

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

**Contributors**

Bilston (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1955

**Persistent URL**

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*John Price*  
BOROUGH OF BILSTON



# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955





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

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1955.

**A. FOREWORD**

The health of the community may be affected for the worse by unusual outside influences, *e.g.*, by exceptionally bad weather, by disasters such as earthquakes, or by unusual epidemics. This happened in Bilston in 1955. The town was visited by an epidemic of influenza during the winter and early spring, and as a result, the record of health compares unfavourably with that for 1954.

The main indications of this are the stillbirth rate and general death rate, both of which have risen sharply. Part of the rise in the stillbirth rate may be deceptive, as there has been a fall in the neo-natal death rate, so that the peri-natal death rate (stillbirth rate and neo-natal death rate combined) appears only slightly higher.

As might be expected, the unhealthiest Ward suffered most, and the gap between the death rate for the High Town Ward and those for the other Wards is wider than last year. A higher proportion than would normally be expected, of these deaths in the High Town Ward, are due to respiratory causes, and I am now inclined to the opinion that the atmospheric pollution in this Ward contributes much more to the ill health of the citizens, than do the admittedly bad housing conditions.

The rise in the tuberculosis death rate may be connected with the influenza epidemic, or may be due to the swing of the pendulum. The rate is only high when compared with the 1954 rate. It is no higher than that for 1952 or 1953. It may be that the good work done by the Mass X-ray Unit in the latter part of 1953 and the early part of 1954, in discovering infective cases, led to their removal from the pool of infection earlier than normal, and so reduced the death rate. If that were so, we could hope for a drop in the death rate from tuberculosis during 1956.

There is an exceptionally high death rate for Bilston during 1955, from coronary thrombosis, but respiratory infection may, of course, have contributed to the strain on the heart even in these cases. It is obvious, however, that this disease is now becoming fairly common in Bilston, but whether this is because the people of Bilston are working harder, smoking more cigarettes, or eating a richer diet, it is difficult to say.

1955 was also notable for a quite severe measles epidemic. The epidemic was, of course, expected, but the numbers were a little higher than was expected. There were 566 cases of measles, as against 459 in 1953. Measles is such a highly infectious disease, that the only hope of preventing epidemics of this nature lies in immunisation. An effective immunising agent



against measles has not yet been discovered, but it is possible that the work done on the polio virus may help in the years to come, in producing an effective protection against the equally dangerous virus of measles.

The atmospheric pollution as measured by soot fall was appreciably lower during 1955, but the lead peroxide cylinders did not record a marked reduction in the sulphur dioxide content of the atmosphere.

The programme of health talks to schools continued during 1955, and by the end of the year every school had been visited. I have noticed since then, an improvement in the cleanliness of the children at the periodic medical examinations at the schools, which may possibly be the result of these talks.

The sickness and death rates, of course, are unlikely to be immediately affected.

The Mass X-ray Survey was initiated during 1955, and the full report is therefore included in this Annual Report, in order to give as complete a picture as possible.

The response from the general public, despite intensive visiting by Health Visitors and School Nurses, was less than we had hoped for. Nevertheless, nine new cases were found, and the survey was, therefore, undoubtedly worthwhile.

As I feared, the number of deaths from road accidents increased during 1955, but this again is a swing of the pendulum, and does not indicate an increase in the average of three road deaths per year in Bilston.

The deaths from home accidents may likewise indicate a swing of the pendulum; the average number of home accidents per year in Bilston being five, and there having been seven in 1954 and three in 1955. The weekly figures of home accident cases treated at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, however, showed a steady decrease during 1955, and I am therefore hoping that the deaths in 1956 will at least be no greater than those during 1955.

## **B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **1. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **Committees concerned with Health Matters:**

HEALTH COMMITTEE	.. ..	Councillor G. H. Evans (Chairman)
HOUSING COMMITTEE	.. ..	Alderman E. W. Bold (Chairman)
PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS COMMITTEE		Councillor H. Marriott (Chairman)
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE	..	Alderman J. V. Lavender (Chairman)
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Alderman O. H. Jones (Chairman)

#### **STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

##### **Medical Officer of Health:**

D. A. SMYTH, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Dunelm), Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, M.R.S.H.

##### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:**

J. R. TART, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

##### **Senior Sanitary Inspector:**

J. RICHARDS, Cert.S.I.B.

##### **Additional Sanitary Inspectors:**

J.W. BARBER, Cert.S.I.B.

T. C. MOSS, Cert.S.I.B.

(Commenced 2nd May, 1955)

##### **Pupil Sanitary Inspector:**

L. CAWDRON

(Resigned 20th March, 1955)

##### **Clerical Staff:**

###### **Health:**

B. J. BAKER

Miss R. P. SHEFFIELD

Miss H. PADDOCK

###### **Cleansing:**

L. R. LITTLEWOOD (Part Time)



## **DUTIES OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

### **Medical Officer of Health**

The duties are those laid down in the Public Health Acts of 1875 and 1936. The Local Government Act, 1933. The Housing Act, 1936. Factories Act, 1937. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and certain other Acts, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, including in particular the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935. Six elevenths of my time is spent as Medical Officer of Health and five elevenths as School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector**

The duties of the Chief Sanitary Inspector are those detailed in the above Acts and Regulations, and, in addition, he acts as officer of the Local Authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts, 1919, Shops Act, 1934 and 1951, and Pet Animals Act, 1951; he also acts as the Local Authority's Cleansing Superintendent.

### **Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector**

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as deputy for the Chief Sanitary Inspector, when the latter is absent through illness or other causes.

The Pupil Sanitary Inspector resigned on the 20th March.

As a fully qualified Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Moss, was appointed on the 2nd May, and for the second half of the year, therefore, the department was able to function fairly well.

## **2. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES**

Fourteen family doctors practise in the Borough.

## **3. HOSPITALS**

The area continues to be served by the Wolverhampton and Birmingham specialist and general hospitals and the Moxley and Kingswinford Isolation Hospitals.

## **SERVICES OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

### **School Health**

The School Health Service continued to work adequately.

I believe that it has been decided to supplement the work of the School Nurses with a Hygiene Assistant, and this should be a great help in 1956.

### **Maternal Health**

The rise in the stillbirth rate is disquieting, although as I have indicated, some part of it may be balanced by the fall in the neo-natal death rate.

It is probably true to say of Bilston, as of the country in general, that the maternity service is good, but not good enough.



## Child Health

I have been struck by the fact that while I seldom see children at the Welfare Centres with bad teeth, quite a number of the five and six year olds at school have three or more teeth with holes in. There could be a number of explanations for this, but one might be that mothers who attend the Welfare Centre learn to look after their children's teeth by providing an adequate diet, rationing sweets, and instituting toothbrush drill.

## Immunisation

			Diphtheria				Smallpox				Whooping Cough			
			<i>Initial Reinforcing</i>				<i>Vacc. Re.Vacc.</i>				<i>Initial Re-inforcing</i>			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under	1	..	73	51	-	-	35	23	-	-	54	29	-	-
	1	..	40	38	-	-	1	4	-	-	4	7	-	-
	2	..	9	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
	3	..	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
	4	..	4	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
	5	..	37	29	103	67	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
	6	..	17	17	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	..	1	1	2	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10	..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	12	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	14	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 and over		..	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		..	187	156	112	87	39	29	5	3	63	45	-	-

Not enough children are being immunised to make absolutely sure that a diphtheria epidemic could not occur among the under-fives. So far, the odd cases of diphtheria that have occurred in the past two and a half years have been in schoolchildren, and as this section of the child population is fairly well protected, there has been no spread. The risk of spread among the younger children, however, remains, and there is also the risk of diphtheria in the young adult, who seldom bothers to renew his childhood immunity.

## Ambulance Service

As far as I know, wireless control is still in abeyance, but I know of no case where life was lost or health unnecessarily endangered because the ambulance was over-long in arriving.

## Mental Health

Much obviously remains to be done in this field. It is obvious from talks with housing applicants that there is a great deal of mental illness in Bilston, and though some of it may well be aggravated by housing

conditions, the cause usually lies elsewhere. It seems probable that mental health like physical health depends a great deal upon upbringing in childhood.

### C. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres) .. .. .	1,871
Population:	
(a) 1951 Census .. .. .	33,464
(b) Registrar General's Estimate for mid-year 1955 .. .. .	33,830
Population density per acre .. .. .	18
Rateable Value of District 1/4/55 .. .. .	£163,558
General Rate (1955/56) .. .. .	22s. 6d.

The total number of factories in the town is 171. These can be listed as follows:—

Holloware .. .. .	7
Iron and Steel .. .. .	21
Shoe Repairers .. .. .	14
Engineering .. .. .	72
Food Preparing Premises .. .. .	14
Woodwork .. .. .	8
Clothing Manufacturers .. .. .	3
Enamellers .. .. .	3
Undertakers .. .. .	1
Goods Transport .. .. .	1
Glassware .. .. .	1
Printers .. .. .	3
Brass Founders .. .. .	4
Builders .. .. .	4
Brush Manufacturers .. .. .	1
Petrol Storage .. .. .	1
Stonemasons .. .. .	2
Laundry .. .. .	1
Coal Merchants .. .. .	3
Miscellaneous .. .. .	7



Action taken under Part 1 and Part 8 of the Factories Act, 1937, is tabulated as follows:—

TABLE A

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	16	—	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	157	34	6	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	17	—	—	—

TABLE B

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork) .. ..	3	3	—	—	—

TABLE C

Part 8 of the Act.

**OUTWORK**

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in list required by Section 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.) .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc. .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosagues, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc. .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	-	-	-



# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

## Births

<b>Live Births</b>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	554	281	273
Illegitimate	..	..	..	21	10	11
Total				575	291	284
Birth Rate per 1,000 population					16.99	
Comparability Factor for Births:					0.89	
Corrected Birth Rate:					15.12	

<b>Still Births</b>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	21	9	12
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total				21	9	12

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 35.23

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 0.6

## Infant Deaths under 1 year of age

				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	14	4	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	2	2	—
Total				16	6	10

## Infantile Mortality Rate

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births: 27.82

## Infant Deaths under four weeks of age

				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	8	—	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1	—
Total				9	1	8

## Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births: 15.65

## Infant Deaths during 1955—Taken from the Death Returns

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
7. 1.55	5 months	M	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
15. 1.55	2 months	M	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
31. 1.55	5 months	M	1a) Influenzal broncho pneumonia.
14. 2.55	3 months	F	1a) Cardiac Failure. b) Broncho pneumonia.
15. 2.55	2 months	M	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
17. 3.55	3 days	F	1a) Multiple congenital defects. b) Hydrocephalus meningocele. c) Spina bifida, horseshoe kidney.
12. 4.55	40 mins.	F	1a) Cerebral haemorrhage. b) Breech delivery.
19. 4.55	4 hours	F	1a) Prematurity.
29. 4.55	3 months	M	1a) Cardiac failure. b) Broncho pneumonia. 11) Gastro enteritis.
18. 5.55	3 days	F	1a) Congenital hydrocephalus and spina bifida.
14. 7.55	1 month	F	1a) Gastro enteritis.
28. 7.55	2 weeks	F	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
21. 9.55	1 week	M	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
11.10.55	6 days	F	1a) Bilateral basal broncho pneumonia. b) Intra cranial neo-natal cerebral haemorrhage due to c) Parturition tear of the tentorium.
27.10.55	2 days	F	1a) Broncho pneumonia.
1.12.55	2 days	F	1a) Prematurity.

### General Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (All Causes) .. ..	362	204	158
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:		10.7	
Comparability Factor for Deaths:		1.33	
Corrected Death Rate:		14.23	

### Infantile Mortality

It will be seen that only two infant deaths were obviously unavoidable. I refer to the two deaths from congenital defects. It is possible that these two cases were originally due to physical inadequacies in the mothers, which might have been corrected, had they sought attention from their family doctors before conception took place; that, however, is pure speculation.

The deaths from prematurity need not be regarded as unavoidable. If the pregnancy is adequately supervised, and the mother understands and carries out the advice given to her, prematurity is unlikely. If it does occur, it is highly probable that the child could be saved, and in due course catch up with his stronger fellows. If every mother took proper care of



herself during pregnancy, and proper care of her child after it was born, it is almost certain that the number of infant deaths in a year could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that the Bilston mother has special difficulties.

During 1955 she had to contend with epidemics of measles and influenza, in addition to the usual hazards. The air is heavily smoke-laden. One mother in four is in a house that is overcrowded or damp. In some cases she is faced with the choice between leaving her baby in someone else's care while she goes out to work and being unable to feed it adequately. It is difficult to be a good mother in Bilston, but it is not impossible. Most of the Bilston mothers are good mothers.

The figures of births and still births tell us that the midwives, either as midwives or maternity nurses, had to take part in the supervision of at least 596 pregnancies. This would give each midwife a case load of 119. This is above the maximum which is usually thought wise. It is, therefore, highly probable that midwives were unable to give to every case, the supervision that they would have liked.

It appears during 1956 there may be less births, and the strain on the midwives will therefore probably be eased.

TABLE A  
Deaths during 1955 by age groups

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
0—4	11	11	7	11	18	22
5—14	3	1	—	—	3	1
15—24	1	2	3	2	4	4
25—44	11	14	6	13	17	27
45—64	74	64	30	34	104	98
65 and over	97	112	90	98	187	210
	—	—	—	—	—	—
All deaths	197	204	136	158	333	362
	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B  
Deaths from Certain Causes

	1954	1955
Cardio-Vascular Diseases .. ..	95	106
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ..	47	49
Cancer .. ..	57	55
Bronchitis .. ..	24	26
Influenza .. ..	1	6
Pneumonia .. ..	18	26
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	6	10

TABLE C  
Years of Life Lost due to Mortality from Certain Causes

Abridged List No.	Cause of Death	Total No. of deaths	Total Years of life lost 0-85	Total Years of life lost 0-64	Years of life lost per 10,000 population		
					0-64	15-64	0-85
	All Causes .. .. .	204 158	223 180	98 96	29 28	29 28	66 53
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	6 4	626 180	189 96	56 28	56 28	185 53
10-15.	Cancer (all sites) .. .. .	31 24	403 218	51 66	15 20	15 20	119 64
11.	Cancer of Lung. Bronchus .. .. .	9 1	40 99	19 27	6 8	6 8	12 29
12.	Cancer of breast.. .. .	5	420	84	25	25	124
17.	Vascular lesion of C.N.S. .. .. .	23 26	482	111	33	14	142
18.	Coronary disease .. .. .	24 14	473 311	92 49	27 14	27 14	140 92
19, 20	Other cardiac diseases .. .. .	31 27	548 566	172 174	51 51	51 51	162 167
23-24.	Bronchitis and pneumonia .. .. .	35 17	1248 493	649 254	192 75	40 18	369 146
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	7 -	148 -	32 -	9 -	9 -	44 -
33, 34.	Accidents .. .. .	6 3	206 52	110 2	32 0.6	14 0.6	61 15



Table 'A' shows significant increases in the deaths in the age groups 15 to 24, and 65 and over. Table 'B' shows that the increases were mainly among the respiratory diseases. Table 'C' brings this out much more clearly. From bronchitis and pneumonia, the years of life lost in 1954—0 to 85—were 1,233. For males 877 and for females 356. There was an increase in loss of life in 1955 in males, of nearly fifty per cent. The years of life lost from accidents remains much the same as before, but the loss of years of life from coronary disease is nearly doubled for males, and more than doubled for females. Less years of life were lost from cancer of the lung and bronchus, but slightly more from cancer in general. The loss of years of life from pulmonary tuberculosis was doubled, and that from ulcer of the stomach and duodenum trebled. Coronary thrombosis and peptic ulcer are both what may be called overtime diseases, *i.e.*, they are diseases associated with insufficient rest and nervous strain. Hurried meals are definitely an aggravating factor in peptic ulcer, and they may well contribute to the development of coronary thrombosis.

The increased cash acquired as a result of overtime, in the case of a workman, or burning the midnight oil, in the case of an executive, may well be too hardly earned if it results in death from either of these groups of diseases.

TABLE D

Ward	Electo- rate	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 electors	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 electors	Popula- tion at 1951 Census
Ettingshall	4,457	62	14.0	106	23.78	6,124
High Town	2,141	52	24.3	45	21.0	3,241
New Town	4,117	63	15.3	99	24.0	6,748
Town Hall	7,860	110	14.0	188	23.9	10,744
Bradley	4,524	75	16.5	137	30.28	6,398

# Causes of Death during 1955 in detail

TABLE E

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory.. ..	6	4	10
Tuberculosis Other .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases .. ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. ..	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ..	7	3	10
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus) .. ..	9	1	10
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ..	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ..	—	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. ..	15	12	27
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	2	—	2
Diabetes .. ..	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .. ..	23	26	49
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	24	14	38
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Heart Disease .. ..	28	25	53
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	5	5	10
Influenza .. ..	6	—	6
Pneumonia .. ..	13	13	26
Bronchitis .. ..	22	4	26
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	—	7
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation ..	—	2	2
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	19	25	44
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	3	3	6
All other accidents .. ..	2	1	3
Suicide .. ..	3	2	5
Homicide and Operation of War	—	1	1
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>362</b>



Table 'D' brings out quite clearly how unhealthy it is to live in the High Town Ward. Since a substantial part of the High Town death rate is due to respiratory disease, it is probably not unfair to assume that the smoky atmosphere in this Ward is the main factor in its unhealthy statistics. The railway and the steelworks share a responsibility for this pollution. The steelworks has brought much prosperity to the town, but the silver lining has its cloud (of smoke).

## **D. PREVENTABLE DISEASE AND ILL HEALTH**

### **Tuberculosis**

Perhaps the most interesting and revealing fact to be gleaned from the tuberculosis tables, is that the Ward the 1951 census showed to be most overcrowded, has almost the lowest incidence of tuberculosis. The lowest incidence in 1955 was in Ettingshall, which is, probably, on the whole, the best housed Ward, and in which the level of health education given by the parents and the schools, is, in my opinion, quite high. The New Town Ward which was, and probably still is, the most overcrowded Ward, has an incidence of new cases of tuberculosis of approximately 1.2 per thousand as compared with .96 for Ettingshall, 1.4 per thousand for the Town Hall Ward, 1.8 per thousand for the Bradley Ward, and 2.1 per thousand for the High Town Ward. The Bradley and High Town Wards are probably those that are the worst housed, but the only explanation I can give for the heavier incidence in the new cases in High Town is foul air.

The dust and sulphur from the railway, the closely packed houses, and the factories surrounding the Ward, must greatly weaken the resistance of the inhabitants to chest diseases in general and to pulmonary tuberculosis in particular.

Taking Bilston as a whole, three of the forty-nine notifications were taken from the death returns, and it can therefore be said that thirty per cent. of the deaths occurred in patients who were not undergoing treatment. None of these three patients were known to be suffering from tuberculosis, but one was a close contact of a tuberculosis case, who had refused repeatedly to submit himself to examination. On average, however, I understand that three to four contacts are successfully followed up, for every new case notified, and this was generally regarded as a fairly satisfactory figure.

A large proportion of deaths from tuberculosis occur in the winter months, and the exceptionally hard winter of 1954/55 may account in part for increase in the death rate.

The fall in notifications is gratifying; it is not due to slackness on the part of the Public Health Service, for the Mass X-ray Survey showed a considerable decrease in the number of cases found, and the rate of notification has continued to drop during 1956.

Tables 3 and 4 show that though new cases are notified twice as frequently in the 25 to 44 group as in the 45 to 64's, death is much more



frequent in the middle aged patients. Possibly the middle aged take less kindly to medical supervision than the younger generation, though I find this difficult to believe. Undoubtedly the middle aged are the group now in which the disease is most serious, and they are also the group among which chronic infectious cases are most commonly found.

### **Measles**

The expected measles epidemic took place during 1955. It appeared to be a rather larger epidemic than the 1953 one, but no deaths were attributed to measles. The disease became epidemic in Wolverhampton in December, 1954. Cases began to appear in the Ettingshall area during January, 1955. By February, measles was raging through the Ettingshall schools, and during March it spread South and East to the other schools. In Ettingshall, it was mainly the five and six year old children in the infant schools that were attacked, though some of them infected the older brothers and sisters, but as the disease spread through the town, the younger children began to be infected more widely and more seriously. Quite a number of babies and toddlers were admitted to Moxley Hospital for treatment. The epidemic was at its heaviest during May and June, it abated a little during July, and then tailed off during August and September.

No cases were notified to me during the last quarter of 1955.

### **Diphtheria**

None of the cases notified as diphtheria were confirmed by bacteriological examination, but this is as it should be. Were a doctor who is in doubt, to wait the bacteriological confirmation of the diagnosis, the patient might well die, or at best, to be left with a serious paralysis due to the diphtheria toxin. It does not follow that these cases were not diphtheria. In the past, cases in which the classical paralysis has developed have been negative bacteriologically. They could have been cases of diphtheria, but it was not possible to prove it. The six cases were scattered throughout the town, and throughout the year.

The first was a boy of thirteen, attending Dudley Grammar School; the second a woman of fifty; the third a girl aged twelve months; the fourth a girl aged five years; the fifth a boy aged six years; and the sixth a woman of thirty. All made an uneventful recovery.

### **Poliomyelitis**

The first suspected case was admitted to Moxley Hospital in May. The patient, a woman of twenty-five, developed no significant meningeal or encephalitic symptoms, and it was decided that the case was merely one of tonsillitis.

The second case was never suspected. The child, a girl of three years and three months, seemed perfectly well until October the 10th, when weakness of the left leg developed. The mother noticed a limp after some four days, and called in the family doctor on October the 14th. He confined the child to bed and she improved rapidly, but was left with weakness of the muscles of the left calf. She was subsequently examined by an



orthopaedic surgeon who confirmed that the paralysis was of the type likely to be produced by acute anterior poliomyelitis. Though there were three schoolchildren in the family, no other cases were reported among their school mates, and the rest of the family did not subsequently suffer from any illness suggestive of poliomyelitis.

### **Dysentery**

Of the eleven confirmed cases of dysentery, five were in two related families, the children from whom attended a school in Bradley. Two other confirmed cases occurred in children attending the same school. The first case notified was a child of two years. This child had fallen ill on March the 28th with vomiting and diarrhoea, and the usual feeling of shivering. A week before, the child's cousin and aunt had visited the family, and the cousin had been noticed to be somewhat loose; he had played with the two year old child quite a lot. Investigation of this eight year old boy showed that not only was he carrying the germ of sonne dysentery in his bowel, but also salmonella typhi-murium. He and his sister were excluded from school, and no further cases were subsequently notified, though the boy's three cousins and his grandmother remained positive for some weeks. All but two of the eleven confirmed cases of dysentery, and a number of food poisoning cases occurred in Bradley. It is quite possible that the bacilli may have been borne by flies from the house inhabited by this boy's family.

### **Food Poisoning**

There were a number of food poisoning cases during the months of July and August in particular, but we were never able to find any infected food.

As is well known, food poisoning tends to be a mild infection, gradually getting worse, and the patient often does not seek medical attention until he has been ill for some days. This makes it almost impossible to get hold of any food that might have been responsible for the infection, except in cases of gross and visible contamination.

### **Pneumonia**

I referred previously to the pneumonia epidemic; cases notified are, of course, acute primary or acute influenzal pneumonia. There were many other cases during the winter and early spring, of bronchial pneumonia and virus pneumonias which I am quite sure were not notified, and in many cases caused death. Pneumonia is still 'the captain of the men of death'.

### **Whooping Cough**

There were again scattered cases of whooping cough throughout the year, and it appears that immunisation has not so far reduced the incidence of the disease, but rather changed it from an epidemic disease to one with epidemic peaks.

Only about twenty per cent. of the children under the age of twelve months are immunised against whooping cough so far, and until by one



means or another the number of immunes in the population of children aged five or under is of the order of forty per cent., notifications of whooping cough will continue to average around one hundred a year.

### **Gastro Enteritis in Infants**

This is an infectious disease, though notification is not generally required unless there is an obvious epidemic.

There were two deaths from gastro enteritis in infants during the year; one child being aged three months, who was also suffering from broncho pneumonia, and the other aged one month. It is possible that once the two diseases had struck the older child, there was little chance of saving him. The younger child should not have died.

The disease is grossly infectious, and indeed its infectivity has been compared with that of smallpox, but if this child had been nursed at a fever hospital, under the proper aseptic technique required, and given modern methods of treatment, it should not have died. The child did die in hospital, but not in an infectious diseases hospital.

### **Accidents, Suicide and Homicide**

There were 15 deaths from violence in 1955—6 being from accidents in which motor vehicles were involved, one from attempted rape, and 5 from suicide. The remaining three were from accidents in the home in old people (two from coal gas poisoning and the third from pneumonia following fracture of the femur).

The fact that the number of deaths from home accidents during 1955 was half that for 1954 is not statistically significant due to the small numbers. The weekly returns kindly sent by the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, however, seem to bear out the suggestion that the home accident rate is declining in Bilston. A return is sent every week, of all accidents treated at the Royal Hospital. The figures are of some interest, as the pattern is different to those of the national death returns from home accidents.

None of the three patients who died as a result of home accident were treated at the Royal Hospital, which indicates, of course, that these figures do not tell the whole story. Of those that were treated, three were over 65, nine in the age group 6 to 65, and nineteen were 5 years or under. Of the last group, all but one were under the age of 5.

Three patients were treated for burns (one being an old person of 83, and two small children). Four small children were treated for scalds, thirteen people were treated for injuries following falls, and eleven for injuries from other causes. Of the injuries from falls, two were in old people, and eight in children under the age of five years. Of the injuries from other causes, four were to children under the age of five years, one to a child aged five, and six to older school children and adults.

The population of Bilston is, of course, abnormally young as compared with the country as a whole, but even so, it is somewhat surprising that the elderly and the aged escaped so lightly during 1955. It does indicate that the increased attention now being paid to old people, both by the local authorities and by voluntary organisations, is having some effect.



**TABLE 1**  
**Infectious Diseases notified during 1955**

Disease	Total cases notified	Total cases confirmed	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	42	41	—	10
Tuberculosis—Meninges and C.N.S. .. ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other .. ..	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	15	13	11	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	76	77	2	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	—
Measles .. ..	568	566	7	—
Diphtheria .. ..	6	—	6	—
Pneumonia .. ..	33	33	3	26
Dysentery .. ..	30	11	—	—
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	3	3	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	2	2	2	—
Paratyphoid .. ..	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	2	1	2	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	15	13	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	1
Total cases confirmed .. ..			762	
Total cases confirmed during 1954			283	

TABLE 2  
Infectious Diseases—Confirmed. In Wards. 1955

Disease	New Town			High Town			Town Hall			Ettingshall			Bradley			TOTAL		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Whooping Cough .. ..	3	9	12	5	5	10	13	16	29	10	9	19	3	4	7	34	43	77
Pneumonia .. ..	7	3	10	2	-	2	5	3	8	3	-	3	5	5	10	22	11	33
Diphtheria .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	-	2	2	1	5	6	4	9	13
Measles .. ..	29	41	70	22	20	42	68	84	152	82	69	151	69	82	151	270	296	566
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	3
Erysipelas .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
Food Poisoning .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6	1	-	1	3	3	6	8	5	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polionmyelitis .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery .. ..	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	2	1	6	7	2	9	11
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1



TABLE 3

## Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1953 — 1955

	1951 Census			1953		1954		1955		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—4 ..	1,611	1,548	3,159	3	1	1	2	1	2	5	5
5—14 ..	2,692	2,635	5,327	2	3	3	1	—	1	5	5
15—24 ..	2,376	2,656	5,032	7	9	9	14	10	9	26	32
25—44 ..	5,293	5,078	10,371	11	10	10	11	10	7	31	28
45—64 ..	3,343	3,677	7,020	10	1	9	1	5	2	24	4
65 and over ..	1,159	1,390	2,549	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	2
	16,474	16,984	33,458	33	24	34	31	26	23	93	78

TABLE 4

## Deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases during 1953 — 1955

	1953		1954		1955		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—4	..	..	1	-	-	-	1	-
5—14	..	..	1	-	-	-	1	-
15—24	..	..	2	1	-	-	2	1
25—44	..	..	1	-	1	3	2	3
45—64	..	..	4	-	5	1	14	2
65 and over	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9	1	5	1	6	4	20	6



## Tuberculosis

There were 369 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1955. 208 were males and 161 were females. There were 48 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. 20 males and 28 females.

During the year 49 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, compared with 65 in 1954. 1 of the cases was non-pulmonary.

There were 10 deaths, all being pulmonary tuberculosis. 6 were males and 4 were females.

TABLE 5  
Tuberculosis Statistics—Number on Register at  
31st December, 1955

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Pulmonary</b>	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	7	6	13
	6 to 15 years	10	9	19
	16 to 25 years	51	66	117
	26 to 45 years	86	61	147
	46 to 65 years	47	13	60
	Over 65 years	5	4	9
	Ages unknown	2	2	4
	Total all ages	208	161	369
<b>Non-Pulmonary</b>	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	6	4	10
	6 to 15 years	1	4	5
	16 to 25 years	9	8	17
	26 to 45 years	1	11	12
	46 to 65 years	1	1	2
	Over 65 years	2	—	2
	Total all ages	20	28	48
	Pulmonary all ages	208	161	369
	Non-Pulmonary all ages	20	28	48
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	228	189	417

TABLE 6  
Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wards  
1951—55

Year	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1951	6	3	—	1	12	10	8	2	7	5	33	21
1952	—	1	2	2	3	14	3	2	9	8	17	27
1953	8	3	3	2	11	9	4	2	6	5	32	21
1954	4	5	3	2	9	7	8	5	5	9	29	28
1955	3	5	7	—	4	11	3	3	8	4	25	23

TABLE 7  
Tuberculosis Notifications

YEAR	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1948	16	11	2	1	18	12
1949	13	15	3	1	16	16
1950	25	10	1	1	26	11
1951	33	21	5	2	38	23
1952	17	27	1	2	18	29
1953	32	21	1	3	33	24
1954	29	28	5	3	34	31
1955	25	23	1	—	26	23
(Including Inward Transfers).						



## **E. HOUSING**

152 new houses were completed by the Council during 1955. This enabled 54 unfit houses to be closed. At the end of 1955 there were 1,732 unfit houses remaining, plus 131 houses not grossly unfit in themselves, which might have to be included in development areas, in order to enable those areas to be properly developed.

The Council's slum clearance plan was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in October, and a Sub-Committee of the Housing and Health Committees was then set up to consider ways and means of implementing it as soon as possible. As a result, it is hoped that clearance of the first compulsory purchase area will begin not later than June, 1957. In the meantime, a small number of the tenants in these worst areas continue to be rehoused on the points scheme, and certain other particularly bad houses are being dealt with by demolition orders.

Overcrowding, on the other hand cannot have abated greatly, since the Housing Manager's list has not appreciably diminished during the year, despite the fact that 98 new houses were occupied by tenants who had originally been lodgers. A few of the older houses were discovered to be overcrowded as a result of their use by commonwealth workers, as lodging houses. One old house in Oxford Street was found to be particularly overcrowded, and action was taken to abate this. Advice continues to be given to landlords of these houses, who are in the main, Indians, with varying success.

## **F. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Water**

The quality of the water continues to be satisfactory, and the quantity is adequate at the moment, but only just so.

The only answers to this problem are either considerably increased pumping at Tomhill, or a supplement to the supply by the construction of a further bore hole.

During the year 34 samples of water were taken, 6 of which were chemically analysed and 28 were bacteriologically tested. All the results were satisfactory and the following are typical examples of the bacteriological and chemical analysis.

## Water from Tomhill Pumping Station

pH Value	6.3
	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F.	22.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.80
Chlorine present as Chloride	2.1
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.0042
Appearance	Clear and colourless
Metallic Contamination	Nil
Total Hardness	—
Permanent Hardness	—
Temporary Hardness	—
Free Chlorine	0.06 parts per million

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

## Water

### Bacteriological Examination Report

Nature of Sample: Source: Bore.  
Main piped supply.  
Tap, Tomhill Pumping Station, Seisdon.  
(No. 2 Boost Pump).

Date and hour of collection: 19.1.55 1.25 p.m.

Date and hour of arrival: 19.1.55 3.55 p.m.

## REPORT

Date of Report: 21.1.55

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically Nil per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.  
Nil per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli Nil per 100 ml.



The Corporation owns and operates its own undertaking. The statutory limits of supply are about 12,000 acres comprising the Borough of Bilston, part of the Urban District of Coseley and part of the Rural District of Seisdon.

Water is obtained from two sources of supply (a) deep wells and a borehole at the Bratch, Wombourn, and (b) a borehole at Tomhill, Bobbington, both in the Rural District of Seisdon.

The supply to Bilston and Coseley is pumped from source to two covered concrete service reservoirs at Coton Road, Goldthorn Hill, having a combined effective capacity of 1,590,000 gallons, and thence by gravitation to Bilston and Coseley.

The estimated population supplied in Bilston and Coseley is 46,621 and in the Seisdon District 7,221, a total of 53,842.

The average daily consumption for all purposes in the whole area of supply during the year was 3,681,939 gallons or 68.38 gallons per head per day. In the Bilston and Coseley area the average daily consumption was 3,300,747 gallons or 29.99 gallons per head per day for domestic supplies and 40.81 gallons per head per day for trade supplies.

### Sewage

The population continues to increase and the sewage works is beginning to become progressively less adequate to their needs. It is possible that the proposed use of a composting system may reduce the need for a larger sewage works, but this is highly problematical. On the basis of present information, it seems that a new and modern sewage works will be required by the Borough in the very near future.

The Borough Surveyor supplies the following information:—

The sewage disposal works occupy an area of 43 acres at The Lunt, Bilston, and deal with the flow of sewage from the whole of the Borough, together with 1,663 acres of the northern part of Coseley Urban District, and also parts of the adjoining areas of Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Darlaston, a total of 3,588 acres.

The system of disposal is precipitation followed by continuous filtration; the sludge from the tanks gravitates to a well from which it is pumped to lagoons.

The disposal works were first constructed in 1905 to deal with a daily dry weather flow of 517,000 gallons. They were extended in 1924 and again in 1929 to deal with a daily dry flow of 1,379,000 gallons.

The dry weather flow exceeds 1,500,000 gallons a day and a scheme is under consideration for improvements and extensions to the works to bring them up to date for present requirements, and for a future estimated dry weather flow of 1,700,000 gallons a day.

## Drains and Water Closets

1,579 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the Health Department staff.

The tabular statement of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is as follows:—

### (a) INSPECTIONS

<i>Nature of Inspection</i>				<i>1st</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Dwelling Houses</b>						
Inspections—Routine	..	..	..	451	450	901
Complaints	..	..	..	437	394	831
Overcrowding	..	..	..	5	—	5
Dirty Condition	..	..	..	16	12	28
Rent Restriction Act	..	..	..	1	—	1
Disinfected	..	..	..	23	32	55
Disinfested	..	..	..	76	114	190
Rodent Control	..	..	..	302	983	1,285
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	25	5	30
Disinfestation—Visits	..	..	..	42	29	71
Removals	..	..	..	174	—	174
Verminous	..	..	..	10	—	10
<b>Other Premises</b>						
Houses let in lodgings	..	..	..	11	—	11
Tents, vans, sheds, sites	..	..	..	14	—	14
Common lodging houses	..	..	..	1	—	1
Factories—mechanical power	..	..	..	21	15	36
no power	..	..	..	5	—	5
Workplaces—ordinary	..	..	..	3	—	3
outworkers	..	..	..	—	—	—
Bakehouses	..	..	..	1	—	1
Dairies	..	..	..	—	—	—
Milk dealers	..	..	..	124	—	124
Ice cream—manufacturers	..	..	..	2	—	2
retailers	..	..	..	14	3	17
samples	..	..	..	17	—	17
Slaughterhouses—inspected	..	..	..	1	—	1
meat inspection	..	..	..	642	5	647
Private/emergency slaughter	..	..	..	—	—	—
Fried fish shops	..	..	..	7	—	7
Food preparing premises	..	..	..	38	—	38
Ice stores	..	..	..	—	—	—
Public houses	..	..	..	8	—	8
Cafes and restaurants	..	..	..	4	—	4
Works canteen	..	..	..	—	—	—
Market—visits	..	..	..	24	—	24
meat stalls	..	..	..	49	—	49
other food stalls	..	..	..	53	—	53



	1st Inspections	Re- Inspections	Total
Shops—meat and food .. ..	217	7	224
others .. ..	38	—	38
rodent control .. ..	3	8	11
Public conveniences .. ..	17	—	17
Stables .. ..	1	—	1
Premises re swine, fowl, etc. ..	7	2	9
Premises re offensive accumulation	33	2	35
Drains—inspected .. ..	244	83	327
colour tested .. ..	9	2	11
water tested .. ..	—	—	—
grenade tested .. ..	11	—	11
smoke tested .. ..	7	—	7
Sewers—inspected .. ..	28	3	31
street gullies .. ..	17	—	17
Canal boats—inspected .. ..	—	—	—
visits to canal .. ..	—	—	—
Smoke observations— .. ..	39	—	39
visits to plant .. ..	31	16	47
Cinemas and theatres .. ..	2	4	6
Water samples—chemical .. ..	5	—	5
bacteriological .. ..	17	—	17
inspections .. ..	4	—	4
Food stalls and carts .. ..	8	—	8
Milk—chemical .. ..	—	—	—
bacteriological .. ..	4	—	4
Other foods—formal .. ..	—	—	—
informal .. ..	22	—	22
Cleansing visits .. ..	24	—	24
Miscellaneous visits .. ..	699	1	700
Smoke measurement .. ..	155	—	155
Food Poisoning .. ..	—	7	7

(b) NOTICES

Informal Notices issued .. ..	256
Statutory Notices—Section 92–93	
Public Health Act, 1936 .. Issued .. ..	132
Complied .. ..	104
Justices Order .. ..	1

(c) IMPROVEMENTS MADE AS A RESULT OF THE SERVICE OF INFORMAL OR STATUTORY NOTICES

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
<b>Dwelling Houses</b>			
<b>Internal Rooms</b>			
Ventilation improved .. ..	1	—	1
New windows provided .. ..	4	7	11

			<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Old windows repaired .. ..	28	7	35		
Window cords renewed .. ..	27	14	41		
Dampness in walls remedied ..	58	5	63		
Plaster of walls repaired .. ..	42	9	51		
Plaster of ceilings repaired ..	41	6	47		
Floors repaired .. ..	19	—	19		
New fireplaces provided .. ..	—	2	2		
Old fireplaces repaired .. ..	7	1	8		
Ovens provided .. ..	—	1	1		
Doors repaired .. ..	6	1	7		
Skirting boards .. ..	2	—	2		
Flues repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
<b>Staircases</b>					
Steps provided or repaired ..	3	1	4		
Guard rails repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
<b>Sculleries and Wash-houses</b>					
Ventilation improved .. ..	—	—	—		
Windows repaired .. ..	3	—	3		
Plaster of ceilings repaired ..	4	—	4		
New sinks provided .. ..	2	3	5		
Old sinks repaired .. ..	3	—	3		
Waste pipes trapped .. ..	—	1	1		
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	4	2	6		
Wash coppers provided .. ..	—	1	1		
Wash coppers repaired .. ..	10	3	13		
Floors repaired .. ..	—	1	1		
Doors repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
Water service pipes repaired ..	3	—	3		
Service main repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
<b>Cellars</b>					
Steps repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
Flooding abated .. ..	4	—	4		
Coverings repaired .. ..	1	—	1		
<b>External</b>					
Roofs repaired .. ..	92	51	143		
Eaves spouts repaired or provided	38	16	54		
Down spouts repaired or provided	29	7	36		
Walls repaired and/or repointed ..	38	22	60		
Chimney stacks repaired and/or repointed .. ..	30	8	38		
Doors repaired .. ..	2	5	7		



	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Steps repaired .. ..	2	—	2
Parapet walls .. ..	1	—	1
Under floor ventilation .. ..	1	—	1
<b>General</b>			
Yard paving or surface repaired ..	4	—	4
Yard drainage installed .. ..	1	—	1
Houses supplied with town's water supply .. ..	2	2	4
Water supply restored .. ..	1	2	3
<b>Outbuildings</b>			
<b>Water Closets</b>			
Roofs repaired .. ..	8	1	9
Walls repaired or repointed ..	12	1	13
Doors repaired .. ..	8	—	8
New cistern fixed or repaired ..	65	4	69
New pedestals and seats provided	21	2	23
Soilpipes repaired .. ..	1	—	1
Water supply provided/repaired ..	11	1	12
New water closets provided ..	5	—	5
Flush pipes/pedestal joints repaired	4	—	4
Pedestals repaired .. ..	1	—	1
<b>Coal Stores</b>			
Roofs repaired .. ..	3	—	3
<b>Waste Water Closets</b>			
Converted into standard type W.C's. .. ..	—	1	1
<b>Ashbins</b>			
Renewals .. ..	—	670	670
Provided for new houses ..	—	144	144
Provided for other premises ..	—	31	31
<b>Drains</b>			
Repaired or relaid .. ..	47	3	50
Cleansed .. ..	12	1	13
Disconnected from sewer ..	1	—	1
Inspection chambers built or re- paired .. ..	22	4	26
Under house abolished .. ..	1	—	1
Self cleansing gullies provided ..	6	1	7

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Offensive Accumulations</b>			
Removed .. .. .	8	5	13
<b>Animals so kept as a nuisance</b>			
Nuisance abated .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites</b>			
Removed .. .. .	10	1	11
<b>Factories—Mechanical Power</b>			
Conveniences cleansed and/or limewashed .. .. .	—	1	1
Ventilation space provided ..	2	—	2
Conveniences— other improvements .. .. .	2	1	3
<b>Workplaces</b>			
Improvements .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Stables</b>			
Cleansed .. .. .	1	—	1
Manure pits repaired/provided/ improved .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Smoke Observations</b>			
Nuisances abated .. .. .	1	—	1
Additions to plant or improve- ments .. .. .	2	—	2
<b>Slaughterhouses</b>			
Lighting/ventilation improved ..	2	—	2
Floors repaired/repaved .. ..	1	—	1
Walls repaired/rendered imper- vious .. .. .	4	—	4
Drainage improved .. .. .	—	1	1
Running hot water provided ..	1	—	1
<b>Food Shops</b>			
Improvements under Food and Drugs Act .. .. .	1	1	2



		<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Fried Fish Shops</b>				
Cleansed/limewashed/painted ..	..	—	—	—
Storage receptacles provided ..	..	1	—	1
Accumulations removed ..	..	2	—	2
Other improvements .. ..	..	1	—	1

#### **Food Vans, Carts and Stalls**

Covering and screening of back and sides provided or im- proved .. ..	..	—	—	—
Other improvements .. ..	..	1	—	1

#### **Pig Styes**

Accumulations removed ..	..	1	—	1
Cleansed .. ..	..	1	—	1

#### **Disinfestation**

76 houses were disinfested and 114 re-inspections were made of these houses. Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays. In addition, the majority of tenants from old property had their furniture and effects treated by HCN gas, and the bedding sterilised by steam in the steam disinfector. There were 174 removals, and the effects were treated in all of these.

#### **Shops Act**

38 visits were made to shops other than food shops, in connection with the Shops Act.

#### **Rodent Control**

The number of complaints received during the year was 206. 15 more than last year. The number of inspections made for the purposes of treatment was 1,285. In addition, sewer treatment was carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, necessitating 1,000 visits and inspections.

			1st	2nd
Number of manholes in system .. ..	..	..	929	929
Number of manholes treated .. ..	..	..	86	164
Number of manholes showing infestation ..	..	..	68	69
Number of manholes showing complete pre- bait take .. ..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Actual bodies seen .. ..	..	..	40	69
Estimated kill .. ..	..	..	339	262
Dates of treatments .. ..	..	..	March	October



## CLEANSING

The Cleansing Superintendent (Mr. J. R. Tart, M.S.I.A.) reports as follows:—

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

(Period 1st April, 1955, to 31st March, 1956)

Collection frequency did not improve as had been hoped. A seven day collection has been possible for a few weeks in the summer, but the bad weather and heavier refuse has put winter collection frequency back to fourteen days. On occasion, it has fallen to sixteen days, due to the absence of men through sickness or otherwise. Recovery from such a fall back is the more difficult, as by the time a bin emptied fourteen days back is emptied again, it is full to overflowing and surrounded by boxes of refuse or loose refuse on the ground. This results in several journeys to the vehicle for the purpose of cleaning up, which causes a cumulative fall back. As a temporary expedient, extra bins were placed at those premises which proved to have a high refuse output. These bins were withdrawn when the situation eased.

A reorganisation of rounds was carried out in an endeavour to improve collection efficiency. An improvement has resulted, but it has been insufficient to achieve a seven day frequency. The purchase of another vehicle, and the establishment of another round, will soon be necessary to cope with the new housing estates. A suggestion to this end, though approved by the appropriate Committees, could not be implemented, as at the time the estimates were considered, it was thought that other methods would secure results. The purchase of another vehicle will have to be considered in the 1956/57 Estimates. There is still no spare vehicle to use when one of the regular collection vehicles is due for major overhaul.

Four vehicles have been engaged on collection—three Shelvoke and Drewry's and one Karrier. A nominal twenty-two men have been engaged on the collection side. Sometimes this number has been exceeded on the establishment as the only means of maintaining a service in the absence of men due to sickness.

Number of men engaged on collection	..	..	22
Possible number of man hours	..	..	48,840
Actual number of man hours worked	..	..	43,590
Number of man hours lost	..	..	5,250

The figure for 'actual man hours worked' is inflated by the necessity for Saturday morning overtime, to the extent of 1,802 hours. It could, therefore, be said that the man hours lost were 7,052 or 14.44%.

TABLE 1  
HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
378,901	4,092	14,209



TABLE 2  
MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

Covering for Tips	Trade Refuse	Waste Paper	Kitchen Waste	Misc.	Total
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
37	290	118	254	4	703

### Salvage

A further fall off in the figures for waste paper and cardboard collected, is due to a variety of causes. The full time paper collection vehicle is in the Transport Pool now, and the arrangement for its use for salvage for three days each week, has for various reasons not been implemented. The housewife still puts much paper in the bin, that could be salvaged. An increase in paper collection, beyond a certain point, would cause congestion at the Depot, where we are operating only one manual press. A greatly increased salvage collection would necessitate the purchase of a power press, or the bringing into use of another hand press and operative. The economics of this would need careful scrutiny if the service was not to be run at a loss.

Kitchen waste collection continues as usual at a loss, with a smaller quantity collected, as compared with previous years. There are two main causes for the decreased tonnage. In the first place, private pigkeepers are taking their toll of the street bins, and, secondly, the kitchen waste collection vehicle has had to be transferred to refuse collection at times of breakdown and overhaul of the regular refuse collection vehicles. This course was the lesser of two evils, and results from operating with no vehicle margin.

As will be seen from Table 3 glass is being salvaged now. An offer for glass was received and accepted, as no extra labour was involved in salvage at the tip face.

Collection figures are given below:—

TABLE 3

MATERIALS	1955-56			1954-55		
	Weight		Value	Weight		Value
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper .. .. .	117	18½	1,089	146	11½	1,135
Kitchen Waste .. ..	253	18	1,004	333	—	1,230
Glass .. .. .	10	16¼	24	—	—	—
			2,117			2,365

## Refuse Disposal

This year saw the completion of levelling at the Dudley Street site. The last month or so of life at this tip were not without incident. The small angledozer became more unreliable as time went on, and much time was lost in repairs. This led to an untidy tip, as there was no labour available for manual control. Interference by the public led to fires, and hired bulldozers and scrapers had to be called in. In November, on completion of the culverting of the brook, tipping commenced at Raglan Street.

Details of refuse disposal are as follows:—

TABLE 4  
DUDLEY STREET TIP

	Cleansing Department		Tradespeople and Others		TOTAL	
	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons
House Refuse—Dry ..	4,104 {	14,209	—	—	4,438 {	14,209
Trade Refuse ..		290	334	167		457
Coverings ..		37	—	—		37
Industrial Refuse ..	—	—	310	1,860	310	1,860
Miscellaneous ..	2	4	66	66	68	70
Totals ..	4,120	14,540	710	2,093	4,830	16,633



Below I include Cost Statement 1955-56 and Operational Statistics, as furnished to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

TABLE 5  
COST STATEMENT 1955-56

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
	<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>				
1.	<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE:</b>				
	(i) Labour .. .. .	9,302	1,545	10,847	53
	(ii) Transport .. .. .	4,812	2,300	7,112	35
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings .. .. .	1,710	708	2,418	12
	(iv) Other items .. .. .	—	35	35	—
	(v) Total gross expenditure	15,824	4,588	20,412	100
2.	<b>GROSS INCOME</b> (including £1,004 received from other local authorities) ..	159	2,338	2,497	—
3.	<b>NET COST</b> .. .. .	15,665	2,250	17,915	—
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) ..	—	129	129	—
	<b>UNIT COSTS</b>				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only .. .. .	12 6	1 10	14 4	
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only .. .. .	6 6	2 9	9 3	
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton .. .. .	21 1	2 8	23 9	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 463	£ 67	£ 530	
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,482	213	1,695	

### Operational Statistics

10.	Area (statute acres).: . . . . .	1,871 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1955 . . . . . (Registrar-General's Estimate)	33,830 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons) . . . . .	14,875 tons
13.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) . . . . .	24.093 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,573 premises
15.	Premises from which daily collection is made . .	Nil % of total
16.	Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to disposal point (single journey) . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles
17.	Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as estimated percentage of total collection . .	Nil
18.	Total refuse disposed of . . . . .	16,633 tons
19.	Salvage and Trade Refuse. Analysis of income and tonnage:—	

		Income (included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (included in Item 12)
		£	Tons
Salvage:			
(a)	Raw Kitchen Waste . . . . .	1,004	254
(b)	Waste Paper . . . . .	1,089	118
(c)	Other Salvage (Cullet) . . . . .	24	11
	Total . . . . .	2,117	383
Trade Refuse.. . . .		404	457

### Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

14 visits were made to various sites in the Borough, for inspection of caravans occupied by gypsies and other wanderers.

### Atmospheric Pollution

The figures continue to show serious pollution of the atmosphere and I would again draw attention to the fact that pollution appears to be the most serious in the High Town Ward. This Ward has the misfortune to have a railway line running just outside its North Eastern boundary, and another one through its South Western boundary. Grit and black smoke from locomotives shunting, and arriving and departing from the two stations on these lines, are sent into the Ward and help considerably, I am sure, to shorten the lives of the people who dwell therein. The steelworks is also an offender, but, on the whole, I would say that this firm are more conscious of their obligations to humanity, in the matter of clean air, than are British Railways.



## DEPOSIT GAUGES

Total solids are as follows:—

January	Park Site	..	..	25.80	tons	per	square	mile
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	28.71	„	„	„	„
February	Park Site	..	}	Figures not available due to frost damage				
„	Dudley Street Site	..						
March	Park Site	..	..	19.67	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	35.15	„	„	„	„
April	Park Site	..	..	20.99	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	38.27	„	„	„	„
May	Park Site	..	..	29.95	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	45.30	„	„	„	„
June	Park Site	..	..	9.45	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	30.18	„	„	„	„
July	Park Site	..	..	3.42	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	16.62	„	„	„	„
August	Park Site	..	..	12.23	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	28.51	„	„	„	„
September	Park Site	..	..	91.46	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	43.54	„	„	„	„
October	Park Site	..	..	23.87	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	46.54	„	„	„	„
November	Park Site	..	..	21.23	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	17.36	„	„	„	„
December	Park Site	..	..	55.73	„	„	„	„
„	Dudley Street Site	..	..	47.19	„	„	„	„





# LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS

Mg. of SO<sub>3</sub> per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch E.Pb02

Month 1955	Library	Park	280, Wellington Road	Etting- shall Road	Bradley Vicarage	Moxley Hospital	Fire Station	Lunt Road Depot	4, Freeman Place	Centre Health Clinic	Tomhill Water- Works
January	3.45	2.66	3.74	3.35	3.47	3.24	6.42	3.93	3.41	4.73	1.19
February	3.91	3.05	3.19	3.10	4.25	3.37	8.72	3.92	2.83	3.99	1.26
March	3.48	3.15	2.82	3.20	3.83	3.02	9.75	3.80	3.06	3.02	1.11
April	1.83	1.69	1.82	—	1.90	1.58	5.27	2.36	1.39	3.29	0.75
May	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.7	1.8	0.9	2.1	0.6
June	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	2.4	1.6	0.8	1.8	0.5
July	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.2	2.4	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.5
August	0.94	0.63	0.73	0.69	1.04	0.86	1.94	1.37	0.59	1.43	0.53
September	1.11	0.87	0.99	0.76	1.25	—	2.97	1.68	0.73	0.02	0.14
October	2.04	1.46	1.56	1.27	2.32	1.01	4.01	2.43	1.23	3.67	0.33
November	2.97	2.17	2.72	2.39	3.58	3.33	6.36	4.04	2.53	3.47	0.77
December	2.08	2.85	2.39	1.82	2.63	2.27	5.29	3.69	1.98	3.30	0.76

## G. FOOD HYGIENE

The food hygiene booklet was distributed via the Public Library and doctors' surgeries, and by distribution to each child after the health talks in schools.

There has been some attempt by the larger food shops to keep their house in order during the year, but the level of hygiene in the small shops and far too many homes and kitchens, continues to be far too low. This is demonstrated beyond doubt by the notifications of infectious disease associated with the alimentary canal.

There were 11 confirmed cases of dysentery, 1 enteric fever, and 13 food poisoning (salmonellosis). In addition, cases of disease suspected but not confirmed, included 1 enteric fever, 2 food poisoning and 19 dysentery.

Although only person to person contact could be proved in most of these cases, it seems highly probable that most of the outbreaks were initiated by infected food. It is hoped that the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations during 1956 will considerably reduce the number of cases of this kind.



# CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	15	24	—	111	40876	—
Number inspected ..	15	24	—	111	40876	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b> ..						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	11	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	2	2	—	—	7819	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	13.33	8.33	—	—	19.15	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	26	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	1	3	—	6	1564	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. ..	6.66	12.5	—	5.4	3.88	—
<b>Cysticercosis:</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Carcass and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Heart	Stomach and Intestines	Kidney
Abscesses .. .. .	—	24	—	—	—	—
Acute Swine Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ascaris Lumbricoides ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Peritonitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calcification & Bruising ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic Nephritis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	7
Cirrhosis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cloudy Swelling .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion .. .. .	—	—	7-5	—	—	—
Contusions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysts .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	20½
Cysticercus Tenuicollis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Echinococci .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Endocarditis .. .. .	—	—	—	3	—	—
Fatty Degeneration .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Necrosis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Febrile .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fevered .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haematoma .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	7¾
Infarcts .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lacerations .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver Fluke .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mastitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund .. .. .	1-35	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasites .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis .. .. .	—	—	—	3-28¾	—	—
Peritonitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	78	—
Petechia .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	8
Pleurisy .. .. .	—	—	19-0	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	—	—	3-13-54	—	—	—
Pyaemia .. .. .	7-79	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia .. .. .	101	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Mastitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strongylus Paradoxus .. ..	—	—	1-104	—	—	—
Suffocation .. .. .	2-71	—	—	—	—	—
Swine Erysipelas .. ..	5-22	—	—	—	—	—
Torsion .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis .. .. .	1-17-37	8-14-104½	6-19	—	8-104	—
Urticaria .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2-15-9	8-15-16½	5-7-70	3-31¾	9-70	43¼



### TITLE (EXCLUDING COWS)

No.	Spleen	Omentum	Udder	Parts of Carcase	Skin	TOTAL		
						Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
37 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	2	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	1	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	47	—	—	—	47
	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	15
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	67
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	5
	—	—	—	60	—	—	—	60
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	22
	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	72
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	26
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	42
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	43 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	—	—	—	43 $\frac{1}{4}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	35
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	61
82	1-62 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	—	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	3	28 $\frac{3}{4}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	106 $\frac{3}{4}$
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	0
	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	54
	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	79
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	101
	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	104
	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	71
	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	22
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	2	11-21 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	12	13	70 $\frac{3}{4}$
	—	—	—	43	—	—	—	43
48 $\frac{3}{4}$	2-87 $\frac{3}{4}$	23	14	14-46 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	22	10	12 $\frac{1}{2}$

## CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised T.B. .. .. .	26
Moribund .. .. .	1
Acute Swine Erysipelas .. .. .	2
Pyæmia .. .. .	5
Suffocation .. .. .	2
Septicaemia .. .. .	1
TOTAL ..	<u>37</u>

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

<i>Food</i>	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Cheese .. ..			2	Mould Decomposition Blown and damaged tins
Oysters .. ..			25	
Tinned Goods ..		10	27	
		10	54	
Fresh Meat ..	22	10	12½	See Table
Total ..	23	0	66½	

### Bakehouses and Other Food Premises

1 visit has been made to bakehouses and 38 inspections to other premises.

### Milk

There are 127 licensed dealers selling sterilised milk, 9 selling sterilised and pasteurised milk, and 9 selling tuberculin tested milk.

### Ice-Cream

There are 97 premises selling ice-cream in the Borough.

14 shops were inspected and 24 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were:—

Grade 1 .. .. .	19
Grade 2 .. .. .	3
Grade 3 .. .. .	—
Grade 4 .. .. .	2

### Street Food Vendors

6 street food vendors were licensed in the area.

### Food Sampling

The sampling of milk and food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is undertaken by the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority under the Act. Dr. G. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following details of samples taken throughout the year.



<b>Milk</b>	Milk Pasteurised .. ..	14
	Milk Sterilised .. ..	16
	Milk Pasteurised Jersey ..	2
	Milk T.T. Pasteurised ..	16
	Milk T.T. .. ..	1
Total ..		49 <i>All Genuine.</i>

### General Foods

Number of samples taken .. ..	26
Number of samples genuine .. ..	24
Number of samples adulterated .. ..	2

### Classification of General Foods

Custard Powder  
 Margarine  
 Grapefruit Segments  
 White Pepper  
 Pork Luncheon Meat (2 samples)  
 English Butter  
 Margarine (contains 10% Butter)  
 Beef Suet  
 Pure Ground Almonds  
 Chocolate Butter Crunch  
 Bread and Butter (2 samples)  
 Pork Sausage (containing preservative)  
 Ulster Fry  
 Danish Butter  
 Irish Stewed Steak  
 Milk of Magnesia  
 Ground Nutmeg  
 Pork and Beef Luncheon Meat  
 Tea  
 Pure Malt Vinegar  
 New Zealand Butter  
 Currie Powder  
 Pure Lard  
 Lemon Flavouring

### Particulars of Adulterated Samples

- (1) Chocolate Butter Crunch—Formal—certain ingredients not declared.
- (2) Bread and Butter—Formal—Fatty Spread consisting of 50% Butter and Margarine.

### Action Taken

- (1) Labels amended.
- (2) Taken up with Cafe Proprietor.

## Food Preparing Premises

Food shops and food preparing premises in Bilston can be classified as follows:—

Grocers, greengrocers and general shops .. ..	196
Food shops with catering establishments attached ..	12
Other catering establishments (including works' canteen and premises of the schools meals service) ..	45
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	17
Butchers Shops .. .. .	33
Fish Shops .. .. .	5
	<hr/>
	308
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## H. HEALTH EDUCATION

As a result of suggestions by the Health Education Committee, arrangements were set in hand for litter baskets to be provided by a firm of advertising agents, and free use of the wash basins in the Lichfield Street public convenience was offered to the public for a trial period. One of the large poster boards outside the Town Hall was made use of for health posters, and specially designed large posters appeared on it at intervals of approximately four to five weeks. To begin with, a single cartoon poster 'Mr. Bilston Wants to Know' was put up, and Mr. Bilston asked different questions every two or three weeks, for about four months; after that, there were various posters on topical health subjects.

During February and the early part of March, a series of talks and films for health workers was given at the Town Hall. These were attended by school teachers, sanitary inspectors, health visitors, school nurses, and on two occasions, nursing students from the College of Further Education. The series included a talk by the Superintendent Health Visitor from South East Staffordshire; two films on tuberculosis; two on food hygiene; the Gas Board's film 'Guilty Chimneys'; a talk by Dr. Emrys Davies on 'Visual Aids and Health Teaching', and a further talk by Dr. Davies, which I am afraid was not very well attended, on health education in the schools; the latter being designed specially for teachers.

In my own health talks to school children and parents, I dealt mainly with cleanliness and simple nutrition. In my talks to the parents I discussed, besides these matters, the need for adequate sleep, adequately fitting shoes, and avoiding accidents.

## Home Safety Committee

The Home Safety Committee continued their propaganda on home safety throughout the year.

A Conference on home safety was held on the 19th April in the Town Hall, Bilston. Representatives from Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Rowley Regis and Smethwick, attended, in addition to the Bilston Health Visitors and School Nurses and representatives of the Bilston voluntary organisations. The Conference was addressed by Mrs. Duncan, former Manager



of the Home Safety Department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, who, in four short talks which occupied most of the day, covered fairly completely and extremely ably, the various home accident risks. I am sure that all who attended learned a great deal from this conference.

In June a stall was again taken at the Bilston Carnival Fete. Despite a windy day, the display attracted a good deal of attention and over two hundred leaflets were successfully distributed.

The school poster competition was again held in the Autumn. There were one hundred entries, many of them extremely good. I should add that the exhibition of the previous year's posters, held in January, 1955, attracted considerable attention, and, I trust, had a very good effect.

During November the Wolverhampton Transport Undertaking were good enough to show fluorescent posters for us, on the trolley buses plying to and from Bilston.

### **Road Safety Committee**

The Prevention of Accidents Committee continued their talks to the schoolchildren. A Town Forum was held in early May, shortly before the General Election, and attracted quite a considerable audience. A Car Rally was held in September.

### **CONCLUSION**

1955 has been, to some extent, a disappointing year. This, as I have indicated, is partly due to the influenza epidemic.

The increase in notifications of dysentery and food poisoning may have been an increase in notifications only, as discussions with patients and contacts often revealed cases of diarrhoea in earlier years, of which there is no mention in our records. On the other hand, a good summer always increases the fly population considerably, and fly-borne infection may be responsible for some of the increase in diarrhoea and disease.

I think there is little doubt that the health of the community will again improve. There are, so far, definite indications that the health record for 1956 will be considerably cleaner.

I must thank you, Mr. Mayor, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and the members of the Council, for your advice and guidance throughout the year.

I must also express my thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and to the Sanitary Inspectors and clerical staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. SMYTH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*







