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BOROUGH OF BILSTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1958







BOROUGH OF BILSTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1958

J. P. NEYLON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Health Department
23, Wellington Road
Bilston

Tel. 41451



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

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my Annual Report for 1958.

FOREWORD

"I could never divide myself from any man upon the difference of an opinion, or be angry with his judgment for not agreeing with me in that, from which perhaps in a few days I should dissent myself."

Religio Medici, pt.i.Ch.6.

Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682).

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health traditionally appear in the latter half of the year. Recently, however, the Minister of Health has expressed the desire, that such reports should reach him much earlier than has been customary heretofore, hence my report in June rather than December.

During 1958 the work of the Health Department has gone on smoothly, steadily, uneventfully.

It is gratifying to observe the Infant Mortality Rate continuing its downward trend to a new low level in 1958 and that for the first time on record the Bilston rate was less than that for England and Wales as a whole. The Infant Mortality Rate is a very sensitive index of the social circumstances of any area, being high where there is poor housing, defective sanitation, continual unemployment and a low standard of mothercraft. Our present low rate is one of which we can be justifiably proud.

Unfortunately there is no such cause for satisfaction to be derived from examining our still birth rate, which shows an upward tendency. Tuberculosis notifications and deaths show the expected reduction in common with the National figures.

Good progress was made in slum clearance and the erection of municipal houses went on steadily during 1958.

The extremely high standard of meat inspection in the Borough has been maintained during the year due to hours of arduous work on the part of the Public Health Inspectors.

Particular attention has been paid to food hygiene—one Inspector devoting much of his time to this very important aspect of Public Health. There were not grounds for instituting legal proceedings, under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, against the proprietors or food handlers of any premises inspected.

Three problems which bedevil Public Health today are the Care of the Elderly, Mental Health and Atmospheric Pollution. I would not care to express an opinion on which is the greatest problem, but I have commented at some length on all three in the body of the Report.

I take the opportunity of quoting from 'Essays' by Francis Bacon (1561-1626) in relation to the paragraphs on Atmospheric Pollution:—

'Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider'.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 17b, and other relevant circulars from the Ministry of Health.

It is desired to thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their continued courtesy and kindness, and the Chief Officers and staffs of other Corporation Departments for their co-operation during the year. A special word of thanks is due to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. R. Tart, to the Public Health Inspectors and to the clerical staff, all of whom have played a big part in the collection and compilation of the figures and material in this report, and without whose assistance it could not have been produced. In conclusion, I must thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor F. Wolverson, for his help, guidance, advice and friendliness over the past two years and on behalf of all the staff, I wish him a happy and successful year as Mayor of Bilston.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. Neylon.

Medical Officer of Health.

9th April, 1959.

PART I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

*Principiis obsta; sero medicina paratur
Cum mala per longas convaluere moras.
Resist beginnings; too late is the medicine prepared when
the disease has gained strength by long delays.*

Remedia Amoris, 91. Lvid 43 B.C.—A.D. 18?
Trans. by Showerman.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1958

Chairman: COUNCILLOR F. WOLVERSON

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. FELLOWS

THE MAYOR (EX OFFICIO)

ALDERMAN N. BAYLISS, J.P., C.C.	COUNCILLOR R. CAMPBELL
ALDERMAN E. W. BOLD	COUNCILLOR J. S. EMERY
ALDERMAN MISS A. FELLOWS	COUNCILLOR T. H. LARKIN
ALDERMAN O. H. JONES	COUNCILLOR A. W. PACE
ALDERMAN J. V. LAVENDER	COUNCILLOR W. H. SANDLAND
COUNCILLOR F. E. BALL	COUNCILLOR T. WILLIAMS
COUNCILLOR E. BEARDS	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

J. P. NEYLON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), D.P.H. (Leeds), D.C.H.
(R.C.P. and S.I.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

(Part Time)

W. BARRY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

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

Senior Public Health Inspector:

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

Additional Public Health Inspector:

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

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

B. HALES

Clerical Staff:

Health:

R. R. ROBSON

MISS R. P. SHEFFIELD

MRS. H. M. HOLLINGTON

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, 1955; Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, including in particular the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935. Briefly these are:—

- (1) To inform himself of all matters likely to affect the health of the Borough and to advise the Council in such matters.
- (2) To inquire into the cause, origin and distribution of diseases.
- (3) To inquire into the cause and circumstances of any outbreak of dangerous infectious disease and to take all necessary steps to prevent the extension thereof.
- (4) To directly supervise the work of the Public Health Inspectors.
- (5) If necessary, to inspect and examine any animal or any article, unfit for human food, and if diseased or unfit for it to be seized and dealt with.
- (6) To inquire into any offensive trades carried out.
- (7) To inspect or cause to be inspected all food preparing premises, and take all necessary steps to prevent any dangers to health in such premises.
- (8) To report to the Ministry of Health and other Ministries as required by them from time to time.
- (9) To make an Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department and the health of the district.
- (10) The Medical Officer of Health also acts as School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire County Council, which appointments involve the carrying out of school medical inspections, infant welfare and ante natal clinics. He also examines prospective employees of both the County Council and Bilston Borough Council in connection with superannuation and sickness benefit schemes.

Chief Public Health Inspector

The duties of the Chief Public Health Inspector are as detailed in Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and the Acts referred to below:—

- (1) To systematically inspect the district and to keep himself and the Medical Officer of Health informed of any nuisances that require abatement and of any other sanitary circumstances.
- (2) To periodically inspect all food preparing premises and to inform the Medical Officer of Health of any action thought necessary.

- (3) To act as officer of the Local Authority under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
- (4) To act as the Local Authority's inspector under the Shops Act, 1951, and Pet Animals Act, 1951.
- (5) To act as the Local Authority's Cleansing Superintendent; that is to supervise the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.
- (6) To furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement, giving the inspections made by him during the year, the notices served and the results of the service of such notices.

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector

The Senior Public Health Inspector acts as deputy for the Chief Public Health Inspector during his absence through any cause.

B. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Bilston continues to be served by fourteen practitioners who provide general medical services. The modern tendency towards group practice with its obvious advantages to both patient and doctor, is well shown by the different combination of partnerships which exist in the town—there being one firm of five, two of three each, and three single handed practitioners. The standard of general practice in Bilston is of a high order—all practitioners evincing a keen interest and playing an important role in prevention, as well as curative medicine, exemplifying without any doubt that the General Practitioner is the backbone of the tripartite National Health Service as it exists at present.

Excellent liaison is maintained between the Health Department and the local practitioners, who have at all times during the year proved courteous and co-operative. Increasing numbers of requests are being received by the Medical Officers of Health from the doctors, to help in difficult social problems, especially in respect of the aged. These consultations appear to be a significant pointer to the not too distant day, when Medical Officers of Health will be recognised as Consultants in Social and Preventive Medicine, with the same rights and status as their Consultant colleagues in the Hospital Service—a position for which they are particularly fitted by reason of qualifications, training, experience and the various services, which they can command.

C. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board provide hospital and specialist services for Bilston. Hospitals mainly used are the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton; Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary; New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield; Moxley Isolation Hospital, and the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Good liaison is maintained between the Health Department and the majority of the hospitals mentioned.

D. SERVICES OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

School Health

An excellent school medical service which has well stood the test of time is provided by the Staffordshire County Council. From my personal observations, I find that the children of Bilston are cleaner, healthier, more polite and better mannered than the majority of the school population I have encountered up and down the United Kingdom. Two full-time School Nurses and three part-time Medical Officers are responsible for routine school medical inspections and supervision of the school clinic, which is held at the Centre Health Clinic each morning except Saturday. Dental clinics are held daily at the Centre Health Clinic by one full-time Dental Officer, who is one of the most overworked men in the Service.

Maternal Health

Five full-time midwives deal with domiciliary midwifery in the district. Ante Natal Clinics are held twice weekly under the supervision of an obstetrician from the Wolverhampton Hospital Group, who is employed for these sessions by the Local Health Authority.

Child Health

Three full-time and one part-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council. Infant Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly at the Centre Health Clinic, Bilston, and twice monthly at John Street Schools, Ettingshall.

District Nursing Service

Four female and two male District Nurses are employed by the Staffordshire County Council, to serve in the Bilston area. This is one of the most valuable services provided by the County Council, in that it allows many patients, who would otherwise need hospitalisation, to be nursed and treated in the normal, familiar environment of their own homes. It also helps to ease the burden of providing more hospital beds and to reduce thereby the ever-increasing cost of hospital treatment within the National Health Service.

Day Nursery

One day nursery, originally designed to accommodate over 50 children but now receiving less than 20, functions in the Borough. The nursery is a boon to many, but especially to unmarried mothers and widows, who are forced by circumstances to seek gainful employment outside the home. Children, who attend the Nursery receive a properly prepared and balanced diet, are under the constant supervision of qualified nurses and are subjected to periodic routine medical inspections. In the gregarious atmosphere of the Day Nursery many only and lonely children appear to blossom forth suddenly, not only in the physical sense but also in their social behaviour.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is based at Darlaston. The inauguration of wireless control during 1956 was a valuable aid to the more prompt, adequate and efficient service which it is today.

Domestic Help Service

This is an excellent service and becomes more popular with each succeeding year. It is of inestimable value in times of illness, confinements, and for the elderly. By means of this service the home can be kept running until usually the mother or other adult is again fit to take over.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford.

Vaccination

Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out by the family doctors acting as agents for the Local Health Authority. Although thus available at any General Practitioner's Surgery it is regrettable that so few parents present their children for this—the oldest of all immunological procedures. The old adage 'out of sight out of mind' is more applicable to smallpox than to any other infectious disease. This apathetic complacency towards smallpox cannot but be regarded as a most dangerous attitude. Today, when such excellent air travel facilities link the United Kingdom with the East, where smallpox is still an endemic and fairly prevalent disease, infection could be introduced here within a matter of hours. It is also well worth bearing in mind that those who are vaccinated in infancy, rarely if ever, develop any complications, *e.g.*, encephalitis, when subsequently re-vaccinated in adult life. This in my opinion is one of the most potent arguments in favour of vaccination against smallpox within the first year of life.

Immunisation

The figures for immunisation are as follows:—

<i>Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Completed course of 2 injections during 1958—		
Under 15	719	988
15 and over	1	9
<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 15 years of age—		
Completed initial course of treatment ..	57	59
Received Reinforcing Injections	84	91
<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 15 years of age—		
Completed initial course of treatment ..	125	136
Received Reinforcing Injection	2	1
<i>Vaccination</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Received initial vaccination—		
Under 15	54	53
15 and over	—	1
Re-vaccinated—		
Under 15	1	—
15 and over	12	8

Mental Health

The Occupational Centre at King Street, Bradley, helps to provide training for mentally defective children from Bilston and surrounding areas. This laborious and difficult task is accomplished in a most praiseworthy manner by the staff there.

Other aspects of Mental Health in the district are dealt with by: (a) General Practitioners who are the agents most likely to encounter frank mental illness; (b) the Local Health Authority's Duly Authorised Officers, who play a very important part in dealing with acute cases; (c) the School Medical Officers, who are approved by the Ministry of Education for the ascertainment of educationally sub-normal children under Regulation 11 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953 and who deal with routine examination of mentally defective children.

The magnitude of the problem of mental health today can be gauged, when we reflect that approximately 40% of the patients attending the average General Practitioner's surgery are suffering from some form of mental or psychological disturbance. Much progress has been and is being made in this field, but a vast amount of carefully planned investigation and research is still needed.

Recent legislation tends to minimise the custodial aspects of the care of mental illness and to place greater emphasis on freedom and liberty. Sexual offences against children throughout the country have increased to an alarming extent and provide an argument against the unrestricted freedom of mental defectives. Many experts hold that those who are mentally retarded should be castrated—an opinion, which despite its ethical implications is undoubtedly shared by many parents of children who have been raped or sexually assaulted and possibly strangled for good measure.

E.

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Owing to the changing age structure of the population and the gradual increase among the older age groups, the care of the elderly is rapidly becoming more and more of a problem both locally and nationally. In Bilston this important service devolves upon many and varying agents—the General Practitioners, Health Visitors, Welfare Officers, Duly Authorised Mental Officers, Public Health Staff and the various voluntary Bodies, Committees and Clubs such as the Senior Citizens' Federation and the 'Meals on Wheels' Scheme. The latter is one of the most valuable of all voluntary efforts on behalf of the aged, providing as it does properly cooked, well balanced appetising meals on two or three occasions weekly for many elderly persons in poor circumstances.

During the year it was found necessary to remove three elderly people to institutions under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. By means of this piece of legislation the removal of persons to suitable premises or accommodation may be effected if they 'are (a) suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated,

are living in insanitary conditions and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention'. One often wonders, if it is not better, provided they are not causing a danger to others, to leave these elderly people happy and independent among their own untidy, ramshackle, dirty, but familiar and homely environment rather than incarcerating them in the impersonal, friendless, atmosphere of a modern, hygienic geriatric ward.

In these times it is frequently said that many of the problems of the aged could be diminished if children fulfilled their obligations towards their parents. Lack of filial duty and disregard of responsibility for their forebears is occasionally encountered in these days of excessive materialism, but from my observations and experience, I can say that failure of children to help their aged parents is very rare in Bilston.

At conferences, symposia and in the literature constant references are being made to the great need for chiropody in the care of the elderly. I do not agree that this great need exists, since the foot defects which tend to limit mobility in the aged are mainly orthopaedic conditions and are per se outside the province of the chiropodist. The chiropodist even though not producing a very high percentage of cures, can alleviate the discomfort associated with such conditions as corns and callouses—conditions which in most cases could be corrected anyway by the wearing of properly fitting footwear and regular care and attention from the patients themselves. The British Medical Association at its Annual Representative Meeting in 1958, passed a resolution that the Council of the Association should 'press for the implementation of the service of domiciliary chiropody which should become a facility under the National Health Service and (the meeting) does not accept the opinion of Council that no useful purpose would be served by pressing the matter at this stage'. This scheme is utterly impracticable at the present time. Since 1 in 8 of the population are of pensionable age it follows that about 7,000,000 people would be eligible for free chiropody treatment. This in itself is excellent, but there are only about 4,500 qualified chiropodists in the country, with perhaps another 4,000—5,000 who have had no training at a foot clinic but have had practical experience. In Bilston there is one practising chiropodist. To provide a chiropody service for the town's estimated population of 4,000 persons of pensionable age, at least five full-time chiropodists would be required.

An intensive nation-wide recruitment drive for chiropodists and a stepping up in their remuneration is obviously needed.

In last year's report, I dealt at length with a comprehensive scheme for the care of the elderly. I must once again emphasise the important role of the Health Visitor in any such scheme. While her primary duty is one directed towards maternal and child care, now that infant and maternal mortalities have reached the lowest levels on record, I feel that much of the Health Visitor's time and effort could be more profitably diverted to the care of the older age groups. The Health Visitor could prove to be the key person in such work as she has sufficient knowledge of health and disease, the requisite tact and patience for dealing with our sometimes querulous old folk, and can set in motion the machinery needed to deal with any difficulties which may arise.

PART II.

SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

'Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence only increases in an arithmetical ratio'.

The Principle of Population. 1.

Thomas Robert Malthus (1766—1834).

Bilston, situated in the South East corner of Staffordshire, forming part of the highly industrialised, densely populated West Midlands conurbation, is an old town dating back to the early days of the industrial revolution. The traditional industries are manufacture of steel and iron products with their associated trades.

- (1) Geographical situation: latitude 52.340 N., longitude 2,400 W.
 - (2) Elevation 200–550 feet.
 - (3) Area of Borough: 1,871 acres.
 - (4) Population:

(a) Census 1951	33,464
(b) Registrar General's Estimate for mid-year 1958	33,760
 - (5) Density of population per acre 18
 - (6) Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/58 10,310
 - (7) Rateable Value at 1/4/59 £404,776
 - (8) Product of 1d. rate 1958/59 £1,365
 - (9) The following figures are kindly supplied by the Manager of the Bilston Employment Exchange
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Unemployment figures: | | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> |
| 9.12.58 | Wholly unemployed | 445 | 140 |
| | Temporarily stopped | 81 | 4 |
- (10) The total number of factories in the town is 189.

TABLE I.

Brass Founders	4
Builders	4
Brush Manufacturers	1
Clothing Manufacturers	3
Coal Merchants	3
Engineering	80
Enamellers	3
Food Preparing Premises	17
Goods Transport	1
Glassware	1
Holloware	7
Iron and Steel	21
Laundry	1
Miscellaneous	13
Printers	3
Petrol Storage	1
Shoe Repairers	14
Stonemasons	2
Undertakers	1
Woodwork	9

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

TABLE II

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes 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	17	—	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority	159	29	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	13	2	—	—

TABLE III

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	-	1	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	4	-
Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE IV
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.)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosagues, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	-	-

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Borough during 1958 are given in the following pages, with comments in the appropriate places.

Births							
<i>Live Births</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	559	299	260
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	24	9	15
Total					583	308	275
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population:					17.27		
Comparability factor for births:					0.89		
Corrected live birth rate:					15.37		

There is a slight increase in the corrected Live Birth Rate over last year's figure of 15.05. This is in keeping with the increase in the birth rate for England and Wales for 1958, when the figure was 16.4—the highest recorded since 1949.

Still Births

A still birth is defined as 'any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life'.

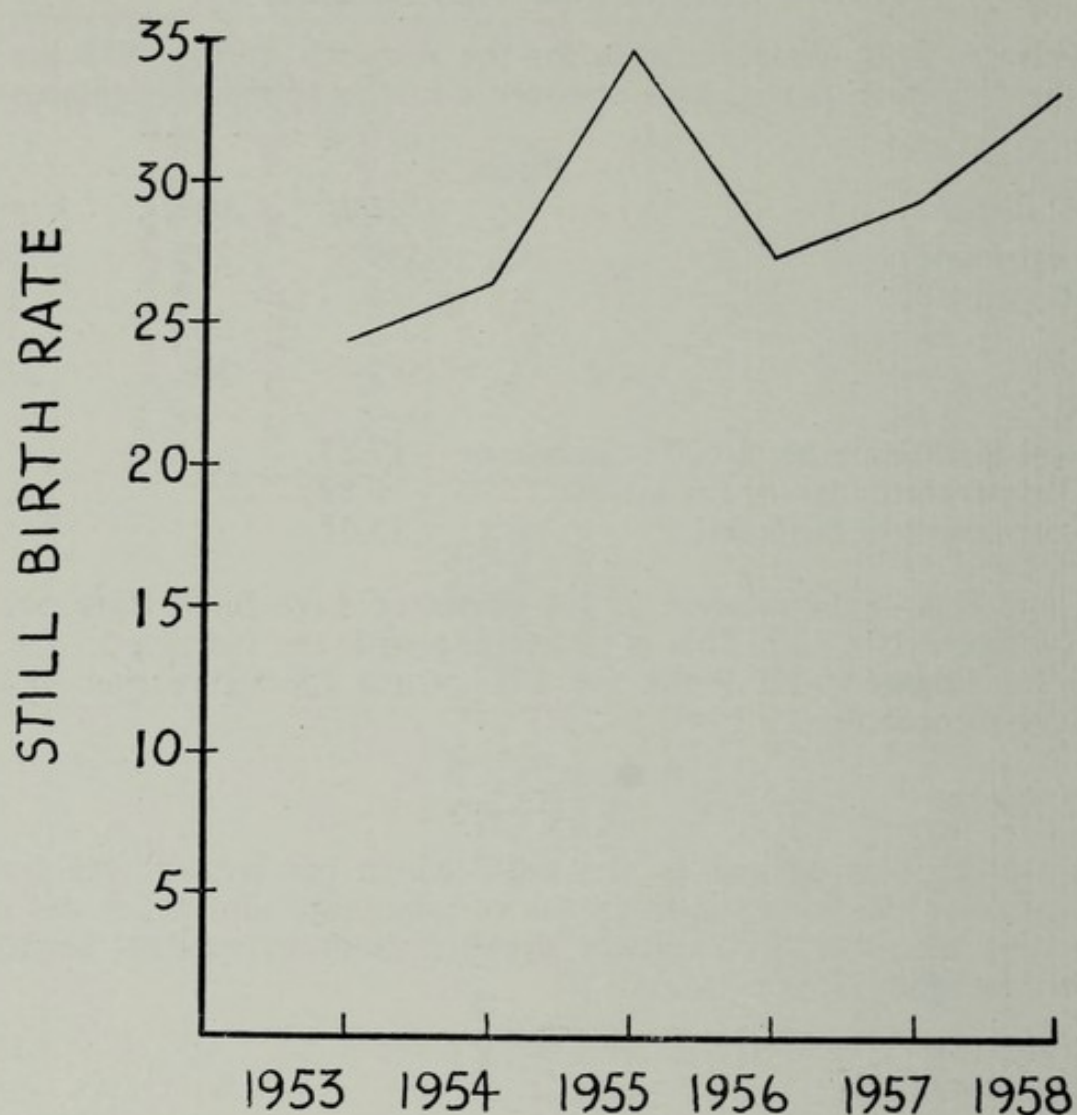
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	21	8	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					21	8	13

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 34.77

It is very disconcerting to note an increase in the still birth rate over 1957 and also that the still birth rate for Bilston is so much higher than that for the country as a whole—the National figure for 1958 being 21.6. While usually too much importance cannot be attached to an increase in a rate for any single year, it is apparent, however, that there is a slight but definite upward trend in the Borough's Still Birth Rate over the past quinquennium as Table V and the accompanying simple graph illustrate.

TABLE V

<i>Year</i>						<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1958	..	..	..	..	..	34.77
1957	..	..	..	..	..	28.81
1956	..	..	..	..	..	27.69
1955	..	..	..	..	..	35.23
1954	..	..	..	..	..	26.36
1953	..	..	..	..	..	24.96



Still Birth Rate

Still births are more closely associated with obstetric-maternal than with environmental factors, hence, the still birth rate is generally regarded as a valuable index of the efficiency or otherwise of all the ante natal and obstetric services available in any area.

<i>Total Live and Still Births</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	580	307	273
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	24	9	15
Total					604	316	288
<i>Infant Deaths</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	12	7	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					12	7	5

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total: 20.58
 Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate: 21.47
 Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate: Nil

It is heartening to be able to report that for the first time on record the Bilston Infant Mortality Rate is lower than that for England and Wales as a whole, the 1958 figure for the latter being 22.5 per 1,000 live births. Among the many factors contributing to this downward trend are the provision of better housing facilities with a correlated diminution in overcrowding, higher standards of living including better dietary regimes, increased health education among parents, greater control and prevention of Infectious Diseases and the many recent advances in Paediatric Medicine, the knowledge and fruit of which are now available to all infants under our comprehensive National Health Service.

It is interesting to observe that there were not any fatalities among the 24 illegitimate children born to residents of the Borough during the year. Usually there is a higher mortality associated with these infants than occurs among children born in wedlock. This improvement is probably due to a saner and more charitable approach to the problem of illegitimacy in these enlightened days.

TABLE VI.
 INFANT DEATHS DURING 1958
 Taken from Death Returns

<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	
17. 1.58	12 hours	Female	1A	Severe maternal ante-partum haemorrhage.
			2	Prematurity.
10. 3.58	4 months	Male	1A	Gastro Enteritis.
19. 3.58	4 months	Female	1A	Asphyxia.
			1B	Closure of external orifices of respiration.
22. 3.58	3 hours	Male	1A	Asphyxia Neonatorum.
26. 3.58	6 days	Male	1A	Haemorrhagic pneumonia.
			1B	Hypothemia.
7. 4.58	2 months	Male	1A	Gastric Enteritis.
			2	Congenital hyperplasia of adrenals.
9. 4.58	1 month	Female	1A	Encephalitis.
23. 4.58	1 week	Female	1A	Meningo Myelocoele of the spine.
11. 6.58	6 hours	Male	1A	Cerebral Oedema.
			1B	Prematurity.
29. 7.58	3 days	Male	1A	Asphyxia.
			1B	Bilateral lower lobar atelectasis.
22.12.58	12 hours	Female	1A	Atelectasis.
			1B	Cerebral anoxia.
25.12.58	11 months	Male	1A	Broncho pneumonia.

Neo Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births: 12.01

Compared with the rate for last year—19.19—there is again an appreciable decrease.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births: 4.12%

Maternal Deaths

There were no deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during 1958.

General Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (All Causes)	310	180	130
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:	9.18		
Comparability Factor for Deaths:	1.44		
Corrected Death Rate:	13.22		

TABLE VII.

Deaths during 1958 by age groups

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
0— 4	9	11	5	5	14	16
5—14	1	1	2	2	3	3
15—24	1	3	1	4	2	7
25—44	12	10	5	6	17	16
45—64	68	69	23	29	91	98
65 and over	89	91	94	88	183	179
All deaths	180	185	130	134	310	319

Deaths from Certain Causes

TABLE VIII.

	1958	1957
Cardio-Vascular Diseases	90	91
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	33	33
Cancer	64	52
Bronchitis	17	34
Influenza	—	10
Pneumonia	22	18
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	5

Causes of Death during 1958 in detail

TABLE IX

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis Other	-	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	9	4	13
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	-	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	17	1	18
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	18	8	26
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	22	33
Coronary Disease, Angina	20	11	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	7	5	12
Other Heart Disease	18	18	36
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	3	11
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	13	9	22
Bronchitis	14	3	17
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation	1	2	3
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	17	22	39
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
All other accidents	2	5	7
Suicide	9	-	9
Homicide and Operation of War	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	180	130	310

The total number of deaths recorded shows a decrease of nine from the previous year. An increase of twelve deaths due to all malignant disease is observed—a feature characteristic of the United Kingdom as a whole. The increase in deaths attributed to malignancy, is due to increased deaths from Lung Cancer—seven—and Cancer of the Stomach—seven. There were two deaths less from Cancer of the Womb in 1958. Tuberculosis once again shows a decline—only four deaths from all forms being recorded, in contrast with six last year. Approximately 40% of all deaths were due to Cardio-Vascular lesions of one sort or another—a feature to be expected where there is an ever-increasing number of aged in the community. Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis accounted for one death—the only death due to an Infectious Disease.

PART III. EPIDEMIOLOGY

"Look to your health; and if you have it, praise God, and value it next to a good conscience; for health is the second blessing that we mortals are capable of; a blessing that money cannot buy".

Compleat Angler pt.i., ch.21.
Izaak Walton (1593—1683).

Notification of Infectious Diseases in Bilston during 1958 amounted to 481—a decrease of 117 from the previous year. This high notification rate is due to the occurrence of 376 cases of measles. Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications showed a fall of 7 and there were not any notifications of the Non-Pulmonary forms of the disease received. Food poisoning accounted for 12 notifications, only 3 of which were subsequently confirmed. Of 21 dysentery cases brought to the notice of the Health Department 11 were confirmed. Three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, two of which were confirmed.

Tuberculosis

A decline in notifications of all forms of tuberculosis is evident from study of Table I. This reduction in morbidity is associated with an even greater fall in mortality.

The deaths attributed to tuberculosis occurred in patients all of whom were notified prior to 1958. The mobile unit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Service based at New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield, visited Bilston during the latter part of the year. Sessions were held in some of the larger industrial concerns and at the Centre Health Clinic. In all, a total of 4,314 persons including 788 school children were X-rayed. Five cases of Active Post Primary Tuberculosis—two males and three females—and twenty-five inactive cases were brought to light. Other abnormalities discovered amounted to forty. Of the school children, one showed a tuberculous pleural effusion, while non-tuberculous lesions were revealed.

Mass Miniature Radiography cannot be surpassed, as a means of case finding, since so many unsuspected cases are diagnosed in these types of survey. It is gratifying to note that tuberculosis—one of the most ancient scourges of mankind is gradually being brought under control.

TABLE I
Tuberculosis Notifications

Year		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1951	.. ..	54	7
1952	.. ..	44	3
1953	.. ..	53	4
1954	.. ..	57	8
1955	.. ..	43	1
1956	.. ..	28	Nil
1957	.. ..	29	2
1958	.. ..	22	Nil

Measles

Once again measles accounted for the majority of notifications—376 being received at the Health Department. The periodicity, usually attributed to measles, whereby we expect epidemics in two year cycles, has not been evident in Bilston over the past few years. An epidemic commenced in 1957 and persisted in endemic form right through 1958. The disease was mild—no serious complications nor fatalities being recorded.

Scarlet Fever

There was an increase of 7 cases of Scarlet Fever over the figures for 1957. Twelve of the nineteen notified were admitted to hospital but all made uneventful recoveries. The futility of retaining scarlet fever on the list of Notifiable Infectious Diseases has been dealt with, at length, in my Annual Report for 1957.

Diphtheria

There were no notifications of diphtheria received during 1958.

Whooping Cough

It is satisfactory to note the big reduction in cases of whooping cough—only seven being notified in 1958 in contrast with sixty-four the preceding year. Whooping Cough is not a disease which can be lightly glossed over as its complications and sequelae may lead to very severe incapacity later on. Whooping Cough is very frequently associated with Bronchopneumonia, which in turn very often leaves a considerable degree of lung fibrosis with or without bronchiectasis.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

Notifications of three cases, two of which were confirmed were received in 1958. The first confirmed case occurred in a four year old boy who complained of a sore throat and catarrhal symptoms on Boxing Day 1957. On the 8th January his mother noticed that a limp of his right leg had developed. He was seen at the Orthopaedic Department of a local hospital where a retrospective diagnosis of Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis was made. When I subsequently investigated this case he had slight wasting of his right leg muscles, but fortunately for him he will not be left with much residual weakness.

The second case occurred in a 27 year old mother of two children. She also complained of the usual catarrhal symptoms and just dismissed the matter as a 'heavy cold'. About ten days after the onset of the cold she was suddenly stricken by a very severe paralysis involving the four limbs and respiratory muscles, and unfortunately died a few hours after admission to hospital. This case exemplifies in a most forcible manner, the utter impossibility of making a clinical diagnosis of poliomyelitis in the absence of an epidemic, during the catarrhal stage. This is really the important stage at which to make a diagnosis as the severity of any subsequent paralysis can then be diminished remarkably by complete rest. In neither of these cases was there any evidence of contact with other poliomyelitis cases to be found.

It is hoped that with ever-increasing numbers of the population being immunised that this most dreadful of all Infectious Diseases will soon be eradicated completely. In our present state of knowledge, the only safeguard and defence against poliomyelitis is the good solid herd immunity conferred by adequate immunisation.

Pneumonia

Sixteen cases were notified, five of which died. The latter were mainly elderly people.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case occurred in the Borough.

Meningococcal Infection

One of two cases notified was confirmed in a 25 year old spinster, who responded well to hospital treatment.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

Reference was made in last year's report to the difficulty of making a diagnosis of these conditions without laboratory aid. Hence, it is no matter for surprise to find that only eleven of twenty-one Dysentery and three of twelve Food Poisoning notifications were confirmed. These conditions cannot be regarded as a very grave menace to the health of the community since there are available such a wide range of chemotherapeutic substance.

Venereal Diseases

The figures supplied, through the courtesy of Dr. W. Fowler, Consultant Venereologist, Wolverhampton Hospital Group for Venereal Diseases among Bilston residents during 1958, are as follows:—

Total 1958	..	..	..	75
Syphilis	..	..	..	1
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	21
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	53
<i>Jamaicans</i>				
Syphilis	..	..	..	Nil
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	2
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	6
<i>Indians</i>				
Syphilis	..	..	..	Nil
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	9
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	13
<i>Whites</i>				
Syphilis	..	..	..	1
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	10
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	34

There is an increase in Gonorrhoea and Non-Venereal conditions with a reduction in Syphilis. On the whole the incidence of Venereal Diseases remains remarkably low in the Borough. It is interesting to note that 30 of the Bilston residents seen at the Venereal Diseases Clinic were coloured, *i.e.*, approximately 10% of our small coloured population in contrast with 45 whites or 0.136% of the white community. As much of this infection is introduced here by immigrants, it strengthens the argument for compulsory and thorough examination including various serological tests for all those entering the United Kingdom regardless of colour.

Scabies

Four cases of Scabies in adults—all women—were treated in the Health Department's Disinfestation Centre during the year. Five school children were treated at the Centre Health Clinic.

TABLE 2
Infectious Diseases notified 1958

Disease	Total cases notified	Total cases confirmed	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	19	19	12	—
Whooping Cough	7	7	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	3	2	2	1
Measles	376	376	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	21	11	1	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	1	1	—
Pneumonia	16	15	5	22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—
Fever	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	12	3	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	22	22	2	3
Tuberculosis—Meninges	—	—	—	—
C.N.S.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—
Total	481	459	26	27
Total cases confirmed during 1956			265	
Total cases confirmed during 1957			578	

TABLE 3

Infectious Diseases—Confirmed. In Wards. 1958

DISEASE	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	2	9	3	10	9
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	3	4
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Dysentery ..	—	2	1	—	1	3	1	—	2	1	5	6
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	2	9	—	—	—	1	2	11	4
Measles ..	30	44	6	4	95	70	31	34	34	28	196	180
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS ..	31	48	9	7	108	77	33	37	49	38	230	207

TABLE 4

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1956 — 1958

	1951 Census			1956		1957		1958		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—4 ..	1,611	1,548	3,159	-	-	3	2	-	1	3	3
5—14 ..	2,692	2,635	5,327	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	3
15—24 ..	2,376	2,656	5,032	2	6	3	5	6	1	11	12
25—44 ..	5,293	5,078	10,371	4	5	5	6	2	5	11	16
45—64 ..	3,343	3,677	7,020	7	-	4	-	5	1	16	1
65 and over ..	1,159	1,390	2,549	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Age unknown ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	16,474	16,984	33,458	14	12	17	14	13	9	44	35

TABLE 5

Deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1956—1958

	1956		1957		1958		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year
1—4
5—14
15—24	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
25—44	1	1	1	1	2
45—64	..	2	4	..	..	2	6	2
65 and over	1	..	..	..	1	..
	2	1	5	1	1	3	8	5

TABLE 6

Tuberculosis Statistics—Number on Register at

31st December, 1958

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	9	9	18
	6 to 15 years	12	15	27
	16 to 25 years	65	76	141
	26 to 45 years	95	73	168
	46 to 65 years	63	10	73
	Over 65 years	7	3	10
	Ages unknown	3	2	5
Total all ages		254	188	442
Non-Pulmonary	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	6	4	10
	6 to 15 years	—	4	4
	16 to 25 years	10	6	16
	26 to 45 years	1	10	11
	46 to 65 years	1	—	1
	Over 65 years	1	—	1
Total all ages		19	24	43
Pulmonary all ages		254	188	442
Non-Pulmonary all ages		19	24	43
GRAND TOTAL		273	212	485

TABLE 7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wards
1951—58

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
1956	3	2	1	—	5	5	1	1	4	4	14	12
1957	7	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	2	—	15	14
1958	4	3	—	2	1	3	2	2	4	1	13	9

TABLE 8
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
1956	14	12	—	—	14	12
1957	21	16	2	1	23	17
1958	13	12	—	—	13	12
Including Inward Transfers.						

PART IV.

HOUSING

'Houses are built to live in and not to look on; therefore let use be preferred before uniformity, except where both may be had'.

Essays. 45. Of Building.

Francis Bacon (1561—1626).

The important relationship between good housing and health has already been stressed in commenting on the reduction in the Infant Mortality and Tuberculosis Morbidity Rates. It is the enlightened policy of the Bilston Housing Committee, to give preferential treatment in re-housing to the tuberculous—a policy, which is paying good dividends in the better health of the community.

There are approximately 1,600 applicants on the list for municipal dwellings, including flats and old persons' bungalows, but this number is being progressively reduced. During 1958, 225 new dwellings were completed in the Borough, an increase of 41 over the previous year. 183 unfit houses were closed or demolished during the year. Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed in respect of Wolverhampton Street Areas 73, 76 and 77 and Mill Street Areas 74 and 75, comprising in all 31 houses. Tenants are being rehoused at the moment in the ratio of 2 : 1 from Slum Clearance Areas and under the Points Scheme.

It is interesting to note the increasing number of houses which have been closed or demolished over the past few years.

Houses closed or demolished since the War

<i>Year</i>						<i>Total</i>
War to 1947	..	..	..	..	..	50
1948	..	..	..	..	..	46
1949	..	..	..	..	..	21
1950	..	..	..	..	..	30
1951	..	..	..	..	..	108
1952	..	..	..	..	..	93
1953	..	..	..	..	..	120
1954	..	..	..	..	..	64
1955	..	..	..	..	..	54
1956	..	..	..	..	..	94
1957	..	..	..	..	..	191
1958	..	..	..	..	..	183
						<hr/> 1,054 <hr/>

PART V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

'All bright and glittering in the smokeless air'.

Miscellaneous Sonnets, pt II, XXXVI.
Composed upon Westminster Bridge.
William Wordsworth (1770—1850).

The information given below under the headings of Water and Sewage has very kindly been supplied by Mr. A. F. B. Sidwick the Borough Surveyor.

Water

As from the 1st April, 1959, the Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking has been merged with the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking under the terms of the Wolverhampton Water Order, 1958.

The following information, however, refers to the Bilston Water Undertaking during its last year as a separate undertaking.

The quality of water supplied continued to be satisfactory. Chlorination was practised at the sources of supply at the Bratch and Tomhill Pumping Stations. During the year 32 samples of water were taken 6 of which were chemically analysed and 26 were bacteriologically tested. All the results were satisfactory and the following were typical examples of the bacteriological and chemical analysis.

Water from tap ex pump Tomhill Pumping Station.	
pH Value	6.3
	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F.	24.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen	0.7
Chlorine present as Chloride	2.6
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	Nil
Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Metallic Contamination	Nil
Total Hardness	—
Permanent Hardness	—
Temporary Hardness	—
This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.	

Water		
Bacteriological Examination Report		
Nature of Sample: Source—Bore.		
Sample from Bilston Borough Water Undertaking Main piped line.		
From tap on rising main, ex pump Bratch Waterworks.		
Date and hour of collection:	25.8.58	10.15 a.m.
Date and hour of arrival:	25.8.58	3.45 p.m.
REPORT		
Date of Report: 27.8.58		
Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37° C. aerobically Nil per ml.		
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.		
Nil per 100 ml.		
Probable number of Bact. coli (type I)		
Nil per 100 ml.		

The Corporation owned and operated its own undertaking. The statutory limits of supply were 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 was 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 was 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 was 46,921 and in Seisdon District 9,128, a total of 56,049.

The average daily consumption for all purposes in the whole area of supply during the year was 3,553,463 gallons or 63.39 gallons per head per day. In the Bilston and Coseley area the average daily consumption was 3,129,476 gallons or 29.07 gallons per head per day for domestic supplies and 37.62 gallons per head per day for trade supplies.

Sewage

The sewage disposal works are situated at the Lunt Road, 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. The works were extended in 1924 and again in 1929 to provide additional capacity for the reception and treatment of sewage from a part of the Coseley Urban District which now contains approximately 5,462 houses with numerous industrial and other premises.

All major units of the works are heavily overloaded and a scheme is under consideration for improvements and extensions to bring the works up to date for present requirements, and for a future estimated dry weather flow of 1,700,000 gallons per day.

Drains and Water Closets

1,258 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the Health Department Staff.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 27 (18) (S.R.&O.) 1935, No. 1110, the following tabular statement has been submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

(a) INSPECTIONS				1st	Re-	
<i>Nature of Inspection</i>				<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwelling Houses						
Inspections—Routine	..	..		159	79	238
Complaints	..	..	..	242	343	585
Dirty Condition	..	..	..	18	5	23
Rent Act, 1957	..	..	..	61	89	150
Disinfected	..	..	..	19	8	27
Disinfested	..	..	..	120	37	157
Rodent Control	..	..	..	251	904	1,155
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	42	9	51
Disinfestation—Visits	..	..	..	69	4	73
Removals	..	..	..	311	—	311
Slum Clearance—Inspections	..	..	..	177	90	267
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	483	—	483
Waste Water Closets	..	..	..	10	36	46
Other Premises						
Houses let in lodgings	..	..	..	44	3	47
Tents, Van, Sheds, Sites	..	..	..	22	64	86
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	4	—	4
Factories—Mechanical Power	..	..	..	29	2	31
Bakehouses	..	..	..	2	—	2
Ice Cream—Manufacturers	..	..	..	1	—	1

	<i>1st</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
Retailers	23	1	24
Samples	115	—	115
Slaughterhouses—Inspected	5	—	5
Meat Inspection	630	1	631
Fried Fish Shops.. ..	11	2	13
Food Hygiene Regs	50	7	57
Food Preparing Premises	72	6	78
Public Houses	5	—	5
Cafes and Restaurants	19	1	20
Works Canteen	1	—	1
Market—Visits	51	—	51
Meat Stalls	20	—	20
Other Food Stalls	39	—	39
Shops—Meat and Food.. ..	67	9	76
Others	5	—	5
Rodent Control	25	117	142
Public Conveniences	22	—	22
Stables	8	—	8
Premises re Swine, Fowl, etc. ..	1	—	1
Premises re Offensive Accumu- lation	24	12	36
Drains—Inspected	68	72	140
Colour Tested	11	—	11
Water Tested	4	2	6
Grenade Tested	3	—	3
Smoke Tested	2	—	2
Sewers—Inspected	2	2	4
Street Gullies	2	1	3
Smoke Observations	78	—	78
Visits to Plant, etc.	45	—	45
Water Samples—Chemical	5	—	5
Bacteriological	23	—	23
Inspections	2	—	2
Food Stalls and Carts	7	—	7
Cleansing Visits	68	—	68
Miscellaneous Visits	630	—	630
Smoke Measurement	418	—	418
Pet Animals Act, 1951	2	2	4

(b) NOTICES

Informal Notices Issued	232
Statutory Notices—Section 92–93	
Public Health Act, 1936—Issued	62
Complied	45

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

Dwelling Houses	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Internal Rooms			
New Windows Provided ..	—	3	3
Old Windows Repaired ..	11	6	17
Window Cords Renewed ..	9	5	14
Dampness in Walls Remedied ..	7	—	7
Plaster of Walls Repaired ..	15	3	18
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired ..	18	2	20
Floors Repaired ..	13	6	19
Old Fireplaces Repaired ..	4	—	4
Doors Repaired ..	4	1	5
Staircases			
Steps Provided or Repaired ..	2	—	2
Sculleries and Wash Houses			
New Windows Provided ..	2	1	3
Windows Repaired ..	11	3	14
Window Cords Renewed ..	1	—	1
Plaster of Walls Repaired ..	11	1	12
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired ..	10	1	11
Old Sinks Repaired ..	2	—	2
Waste Pipes Repaired or Re- newed ..	2	1	3
Wash Coppers Provided ..	—	1	1
Wash Coppers Repaired ..	4	1	5
Floors Repaired ..	1	1	2
Doors Repaired ..	1	—	1
Water Service Pipes Repaired ..	1	1	2
Service Mains Repaired ..	1	—	1
Cellars			
Drainage Provided ..	—	1	1
External			
Roofs Repaired ..	59	8	67
Eaves Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided ..	18	12	30
Down Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided ..	15	6	21
Walls Repaired and/or Repoin- ted ..	15	3	18
Chimney Stacks Repaired and/or Repointed ..	9	2	11
Doors Repaired ..	3	—	3

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
General			
Yard Paving or Surface Repaired	2	-	2
Yard Drainage Installed ..	1	-	1
Houses Supplied with Town's Water Supply	1	2	3
Homes Cleansed.. .. .	1	1	2
Outbuildings			
Coal Stores			
Roofs Repaired		1	1
Walls Repaired and/or Repainted		2	2
Water Closets			
Roofs Repaired	6	1	7
Walls Repaired or Repointed ..	5	5	10
Cistern repaired or replaced ..	15	9	24
Pedestals and Seats Repaired ..			
or Provided	12	5	17
Cleansed	1	-	1
Water Supply Renewed ..	7	-	7
Waste Water Closets			
Converted into Standard Type W.C's.	2	5	7
Drains			
Repaired or Relaid	19	7	26
Cleansed	9	3	12
Inspection Chambers Built or Repaired	8	4	12
Self Cleansing Gullies Provided	1	-	1
Ashbins			
Renewals	-	549	549
Provided for New Houses ..		289	289
Bin Sales	-	13	13
Offensive Accumulations			
Removed	-	3	3
Schools			
Disinfected	-	1	1
Factories—Mechanical Power			
Conveniences Cleansed and/or Limewashed	-	1	1
Conveniences — Other Improve- ments	-	4	4
Smoke Observations			
Nuisances Abated	7	-	7
Additions to Plant or Improve- ments	-	2	2
Shops			
Pet Shop	-	1	1
Food Shops			
Food Hygiene Regs.	-	5	5
Food Vans, Carts and Stalls			
Improvements	-	1	1

Disinfestation

112 houses were disinfested and 150 re-inspections were made of these houses. Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays.

In addition there were 276 removals, the tenant's effects and furniture being treated by HCN gas and the bedding sterilised in the steam disinfecter.

Shops Act

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

Rodent Control

The total number of complaints received during the year was 186. 19 less than last year. 1,314 visits were made for the treatment of premises, besides the regular treatments carried out on waste land, brook courses, etc.

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year and details are given below:—

<i>Date of Treatment</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>October</i>
Number of manholes in system	929	929
Number of manholes treated	186	190
Number of manholes showing infestation.. .. .	64	77
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take	NIL	NIL
Poison Used	Warfarin + P.P.	Warfarin + P.P.

CLEANSING

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

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

(Period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1959)

Collection

There are 4 vehicles, 22 loaders and 4 drivers employed on house refuse collection.

The types of vehicles, their date of purchase, and petrol used, are as follows:—

SRE770 Shelvoke and Drewry 5,169 miles 1,354 galls. 3.8 m.p.g.
Side Loader
Purchased July, 1949

URE962 Shelvoke and Drewry 4,465 miles 1,299 galls. 3.4 m.p.g.
Side Loader
Purchased July, 1950

XRE939 Shelvoke and Drewry 4,494 miles 1,508 galls. 3.0 m.p.g.
'Fore and Aft'
Purchased July, 1952

980ARF Karrier Bantam Side 3,600 miles 667 galls. 5.4 m.p.g.
Loader

The collection service has been maintained on the whole at a weekly frequency with the exception of holiday times when there is inevitably a fall back. This has been quickly made up after the holiday. The men have worked well and I should like to thank them for their efforts. Their task is often a thankless one and one of some hardship carried out in all conditions of weather.

TABLE 1

HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
470,775	3,811	8,621

TABLE 2

MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

Trade Refuse	Waste Paper	Kitchen Waste	Cullet and Scrap	Total
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
176	108	63	1	348

Salvage

Collection figures are given below:—

TABLE 3

MATERIALS	1958-59			1957-58		
	Weight		Value	Weight		Value
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper	108	—	880	116	—	1,003
Kitchen Waste ..	63	—	252	174	7	698
Glass	—	—	—	2	17	6
Scrap	1	7	3	2	3	11
			1,135			1,718

Total refuse disposed of during the year was 8,797 tons.

Disposal

Some 9,000 tons of house refuse have been delivered to the experimental composting plant. It is regretted that results have been so disappointing in so far as the quantity of fertilizer produced is concerned. As a result the anticipated decrease in price charged to this Council for treatment of the refuse has not been possible. With 4,000 tons delivered last year and the substantial tonnage of sewage sludge extracted from the sludge lagoons, one would have expected more favourable results. It is to be hoped that 1959 will show the fulfilment of the promises made when the undertaking with the Company was agreed to.

Operational Statistics

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 10. Area (statute acres) | 1,871 acres |
| 11. Population at 30th June, 1957
(Registrar-General's Estimate) | 33,760 persons |
| 12. Total refuse collected (tons) | 8,969 tons |
| 13. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day ..
(365 days to year) | 14.56 cwts. |
| 14. Number of premises from which refuse is collected | 10,963 |
| 15. Premises from which collection is made at least
once weekly | 99% 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 disposal of 8,797 tons
19. Method of disposed (salvage excluded)
Trial Compositing Scheme 100%
20. Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:—

	Income (included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste ..	252	63
(b) Waste Paper	880	108
(c) Other Salvage	3	1
TOTAL	1,135	172
21. Trade Refuse	328	176

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

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

Atmospheric Pollution

Atmospheric Pollution in the Borough is measured by means of two deposit gauges, which measure the dust deposits directly from the air and washed in by the rain; by 11 lead peroxide cylinders, which are so constructed as to measure the amount of sulphur dioxide which would be deposited on stone or brickwork, and by volumetric sulphur dioxide recorder with smoke filter, which measures daily the amount of sulphur dioxide and smoke in the air. The figures for 1958 show little change from last year or from previous years, nor will they show any significant difference until smoke control areas are established.

It is well known that the death rate from Bronchitis and Lung Cancer is higher in the United Kingdom than in any other country, as is also the amount of air pollution from domestic chimneys. Bilston like other industrial areas has a high morbidity and mortality rate from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, as well as an upward trend in the number of deaths due to Lung Cancer. Many postulate the correlation between the latter condition and excessive cigarette smoking. In my opinion a dirty polluted atmosphere—whether the pollution is of domestic or industrial origin is immaterial—is a much more probable factor in the causation of Lung Cancer.

Once born in an industrial area a person starts inhaling carcinogenic substances long before he commences smoking and continues the process right through life unless he changes residence to a rural or maritime abode. This hypothesis is supported by the figures recently published by Percy Stocks of a very full and comprehensive survey carried out in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. As well as the higher incidence of Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases, Stocks demonstrated, as have other surveys elsewhere, a marked correlation between Lung Cancer and a polluted atmosphere. Another most interesting fact, emerging from Stocks Survey, is the statistically significant association between Cancer of the Stomach and atmospheric pollution—the inference being that food exposed to polluted air becomes contaminated with carcinogens. Strength is lent to this premise, by the fact that in the U.S.A. where wrapping of food has been common long before it was practised here, that there is a decreasing incidence of Stomach Cancer.

It is obvious, therefore, that the time has come when it is incumbent upon us to clean our air and rid it of obnoxious substances, as our predecessors did with water. The Clean Air Act (1956) gives an unprecedented opportunity to Local Authorities to prevent disease and improve the health of the community by the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

DEPOSIT GAUGES

Total solids are as follows:—

January	Park Site . . . . .	..	29.63	tons	per	square	mile
"	Dudley Street Site	..	39.28	"	"	"	"
February	Park Site . . . . .	..	31.15	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	41.30	"	"	"	"
March	Park Site . . . . .	..	15.74	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	20.57	"	"	"	"
April	Park Site . . . . .	..	31.49	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	25.96	"	"	"	"
May	Park Site . . . . .	..	53.60	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	47.99	"	"	"	"
June	Park Site . . . . .	..	30.64	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	41.27	"	"	"	"
July	Park Site . . . . .	..	—	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	37.19	"	"	"	"
August	Park Site . . . . .	..	25.97	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	30.27	"	"	"	"
September	Park Site . . . . .	..	25.90	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	32.33	"	"	"	"
October	Park Site . . . . .	..	13.85	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	32.23	"	"	"	"
November	Park Site . . . . .	..	24.78	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	23.58	"	"	"	"
December	Park Site . . . . .	..	28.07	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	50.14	"	"	"	"

Daily Mean Concentration of SO₂ and Smoke

<i>Month</i>					<i>SO₂</i>	<i>Smoke</i>
January		Average			0.022	0.246
					0.081	0.622
					0.007	0.036
February		Average			0.020	0.153
					0.077	0.518
					0.007	0.035
March		Average			0.027	0.172
					0.059	0.438
					0.006	0.037
April		Average			0.026	0.067
					0.042	0.118
					0.014	0.031
May		Average			0.020	0.054
					0.037	0.199
					0.011	0.031
June		Average			0.014	0.054
					0.032	0.093
					0.008	0.036
July		Average			0.013	0.037
					0.026	0.062
					0.007	0.017
August		Average			0.013	0.040
					0.021	0.078
					0.008	0.021
September		Average			0.017	0.079
					0.029	0.147
					0.011	0.059
October		Average			0.027	0.129
					0.073	0.296
					0.009	0.073
November		Average			0.065	0.363
					0.164	0.700
					0.008	0.107
December		Average			0.069	0.315
					0.340	0.616
					0.017	0.087

LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS

Mgs. of SO₃ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch

Month 1957	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	2.68	1.93	3.10	2.69	2.91	2.62	5.03	3.84	2.33	3.09	0.79
February	1.94	1.59	2.70	2.17	2.30	1.93	3.72	2.73	1.66	2.50	0.59
March	2.51	2.38	2.52	2.26	2.21	2.02	3.37	2.17	1.62	2.52	0.82
April	2.29	1.69	1.91	1.61	2.19	1.97	5.47	2.66	1.51	2.40	0.87
May	1.21	0.87	3.98	1.24	1.03	1.19	2.48	1.68	0.89	1.85	0.40
June	1.32	1.03	1.39	0.87	1.13	1.35	2.66	1.65	1.51	0.86	0.57
July	0.95	0.69	1.13	0.62	0.88	0.93	2.21	1.33	0.61	1.33	1.41
August	0.77	0.50	0.95	0.60	0.66	1.61	0.77	1.29	0.55	1.27	0.35
September	1.49	1.09	1.38	1.01	1.39	1.52	3.56	2.31	1.03	1.98	0.50
October	1.34	1.81	1.32	1.85	1.56	4.53	2.39	1.10	2.07	0.36	—
November	5.20	1.16	2.97	2.39	2.79	3.88	6.16	4.43	2.66	3.73	0.84
December	3.08	2.69	3.21	3.07	3.47	3.11	8.02	4.26	2.18	4.16	1.04

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	213	19	—	783	42.325	—
Number inspected ..	213	19	—	783	42.325	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci : Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	37	2	—	101	7,208	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	17.32	1.05	—	12.90	17.06	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	4	—	—	2,301	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.88	2.11	—	—	5.47	—
Cysticerci: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	..	13
Septicaemia	..	..	..	1
Asphyxia	..	..	..	1
Acute Swine Erysipelas	..	..	..	1
Pyæmia	..	..	..	3
Generalised Oedema	..	..	..	1
Moribund	..	..	..	1
Toxaemia	..	..	..	1
Lymphatic Leukaemia	..	..	..	1
Extensive and Severe Bruising	..	..	..	1
Emaciation, pathological	..	..	..	1
				25

<i>Food</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Bacon			28	Bruising and contusion.
Bacon			49	Decomposition.
Cheese			36	Damaged.
Cheese		1	62	Excess Mould.
Gammon			31	Bruising and contusion.
Ham			12	Bruising and contusion.
Bottled Goods ..			10	Decomposition.
Tinned Goods ..		4	108	Blown and/or Decomposition.
		8	0	
Fresh Meat ..	25	16	54	See Table.
TOTAL ..	26	4	54	

Bakehouses and Other Food Preparing Premises

80 inspections have been made of bakehouses and other food preparing premises.

Milk

There are 129 licensed dealers selling sterilised milk, 12 selling sterilised and pasteurised milk and 10 selling tuberculin tested milk.

Disease	Carcases and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Stomach and Intestines	Kidne
Abscesses	1-49	1-97	—	—	—
Ascaris Lumbricoides ..	—	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	—	18	—	—	—
Bruising	1-38	37	—	—	—
Cirrohosis	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic Swine Erysipelas	1-34	—	—	—	—
Contamination	—	—	—	2	—
Emaciation	1-2	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Haematoma	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	8	—	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	28
Infarcts	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic Leukaemia..	1-84	—	—	—	—
Moribund	1-81	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	19½
Oedema	1-24	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	3-93	1-5
Pleurisy	—	—	1-11-103	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	2-13-41	—	—
Pulmonary Congestion	—	—	3-27	—	—
Pyæmia	4-88	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	1-5	—	—	—	—
Strongylosis	—	—	1-3	—	—
Suffocation	1-39	—	—	—	—
Tenuicollis Cysts ..	—	—	—	—	—
Torsion	—	—	—	—	—
Toxaemia	1-10	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	19-54	11-16-50	3-88½	10-100	—
Urticaria	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1-16-72	11-18-90	4-13-46½	14-83	1-98½

LE (EXCLUDING COWS)

Spleens	Omentum	Hearts	Livers	Parts of Carcases	Skins	TOTALS		
						Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
—	—	—	1-0	1-97	—	—	6	19
—	—	—	2-8-100	—	—	2	8	109
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
—	—	—	6-18½	44	—	—	2	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	18½
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	34
—	—	—	—	22½	—	—	—	24½
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
—	—	—	1-30½	—	—	—	1	30½
—	—	—	96	—	—	—	—	96
32½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32½
—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	53
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
1-82	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	82
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	84
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	81
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19½
—	—	—	—	14	—	—	1	38
—	—	3-98	—	—	—	—	3	98
7-4	18	—	1-19-29	9-70	—	3	1	41
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	103
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	41
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	27
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	88
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
—	—	—	1-25	—	—	—	2	28
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	39
—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	23
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10
25	—	—	4-13	1-90	—	13	15	96½
—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	16
—37½	18	3-98	5-3-53	14-1½	16	25	16	54

Ice-cream

There are 108 registered premises selling ice-cream in the Borough. 23 shops were inspected and 115 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were:—

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	79
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	2
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	8
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	9

In addition 17 samples of ice-lollies were taken.

Street Food Vendors

6 street food vendors were registered in the area.

Food Sampling

The sampling of milk and food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 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.

Milk	Milk Pasteurised	11
	Milk Sterilised	17
	Milk T.T.	3
	Milk T.T. Pasteurised	17
	Milk T.T. Pasteurised Channel Island	9
		—
		57 <i>All Genuine.</i>
		—

General Foods

Number of samples taken ..	61
Number of samples genuine ..	56
Number of samples adulterated ..	5

Classification of General Foods

Sultanas	Ground Almond
Ginger Cordial	Indigestion and Stomach Mixture
Ground Ginger	Sweetened Cake Flour
Curry Powder	Cream of Mushroom Soup
Egg Margarine Noodles	Butter Drops
Horseradish Sauce	Lemon Curd
Corned Beef (2 samples)	Throat and Chest Sweets
Orange Squash	Compound Tonic Tablets
Pickled Red Cabbage	Concentrated Mineral Vitamin
Tea	Tablets (2 samples)

Salmon Spread
 Strawberries and Cream Sweets
 Danish Butter
 Orange Drink
 Lard
 Tablets of Aspirin B.P.
 Mussels in Pure Malt Vinegar
 Cream Crackers
 Ice Cream (2 samples)
 Malted Milk Biscuits
 Non-Alcoholic Tomato Juice
 Cocktail
 Butter Madeira Sandwich with
 Butter Filling
 Butter Sultana Cake
 Butter Sponge
 Layer Cake
 Bubble Gum
 Gravy Thick
 Pickled Beetroot
 Rich Cream Toffee

Creamed Sago
 Luncheon Meat (2 samples)
 Tomato Ketchup
 Milk Roll
 Lemonade Crystals
 Dressed Crab
 Butter Scotch
 Lemonade Powder
 Chutney Indian Mango
 Sweetened Sponge Mixture
 Blackcurrant and Liquorice Ovals
 Non-Brewed Condiment
 South African Sherry
 British Sherry
 Cream British Sherry
 Australian Cream Sherry
 Pork Sausage containing preservatives
 Cream filled Xmas tree dressings
 Mincemeat

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

- 81 C/F — Indigestion and Stomach Mixture—formal—contains more than the stated amount of Bismuth Citrate and less than the stated amount of Sodium Bicarbonate.
 34 C/I — Concentrated Mineral Vitamin Tablets—formal—presence of iodine not stated on label.
 91 C/I — Concentrated Mineral Vitamin Tablets—formal—label bears a claim that iodine is present but does not claim quantitatively and in prescribed form.
 6 C/L — Butter Sponge—formal—insufficient butter-fat in cake fat to justify description "Butter Sponge".
 27 C/L — Milk Roll—formal—prepared with skimmed milk powder instead of whole milk.

Action Taken

Indigestion and Stomach Mixture

All stocks withdrawn from sale and new formula to be used.

Concentrated Mineral Vitamin Tablets, 2 samples

Product must be accepted as a medicine, not a food.

Butter Sponge

Cake now to be called "Sponge, butter whip filled".

Milk Roll

Formula to be altered.

Food Preparing Premises

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

Grocers, greengrocers and general shops	..	..	199
Food shops with catering establishments attached	..		13
Other catering establishments (including works' canteens and premises of the school meals service)	..	..	45
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	17
Butchers Shops	..	..	33
Fish Shops	..	..	5
			<hr/>
			312
			<hr/>

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene Regulations

All food premises and food businesses have been inspected during the year and the occupiers have been acquainted with the requirements of the Regulations. It has not been possible to make as many 'follow up' visits as is desirable, owing to shortage of inspectorial staff, but considerable work has been done and co-operation is in the main satisfactory. It has not been found necessary as yet to take legal action to secure compliance with the Regulations. It is felt that education in food handling is of more value at this stage than punitive action.

A total of 330 food premises was visited, 41 improvements were effected, and a number of improvements of a structural nature are in progress.

PART VI.

HEALTH EDUCATION

'No great improvements in the lot of mankind are possible, until a great change takes place in the fundamental constitution of their modes of thought'.

Autobiography, Ch.7.

John Stuart Mill (1806—1873).

Health education of the public is effected by the various agents of the Local Authorities, during the course of their daily duties, *e.g.*, Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, Welfare Officers, Medical Officers and also by the family Doctor, who is excellently placed for this purpose by virtue of his close personal relationship with his patients. Valuable work in this field is carried out at Infant Welfare and Local Authority Ante Natal Clinics, whose functions today appear to be more educational than clinical. Bilston Corporation continues to donate the usual annual subscription to the Central Council for Health Education, who in turn supply pamphlets and posters. The latter are displayed in the Library, the Housing and Health Departments, and on the recently erected Bilston Home Safety Board in Lichfield Street. Booklets dealing with various health topics, are available free at the Health Department and the Centre Health Clinic.

Mothercraft lessons are given by the Health Visitors to the more senior girls in school. The mothers of all three month old infants in the Borough are circularised by the Health Department informing them of the facilities available for the various immunological procedures. This has been a most successful venture.

HOME SAFETY

Bilston is, as yet, one of the few more progressive Local Authorities in the Midlands, who has an active vigorous Home Safety Committee. Many Authorities and the appropriate Officers do not appear to realise the value of such committees and of the sterling work they accomplish in preventing death and grave injury by reducing the apallingly high incidence of accidents in the home. They occur every day—the old lady tripping over the loose carpet and sustaining a fractured neck of femur, the small child pulling the boiling pot of water on to himself from the stove, the little girl's highly inflammable night dress bursting into flames as she stands before the inadequately protected fire, the short circuit from defective electrical equipment and the deadly menace of leaking gas. The majority of accidents in the home are due to ignorance or carelessness. All are preventable.

