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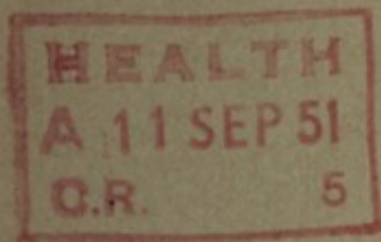
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BOROUGH OF BILSTON.



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

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

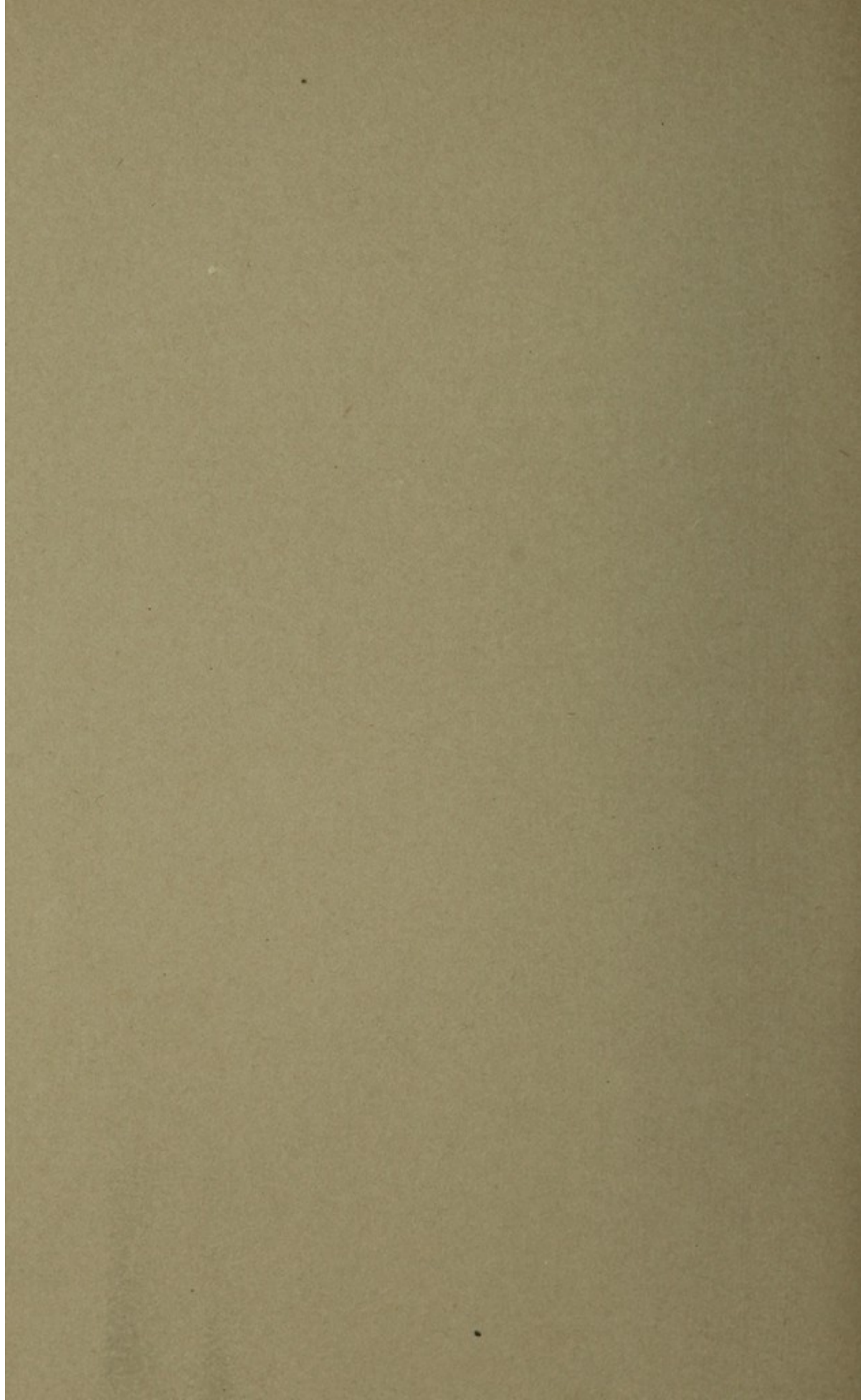
Medical Officer of Health.

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, 1951.



*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 1950.

There is an increase in the estimated population of Bilston, being 33,360 for 1950 as against 32,990 for 1949.

The number of deaths recorded this year is 364. In 1949 it was 336.

There is a slight increase in the birth rate from 19.01 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1949 to 19.10 of the estimated population in 1950.

I wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your support during the year.

I am grateful to my colleagues for their co-operation, and to my Staff for their loyal service.

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 :

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

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT :

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

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

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

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

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

*J. RICHARDS, Cert. S.I.B. (Appointed January 1950).

CLERICAL STAFF

HEALTH :

Miss R. P. Sheffield.
Miss V. E. Mason.
Mrs. J. A. Bright.
C. J. Pearce.
E. R. Whittingham.
N. Edwards (H.M. Forces).

CLEANSING :

L. R. Littlewood.

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area	1,871 acres
Population : 1931 Census	31,248
Estimated Population for Year	33,360
Estimated number of Inhabited Houses for the year	8,816
Rateable Value at the 31st December, 1950	£143,847

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Live Births	638	317	321	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.10
(Legitimate)	614	304	310	
(Illegitimate)	24	13	11	
Still Births	20	11	9	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births 19.72

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Deaths	364	190	174	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.91

Comparability Factors : Births 0.98
Deaths 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	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	50.16
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.49
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	41.66

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	54
„ Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ 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	49	40	89
High Town	20	27	47
Town Hall	73	79	152
Bradley	45	44	89
Ettingshall	34	38	72
Out of District	96	93	189
Total	317	321	638

TABLE 2.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000
1950	317	321	638	19.10
1949	333	294	627	19.01
1948	321	353	674	20.60
1947	445	442	887	27.97
1946	378	291	669	21.42

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	21	27	48
High Town	16	13	29
Town Hall	43	34	77
Bradley	21	17	38
Ettingshall	23	29	52
Transferable Deaths	66	54	120
Total	190	174	364

TABLE 4.

Year	Deaths			Death Rate per 1,000
	Males	Females	Total	
1950	190	174	364	10.91
1949	174	162	336	10.18
1948	145	139	284	8.68
1947	226	149	375	11.82
1946	206	171	377	12.08

TABLE 5.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	22	10	32
1 and under 2 years	—	1	1
2 and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 and under 15 years	2	2	4
15 and under 25 years	9	4	13
25 and under 45 years	12	15	27
45 and under 65 years	54	38	92
65 and under 80 years	70	70	140
80 years and upwards	21	34	55
Total	190	174	364

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
Tuberculosis Respiratory	14	8	22
Tuberculosis Other	1	5	6
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	7	—	7
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung, Bronchus)	8	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	—	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	18	10	28
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	18	23	41
Coronary Disease, Angina	12	6	18
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	8	12
Other Heart Disease	18	32	50
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5	9
Influenza	1	6	7
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis	31	15	46
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4	3	7
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	7	11
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
Congenital Malformation	2	2	4
Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	24	24	48
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and Operation of War	—	—	—
TOTAL	190	174	364

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	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	BILSTON
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Births :				
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	19.10
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.60
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	10.91
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.84
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.21
Smallpox	—	—	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.24
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	0.90
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	2.22
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.09
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	12.29
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	1.74
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.09
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06
Deaths :	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	50.16
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	6.27
Notifications (Corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	0.00

(a) per 1,000 related live births

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

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

During the year 45 samples of water were taken, 17 of which were Chemically Analysed and 28 were Bacteriologically Tested.

Of the 28 Bacteriologically Tested 4 were taken from The Bratch ; 4 from Tom Hill ; 3 from Coton Road Reservoirs (2 from Service Reservoir, 1 from Closed Storage Reservoir) 6 from Private Dwellings in Bilston ; 4 from Private Dwellings in Himley ; 2 from the Building Site at Himley ; 2 from the Storage Tank of a Food Van and a Mobile Canteen (O'Connor, Mill Street, Bilston) ; 1 from the Storage Tank ; 1 from the Emergency Storage Tank and 1 from the Water Tower at Moxley Isolation Hospital.

Of the 17 samples Chemically Analysed, 4 were taken from The Bratch ; 4 from Tom Hill ; 6 from Private Dwellings in Bilston ; 1 from the Storage Tank of a Mobile Canteen (O'Connor, Mill Street, Bilston) ; 1 from the Water Tower, Moxley Isolation Hospital and 1 from a Private Dwelling at Himley.

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

TABLE 8

	BRATCH	TOM HILL
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F.	32.0	20.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	0.0004
Albuminoid	0.0004	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen	0.65	0.85
Chlorine	2.3	1.9
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.008	0.006
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Injurious		
Metallic Contamination	None	None
ph. Value	7.3	6.6
Hardness before Boiling	17.0°	7.9°
Hardness after Boiling	6.1°	6.1°
Temporary Hardness	10.9°	1.8°

The 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 Chief 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.

Details are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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	29	29	20	—
Whooping Cough	75	74	3	1
Poliomyelitis	5	5	5	1
Measles	410	410	6	—
Diphtheria	5	3	5	—
Pneumonia	57	58	6	8
Dysentery	14	14	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	5	1	—

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 1950

The number of occupied houses or flats at the 31st December, 1950 was estimated to be 8,816 of which 3,604 have been built or adapted for living accommodation by the Council. Included in this figure are 100 prefabricated Arcon bungalows and 31 premises requisitioned or acquired premises which have been converted or adapted as flats.

The main sites for house construction during the year were Stowlawn where 367 houses have now been completed and 156 were under construction. At Ettingshall 48 flats were completed and 12 under construction, and in addition 10 houses were completed and 64 were in the course of erection. At Rough Hills 3 houses had been completed and 37 were in the course of erection.

At the Mountford Lane site now being developed by private enterprise, house building has proceeded as satisfactorily as is possible due to the limitation of the number of building licences available out of the total allocation for the Council.

The first three sections of the estate provide a total of 154 sites of which 109 have been allocated. 23 sites had been provisionally allocated and the unallocated number at the end of the year was 22.

Section four of the estate will provide a further 37 sites.

During the year 45 houses were completed and occupied on this estate.

This information is obtained from the reports of the Borough Architect.

General Housing.

The housing needs of the Borough can be judged by reference to the recommendations made and the outstanding requirements at the 31st December 1950, as shown in Table 11.

The figure is sometimes questioned and it may be desirable to institute a complete revision of all groupings made since the system commenced. This would be a considerable undertaking, but if it could be completed it would show how great the need really is.

In addition to this figure of families recommended for rehousing, one must also bear in mind the families in unfit houses which have no recommendation as no overcrowding exists in their houses.

In an endeavour to clear the worst houses in slum areas and to demolish or render them uninhabitable to prevent families continuing to live in unfit houses and so laying claim to high priority for rehousing, lists of intended removals are submitted by the Housing Manager covering each six months period.

Inspections are made of the suspected unfit houses which should not be relet and any found to be so are represented to the Committee for action under the Housing Act.

Every opportunity is given to owners or agents to submit schemes of reconditioning in order to bring the property up to the temporary standard approved by the Council, and in view of the serious housing shortage any undertaking calculated to meet these requirements, sub-standard though they are, is accepted in order to provide reasonable accommodation for small families for a limited period until better housing is available.

Despite the attempts made to rehouse families, it is a fact that many houses with Demolition Orders thereon have not been emptied because the occupants cannot afford the high rents of new houses.

During the year 48 houses were represented for action under the Housing Acts, and demolition order procedure agreed upon. In 40 cases demolition orders were made. In 4 cases undertakings to execute works were accepted and in one case action was deferred pending enquiries as to actual ownership.

In addition 3 houses were voluntarily closed and rendered uninhabitable by owners or agents without procedure and 17 old houses in the ownership of the Corporation were agreed to be demolished when emptied.

A summary of the action taken under the Housing Act is as follows :—

TABLE 10.

Total number of houses represented	.....	.....	317
Demolition Orders made	.....	.....	186
Houses demolished	.....	.....	34
Houses boarded or bricked up, demolition not possible	.....	.....	54
Houses void	.....	.....	7
Demolition Orders in abeyance, Houses relet	.....	.....	29
Demolition Orders in abeyance	.....	.....
Tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	59
Houses occupied by squatters	.....	.....	3
Procedure withdrawn	.....	.....	6
Corporation properties agreed for demolition	.....	.....	61
Corporation properties demolished	.....	.....	1
Corporation properties boarded or bricked up	.....	.....	35
Corporation properties tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	25
Closing Orders made	.....	.....	7
Operative	.....	.....	6
Tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	1
Undertakings accepted	.....	.....	56
Undertakings completed	.....	.....	40
Undertakings in abeyance—tenants not rehoused	.....	.....	12
Undertakings in abeyance—houses relet	.....	.....	4
Houses still under consideration	.....	.....	1
Houses demolished without procedure	.....	.....	2
Houses emptied and bricked up without procedure	.....	.....	5

Clearance Areas

No actual progress has been possible with the nine clearance areas declared in 1945.

Piecemeal consideration is given to certain houses in these areas by action under Section 11 of the Housing Act as reported under the previous heading.

The only area now being systematically dealt with is the Rough Hills clearance area where compulsory purchase has allowed the speed up of rehousing of the tenants into new houses completed on the levelled site adjoining, so that the whole area can be cleared in order that levelling and redevelopment can proceed in accordance with the plan for that area.

The redevelopment of the Temple Street area is proceeding on similar lines, but owing to greater complications in the purchase of

properties, not with the same speed. Purchases are at negotiated prices and not by compulsory purchase as in the case of Rough Hills. Flats and houses are being built on cleared parts of this area which it is hoped will shortly allow of speedier redevelopment.

The compulsory purchase of land and houses is also proceeding in the Salop Street area and plans of houses have been approved for the building of houses on the land in St. Martin's Terrace.

Development has proceeded on cleared areas in Wolverhampton Street and Bridge Street where blocks of flats are in the course of construction.

Plans for houses to be erected on the land in Gozzard Street and Bissell Street were under consideration at the end of the year.

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 was 562.

Details of recommendations made are shown in Table 11.

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

The families moved without recommendations are in the main families who have transferred from old Council houses into new and more expensive Council houses, to allow families who cannot afford the rents of the new houses to have a cheaper type house.

Some of the tenants of houses on Rough Hills were removed into new houses in Durberville Road in order to allow the development of the area to proceed.

Welfare of Council House Tenants.

It has been of great interest to note the regular and systematic visitation of Council houses by the Welfare Officer attached to the Housing Department during the year.

It has also been noted that the number of really bad cases found have been very few.

Nothing but praise has been heard for the work of this officer and of her understanding and sympathetic but firm attitude where necessary with all tenants.

It is a matter of conjecture whether this officer alone can adequately deal with the needs of Council house tenants now that there are 3,500 such houses to be visited.

General Housing Repairs.

Housing repairs have again been executed by notices served under the Public Health Acts with the exception of the work done as a result of undertakings accepted as a result of Demolition Order procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

Details of work executed and improvements effected are given in Table III of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1950

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report upon the Sanitary and Cleansing Services of the Borough for the year. This is my fourth 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, 1950, and the second which deals with Public Cleansing including Street Cleansing which covers the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1951.

Sanitary Services.

Details of inspections and visits made are given in Table I. The total number of visits is 14,015 being an increase of 1,584 upon the previous year. Whilst the actual number of visits made does not give a true indication of work done, as one visit to a slaughterhouse or for removal of caravans may mean a whole day's work, it can be seen that more work is being accomplished since the appointment of the last additional inspector.

My real concern is that, of the five Sanitary Inspectors including myself now employed, only two actually live in the Borough.

Lack of housing accommodation has driven the remainder, in two cases, to live many miles outside the Borough, in one case at Claverley and in the other on the Birmingham side of Walsall.

This means that only two officers are available for holiday and weekend duty or for emergency duty when required. This is an unfair burden for two officers to bear and may lead to a very unfortunate position if both these officers are on holiday or not available for emergency duty if required.

It will be noted that once again visits made for the removal of caravans from unauthorised sites has been one of the major duties undertaken, a duty which when completed gives no satisfaction or solution because they will inevitably return to the same site within a few days or weeks.

Group	Bedrooms					Group	Bedrooms					Group	Bedrooms					Group	Bedrooms					Group	Bedrooms					Totals	Bedrooms					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	
A	70	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
B	63	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
C	135	7	64	37	35	7	106	1	34	47	36	3	92	6	27	16	16	2	84	1	34	47	36	3	92	6	27	16	16	2	84	1	34	47	36	3
D	26	1	1	1	1	1	23	1	1	1	1	1	20	1	1	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	1	1	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
E	107	6	37	55	32	6	85	6	25	40	32	6	63	16	22	14	12	6	43	16	22	14	12	6	43	16	22	14	12	6	43	16	22	14	12	6

TABLE 12

It is worthy of note that the visits made to slaughterhouses has more than doubled that of the previous year, and it is of great satisfaction to know that all animals slaughtered for human food in Bilston are methodically examined for fitness by your Sanitary Inspector on duty before it is allowed to be passed on for sale to the public.

The handling, storage and transport of food and the condition of food premises has always been of great importance. Careful attention has been paid to these matters at all times and as will be known from publicity now being given to this, even greater efforts are to be made in safeguarding our food supplies. We are ready and willing to act upon any further legislation or recommendation which may come upon this extremely important subject.

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

During the year 4,956 improvements have been executed, an increase of 686 upon the previous year. The improvements effected without notice account for 3,216 of the improvements and of this number 2,671 were in connection with the cleansing of drains and water closets carried out by your own employees, and the supply of ashbins by us under the Ashbin Maintenance Scheme.

I feel that credit is due, however, to some owners and agents for their work in executing repairs in spite of the difficulty of increased cost of wages and materials without any permitted rent increases.

Detailed information of the work done during the year is given under the various headings of the report.

Public Cleansing.

The past twelve months has once again proved to be a period of constant difficulties and frustration, the overcoming of which has been the cause of the partial failure of the department to maintain the high standard of efficiency required in its various services.

The main difficulty has been to maintain a sufficient number of suitable men to carry out the various duties we are called upon to do.

Illness has played a leading part in the attendance of men for duty, particularly about Christmas time and January, when absences were so high that gangs of men on refuse collection were reduced from five to two. In particular cases there were insufficient men available to provide the total number of gangs necessary to clear refuse from all districts.

Another disturbing feature that has become apparent is the number of good men who have left the department during the year to take up work in other industries.

Enquiries have revealed that the reason for this exodus of men is because they can earn more money in other employment than with the Corporation. Not that their basic wage is better, but with overtime work their weekly wage packet is far in excess of their present earnings.

Recruitment of suitable labour to fill these vacancies created has become a major problem which has not been solved, and which is causing a noted deterioration in the efficiency of the work of the department as a whole.

There still appears to be the tendency for men who are ill to remain off duty longer than was previously necessary if they are accepted under the Sick Pay Scheme. The main disadvantage of the Sick Pay Scheme appears to be that there is no incentive for a man to return to work at the earliest possible time when he is fit for work, as he can have thirteen weeks full pay in any year when covered by a medical certificate.

Refuse Collection.

The use of larger capacity vehicles has permitted a reduction in the number of gangs from five to four, and by the addition of additional labourers as is necessary, it is anticipated that the same number of vehicles will be able to cope with all the new houses completed and occupied.

One factor that is becoming increasingly evident is that less bins are being collected on new estates than from older properties, due to the increased carrying distance from house to vehicle.

Whilst the weight per bin is much less from houses on new estates where modern heating and cooking appliances exist, which in turn makes the work of the collector lighter, there has to be a weekly emptying of bins from all houses and this adds to the walking and carrying distance for the men concerned.

Details of refuse collection are given in Table XI.

Street Cleansing.

It has been increasingly difficult to maintain efficient street cleansing due to the retirement of further street orderlies. Whilst the old men employed in this work have proved willing, there obviously

comes a time when they cannot work any longer. The inability to replace these men has resulted in less men being available for the work, which in turn has meant less frequency of sweeping in some streets.

More and more streets have been allocated to the mechanical sweeper for sweeping and this has meant that a less frequency of sweeping some streets has had to be applied.

In an endeavour to step up the mileages of roads cleansed, night sweeping has been experimented with, but this has not been as satisfactory as was desired.

Gully cleansing has been undertaken solely by mechanical means, but due to absence of men working the second machine engaged on cesspool emptying not being available for certain periods, the gully emptying machine has had to be transferred temporarily to cesspool emptying.

Salvage.

Systematic collections of paper, and kitchen waste, have continued during the year.

One lorry with driver and labourer are engaged on paper collection from shops and other business premises, and all refuse collection vehicles have trailers whereby domestic arisings are collected.

One lorry with driver and labourer are engaged on kitchen waste collections from all sources.

A small quantity of metal has been salvaged, but the scarcity of scrap metal has increased to such an extent that its value is well recognised with the result that little, if any, is made available as salvage.

Bottles, jars and rags have not been collected as there is no sorting or storage available at the depot until the final alterations at the depot are completed.

The value and possibility of sale of bottles and jars is precarious and it is debatable as to whether their recovery would be worthwhile at present.

We always had difficulty with rags due to the large number of rag collectors who tour the town, picking the best and most valuable and leaving the comparatively useless rags to be collected by us.

Collections of paper and kitchen waste have fallen slightly as compared with the previous year.

Whilst the reductions are slight the fact that there has been a reduction instead of an increase is tragic in view of the importance of recovering every scrap to assist in the nation's recovery.

Kitchen Waste collections have maintained the average for previous years. Each new Council house occupied is provided with a separate container for kitchen waste as well as the normal ashbin, and by this means more houses are encouraged in the saving of a vital supplementary food for pigs and poultry.

Details of materials salvaged and sold are given in Table XII.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse apart from a small amount of street sweepings has been disposed of by controlled tipping on the tip at the rear of the Lunt Road Depot.

The same difficulties met with in previous years, e.g. lack of suitable covering, etc. have again given trouble, but with the use of the angledozer, when received, and the concentration of all disposal at one site by industry as well as domestic refuse, it is anticipated that a marked improvement will be made.

Details of refuse disposal are given in Table XIII.

Collection and Disposal Costs.

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

Depot.

It is gratifying to report that after four years of intermittent work the modernising of the depot according to the approved plan accepted by the Committee, is now rapidly approaching completion.

The final cost of this work will be much higher than anticipated, due in no small measure to the length of time taken in completion. Constant increases in wages and materials over the years have been met as each different stage has been done.

That modernisation was necessary there was no doubt. This should have been done many years ago. The great pity is that it should have been left until approvals became difficult and wages and materials became so greatly increased.

One thing is certain, we now have a depot of which we are proud. A depot which will permit of better control and administration of the Public Cleansing services.

Conclusion.

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

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

To the Health and Cleansing Department staffs, I offer sincere thanks for their loyal and wholehearted support. One of necessity makes many demands upon their services and it is deeply gratifying to me to realise how well and readily their services are given with a real spirit of comradeship and team work.

I wish to thank all employees of both departments for their support and co-operation during the year. These people can make or mar to a large extent the efficiency of the department. It is a pity that some men do not fully realise their responsibilities as members of a team whose object should be to render service to their townspeople by doing their allotted task to the best of their ability at all times.

There appears to be, unfortunately, in all walks of life today, an attitude of giving the minimum effort to complete the task allotted. There is a lack of real co-operation—of team spirit—of seeing the job well and truly done, and until that attitude is changed there never will be real efficiency in any work undertaken.

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	515	1,108	1,623
Complaints	558	161	719
Overcrowding	555	273	828
Dirty Condition	11	7	18
Disinfected	55	24	79
Disinfested	160	48	208
Rodent Control	657	2,122	2,779
Infectious Diseases	191	131	322
Disinfestation—Visits	122	—	122
Removals	260	—	260
Other Premises.			
Licensed Premises	22	—	22
Street Food Vendors	22	5	27
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites	180	63	243
Common Lodging Houses	4	—	4
Schools	2	—	2
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	20	1	21
Cowsheds	1	—	1
Workplaces	5	—	5
Bakehouses	25	—	25
Dairies	7	1	8
Premises—Bottled Milk	185	5	190
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	18	—	18
Retailers	112	5	117
Samples	74	—	74
Slaughterhouses	731	39	770
Private or emergency slaughter of animals	26	1	27
Offensive Trades—Fried Fish Shops	22	1	23
Food preparing premises	137	2	139
Ice Stores	12	—	12
Market—Visits	53	—	53
Meat Stalls	106	—	106
Other Food Stalls	127	—	127
Shops re Meat and Food	178	1	179
Others	52	4	56
Rodent Control	13	60	73
Warehouses	17	—	17
Public Conveniences	23	—	23
Stables	7	—	7
Premises re Swine, Fowl, etc.	62	6	68
Premises re Offensive Accumulations	42	1	43
Drains Tested, Inspected and Cleansed	1,661	50	1,711
Dance Hall—Catering	2	—	2
Sewers—Inspected	29	2	31
Street Gullies Inspected	12	—	12
Rodent Control	273	546	819
Smoke Observations—General	632	23	655

Other Premises—continued

Cinemas and Theatres	2	—	2
Water Samples—Bacteriological	32	—	32
Chemical	19	—	19
Visits	20	—	20
Milk—Informal	6	—	6
Other Food Samples (Informal)	3	—	3
Cleansing and Salvage Visits	518	—	518
Miscellaneous Visits	735	12	747

The number of inspections of all kinds made was 9,313 and the number of re-inspections 4,702, giving a grand total of 14,015 inspections and visits during the year.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,492, of which 239 were in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 1,253 in respect of choked drains and water closets.

The complaints made in respect of sanitary defects are 86 less than the previous year, and those in respect of drain and water closets 161 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 4,087 defects or nuisances were found, 2,489 of which were affecting 1,543 houses and 398 affecting 192 other premises.

To remedy these defects or nuisances found a total of 360 notices were served during the year, made up as follows :—

Informal Notices	229
Statutory Notices	131

Of these, 358 were served upon owners or agents and 2 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	131	84	—	—	47

It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the satisfactory repair of properties by service of notices. In the first instance the cost of materials and labour have risen beyond all reasonable proportions with a result that the owner or agent of the property knows that to comply with any notice served upon him means a considerable financial commitment which will take many years to recover, if indeed that is ever possible.

One can understand the genuine reluctance of even good owners to enter into such commitments and whilst it may in some cases be argued that owners have made money on property in the past, that should entitle them to stand losses today, it is a fact that the original owners of these properties have seen the warning light that such a position might arise some years ago and have sold the houses to less fortunate and misguided people who still think that property is a desirable investment as it used to be in bygone days.

Consequently it is these new owners who are bearing a burden which through their own misjudgment is placed upon them.

Another justified grievance is, of course, that whilst costs of repairs have risen, no permitted increase is allowed upon previous rents to offset the extra costs of repairs and maintenance as a contrast to Council owned houses where such increases have been found necessary, and have been applied.

There is no incentive to even good owners to maintain his property and avoid serious repairs as a result of lack of maintenance in painting, etc., as the cost of such is so prohibitive.

Under these circumstances, as before said, it is difficult to pursue the proper repair of properties and whilst there has been no shirking of the responsibility to serve notices calling for repairs, one does so with the knowledge that there is some hardship created in compelling the owners to keep their properties in a habitable condition as is their legal right to the occupants of such houses.

Legal proceedings have been instituted on four occasions, but the proceedings were withdrawn on the day of hearing as the work had commenced. Here too the magistrates realise the hardship to owners and whilst they invariably have no alternative but to make an order, they temper justice with mercy by giving as long as possible in which to have the repairs executed.

Sanitary Improvements Made and Defects Remedied.

The total number of improvements made in compliance with notices served was 1,740. 1,434 in connection with houses and 306 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 3,216. 2,978 of these were in connection with houses and 238 in connection with other premises.

Details of improvements are as follows :—

TABLE III.

DWELLING HOUSES

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Internal.			
Ventilation improved	6	—	6
New windows provided	29	2	31
Window cords renewed	84	3	87
Dampness in walls remedied	47	—	47
Plaster of walls repaired	121	9	130
Plaster of ceilings repaired	126	8	134
Floors repaired	38	5	43
New fireplaces provided	14	—	14
Old fireplaces repaired	25	—	25
Doors repaired	19	—	19
Old windows repaired	63	3	66
Ovens provided	10	1	11
Staircases.			
Steps repaired or provided	20	—	20
Guard rails repaired	1	—	1
Plaster of walls repaired	4	—	4
Plaster of ceilings repaired	2	—	2
Sculleries and Wash-houses.			
New windows provided	4	1	5
Windows repaired	2	—	2
Plaster of walls repaired	1	4	5
Plaster of ceilings repaired	4	1	5
New sinks provided	10	4	14
Ventilation improved	1	—	1
Water supply provided	4	—	4
Old sinks repaired	4	—	4
Waste pipes trapped	2	1	3
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	14	1	15
Wash coppers provided	11	—	11
Wash coppers repaired	14	1	15
Doors repaired	3	—	3
Hot water system repaired	—	—	—
Floors repaired	4	—	4
Roofs repaired	5	—	5
Cellars.			
Floor repaired	1	—	1
Drainage provided or repaired	—	1	1
Filled in and sealed	1	—	1
Food stores provided	2	—	2
Food stores ventilated	1	—	1
Wall plaster repaired	1	—	1

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
External.			
Roofs repaired	183	12	195
Eaves spouts provided or repaired	45	3	48
Down spouts provided or repaired	33	1	34
Walls repaired and/or repointed	93	14	107
Chimney stacks repaired and/or repointed	54	4	58
Doors repaired	12	1	13
Steps repaired	2	—	2

General.

Yard paving or surfaces repaired	—	1	1
Yard drainage installed or repaired	13	1	14
Houses provided with internal water supply	2	—	2
Houses cleansed	7	4	11
Houses converted into through	3	—	3
Baths installed	1	1	2

OUTBUILDINGS.

Water Closets.

Roofs repaired	26	1	27
Eaves spouts provided and/or repaired	2	—	2
Walls repaired or repointed	19	1	20
Doors repaired	13	1	14
New cisterns fixed or repaired	40	3	43
New pedestals and seats provided or repaired	36	6	42
Lighting and ventilation improved	4	1	5
Cleansed and/or limewashed	2	1	3
Soilpipes repaired	11	—	11
Water supply provided	—	—	—
Provided in substitution for other conveniences	—	—	—
Additional water closets provided	3	2	5
Floors repaired	4	—	4

Coal Stores.

Eaves spouts provided and repaired	1	—	1
Down spouts provided and repaired	—	—	—
Walls repaired	3	—	3
Doors repaired	—	—	—
Roofs repaired	6	—	6

Waste Water Closets.

Converted into standard type water closets	—	1	1
--	---	---	---

Sewers.

Cleansed	1	3	4
Repaired	1	1	2

Ashbins.

Renewals	—	883	883
Provided for new houses	—	239	239
Provided for other premises	—	33	33

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Drains.			
Repaired or relaid	72	5	77
Cleansed	8	1,516	1,524
Disconnected from sewer	2	—	2
Inspection chambers built or repaired	19	3	22
Self cleansing gullies provided	10	2	12
Drainage provided	2	—	2
Bath wastes fitted	2	—	2
Public Conveniences.			
Cleansed	—	2	2
Infested Premises.			
Freed from vermin	—	84	84
Freed from rats	—	161	161
Freed from mice	—	142	142
Bedding destroyed	1	—	1
Offensive Accumulations.			
Removed	22	7	29
Animals so kept as a Nuisance.			
Nuisances abated	13	4	17
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites.			
Removed	181	3	184
Sites improved	3	1	4
Factories (Mechanical Power).			
Conveniences—cleaned and/or limewashed	2	1	3
Other improvements	2	—	2
Food Preparing Premises.			
Cleansed and/or limewashed	5	2	7
Other improvements	19	—	19
Milk Dealers and Shops.			
Cleansed	5	—	5
Meat Shops.			
Sinks provided	1	—	1
Water supply provided	1	—	1
Stables.			
Cleansed	—	1	1
Cinemas and Theatres.			
Conveniences cleansed	1	—	1
Atmospheric Pollution.			
Nuisances abated	2	—	2
Additions to plant and improvements	12	—	12

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Bakehouses.			
Cleansed or limewashed	2	3	5
Other improvements	1	1	2
Common Lodging Houses.			
Nuisances abated	10	—	10
Ice-cream Manufacturers.			
Sterilising equipment provided	—	3	3
Cleansed	3	1	4
Slaughterhouses.			
Cleansed or limewashed	1	3	4
Walls repaired	—	1	1
Lighting and ventilation improved	3	—	3
Lairage Provided	—	2	2
Improved	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops.			
Cleansed and/or limewashed	6	3	9
Storage receptacles provided	3	—	3
Other improvements	7	2	9
Total Defects Remedied or Improvements Made	4,956		
In connection with houses	1,434	2,978	4,412
In connection with other premises	306	238	544
	<u>1,740</u>	<u>3,216</u>	<u>4,956</u>

Sanitary Accommodation and Sewerage.

The new sewer at Moxley has enabled Messrs. Wednesbury Tube Co. Ltd. to abolish their cesspools and to connect all drainage to the sewer.

Unfortunately, Messrs. Thompson Brothers have not undertaken a similar conversion and the cesspool emptying machine is still required on three days each week to empty their cesspools.

No charge is made for this work and unless immediate steps are taken to carry out the work of conversion and abolition of cesspools, consideration should be given to reclaiming the cost of this work of cesspool emptying carried out by the department.

At the present time, due to this, the Corporation are meeting an expenditure of some hundreds of pounds per annum out of rate funds.

Drains and Water Closets.

During the year 1,463 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the employees of the Health Department. Of these, 1,253 were the subject of complaints to the Health Department by the occupants of the houses concerned, and 210 were found by the men in the course of their normal duties.

It is very disturbing to note that the number of choked drains and water closets cleansed by the employees of the Health Department has again increased by approximately 200 as compared with the previous year.

It is somewhat alarming to record that such work has more than doubled since 1947 when only 661 such drains and water closets were dealt with.

One can only assume that there is increased negligence amongst householders in the use of sanitary conveniences and the drainage systems attached to their houses, and as it is well now known that all one has to do when stoppages occur is to notify the Health Department and attention will be given to the matter, less and less care is paid to the use of these essential conveniences. Judging from the many irate complaints received on Sundays, one can say householders demand immediate attention in no uncertain manner as a right, not a privilege, and the fact that attention to such stoppages is legally a matter for them or the owner, is not in any way accepted.

Whilst I agree that the employment of our own man to release such stoppages has many advantages, I do at the same time recommend that my suggestion, given in previous Annual Reports, that a nominal charge should be made upon the owner or occupier of the property should be considered.

At one period during the year it was found that a man was in fact visiting houses in various parts of the town offering to cleanse drains at a fee of up to 7/6d. He was announcing himself as from the Health Department and whilst one cannot stop any person from offering to do this work for householders, he should not pretend to be from the Health Department.

Many efforts by all members of the department to catch this man failed, but he must have realised attempts were being made to do this as he soon ceased his activities. Some householders did in fact engage his services and a very poor job he made with the wooden plunger he had as his sole implement for the work of drain cleansing.

Public Conveniences.

Further consideration has been given to the provision of additional conveniences during the year, but progress in remedying what is a serious problem is very slow.

Sites for conveniences at Bradley and Ettingshall have also been considered.

Many complaints have been made regarding the convenience used by frequenters of the Market and shopping centre in Church Street.

The convenience in Vine Street is hopelessly inadequate and provides no facilities for females. Despite daily cleansing the complaints are justified as to its condition and usage. There can be no improvement until a new attended convenience providing facilities for females as well as males is provided and this is a matter of real urgency.

Plans for new conveniences at the junction of Millfields Road and Wolverhampton Street have been approved and building should commence at an early date.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 191 visits have been made to investigate certain cases of notified infectious disease, notably Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Dysentery, Tuberculosis. 131 re-inspections have been made of these cases for various reasons.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious disease was 55 and 24 re-inspections were made in these cases.

As reported last year only certain cases are disinfected by special means or where specific requests are made for this to be done.

It is still believed that a thorough cleansing of the premises by normal means, coupled with good ventilation and fresh air, are equally effective in most cases as special means of fumigation.

Disinfestation.

During the year 160 houses were disinfested and 48 re-inspections were made in these cases.

Treatment was by fumigant smoke or spray in each case.

The removal of all tenants' furniture and effects, and treatment by HCN gas using Cyanosorb, before taking up occupation of a Council house has continued during the year.

All bedding has been treated in the steam disinfector at the Cleansing Depot.

260 such treatments were undertaken during the year in respect of tenants occupying Council houses in Bilston. Five removals and HCN treatments were undertaken for the Willenhall Urban District Council during the same period. Charges were made for these.

Shops Act.

In addition to the 179 visits to food shops, 56 visits have been made to other shops in connection with the Shops Acts.

Rag Flock Act.

There are no premises in the Borough registered under the above Act.

Canal Boats.

No specific visits have been made for the purpose of canal boat inspections, as all boats seen are lighters carrying coal, etc., to coal wharves in the area, and as these have no living or sleeping accommodation, are not registered boats.

Common Lodging Houses.

Only one common lodging house exists in Bilston. The house is old but well maintained and inspections have revealed no contraventions of the Act.

The inhabitants are in the main permanent residents.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.

During the year 243 visits have been made to sites in the Borough for the express purpose of moving caravans occupied by gypsies.

This problem is becoming more acute each year and is now becoming national in character.

The solution is, under present circumstances, difficult, and the moving of vans from one site to others is merely shirking the main issue. Where can this type of van dweller be adequately accommodated? That is the problem to be solved and until this matter is faced squarely at national level and proper compounds established as recommended in my Annual Report for 1948, no real solution will result.

If these people desire to live in this way, provisions should be made for their way of life, which will allow them to live that way in proper conditions and without nuisance to others.

Cinemas and Theatres.

Inspections of these premises have once again shown a satisfactory standard.

Rodent Control.

The number of complaints received during the year was 139, this being a decrease of 38 as compared with the previous year.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made for the purpose of treatment was 2,852.

In addition to the above, certain sections of the sewers have received two treatments during the year. These sections are those found infested to some extent on previous treatments. This work was carried out on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in order to allow expenditure on rodent control to rank for grant aid.

The results of the two treatments are as follows :—

TABLE IV.

	1ST	2ND
Number of manholes in system	797	
" " " treated	139	134
" " " showing infestation	54	53
" " " showing complete pre-bait take	—	—
Actual bodies seen	26	24
Estimated kill	231	175
Dates of treatments	February	November

It is gratifying to report that sewer infestations again show a marked decrease upon previous treatments. Again on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries only those manholes showing infestations on the last treatment were treated on these occasions.

As a result of these systematic twice yearly treatments, the rat population of the sewers is being well controlled and gradually decreased.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Meat and Food Inspection.

The number of carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered and intended for human consumption was 35,187. Of these 32,775 were for the Ministry of Food and 2,412 were for Private Pigkeepers.

All these animals were pigs. No other are slaughtered in this Borough and out of this number only 4 pigs were slaughtered at private pigkeepers premises, the remainder being slaughtered at the three slaughterhouses approved by the Ministry of Food and ourselves for this purpose.

All carcasses and organs have been inspected by Sanitary Inspectors from this department and the necessary condemnations made of unsound or diseased meat.

This work has been possible as a result of the appointment of the Additional Inspector who commenced in January, and the legal obligation of examination of all carcasses and organs intended for human consumption has been fulfilled without undue detriment to the other equally important work of the department.

It is interesting to report on condemnations as shown in Table V that the number of carcasses and organs condemned has naturally increased due to the increased number of animals killed. The percentage of carcasses affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis has increased from 5.68 last year to 10.04 this year, and the percentage of carcasses affected by Tuberculosis has increased from 8.86 to 12.65.

It is pleasing to report that the standard of meat delivery vans is still improving. The majority now seen in use are specially constructed, with interior meat hanging rails and proper ventilation.

The handling of meat by transport employees still leaves much room for improvement and whilst the use of washable head coverings are more generally used, these are not always as clean as they should be and too often one sees a workman with a cigarette in his mouth whilst handling meat.

The total number of visits to slaughterhouses, shops, market stalls and other premises for the purpose of meat inspection was 1,055.

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

TABLE V.

Carcases Inspected and Condemnations

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	35187
Number Inspected	—	—	—	—	35187
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	37
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	3467
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	10.04
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	56
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2726
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	12.65

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 VI.

Diseases or conditions causing fresh meat and/or organs to be condemned as unfit for food (cwt. lbs.)

	PIGS										Pork	Beef	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		
Abscesses		12	3		45		1-1½	3½	1		11		3 72½
Ascaris Lumbricoides			16½				5-25½						5 42
Acute Fever with Pneumonia	2-73												2 73
Acute Swine Erysipelas	2-14					3½							2 14
Angioma													3½ 27
Asphyxiation	3-27		2-13½										2 13½
Blood Aspiration													3 36½
Bruising	3-34												36 36
Bone Taint			17½										17½ 17½
Broncho-pneumonia							3½						3½ 3½
Bacterial Necrosis							6-49½						6 49½
Cirrhosis							35½		3½				39 39
Cysticercus tenuicollis			15½										15½ 6
Congestion			2½										3½ 3½
Distomatosis			18		17		8-97½						9 2½
Echinococci			2½										17 17
Emphysema													28½ 28½
Enteritis													81½ 81½
Fatty Degeneration													20½ 20½
Fatty Infiltration													7½ 7½
Haemorrhage due to injury													3 3
Haematoma													28 28
Hypostasis													3½ 3½
Hydronephrosis						28							15 15
Infarcts													36 36
Jaundice	2-15		36-3										5 5
Lobar Pneumonia													18 18
Mastitis													1 1
Moribund—cardiac failure	18-70												70 70
Moribund and putrefaction	1-72												72 72

TABLE VI—continued

	Carcass and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Heart	Stomach and Intest- ines	Kidney	Liver	Spleen	Omen- tum	Udder	Skin, Muscle and Fat	Pork	Beef	TOTAL cwts. lbs.
Melanosis										4				4
Metastrongylus longae et brevivaginatae			46											46
Necrosis						1								1
Nephritis—pyelo						2½								2½
Nephritis—chronic						11½								11½
Peritonitis					64½		3-80½	13½			35½	11		4 93
Pleurisy			6-105											6 105
Pericarditis				1-33										1 33
Parasitic Worms			6				19½							25½
Pyæmia	1-98													1 98
Suppuration—fracture												22		22
Strongylus paradoxus			5-30											5 30
Septic peritonitis	97													97
Torsion								5¾						5¾
Tuberculosis—localised		300-83½	18-94		82-42¾	3-23½	33-22	38		23½	10-58			449 49
Tuberculosis—generalised	93-45										8			94 52
Urticaria														8
Uræmia	1-7													
Decomposition													6	6
	130-104	300-95½	70-37½	1-33	83-57½	3-69¾	60-0½	69½	4½	41½	55½	13-25½	6	665 39½

Carcases and Organs

Generalised Tuberculosis	56
Peritonitis and pleurisy with general emaciation	1
Moribund—Cardiac Failure	26
Acute Swine Erysipelas	2
Acute Fever	1
Jaundice	2
Uraemia	1
Severe and general bruising	2
Moribund and general decomposition	1
Pyæmia	1

Other premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale have received careful supervision during the year and a total of 73 visits have been made for this purpose.

The various details of inspections to these different types of premises are shown in Table I and it is pleasing to report that with very few exceptions all premises have maintained a satisfactory standard.

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

TABLE VII.

FOOD	WEIGHT			REASON FOR CONDEMNATION
	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.	
Biscuits			48½	Unsaleable.
Bottled Foods			1	Glass contamination.
			59¼	Unsealed and excessive mould.
Bacon and Ham			4½	Bone taint.
			54¾	Decomposition.
Confectionery			18	Damaged in transit.
Cheese			1	Excessive mould.
Cake			4	Damaged and unsound.
Chocolate			6½	Rodent contamination.
Eggs			5½	Decomposition.
Figs	1	31		Unsound.
Fish	1	56		Unsound.
Oxo Cubes			5	Excessive mould.
Plaice	2	56		Decomposition.
Sweets			11	Unsound.
Tinned Food	13	7		Blown.
	1	0	32¾	
Fresh Meat	33	5	39¾	See Table VI.
	TOTAL 34	5	72½	

It has not been necessary to resort to the seizure of any food found to be unfit for human consumption, and again it can be stated that tradespeople are aware of the danger of selling any food which is unfit or suspiciously so. They are ever ready to seek the advice and opinion of an Inspector and make immediate requests to the department for this and they readily accept the judgment of the Inspector on any food examined.

Slaughterhouses.

The slaughter of animals (pigs only) for human consumption is still confined to three slaughterhouses in the Borough, namely :—

Downs, Broad Street.
Warrens, High Street.
Allman, Oxford Street.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

19 slaughtermen are licenced under the Act for the slaughter of animals and their applications for the renewal of licences were approved for the year.

Street Food Vendors.

17 Street Food Vendors have made application to be registered as such under the Bilston Corporation Act. Five of these have made their vehicles conform to the necessary standard and licences have been issued.

The remainder are in the process of making alterations to their vehicles to bring them up to the desired standard.

Advice and guidance upon these alterations is readily given by Inspectors in the Department.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

As stated in the report for last year the control of cowsheds, dairies and processing plants is now supervised in the main by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Milk Production Officers and the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority respectively.

We as the Local Authority are chiefly concerned with the supervision of shops and retailers of milk and the issue of licences for this purpose.

We have only one milk producer as a cowkeeper within the Borough and as reported previously this cowkeeper's premises and methods of production leave much to be desired.

As a result of my request to the Milk Production Officer, an inspection of these premises was made during the year with a view to necessary improvements being made.

The question of whether or not these premises would be affected by Town Planning development by the Corporation in the near future was first discussed before any improvement could be called for by the Milk Production Officer, as this cowshed is obviously badly situated in a built up residential area.

On being assured that no developments affecting this area were contemplated for some time, the cowkeeper was then informed that necessary improvements would have to be undertaken if he wished to continue his business.

There have been many suggestions that since this transfer of functions has been made, little or no effort of supervision of cowsheds has been made. That may be so in other areas, but speaking from my own experience, which, of course, only affects one cowshed, every consideration has been given to my request for action in this case.

The only milk processing plant in Bilston now under the control of the County Council has still not been brought up to the required standard and is therefore not licensed for the processing of milk.

The proprietors have made private arrangements for the purchase of processed milk from a plant in Birmingham and they now only retail milk in this area.

They seem quite satisfied with this arrangement and apparently have no intention of processing milk again in their own plant.

The details of licences issued by this Local Authority are as follows :—

140 Dealers Licences (Sterilised).

8 Supplementary Dealers Licences, for Sterilised and Pasteurised Milk.

3 Dealers Licences (Tuberculin Tested and Accredited).

7 Supplementary Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Ice-Cream.

There are 54 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream in the Borough.

50 of these premises retail ice-cream obtained from other producers.

4 premises retail ice-cream produced thereon of which 3 use the cold mix method and the other is a factory producing large amounts of ice-cream by the heat treatment method.

Very careful supervision is given to these premises, particularly the four producers, and during the year 135 inspections have been made.

A total of 74 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination to the Laboratory at Stafford. 73 of these were for bacteriological examination and 1 was for quantitative analysis, for fat content.

A summary of the results are as follows :—

Bacteriological

Grade 1	.....	36
Grade 2	.....	19
Grade 3	.....	7
Grade 4	.....	11
		—
		73
		—

Fat Content

Sample satisfactory. 15.5% Fat.

Four of the Grade 4 samples were taken from retailers coming into Bilston from other areas on Sunday. The remaining Grade 4 samples were taken from two retailers in Bilston whilst investigations were being carried out into the reason and remedy for original Grade 4 samples obtained from them.

In all cases of Grade 3 samples obtained, investigations were made and showed slight negligence in storage and handling and following up samples proved satisfactory.

One ice lolly was submitted for examination to the Laboratory and was found to be satisfactory.

In addition to the samples of ice-cream taken by us we have received copies of results obtained of samples taken by Wolverhampton Health Department of ice-cream manufactured in Bilston and sold from shops in Wolverhampton.

The 4 samples taken for bacteriological examination and two samples taken for fat content were satisfactory.

Bakehouses, Fried Fish Shops, Food Preparing Premises, etc.

Regular inspections of all food premises have been maintained during the year.

25 visits were made to bakehouses during the year, and whilst some of these premises are old the proprietors manage with difficulty to maintain a satisfactory standard.

It has been noted with satisfaction that more bakers are delivering wrapped bread. The success of this depends upon the demand by the householder who has to pay extra per loaf for this, and another important factor is the availability of waxed paper for bread wrapping in view of the general scarcity of paper of all kinds.

Householders in general are beginning to appreciate the advantage of wrapped bread and to realise that the extra cost per loaf is amply repaid by the greater hygiene and safety obtained.

Many householders are now buying ready-sliced wrapped bread and this too is a further step forward which undoubtedly will spread. The advantage of such bread is obvious even to the layman, from the point of convenience and hygiene in the home.

The standard of fried fish shops, food preparing premises and catering establishments has been satisfactory, and 190 inspections of these premises have been made.

The Market has been visited regularly and whilst there could be considerable improvement in the design and condition of stalls used for the sale of foods, the stallholders have maintained a fair standard throughout the year.

Food Traders' Guild.

Regular meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Guild have been held.

Two General Meetings open to all Food Traders were held during the year. Unfortunately these meetings were not well attended and despite the enthusiastic efforts of the Advisory Committee, there is a general apathy amongst traders to associate themselves with the movement.

Only 50 traders have thought fit to make application for membership and of these, 30 have been approved and admitted members. The remainder have been informed of necessary require-

ments in order to comply with their respective code of practice in order to qualify for membership, but have not made any attempt to comply with the additional requirements.

The Committee were extremely disappointed at this response in view of their efforts, and equally surprised that it was not thought necessary for School Feeding Kitchens and similar establishments in the town to make application for membership, despite requests to do so.

One cannot expect Committee members to continue giving up their own valuable time and to retain their enthusiasm under such circumstances for very long.

Food Sampling.

The sampling of milk and food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is undertaken by the Sampling Officer of the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority under the Act.

The following are details of samples taken during the year in Bilston as supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. Ramage.

Milk

T.T. Certified Milk	.....	.....	.....	17
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	7
Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	10
Sterilised Milk	.....	.....	.....	16
Milk	.....	.....	.....	3
TOTAL				53 All Genuine.

General Foods

Number of Samples taken	.....	.....	38
Number of Samples Genuine	.....	.....	36
Number of Samples Adulterated	.....	.....	2

Classification of General Foods

Pork Pies.
Crab Paste.
Luncheon Meat.
Blanc-Mange Powder.
Beef Sausages (2 samples).
Pork Sausages (2 samples).
Tomato Ketchup (2 samples).
Marmalade (Special Standard)
Pickled Onions.

Table Jelly.
Malt Vinegar.
Cocoa.
Pickled Walnuts.
Custard Powder.
Orange Squash.
Indian Quinine Tonic.
Sweetened Sliced Apples.
Camphorated Oil (BP).

Classification of General Foods—continued

Liquid Paraffin (BP.)	Chinese Mixed Fruit in Syrup.
Cinnamon.	Lemon Sweet Spread.
Cream of Mushroom Soup.	Spiced Herrings.
Pressed Pork.	Ground Almonds (3 samples).
Horseradish Relish.	Salad Cream.
Soft Icing.	Lemon Curd.
Cream Turnovers.	Asparagus Soup.
Fish Paste.	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

Ground Almonds (Informal Sample) Contains an excessive amount of a cyanogenetic glucoside capable of producing 0.008% Prussic Acid.

Followed by Formal Sample (Genuine).

Tomato Ketchup (Informal Sample) Contains an undeclared preservative Benzoic Acid, to the extent of 146 parts per million.

Followed by Formal Sample taken in 1951. Contains undeclared preservative. Benzoic Acid, to the extent of 203 parts per million of sample. Reported to Ministry of Food.

In addition to these, 6 samples of milk have been submitted by the Health Department for examination in connection with the investigation of dysentery cases, and three samples of tinned peas which were suspected of containing glass particles, were submitted by us. This was found to be not so as the particles were in fact chemicals used in the processing which appeared in shape similar to particles of glass.

The sampling of milk under the Milk and Dairies Act is also undertaken by the County Health Department and the following samples were taken for bacteriological and biological examination during the year.

	No. of Samples Taken	Phosphatase		Turbidity		Biological		Phenol Phthalein		Methylene Blue	
		Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
T.T.											
Certified	12	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	1
Pasteurised	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Sterilised	11	—	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	28	2	—	10	—	6	—	2	—	7	1

Factories Act 1937.

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

TABLE VIII.

Part 1 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	6	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	156	21	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	21	1	—	—
TOTAL	193	28	8	—

TABLE IX.

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)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	13	—	2	—

TABLE X.

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 { Cleaning and washing						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						

TABLE X.—*continued.*

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys	5	—	—	—	—	—
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	8	—	—	—	—	—

Atmospheric Pollution.

All instruments used for the measurement of pollution have been in operation for the twelve months and results submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research with whom we co-operate in this work.

The instruments in operation are :—

- 1 Deposit Gauge for the measurement of all forms of deposits from the atmosphere. This is situated in the Park.
- 1 Volumetric SO_2 Recorder with smoke filter for the measurement daily of Sulphur Dioxide and Smoke in the atmosphere. This instrument is operated in the laboratory at the Health Department Office.
- 11 PbO_2 Gauges for the measurement of Sulphur Dioxide in the atmosphere. 10 of these are situated in various places throughout the Borough to give comparative results between residential and industrial areas in the town. The eleventh instrument is situated at Tomhill Waterworks and gives comparisons between a rural area and those in the industrial area of Bilston.

The preparation of the materials and instruments used for the PbO_2 gauges and the analytical work for the deposit and lead peroxide gauges has again been carried out by Mr. L. Starbuck and his staff with the permission of Messrs. Stewart & Lloyds.

There is a definite need for two more deposit gauges to give comparisons and more detailed information of deposits in other areas of the town.

Whilst it can be rightly argued that the recording of the amount of various forms of atmospheric pollution does not supply any direct remedy for the nuisances committed, it is only by obtaining such recordings and comparing them with different areas in the town and with the many other districts operating similar instruments throughout the country, that a true assessment can be made of the extent of our problem.

This in itself will give information over a period of years as to whether our efforts in the abatement of pollution are having any effect in that direction, whether or not the townspeople as a whole are becoming conscious of the nuisance and damage they are committing and whether by their own efforts any improvement is being made.

It is the ultimate aim of the Research Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to have all Authorities throughout the country co-operating with them in operating recording instruments within their districts, and it can be stated that considerable success is being met with in this work.

There are now 140 Authorities operating instruments in collaboration with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and in all approximately 340 Deposit Gauges, 333 Lead Peroxide Gauges and 83 Volumetric Recorders are in operation throughout the country.

It is pleasing to report that the Council have again decided to renew their membership of the National Smoke Abatement Society and also renew their subscription to the Research Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Such membership and contributions are necessary for the common good in order to allow these Associations to progress with research and propaganda in an ever increasing effort to eliminate atmospheric pollution from all sources.

Pollution in Bilston, whilst still very heavy, as can be expected in an industrial and built up area like ours, still shows a tendency to decrease on the whole.

This generalisation has some noteworthy exceptions which have caused considerable trouble during the year and which despite great efforts will apparently continue to do so as long as such premises and businesses exist.

Considerable efforts have been made to deal with the nuisance from lime deposit emanating from the British Lime Corporation Ltd. at Bradley. Meetings have been held with the proprietor, and frank discussions held as to his intention to eliminate this nuisance.

Whilst additional cyclone filters have been fitted to the plant, there has been no appreciable reduction in the nuisance and there can be none so long as the old system of drying lime is carried out on primitive drying floors.

Endeavours were being made by the year end to find an alternative site for this business in a disused colliery, this being the preference of the proprietor.

Further difficulties have arisen in connection with rock crushing plant installed in the works of Messrs. Tarmac Limited. Whilst this plant is actually situated within the Coseley Council's boundaries, the nuisance from fine dust was affecting houses in the Bilston area adjoining the works.

A joint deputation of officers met representatives of Messrs. Tarmac Limited, who after admitting responsibility, produced plans of cyclone dust extraction equipment which had been ordered for fitting to the offending machinery. Unfortunately, the suppliers of this extraction equipment could give no promise of delivery in view of the difficulty of obtaining steel for the manufacture of this. The best possible promise was early New Year for delivery and a definite promise of immediate fitting was given by Tarmac Limited.

Continued observations have shown some improvement in the amount of dust emitted from the plant since that time.

Frequent and systematic inspections to investigate complaints have been made during the year at the Frit Factory of Radiation Ltd.

It must be stated that ready co-operation has always been given on all occasions and large sums of money have been spent in their endeavours to eliminate nuisance. It must be stated too, that they have been to a large degree successful, but no sooner is one form of nuisance eliminated than another develops, and considering the nature of this industry and its situation in relation to residential property, one can only expect trouble from such a factory.

The latest problem being tackled at the year end, was the emission of fluorine in the form of gaseous compounds, which in conjunction with water vapour from the air causes etching of glass in windows of houses in the vicinity.

Fluorine is an essential part of the chemical processes necessary in the manufacture of frit and whilst every effort for reasons of economy alone are made to prevent loss of this substance, a certain proportion is inevitably lost to atmosphere.

It has also been suggested that compounds of fluorine, hydrofluoric acid or hydrofluosilicic acid, are injurious to health, and whilst this is true it has been impossible to accurately ascertain the amount emitted, but so far as can be judged in the investigations carried out based upon the amounts of fluorine used and the chemical compounds created by its use, there appears insufficient of these compounds emitted to cause any injury to health. The main nuisance is, therefore, the etching of glass in the vicinity.

Other complaints have been investigated and action taken during the year, notably the nuisance from fumes from the chimney stacks of the Butchers Hide and Skin Company just within the Willenhall

boundary, affecting houses on our Stowlawn Estate. Legal action was taken by the Willenhall Authority and a deodorising plant fitted which for a time did eliminate the nuisance, but a recurrence of the trouble proved on investigation by the Willenhall Sanitary Inspector that the plant had suffered as a result of lack of maintenance.

Another new nuisance eliminated during the year was that of fumes created from the works of the General Galvanizers Limited, Bradley. Due to the shortage of zinc, a process of recovery was instituted, the fumes from which were causing a serious nuisance. Steps were immediately taken, with success, to eliminate this nuisance.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work in this section covers the period of the financial year 1st April 1950 to 31st March 1951.

It is with great difficulty that the public cleansing services have been maintained on anything like a satisfactory basis.

Absence of men due to illness and other causes has been heavy during certain periods of the year, particularly around Christmas and the following months. Intermittent absences have been continuous throughout the year and have been greatly in excess of what might be termed normal absences.

Conditions were so bad during January that refuse collection practically came to an end, due to lack of men. During this period there was an average absence of between 25% to 50% of the employees, most of whom were refuse collectors.

It has also been found impossible to recruit and retain suitable labour in the department. Good men are leaving regularly due to their inability to earn a weekly wage equivalent to that in industry. The basic wage of refuse drivers and collectors bears favourable comparison, but due to lack of overtime which is apparently possible in industry these days, the total wage packet is far less. We have had men leave for other employment who have a less basic wage than with the Corporation, but who can double their basic wage by overtime work.

Working conditions in the department, with messroom, canteen, protective clothing, etc. are good and compare favourably with any other industry in the town, but the weekly wage packet is now the deciding factor as to whether a man will remain or not.

The modified five day week has continued throughout the year. The employees work on a three week cycle during the summer months whereby each man has two Saturdays off in three. This also allows one-third of the men to be on duty each Saturday to undertake clearing up of rounds, maintenance of vehicles, etc. and the execution of urgent work which could not be left until the following week.

Refuse Collection.

The second of the three 11 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drury refuse collection vehicles on order was received and put into service in October.

The use of these larger capacity vehicles has permitted a reduction of gangs of collectors from five to four and it is anticipated that with the addition of extra labourers as necessary, the vehicles will cope with the additional refuse from all the new houses occupied during the coming year.

Two old 7 cu. yd. vehicles have been sold and the vehicles now operating on refuse collection are as follows :—

- 2—11.3 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drury Chelsea type vehicles with 4 to 6 labourers as available.
- 1—7 cu. yd. Morris Chelsea type vehicle with 4 labourers.
- 1—7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam type vehicle with 4 labourers.

One 7 cu. yd. Morris refuse vehicle (an old machine) has been retained as a spare machine and is used in case of breakdown and for the collection of loads of Trade Refuse when necessary and when men are available.

One horse and cart and two men are used for the collection of refuse from the few remaining privies and pail closets. In addition, this small gang collects refuse from ashbins at houses on the Lunt Estate near to the tip where the use of mechanical transport tends to be uneconomical due to the very short journeys involved.

The weight of refuse collected is calculated upon test weighings carried out on two occasions during the year. During May each load of refuse collected by each gang for the whole of their area was weighed and the average weight per load per vehicle was ascertained and used for computing weights for the summer period. In October a similar check of weights was made and used for the winter period.

TABLE XI.

Details of Refuse Collection.

HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

	Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
Motors	408,080	4,529	8,283
Carts	18,600	863	650
	426,680	5,392	8,933

HOUSE REFUSE—WET

Carts	2,928	166	125
TOTALS	429,608	5,358	9,058

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	202	404	8	8	1420	5490	1004	182	252	278	218	30	—	—	3604	6392

STREET CLEANSING

Street Gullies

	Cleansed	Loads	Tons
Mechanical	7,357	188	564

Street Sweeping

	Mileage	Loads	Tonnage	Water Used (Galls.)
Mechanical	3,698 (Actual)	560	419	20,100
Manual—Team with Cart	2,780 (Estimated)	559	418	
Street Orderlies	3,590 (Estimated)	4,864	320	
TOTALS	10,068	5,983	1,157	20,100

Street Cleansing.

The strength of men on this work has been seriously decreased by reason of some of the older men engaged as street orderlies finally having to give up their work, due to their advanced age or their inability to work any more with efficiency.

It has been virtually impossible to recruit suitable labour to replace these men and in consequence more and more work has had to be given to the mechanical sweeper which in consequence has not maintained the frequency of cleansing actually desired on some streets.

The vehicles and men engaged on street cleansing are as follows :

- 1 Mechanical Lewin Sweeper Collector with driver and labourer.
- 1 Horse and Cart with 4 or 5 labourers as available.
- 6 Street Orderlies with hand trucks.

The mechanical sweeper was overhauled during the year and modifications to the brush gear and belt gear were carried out in our own workshop. These modifications consisted mainly in the substitution of ball or roller bearings for the original phosphor bronze bearing. The original type bearings were very poor and gave rise to constant trouble.

Since the modifications the machine has obviously given much better service.

In September, the Health Committee considered the advisability of undertaking street cleansing by the Mechanical Sweeper at night-time and in October night sweeping commenced for a trial period.

During the initial period of trial, slightly better results were shown both in mileages and sweeping, due to the ability of the driver to sweep roads without having to encounter parked vehicles as he did during the day time.

Difficulty was encountered in that during hours of darkness it is made to difficult for the driver to see objects which might damage the brush gear of his machine, despite the fitting of extra spot lights.

Consideration was given to the use of a labourer to work with the machine in the moving of objects likely to cause damage and at the same time to sweep the road junctions to avoid the leaving of a trail of sweepings after the machine had passed.

This proved to be an improvement, but due to the severe weather conditions and lack of supervision during the night, mileages of roads swept fell rapidly.

Further consideration was given to the matter in March and it was decided to continue night sweeping for a further period during the summer months.

Consideration was also given during the year to the further mechanisation of street cleansing in view of the inability to engage men to act as street orderlies.

A demonstration of a small mechanical sweeper was seen, but the cost of this type of machine was considered too great, despite the urgency of overcoming the labour shortage.

Gully Cleansing and Cesspool Emptying.

The Shelvoke and Drewry Gully Emptier has been in service in the emptying and cleansing of gullies. During certain periods of the year when absence of a driver made it impossible for the Dennis machine engaged in Cesspool emptying to operate, the Shelvoke and Drury machine was engaged in emptying cesspools.

Every street gully has received systematic cleansing and despite the heavy rainfalls, no street gully has been the cause of road flooding due to being silted up.

The Dennis gully emptier has been engaged mainly in the emptying of cesspools.

With the connection of the drains at Wednesbury Tube Co. to the sewer, the machine has been available to the Borough Surveyor more frequently if desired for sewer flushing.

The main work in cesspool emptying now remains at Thompson Bros. and the machine has to visit these works on three days per week, in order to empty various cesspools in the works.

Salvage.

The direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to collect kitchen waste has continued during the year.

Whilst no direction exists for the collection of paper, metals, etc., by the year end it was becoming increasingly apparent that there was an ever-increasing shortage of paper and metal.

We were being continuously exhorted by the paper board mills to step up every possible means the collection of paper and cardboard, as their orders for wallboard and packings could not be fulfilled, many of their machines were lying idle and the rearmament drive was being retarded due to the lack of salvaged paper.

Leaflets have been distributed to householders throughout the town, appealing for the saving of all waste paper, because it is from houses that the extra collections can be obtained if only they would co-operate. One pound of paper from each household per week would provide over $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of paper per week in Bilston. A real but simple effort in the nation's recovery and a valuable source of income to the town.

Each refuse collection vehicle has a special trailer attached for the reception of salvage from houses, and each trailer has small sacks available for households if desired.

I know complaints are made that collectors never bother to collect the paper which is saved, and in some cases this may be true, but surely what is needed is co-operation on both sides. If the householder will not save paper the collector should persist in his "pestering" until the householder does, and similarly if the householder saves paper and the collector fails to take it, the householder should "pester" the collector until he does.

Making complaints to me does very little good, or indeed do letters to the press, as despite instructions to the persons concerned, it still depends upon the actual person complying with your instructions.

What is needed is an overall effort by everyone to co-operate with each other in an effort to make a good job of the work and to keep fixed in your mind the old but nevertheless true adage "waste not—want not."

As will be seen in Table XII collections of paper have fallen by 20 tons during the year, whilst income has increased. This is due mainly to a reduction in the amount collected from business premises where owing to the lack of containers for goods, many formerly passed to salvage have now to be returned for re-use for packing. Increased income is due to the better prices obtained for baled paper sold.

With regard to kitchen waste, it will also be noted that collections have fallen by about 8 tons during the year.

Whilst this is not a great decrease, it is most unsatisfactory and surprising, as the use of covered buckets at houses has increased. Every new Council house occupied is supplied with such a receptacle and the regular collection of waste has been maintained throughout the year.

It is recognised, and is no doubt one of the causes of the reduction, that more and more private pigkeepers are in operation and obviously they encourage householders to save kitchen waste for them.

What is also becoming a regular practice is for some pigkeepers to collect waste from houses and from some of the street bins still in use.

This is not permissible and efforts are being made to catch these persons who are known to do this illicit collection week by week.

The recovery of bottles, rags and metals has not been undertaken during the year due to lack of storage facilities at the depot.

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

TABLE XII.

MATERIALS	1950-51			1949-50			1948-49			1947-48		
	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper	182	2	1289	202	—	1185	155	—	1040	129	—	874
Kitchen Waste	277	11	857	284	—	869	263	—	624	255	—	556
Metals	1	6	11	2	10	9	10	—	33	8	—	18
Bottles, Jars and Cullet	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	277	20	—	131
Textiles	—	—	—	—	9	13	5	—	26	—	—	—
Bones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	12	3
			2157			2076			2001			1582

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal is by controlled tipping carried out as far as is practicable in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements, but as reported in previous Annual Reports, due to lack of sufficient supplies of covering the refuse tipped, cannot be properly covered on exposed surfaces.

This is particularly difficult during the summer months when ash content in house refuse is at a minimum, and tradesmens' refuse in the nature of decomposing fish and vegetatious matter has to be dealt with.

Suitable coverng is often tipped by industrial undertakings, but their transport contractors will not trust their vehicles on the domestic refuse tip for fear of sinking in the soft surface.

In consequence, we lack good covering and nuisance is caused in other parts of the Borough from unsightly dumps of material indiscriminately tipped.

The Health Committee have considered this matter from time to time during the year and efforts have been made to control indiscriminate tipping, with little success, as much of this is done during the early evening or at weekends when men are not available for duty.

In an endeavour to deal more expeditiously with both industrial and domestic refuse, and to control our tip in a better manner, the Health Committee gave consideration and eventual approval to the purchase of an Angledozer for work on the tip.

It is anticipated that great improvements will be made on the tip when the machine is received and put into service.

The site for disposal of domestic and trade refuse is on waste land on the Loxdale Estate.

Interference by children and adults, particularly gypsies, has been as bad as ever and the use of barbed wire fencing has been discontinued as this proved no deterrent to trespassers.

Dudley Street tip was closed during the year for the disposal of industrial refuse, but despite the erection of notice boards forbidding further tipping and directing persons to the Loxdale tip, much damage has been done, gates and fencing broken down and further refuse tipped indiscriminately.

Details of Refuse disposed of are as follows :—

TABLE XIII.

LUNT TIP

	Cleansing Department		Tradespeople and Others		Total	
	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons
Dry Refuse	5,354	8,833	—	—	5,354	8,833
Trade Refuse	8	8	257	129	265	137
Miscellaneous			904	904	904	904
Coverings	202	404	—	—	202	404
Gully Sludge	188	564	—	—	188	564
TOTALS	5,752	9,809	1,161	1,033	6,913	10,842

DUDLEY STREET TIP

Sweepings	3,833	377	—	—	3,833	377
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CLEANSING DEPOT

Sweepings	2,150	780	—	—	2,150	780
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SEWAGE WORKS—SEWER INLET

Cesspools	1,920	5,490	—	—	1,920	5,490
Nightsoil and Wet Refuse	166	125	—	—	166	125
TOTALS	2,086	5,615	—	—	2,086	5,615

GRAND TOTAL REFUSE DISPOSED	13,821	16,581	1,161	1,033	14,982	17,614
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TABLE XIV.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Costs.

House and Trade Refuse

	COLLECTION	DISPOSAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure	11,153	1,717	12,870
Gross Income	151	37	188
Net Cost	11,002	1,680	12,682
Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross Expenditure per ton	24 7.1	3 9.4	1 8 4.5
Gross Income per ton	3.9	0.9	4.8
Net Cost per ton	24 3.2	3 8.5	1 7 11.7
Net Cost per 1,000 population	£ s. d. 329 15 10	£ s. d. 50 7 2	£ s. d. 380 3 1
Net Cost per 1,000 premises from which refuse is collected	£ s. d. 1240 18 5	£ s. d. 189 9 9	£ s. d. 1430 8 2
Rate Poundage.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Net Cost equivalent rate in the £	1 7.3	2.9	1 10.2
Percentage of above to total rates in the £	8%	1.2%	9.2%

Total Refuse Collected (tons) estimated on test weighings	9,066
Population—estimated	33,360
Number of houses and premises from which refuse is collected	8,866
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	13.3
Rateable Value—31st December, 1950	£144,842
Product of 1d. Rate	£570
Total Rates in the £	20/-d.
Method of Collection :	
Horse Drawn Vehicles	1
Motor Vehicles (petrol)	4
Method of Disposal :	
Controlled Tipping	100%
Average length of travel to point of disposal	2 miles
Number of employees (other than Clerical)	
Foreman	1
Inspector	1
Others	3
Frequency of Collection of Refuse	Weekly

Cleansing Depot.

It is pleasing to report that good progress has been made in the final sections of modernising the depot.

After four years of piecemeal alterations and additions according to the approved plan of modernisation accepted by the Committee all those years ago, it is gratifying to see finality at last.

It only remains for the resurfacing of the old yard, together with new entrance gates and wall to be erected, and a new road giving rear access to the new yard to be laid, to finally complete the work.

The cost of this protracted work has been high, made more so by the length of time taken and the progressive increase of wages and materials during that period, but of the necessity of the work done there can be no doubt. Such modernisation was necessary many years ago and should have been done at that time.

We now have a depot which provides the necessary facilities one expects and needs in such a department. It will permit of easier administration in the department and allow the employees the facilities they rightly expect and indeed demand.

Whether or not the employees will show their appreciation of the facilities provided has yet to be ascertained, but this can be instantly stated, the older employees who worked in the department in 1935, when there was no messroom and breaks for meals were taken in yards or on the street—when protective clothing was a minimum and lockers and drying facilities unthought of—when sanitary accommodation was hopelessly inadequate and washing facilities non-existent, certainly do appreciate the remarkable improvements made.

The younger men not knowing the old conditions cannot fully appreciate the difference.

Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Depot.

This section of the depot under the control of the Engineer has functioned efficiently during the year.

In addition to the repair of vehicles for all departments, many other special jobs were executed for the various departments, which in some cases has called for precision work on the lathe, etc.

During the year many jobs were executed, ranging from repairing the steam roller, the central heating boiler at the Town Hall, making electrical contacts for Sewage Works Motor, to repairing the Corporation Official Seal. These miscellaneous jobs are in addition to the normal work of repairing vehicles.

The economy of this work is sometimes questioned, but as many parts either unobtainable or in short supply are made out of salvaged materials, and indeed those spares purchased are bought at trade rates, it is obvious that the repairs are executed at as reasonable or less cost than at private garages.

In addition, and this cannot be assessed in terms of money, immediate attention can and is given to all urgent repairs. There is no waiting for repairs to be done with resultant accumulations of arrears of work piling up whilst the vehicle is out of action.

It is notable how motor drivers of all departments avail themselves of the facility of visiting the depot with their machine to consult the Engineer if suspicious noises are apparent or their machine is not functioning correctly.

As a result of these consultations, immediate attention is given to defects which whilst of a minor character at that stage may, if not put right then, develop into major breakdowns involving heavy cost in repairs.



