance Areas, have to remain occupied for an unknown period. These houses were slums in 1939 and would have been dealt with had the war not intervened.

It is not to be wondered at that such houses are often badly kept and even unclean. This applies especially to the younger inhabitants who have no incentive to improve their standards of health and cleanliness owing to the lack of facilities under which to work.

It is a fallacy to say that what was good enough for my father is good enough for me. The younger generation expect better conditions as a mark of sound progress. The standard laid down in the Housing Act by which such houses can be judged means little to many owners or agents of properties. A better method of judgment for the latter would be whether or not they themselves would be content to live in such houses.

It is grossly unfair to use the present shortage of houses as an argument for the retention and re-inhabiting of slum properties. If the houses do not conform to the standards laid down and such amenities they lack cannot be provided at reasonable expense, then demolition is the only sensible and reasonable course to adopt.

A report upon Housing Conditions was submitted and accepted in September, 1946. That report lists, in addition to the 1,504 houses already declared as slums, a further 722 houses which should be dealt with in a similar manner.

The estimated number of houses required in the next 10 years is 4,000.

To replace unfit houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,800
To abate overcrowding and provide for families requiring separate homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	600
To provide for natural increase	.....	.....	.....	.....	600

These figures are taken from the same report accepted by the Council.

These facts are given not with any sense of pride or even arrogance, but with the honest desire to face a difficult problem and if possible find a sound solution. We have had the good sense to discover the true facts, which is more than many can say, and it is within our power to face these facts and find a remedy.

Overcrowding.

The number of applications during the year to the Health Department for consideration for recommendations for priority in accordance with the grouping system was 562.

The grouping system as evolved in the Health Department is as follows :—

- Group 1. Tuberculosis cases.
- Group 1A. Dangerous houses, or homeless persons for temporary accommodation as and when available.
- Group 2. Unfit house with official overcrowding.
- Group 3. Unfit house with overcrowded bedroom or bed-living room, or cases supported by medical evidence.
- Group 3A. Unfit house.
- Group 4. Officially overcrowded fit house.
- Group 5. Overcrowded bedroom in fit house.
- Group 6. Families requiring separate living accommodation or separation of sexes.

Applicants who have taken up residence in vacated slum houses receive no consideration for recommendation or grouping for a period of two years or until such time as the general housing position has eased.

The grouping system, on the whole, has worked well. One great difficulty of the system is, however, encountered in dealing with childless married couples, or married couples with one child or two children of the same sex. These families can only be grouped for a one or two bedroom type of house depending upon whether there are children. Such a system obviously makes the total number of one and two bedroom type houses needed seem very large and greatly in excess of the actual number that should be built. No family should be allocated or granted such a house unless they are over child-bearing age.

As and when changes in size of families occur, e.g. by the birth of additional children, so amendments are made in the number of bedrooms required, but this policy only eases the position very slightly. Many couples rightly refuse to have children without proper housing accommodation and this in turn gives rise to a serious position. Many childless couples desiring children will never receive consideration for a house for years to come and by that time their desire for a family may have disappeared or age may have denied them the right. This is a matter of grave concern and a responsibility too serious to contemplate upon here.

The number of recommendations made year by year up to the end of December, 1947 is as follows :—

TABLE 13

	Group						Bedrooms						Group						Bedrooms						Group						Bedrooms																																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6																								
1945	51	-	18	23	6	2	4	11	49	10	1	-	39	-	15	22	2	-	3	1	1	1	1	-	3	1	1	1	1	-	3A	1	2	3	4	5	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	-	3	1	1	1	1	-											
1946	25	1	14	10	-	-	4	16	20	3	3	-	81	5	41	33	2	-	81	5	41	33	2	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-						
1947	42	7	17	12	5	1	7	14	48	10	3	-	195	34	75	82	4	-	195	34	75	82	4	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-
Total	118	8	49	45	11	3	15	41	117	23	7	-	315	39	131	137	8	-	315	39	131	137	8	-	13	5	7	1	-	-	13	5	7	1	-	-	13	5	7	1	-	-	13	5	7	1	-	-	13	5	7	1	-	-	13	5	7	1	-	-						

	Group						Bedrooms						Group						Bedrooms						Total R'dat-tions																											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6																
1945	53	12	26	12	2	1	3	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	232	20	73	113	20	4	2	232	20	73	113	20	4	2	232	20	73	113	20	4	2	232	20	73	113	20	4	2
1946	84	7	59	15	2	1	12	29	14	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	296	31	162	92	7	4	-	296	31	162	92	7	4	-	296	31	162	92	7	4	-	296	31	162	92	7	4	-
1947	106	25	62	15	2	1	31	61	19	1	-	-	19	11	4	4	-	-	19	11	4	4	-	-	562	118	236	181	21	5	1	562	118	236	181	21	5	1	562	118	236	181	21	5	1	562	118	236	181	21	5	1
Total	243	44	147	42	6	3	46	92	39	1	-	-	20	12	4	4	-	-	20	12	4	4	-	-	1090	169	471	386	48	13	3	1090	169	471	386	48	13	3	1090	169	471	386	48	13	3	1090	169	471	386	48	13	3

The number of recommendations cancelled by the removal of tenants either on their own behalf or by the Corporation, or by reason of changed circumstances, is as follows :—

TABLE 14

	Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms					
		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
1945	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	3A	1	2	3	4	5	6
	21	-	1	17	3	-	-	15	2	-	13	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1946	15	-	12	3	-	-	-	14	-	7	7	-	-	-	30	-	23	7	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1947	24	4	6	14	-	-	-	30	3	5	19	3	-	-	42	9	6	27	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	60	4	19	34	3	-	-	57	5	12	37	3	-	-	78	9	29	39	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-

	Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Total R'dat-ions						
		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6							
1945	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
	9	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	3	3	39	6	-	-
1946	18	1	15	2	-	-	-	6	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	2	62	20	-	-	-
1947	16	5	4	6	1	-	-	14	1	7	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	128	23	29	71	5	-	-
Total	43	7	21	12	3	-	-	20	2	11	6	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	263	28	94	130	11	-	-

Details of how cancellations were made :—

TABLE 15

	Moved by Corporation							TENANTS MOVED THEMSELVES											
								Into Corporation Houses						Into Non-Corporation Houses					
	Groups							Groups						Groups					
	1	2	3	3A	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
1945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	11	5	6	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-
1946	4	8	20	1	8	5	-	3	2	7	5	-	-	3	3	1	1	-	-
1947	5	7	12	-	-	1	-	12	13	24	4	3	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Total	9	15	32	1	8	6	-	34	26	36	15	3	-	3	6	3	3	2	-

	TENANTS MOVED THEMSELVES																	
	Into Requisitioned Flats						Into Lodgings											
							In Corporation Houses						In Non-Corporation Houses					
	Groups						Groups						Groups					
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1946	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
1947	1	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	3	4	3	-	1	-
Total	2	1	4	3	-	-	1	-	3	4	-	-	1	3	5	3	-	1

	Out of District						Cancellations						Cancellations						TOTALS
	Or Address Unknown						By Death						By Other Causes						
	Groups						Groups						Groups						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1945	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
1946	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
1947	2	3	2	4	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	128
Total	2	6	3	6	5	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	263

TABLE 16

The number of houses of the various types required to cover the outstanding recommendations at the year end is as follow :—

Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms												
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6							
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	3A	1	2	3	4	5	6
58	4	30	11	8	3	2	146	10	29	80	20	7	-	237	30	102	98	7	-	-	11	5	5	1	-	-	-
Total																											

Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Total R'dations	Bedrooms												
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6							
4	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
200	37	126	30	3	3	1	158	44	81	33	-	-	-	19	11	4	4	-	-	-	827	141	377	256	37	13	3
Total																											

SUMMARY

Houses required at 31st December, 1947

1 Bedroom	141
2	377
3	256
4	37
5	13
6	3
	<u>827</u>

Welfare of Tenants.

A disturbing feature of council house estates is the number of tenants who either cannot or will not avail themselves of the facilities or amenities provided for them.

This is particularly the case when tenants are removed from slum properties and placed in new houses containing, to them, such modern equipment as electric lights, fires, gas cookers, coke burning grates or stoves. Such appliances are often complete mysteries and how the tenants can be expected to use them intelligently without instruction or supervision for a period is beyond understanding. There is a tendency to condemn them for their failure to respond to their new environment, but is it fair to expect such a complete change to be satisfactory without tactful supervision and instruction ?

This can be done only by properly (Octavia Hill) trained Female Welfare Officers. With a rapidly approaching total of 3,000 council houses there is an urgent need for at least one if not two such officers. The expenditure involved would be repaid time and time again in the reduction in maintenance costs in the houses and in the expenditure necessitated in the eventual disinfection of houses from time to time.

Housing Repairs.

All housing repairs have been executed by notices served under the Public Health Act and dealt with as nuisances requiring abatement.

At the present stage it is considered unwise to undertake large scale schemes of reconditioning in view of any decisions of the Ministry with regard to Slum Clearance.

Details of actual works executed can be seen in Table 1 of the Chief Sanitary Inspectors report and it will be noted that considerable repairs have been undertaken during the year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Bilston.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report upon the Sanitary and Cleansing Services of the Borough.

The report is divided into two sections, one dealing with the Sanitary Services, details of which are for the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1947 and the second section, Public Cleansing, including Street Cleansing, details of which are for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1948.

Sanitary Section.

This year, my first in control of the Sanitary Section, proved to be one in the nature of a test of endurance and ability, because in that time we experienced a rather serious outbreak of Smallpox. There is no duty more exacting in operation, calling for tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty than the controlling and elimination of such an outbreak of disease.

Fortunately, although we had a depleted staff of Inspectors, they displayed a complete disregard of personal inconvenience. By solid teamwork, the ready and willing co-operation of County Inspectors, and the willing assistance of the Military Authorities, who loaned a Field Hygiene Unit of the R.A.M.C. when events were really at a serious stage, the outbreak was eliminated.

This outbreak, not unnaturally completely disorganised the routine work of the department, but I feel that the number of inspections made as shown in Table 1. reflect great credit on the department.

In addition to normal routine work, a survey of business premises was made, in an endeavour to find any available accommodation which could be converted into suitable living accommodation for some of the families in urgent need.

Out of the 185 premises visited and inspected eleven were considered worthy of some attention and this list was submitted to the Housing Committee for consideration. The majority have since been requisitioned and converted into flats.

Particular attention has been directed, during the year, to the control and extermination of rodents. The team of trained operatives have completed a comprehensive survey of the Borough with special consideration for domestic infestations. Details are included under this heading in the report.

It has been possible to give detailed consideration to the production of milk at one of the two cowsheds in the Borough. Both these sheds are far from satisfactory in that their design and condition are very poor. Repeated mention has been made of these in previous reports, and at last as a result of a series of unsatisfactory milk samples taken from one of the cowsheds by the County Council, the opportunity to take definite action was provided.

The inadequacy of the premises was proved and as the cow-keeper could not bring the premises up to standard he decided to cease production.

As a result of complaints made, a survey of Licensed Premises commenced during the latter months of the year. Particular attention was directed to the cleanliness of glasses and other utensils, and the methods of sterilization, especially during rush hours.

Details of Improvements and Repairs effected are given in Table III and detailed information as to the various duties carried out by the department are given under the respective headings.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection

A complete reorganisation of the work under this heading has been possible since the appointment of a Foreman in April and later with the appointment of a Cleansing Inspector in December, to replace the Inspector who died some months previously, a more efficient and systematic check could be made upon the work of collectors, tipmen, street sweepers, etc.

Despite labour difficulties and shortages, vehicle breakdowns due to age, it has been possible, with reorganisation to maintain a weekly collection of refuse.

In an endeavour to ensure the renewal of worn out vehicles, and to make the necessary allowances in obtaining delivery of vehicles, three modern refuse collection vehicles, with loaders compartments, have been ordered for delivery over a period of three years.

The four gangs of refuse collectors are at the present time practically working to capacity and it is envisaged that during the latter months of 1948, when a good number of new houses will be occupied, a further gang of collectors will be necessary to maintain a regular weekly collection of refuse.

Salvage

Another branch of Public Cleansing, which although started as a wartime necessity, now appears to be an equally vital function in peacetime, is Salvage Collections.

The brunt of the collection, especially from houses, falls upon refuse collectors. Special trailers are attached to all refuse vehicles and with the provision of small sacks for house-holders personal use it is possible to maintain regular collections so essential if any scheme of recovery is to succeed.

A separate collection of paper is maintained from shops and business premises, and of course a separate collection of kitchen waste is still in operation.

With reference to kitchen waste, it was decided to substitute small closed containers for individual householders' use in lieu of the objectionable communal street storage bins. This is a step taken in the right direction as the street bins are unhygienic and a source of unceasing complaints. The small containers were received in March and arrangements were immediately made for their distribution.

There is one disturbing feature about all forms of salvage, and that is the lack of interest and co-operation between householders, shopkeepers and the employees of this Authority responsible for the collections.

Neither show a sustained interest or in any way complete co-operation. There is a marked apathy on all sides and this attitude is reflected in the amount of salvage recovered.

Street Cleansing

As from the 1st April the functions of street cleansing were transferred to the Cleansing Department.

A very mixed assortment of orderly trucks, an old cart, one horse, together with the existing gully emptying machine were received. Many of the employees transferred were very old men obviously incapable of regular work.

As a result of a report submitted and considered, a new gully emptying machine, a mechanical street sweeper collector, and a new lorry for collection of other sweepings were immediately ordered.

The methods and systems of cleansing were reorganised and younger men employed where possible. Orderly trucks have been overhauled and with the arrival of the mechanical sweeper in August, a great improvement is shown in the field of street cleansing.

One difficulty proved impossible to overcome in that the gully emptier was fully engaged in cesspool emptying and could not devote any time to its originally intended function of gully cleansing.

Manual emptying, involving the dumping of gully contents on to the street and shovelling into a cart, is a system that cannot be tolerated and so arrangements were made for the mechanical gully emptier to work overtime on gully cleansing during the summer months when daylight was available.

Later a contract was placed for the loan of an old machine and it was possible to carry out regular cleansing.

Disposal.

Up to December all dry refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Lunt Tip, but after that date this work was transferred to a new tip on the new Playing Field off Great Bridge Road.

Here it was necessary to fill a large hole at one end of the field in order to complete the whole at one level.

With the assistance of bulldozers it was possible to gain access to the bottom of the hole and the process of disposal in approved layers by controlled tipping was well in hand at the end of March, 1948.

To the staff and employees I tender my sincere and grateful thanks for their loyal and wholehearted support during the year. Particularly would I mention the help I received from all engaged in the Smallpox outbreak, and to those too, who during that time carried on with other important work, such as Cleansing, despite my inability to render them my absolute support and help on every occasion.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I tender my sincere appreciation of the support given to me during the year,

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. ERIC S. SHELDON,
*Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

TABLE 1:

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

VISITS	Inspections	Re-inspections	Total
Dwelling Houses.			
Routine	200	515	715
Complaints	1,117	1,136	2,253
Overcrowding	893	282	1,175
Dirty Condition	38	4	42
Rent Restriction Act	8	4	12
Disinfected	95	135	230
Disinfested	71	104	175
Rodent Control	4,630	4,639	9,269
Infectious Diseases	61	3	64
Smallpox Contacts (San. Inspectors) (R.A.M.C.)	670	4,307 } 3,013 }	7,990
Other Premises			
Licensed Premises	27		27
Houses let in lodgings	5		5
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites	107	38	145
Common Lodging Houses	2		2
Schools	5		5
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	25		25
Factories (Manual Power)	15		15
Bakehouses	38		38
Cowsheds	7		7
Dairies	14		14
Premises—Bottled Milk	5		5
Ice-cream Manufacturers	15		15
Retailers	22		22
Slaughterhouses	115		115
Private or emergency slaughter of animals	44		44
Offensive Trades—Fried Fish Shops	18	12	30
Food preparing premises	105	11	116
Ice Stores	3		3
Market—Visits	109		109
Meat Stalls	203		203
Other Food Stalls	288		288
Shops re Meat and Food	242		242
Others	61		61
Rodent Control	118	18	136
Warehouses	2		2
Public Conveniences	9		9
Stables	3		3
Premises re Swine, Fowl and etc.	58	9	67
Premises re Offensive accumulations	14		14
Drains Tested	226	3	229
Sewers—Inspected	17		17
Street Gullies Inspected	54		54
Visits to Canal re Boats	68		68
Smoke Observations—General	706	4	710
Special	23		23
Cinemas and Theatres	6		6
Water Samples—Bacteriological	10		10
Miscellaneous Visits	169		169
Cleansing and Salvage Visits	619		619

The number of inspections of all kinds made was 11,360 and the number of re-inspections 14,237, giving a grand total of 25,607 inspections and visits made during the year.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,320. 659 in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 661 in respect of choked drains and water closets.

All complaints were visited and the necessary action taken to secure abatement of nuisances where necessary.

Defects Found and Notices Served.

As a result of inspections made a total of 2,228 defects were found, 2,106 of which were affecting 1,095 houses, and 122 affecting 60 other premises.

To remedy the defects or nuisances found a total of 884 notices were served during the year, being made up as follows :—

Informal Notices	.....	618
Statutory Notices	.....	266

Of these, 878 were served upon owners or agents, and 6 upon occupiers of premises.

Details of the Statutory Notices served are as follows :—

TABLE II

	Issued	Complied by Owner	Complied by Council	Justices Order	Not Complied
Sec. 92-93 Public Health Act, 1936	265	196	—	2	69
Sec. 39 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	266	197	—	2	69

It has been necessary to institute Legal Proceedings on seven occasions during the year in order to obtain compliance with Legal Notices.

In five instances the cases were withdrawn on the day of hearing, owing to the work being put in hand between the service of the summons and the day of hearing.

In the other two cases Court Orders were made upon the defendants and a fine was imposed on one case as an additional penalty.

Sanitary Improvements Made and Defects Remedied.

Sanitary Improvements.

The total number of improvements made in compliance with notices served was 3,551. 3,369 in connection with houses and 182 in connection with other premises.

Details of improvements are given below :—

TABLE III

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal.

Ventilation improved	1
New windows provided	9
Old windows repaired	102
Window Cords renewed	35
Dampness in walls remedied	30
Plaster of walls repaired	121
Plaster of ceilings repaired	170
Floors repaired	48
New fireplaces provided	1
Old fireplaces repaired	19
Ovens provided	5
Doors repaired	8
Skirting boards repaired	3
Hand basins provided	1

Staircases

Steps provided/repared	8
Guard rails provided	2
Guard rails repaired	2
Plaster of walls repaired	14
Plaster of ceilings repaired	11

Sculleries and Wash-houses.

Windows repaired	2
Window cords renewed	1
Plaster of walls repaired	5
Plaster of ceilings repaired	2
New sinks provided	1
Old sinks repaired	10
Waste pipes trapped	7
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	12
Wash-coppers provided	6
Wash-coppers repaired	13
Floors repaired	3
Doors repaired	2
Roofs repaired	7
Spouting repaired	2
Water supply provided	2
Walls repaired	1

Cellars.

Steps repaired	1
Drainage provided	1
Grating provided	1

External.

Roofs repaired	322
Eave-spouts provided or repaired	157
Down-spouts provided or repaired	60
Down-spouts disconnected from drain	1
Walls repaired and/or re-pointed	87
Chimney stacks repaired and/or re-pointed	68
Doors repaired	11
Steps repaired	1
Painting	6
Boundary walls repaired	1

General.

Yard paving repaired	1
Yard drainage installed	1
Houses cleansed	7

Outbuildings.**Coal Stores.**

Roofs repaired	4
Down-spouts provided or repaired	1
Walls repaired and/or re-pointed	2

Water Closets.

Roofs repaired	22
Eave-spouts provided or repaired	10
Down-spouts provided or repaired	8
Walls repaired or re-pointed	24
Doors repaired	8
New cisterns fixed or repaired	31
New pedestals and seats provided or repaired	48
Soil-pipes repaired	5
Cleansed or limewashed	1
Water supply provided	9
Additional water closets provided	1
Floors repaired	1

Waste Water Closets.

Converted into standard water closets	1
---	---

Ashbins.

Renewals	720
Provided for new houses	56
Provided for other premises	52

Drains.

Repaired or relaid	46
Cleansed	661
Ventilated	1
Inspection chambers built or repaired	16
Self cleansing gullies provided	7

Public Conveniences.	
Repaired	1
Infested Premises.	
Freed from vermin	57
Freed from rats	175
Freed from mice	74
Premises made rat-proof	3
Offensive Accumulations.	
Removed	7
Animals so kept as a Nuisance.	
Nuisances abated	4
Tents, vans, sheds and sites.	
Removed	49
Schools.	
Disinfected	3
Factories (Mechanical Power).	
Conveniences cleansed and/or limewashed	5
Conveniences—intervening ventilated space provided	2
Conveniences—other improvements	2
Food Preparing Premises.	
Cleansed or limewashed	8
Other improvements	4
Stables.	
Cleansed	3
Drainage provided/repaired/improved	1
Manure pits provided/repaired/improved	2
Cinemas and Theatres.	
Conveniences cleansed	1
Atmospheric Pollution.	
Nuisances abated	1
Additions to plant or improvements	2
Bakehouses.	
Cleansed or limewashed	2
Other improvements	2
Dairies.	
Discontinued	1
Slaughterhouses.	
Cleansed/limewashed	3
Fried Fish Shops.	
Cleansed/limewashed	2
Storage receptacles provided	1
Accumulations removed	2
Other improvements	7

TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED OR IMPROVEMENTS MADE	3,551
In connection with houses	3,369
In connection with other premises	182

Sanitary Accommodation.

Arising out of a report submitted by my predecessor in September, 1946, reconsideration has been given to the section dealing with inadequate sanitary accommodation at 93 houses in the Borough. These properties have either pail closets or privies.

Many are slum houses, ready at the earliest possible moment for demolition (there are 28 such houses on the Rough Hills estate) and it would therefore not be reasonable to ask for the conversion of the conveniences at this stage.

45 other houses could not be connected to any sewer until the new sewerage schemes in hand were completed.

Of the remaining houses notices have been served upon the owners to undertake conversion in the following cases:—

Rolling Mill Inn, Millfields Road.
6-16, Millfields Road.
2-12 and 1-3, Union Street.

Negotiations with Messrs. Stewarts & Lloyds were entered into for means of access to their private sewer adjoining these properties.

Drains and Water Closets.

During the year 661 choked drains and water closets have been cleared by employees of the Corporation at Council and private houses, free of charge to owners or occupiers.

These have all been the subject of complaints to the Health Department.

The question of the policy of carrying out this work free of charge was discussed during the year, particularly as the employees engaged in this work by the Borough Surveyor's Department were often tradesmen on full rate of pay.

It was considered expedient from the Public Health aspect to continue this work, and the efficiency and immediate attention given to such nuisances was considered to outweigh the disadvantage of the cost involved.

It was decided to revert to the pre-war system of engaging a man skilled in this work under the control of the Health Department. This man was engaged and the work is continuing with even greater efficiency, due to the fact that the man can be immediately informed of urgent cases, working as he does, in the Health Department itself.

Public Conveniences.

There is an urgent need for the provision of modern attended conveniences in the Borough.

At present the Borough is served by one attended convenience for both sexes, and a number of badly constructed, unattended conveniences particularly for males, adjoining Licenced Premises.

Some of these are cleansed by employees of the Cleansing Department and others by the staffs of the Licensed Premises adjoining the conveniences.

The attended convenience is well maintained, but grossly inadequate for the needs of the town and urgent consideration should be immediately given to the provision of an additional attended convenience adjoining the Market Hall in Vine Street. Consideration should also be given to the provision of conveniences at Bradley and Ettingshall.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Meat and Food Inspection.

The number of carcasses and organs examined of animals slaughtered and intended for human consumption was 1,049. These were all pigs. (self supply).

Very close liason is maintain between this department and the Local Food Officer, in order that every animal slaughtered can be examined.

There is still no obligation to report the intended slaughter of such to this department so that proper inspections can be made, but the Ministry of Food are considering the question of the advisability of requiring all such animals to be slaughtered at recognised and approved slaughterhouses. If this is possible then the control of slaughter and examination of carcasses, etc. will be greatly simplified, to the benefit of all, particularly from the Public Health aspect.

The number of visits and inspections made to slaughterhouses, food shops, food preparing premises, market stalls selling food and other food premises was 1,116.

Details of the food examined, found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for destruction are as follows :—

TABLE IV.

	TONS	CWTS.	LBS.
Fish			70
Fresh Meat	1	13	17
Rabbits		1	1
Bacon		4	60
Butter			15
Cheese			48
Cake and Biscuits		1	7
Pearl Barley			7
Eggs			48
Sweets			20
Dried Fruits			27
Flour			17
Tinned Goods		10	90
Vegetables	1	6	92
Pickles			13
TOTAL	3	19	84

During the year a system has been put into operation whereby all food found to be unfit for consumption by Sanitary Inspectors and surrendered for destruction, is collected by special transport from the Cleansing Department. The food is taken to the tip and its destruction supervised. This method ensures the complete destruction of all such food.

Some criticism has been expressed during the year at the unsatisfactory arrangements of delivering meat to butchers' shops in Bilston by Ministry of Food transport contractors.

The vehicles used are badly designed and totally inadequate for transporting meat, in that it must of necessity be stacked on the floor, often on dirty hessian. The vans themselves were often dirty and as the vanmen entered the van, mud and other filth from the roadway was transferred to the van and thereafter to the meat itself. One vehicle was an open flat cart, with sides of beef piled thereon, overhanging the edges and open to gross contamination.

The overalls of the vanmen were often dirty and no washable headcoverings were ever used.

Such methods of handling meat are very bad and were not tolerated when the control of handling was in the hands of the Local Authority.

During the year a lecture to foodhandlers by a representative of the Central Council for Health Education was given in an endeavour to encourage greater attention to personal hygiene and cleanliness in the handling of food. The lecture was well attended and the people present represented a fair cross section of all food traders.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 3 licences and 12 supplementary licenses in respect of the retail of graded milk in operation during 1947. 7 in respect of Tuberculin Tested, 7 in respect of Pasteurised and 1 Accredited.

The one dairy where milk is heat treated and bottled in the Borough has been regularly inspected, and whilst conditions have been satisfactory it is difficult for the proprietor to maintain such a condition due to the inadequacy of his establishment for the business he now operates.

There are 162 shops selling bottled milk and 4 retailers of bottled milk in the Borough.

As a result of a series of unsatisfactory milk samples from one of the two producers in the Borough, the cowkeeper was summoned to appear before the Health Committee to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled.

His cowshed and dairy were proved to be totally inadequate and in no way conformed to the standards laid down in the Milk and Dairies Order.

He was given the opportunity of submitting proposals for the building of a new cowshed and dairy but declined to accept this offer and there was no alternative but to cancel his registration as a retail purveyor and dairyman.

Ice-Cream.

Despite the great amount of time devoted to the work upon infectious diseases as noted fully under that heading, every possible opportunity has been taken of supervising and controlling the manufacture and sale of Ice-cream.

It is gratifying to note that the Ministry of Health were also alive to the urgency of some form of more strict control over manufacture. This was noted in my previous Annual Report, whilst Acting Senior Inspector in 1946.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, which came into force on the 1st May, 1947, whilst leaving much to be desired are the first definite steps towards controlling the manufacture, storage and sale of this now more than popular product.

Certain definite conditions are now laid down as to manufacture and the temperatures necessary during such manufacture. In addition storage during sale must be maintained at a stated temperature.

In consequence of these Regulations manufacturers are in some difficulty with regard to the provision of recording thermometers and etc. The demand for such exceeds the supply and some latitude must be given in these cases.

One large manufacturer has decided to build new premises with modern machinery, and in his enthusiasm is paying a visit to America in order to see for himself the American methods of production.

Other Food Premises.

As can be seen in Table I regular inspections have been made of other food premises, including Bakehouses, Fried Fish Shops, and Food Shops. Regular visits are made to the Market when open and all food stalls were kept under observation.

A survey of Licensed Premises was also commenced during the latter part of the year as a result of complaints received about the cleanliness of glasses and other utensils, especially during rush hours.

Of the small number visited before the end of the year, a few proprietors were noted to be a little careless in this matter of sterilization and cleanliness and re-inspections made after warnings given showed improvement. Many publicans expressed satisfaction with the inspection and welcomed the visit. It was noticed that in many cases very great care was taken in the sterilization processes not only of utensils, but also of the method of cleaning pipelines.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 64 visits have been made to cases of infectious disease in order to investigate the circumstances of each case.

The increase is due to the investigations made during the outbreak of Smallpox.

The Medical Officer of Health has dealt with this subject very fully in his report and therefore I have little to add.

I would like to point out that the visiting of cases, enquiries and visiting of contacts, especially at the peak of the outbreak when contacts ran into thousands, proved a terrific task. Without the assistance of the County Sanitary Inspector and later the Field Hygiene Unit, so readily loaned by Captain Scrivener, it would have been impossible to carry on with efficiency.

Another necessary but extremely distasteful duty I had to perform on five occasions was to act as the bearer of the news of death to next of kin. The special arrangements for burial in collaboration with the Undertakers and Cemetery Superintendent are far from pleasant functions.

One ponders too upon the wisdom of morbid sightseers at the cemetery, when precautions had to be taken to prevent them crowding on to the scene of the funeral service.

I would like to express my thanks to all relatives of the deceased for their willing co-operation and agreement to all my necessary but of necessity irritating requests for precautions and simplicity at the services. The various Ministers of Religion too did all they could to couple religious dignity with wise precautions.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases was 95 and 135 re-inspections were made in such cases.

As a result of Smallpox the work of disinfection of houses and bedding, etc., had to be very carefully supervised. Our own operatives carried out all house disinfection, including schools on some occasions. Having no steam disinfector of our own at that time, Wednesbury Corporation co-operated in this by undertaking removal and treatment of all bedding.

The ready and willing assistance of Mr. F. J. Turner, Chief Sanitary Inspector of Wednesbury was greatly appreciated on these occasions.

During the year 71 houses were disinfested and 104 re-inspections made of these houses.

Treatment was by Cimex block or sprays, and experiments were carried out very successfully with a fumigant smoke having a retained effect for up to 6 weeks after treatment.

As houses built by the Corporation began to reach completion, some real anxiety as to the disinfestation of furniture and effects of selected tenants before removal was expressed.

Our own disinfestation vehicles, although ordered were not available and as a temporary expedient, a system of inspection by a qualified officer was made of all intended tenants' effects. Those requiring disinfestation were treated by the disinfestation team in the employ of the Walsall Corporation, whose Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. A. Stanbury, did all he could to assist in this work.

Complications and delays obviously did occur because Walsall could only devote a limited amount of time to our requirements.

Shops Act.

In addition to visits to Food Shops, 61 visits have been made to other shops in connection with the Shops Acts.

Factory Act 1937.

TABLE V.

The following tables give details of inspections made in accordance with the above Act.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	33	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	135	45	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	154	78	3	—

TABLE VI.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)				
Overcrowding (S.2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient				
(b) Unsuitable or defective		3		3
(c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)				
TOTAL	—	3	—	3

TABLE VII.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making, etc.	7					
Household linen { Cleaning and washing Lace, lace curtains and nets Curtains and furniture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and brass articles Fur pulling Iron and steel cables and chains Iron and steel anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial flowers						

TABLE VII.—*continued.*

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nets, other than wire nets
Tents
Sacks
Racquet and tennis balls
Paper bags
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper
Brush making
Pea picking
Feather sorting
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.
Stuffed toys
Basket making
Chocolates and sweetmeats
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.
Textile weaving
Lampshades
TOTAL	7	—	—	—	—	—

Canal Boats.

68 visits have been made to the canal for the purpose of boat inspections, but on no occasion has a registered boat been seen. There are many boats engaged in the conveyance of coal and other goods in use on the canals but these are not registered under the Act for living or sleeping accommodation.

Common Lodging Houses.

It is pleasing to report that the worst of the two common lodging houses has been emptied and demolished during the year.

As a result of a severe gale the premises became dangerous. There was no alternative but to find the inhabitants other accommodation and to immediately demolish the building.

The other lodging house, whilst old, is well maintained and the keeper observes all the requirements of the Act.

The inhabitants are in the main permanent lodgers.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.

145 visits have been made during the year to secure and supervise the removal of caravans from unauthorised sites in the Borough.

The number of visits made gives no indication of the amount of time spent on this work, because one visit may mean a whole morning's work in supervising the removal of vans. All the usual tricks, of lost horses, broken harness or wheels have been met and overcome, plus a few new ideas provided from time to time. The most difficult problem is that Bilston seems to be the pre-selected site for expected confinements and the production of a medical certificate to this effect guarantees a camping site for at least a fortnight after the birth of the child.

The sooner all open lands are either built on or developed, the sooner this problem will be solved.

One cannot but sympathise with this class of van dweller in that they could not and indeed do not desire to live in a house, (it is my belief that some would suffer mentally and bodily if forced to do so), and therefore obviously need special camping sites or compounds with all the necessary facilities provided.

This is a national problem. All areas require compounds so that van dwellers may spend a limited period in each district under close supervision and on the payment of a required rental. They could then be passed on to the next area as desired.

One cannot just exterminate this class of people, in fact judging by their hardiness as instanced in inclement weather when Inspectors have been soaked to the skin and suffer, in consequence, severe colds, these people show a complete disregard of such conditions and never even bother about overcoats or waterproof clothing without any apparent discomfort or ill effect.

There must, therefore, be some provision made for their way of life, and the creation of compounds for this purpose seems an obvious solution.

Cinemas and Theatres.

Inspections have been made of the four cinemas and one theatre during the year, particularly with regard to conditions in respect of sanitary accommodation.

All premises were satisfactorily maintained except for minor defects which were immediately attended to.

One cannot but comment upon the thoughtlessness of some of the patrons, in the use of the facilities provided. Damage due to negligence is a cause of great trouble and expense to the Managements concerned.

Rodent Control.

The number of complaints received during the year was 185 and the total number of inspections and re-inspections of all kinds made in connection with rodent control was 9,269.

The rodent operatives completed the special scheme of the survey and treatment of infestations at domestic premises in the Borough.

Details are as follows :—

TABLE VIII.

AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Houses visited	892	949	831	1018	1341	995	893	529	7,448
Houses infested									
mice	43	74	38	17	3	18	15	42	250
rats	7	8	10	—	2	4	2	—	33
Actual bodies found									
} mice	105	156	97	33	6	40	25	70	532
} rats	18	10	14	—	5	6	3	—	56
Estimated kill (according to formula)									
} mice	391	526	282	148	22	134	88	335	1,926
} rats	56	48	84	—	20	24	8	—	240

Survey commenced November, 1946.
 completed March, 1947.

Area Details.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Moxley. | 2. Bradley. |
| 3. Dudley Street, Temple St. | 4. Eттingshall. |
| 5. Lunt and St. Chads. | 6. Millfields, Broad Street. |
| 7. Green Lanes. | 8. Mount Pleasant, Oxford St. |

The survey was a success and the extermination of over 2,000 rodents amply justified the work involved. The Ministry of Food, now Agriculture and Fisheries, made a proportionate grant towards the total cost of the survey.

At the suggestion of the Ministry a test bait of sewers was also undertaken in order to assess the desirability of making a grant towards further sewer treatments.

The results of this enabled the Ministry to approve a further grant aid towards sewer treatments, but due to the operatives being engaged in Smallpox disinfection, etc. for three months in the summer, only one treatment was possible before the end of the financial year.

The total number of dead rats and mice found as a result of treatments in all cases was 1,280 and the estimated kill based upon the approved Ministry formula was 4,596.

Atmospheric Pollution.

All standard forms of measurement as detailed in the Annual Report for 1946 are still in operation.

It is difficult to try and assess whether pollution in Bilston is on the increase or decrease, because it is a well known fact that many years of research must be undertaken before any definite opinion can be given upon such matters.

The results of recordings do, however, show a tendency to a decrease as compared with previous years.

No claim is made that this is due to the attempts made to eliminate pollution or indeed to any other cause. It well may be that the fuel shortage as a whole may be the prime factor in this reduction.

Disappointment can be expressed in the use of coke burning grates in new council houses. Two difficulties exist in this matter. The first being the difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of coke, and the second the reluctance of householders to try coke fuel. They have unnatural reluctance to coke usage, thinking, wrongly so, that fumes will be generated which will be harmful to the occupants.

Insufficient instructions and advice by the responsible persons handing over the houses to the ingoing tenants is responsible in no small measure for much of the objections. There is little one can do when on the few occasions it has been possible to visit houses at the time the tenants took occupation, you are confronted by the building foreman giving instructions as to the use of these grates and advising the use of coal as a fuel. In addition, the workmen engaged in the installation of the grates seem to have a prejudiced opinion about them, and obviously the ingoing tenant thinks the builder knows far more about such appliances than a Sanitary Officer and will inevitably accept the builders' advice as to the use of the appliance.

The only way to overcome this difficulty is to use the services of trained Welfare Officers, when such are available, and so encourage selected tenants in the proper use of the grates and then by neighbourly contact spread the idea to all.

Disappointment can be expressed too at the reluctance of the local boiler makers in adopting the new type firing door for Lancashire handfired boilers. According to information given from time to time tests are still being applied as to its efficiency. I have had repeated enquiries regarding these doors from all parts of the country and have passed these on to the boiler makers, but with little success.

A Liverpool firm have, however, seen the advantage of this firing door, and they have gone into production on a large scale. The benefits of the doors will therefore be available to those desiring them.

Every opportunity has been afforded in experimenting with the doors, and a pair were fitted to the boiler at the Bratch Waterworks. From my own observations they have eliminated the smoke nuisance emanating therefrom, and in the opinion of the Waterworks Manager they have given a slight increase in boiler efficiency.

The use of the petre dish method of assessing heavy deposits has proved useful during the year in providing confirmation as to the extent of deposits from offending works. The submission of evidence as to actual amounts deposited over given periods, does much to convince industrialists of the nuisance they are causing. Facts are always better than supposition, and as a result many schemes have been instituted to remedy nuisances from excessive deposits from works in various parts of the town.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.

All details submitted in this section cover the period of the financial year 1st April, 1947 to 31st March, 1948.

I have been satisfied for a long time that there has been an unequal distribution of work on refuse collection and in consequence a wastage of labour, but it has been impossible without a capable Foreman to supervise the gangs or to undertake any reorganisation.

With the appointment of a Cleansing Foreman in April it was possible to undertake this work. A survey was made of all districts and the work equitably redistributed.

It was possible to eliminate one round entirely during the summer months and reduce the gangs from five to four.

As previously stated, due to the increasing number of houses now being occupied, and due to the longer carries for the men in emptying the bins, it will soon be necessary to maintain five gangs of collectors in order to keep a regular weekly collection of refuse. In addition, these collectors are expected to collect salvage from all houses where such is saved for them, and this tends to retard the speed of collections.

It is pleasing to report that despite all difficulties it has been possible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse throughout the year.

Details of Refuse Collection.

TABLE IX.

				APPROXIMATE	
				LOADS	TONNAGE
Mechanical Transport.					
Dry Refuse	.....	.....	5,384	11,424
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	202	414
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			5,586	11,838	
Horse Transport.					
Dry Refuse	.....	.....	1,181	866
Wet Refuse	.....	.....	168	126
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	492	372
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
		GRAND TOTALS	7,429	13,202	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	

Salvage Collections.

This Authority is still under a direction from the Board of Trade to collect Paper, Rags, Bones and Kitchen Waste.

Within the limits of economy, therefore, organised and systematic collections must be maintained.

General apathy and lack of co-operation on all sides once again must be reported and the decreased yield from all sources is a true reflection of the position. It seems impossible to rekindle enthusiasm to any sustained extent in anyone, and this is undoubtedly a fact to be deplored at a time when every scrap of waste saved means so much less expenditure on foreign markets to buy materials that our negligence has destroyed.

During the year special consideration has been given to reviving interest amongst the people of Bilston. At considerable expense, which could be ill afforded, thousands of sandbags were purchased and distributed to householders in an endeavour to encourage them to save salvage for regular collection at the same time as their ordinary refuse is removed each week.

The response has been fairly good in some parts of the town, and it is hoped to maintain the increased yield shown during the months since inception.

Consideration has also been given during the year to the substitution of individual small closed containers for the communal street storage bins for kitchen waste.

500 small containers for individual householders use were purchased and a selected residential area in the Borough was canvassed with a view to distribution for an experimental period.

It is astonishing to report that the majority of householders declined to accept this more hygienic method of saving kitchen waste. The reasons given in some instances being unbelievable, e.g., they have no waste food to save; they are not inclined to keep the containers clean themselves, but think the Council should do so, etc. These are the people who complain most bitterly about unhygienic street bins, and yet will not accept a more hygienic system when offered.

Details of the various materials salvaged and sold during the year are as follows :—

TABLE X.

Materials.

	TONNAGE	AMOUNT
Paper	129	£849
Kitchen Waste	255	£382
Bottles and Jars	13	£119
Scrap Metals	8	£ 18
Cullet	7	£ 12
Bones	12 cwts.	£ 3

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal continued by the controlled tipping method. The greatest difficulty to be met with in this method in Bilston, is the complete lack of a suitable material to act as covering to newly tipped surfaces.

There is a need of 4 to 6 inches of soil over all exposed surfaces in order to properly finish and make a presentable tip. There is no soil in Bilston and the only substitute available is material drawn from old tips in the Borough that are proved to be completely innocuous and settled.

The Lunt Tip continued to be the point of disposal until December when tipping was transferred to Great Bridge Road. This is the site of the new playing fields, and we are now filling a very large hole at one end of the field. Good progress was made by the end of the year.

The question of future policy with regard to disposal was considered, as a result of my report submitted to you during the year.

The greater part of the open derelict land in the Borough will have been levelled and developed during the next few years and this will mean that sites for tipping refuse will no longer be available.

Before that time arrives schemes should be in hand for alternative means of disposal and approval in principle has been given to my suggestion of the building of a modern incineration plant.

Details of Refuse Disposal are given below :—

TABLE XI.

	Lunt Tip (Loads)		Gt. Bridge Rd. (Loads)		Totals		Grand Total
	Dept.	Others	Dept.	Others	Dept.	Others	
Dry Refuse	5,380	—	1,068	—	6,448	—	6,448
Wet Refuse	70	13	47	—	117	13	130
Trade Refuse	—	184	—	36	—	220	220
Miscellaneous Covering	855	467	197	181	1,052	648	1,700
TOTALS	6,305	664	1,312	217	7,617	881	8,498

Street Cleansing.

All street cleansing vehicles and personnel were transferred to the Cleansing Department on the 1st April, 1947 in accordance with the Council resolution.

It was realised immediately that the organisation was inadequate for such an important service. Vehicles in the form of orderly trucks were in an advanced state of disrepair ; the mechanical gully emptier was engaged full time on cesspool emptying and did not devote any time to its originally intended function of gully cleansing : many of the street orderlies were too old to be capable of efficient workmanship and the practice of disposing of sweepings on any available site was very unsatisfactory.

Reorganisation was undertaken. Orderly trucks were overhauled, new men were engaged where possible, and new rounds for systematic sweeping were created.

Orders were placed for a mechanical sweeper and a lorry for the collection of street sweepings.

Since the delivery of the mechanical sweeper in August it has been possible to maintain a highly efficient and systematic cleansing of all main roads in the Borough, and this indeed on a much more economical basis than by manual sweeping.

The question of gully cleansing was considered and as the method previously used of manual emptying by horse and cart was considered extremely unhygienic and costly, it was decided to use the mechanical emptier, engaged on cesspool emptying, during evenings and weekends during the summer months until delivery of the new machine was made.

By this means all street gullies were systematically and hygienically cleansed until October.

Consideration was then given to the hiring of a machine for this purpose, and a contract was placed for the hire of a machine to be operated by our own men to cover the three months' period up to the end of the year.

Details of work done in street cleansing is as follows :—

TABLE XII.

Street Sweeping —by Mechanical Sweeper.			
Working days (commenced August, 1947)	.....	.....	174
Mileage of streets cleansed	.....	.....	2,033
Loads of sweepings collected	.....	.....	338
Cesspool Emptying —Gully Emptier.			
Cesspools empties	.....	.....	680
Loads removed	.....	.....	982
Gully Cleansing —by Mechanical Emptiers.			
Gullies cleansed	.....	.....	2,011
Loads removed	.....	.....	534

Cleansing Depot.

The building of the new section of garages and the repair shop was completed during the year. As this work receives no priority of labour or materials many irritating hold-ups occurred from time to time.

The repair shop is being equipped with essential machinery such as lathe, compressor, etc. in order that major repairs to vehicles can be executed by the Engineer.

Each section of the rebuilding programme has to be submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval and this tends to delay rapid progress.

The next section, i.e., the Stables and Disinfector House, so urgently needed, was approved and work was due to commence in the coming year. Until this section is completed, work on the final section cannot proceed. The reconstruction of the existing buildings to create messrooms, locker rooms and sanitary conveniences for employees, depends upon when the horses can be transferred to new stables to allow the adaption of the old ones to proceed.

I am deeply concerned at the slowness in completion, particularly in view of the fact that there is only one sanitary convenience for approximately seventy employees, two of whom are women. This is a direct contravention of the Factories Act, 1937.

As a temporary measure the two females are allowed to use the sanitary convenience at the Foreman's house adjoining the depot.

It is essential that this matter receives every possible attention without further delay, and to this end the building programme should be speeded up to the utmost.



