

[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Bilston Borough.

Contributors

Bilston (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1949

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/eycyr2ub>

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>

BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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.

September, 1950.

BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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.

September, 1950.

BOROUGH OF BILSTON



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1949

By C. E. BARNES, M.A. (London), F.R.C.S. (Edinb.)

(F.R.C.S. (Edinb.))

Medical Officer of Health

C. E. BARNES, M.A. (London), F.R.C.S. (Edinb.)

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department

22, Wellington Road

Bilston, Staffs.

September, 1949

*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 1949.

There is a decrease in the birth rate from 20.60 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1948 to 19.01 of the estimated population in 1949.

The infantile mortality is higher than in 1948. It was 43.42 per 1,000 live births in 1948 as against 46.25 for the year under review.

The estimated population of Bilston is 32,990 for 1949 as compared with 32,720 for 1948.

The number of deaths recorded this year is 336 giving a death rate of 10.18 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, whereas the corresponding figures for 1948 were 286 recorded deaths and a death rate of 8.68 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

I value the support which you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, afford me at all times.

I again extend my thanks to the Town Clerk and all Officials of the Corporation for their help.

I express my grateful thanks to Mr. Sheldon, and all the other members of my Staff, for their loyalty and help during the year.

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.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

*H. T. HODGSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

*J. R. TART, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

*J. W. BARBER, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

CLERICAL STAFF :

Miss R. P. Sheffield.

Miss M. J. Corbett. (Resigned 9th January, 1949.)

Miss V. E. Mason. (Appointed 1st February, 1949.)

Mrs. J. A. Bright.

A. Dowdeswell. (Resigned 1st July, 1949.)

C. J. Pearce.

E. R. Whittingham. (H.M. Forces.)

N. Edwards. (Appointed January, 1949.)

* Officer whose salary is contributed to under Public Health Acts or
Exchequer Grants.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area	1,869 acres
Population : 1931 Census	31,248
Estimated Population for Year	32,990
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses for the year	8,444
Rateable Value at the 31st December, 1949	£139,424

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Live Births	627	333	294	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.01
(Legitimate)	608	322	286	
(Illegitimate)	19	11	8	
Still Births	14	8	6	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths) 21.84

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Deaths	336	174	162	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.18

Comparability Factor : 1.31.

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	1	1.56

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	46.25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.41
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	105.26

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47
„ Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4

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	42	45	87
High Town	19	21	40
Town Hall	88	73	161
Bradley	65	53	118
Ettingshall	51	44	95
Out of District	68	58	126
Total	333	294	627

TABLE 2.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000
1949	333	294	627	19.01
1948	321	353	674	20.60
1947	445	442	887	27.97
1946	378	291	669	21.42
1945	278	275	553	18.23

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	25	24	49
High Town	9	13	22
Town Hall	40	32	72
Bradley	18	17	35
Ettingshall	26	34	60
Out of District	56	42	98
Total	174	162	336

TABLE 4.

Year	Deaths			Death Rate per 1,000
	Males	Females	Total	
1949	174	162	336	10.18
1948	145	139	284	8.68
1947	226	149	375	11.82
1946	206	171	377	12.08
1945	172	180	352	11.61

TABLE 5.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	16	13	29
1 and under 2 years	1	2	3
2 and under 5 years	3	2	5
5 and under 15 years	2	2	4
15 and under 25 years	2	5	7
25 and under 45 years	14	15	29
45 and under 65 years	53	33	86
65 and under 80 years	64	64	128
80 years and upwards	19	26	45
Total	174	162	336

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	—	2	2
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	8	13
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	2	1	3
Measles	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	26	21	47
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	16	22	38
Heart Disease	40	35	75
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Bronchitis	22	10	32
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	8	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	2	7
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	3	—	3
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	3	1	4
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	3	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	9	11
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	3	1	4
Congenital Debility, Malformation, etc.	4	8	12
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	4	2	6
All other Causes	19	20	39
TOTAL	174	162	336

TABLE 7.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	County Boroughs 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	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	19.01
Still	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.42
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	10.18
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.06
Diphtheria	—	—	—	0.03
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.42
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.09
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.61
Rates per 1,000 Population				
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	—
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.00
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	3.64
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.15
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.15
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	6.70
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	1.46
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	—
Acute Polioenceph- alitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths :				
All causes under 1 year of age	32(b)	37	30	46.25
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	6.38
Rates per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births				
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	—

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) per 1,000 related live births

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

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. All cases are followed up regularly.

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

Scabies and Vermin.

Five Clinics are held weekly at the Cleansing Station at the rear of 23, Wellington Road. During the year the total number of treatments carried out was 1,352. 256 Scabies and 1,096 Verminous cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

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

During the year 34 samples of water were taken, 8 of which were Chemically Analysed, and 26 were Bacteriologically Tested.

Of the 26 Bacteriological samples, 3 were taken from The Bratch ; 3 from Tom Hill ; 3 from Coton Road Reservoirs (2 from No. 1 and 1 from No. 2) ; 8 from New Service Reservoir at Woodcross, Coseley ; 6 from Private dwellings in Bilston, and 3 from Private dwellings in Coseley.

Of the 8 samples Chemically Analysed, 2 were taken from The Bratch ; 2 from Tom Hill ; and 4 from Private Dwellings in Bilston.

The following are typical examples of the Chemical Analyses undertaken :—

TABLE 8

	BRATCH	TOM HILL
Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F.	31.0	20.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0008	0.0004
Albuminoid	0.0024	0.0028
Nitric Nitrogen	0.53	1.10
Chlorine	2.1	1.8
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.004	0.003
Appearance	Extremely slight trace of Suspended matter.	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None	None
ph. Value	7.3	6.6
Hardness before Boiling	15.6°	7.9°
Hardness after Boiling	5.6°	6.1°
Temporary Hardness	10.0°	1.8°
Free Chlorine	None detected	0.02 parts per million

This water, in each case, is chemically of satisfactory quality and passed bacteriologically for drinking.

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

TABLE 9.

	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Confirmed	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	36	33	28	—
Whooping Cough	120	120	1	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	221	221	3	—
Diphtheria	8	5	8	1
Pneumonia	48	48	0	20
Dysentery	1	1	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	5	—	—

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.

JOINT HOUSING REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949

The number of occupied houses or flats at the 31st December, 1949 was estimated to be 8,444 of which 3,362 have been built or adapted by the Council. Included in this figure are 100 prefabricated Arcon bungalows and 31 premises requisitioned or acquired premises which have been converted and adapted as flats.

The Mountford Lane site long reserved for private house building at last began to be developed and by the end of the year 32 houses were in the course of construction and 15 had been completed and occupied.

116 sites are available on this estate and 91 plots had been allocated during the year, being the maximum permissible under Ministry of Health instructions.

This information is obtained from the Borough Architect's reports.

General Housing.

The housing needs of the town are very great as can be judged from the number of outstanding recommendations for houses. Our real housing need is shown in Table II.

This number does not take into consideration all other applicants for houses who desire separate living accommodation, but who have no claim for priority under the Council's grouping system.

The policy of improving existing old houses by bringing them up to the approved temporary standard agreed to by the Corporation in 1947 has not worked well.

Experience has shown that tenants of these houses do not desire and indeed have refused to allow improvements in the nature of internal water supplies over sinks, to be installed.

Whether this is a genuine reluctance to have better facilities for fear of increased rents being charged, or whether it is done with the hope that so long as bad conditions exist their chance of a new house is strengthened, one cannot judge, but it has meant that many houses have been relet without any real improvements being made to them. Indeed married couples are so anxious to obtain accommodation that they take on the tenancy and themselves, often at their own expense, undertake structural and internal repairs in order to get the house, bad as it may be.

Great efforts have been made during the year by the Housing Manager to rehouse all tenants in houses with Demolition Orders thereon, but unfortunately there remains a hardcore of families who are not in a position to pay the high rent of a new Council house, or they are of a type who are not the class of tenant suitable for such a house.

Efforts to deal with this residue of families by two stage housing, i.e., arranging exchanges from the cheaper Council houses into the dearer type to provide cheaper houses for those in unfit houses, has not proved a real success.

The position, therefore, remains that many houses which have Demolition Orders upon them, some for many years now, are rapidly becoming dilapidated structures, inhabited by families with no hope of being rehoused.

Unfortunately, there comes a time when some houses are just no longer capable of further patching and in these cases the owners rightly object to spending more money in the vain endeavour to do the impossible. In these cases there is only one course of action and that is representation to the Committee for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act and the eventual making of a Demolition Order.

There is no real satisfaction in doing this as such action, for reasons stated above, seems to have the effect of committing the tenants to an indefinite period of life in appalling housing conditions.

During the year a Joint Health/Housing Sub-Committee was formed to visit all such houses as this, with the purpose of studying and inspecting houses so represented, in order to preserve, where possible, any houses for a limited period in view of the extreme housing shortage.

A total of 19 houses was represented during the year and as a result of inspection made by the Sub-Committee, Demolition Orders were agreed upon in each case.

In addition, 3 houses were voluntarily closed or demolished at the owners' suggestion and 11 old houses in the ownership of the Corporation were agreed to be demolished when emptied.

A summary of the work done by representations under Section 11 of the Housing Act is as follows :—

TABLE 10.

Total houses represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	240
Demolition Orders made	.....	.....	.....	.....	136
Houses demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Houses boarded or bricked up, demolition not possible	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Houses void	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Demolition Orders in abeyance, Houses relet	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Demolition Orders in abeyance	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Houses occupied by squatters	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Procedure withdrawn	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Corporation properties agreed to demolition	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
Corporation properties demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Corporation properties boarded or bricked up	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Corporation properties tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Closing Orders made	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Operative	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Undertakings accepted	.....	.....	.....	.....	49
Undertakings completed	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
Undertakings in abeyance—tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Houses still under consideration	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Houses demolished without procedure	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Houses bricked up without procedure	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

Clearance Areas.

No real progress has been possible with the nine clearance areas declared in 1945. The majority of the houses dealt with under the previous heading are in these areas and are to a certain extent some of the worst houses in the areas.

The plans for the redevelopment of Temple Street and Salop Street have been prepared and approved, and the acquisition of land has proceeded during the year.

The first section of land in Temple Street was in the course of being levelled ready for house building in order to rehouse tenants from houses in the vicinity and to enable rebuilding and rehousing until the whole area is dealt with.

Other derelict areas, former cleared sites of slum clearance areas, were considered and approved for the building of flats and general redevelopment.

Overcrowding.

The number of applications made to the Health Department during the year for consideration for recommendation and grouping in accordance with the approved grouping system in operation was 450. Details of recommendations made are shown in Table 11.

Details of cases dealt with during the past five years, and the outstanding recommendations not yet dealt with are shown in Table 12.

TABLE 11

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
1							2							3							3A						
58	6	29	10	7	4	2	110	11	42	38	15	4	-	395	54	206	121	11	3	-	16	5	11	-	-		
35	-	13	11	11	-	-	10	-	5	4	-	1	-	96	6	49	38	2	-	1	3	-	3	-	-		
93	6	42	21	18	4	2	120	11	47	42	15	5	-	491	60	255	159	13	3	1	19	5	14	-	-		
23	3	14	3	2	-	1	22	5	14	2	1	-	-	53	4	31	16	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-		
70	3	28	18	16	4	1	98	6	33	40	14	5	-	438	56	224	143	11	3	1	17	5	12	-	-		

A

B

C

D

E

Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Group	Bedrooms						Total	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				
4							5						6						6							1	2	3	4	5	6
259	64	160	22	7	3	3	293	77	173	40	3	-	-	-	26	11	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1155	228	629	237	42	14	5
61	18	39	4	-	-	-	108	24	62	20	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	314	48	171	78	15	1	1
320	82	199	26	7	3	3	401	101	235	60	5	-	-	-	27	11	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1469	276	800	315	57	15	6
57	11	35	5	4	2	-	42	15	23	2	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	201	40	119	28	11	2	1
263	71	164	21	3	1	3	359	86	212	58	3	-	-	-	25	9	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1268	236	681	287	46	13	5

A

B

C

D

E

A. The number of houses of the various types required to cover the outstanding recommendations at the 31st December, 1948.

B. Recommendations for houses of the various types made during the year 1949.

C. Total of Numbers A and B.

D. Number of recommendations removed from the list for various reasons during the year 1949.

E. The number of houses of the various types required to cover the outstanding recommendations at the 31st December, 1949.

TABLE 12

RECOMMENDED FAMILIES REMOVED DURING 1949

Welfare of Council House Tenants.

It is gratifying to note that at last the Housing Committee were able to appoint a Welfare Officer who commenced her duties in September.

Since that time it has been of great interest to note the reports submitted upon the work undertaken by this officer, and whilst it seems impossible for one person to deal adequately with well over 3,000 houses there is no doubt of the usefulness and value of the work done.

There have been relatively few cases of real dirtiness reported in houses and obviously such cases can be best attended to by a female officer in preference to a male.

To judge from reports submitted, the visit of the Welfare Officer is welcomed by the great majority of tenants and problems of mutual interest both to the tenant and to the Council have been discussed to the benefit of both parties.

General Housing Repairs.

Housing repairs have again been executed by notices served under the Public Health Act as nuisances requiring abatement.

There is no alternative to this method under present circumstances as the majority of the houses so dealt with are in declared or future slum clearance areas, and schedules of repairs to bring the houses up to the Housing Act standard would be impossible in such cases.

Details of work executed and improvements effected are given in Table III of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report and it can be noted with satisfaction that despite labour and material supply difficulties, good work has been done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report upon the Sanitary and Cleansing Services, this being my third Annual Report.

This report is as usual divided into two sections, the first dealing with the Sanitary Services covering the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1949, and the second dealing with Public Cleansing including Street Cleansing which covers the period ending the 31st March, 1950.

Sanitary Services.

Details of inspections and visits made are given in Table I.

The number of visits made to supervise the removal of caravans from unauthorised sites, whilst less than the previous year, clearly indicates the extent of the trouble experienced with this type of nuisance. There is a real need for some permanent solution to this problem.

It is interesting to record that visits to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection has more than doubled as compared with the previous year, and the number of animals (all pigs) examined, is more than four times the number examined during 1948. Every pig slaughtered for food for human consumption is examined. The importance of this can be judged by the increase of meat condemned as compared with the previous year, an increase of over 7½ tons.

This increased work in meat inspection required the services of one Inspector whole time at one slaughterhouse and another for half days at another slaughterhouse. This so reduced the normal routine work of the department that after three months, permission was sought and obtained for the appointment of a further Additional Inspector to carry out routine inspections.

From time to time the Health Committee have considered reports upon food premises and food handling, and whilst regular inspections of all food premises are maintained, and even increased during the year under review, it was felt that even greater co-operation was needed from traders, assistants and shopping public in the observance of hygiene in the handling of food in the shop and in the home.

As a result of my special report to this Committee it was decided to inaugurate a Food Traders' Guild with the specific object of fostering and encouraging everyone's interest and co-operation in clean food handling.

The Guild was formed in September and whilst no great progress can be reported by the end of the year, the Advisory Committee had done good work in the preparation of Codes of Practice, Certificates of Membership and other equally important duties necessary for the satisfactory operation of the movement.

Details of Improvements and Repairs executed are given in Table III.

It is interesting to note that improvements made without notice exceed those made with notices. One main reason for this is that all drains and water closets are cleansed by your own employee in the Department. This accounts for half the improvements without notice. The renewal of ashbins has also given a further 448 improvements without service of notice.

Despite this, the figures do show that a great deal of work is done by some owners or agents to property in excess of that required by notices or in some cases without the service of any notice whatsoever.

Information of interest is given in the detailed headings in the report.

Public Cleansing.

It has been with great difficulty that refuse collection has been maintained on a weekly collection during the year.

The seasons are given in detail under the succeeding headings, and can be summarised briefly as absence from duty by illness or other causes; the operation of the five day week, and a general reluctance on behalf of some men to give a real conscientious day's work.

Despite improved conditions of service, holidays, sick pay allowances, together with modern messroom facilities, etc. it seems impossible to attract a really good class of men for the work of public cleansing.

It has again been noted that the gangs of collectors on new housing estates cannot empty as many bins per day per gang as those gangs working in districts where old houses exist, particularly in courts and common yards. The weight of refuse moved from old houses, as is to be expected, is far greater than from modern estates, due to use of modern heating and cooking appliances in new houses.

Details of refuse collection are given in Table XIII.

Street Cleansing.

Similar difficulties to those stated above exist for the work of street cleansing. In this case the men engaged as street orderlies are old men and should one decide to eventually cease work it is impossible to find a replacement, with the result that less and less men of increasing age are available as street orderlies. In consequence street cleansing is becoming worse with the addition of many extra miles of roads on new housing estates. It is impossible to efficiently cleanse roads and serious consideration must be given to further mechanisation of this service.

The one section of street cleansing which has maintained a satisfactory standard is gully cleansing. A machine has been in constant use during the year for the regular flushing and emptying of all street gullies.

Salvage.

Salvage collections have continued during the year and since the removal of the direction have been confined to paper, kitchen waste and small quantities of scrap metal.

The collection of bottles and jars has discontinued temporarily, due to lack of suitable sorting and storage space at the depot.

No bones are collected as this kind of material is extremely difficult to store and collect without creating a serious nuisance.

Collections of kitchen waste are still quite good and it is hoped to be able very soon to persuade all householders to accept a small covered bucket so that the remaining bins in the streets can be withdrawn.

Waste paper collections are still quite good and despite the suggestion that there was no market for baled paper we had no difficulty in selling all the paper collected and baled by us.

Details of salvage sold during the year and comparisons with the previous two years are given in Table XIV.

Refuse Disposal.

The tip at Belmont Street was completed during the year and disposal was transferred back to derelict land on the Loxdale Estate.

It will be noted under the detailed information given under this heading in the report, the various difficulties to be encountered in endeavouring to carry out controlled tipping methods in the disposal of refuse in this town.

Sufficient is it to say here that it is well nigh impossible, due to reasons given in the report, to dispose of refuse in this way without causing a nuisance and urgent consideration should be given to either incineration of all tradesmen's refuse from shops, or total incineration of all refuse both from houses and shops in the Borough.

Details of refuse disposed of are given in Table XV.

Cost of Collection and Disposal.

Details are given in Table XVI of the costs of the work of collection and disposal of refuse together with other relevant statistics.

In comparing present day figures with those given in the Annual Report for 1938, the last occasion on which similar details were submitted, it is staggering to find how increased costs of labour, materials, etc., have trebled the cost of the service as a whole.

The total number of employees has increased by five since 1938, but this only partially accounts for increased expenditure. The residue is accounted for by greatly increased wages, sick pay scheme, holiday pay, increased cost of petrol, oil, spares and all materials.

The nett cost has increased from £5,319 in 1938 to £13,768 in 1949, and the nett cost per ton of refuse removed has increased similarly from 10/-3d. to 25/2.1d. The nett cost per 1,000 population now stands at £417/6/8d. as compared with £169/4/8d. in 1938. The equivalent rate poundage and percentage of the total rate is 2/1.3d. or 10.5% as compared with 11.4d. or 7.2% in 1938.

Similar increases are also found in all Authorities throughout the country and denotes the ever increasing burden to be borne by the ratepayer for the services provided by the Local Authority.

There is no doubt that local circumstances and general conditions peculiar to each Local Authority, as outlined under previous headings and, of course, the standard of efficiency desired or achieved, largely dictates ultimate expenditure incurred.

Depot.

As the work of modernising the depot facilities has more or less been at a standstill during the year, there is little to report except a deep and earnest dissatisfaction with the slowness in completing this work.

Four years is a long time on such work, with completion still not an established fact and this has done much towards the lack of co-operation shown in the employees of the department.

General.

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

I wish to thank the Town Clerk and all officials of the Corporation for their help and co-operation during the year.

To the Health and Cleansing Department staffs I offer sincere thanks for loyal and wholehearted support during the past year. I have made many demands upon their time and services, but not without due cause I can assure them. It gives great satisfaction to me to realise how splendid a team we have in the staffs of the two departments.

I wish to thank all the employees of both Health and Cleansing Departments for their support and co-operation, for it is these men who are the actual people who interpret the wishes and instruction of the head of the department. So much depends upon their execution of those duties as to the ultimate efficiency of the department.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. ERIC S. SHELDON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

SANITARY SERVICES

TABLE I.

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

VISITS	Inspections	Re-inspections	Total
Dwelling Houses			
Routine	380	824	1,204
Complaints	744	336	1,080
Overcrowding	496	410	906
Dirty Condition	24	32	56
Food Poisoning	1	—	1
Disinfected	62	36	98
Disinfested	79	113	192
Rodent Control	459	1,693	2,152
Infectious Diseases	134	5	139
Disinfestation—Visits	92	—	92
Removals	88	—	88
Slum Clearance	16	10	26
Slum Clearance Areas—Visits to Properties	12	—	12
Other Premises			
Licensed Premises	19	—	19
Street Food Vendors	11	2	13
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites	249	107	356
Common Lodging Houses	3	—	3
Schools	3	1	4
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	85	7	92
Factories (Manual Power)	25	—	25
Workplaces	20	—	20
Bakehouses	22	1	23
Dairies	2	—	2
Premises—Bottled Milk	7	—	7
Ice-cream Manufacturers	5	—	5
Retailers	108	15	123
Samples	30	—	30
Slaughterhouses	305	56	361
Private or emergency slaughter of animals	24	4	28
Offensive Trades—Fried Fish Shops	27	3	30
Food preparing premises	102	1	103
Ice Stores	4	—	4
Market—Visits	80	—	80
Meat Stalls	132	—	132
Other Food Stalls	148	—	148
Water Supplies Inspections	9	—	9
Shops re Meat and Food	215	9	224
Others	30	8	38
Rodent Control	24	80	104
Warehouses	18	1	19
Public Conveniences	16	—	16
Stables	13	3	16
Premises re Swine, Fowl, etc.	159	16	175
Premises re Offensive accumulations	33	2	35
Drains Tested, Inspected and Cleansed	1,434	67	1,501

Other Premises—continued

Sewers—Inspected	20	6	26
Street Gullies Inspected	13	2	15
Rodent Control	108	324	432
Smoke Observations—General	669	43	712
Cinemas and Theatres	12	2	14
Water Samples—Bacteriological	10	—	10
Chemical	8	—	8
Milk—Chemical	4	—	4
Bacteriological	5	—	5
Other Food Samples (Informal)	5	—	5
Cleansing and Salvage Visits	572	—	572
Miscellaneous Visits	733	4	737

The number of inspections of all kinds made was 8,208 and the number of re-inspections 4,223, giving a grand total of 12,431 inspections and visits during the year.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,417, of which 325 were in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 1,092 in respect of choked drains and water closets.

The complaints made in respect of sanitary defects are 114 less than the previous year, and those in respect of drains and water closets 95 more than the previous year.

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 2,483 defects or nuisances were found, 2,183 of which were affecting 1,427 houses and 300 affecting 205 other premises.

To remedy these defects or nuisances found a total of 479 notices were served during the year, made up as follows :—

Informal Notices	354
Statutory Notices	125

Of these, 474 were served upon owners or agents and 5 upon occupiers of premises.

Details of 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	125	86	—	1	39

It is pleasing to report that the service of statutory notices is becoming less necessary to ensure compliance with informal notices, due to the action taken by owners or agents upon the receipt by them of the informal notice.

In two cases only was it necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year. In the one case work was commenced on the day of hearing and the case was withdrawn, and in the other case a Court Order was made with costs.

Sanitary Improvements Made and Defects Remedied.

The total number of improvements made in compliance with notices served was 1,770, 1,435 in connection with houses and 335 in connection with other premises.

The number of improvements made without the service of notices, which were either undertaken by employees of the Department or supervised by Inspectors of the Department was 2,500. 2,028 of these were in connection with houses and 472 in connection with other premises.

Details of improvements are as follows :—

TABLE III.

DWELLING HOUSES

				Without Notice	By Notice	Total
Internal.						
Ventilation improved	.....	.....	.....	—	3	3
New windows provided	.....	.....	.....	1	17	18
Window cords renewed	.....	.....	.....	8	77	85
Dampness in walls remedied	.....	.....	.....	1	34	35
Plaster of walls repaired	.....	.....	.....	24	162	186
Plaster of ceilings repaired	.....	.....	.....	13	114	127
Floors repaired	.....	.....	.....	17	39	56
New fireplaces provided	.....	.....	.....	2	10	12
Old fireplaces repaired	.....	.....	.....	1	25	26
Doors repaired	.....	.....	.....	3	8	11
Old windows repaired	.....	.....	.....	10	63	73
Ovens provided	.....	.....	.....	—	4	4
Staircases.						
Steps repaired or provided	.....	.....	.....	1	22	23
Guard rails repaired	.....	.....	.....	—	1	1
Plaster of walls repaired	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3
Plaster of ceilings repaired	.....	.....	.....	—	4	4
Sculleries and Wash-houses.						
New windows provided	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Windows repaired	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Plaster of walls repaired	.....	.....	.....	3	—	3
Plaster of ceilings repaired	.....	.....	.....	—	2	2
New sinks provided	.....	.....	.....	6	3	9

Sculleries and Wash-houses—*continued*

	Without Notice	By Notice	Total
Old sinks repaired	1	4	5
Waste pipes trapped	1	1	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	10	17	27
Wash coppers provided	1	5	6
Wash coppers repaired	3	18	21
Doors repaired	—	2	2
Hot water systems repaired	1	—	1

Cellars.

Steps repaired	1	1	2
Drainage provided or repaired	1	2	3
Filled in and sealed	—	1	1
Lighted and ventilated	—	2	2
Ventilation improved	2	1	3
Guard rails repaired	—	1	1
Food stores provided	—	1	1
Grating repaired	—	1	1

External.

Roofs repaired	43	158	201
Eaves spouts provided or repaired	13	61	74
Down spouts provided or repaired	10	29	39
Down spouts disconnected from drain	2	—	2
Walls repaired and/or repointed	34	107	141
Chimney stacks repaired and/or repointed	24	44	68
Doors repaired	2	12	14
Steps repaired	1	5	6
Soft water cisterns renewed	—	1	1
Boundary repaired	—	1	1
Site concrete laid	—	1	1

General.

Yard paving or surfaces repaired	2	3	5
Yard drainage installed or repaired	—	1	1
Houses provided with internal water supply	1	9	10
Houses cleansed	5	22	27
Houses converted into through	—	1	1

OUTBUILDINGS.

Water Closets.

Roofs repaired	2	24	26
Eaves spouts provided and/or repaired	—	6	6
Walls repaired or repointed	5	32	37
Doors repaired	2	10	12
New cisterns fixed or repaired	3	41	44
New pedestals and seats provided or repaired	8	24	32
Lighting and ventilation improved	2	—	2
Cleansed and/or limewashed	—	1	1
Soilpipes repaired	—	2	2
Water supply provided	—	7	7
Provided in substitution for other conveniences	—	4	4
Additional water closets provided	—	1	1

Coal Stores.

Eaves spouts provided and repaired	—	1	1
Down spouts provided and repaired	—	1	1
Walls repaired	—	1	1
Doors repaired	—	1	1

	Without Notice	By Notice	Total
Waste Water Closets.			
Converted into standard type water closets	1	2	3
Pail/Chemical Closets.			
Converted into standard type water closets	4	—	4
Ashbins.			
Renewals	363	—	363
Provided for new houses	62	—	62
Provided for other premises	23	—	23
Drains.			
Repaired or relaid	16	65	81
Cleansed	1,283	—	1,283
Disconnected from sewer	1	8	9
Ventilated	—	5	5
Inspection chambers built or repaired	4	40	44
Self cleansing gullies provided	4	23	27
Drainage provided	—	10	10
Cesspools.			
Abolished	14	—	—
Cleansed	2	—	2
Repaired	1	—	1
Public Conveniences.			
Cleansed	3	—	3
Infested Premises.			
Freed from vermin	83	—	83
Freed from rats	167	—	167
Freed from mice	107	—	107
Offensive Accumulations.			
Removed	11	14	25
Animals so kept as a Nuisance.			
Nuisances abated	5	11	16
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites.			
Removed	13	218	231
Factories (Without Mechanical Power).			
Improvements	4	6	10
Factories (Mechanical Power).			
Conveniences cleansed and/or limewashed	—	24	24
Conveniences—additional provided	—	3	3
Other improvements	1	8	9
Food Preparing Premises.			
Cleansed and/or limewashed	4	15	19
Other improvements	13	23	36

	Without Notice	By Notice	Total
Stables.			
Cleansed	2	—	2
Licensed Premises.			
Conveniences cleansed	—	3	3
Cinemas and Theatres.			
Conveniences cleansed	—	3	3
Other improvements	18	2	20
Atmospheric Pollution.			
Nuisances abated	1	6	7
Additions to plant and improvements	3	4	7
Bakehouses.			
Cleansed or limewashed	2	5	7
Other improvements	—	2	2
Common Lodging Houses.			
Nuisances abated	2	—	2
Ice-cream Manufacturers.			
Sterilising equipment provided	—	1	1
Slaughterhouses.			
Cleansed or limewashed	5	6	11
Walls repaired	5	—	5
Offal storage improved	—	1	1
Lighting and ventilation improved	2	2	4
Floors repaired	5	—	5
Fried Fish Shops.			
Cleansed and/or limewashed	2	2	4
Storage receptacles provided	2	—	2
Other improvements	5	1	6
Total Defects Remedied or Improvements Made		4,270	
In connection with houses	1,435	2,028	3,463
In connection with other premises	335	472	807
	<u>1,770</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>4,270</u>

Sanitary Accommodation.

The pail closets at 1 to 7, Bath Street were converted to water closets during the year, resulting in the abolition of 4 pail closets.

Three more waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets during the year.

The new sewer at Moxley was completed and put into operation. All houses in Great Bridge Road formerly served by cesspools were connected to the new sewer and 14 cesspools were abolished as a result.

Two large works, Thompson Brothers and Wednesbury Tube Works still remained connected to cesspools and the frequency of emptying these required the services of a gully emptying machine three days per week.

Drains and Water Closets.

During the year 1,283 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the employees of the Health Department. Of these, 1,092 were the subject of complaints to the Health Department by the occupants of the houses concerned, and 191 were found by the men in the course of their normal duties.

It is surprising, but nevertheless true, that some people never bother to report choked drains to the department for attention until conditions are appalling, and then expect attention immediately, no matter what time of night or day it is finally reported. As can be seen from the figure given, some are never inclined to report choked drains at all and leave it to the employees of the department finding such drains during their normal visits.

The men engaged by the department only undertake cleansing by rodding or flushing. If other work is necessary, the responsibility is then passed to the owner or agent and a notice served.

The number of drains and water closets dealt with again shows a marked increase upon the previous year, but whilst the cause is neglect in many cases, and despite every effort to trace or prove responsibility, it has been impossible to do so. Stoppages habitually occur where drains from different houses join and it is, therefore, impossible to apportion responsibility.

Whilst there is no doubt that the employment of our own men for this work of drain cleansing is highly satisfactory from the Public Health aspect, I still consider that some nominal charge should be made in each case.

Public Conveniences.

The Corporation have again given consideration to the provision of additional conveniences during the year, and a site at the junction of Millfields Road and Wolverhampton Street has been approved.

There is still a great need for modern attended conveniences near the shopping centre in Church Street and repeated complaints are being received regarding the convenience adjoining the Market in Vine Street.

The condition of this convenience is appalling, despite daily cleansing by employees of the Cleansing Department. Severe damage is repeatedly caused by hooligans, water pipes and cisterns are pulled down and removed. This convenience is greatly used by the public, especially on Market days, and is the most useful site for a convenience.

At the present time it is impossible to keep the convenience clean, due to lack of facilities and when repairs are executed the damage recurs within a short time.

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 9,811. These were all pigs, of which 9,068 were slaughtered for the Ministry of Food and 743 for private pig keepers.

The Ministry of Food scheme for restricting slaughter of private pigs to two slaughterhouses has enabled systematic inspections to be made of all such pigs.

Downs' and Warrens' slaughterhouses were approved by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of pigs on behalf of the Ministry in September. Commencing the 1st October slaughtering increased to such an extent that the services of one Inspector was needed whole time at Downs' and another Inspector was needed at Warrens' in the afternoons. The number of pigs inspected increased from 400 per month to over 2,000 and it became obvious that to carry out the work with efficiency, and at the same time continue with routine work, additional staff was required.

The Corporation gave consideration to this matter after alternative suggestions had been considered as to the appointment of a Veterinary Inspector for this work, as is the practice at a large private slaughterhouse in this area, and it was eventually agreed with the approval of the Ministry of Health to the appointment of one Additional Inspector (newly qualified) to undertake routine duties in order to release Inspectors with Meat Inspectors qualifications for the work of meat inspection.

No attempt at specialisation has been made. Each experienced Inspector undertakes one week in turn at Downs' and another afternoons at Warrens', and even at the present time they are on duty on many evenings at Downs', i.e., 6-30 to 7-30 p.m.

Slaughtering was so intensified at the approved slaughterhouses that a further private slaughterhouse was brought up to the required standard, and approved by the department and the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of private pigs.

In consequence of the greatly increased slaughter of pigs the amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption has also increased. It will be noted in Table IV the various percentage of condemnations. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 1.81% in the carcasses affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis, and an increase of 3.79% in carcasses affected with Tuberculosis.

Such figures prove without doubt the necessity for very careful inspection of all carcasses and the need for adequate staff for this purpose.

It can be reported with great satisfaction that marked improvements have been noted in the types of vehicles used for the delivery of meat to butchers' shops. In the main, vehicles used for carcase meat are now ventilated and have interior rails on which meat is hung instead of being stacked on the floor as previously.

The handling of meat by the transport employees still leaves much room for improvement and one seldom sees the use of washable head covering and far too often a lighted cigarette in the mouth of such a workman when handling meat.

The total number of visits during the year to slaughterhouses, shops, market stalls and other premises for the inspection of meat was 745.

Details of carcases inspected and of which the whole or some part was condemned and destroyed are as follows :—

TABLE IV.
Carcases Inspected and Condemnations

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	9741
Number Inspected	—	—	—	—	9741
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	551
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	5.68
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	846
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	8.96

All carcasses and portions of carcasses and offals condemned are placed in specially marked bins at the respective slaughterhouses and a daily collection is arranged by transport from the Cleansing Department. The meat is then taken to Wolverhampton Abattoir and passed through the digester plant.

The diseases or conditions causing the condemnation of fresh meat or organs are given as follows :—

TABLE V—continued

	PIGS												TOTAL cwt. lbs.
	Carcass and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Heart	Stomach and Intest- ines	Kidney	Liver	Spleen	Omen- tum	Udder	Skin, Muscle and Fat	Pork		Beef
Nephritis—Pyelo						1 $\frac{3}{4}$							1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Nephritis—Chronic						2 $\frac{1}{2}$							2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oesophagostomum													
Columbianum					9								9
Peritonitis					20		35 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$					55 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pleurisy			1- 8 $\frac{1}{2}$										1
Pericarditis				33 $\frac{3}{4}$									8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Suppuration following fracture												12	12
Strongylus Paradoxus			14										14
Torsion													2
Tuberculosis—localised		74-55	4-48 $\frac{1}{2}$		9-109 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	8-86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4		4-20 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
Tuberculosis—generalised	54-109 $\frac{1}{2}$							6 $\frac{1}{2}$					54
													109 $\frac{1}{2}$
	57-110 $\frac{1}{2}$	74-89 $\frac{1}{2}$	11-74 $\frac{1}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	10-49 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	12-40 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	4-97 $\frac{3}{4}$	175
													47 $\frac{1}{2}$

Carcases and Organs

Acute Fever	1
Emaciation	1
Generalised Tuberculosis	27

Other food premises have received careful supervision during the year and a total of 473 visits have been made for this purpose.

The various inspections to the different types of premises where food is prepared or stored, or sold, is listed in Table I and it is pleasing to report that with very few exceptions all premises have maintained a very satisfactory standard.

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

TABLE VI.

FOOD	WEIGHT			REASON FOR CONDEMNATION
	TONS	CWTS.	LBS.	
Bacon	2		36	Decomposition.
Biscuits			84½	Damaged and unsound.
Bottled Foods			51¾	Mould.
Cheese			55	Excessive mould.
Currants			56	Maggot infested.
Fish Paste			¼	Decomposition.
Ham			99	Bone taint and decomposition.
Jam			4½	Mould.
Prawns			55	Decomposition.
Shell Eggs			59	Damaged and unsound.
Sultanas			31	Contaminated—Rat droppings.
Sweets			28	Damaged and unsaleable.
Tinned Food	13		36¼	Blown—decomposition.
Fresh Meat	1	0	36¼	See Table.
	8	15	47½	
TOTAL	9	15	83¾	

It is gratifying to note that it has not been necessary to resort to the seizure of any food found to be unfit for human consumption. There is no doubt that tradespeople do realise the importance of selling sound food and are always anxious to call in an Inspector for his opinion if any food in their possession is in a doubtful condition, before exposing it for sale.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

During the year new legislation was put into operation to control and supervise the production of milk, especially heat treated. Sterilised milk is now a designated milk under these regulations. Its production is controlled and all persons selling this milk must be licenced with the Local Authority to do so.

The Ministeries of Health, Agriculture and Food are jointly responsible for these new regulations as the work of supervision is controlled by all three. Broadly speaking, dairy farms are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, processing plants for heat treatment are controlled by the Food and Drugs Authority, which for Bilston is the County Council, and Local Authorities control other premises selling bottled milk.

Our duties now mainly lie in supervising shops selling sterilised and pasteurised milk, issuing licences for such premises and to producer retailers of milk delivering in this Borough.

The one dairy in Bilston is now directly controlled by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough. A scheme was submitted by the proprietors for alterations to the dairy, in order to conform with the necessary requirements of the regulations in order to be licenced to produce sterilised milk. Certain amendments were discussed and agreed to between the County Sanitary Inspector, the proprietor and myself, but no work has yet been undertaken. In consequence of this no licence can be issued and the proprietor seems content to purchase his milk for retail from an approved producer in Birmingham.

The one cowkeeper is now controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and if it is intended to retain these premises, many improvements will have to be carried out. The site of such an establishment is unsuitable for cowkeeping and it will be very difficult to comply with the necessary requirements.

Close liaison is maintained with the Inspectors of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture in the inspection of these premises.

139 Dealers Licences and 7 Supplementary Dealers Licences were issued for Sterilised and Pasteurised milk and 3 Dealers and 6 Supplementary Dealers Licences issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

1 Supplementary Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk and 2 Supplementary Dealers Licences for Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk were withheld because the Dealers Licences had not been granted by the respective licencing Authorities.

Ice-Cream.

There were 44 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the Borough. 40 of these are premises where ice-cream is retailed and obtained from other producers. 4 premises retail ice-cream produced on the premises, of which 3 use the cold mix method and the other is a factory producing ice-cream by the heat treatment method.

The increasing popularity can be judged by the increase in premises registered during the year—an increase of 26. Applications were still being received at the year end.

Great care and attention is given to the inspection of these premises and whilst the actual number of samples taken is less than for the previous year, due to the increased work upon meat inspection, the number of visits to premises has been slightly greater.

A summary of the results of samples taken during the year is as follows :—

Grade 1	9
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	4
Grade 4	10
	—
	30
	—

All premises where Grade 4 samples were obtained were visited and detailed inspections made. In 4 cases the retailers changed their supplier and it resulted in immediate improvement in results of subsequent samples. In one case two Grade 4 samples were taken in succession despite advice upon better means of storing utensils and sterilisation. A warning was given on the second occasion and a further sample proved satisfactory.

Bakehouses, Fried Fish Shops, etc.

Regular inspections of these premises have been carried out during the year. Some of the bakehouses are very old and it is difficult for the proprietors to maintain satisfactory standards therein, but despite the difficulties a good standard has been maintained.

It is pleasing to note that some bakers are now installing bread wrapping machines, and the demand for wrapped bread is rapidly increasing.

An increasingly popular product now available in some bakers shops is the ready sliced wrapped loaf, and there seems to be a steady demand for this type of loaf. The ready sliced loaf is certainly a great convenience in the home and from experience it can be stated that the bread maintains its freshness very well.

The standard maintained in fried fish shops, food preparing premises, etc., has been very good throughout the year.

Food Traders' Guild.

As a result of discussions in the Health Committee regarding food handling and preparation of food, and after consideration of my report it was decided to institute a Guild of Food Traders and Employees for the specific purpose of encouraging the clean handling of food in the Borough.

A general meeting of food traders was held in September and it was decided to form such a Guild. Representatives of the various types of food trades were appointed together with Council representatives and the Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, to act as an Advisory Committee. Constitution and rules were approved, the main features of which are :—

- (1) Codes of practice to be established for classes of food trades and its operatives with which every applicant for membership must comply before admittance to membership.
- (2) To promote improvement in the hygienic manufacture, handling and distribution of food and drink in the Borough.
- (3) To encourage proprietors, managers and employees of food premises, and the general public, to observe at all times scrupulous cleanliness when handling food.

The Advisory Committee have met each month since September and have approved codes of practice for each kind of business, including Licensed Premises and Street Food Traders.

Applications for Membership have been considered and approved where possible and certificates of membership have been presented, for exhibition in shop premises, to the successful applicants.

The number of applications received has not been as great as first anticipated. This is partially due to the fact that many of the first batch of applicants had the idea that membership was more or less automatic upon application, and insufficient consideration was given to the requirements of their respective code of practice.

Prospective applicants are, therefore, a little reticent in making application because they fear the compliance with a code means spending money on installations, whereas the requirements are only those legally required in such premises.

The Advisory Committee are adamant that compliance with the code of practice is essential before admittance to membership. It is the opinion of the Committee, and rightly so, that the objects of the Guild would be defeated by automatic acceptance on application.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 139 visits have been made to investigate cases of disease that have been reported.

This is a slight decrease upon visits made during the previous year.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious disease was 62 and 36 re-inspections were made in these cases.

It will be noted that all cases reported did not receive disinfection afterwards. We still believe that fresh air, sunlight and good cleansing is in the majority of cases equal to disinfection by special means. It is only in special cases, or where the tenant specially requests, that such work is done.

During the year 79 houses were disinfested and 113 re-inspections were made of these houses.

Treatment was undertaken with fumigant smoke or spray in each case.

85 tenants' furniture and effects were removed for treatment before occupying Council houses. The furniture was treated by HCN gas using Cyanosorb. The bedding was treated in the steam disinfector at the Cleansing Depot.

Three removals were undertaken for the Willenhall Urban District Council and treatment of furniture by HCN and bedding by steam treatment, during the year.

Charges were made for this work.

Shops Act.

In addition to the 224 visits to food shops 38 visits have been made to other shops in connection with the Shops Acts.

Pressure of other duties has prevented further work under this heading.

Factory Act 1937.

The following tables give details of inspections made and action taken in connection with the Factory Act 1937.

TABLE VII.

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 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	16	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	152	41	14	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	168	57	18	—

TABLE VIII.

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)	6	6			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	32	32	—	17	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	3	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTAL	42	41	—	20	—

TABLE IX.

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.	3	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen						
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 IX.—*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	1					
Tents	1					
Sacks	1					
Racquet and tennis balls	1					
Paper bags	1					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	1					
Brush making	1					
Pea picking	1					
Feather sorting	1					
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	1					
Stuffed toys	1					
Basket making	1					
Chocolates and sweetmeats	1					
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	1					
Textile weaving	1					
Lampshades	1					
TOTAL	4	—	—	—	—	—

Canal Boats.

No specific visits have been made for the purpose of canal boat inspection, but general inspections have been made whilst in the course of other work.

There have been no registered boats seen on the wharves in Bilston for many years. The only boats seen are lighters carrying coal and these have no living or sleeping accommodation aboard.

Common Lodging Houses.

Only one common lodging house exists in Bilston. Whilst the house is old, it is fairly well maintained and inspections have revealed no contraventions of the Act.

The inhabitants are mainly permanent lodgers.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.

During the year, 356 visits have been made to unauthorised sites in the Borough, for the express purpose of removing caravans occupied by gypsies.

The number of visits, whilst not as great as the previous year, does show that this problem is still acute, and that some real solution is still a matter of urgency.

The main sites used during the year are on Stowheath Lane by Osier Bed Cottages, the Lunt adjoining the Sewage Works, the rear of Dudley Street tip, and upon Rough Hills.

A great deal of thought has been given to ways and means of overcoming this nuisance, without success. Each new idea tried out eventually terminates in obtaining police support in forceably removing them from one site only to find them a day or so later upon another, thence to be moved from there, only to end up on another site.

The nuisance these people cause is not confined to house-to-house begging or sale of articles, as the majority now operate as rag collectors, but arises from the damage caused to gardens, and nuisance in the streets during the night by the horses owned by these gypsies roaming about.

The gypsies themselves pester the nearest householders for water and tend to play upon the emotions of householders if there is a suggestion of refusal.

The sewers have also received two treatments during the year.

It is pleasing to report that as a result of the systematic treatment of sewers the infestation shown by test bait is definitely on the decrease. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Inspector agreed in this matter and the number of manholes it was found necessary to treat was reduced to those showing infestation in the last treatment.

It is true to say that the sewers in Bilston are now more free from rats than for many years, and this has been achieved by the regular twice yearly treatments carried out during the past four years. A further indication of the decreased infestation is the reduced number of treatments carried out at food premises.

Those sewers now showing the greatest infestation are the older ones, particularly in Church Street, High Street, and Oxford Street.

The results of the sewer treatments are as follows :—

TABLE XI.

	1ST	2ND
Number of manholes in system	754	
" " " treated	286	370
" " " showing infestation	119	71
" " " showing complete pre-bait take	36	14
Actual bodies seen	11	3
Estimated kill	537	483
Dates of treatments	April/May	November

TABLE XII.

Summary of rodents exterminated during the year :—

	RATS	MICE
Actual Bodies seen	327	436
Estimated kill	1793	999

Atmospheric Pollution.

The instruments for recording pollution in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, have been kept in operation during the year, and all results have been submitted to the Department month by month.

The instruments now in operation are :—

- 1 Deposit Gauge for the measurement of deposits.
- 1 Volumetric SO₂ Recorder with smoke filter for the daily measurement of SO₂ and Smoke.
- 11 Lead Peroxide Gauges for the measurement of Sulphur.

The number of Lead Peroxide Gauges was reduced from 14 to 11 owing to interference by persons, making it impossible to keep the instruments in operation.

All analytical work has again been carried out by Mr. L. Starbuck and his staff with the permission of Messrs. Stewart & Lloyds. In addition to the normal analysis month by month, Mr. Starbuck has undertaken additional work and supplied weighings of deposits taken in Petri dishes as such work can only be done on very delicate balances.

There is a definite need for two more deposit gauges to enable better comparisons to be made of the different types of areas in Bilston.

Whilst it can be rightly argued that the recording of the extent of pollution does not provide the remedy for nuisances, it is only by making such recordings and comparing one area with another even in your own town, that accurate information can be obtained as to the extent of such pollution.

This is apparently the opinion of many Local Authorities throughout the country as the number of Local Authorities now making recordings has increased from 62 in 1948 to 88 in 1949. The number of instruments has increased in the same period.

All these extra recordings are slowly enabling the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to improve their knowledge of the extent of pollution of various forms over the whole country, and useful information is now being obtained as to trends and variations in pollution in various parts of the country.

This in turn will enable a more complete picture to be obtained of the pollution of the air over the country as a whole and will inevitably provide data in support of ultimate measures which can be adopted to eliminate pollution. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research not only collate information as to extent, but are actively engaged in experimental work for elimination of pollution. It would be impossible without an accurate knowledge of the extent and the type to devise ways of elimination. Therefore, the more Authorities who undertake measurements the better.

It is to be regretted that the Council decided during the year to cease its contributions to and Membership of the National Smoke Abatement Society, and also its annual contribution to the Research Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The value of Membership of these organisations cannot be measured in terms of £ s. d. Much useful information has been denied to this Authority by this action. Even if no useful information was ever obtained from these organisations, (and that is far from the truth) the contributions made go to the pool to enable all Authorities to benefit from the knowledge gained by constant research and new methods devised to assist everyone in solving their problems and finding solutions where possible.

I have again been of assistance to some adjoining Authorities in setting up instruments for recording pollution.

Pollution in Bilston as a whole shows a slight reduction upon the previous year as assessed by the records and graphs kept in conjunction with the observations taken month by month throughout the town. This slight reduction has been maintained over the past six years when records and instruments were first put into operation.

Unfortunately, however, there are certain exceptions, as always happens when generalisations are made, and considerable time and trouble has been devoted to these during the year.

Further efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate the nuisance from lime from the British Lime Corporation Limited at Bradley, but whilst some improvement can be recorded the solution to this problem has not been found, and the suggestion of re-siting the industry in a more suitable site has not yet been achieved.

Great difficulties have been encountered in dealing with residual dust and grit from the Frit manufacturing works of Radiation Ltd., and despite apparent efforts by the firm to install efficient extractors, the nuisance is still very great.

Towards the year end a new form of nuisance from fine dust from the grinding of rock and cinder occurred from a new plant put into operation by Messrs. Tarmac Limited in the Coseley area and which had a very serious effect upon houses adjoining in the Bilston area.

Installation of extraction equipment was in hand for removing this dust at the plant, by the beginning of the new year.

Complaints were also investigated and found justified regarding offensive smells from the chimneys of the Butchers Hide, Skin and Wool Company, just within the Willenhall area boundary.

The installation of a deodorising plant had been ordered and delivery expected early in the year, which it is hoped would eliminate this nuisance.

It is pleasing to report that at long last Messrs. John Thompson, Ettingshall, have decided to go into production upon the F.R.S. Firing Door for use with Lancashire Boilers and which have been proved of considerable assistance in the elimination of smoke from such boilers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.

All information in this section covers the period of the financial year 1st April, 1949 to 31st March, 1950.

During the twelve months the work has continued with great difficulty on a weekly collection of refuse by reason of the operation of the 44 hour five day week, and the persistent absence of employees due to illness.

The operation of the 44 hour five day week commenced on the 28th February, 1949 and continues each year until the end of October. During November to February inclusive, all men work a five and a half day week. It was impossible to agree to a complete five day week for all men during the summer period, due to the fact that urgent work has to be done on Saturday, e.g., street sweeping, vehicle maintenance and the removal of loads of refuse which can only be removed on that day.

A modified 5 day week was introduced whereby one third of the men were on duty every Saturday morning in turn, so that street sweeping, completion of refuse collection, vehicle maintenance, etc. could be carried out.

To operate such a system has caused a great deal of re-organisation and the formation of duty rotas to ensure that each man takes his proper duty and works his correct number of hours per week.

Despite all the re-organisation and careful planning, the work in the collection of refuse is not completed week by week with the same efficiency as before. Invariably it is found on Friday evening that the collection rounds are not completed and the vehicle and men on duty on the Saturday have to spend the morning clearing up arrears of work instead of carrying out vehicle servicing and cleansing, so necessary with refuse collection vehicles.

There is no doubt that haphazard maintenance will ultimately have its effect upon the condition and life of the vehicles.

With regard to absence of workmen, much could be said which would undoubtedly cause repercussions in many quarters, but as proof is difficult to obtain it is better left unsaid. This fact has been noted that men habitually work consistently during their six months service before medical examination and acceptance to the Sick Pay Scheme, but far too many seem to feel ill very soon after acceptance and upon production of the medical certificate qualify for thirteen weeks full pay during absence in their sick pay year.

This has resulted in an average absence daily of nine men, out of a strength of sixty in the department. Total absences have ranged as high as fifteen in a day, and half this number have been the younger men of the department and engaged in refuse collection or disposal.

With such a daily absence, how can systematic refuse collection and disposal proceed with efficiency? The foreman never knows from day to day how many gangs or part gangs of men will be available for duty, and after diverting every able bodied man on to refuse collection is often left with gangs not up to full strength and, therefore, incapable of doing the allotted quota of work for the day, with possibly one or two men trying to cope with refuse disposal on the tip.

There seems to be very little spirit of purpose or pride of workmanship amongst the newer recruits to the ranks of refuse collectors. There seems to be no desire to see a job well done, no satisfaction in getting the round cleared, or support between members of the gang, as was so evident in the department before 1939. In those days, conditions of employment, pay, etc., were not nearly so good as today—no messroom, locker and washing facilities, less annual holiday, no five day week, and yet as older members of the department

agree, there is no longer the same zeal or zest for work as there was in the old days.

These conditions are not confined to Bilston, but seem to be applicable at least in the Midlands area. The solution is so obvious, and that is to instill into the employees a spirit of pride in the department ; of team spirit ; of being able to do their job well and truly ; of realising the value and importance of their work to their fellow townspeople.

How difficult this solution is in application.

I have never been an advocate of " slave driving," always believing that a person can obtain the best results by encouragement, by good working conditions, and giving your employees some responsibility of trust and co-operation, but it does make me wonder in the light of experience, whether or not " slave driving " seems to have better results in the end.

During the year the first of three Shelvoke & Drewry 11 cubic yard refuse collection vehicles on order was received and put into service.

This type of vehicle is specially manufactured by Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry Limited, in the light of their extensive experience for refuse collection work. The vehicle incorporates a special compartment in which loaders can be comfortably conveyed from point to point without draping themselves precariously all over the vehicle.

The vehicle is of much longer capacity than ever used before in Bilston, having an extra 4 cubic yards of capacity for refuse.

It is anticipated that by using this type of vehicle the number of vehicles can be retained at four, and the additional refuse from all new houses can be dealt with by increasing the team of labourers from four to six when necessary.

TABLE XIII.

Details of Refuse Collection.

HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

	Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
Motors	391,660	4,977	10,098
Carts	30,590	740	591
	422,250	5,717	10,619

HOUSE REFUSE—WET

Carts	2,898	299	225
TOTALS	425,148	6,016	10,914

MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

	Covering for Tips		Trade Refuse		Cess- pools		Waste Paper		Kitchen Waste		Condem- ned Food		Misc. Refuse		Total	
	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.
Motors	362	723	45	23	2016	6148	1026	205	248	283	117	12	6	8	3820	7402
Carts	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	8
TOTALS	372	731	45	23	2016	6148	1026	205	248	283	117	12	6	8	3830	7410

STREET CLEANSING

Street Gullies

	Cleansed	Loads	Tons
Mechanical	10,137	218	654

Street Sweeping

	Mileage	Loads	Tonnage	Water Used (Galls.)
Mechanical	3,772 (Actual)	517	388	36,350
Manual—Team with Cart	3,219 (Estimated)	634	476	
Street Orderlies	4,409 (Estimated)	5,512	543	
TOTALS	10,400	6,663	1,407	36,350

Street Cleansing.

Difficulties as already enumerated for the refuse collection service are equally applicable for this service.

In addition, it seems impossible to engage any younger men on this work. The average age of the street sweepers is 62 years and one cannot expect good service from men who have reached that age, despite their willingness to work.

Systematic road sweeping fails under such conditions and whenever one of these men retires he is either replaced with great difficulty by a man of similar age or more often not at all, with the result that less and less men are employed on this work.

Experiments have been carried out in organising pre-selected sites for the temporary storage of sweepings collected by street orderlies for ultimate regular collection by lorry and disposal at the tip.

One hut was built in Bradley at the junction of Crane Road and Walter Road, and this was large enough to accommodate storage bins and orderly trucks.

The yard at the rear of the Health Department was used for a similar purpose.

These have proved successful in that sweepings have been disposed of in a satisfactory manner, and the men have been relieved of the necessity of pushing their trucks to and from the depot each morning and evening.

If manual sweeping is to continue, many more of these huts are necessary throughout the town.

Six new orderly trucks were received during the year to replace some of the old trucks which have been in service for a great number of years and are no longer serviceable.

The mechanical sweeper, despite recurring breakdowns due to bad design, has proved invaluable in coping with urgent needs of street sweeping. The machine is working on more and more roads, particularly on the new housing estates, but the more roads swept the lesser the frequency of cleansing.

If more street orderlies cannot be engaged, consideration will have to be given to the purchase of more mechanical sweepers.

The contract with an advertising agency for the provision of litter receptacles has been entered into and the fixing of receptacles has commenced.

Details of work done are given in Table XIII.

Gully Cleansing and Cesspool Emptying.

The Shelvoke & Drewry Gully Emptier has been in continuous operation during the year in cleansing street gullies.

Every gully is receiving a proper cleansing and flushing at intervals of 4 to 5 weeks, and it can be truly stated that the gullies are now in a cleaner condition than for many years.

Considerable difficulty is experienced from extraneous articles which are placed in street gullies—articles ranging from wheels, metal bars, to a lump of rock weighing three quarters of a cwt. The latter had obviously been dropped into the gully by lifting up the metal cover to the gully by an adult person.

The old gully emptying machine has again been engaged mainly in emptying cesspools at houses and works not connected to the sewer.

Despite the fact that many houses have now been connected to the new sewer at Moxley, the cesspools remain at Thompson Brothers, Great Bridge Road and at Wednesbury Tube Company, although by the year end work had commenced on the latter to arrange connections to the sewer.

The work of emptying these cesspools requires the old gully emptier $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 days per week and, therefore, the machine is only available to the Surveyor for sewer flushing on one or one half day per week. When urgent sewer stoppages occur the gully emptier is immediately made available on such occasions.

Salvage.

The direction of the Board of Trade to collect paper, rags and bones was removed during the year as a result of the surplus amount of paper in particular at that time available.

This Authority had never been in difficulty in the disposal of paper as had other Authorities throughout the country, due to the foresight in completing a contract some years ago, and which does not terminate until 1951, with the Thames Board Mills.

During the difficult months when many Authorities had large stocks which could not be sold, we had no difficulty in disposing of that recovered by us.

I was assured that there would be no difficulty and that the more paper we collected the better. Our collections were stepped up as far as transport and labour allowed, and the difficulty today is that the paper cannot be collected and baled fast enough to cope with tradespeople's requests for removal.

The demand for paper salvage has since that time increased to such an extent that there is once again a shortage, although at the same time the price per ton for the lowest grade was reduced from £6/12/6d. to £5/-/-d. per ton.

Consideration was given during the year to the advisability of continuing with the work of salvage collections, due to the fact that no actual profit was made after taking all overhead costs into consideration.

The opinion of the Committee was that as the paper would have to be collected as refuse in any case, and that as the paper collected as such was being sold and providing income, the work of salvage collection should proceed.

The direction to collect kitchen waste remains in force although the control of this section of salvage has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries due to the Directorate of Salvage and Recovery closing down.

The use of the small covered bucket at individual houses has been encouraged as much as possible during the year. Every endeavour has been made to get householders to accept this system in order to remove street bins, but there are still strong objections to this, for what reasons I have failed to ascertain, and so many street bins still remain that would otherwise have been withdrawn from use.

Every new Council house completed receives a bucket at the same time an ordinary ashbin is delivered.

The salvaging of bottles, jars, rags and bones has been discontinued temporarily, as no facilities are available at the depot for sorting or storage until the modernisation at the depot is completed.

Details of materials recovered and sold during the year and for the two previous years, as follows :—

TABLE XIV.

MATERIALS	1949-50			1948-49			1947-48		
	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE
	TONS	CWTS.	£	TONS	CWTS.	£	TONS	CWTS.	£
Paper	202	—	1163	155	—	990	129	—	849
Board of Trade Collection	—	—	10	—	—	25	—	—	—
Allowance :	—	—	12	—	—	25	—	—	—
January to June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July to December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kitchen Waste	284	—	722	263	—	394	255	—	382
Board of Trade Collection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowance :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October 1948 to	—	—	129	—	—	101	—	—	65
March 1949	—	—	18	—	—	129	—	—	109
April 1949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metals	2	10	9	10	—	—	—	—	556
Bottles, Jars and Cullet	—	—	—	34	—	33	8	—	18
Textiles	—	9	13	5	—	277	20	—	131
Bones	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	12	3
			£2076			£2001			£1582

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal still continues by the controlled tipping method, but as reported in my previous Annual Reports, such tipping does not conform to the requirements of the Ministry of Health regulations, inasmuch as there is an insufficient amount of covering available to provide the necessary depth of covering on all exposed surfaces.

During the summer months when there is little or no ash in house refuse, and when trade refuse, particularly from fishmongers and greengrocers is particularly obnoxious, it is well nigh impossible to dispose of refuse without causing some nuisance.

In addition, lack of suitable men for work in disposal and regular absence of men also adds to the already considerable difficulties encountered.

Interference on tips continues unabated despite legal proceedings taken against one offender during the year. A barbed wire fence around the tip is little deterrent to adults, particularly as it appears that "commando" training has taught easy methods to overcome such obstacles, should the need arise. Indeed to erect a barbed wire fence these days seems to invite special attention and provide the necessary incentive to cause an invasion.

All these difficulties make the disposal of refuse an extremely difficult and unhygienic process and is in my opinion the real grounds at this stage for the provision of an incinerator, either for the disposal of all refuse or for the disposal of all putrescible matter and trade refuse.

The Council have further considered the provision of such an incinerator, but due to the cost of such an installation and the need for every economy in capital expenditure, have decided to investigate the possibility of having a smaller incinerator capable of dealing with trade refuse only.

The tip off Great Bridge Road was completed on the 18th January, 1950. This tip was commenced in December, 1947, and has taken just over two years to complete. During this time 15,536 loads of refuse, both house, trade and industrial, have been tipped on the land and the approximate weight was 25,571 tons.

The nearness of houses to this tip has been a severe handicap, particularly during the latter stages when the final layer of refuse was being tipped and despite every possible precaution the nuisance from dust, and in warm weather flies, did occur to a certain extent.

Interference during the last few months both by adults and children was very bad, despite the erection of a barbed wire fence all round the tip. The successful legal action against one persistent adult offender did little or nothing to deter others.

Since January 1950 tipping has again recommenced on derelict land at the Loxdale Estate at the rear of the Sewage Works. Whilst similar conditions apply to this tip as regards lack of covering and interference, the tip is well removed from houses. This tends to give a little more privacy and does not attract the attentions of adults so much from houses in search of materials for fire lighting, etc. Unfortunately, the tip adjoins a site where gypsies invariably park their vans and interference from these people is very persistent.

The Dudley Street tip is solely used for the disposal of industrial refuse and when possible one man is kept on duty to control tipping on this tip.

Details of Refuse Disposed of at the various tips are as follows :

TABLE XV.

MOXLEY TIP (Estimated Weights)

	Cleansing Department		Tradespeople and Others		Total	
	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons
Dry Refuse	4,110	8,438	—	—	4,110	8,438
Trade Refuse	42	22	236	119	278	141
Miscellaneous	25	65	612	609	637	674
Coverings and Sweepings	932	1,385	—	—	932	1,385
Gully Sludge	184	495	—	—	184	495
TOTALS	5,293	10,405	848	728	6,141	11,133

LUNT TIP

Dry Refuse	1,548	2,257	—	—	1,548	2,257
Trade Refuse	3	2	53	27	56	29
Miscellaneous	—	—	189	189	189	189
Coverings and Sweepings	2,872	714	—	—	2,872	714
Gully Sludge	54	165	—	—	54	165
TOTALS	4,477	3,138	242	216	4,719	3,354

TABLE XV.—*continued***DUDLEY STREET TIP**

Sweepings	2,016	308	—	—	2,016	308
Dry Refuse	44	33	—	—	44	33
Miscellaneous	—	—	Approximate 2,025 3,037		2,025	3,037
TOTALS	2,060	341	2,025	3,037	4,085	3,378

DEPOT

Sweepings	1,504	235	—	—	1,504	235
TOTALS	1,504	235	—	—	1,504	235

SEWAGE WORKS—SEWER INLET

Cesspools	2,016	6,148	—	—	2,016	6,148
Nightsoil and Wet Refuse	301	227	—	—	301	227
TOTALS	2,317	6,375	—	—	2,317	6,375

GRAND TOTAL REFUSE DISPOSED	15,651	20,494	3,115	3,981	18,766	24,475
--	--------	--------	-------	-------	--------	--------

TABLE XVI.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Costs.

House and Trade Refuse

	COLLECTION	DISPOSAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure	11,668	2,307	13,975
Gross Income	171	36	207
Net Cost	11,497	2,271	13,768
Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross Expenditure per ton	21 4.0	4 2.6	25 6.6
Gross Income per ton	3.7	0.8	4.5
Net Cost per ton	21 0.3	4 1.8	25 2.11
Net Cost per 1,000 population	£ s. d. 348 9 11	£ s. d. 68 16 9	£ s. d. 417 6 8
Net Cost per 1,000 premises from which refuse is collected	£ s. d. 1334 1 4	£ s. d. 263 10 4	£ s. d. 1597 11 8
Rate Poundage.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Net Cost equivalent rate in the £	1 9.1	4.2	2 1.3
Percentage of above to total rates in the £	8.8%	1.7%	10.5%

Total Refuse Collected (tons) estimated weights based on test weighings	10,937
Population Estimated	32,990
Number of houses and premises from which refuse is collected	8,618
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	18.1
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1949	£139,424
Product of a 1d. Rate	£544
Total Rates in the £	20/-d.
Method of Collection :	
Horse Vehicles	1
Motor Vehicles (petrol)	5
Method of Disposal :	
Controlled tipping	100%
Horse vehicle used for covering	1
Average length of travel to point of disposal	2 miles
Number of employees other than Clerical :	
Foreman	1
Inspector	1
Others	27
Frequency of Collection of Refuse	3 Weekly

Cleansing Depot.

The work of modernising the depot has been at a standstill during the year, due to restrictions upon building work.

The badly needed sanitary accommodation for males and females was completed, but nothing further has been done to the messroom and locker rooms and these were left in a state of part completion.

By the year end approval had been received to finally complete the remaining sections and priority had to be given to the messroom as the most urgently needed section.

It is hoped that during the coming year the remaining sections will be completed as it is now nearly four years since work commenced on the modernisation of the depot.

Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Depot.

The operation of this depot has been extremely satisfactory, not only for the repair of all vehicles from all departments of the Corporation, but also in the work of making various machine parts and machinery for all departments, especially the Sewage Works and Building Department.

A great deal of this work is precision work on the lathe and it has been of great value in the expedition of urgent work for all departments in having an engineer capable of executing such work without delay.

The work of modernizing the depot has been at a standstill during the year, due to restrictions upon building work.

During 1937 the work

The laundry needed sanitary accommodation for males and females was completed, but nothing further has been done to the messroom and locker rooms and these were left in a state of partial completion.

By the year end approval had been received to finally complete the remaining messroom and priority had to be given to the messroom as the most urgently needed section.

It is hoped that during the coming year the remaining sections will be completed and is now nearly four years since work commenced on the modernization of the depot.

Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Depot.

The operations of this depot have been extremely satisfactory, not only for the repair of all vehicles from all departments of the Corporation, but also in the work of making various machine parts and machinery for all departments, especially the Sewage Works and Building Department.

A great deal of this work is revision work on the lathe and it has been of great value in the execution of urgent work for all departments in having an adequate capable of executing such work without delay.

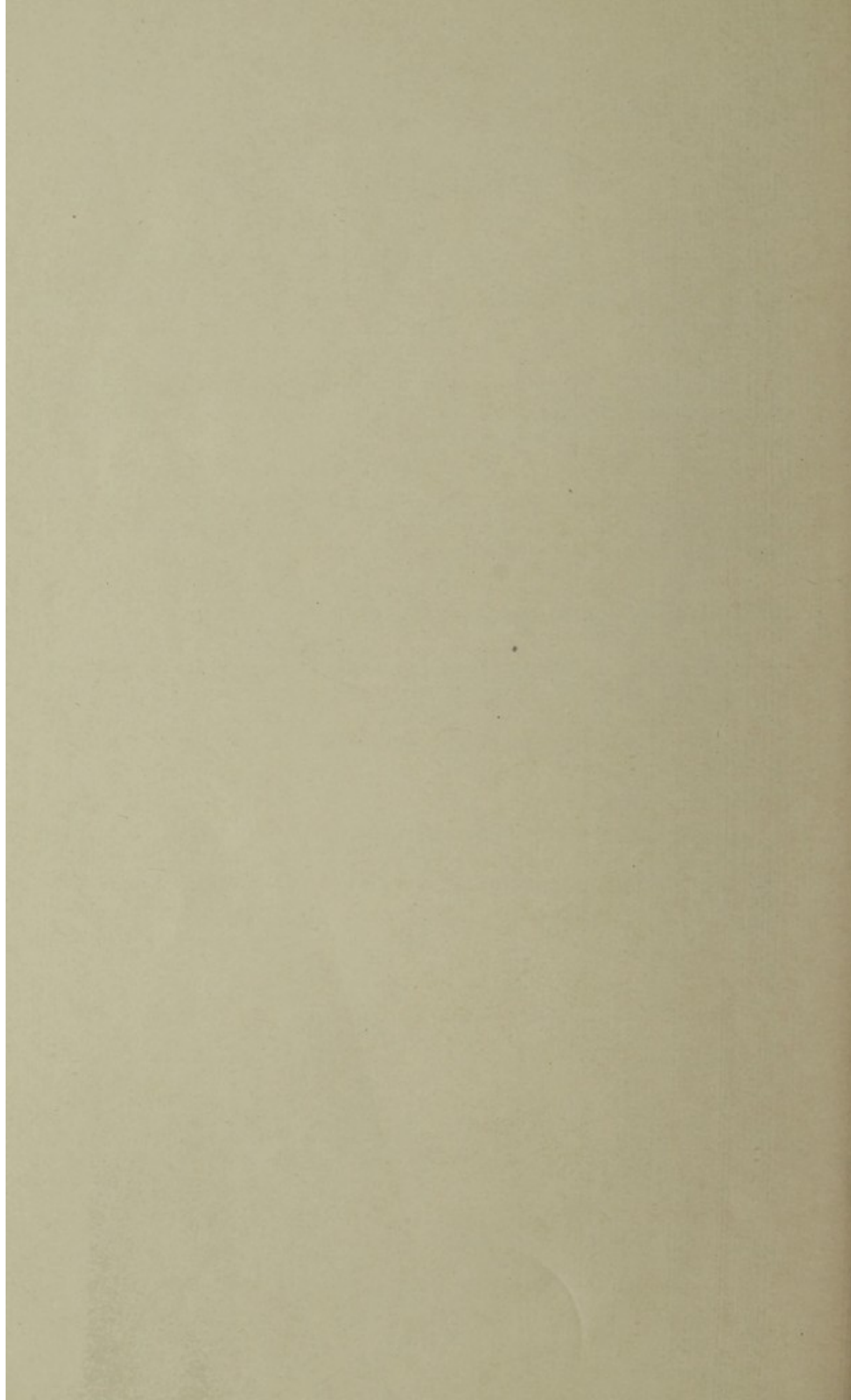
The work of the depot has been very satisfactory and it has been of great value in the execution of urgent work for all departments in having an adequate capable of executing such work without delay.

The work of the depot has been very satisfactory and it has been of great value in the execution of urgent work for all departments in having an adequate capable of executing such work without delay.

The work of the depot has been very satisfactory and it has been of great value in the execution of urgent work for all departments in having an adequate capable of executing such work without delay.

The work of the depot has been very satisfactory and it has been of great value in the execution of urgent work for all departments in having an adequate capable of executing such work without delay.







HEALTH
A 30 SEP 50
CR