

[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Bilston Borough.

Contributors

Bilston (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

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BOROUGH OF BILSTON



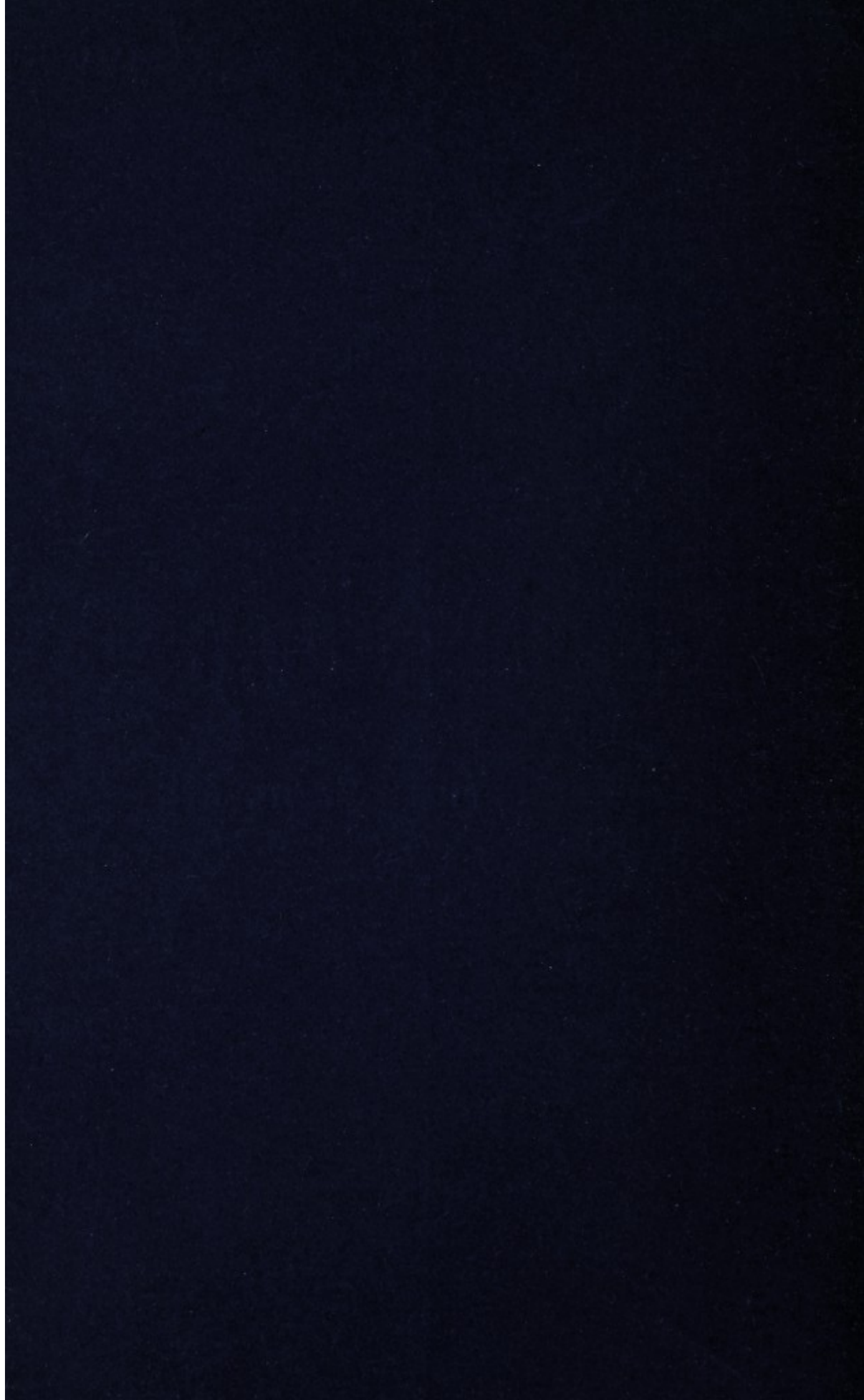
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1958





BOROUGH OF BILSTON

ANNUAL REPORT

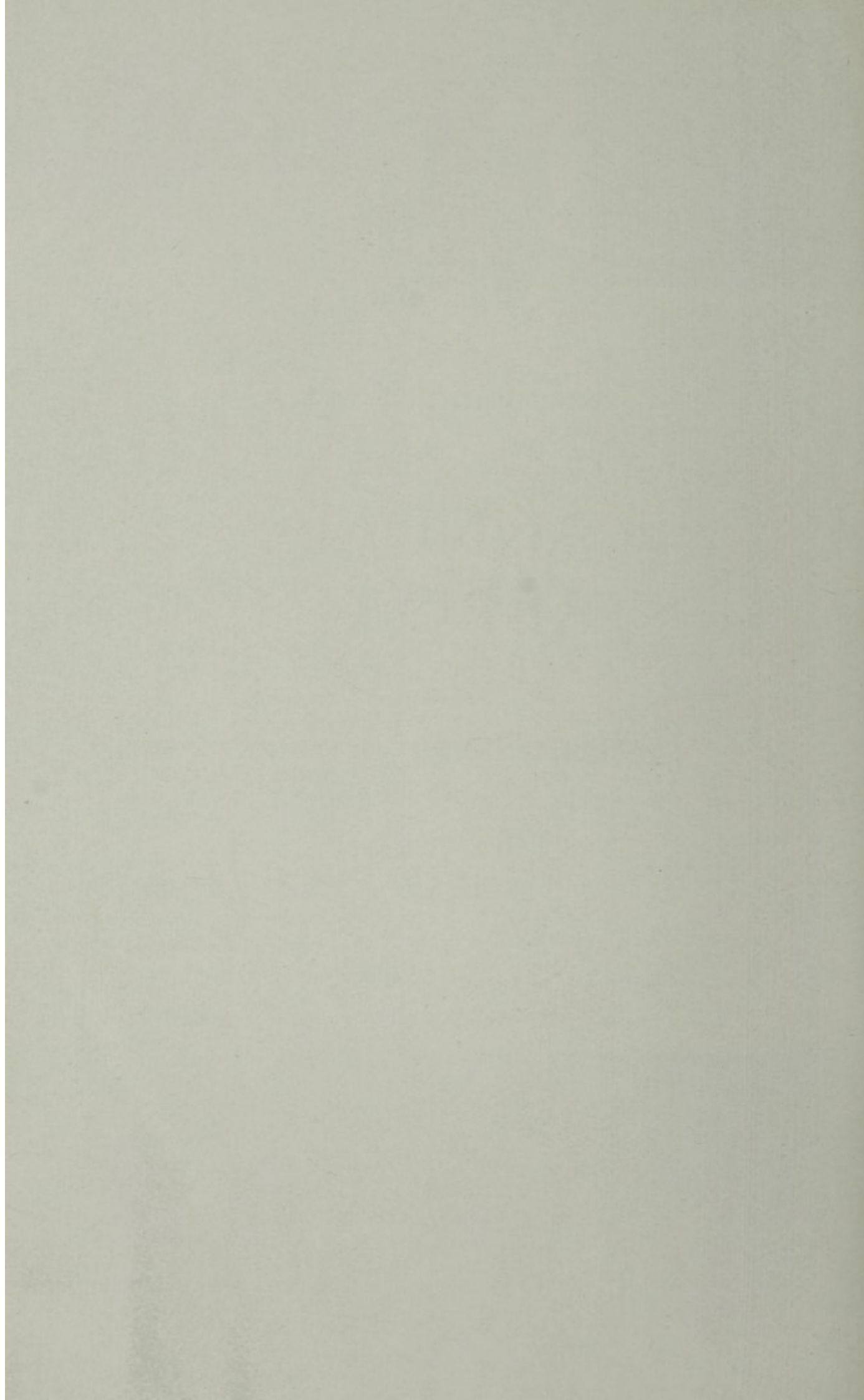
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1959

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 1959.

FOREWORD

"We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavouring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still".

Liberty, Ch.2.

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873).

Many people fail to understand why Medical Officers of Health produce a Report year after year, containing more or less the same dry statistics and repetitive comments. If Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, is studied, the answer is abundantly clear. It is therefore, worthwhile quoting the relevant article in full:—

17. "A Medical Officer of Health, in respect of the district for which he is appointed, shall—
- (5) as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year make an annual report to the local authority for the year ending on that date on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the district, containing in addition to any other matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister, and furnish the Minister with as many copies of such report as the Minister may from time to time require".

Upon such legal authority is this report based.

The Health of the Borough showed no momentous changes during 1959. In the Department itself the year was quiet and uneventful, just crammed with the routine work common to such units.

In the Section relating to General Provisions of Medical Services, the marked increase in the response to immunisation against Poliomyelitis is worthy of note.

An increase in the Infant Mortality Rate and a decrease in the Still Birth Rate occurred. The fallacy of drawing conclusions from yearly fluctuations in such small figures must once again be emphasised.

In the epidemiological field a mild outbreak of Dysentery and the absence of cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were the only outstanding features.

Good progress was recorded once again in slum clearance and the erection of municipal houses went on steadily.

Hard work on the part of the Public Health Inspectors, has been responsible for the very high standard of meat inspection maintained in the Borough and which I firmly believe could not be bettered anywhere. This is all the more meritorious, when one considers the great numbers of animals slaughtered daily in Bilston, especially in the very large bacon factory.

Food hygiene has again received particular attention during 1959. During this period it was found unnecessary to institute legal proceedings under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, against the proprietors or food handlers of any of the premises inspected.

It is desired to thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their courtesy and kindness, and the Chief Officers and Staffs of other Corporation Departments for their co-operation during the year. I wish to express thanks in particular to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. R. Tart, the Public Health Inspectors, and the Clerical Staff of the Health Department, without whose assistance this Report could not be produced. In conclusion, I must thank Alderman N. Bayliss, Chairman of the Health Committee, for his continued help, encouragement and advice over the past twelve months.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. Neylon.

Medical Officer of Health.

15th June, 1960.

PART I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

"The schoolboy whips his taxed top—the beardless youth manages his taxed horse, with a taxed bridle on a taxed road;—and the dying Englishman, pouring his medicine, which has paid seven per cent, into a spoon that has paid fifteen per cent—flings himself back on his chintz bed, which has paid twenty two per cent—and expires in the arms of an apothecary who has paid a licence of a hundred pounds for the privilege of putting him to death".

Works (1859) vol.i. Review of Seybert's Statistical Annals of the United States, p.291.

Rev. Sydney Smith (1771-1845).

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

Chairman: ALDERMAN N. BAYLISS, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR A. W. PACE

THE MAYOR (EX OFFICIO)

ALDERMAN E. W. BOLD

COUNCILLOR T. H. LARKIN

ALDERMAN MISS A. FELLOWS

COUNCILLOR A. D. MAYE

ALDERMAN O. H. JONES

COUNCILLOR F. J. OXFORD, C.A.

ALDERMAN J. V. LAVENDER

COUNCILLOR W. H. SANDLAND

COUNCILLOR R. CAMPBELL

COUNCILLOR A. E. WOOLLEY

COUNCILLOR J. S. EMERY

COUNCILLOR W. FELLOWS

COUNCILLOR G. H. JONES, B.A.

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.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Senior Public Health Inspector:

T. C. MOSS, Cert. S.I.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

J. W. BARBER, Cert. S.I.B.
N. MILLINER, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

B. HALES
(National Service August, 1959)

Clerical Staff:

Health:

R. R. ROBSON (terminated 23.9.59)
MISS R. P. SHEFFIELD
MRS. H. M. HOLLINGTON
G. ILLIDGE (commenced 19.11.59)

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

During the year one practitioner commenced duty in Bilston, bringing the total number of doctors providing General Medical Services under the National Health Service Act to fifteen—a number which appears to be adequate for the needs of the people of the Borough. The doctors practise as firms of five and three, two partnerships of two each, while three run single handed practices. Excellent liaison is maintained between the Health Department and the local practitioners who at all times prove helpful, courteous and co-operative.

C. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital and Specialist services for Bilston are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board—the hospitals mainly used by the inhabitants being The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton; The Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton; Moxley Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bilston; New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield; The Midland Counties Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton; Parkfields and Prestwood Sanatoria, and Burton Road Hospital, Dudley. All the Hospitals are helpful and co-operative in any dealings with the Health Department, but particular reference must be made to Burton Road Hospital, Dudley, which is extremely willing in admitting cases referred from this Department.

D. SERVICES OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

School Health

Staffordshire County Council provide a most efficient and adequate school medical service. Many are of the opinion today that the School Medical Service is now outdated and no longer required, especially since the inception of the National Health Service and since such a high standard of health has been attained by the present day school population. One cannot subscribe wholeheartedly to these views as the 'entrants' medical examination, for the first time brings to light many defects, especially

visual and lesser orthopaedic abnormalities. The examination of 'leavers' is particularly helpful, in that boys and girls may be advised regarding any types of employment for which they are considered unsuitable on medical grounds. There is no doubt, however, that the 'intermediate' school medical examination serves little purpose and could be usefully discontinued.

In Bilston, two full-time Nurses and three part-time School Medical Officers are responsible for routine school medical inspections and for staffing the school clinic, which is held at the Centre Health Clinic each morning except Saturday.

One full-time Dental Officer mans the extremely busy Bilston dental clinic. 'Alarm' and 'concern' are frequently expressed, in many quarters, and are much publicised in the Press, at the present scarcity of dental officers in the School Health Service. This is frequently attributed to diminishing numbers of dental students at Universities and Dental Hospitals, but the real cause is the grossly inadequate remuneration of dentists in Local Authority Service. Any dentist practising under the National Health Service Scheme can easily treble the income of his colleague in the School Health 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

The number of Health Visitors employed in the Bilston area has now dwindled to one full-time and one part-time. This is insufficient for a district of this population. 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 nurses employed by the Staffordshire County Council attend to the nursing requirements of many patients in their homes; they change dressings, give injections and in general provide a most comprehensive domiciliary nursing service which is of immense value, both in allowing the patient to be nursed at home, where he wishes to be, and in effecting a considerable economy when it is considered that the average weekly cost of a bed in a general hospital today is about £24.

Day Nursery

Increased numbers of pre-school children attend Bilston's one Day Nursery. The advantages of this institution, especially in an industrial area, are well known.

Ambulance Service

An excellent ambulance service provided by the County Council is based on Darlaston.

Domestic Help Service

Each succeeding year brings increased demands for this service which contributes in such large measure to the successful running of the home during illness, confinements and in old age.

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 General Practitioners acting as agents for the Local Health Authority. It has been customary to advise parents to have Smallpox vaccination carried out as the first immunological procedure, usually at ten to twelve weeks of age, but certainly in the first year of life. In view of recent research and newly acquired knowledge, it is now considered safer, *i.e.*, that less of the serious complications such as Post Vaccinal Encephalitis occur, if vaccination is not carried out until twelve to eighteen months.

Immunisation

The figures for immunisation carried out within the Borough during 1959 are as follows:—

<i>Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Completed course of 2 injections during 1959—		
Born 1943/1960	958	804
Born before 1943	1,142	1,075
Expectant Mothers	—	20
Third Injections—		
Born 1943/1960	116	121
Born before 1943	1	15
<i>Diphtheria—</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 15 years of age—		
Completed initial course of treatment ..	200	173
Received reinforcing injections	91	81
<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 15 years of age—		
Completed initial course of injections ..	156	148
Received reinforcing injections	7	4
<i>Smallpox Vaccination</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Received initial vaccination—		
Under 15 years	73	70
15 years and over	3	7
Re-vaccination—		
Under 15 years	—	—
15 years and over	7	4

The noticeable increase in all forms of immunisation is most marked where Poliomyelitis is concerned—there being 2,244 more injections of poliomyelitis antigen given in 1959 than in the immediately preceding year. This increase is due to varying factors (a) the fear and horror of Poliomyelitis engendered by the dramatic death of a well known professional footballer (b) increasing availability of vaccine (c) the setting up of immunisation 'open' sessions, *i.e.*, sessions where appointments were not required on the first Monday of each month at the Centre Health Clinic, Bilston.

Mental Health

Approximately 67 mentally retarded children from Bilston and surrounding areas attend the Occupation Centre at King Street, Bradley, where they receive habit training, domestic and sense training, and an effort is made to try and get them ready for community life.

In cases of mental ill health the General Practitioner is the person most likely to be consulted in the first instance. Mental Welfare Officers, Psychiatrists and School Medical Officers all play varying roles in the diagnosis and management of mental disease and defectiveness.

E. CARE OF THE ELDERLY

While the various statutory services provide a fair measure of care for the elderly, there still remains a wide field wherein voluntary bodies can do much to help the aged attain that degree of health and serenity commensurate with the ageing process. In Bilston many voluntary organisations, clubs and committees are vigorously active in their efforts to better the lot of the older age groups. Foremost among these bodies is the 'Meals on Wheels' service, whose good work in providing cooked meals for many aged folk three times a week is now a household word in the Borough. Were it not for these efforts, many elderly people would suffer greatly in their nutrition and would sink to near starvation level. Excellent work is also done by the Senior Citizens Federation, the Sons of Rest and many such organisations.

In 1959, Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and its Amendment 1951, was invoked on three occasions for the removal of persons who were "(a) suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and (b) are unable to devote themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention".

Harrowing scenes are frequently associated with 'Section 47' cases who almost invariably have to be physically removed. Another unpleasant factor associated with these cases is that quite often these elderly people have relatively well to do children who refuse to help. Since people are legally compelled to look after their wives and children there is ample scope for the introduction of legislation which would ensure that people who could afford to would have to provide for their elderly kinsfolk.

PART II.

SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

"I could be content that we might procreate like trees, without conjunction, or that there were any way to perpetuate the world without this trivial and vulgar way of coition".

Religio Medici, pt.ii. Ch.9.

Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682).

Bilston is a typical 'Black Country' town, bounded on the West and North West by the County Borough of Wolverhampton; on the South by the Urban District of Coseley; on the East by the Borough of Wednesbury and the Urban District of Darlaston and on the North by the Urban District of Willenhall. It is an old town, tracing its origin to pre-industrial revolution days. It is a proud town—proud of its long association with the great iron and steel industries which have made it so widely and justifiably well known.

- (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 1959	33,430
- (5) Density of population per acre 18
- (6) Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/59 9,879
- (7) Rateable Value at 1/4/60 £415,884
- (8) Product of 1d. rate 1959/60.. .. . £1,685
- (9) The following figures are kindly supplied by the Manager of the Bilston Employment Exchange.

Unemployment figures:		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
7.12.59	Wholly unemployed	155	76
	Temporarily stopped	7	—
- (10) The total number of factories in the town is 186.

TABLE I.

Brass Founders	4
Builders	4
Brush Manufacturers	1
Clothing Manufacturers	3
Coal Merchants	3
Engineering	78
Enamellers	3
Food Preparing Premises	17
Goods Transport	1
Glassware	1
Holloware	7
Iron and Steel	20
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	2	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority	169	36	4	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	6	1	—

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	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	21	14	-	4	-
Insufficient ..	1	1	-	-	-
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.)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	-	-	-	-	-

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Borough during 1959 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	..	..	..	..	515	273	242
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	22	13	9
Total					537	286	251

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 16.06

Comparability factor for births: 0.89

Corrected live birth rate: 14.29

There is a slight decrease from last year's figure of 15.37.

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 signs of life'.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	12	8	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					12	8	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 22.34.

It is satisfactory to note a marked fall in this rate from 34.77 per 1,000 total births in 1958. This is the lowest Still Birth Rate yet attained in the Borough—the previous best being as long ago as 1953 when the rate was 24.96 per 1,000 total births. The Still Birth Rate in Bilston appears to be following the downward trend evinced by the country as a whole.

TABLE V.

<i>Year</i>						<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1959	..	..	..	..	..	22.34
1958	..	..	..	..	..	34.77
1957	..	..	..	..	..	28.81
1956	..	..	..	..	..	27.69
1955	..	..	..	..	..	35.23
1954	..	..	..	..	..	26.36
1953	..	..	..	..	..	24.96

Still Birth Rate

<i>Total Live and Still Births</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	527	281	246
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	22	13	9
					—	—	—
Total					549	294	255
					—	—	—
<i>Infant Deaths</i>							
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	15	8	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	—
					—	—	—
					16	9	7
					—	—	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total:						29.79	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate						29.13	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate						45.45	

The infant mortality rate is raised over the exceptionally low rate of 20.58 per 1,000 live births for 1958, which was the lowest ever recorded in Bilston and was even lower than the National figure. As we are dealing here, with only a small series of figures, there will inevitably be extreme fluctuations from year to year, so no great concern need be felt at the increase in infant mortality. In actual fact there were 16 deaths of children under one year in 1959 compared with 12 in 1958. The majority of these 16 deaths—11—occurred in the neo-natal period. Such deaths are usually attributed to obstetric maternal factors and are thus closely related to still births, rather than the general environmental conditions which have a greater influence after the first month or so of life.

It will be noted that 6 of the 16 infant deaths were associated with congenital defects (indicated by large *C* in table). A vast amount of carefully planned and regulated research is required into the causation of congenital defects, but it would appear very likely that ionising radiations may play a very important role in their aetiology.

TABLE VI.
INFANT DEATHS DURING 1959

Taken from Death Returns

<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	
15. 1.59	1 week	Male	1A	Congenital Heart Disease. (C)
28. 1.59	1 week	Male	1A	Hepatic Failure.
			1B	Generalised Hepatic Necrosis.
			2	Haemorrhagic Consolidation of both lungs.
18. 2.59	5 months	Male		Lobar Pneumonia.
10. 3.59	4 days	Male	1A	Congestive Cardiac Failure.
			1B	Atelectasis. (C)
			1C	Prematurity. (V)
20. 3.59	8 months	Female	1A	Broncho Pneumonia.
			1B	Cardiac Failure.
			1C	Congenital Heart Disease. (C)
			2	Mongolism.
21. 3.59	1 week	Female	1A	Acute Influenzal Haemorrhagic Pneumonia and Encephalitis.
21. 7.59	4 hours	Female	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			1B	Intra-Uterine Anoxia.
			2	Inhalation of Meconium.
30. 7.59	45 minutes	Male	1A	Cerebral Birth Injury.
1. 8.59	8 months	Male	1A	Broncho Pneumonia.
			1B	Hydrocephalus and Myelocoele. (C)
13. 8.59	1 month	Male	1A	Broncho Pneumonia.
			1B	Gastro Enteritis.
21. 8.59	10 months	Male	1A	Chronic Bilateral Pneumonitis.
			1B	Marasmus.
15. 9.59	3 weeks	Female		Haemolytic Anaemia.
22. 9.59	1 day	Female	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			1B	Complicating Birth.
21.11.59	5 hours	Female	1A	Intra Peritoneal Haemorrhage.
			1B	Ruptured Spleen.
			1C	Difficult Forceps Delivery.
			2	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
15.12.59	10 months	Female	1A	Pulm. Infraction.
			1B	Congenital Heart Disease. (C)
20.12.59	2 days	Female	1A	Atelectasis.
			1B	Prematurity.
			2	Pulm. Stenosis. (C)

Neo Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births:	20.5
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births:	4.09 %.

Maternal Deaths

There were no deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during 1959.

General Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (all causes)	354	205	149
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population:	10.59		
Comparability Factor for Deaths:	1.44		
Corrected Death Rate:	15.25		

TABLE VII.

Deaths during 1959 by Age Groups

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958
0— 4	8	9	9	5	17	14
5—14	1	1	3	2	4	3
15—24	3	1	—	1	3	2
25—44	12	12	6	5	18	17
45—64	72	68	37	23	109	91
65 and over	109	89	94	94	203	183
	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Deaths	205	180	149	130	354	310
	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths from Certain Causes

TABLE VIII.

	1959	1958
Cardio-Vascular Diseases	98	90
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ..	49	33
Cancer	72	64
Bronchitis	29	17
Influenza	9	—
Pneumonia	22	22
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	3

Causes of Death during 1959 in detail

TABLE IX.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	5	2	7
Tuberculosis Other	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ..	7	5	12
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ..	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ..	—	7	7
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	16	—	16
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	17	36
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	27	49
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	27	13	40
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4	6
Other Heart Disease	15	24	39
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	8	5	13
Influenza	6	3	9
Pneumonia	14	8	22
Bronchitis	24	5	29
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	4	1	5
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	15	20	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	—	4
All Other Accidents	4	1	5
Suicide	3	2	5
Homicide and Operation of War	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	205	149	354

Increases of 44 deaths from all causes, of 8 from all forms of malignant disease and of 8 from all forms of cardiovascular diseases over the figures for 1958 are noted. These trends are in keeping with those for England and Wales as a whole and are to be expected in any community where there is an ever-increasing number of people in the older age groups. It is interesting to observe a decrease of deaths, by 2, from lung cancer and that there were not any deaths attributed to Acute Infectious Diseases, recorded in Bilston during 1959.

PART III. EPIDEMIOLOGY

"Cur'd yesterday of my disease, I died last night of my physician".

The Remedy Worse than the Disease.
Matthew Prior (1664-1721).

An outbreak of Dysentery and a higher incidence of Whooping Cough, were responsible for an increase of 96 notifications of Infectious Diseases in 1959 over the figure of 481 recorded in the preceding year. There was a negligible rise in the notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The 261 cases of Measles represent approximately 45% of all notifications even though there is a decrease of 115 from the 1958 figure. There were not any notifications received in respect of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Puerperal Pyrexia, Acute Encephalitis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum nor Smallpox.

Tuberculosis

Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis show an increase of 5, but looking at Table 1 it is evident that the general trend is downwards over the years. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, when dealing with such small series of figures, fluctuations are inevitable. The deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in persons who had been notified prior to the year under review and were what is usually described as 'chronic' cases, and who unfortunately could not be saved despite modern powerful anti-tuberculostatic drugs.

TABLE 1
Tuberculosis Notifications

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>
1951	54	7
1952	44	3
1953	53	4
1954	57	8
1955	43	1
1956	28	Nil
1957	29	2
1958	22	Nil
1959	27	3

Measles

As may be seen from the notification figures over the past 3 years, measles appears to be endemic in Bilston and not to show the two-year cyclical activity usually attributed to this viral infection.

1959	261
1958	376
1957	435

The disease, as is the National experience these days, was mild and neither serious complications nor fatalities occurred.

Scarlet Fever

Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria

It is pleasing to report that for the second year in succession no notifications of Diphtheria were received—a mute and impressive testimony to the value of immunisation.

Whooping Cough

Notifications of Whooping Cough received by the Medical Officer of Health in 1959, amounted to 70—an increase of 63 over the previous year, when the prevalence of the disease was very low for Bilston.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

Since 1953, an average of 2 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were reported per year. It is most gratifying to record that no cases occurred within the Borough during 1959. Reference has been made, in Part I of this Report, to the increased numbers of people, who presented themselves for immunisation against Poliomyelitis, and even though it is early yet to be dogmatic, it appears that this is one of the major factors in the absence of Poliomyelitis from the Borough during 1959. An even more intensive immunisation campaign is desirable, since this is the only effective means of combating such a fearful infection.

Pneumonia

Of the 13 cases notified, 4 died.

Meningococcal Infection

One case was notified and confirmed. Recovery in hospital was uneventful.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

An outbreak of Dysentery affecting mainly one school, was responsible for the high notification rate of 195 cases, of which 142 were confirmed. The infecting organism was the *Shigella Sonnei*. The outbreak commenced towards the latter half of May and reached a peak by the second week of June, when it was rapidly brought under control. The local General Practitioners were most helpful and co-operative by notifying cases early and instituting the appropriate therapy. Three people engaged in food handling, were contacts of cases and were suspended from work until they and their families had three negative stool examinations. This mild Dysentery epidemic was more of a nuisance, especially to the Staff of the Health Department, than a serious menace to the health of the public. Neither of the two cases of Food Poisoning notified, was confirmed.

Venereal Diseases

The figures supplied, through the courtesy of Dr. W. Fowler, Consultant Venerologist, Wolverhampton Hospital Group, for Venereal Diseases among Bilston residents during 1959, are as follows:—

<i>Total 1959</i>	..	..	..	90
Syphilis	..	..	..	7
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	24
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	59

Coloured

Syphilis	..	..	..	4
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	14
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	15

Whites

Syphilis	..	..	..	3
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	10
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	44

A slight increase in Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Non-Venereal conditions is noted.

Scabies

Three cases of Scabies—one woman and two pre-school children—were treated in the Health Department's Disinfestation Centre during the year. Three school children were treated at the Centre Health Clinic.

TABLE 2

Infectious Diseases notified 1959

Disease	Total cases notified	Total cases confirmed	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	5	1	—
Whooping Cough	70	70	5	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	261	261	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	195	142	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	1	1	—
Pneumonia	13	13	4	22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—
Fever	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	27	27	2	7
Tuberculosis—Meninges	—	—	—	—
C.N.S.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	3	3	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Total	577	522	15	30
Total cases confirmed during 1957			578	
Total cases confirmed during 1958			459	

TABLE 3
Infectious Diseases—Confirmed. In Wards. 1959

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	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	3
Whooping Cough	7	18	2	3	7	13	2	5	6	7	24	46
Poliomylitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	2	8	16	15	16	15	23	18	26	59	83
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	3	1	-	-	2	-	1	2	2	2	8	5
Measles	5	10	14	15	20	19	29	29	65	55	133	128
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	18	31	24	35	44	51	48	59	92	90	226	266

TABLE 4

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1957 — 1959

	1951 Census			1957		1958		1959		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	2	1	3	3
15—24 ..	2,376	2,656	5,032	3	5	6	1	3	3	12	9
25—44 ..	5,293	5,078	10,371	5	6	2	5	11	3	18	14
45—64 ..	3,343	3,677	7,020	4	-	5	1	6	-	15	1
65 and over ..	1,159	1,390	2,549	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Age unknown ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	16,474	16,984	33,458	17	14	13	9	22	8	52	31

TABLE 5

Deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1957—1959

		1957		1958		1959		TOTAL	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	..	—	1	1	1	2	—	3	2
45—64	..	4	—	—	2	3	1	7	3
65 and over	..	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
		5	1	1	3	6	2	12	6

TABLE 6

**Tuberculosis Statistics—Number on Register at
31st December, 1959**

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	9	9	18
	6 to 15 years	14	14	28
	16 to 25 years	62	75	137
	26 to 45 years	102	73	175
	46 to 65 years	66	10	76
	Over 65 years	6	4	10
	Ages unknown	3	2	5
Total all ages		262	187	449
Non-Pulmonary	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	6	4	10
	6 to 15 years	—	4	4
	16 to 25 years	11	6	17
	26 to 45 years	2	10	12
	46 to 65 years	1	—	1
	Over 65 years	1	—	1
Total all ages		21	24	45
Pulmonary all ages		262	187	449
Non-Pulmonary all ages		21	24	45
GRAND TOTAL		283	211	494

TABLE 7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wards
1952—59

Year	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
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
1959	3	—	2	1	9	4	2	2	5	3	21	10

TABLE 8
Tuberculosis Notifications

YEAR	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
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
1959	21	10	3	—	24	10
Including Inward Transfers.						

PART IV

HOUSING

*"And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom come".*

The Everlasting Mercy.

John Masefield (1874—).

Sub-standard accommodation, as has frequently been demonstrated, bears a marked statistical co-relationship with sub-standard health. Recurrent upper Respiratory Infections, many of the Acute Infectious Diseases, Tuberculosis and Rheumatic Fever, are only some of the conditions found more commonly among the overcrowded and inadequately housed, than among their more fortunate brethren. As well as the adverse physical effect, sub-standard housing and overcrowding, are very prone to lead to the development of mental and emotional upset, particularly in the case of young children, who in company with their parents, are compelled to live—temporarily at any rate—with one or other pair of grandparents.

The Bilston Housing Committee are very sympathetic to sufferers from Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis or from any serious illness which is aggravated by the patient's living conditions, and on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health are only too willing to grant priority rehousing. It is worth noting, that many applicants on the Housing List seek to gain preferential treatment on the grounds, that they have once suffered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, while subsequent investigation reveals that they have never been notified as having this condition or else that their disease is now quiescent and have been removed from the Tuberculosis Register on the advice of the Consultant Chest Physician.

Despite the fact that 205 new buildings were completed in the Borough during the year, there is still a long list of applicants for municipal accommodation including flats and aged persons' bungalows.

In 1959, 126 unfit houses were closed or demolished.

Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of (a) Salop Street, Greenway Road, Bank Street, King Street, Slater Street, Bradley; (b) Ward Street, Oak Street, Mars Street, Victoria Terrace, Ettingshall; and (c) Brook Street comprising in all 90 houses, received Ministerial confirmation.

The bald statement that 126 unfit houses were closed or demolished and that 90 houses were involved in confirmed Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders, fails to convey a true picture of the long hours of arduous labour put into the detailed inspection of these old properties, by the Public Health Inspectors and the resultant greatly increased efforts on the part of the clerical staff.

The 'Points Scheme' is being operated most successfully by the Housing Department. This year, as last, applicants are being rehoused in the ratio of 2 : 1 from Slum Clearance Areas and from the Points List.

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
	1959	..	..	..	..	126
						<hr/> 1,180 <hr/>

PART V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*"In Kohn, a town of monks and bones,
And pavements fanged with murderous stones,
And rags, and hags, and hideous wenches;
I counted two and seventy stench
All well defined and several stinks !
Ye Nymphs that reign o'er sewers and sinks,
The River Rhine, it is well known,
Doth wash your city of Cologne;
But tell me, Nymphs, what power divine
Shall henceforth wash the River Rhine ?"*

Cologne.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772—1834).

Water

On the 1st April, 1959, the Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking was taken over by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, under the terms of the Wolverhampton Water Order 1958. The following information has been kindly supplied by the Wolverhampton Water Engineer.

"A summary of information in respect of the area administered by the Bilston Borough Council, for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

(i) *Water Supply*

The water supplied to your area by this Undertaking has been

(a) satisfactory in quality and

(b) satisfactory in quantity.

(ii) *Analyses*

The results of all bacteriological and chemical examinations on the raw and treated waters are summarised in the Reports attached hereto.

(iii) *Plumbo-solvent Action*

The water supplied by this Undertaking is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) *Contamination*

Number of instances of contamination of the supply subsequent to leaving the works. Nil.

Action taken.

(v) *Houses and Population*

The total population supplied by the Undertaking on 31st December, 1959 was 324,000 approximately.

No record of the number of houses or population supplied in the individual administrative areas supplied by this Undertaking is available".

Typical samples of bacteriological and chemical analysis are as follows:—

Water from tap ex pump Bratch Waterworks	
pH Value	7.2
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F.	Parts per 100,000 35.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.56
Chlorine present as Chloride	2.2
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 Tomhill Pumping Station.		
Date and hour of collection:	19.3.59	11.25 a.m.
Date and hour of arrival:	19.3.59	3.30 p.m.
REPORT		
Date of Report: 23.3.59		
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.

Sewage

The following information has been kindly supplied by Mr. A. F. B. Sidwick, Bilston, Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

"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.

Improvements of a minor nature have been carried out during 1959 which has included the replacement of one set of screening gear and the cleansing (first phase) of the Baldwin Latham Beds.

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

1,270 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	..	..	..	109	154	344
Complaints	..	..	..	364	377	741
Dirty Condition	..	..	..	16	1	17
Rent Act, 1957	..	..	..	21	73	94
Disinfected	..	..	..	5	9	14
Disinfested	..	..	..	60	49	109
Rodent Control	..	..	..	234	1,021	1,255
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	507	98	605
Disinfestation—Visits	..	..	..	98	4	102
Removals	..	..	..	124	—	124
Slum Clearance—Inspections	..	..	..	173	—	173
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	61	—	61
Waste Water Closets	..	..	..	48	6	54

	<i>1st</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-</i> <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
Other Premises			
Houses let in lodgings	34	8	42
Tents, Van, Sheds, Sites	17	9	26
Common Lodging Houses	2	—	2
Factories—Mechanical Power ..	33	3	36
—No Power	2	—	2
Workplaces—Outworkers	1	—	1
Milk—Bacteriological	1	—	1
Slaughterhouses—Inspected ..	6	—	6
Meat Inspection	809	3	812
Public Conveniences	8	1	9
Premises, re Fowl, Swine, etc. ..	2	1	3
Premises re Offensive Accumu- lation	25	6	31
Drains—Inspected	143	85	228
Colour Tested	31	9	40
Water Tested	54	13	67
Grenade Tested	2	—	2
Smoke Tested	70	16	86
Sewers—Inspected	2	2	4
Street Gullies	7	—	7
Smoke Observations	27	—	27
Visits to Plant, etc.	31	1	32
Water Samples—Chemical	4	—	4
Bacteriological	17	—	17
Smoke Measurement	316	—	316
Cleansing Visits	52	3	55
Miscellaneous Visits	520	25	545
Food Hygiene Regs.			
Cafes, Restaurants and Kitchens	25	7	32
Works Canteens and Kitchens ..	6	—	6
School Canteens and Kitchens ..	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops	12	2	14
Market—Food Stalls	56	5	61
Visits	98	—	98
Shops—Meat	20	13	33
Food	152	54	206
Others	47	—	47
Rodent Control	14	35	49
Food Stalls and Carts	21	8	29
Public Houses	8	1	9
Bakehouses	10	—	10
Ice Cream—Manufacturers	1	—	1
Retailers	5	—	5
Samples	29	—	29

(b) NOTICES

Informal Notices Issued	191
Statutory Notices—Section 92-93	
Public Health Act, 1936—Issued	77
Complied	118

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

Dwelling Houses	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Internal Rooms			
Ventilation Improved	2	—	2
New Windows Provided	6	—	6
Old Windows Repaired	39	—	39
Window Cords Renewed	35	2	37
Dampness in Walls Remedied	7	—	7
Plaster of Walls Repaired	21	4	25
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired	34	1	35
Floors Repaired	27	1	28
Old Fireplaces Repaired	3	—	3
Doors Repaired	5	—	5
Staircases			
Steps Provided or Repaired	2	—	2
Plaster of Walls Repaired	5	3	8
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired	1	1	2
Sculleries and Wash Houses			
Ventilation Improved	1	—	1
New Windows Provided	1	—	1
Dangerous—Demolished	4	—	4
Window Cords Renewed	5	—	5
Plaster of Walls Repaired	20	1	21
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired	13	1	14
New Sinks Provided	4	—	4
Waste Pipes Trapped	10	—	10
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	8	2	10
Wash Coppers Provided	2	—	2
Wash Coppers Repaired	3	—	3
Floors Repaired	2	1	3
Doors Repaired	2	—	2
Cellars			
Floors Repaired	2	—	2

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
External			
Roofs Repaired	77	10	87
Eaves Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided	44	6	50
Down Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided	17	—	17
Down Spouts Disconnected from Drain	10	—	10
Walls repaired and/or Repointed	21	5	26
Chimney Stacks Repaired and/or Repointed	17	4	21
Doors Repaired	6	1	7
General			
Yards Paved	1	2	3
Yard Paving or Surfaces Re- paired	1	1	2
Homes Cleansed	1	—	1
Outbuildings			
Coal Stores			
Roofs Repaired	1	—	1
Walls Repaired and/or Repointed	1	—	1
New Coal Store Provided ..	1	—	1
Water Closets			
Roofs Repaired	7	—	7
Eaves Spouts Provided and/or Repaired	1	—	1
Walls Repaired or Repointed ..	10	—	10
Doors Repaired	7	—	7
New Cistern Fixed or Repaired ..	28	5	33
New Pedestals and Seat Repaired or Provided	12	1	13
Soil Pipes Repaired	—	1	1
Water Supply Renewed	3	1	4
Burst Water Service Pipes Re- paired	3	—	3
Waste Water Closets			
Repaired	10	—	10
Converted into Standard Type W.C's.	69	3	72
Drains			
Repaired or Relaid	13	1	14
Cleansed	5	2	7
Disconnected from Sewer	1	—	1
Inspection Chambers Built or Repaired	69	9	78
Self Cleansing Gullies Provided	1	—	1

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ashbins			
Renewals	—	765	765
Provided for New Houses ..	—	161	161
Provided for Other Premises ..	—	10	10
Bin Sales	—	1	1
Sewers and/or Street Gullies			
Cleansed	—	3	3
Public Conveniences			
Cleansed	—	2	2
Infested Premises			
Freed from Vermin	—	5	5
Freed from Mice	1	—	1
Offensive Accumulations			
Removed	2	1	3
Animals so Kept as a Nuisance			
Nuisance Abated	1	1	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites			
Removed	1	2	3
Factories—Mechanical Power			
Conveniences Cleansed and/or Limewashed	—	2	2
Smoke Observations			
Nuisances Abated	—	1	1
Additions to Plants or Improve- ments	—	2	2
Bakehouses			
Facilities for Hand Washing Provided	1	—	1
Shop :			
Shop Display Reorganised ..	1	—	1
Food Shops			
Improvements under Food Hy- giene Regs.	2	16	18
Outside Display Improved ..	3	—	3
Internal Display Improved ..	4	—	4

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Public Houses			
Premises Redecorated ..	1	—	1
Cellar Floors Resurfaced ..	1	—	1
Wash Hand Basin Fitted ..	1	—	1
Hot Water Provided ..	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops			
Accumulations Removed ..	1	—	1
Other Food Premises			
Cleansed—Limewashed ..	2	2	4
Structural Improvements ..	5	6	11
Hot and/or Cold Water Provided or Improved ..	18	3	21
Drainage Provided or Improved	4	—	4
Wash Hand Basins Fitted ..	15	2	17
Sinks Provided ..	7	—	7
Nailbrushes Provided ..	12	—	12
Towels Provided ..	5	—	5
Ventilation Improved ..	1	—	1
Outside Display Improved ..	2	—	2

Disinfestation

247 houses were disinfested and 49 re-inspections were made of these houses. Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays.

In addition there were 267 removals, the tenant's effects and furniture being treated by HCN gas and the bedding sterilised in the steam disinfectors.

Shops' Act

1 visit was 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 211—25 more than last year. 1,410 visits were made for the treatment of premises, besides the regular treatments carried out on waste land, brook courses, etc.

CLEANSING

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

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

(Period 1st April, 1959, to 31st March, 1960)

Collection

The task during the period under review has been the collection and disposal of some 7,000 tons of refuse from about 500,000 receptacles from some 11,000 premises in the town. It can be said that this has been accomplished with a reasonable degree of success, although it has not been possible to obtain the elusive weekly collection target on every occasion, particularly following Bank Holidays. I should like to thank the staff and men concerned for their efforts, and to draw attention once again to the importance of their job to the community. It is a job which is the butt of the popular song writer, a job which is carried on in the open in all weathers, a job which calls for considerable physical effort and for which I fear the public in general give scant credit until it finds its bin overflowing. One can only hope that this attitude is not a measure of the public ingratitude, but rather that it is to the credit of the service, that it proceeds with such little fuss and ostentation, that its effects are only noticed when for unforeseen reasons they temporarily cease.

The men employed are twenty-two in number, with four vehicles and drivers; a fifth vehicle was added in February this year.

The Bonus Incentive Scheme has functioned satisfactorily and has done much to obviate the turnover of men that has plagued the Department so much in previous years. Six new men signed on and eight left the Department during the year.

No overtime has been found necessary as was the case before the inception of the Bonus Scheme, which has, on average, increased weekly earnings by 25/- per man.

The following table gives details of the vehicles and brief statistics.

TABLE 1

Vehicle Description		Date Purchased	Total Mileage	Mileage 1959-1960	Galls. Fuel Used	M.P.G.
EUK 269	MORRIS 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER (Salvage Collection)	1947	65,800	5,143	578	8.89
SRE 770	S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	July, 1949	43,350	4,781	1,303	3.67
URE 962	S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	October, 1950	40,800	4,493	1,215	3.69
XRE 939	S.D. 16 cu. yd. 'FORE & AFT' REAR LOADER	July, 1952	33,900	4,420	1,495	2.95
980 ARF	KARRIER 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	January, 1954	27,100	3,510	809	4.34
8443 RE	KARRIER 18 cu. yd. 'DUAL TIP' REAR LOADER	February, 1960	740	544	87 DERV	7.00

A welcome addition to the vehicle strength has been the new Karrier 'Dual Tip'. This is a large capacity vehicle and is powered by a two-stroke diesel engine. This is our first diesel engined refuse vehicle and it will be seen from the foregoing table that the fuel consumption compares very favourably with that of a similar type petrol engined vehicle—the Fore and Aft. It will be necessary next year to purchase a further vehicle to replace SRE 770 and if the diesel engine has given satisfaction by that time, it will be recommended that this type of engine provide the motive power.

TABLE 2
HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
519,572	3,743	7,020

TABLE 3
MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

Trade Refuse	Waste Paper	Total
Tons	Tons	Tons
174	71	245

Salvage

Collection figures are given below:—

TABLE 4

MATERIALS	1959—60			1958—59		
	Weight		Value	Weight		Value
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper	71	4	514	108	—	880
Kitchen Waste	—	—	—	63	—	252
Glass	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scrap Metal	—	—	8	1	7	3
			522			1,135

TABLE 5
DUDLEY STREET TIP

HOUSE REFUSE		TRADE REFUSE	
Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons
898	1,371	48	37

Total refuse disposed of during the year was 7,194 tons.

Disposal

7,194 tons of refuse have been disposed of during the year, 5,786 tons to the Company which has contracted to make compost, and 1,408 tons to Dudley Street tip.

I must repeat my remarks in last year's Report and regret that the Company seems unable to produce a fertiliser from the refuse in bulk as it did in the laboratory in the early stages of our negotiations. It was necessary during the year to relieve the Company of its obligation to dispose of refuse and to return temporarily to Dudley Street tip. The activities of the Company have been grievously disappointing.

Operational Statistics

Area (statute acres)	.. .. .	1,871 acres
Population at 30th June, 1959 (Registrar General's Estimate)	.. .. .	33,430 persons
Total refuse collected (tons)	.. .. .	7,265 tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	.. .. .	11.89 cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	..	10,891
Premises from which collection is made at least once weekly	.. .. .	99% of total
Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to disposal point (single journey)	.. .. .	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles
Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	.. .. .	Nil
Total refuse disposed of	.. .. .	7,194 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded)		
Trial Composting Scheme	.. .. .	75%
Controlled Tipping	.. .. .	25%

Analysis of income and tonnage:—

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
	£	Tons
Scrap Metal	8	
Waste Paper	514	71
	—	
	522	
	—	
Trade Refuse	296	174

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

26 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.

DEPOSIT GAUGES

Total solids are as follows :—

January	Park Site	26.14 tons per square mile
„	Dudley Street Site ..	23.88 „ „ „ „
February	Park Site	15.41 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	21.72 „ „ „ „
March	Park Site	33.09 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	25.70 „ „ „ „
April	Park Site	40.19 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	41.23 „ „ „ „
May	Park Site	37.75 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	19.44 „ „ „ „
June	Park Site	48.59 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	31.06 „ „ „ „
July	Park Site	22.96 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	26.40 „ „ „ „
August	Park Site	20.49 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	20.83 „ „ „ „
September	Park Site	14.63 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	12.49 „ „ „ „
October	Park Site	86.44 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	31.23 „ „ „ „
November	Park Site	16.83 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	31.66 „ „ „ „
December	Park Site	41.61 „ „ „ „
„	Dudley Street Site ..	32.79 „ „ „ „

Daily Mean Concentration of SO₂ and Smoke

<i>Month</i>					<i>SO₂</i>	<i>Smoke</i>
January	..	..	Average	..	0.075	0.351
			Highest	..	0.342	0.881
			Lowest	..	0.010	0.075
February	..	..	Average	..	0.061	0.390
			Highest	..	0.147	0.889
			Lowest	..	0.023	0.142
March	..	..	Average	..	0.042	0.167
			Highest	..	0.068	0.330
			Lowest	..	0.021	0.078
April	..	..	Average	..	0.034	0.097
			Highest	..	0.089	0.285
			Lowest	..	0.021	0.046
May	..	..	Average	..	No Readings	
			Highest	..	"	"
			Lowest	..	"	"
June	..	..	Average	..	"	"
			Highest	..	"	"
			Lowest	..	"	"
July	..	..	Average	..	0.023	0.094
			Highest	..	0.039	0.164
			Lowest	..	0.015	0.030
August	..	..	Average	..	0.023	0.091
			Highest	..	0.042	0.193
			Lowest	..	0.018	0.055
September	..	..	Average	..	0.042	0.122
			Highest	..	0.074	0.189
			Lowest	..	0.026	0.062
October	..	..	Average	..	0.037	0.150
			Highest	..	0.090	0.260
			Lowest	..	0.019	0.090
November	..	..	Average	..	0.033	0.211
			Highest	..	0.233	0.91
			Lowest	..	0.008	0.10
December	..	..	Average	..	0.02	0.200
			Highest	..	0.035	0.440
			Lowest	..	0.008	0.140

LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS

Mgs. of SO₂ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch

Month 1959	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	3.92	2.50	3.21	3.07	3.20	3.77	7.97	4.71	3.32	3.86	0.87
February	2.92	2.35	2.69	3.03	2.85	2.81	8.34	4.00	2.50	3.78	1.46
March	2.52	1.92	2.48	2.22	2.84	2.59	7.47	3.80	2.13	3.38	1.22
April	1.56	0.98	1.70	1.45	1.75	1.68	3.75	2.28	1.30	1.93	0.42
May	1.53	1.53	1.03	1.34	1.63	1.37	2.77	2.25	1.24	2.07	0.72
June	0.87	1.71	0.64	0.76	1.04	0.95	1.89	1.21	0.62	1.14	0.38
July	0.94	0.70	1.01	0.69	0.99	0.97	1.91	1.34	0.58	1.31	0.33
August	1.05	1.00	0.68	0.77	1.18	1.10	1.93	1.57	.076	1.34	0.36
September	1.66	1.58	1.04	1.27	1.67	—	3.15	2.38	2.26	1.27	0.66
October	1.97	2.00	1.44	1.47	2.03	1.36	1.34	2.91	1.47	2.39	0.58
November	3.02	2.30	2.76	1.91	2.91	—	5.37	4.13	2.42	3.38	1.54
December	2.35	2.56	2.4	1.73	2.29	0.95	3.50	2.85	2.07	3.27	0.68

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	211	—	—	1,143	40,666	—
Number inspected	211	—	—	1,143	40,666	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci : Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	1	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53	—	—	90	7,472	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	25.12	—	—	7.87	18.37	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	11	—	—	—	2005	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.21	—	—	—	4.93	—
Cysticerci: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1
Oedema	..	..	..	1
Pig Paratyphoid	..	..	..	1
Extensive and Severe Bruising	..	..	..	1
Abnormal Odour	..	..	..	1
				—
				5
				—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Bacon			82	Paint Contamination.
Bacon			27	Decomposition.
Bacon			30	Bone Taint.
Bottled Goods .			1½	Decomposition.
Tinned Goods ..		9	102	Blown and/or Decomposition.
		11	18½	
Fresh Meat ..	21	5	105½	See Table.
TOTAL ..	21	17	12	

Food Preparing Premises

64 inspections have been made of food preparing premises.

Milk

There are 106 licensed dealers selling sterilised milk, 17 selling sterilised and pasteurised milk and 6 selling tuberculin tested milk.

DISEASE	Carcase and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stoma and Intesti
Abscesses		2- 6	14		104	
Ascarides Lumbricoides ..					20- 69½	
Bruising	1- 59					
Carcinoma					3	
Cavernous Angioma ..					12	
Cirrhosis					3- 98	
Cloudy Swelling					20	
Cysticercus Bovis		15		3		
Distomatosis					3- 85	
Endocarditis				2		
Fatty Infiltration					1- 8	
Haematoma						
Hydatid Cysts			6½		2-108	
Hydronephrosis						
Infarets						
Nephritis						
Odour, abnormal	1- 49					
Oedema	12					
Pericarditis				6- 69		
Peritonitis					44- 36½	8-
Petechiae						
Pig Paratyphoid	1- 38					
Pleurisy			27- 62			
Pneumonia			3- 0- 28			
Strongylosis			42			
Tenuicollis Cysts					27	
Torsion						
Tuberculosis	1- 49	10- 1- 67	1- 54		2- 94	3-
Urticaria						
TOTALS ..	5- 95	10- 3- 88	4- 9 94½	6- 74	4- 0-105	13-

E (EXCLUDING COWS)

Lungs	Spleens	Omenta	Peri- toneums	Mesen- teries	Parts of Carcases	TOTALS		
						Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
			24		79½		4	17½
							20	69½
					2- 6		3	65
								3
								12
							3	98
								20
								18
							3	85
								2
							1	8
	17½							17½
							3	2½
36½								36½
	29½							29½
2½								2½
							1	49
								12
							6	69
	5- 71		14- 1	3½		3	12	96
9½								9½
							1	38
							27	62
						3	0	28
								42
		4						45
	1							1
3	6			25½	1- 60	10	13	19½
					44			44
51½	6- 13	4	14- 25	29	4- 77½	21	5	105½

Ice-cream

There are 131 registered premises selling ice-cream in the Borough. 5 shops were inspected and 46 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were :—

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	36
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	2
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	4
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	1

In addition 3 samples of ice-lollies were taken.

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	..	..	..	4
	Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	3
	Milk T.T.	..	..	..	1
	Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	7
					—
					15
					All genuine
					—

General Foods

Number of samples taken	..	45
Number of samples genuine	..	44
Number of samples adulterated	..	1

Classification of General Foods

Long Cream Donuts	Eyetone
Fish Cakes	Cyder Vinegar
Crab Paste	Cough Cure
Scurf and Dandruff Lotion	Pure Dairy Ice Cream (2 samples)
Custard Powder	Dessert Strawberries in heavy
Pork and Beef Snack	syrup
Full Cream Milk Toffee	Lemon Juice
Dairy Roll Sweets	Golden Glucose Syrup
Minced Beef	Vanilla Ice Cream
Medicated Shampoo (2 samples)	Pork Sausage containing preser-
Ice Cream	vative (4 samples)
Irish Stew	Minced Pork
Scotch Broth	Dripping
Germicidal Skin Soap	Butter Eccles Cake
Calamine Lotion B.P.	Slenderbix
Olive Oil B.P.	Buttered Selection
Liquid Apples	Plum Jam
Smoked Bacon	Dairy Butter
Vegetable Soup	Beef and Pork Sausage with pre-
Tonic Elixir with Vitamin B.1.	servative
Dairy Cream Trifle	Butter Shortbread
Creamy Rice Pudding	

Particulars of Adulterated Sample

70 C/P — Long Cream Donuts — Formal.

Filling consists mainly of imitation cream.

Cautioned.

Food Preparing Premises

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

Grocers, greengrocers and general shops	..	..	205
Food shops with catering establishments attached	..		13
Other catering establishments (including works' canteens and premises of the school meals service)	..	..	46
Fried Fish Shops	..	.. .. .	18
Butchers' Shops	..	.. .. .	34
Fish Shops	..	.. .. .	5
			<hr/> 321 <hr/>

Food and Drugs Act, 1955*Food Hygiene Regulations*

A total of 630 food premises was visited. 115 improvements were effected, and a number of improvements of a structural nature are in progress.

PART VI.

HEALTH EDUCATION

"The truth of it is, the first rudiments of education are given very indiscreetly by most parents."

The Tatler, No. 173.

Sir Richard Steele (1672—1729).

Health Education is the process of educating the public, or certain sections of it, in methods of preventing disease and attaining positive health, thereby leading to a better enjoyment of the very act of living itself, whether at work or at play. In its broadest sense, Health Education has been carried out by Local Authorities for many years, through the media of Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, Medical Officers and various other officers connected with Health Departments. The great reduction in Infant Mortality Rates is in no small measure due to the combined activities of these agents over the years. Tuberculosis Visitors have done much to diminish the spread of this condition by preaching and teaching hygienic methods of living to afflicted sufferers. Although a modicum of good can be accomplished by the display of posters, distribution of pamphlets and occasional lectures, the personal intimate contact involving such people as Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors is a much more valuable method of 'putting over' Health Education.

In common with most Local Authorities, Bilston Corporation makes an annual donation to the Central Council for Health Education, who in turn provide posters, booklets, and bookmarkers. The latter are distributed mainly through the Library, while booklets are passed along to the public through the Centre Health Clinic, the Housing and Health Departments. Posters are displayed on the notice board in the vicinity of the Town Hall and also on the Home Safety Committee's Poster Board in Lichfield Street.

HOME SAFETY

Home Safety as its name implies, is concerned with the prevention of accidents in the home—a much more difficult project than one would normally suppose, and is really a most important aspect of Preventive Medicine, especially when the mounting toll of such deaths is examined and compared with deaths from other causes. Over the past 10 years approximately 70,000 deaths resulted from accidents in the home.

These figures assume far greater significance, when it is realised, that one third occurred in children under the age of 5 years. The danger to such a vulnerable section of the community could undoubtedly be minimised by careful instruction and example from the parents. The

aged—the other group mainly at risk—can be housed in specially designed accommodation, on ground level, with foolproof gas cookers (such as the Bilston Corporation are installing at present in their Old Persons Bungalows) with modified electrical fittings and many other safety devices, to reduce the risks of misadventure in the home.

Bilston is one of the few towns in the Midlands—big or small—having a flourishing Home Safety Committee, which is in fact a voluntary body under the aegis of and working in close liaison with the Corporation. A very satisfactory response was obtained to a Home Safety Poster Competition for schools, held during 1959. The standard of entries was very high and reflects credits in both children and school, as well as bringing home to the aspiring young artists the importance of the subject with which they dealt.

Mr. A. B. Denly, Secretary of the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, continues to co-operate with the Home Safety Committee by sending monthly notifications of any Bilston residents, who have been treated, in the Casualty Department or wards of the Hospital, as a result of home accidents. Wolverhampton Corporation Transport Department are also very helpful in displaying posters on their vehicles from time to time.

