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BOROUGH OF BILSTON



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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year

**1960**

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BOROUGH OF BILSTON

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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 1960.

## FOREWORD

*'Rara temporum felicitate ubi sentire quae velis et quae sentias dicere licet'.  
'It is the rare fortune of these days that a man may think what he likes  
and say what he thinks'.*

—Histories 1. i. Trans. by Fyfe.  
Tacitus. c. A.D.55–c. A.D.117.

During 1960 the work of the Health Department went on in routine undramatic, unspectacular fashion—a vast amount of work, however, being accomplished as may be deduced from the mass of figures contained in the body of the Report. Once again the health of the Borough showed no great departures from normal.

As will be seen in the Section relating to General Provisions of Health Services, there was a very high acceptance rate for Poliomyelitis vaccination. Indeed the response to all immunisation procedures except Small Pox was quite good.

An increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate for the Borough is noted. The danger of misinterpreting and making false premises from small series of figures must be stressed.

The reduction in notifications of all forms of Acute Infectious Diseases and in particular the non-occurrence of any cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis is very gratifying and is a tribute to the effectiveness of the work described in Parts I, IV and V of the Report.

The work of slum clearance and building of municipal houses went on steadily.

A very high standard of meat inspection is maintained in Bilston, through the vigilant efforts of the Public Health Inspectors, one of whom is constantly occupied in this important aspect of Preventive Medicine.

During 1960 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.

As always, this Report has been prepared in accordance with the various circulars and instructions received from the appropriate Ministers.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors for their courtesy and the Chief Officers and Staffs of the other Corporation Departments for their help and co-operation. I must express thanks also to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. R. Tart, the Public Health Inspectors, and the Clerical Staff of the Health Department, without whose willing and able assistance this Annual Report could neither be compiled nor produced. Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Alderman N. Bayliss, J.P., C.C., for his ever wise counsel, help and encouragement during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

*J. P. Neylon.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

12th September, 1961.



## PART I.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

*"We all labour against our own cure, for death is the cure of all diseases".*

—Religio Medici pt.ii, Ch.9.

Sir Thomas Browne (1605–1682).

#### A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

*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 F. J. OXFORD,  
J.P., C.A.

ALDERMAN O. H. JONES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR A. W. PACE

ALDERMAN J. V. LAVENDER

COUNCILLOR J. WALTON

COUNCILLOR R. CAMPBELL

COUNCILLOR T. WILLIAMS

COUNCILLOR G. HARRIES JONES, B.A.

COUNCILLOR A. E. WOOLLEY

COUNCILLOR F. WOLVERSON

## 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. T. 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)

### **Clerical Staff :**

#### **Health :**

MISS R. P. SHEFFIELD

MRS. H. M. HOLLINGTON (terminated 30.11.60)

MISS J. A. NEWELL (commenced 28.11.60)

G. ILLIDGE (terminated 4.12.60)

W. ASTON (commenced 28.11.60)

#### **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**

Twenty-nine practitioners provide General Medical Services under the National Health Service Act 1946, for the thirty-three thousand inhabitants of Bilston.

At first glance, it would appear as if the Borough was over-doctored, but in fact fourteen of these practitioners carry on their main practices and surgeries and reside in nearby towns such as Wolverhampton, Walsall, Tipton, Coseley, Willenhall and Darlaston, and have at the most, one or two Bilston families on their lists. The major portion of the General Medical Services is carried out by fifteen practitioners who have their surgeries in the town.

Although it is thirteen years since the inception of the National Health Service, it is surprising still to find occasional inhabitants of the Borough who are not on the list of any general practitioner.

Excellent liaison exists between all local general practitioners and the staff of the Health Department.

## **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, where the Consultant Geriatrician is very willing to admit cases referred from this Department.



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

### **School Health**

A thoroughly efficient school medical service is maintained by the Staffordshire County Council.

In the Borough, three 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 is employed in the Bilston Dental Clinic. There is work for three full-time officers here.

### **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 Health Visitors are employed—a big improvement in staffing since last year. 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 District Nurses are employed in the Bilston area, by the County Council. Because of this service, many patients who would otherwise have to be admitted to Hospital can be nursed at home. The advantages of this, both to the individual and the community, need not be emphasised further.

### **Day Nursery**

This institution has been closed down and the children transferred to a similar nursery in Willenhall.

### **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**

General Practitioners and the Health Department make wide use of the facilities available.

## Vaccination

Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out by General Practitioners acting as agents for the Local Health Authority. This procedure is generally carried out between twelve and eighteen months of age when the bulk of the other immunological procedures has been completed. It has also been shown, that this is the period of life when complications of vaccination are least likely to occur. The following figures show that few people had their children vaccinated in 1960.

Received initial vaccination :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 15 years .. ..	42	41
15 years and over .. ..	1	1

Re-Vaccination :

Under 15 years .. ..	3	—
15 years and over .. ..	1	1

## Immunisation

The figures for immunisation carried out within the Borough during 1960 are as follows :—

<i>Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Completed course of 2 injections during 1960 :—		
Born 1943/1960 .. ..	341	320
Born before 1943 .. ..	118	227
Expectant Mothers .. ..	—	14
Third Injections :—		
Born 1943/1960 .. ..	1,519	1,396
Born before 1943 .. ..	645	1,022

## *Diphtheria*

Under 15 years of age :—

Completed initial course of treatment .. ..	189	205
Received Reinforcing Injections	121	116

## *Whooping Cough*

Under 15 years of age :—

Completed initial course of injections .. ..	155	160
Received Reinforcing Injections	2	3

These figures are quite satisfactory and show an overall increase in comparison with 1959—there being 1,340 more injections of Poliomyelitis, 86 more of Diphtheria and 5 more of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Antigens given. Holding 'Open' Sessions, *i.e.*, where appointments were not required, at the Centre Health Clinic on the first MONDAY of each month, has been a big factor in the increased number of Poliomyelitis Vaccinations. Hard work by the Health Visitors has been another important factor.



In my Annual Report for 1957, I referred to the desirability of immunising children with 'triple antigen', *i.e.*, a combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus antigen. Such a procedure obviously would reduce the number of injections given to children as well as the number of visits by the mother to the surgeries or clinics. Opponents of this method of immunisation, base their objection on the very slight risk of 'provocation poliomyelitis', *i.e.*, poliomyelitis occurring within a few days of the injection of the combined antigen and involving in particular the muscle which was the site of the injection.

Owing to an ever increasing number of immunisations against Poliomyelitis, and a consequent reduction of the disease in the community, the risks of 'provocation poliomyelitis' appear negligible.

En passant it is interesting to note that Smallpox vaccination has never been incriminated in cases of 'provocation poliomyelitis'.

### **Mental Health**

Greater powers and responsibilities have been conferred on Local Health Authorities since the passing of the Mental Health Act, 1959, and it is expected that much benefit to the community will occur as a result. Continued investigation and the introduction of new pharmacological products have been responsible for many advances in the psychiatric field, but more intensive research is required into various causes of mental deficiency before we are in a position to prevent this dreadful affliction. The main hope appears to stem from the Research Departments and Laboratories.

During 1960, approximately 70 mentally retarded children continued to attend the Occupation Centre at King Street, Bradley, for the usual training. Periodic medical examinations of these children are carried out by the School Medical Officers.

Cases of acute mental illness are dealt with by the patient's General Practitioner, the Mental Welfare Officer and Medical Officers with the appropriate experience and who have been approved for such work by the Local Health Authority.

### **E. CARE OF THE ELDERLY**

As more people reach the 'elderly' age bracket the problems and difficulties associated with their care become more acute. Many elderly people, especially those living with or adjacent to sons and daughters or other relatives, who are willing and able to look after them and nurse them in times of illness do not present very grave problems. The most pitiful and pathetic aged folk are those who are virtually discarded by their sons and daughters whose only wish is to have them hospitalised or packed off to some home on any, and often the flimsiest pretext. Elderly people living alone are also a source of worry, as often they are of a sturdy independence which does not welcome help from outside sources.



In Bilston, care of the elderly is divided between the statutory agents represented by the family doctor, the staff of the Local Health Authority—in particular the Home Help, the District Nurse and the Health Visitor—and the National Assistance Board on one hand, whilst on the other, the voluntary organisations such as the 'Meals on Wheels', the Sons of Rest, and the Senior Citizens Federation, all do work of a sterling character in enabling the needy and sick aged people to lead an easier and more comfortable life in their declining years.

Occasionally, both statutory and voluntary forces are insufficient to deal with particular cases, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47 and its amendment of 1951 has to be invoked, in order to obtain the compulsory removal of aged persons to suitable accommodation. In accordance with this legislation, two elderly ladies were removed during 1960.

## PART II.

### SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

*'The world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor,  
I did not think I should live till I were married'.*

Much Ado About Nothing II. iii (262).  
William Shakespeare (1564–1616).

Bilston is situated in the heart of the Black Country in South East Staffordshire. It is an old town and has long been noted for its traditional association with the manufacture of iron and steel products. It is compact in layout, densely populated and highly industrialised.

(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
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(b) Registrar General's Estimate for mid-year 1960		33,400
--	--	--------

(5) Density of population per acre	.. .. .	18
------------------------------------	---------	----

(6) Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/60	.. .. .	9,892
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(7) Rateable Value at 1/4/61	.. .. .	£439,681
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(8) Product of 1d. rate 1960/61	.. .. .	£1,760
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(9) The following figures are kindly supplied by the Manager of the Bilston Employment Exchange.

Unemployment figures :		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
12.12.60	Wholly unemployed ..	132	72
	Temporarily stopped	244	—

(10) The total number of factories in the town is 187.

TABLE I.

Brass Founders .. .. .	4
Builders .. .. .	4
Brush Manufacturers .. .. .	1
Clothing Manufacturers .. .. .	3
Coal Merchants .. .. .	3
Engineering .. .. .	78
Enamellers .. .. .	3
Food Preparing Premises .. .. .	18
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	1	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	170	14	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	8	—	—	—



TABLE III  
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.) .. .. .	6	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc. .. .. .	21	-	-	-	-	-
Cosagues, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc. .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
	27	-	-	-	-	-

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Borough during 1960 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	..	..	..	..	548	278	270
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	23	15	8
					—	—	—
Total					571	293	278
					—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 17.09

Comparability factor for births : 0.89

Corrected live birth rate : 15.21

There is an increase from last year's figure of 14.29

### *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	..	..	..	..	15	6	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					—	—	—
					15	6	9
					—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births : 26.27

TABLE IV.

<i>Year</i>							<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1960	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.27
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	..	..	..	..	563	284	279
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	23	15	8
					—	—	—
Total					586	299	287
					—	—	—

### *Infant Deaths*

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	22	14	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	—
					—	—	—
					23	15	8
					—	—	—

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total :	40.28
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	40.14
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	43.48

For the second year in succession the Infant Mortality Rate is increased. In 1959 the figure was 29.79 and in 1958 was 20.58 per 1,000 live births. The 1958 figure, however, was an exceptional one in being the lowest ever recorded for Bilston and in being lower than the National average for that year. The National figure for 1960 is 21.7 per 1,000 live births. While generally accepted as a fairly reliable index of the healthiness or otherwise of a district and of the quality of available Medical Services, the fallacy of making dogmatic deductions from small series of figures such as ours, must once again be emphasised.

Study of Table V will show that eighteen of the twenty-three deaths occurred in the first month of extra-uterine life constituting our high Neo-Natal Rate. Unfortunately this rate has not kept pace over the years with the reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate, which is influenced by general environmental factors as higher standards of living, better housing, wider health education of the people in general, and better preventive and curative Health Services. On the other hand, Neo-Natal deaths and Still Births are mainly due to 'obstetric maternal' causes which in our present state of knowledge cannot be greatly influenced by any measures we may institute.

Deaths associated with Congenital Defects and Prematurity are denoted by a 'C' and 'P' respectively in Table V.

TABLE V  
INFANT DEATHS DURING 1960  
Taken from Death Returns

<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	
12. 2.60	8 months	Female	1A	Acute Infantile Gastro Enteritis.
29. 1.60	1 day	Male	1A	Atelectasis. C.
			B	Prematurity, Birth Weight 4 lbs. 11 ozs.
			C	Twin Pregnancy. P.
29. 1.60	18 hours	Male		— ditto. — P.
20. 3.60	1 week	Male	1A	Prematurity.
			B	Infection of Skin. P.
14. 3.60	17 hours	Male	1A	Ruptured Liver.
			B	Breech Delivery.
			2	Extreme Prematurity. P.
21. 3.60	1 week	Male	1A	Peripheral Circulatory Failure.
			B	Intra Abdominal Haemorrhage.
9. 3.60	5 months	Male	1A	Bronch Pneumonia.
			B	Fibrocystic Disease. C.
6. 4.60	3 weeks	Male	1A	Acute Virus Pneumonia.
25. 5.60	4 months	Female	1A	Meningitis.
			B	Meningo Myelocele.
			2	Hydrocephalus.
30. 4.60	2 months	Male	1A	Gastro Enteritis.
10. 6.60	1 day	Female	1A	Atelectasis.
			B	Prematurity. Birth Weight 3 lbs. 7¼ ozs. C.
6. 6.60	2 days	Male	1A	Intracranial Haemorrhage.
			B	Cerebral Birth Injury.
			2	Atelectasis. C.
26. 7.60	1 day	Male	1A	Atelectasis. C.
2. 8.60	3 months	Male	1A	Heart Failure.
			B	Infantile Type Coarctation of Aorta. C.
18.10.60	1 month	Female	1A	Bilateral Basal Broncho Pneumonia.
5. 9.60	21 hours	Male	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
24. 9.60	15 hours	Male	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
13. 9.60	1 day	Female	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
14.10.60	4 days	Female	1A	Pneumonia.
23.10.60	3 days	Male	1A	Partial Atelectasis of the Lungs and Sagittal Sinus. Thrombosis. C.
10.12.60	3 months	Female	1A	Congestive Cardiac Failure.
			B	Congenital Heart Disease. C.
16.12.60	6 hours	Male	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			B	Prematurity. P.
7.11.60	3 days	Female	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			2	Pneumonia.



### Neo Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births : 28.02

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births : 4.03

### Maternal Deaths

There were no deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during 1960.

### General Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (all causes) . . . . .	340	201	139
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population :	10.18		
Comparability Factor for Deaths :	1.44		
Corrected Death Rate :	14.66		

TABLE VI.

### Deaths during 1960 by Age Groups

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
0— 4	19	8	8	9	27	17
5—14	2	1	—	3	2	4
15—24	2	3	1	—	3	3
25—44	5	12	5	6	10	18
45—64	65	72	29	37	94	109
65 and over	108	109	96	94	204	203
	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Deaths	201	205	139	149	340	354
	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Deaths from Certain Causes

TABLE VII.

	1960	1959
Cardio-Vascular Diseases . . . . .	91	98
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System . . . . .	49	49
Cancer . . . . .	64	72
Bronchitis . . . . .	35	29
Influenza . . . . .	3	9
Pneumonia . . . . .	18	22
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	3	7

# Causes of Death during 1960 in detail

TABLE VIII.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory .. ..	2	1	3
Tuberculosis Other .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases .. ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .. ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. ..	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ..	8	4	12
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ..	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ..	1	7	8
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus) .. ..	14	2	16
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. ..	13	11	24
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. ..	1	1	2
Diabetes .. ..	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .. ..	18	31	49
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	26	9	35
Hypertension with Heart Disease	6	3	9
Other Heart Disease .. ..	11	19	30
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	11	6	17
Influenza .. ..	—	3	3
Pneumonia .. ..	13	5	18
Bronchitis .. ..	30	5	35
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	4	—	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation .. ..	1	3	4
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	25	16	41
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	3	1	4
All Other Accidents .. ..	6	3	9
Suicide .. ..	1	2	3
Homicide and Operation of War	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>340</b>



It is satisfactory to report that only three deaths from Pulmonary and none from other types of Tuberculosis occurred in 1960. A decrease of deaths from all causes by fourteen and a decrease due to all forms of cancer and malignant disease by nine is noted. Deaths from Lung Cancer remain stationary at sixteen, but instead of being sixteen males as in 1959 it is now fourteen males and two females. Deaths from Cardio-Vascular causes show a reduction by three. For the second year in succession there were not any deaths attributable to Acute Infectious Diseases.

### PART III.

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY

*'Alas, regardless of their doom,  
The little victims play!  
No sense have they of ills to come,  
Nor care beyond to-day'.*

—Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College.  
Thomas Gray (1716—1771).

A considerable reduction in the number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sections 144–147 and Section 343) is noted—183 as compared with 577 received in 1959. While there is an all round reduction, the large decrease is mainly due to the small number of cases of Measles notified in 1960, *i.e.*, 28 compared with 261 in 1959 which was a 'measles epidemic' year for Bilston.

The notifications and subsequent confirmations of Dysentery also show a large decrease—70 notifications and 26 confirmations in 1960, as against 195 notifications and 142 confirmations in 1959.

There were not any notifications received in respect of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, Small Pox, Acute Encephalitis, Typhoid, Erysipelas, or Puerperal Pyrexia.

#### Tuberculosis

Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis show a welcome decrease of 6 from 1959. While the decline of notifications is not yet as dramatic as that of deaths over recent years, there is a marked regular annual downward trend. If it continues—and there is no reason why it should not—we can expect to see Bunyan's 'Captain of the Men of Death' eradicated in the United Kingdom, within the next ten or fifteen years.

Many factors are responsible for the decrease in Tuberculosis, *e.g.*, better housing, higher standards of nutrition, advances in chemotherapy and surgical techniques, as well as good 'case finding' in which the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit has played a sterling part. The finding and isolation of unknown cases, especially those labelled 'chronic bronchitis' is assuming more and more importance, especially as environmental conditions improve. The value of referring by the General Practitioners such suspected cases to the Chest Physician, cannot be over-emphasised.



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
1960	..	..	19	1

**Measles**

Only 28 cases of Measles were reported. All were mild and none required hospitalisation.

**Scarlet Fever**

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. One was admitted to Hospital, but like those nursed at home, made an uneventful recovery.

**Diphtheria**

For the third year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria notified. This satisfactory state is undoubtedly due to immunisation of infants, with reinforcement doses to school children, carried out both at the Clinic and by General Practitioners in their surgeries.

**Whooping Cough**

Notifications of Whooping Cough received by the Medical Officer of Health in 1960 amounted to 36—a decrease of 34 over the previous year. This low incidence is most satisfactory and again shows the benefit to be derived from immunisation.

**Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**

For the second year in succession there were no cases of this dreaded disease within the Borough. Reference to Section I of this Report will show that more people each year are availing of immunisation against Poliomyelitis, and if the present intensive campaign—continues both locally and generally—it will be only a matter of a few short years before this infection will be only of purely academic interest in the British Isles.

## **Pneumonia**

Of the 17 cases notified 3 died.

## **Meningococcal Infection**

One case of Meningococcal Meningitis was notified but unconfirmed.

## **Dysentery and Food Poisoning**

As is customary in the Annual Report these diseases are considered together, because of the difficulty experienced in differentiating them on clinical grounds. As mentioned earlier, there has been a marked fall in both the notifications and confirmed cases. None of the five cases of Food Poisoning was confirmed bacteriologically.

## **Venereal Diseases**

The figures supplied, through the courtesy of Dr. Fowler, Consultant Venereologist, Wolverhampton Hospital Group, for Bilston residents during 1960, are as follows :—

<i>Total</i> 1960	..	..	..	96
Syphilis	..	..	..	6
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	16
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	74

### *Coloured*

Syphilis	..	..	..	4
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	10
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	23

### *Whites*

Syphilis	..	..	..	2
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	6
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	51

There is a slight decrease in the number of cases of Syphilis and Gonorrhoea and a slight increase in Non-Venereal conditions for which Bilstonians attended this particular clinic.

## **Scabies**

Three cases of Scabies—pre-school children—were treated in the Health Department's Disinfestation Centre during the year.



TABLE 2

## Infectious Diseases notified 1960

Disease	Total cases notified	Total cases confirmed	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	5	4	1	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	36	36	3	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	28	28	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	70	26	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia .. ..	17	17	3	18
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—
Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid .. ..	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	5	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	19	19	—	3
Tuberculosis—Meninges	—	—	—	—
C.N.S. .. ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other .. ..	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Total	183	131	9	21
Total cases confirmed during 1958			459	
Total cases confirmed during 1959			522	

TABLE 3

## Infectious Diseases—Confirmed. In Wards. 1960

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	2	2
Whooping Cough .. ..	2	2	2	1	7	5	1	4	4	8	16	20
Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	4	3	—	—	4	2	3	2	4	4	15	11
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	1	—	1	—	3	2	4	1	3	2	12	5
Measles .. ..	—	2	—	1	15	9	1	—	—	—	16	12
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .. ..	7	7	3	2	29	18	9	8	13	15	61	50



TABLE 4

## Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1958 — 1960

	1951 Census			1958		1959		1960		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—4 ..	1,611	1,548	3,159	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
5—14 ..	2,692	2,635	5,327	-	1	2	1	1	-	3	2
15—24 ..	2,376	2,656	5,032	6	1	3	3	3	2	12	6
25—44 ..	5,293	5,078	10,371	2	5	11	3	4	4	17	12
45—64 ..	3,343	3,677	7,020	5	1	6	-	5	-	16	1
65 and over ..	1,159	1,390	2,549	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Age unknown ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	16,474	16,984	33,458	13	9	22	8	14	6	49	23

TABLE 5

## Deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1958—1960

	1958		1959		1960		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	..	..	1	1	2	1	3	2
45—64	..	..	—	2	3	1	5	3
65 and over	..	..	—	—	1	1	1	1
	1	3	6	2	2	1	9	6



TABLE 6

## Tuberculosis Statistics—Number on Register at

31st December, 1960

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Pulmonary</b>	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	8	8	16
	6 to 15 years	15	12	27
	16 to 25 years	56	71	127
	26 to 45 years	100	73	173
	46 to 65 years	72	10	82
	Over 65 years	7	4	11
	Ages unknown	5	2	7
	Total all ages	263	180	443
<b>Non-Pulmonary</b>	Under 1 year	—	—	—
	1 to 5 years	6	3	9
	6 to 15 years	—	4	4
	16 to 25 years	12	5	17
	26 to 45 years	2	11	13
	46 to 65 years	—	—	—
	Over 65 years	1	—	1
	Total all ages	21	23	44
	Pulmonary all ages	263	180	443
	Non-Pulmonary all ages	21	23	44
	GRAND TOTAL	284	203	487

**TABLE 7**  
**Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wards**  
**1953—60**

Year	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
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
1960	1	—	3	—	7	1	1	3	6	2	18	6

**TABLE 8**  
**Tuberculosis Notifications**

YEAR	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
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
1960	18	6	—	1	18	7
Including Inward Transfers.						



## PART IV.

### HOUSING

*'I hold it for indisputable, that the first duty of a State is to see that every child born therein shall be well housed, clothed, fed, and educated, till it attain years of discretion'.*

—Time and Tide letter xiii.

John Ruskin (1819—1900).

Bilston, in common with the remainder of the Black Country, has its housing problems, *e.g.*, clearance and redevelopment of slum areas, building new dwellings and the rehousing of a long list of Council House applicants. This task is being tackled manfully by the appropriate Committees and Departments of the Corporation. The Health Department is mainly concerned in representing areas for slum clearance, carrying out detailed inspections of these and any other properties in respect of which complaints are received and in allocating points under certain headings, *e.g.*, health, state of property, etc., in connection with the 'Points' Scheme.

During 1960 the following areas comprising a total of 60 houses were represented for clearance. Ministerial confirmation is awaited.

#### JOHN STREET AREA 88

*John Street.* 50, 12/50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 14/60, 62.

#### JOHN STREET AREA 89

*John Street.* 66, 67/66, 68, 70, 20/70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112.

#### GEORGE STREET AREA 90

*Sweetbriar Road.* 6, 8, 10, 12, 14.

*Pump Street.* 1, 1/1, 3, 5, 7.

*George Street.* 1/56, 2/56, 3/56, 4/56, 10/56, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56.

Municipal dwellings consisting of 108 flats and 22 houses were erected and 90 unfit houses were closed or demolished.

Applicants at present 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
	1960	..	..	..	..	90
						<hr/> 1,270 <hr/>



## PART V.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*'As one who long in populous city pent,  
Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,  
Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe,  
Among the pleasant villages and farms,  
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight'.*

—Paradise Lost bk.IX, l. 445.  
John Milton (1608—1674).

#### Water

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking is responsible for the Bilston water supply following the Wolverhampton Water Order 1958. Mr. W. C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., the Wolverhampton Water Engineer, has very kindly supplied the following information.

A summary of information in respect of the area administered by the Bilston Borough Council, for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

##### (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, 1960, was 337365.

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 On Domestic Premises	
pH Value	6.9
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F.	Parts per 1,000,000 290.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	0.004
Nitric Nitrogen	7.5
Chlorine present as Chloride	28.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.04
Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Metallic Contamination	Nil
Total Hardness	—
Permanent Hardness	—
Temporary Hardness	—
Free Chlorine	Nil
This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.	

Water		
Bacteriological Examination Report		
Nature of Sample:	Tap	
	Domestic Premises	
Date and hour of collection:	21.6.60	9 a.m.
Date and hour of arrival:	21.6.60	2.15 p.m.
REPORT		
	Date of Report: 23.6.60	
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

I am indebted to Mr. A. F. B. Sidwick, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report.

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 the 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 1960, including the replacement of a further set of screening gear and cleansing (second 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 6,044 houses with numerous industrial and other premises.

All major units of the works are heavily overloaded and schemes for improvements and extensions have been under consideration by the Council.

Discussions have taken place with the Willenhall Urban District Council on proposals for (a) independent schemes for improving the Bilston and Willenhall Sewage Disposal Works, (b) a combined treatment works at Willenhall and (c) a 'modified combined' scheme at Willenhall to deal with so much sewage of Bilston as is in excess of the capacity of the Corporation's existing disposal works.

The Corporation have agreed to adopt the proposed 'modified combined' scheme and discussions are proceeding with the County Council with a view to submitting the scheme to the Ministry for approval.

## Drains and Water Closets

1,241 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the Health Department Staff.

In accordance with the Public Health Officers' Regulations 1959, Article 25(20) (S.R.&O.) 1959, No. 962, the following tabular statement has been submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

(a) INSPECTIONS			
<i>Nature of Inspection</i>			
	<i>1st Inspections</i>	<i>Re- Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Dwelling Houses</b>			
Inspections—Routine .. ..	248	148	396
Complaints .. ..	336	312	648
Dirty Condition .. ..	16	11	27
Rent Act, 1957 .. ..	23	47	70
Disinfected .. ..	4	—	4
Disinfested .. ..	82	—	82
Rodent Control .. ..	242	599	841
Infectious Disease .. ..	91	22	113
Disinfestation—Visits .. ..	58	—	58
Removals .. ..	168	—	168
Slum Clearance—Inspections ..	116	—	116
Miscellaneous	125	3	128
<b>Other Premises</b>			
Houses let in lodgings .. ..	9	4	13
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Sites ..	91	22	113
Common Lodging Houses ..	1	—	1
Factories—Mechanical Power ..	4	—	4
No Power .. ..	1	—	1
Workplaces—Outworkers ..	3	—	3
Slaughterhouses—Inspected ..	10	12	22
Meat Inspection ..	751	—	751
Premises re Fowl, Swine, etc. ..	6	3	9
Premises re Offensive Accumulation .. ..	16	1	17
Drains—Inspected .. ..	107	62	169
Colour Tested .. ..	7	—	7
Water Tested .. ..	2	—	2
Grenade Tested .. ..	2	—	2
Smoke Tested .. ..	12	—	12
Sewers—Inspected .. ..	8	3	11
Street Gullies .. ..	7	—	7
Smoke Observations .. ..	20	—	20
Visits to Plant, etc. ..	23	—	23
Water Samples—Chemical .. ..	7	—	7
Bacteriological	4	—	4
Smoke Measurement .. ..	123	—	123
Cleansing Visits .. ..	3	—	3
Miscellaneous Visits .. ..	236	—	236



	1st <i>Inspections</i>	2nd <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Food Hygiene Regulations</b>			
Cafes, Restaurants and Kitchens	8	8	16
Works Canteens and Kitchens ..	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops.. ..	2	2	4
Market—Food Stalls .. ..	51	5	56
Visits .. ..	74	—	74
Shops—Meat .. ..	8	3	11
Food .. ..	121	3	124
Others .. ..	4	—	4
Mobile .. ..	5	—	5
Food Stalls and Carts .. ..	2	—	2
Public Houses .. ..	5	—	5
Bakehouses .. ..	2	2	4
Ice Cream—Retailers .. ..	13	—	13
Samples .. ..	11	—	11
Sweets—Bacteriological ..	6	—	6
Miscellaneous .. ..	21	—	21
Warehouses .. ..	1	—	1

(b) NOTICES

Informal Notices Issued .. ..	144
Informal Notices Complied .. ..	166
Statutory Notices—Section 92–93	
Public Health Act, 1936—Issued ..	38
Complied ..	53

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

<b>Dwelling Houses</b>	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Internal Rooms</b>			
Ventilation Improved .. ..	2	—	2
New Windows Provided .. ..	13	—	13
Old Windows Repaired .. ..	35	4	39
Window Cords Renewed .. ..	49	5	54
Dampness in Walls Remedied ..	—	1	1
Plaster of Walls Repaired .. ..	22	1	23
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired ..	24	2	26
Floors Repaired .. ..	11	1	12
Old Fireplaces Repaired .. ..	3	1	4
Doors Repaired .. ..	1	1	2
New Fireplaces Provided .. ..	—	2	2
Ovens Provided .. ..	—	1	1
<b>Staircases</b>			
Steps Provided or Repaired ..	4	—	4
Plaster or Ceilings Repaired ..	1	—	1
<b>Sculleries and Wash Houses</b>			
Windows Repaired .. ..	2	—	2
Window Cords Renewed .. ..	—	1	1
New Sinks Provided .. ..	—	—	1
Water Service Pipes Repaired ..	5	—	5
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	4	—	4
Wash Coppers Repaired .. ..	1	—	1
Floors Repaired .. ..	2	—	2
Doors Repaired .. ..	1	—	1
Roofs Repaired .. ..	2	—	2
<b>External</b>			
Roofs Repaired .. ..	85	29	114
Eaves Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided .. ..	38	16	54
Down Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided .. ..	11	3	14
Down Spouts Disconnected from Drain .. ..	1	—	1
Walls Repaired and/or Repointed	18	3	21
Chimney Stacks Repaired and/or Repointed .. ..	12	2	14
Doors Repaired .. ..	3	6	9
Steps Repaired .. ..	1	1	2
New Chimney Pot Provided ..	2	—	2
Under Floor Ventilation ..	1	—	1



<b>General</b>	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yard Paving or Surfaces Re- paired .. .. .	2	—	2
<b>Outbuildings</b>			
<b>Coal Stores</b>			
Roofs Repaired .. .. .	2	—	2
Doors Repaired .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Water Closets</b>			
Roofs Repaired .. .. .	10	2	12
Eaves Spouts Provided and/or Repaired .. .. .	1	—	1
Walls Repaired or Repointed ..	4	—	4
Doors Repaired .. .. .	4	—	4
New Cistern Fixed or Repaired..	22	2	24
New Pedestals and Seat Repaired or Provided .. .. .	13	1	14
Soil Pipes Repaired .. .. .	4	—	4
Water Supply Provided, Pipes Repaired .. .. .	6	1	7
<b>Waste Water Closets</b>			
Converted into Standard Type W.C's. .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Drains</b>			
Repaired or Relaid .. .. .	20	3	23
Cleansed .. .. .	3	7	10
Inspection Chambers Built or Repaired .. .. .	11	—	11
Self Cleansing Gullies Provided	4	—	4
New Inspection Chamber Covers Provided .. .. .	4	2	6
<b>Ashbins</b>			
Renewals .. .. .	—	776	776
Provided for New Houses ..	—	117	117
Bin Sales .. .. .	—	24	24
<b>Infested Premises</b>			
Freed from Vermin .. .. .	1	—	1
<b>Offensive Accumulations</b>			
Removed .. .. .	4	2	6
<b>Animals so Kept as a Nuisance</b>			
Nuisance Abated.. .. .	1	—	1

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites</b>			
Removed .. .. .	4	1	5
<b>Food Shops</b>			
Improvements under Food Hy- giene Regulations .. .. .	5	—	5
Outside Display Improved ..	—	5	5
Wash Hand Basins Provided ..	9	—	9
Redecoration .. .. .	—	2	2
Clean Towels, Soap, etc., Pro- vided .. .. .	7	—	7
Hot Water Provided .. .. .	10	—	10
Sink Provided .. .. .	1	—	1
First Aid Equipment Provided ..	10	—	10
Counters Re-covered or Re- newed .. .. .	—	3	3
<b>Fried Fish Shops</b>			
Towels, Nailbrushes, etc., Pro- vided .. .. .	3	—	3
<b>Other Food Premises</b>			
Cleansed—Limewashed ..	1	—	1
Structural Improvements ..	3	—	3
Hot and/or Cold Water Provided or Improved .. .. .	8	—	8
Drainage Provided or Improved	4	—	4
Wash Hand Basins Fitted ..	5	—	5
Sinks Provided .. .. .	2	—	2
Nailbrushes Provided .. .. .	1	—	1
Ventilation Improved .. .. .	1	—	1
Counter Display Improved ..	—	5	5
First Aid Dressings Provided ..	2	—	2
Other Improvements .. .. .	8	2	10
New Sanitary Acc. Provided ..	2	—	2



### **Disinfestation**

103 houses were disinfested. Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays.

In addition there were 186 removals, the tenant's effects and furniture being treated by HCN gas and the bedding sterilised in the steam disinfecter.

### **Rodent Control**

The total number of complaints received during the year was 242—31 more than last year. 841 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, 1960 to 31st March, 1961)

#### Collection

The collection service proceeded uneventfully during the year, and in the main a weekly collection was maintained. There have been occasions when there has been a fall-back after Bank Holidays but this has been overtaken in the following two weeks in most cases. It is only when a vehicle breakdown follows a Bank Holiday that the fall-back is serious. The question of at least one new vehicle is under consideration but purchase was postponed until a decision on multi storey flats in the Great Bridge Road area was reached. This type of housing development where a large refuse container in place of the standard ashbin is used, necessitates the employment of a specially modified vehicle.

During the period two vehicles were returned to the makers for extensive body repairs and this called for the hiring of a vehicle.

It will be seen that the Karrier vehicle 8443 RE, our latest acquisition, and diesel powered, gave twice the mileage per gallon of the petrol engined vehicles. The Morris EUK 269 is now obsolete after fourteen years of excellent service and has been removed from salvage collection—its place being taken by Karrier 980 ARF.

However satisfactory the transport, the service cannot continue without its human element and it is with pleasure that I report that all the men have given splendid service this year, with the very minimum of absenteeism and sickness, and there has been the lowest turnover of manpower for many years.

A large turnover of men, who are dissatisfied with the conditions or cannot make the grade, is almost traditional in the cleansing service and it is therefore extremely gratifying to know that our own men appear content. I myself am most grateful to them and so should be the people of the town.

For some years now, in order to build up a resistance to infection, Universal Vitamin Pills have been available to the men and a number very sensibly take advantage of this. However, there was a poor response to the offer of free Influenza vaccination.

Owing to a number of complaints from householders that their ashbins had not been emptied, an investigation was made and it was found that in most cases this was due to the householder not being at home at the time the men arrived and the bin being inaccessible. Each collection team is now issued with cards which can be left at the house to inform the tenant that the men have called. The main trouble is that unforeseen circumstances render it difficult for the men to guarantee their arrival on the same day each week. We may reach the stage when this will be possible and then 'the man who empties the bin and the lady who fills it' will both be happy.



TABLE 1

Vehicle Description	Date Purchased	Total Mileage	Mileage 1960-1961	Galls. Fuel Used	M.P.G.
EUK 269 MORRIS 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER (Salvage Collection)	1947	66,189	378	61	6.20
SRE 770 S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	July, 1949	46,780	3,430	852	4.03
URE 962 S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	October, 1950	45,325	4,525	1,215	3.72
XRE 939 S.D. 16 cu. yd. 'FORE & AFT' REAR LOADER	July, 1952	37,731	3,831	1,081	3.54
980 ARF KARRIER 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	January, 1954	29,883	2,783	430	6.47
8443 RE KARRIER 18 cu. yd. 'DUAL TIP' REAR LOADER	February, 1960	5,593	4,853	627 DERV	7.74
KRO 723 HIRED S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	No.: 60 Mar.: 61	—	953	289	3.30

TABLE 2  
HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
491,200	3,463	7,598

**TABLE 3**  
**MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED**

Trade Refuse	Waste Paper	Total
Tons	Tons	Tons
195	94	289

### Salvage

Collection figures are given below :—

**TABLE 4**

MATERIALS	1960-61			1959-60		
	Weight		Value	Weight		Value
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper .. .. .	93	18	775	71	4	514
Kitchen Waste .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glass .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scrap Metal .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	8
			775			522

### Disposal

Total tonnage has increased this year and all has been taken to the trial composting plant. It is regrettable to have to report once again that the company which undertook this service for the Council have not managed to fulfil the promise that laboratory experiments indicated was possible.

One good feature of the system is that all refuse is now weighed on a public weighbridge where previously test weighings were made and the tonnage thereafter was estimated. It has revealed that our estimates of tonnage were too high in the past and it has given a more realistic picture of costs. It may be that where our costs compare unfavourably with those of other towns, those towns are a little over optimistic in their estimate of tonnage.



However, costs based on tonnage do not these days give a true indication of the work done, as the present day house refuse is at least half as bulky again as that of pre-war years. It is this change in character of refuse, composed as it is of so much light and bulky wrapping material and light hollow containers, that has made necessary ever larger bodied collection vehicles, the most modern of which have to employ hydraulic compaction of the refuse to ensure a good payload.

Total refuse disposed of was 7,793 tons as compared with 7,194 tons last year.

### Operational Statistics

Area (statute acres) .. .. .	1,871 acres
Population at 30th June, 1960 (Registrar General's Estimate) .. .. .	33,400 persons
Total refuse collected (tons) .. .. .	7,887 tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) .. .. .	12.93 cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,579
Premises from which collection is made at least once weekly .. .. .	99% of total
Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to dis- posal point (single journey) .. .. .	2 miles
Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as es- timated percentage of total collection .. .. .	Nil
Total refuse disposed of .. .. .	7,793 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded) Trial Com- posting Scheme .. .. .	100%

### Analysis of income and tonnage :—

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
	£	Tons
Scrap Metal .. .. .	6	—
Waste Paper .. .. .	775	94
	<hr/> 781	<hr/>
Trade Refuse .. .. .	344	195

### Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

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

# Atmospheric Pollution.

## DEPOSIT GAUGES

Total solids are as follows :—

January	Park Site .. .. .	..	50.11 tons per square mile				
"	Dudley Street Site	..	35.30	"	"	"	"
February	Park Site .. .. .	..	17.13	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	30.60	"	"	"	"
March	Park Site .. .. .	..	22.34	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	36.90	"	"	"	"
April	Park Site .. .. .	..	36.47	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	31.50	"	"	"	"
May	Park Site .. .. .	..	48.19	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	27.42	"	"	"	"
June	Park Site .. .. .	..	48.28	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	32.62	"	"	"	"
July	Park Site .. .. .	..	No Sample Collected.				
"	Dudley Street Site	..	64.05 tons per square mile				
August	Park Site .. .. .	..	133.37	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	33.95	"	"	"	"
September	Park Site .. .. .	..	32.06	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	33.52	"	"	"	"
October	Park Site .. .. .	..	42.87	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	24.48	"	"	"	"
November	Park Site .. .. .	..	32.13	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	36.17	"	"	"	"
December	Park Site .. .. .	..	17.81	"	"	"	"
"	Dudley Street Site	..	20.37	"	"	"	"



# Daily Mean Concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> and Smoke

Month						SO <sub>2</sub> p.p. 100m.	Smoke mg/100m <sup>3</sup> .
January	..	Average	..	..	..	2.8	32
		Highest	..	..	..	8.3	126
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.0	7
February	..	Average				No Readings	
		Highest	..	..	..		
		Lowest					
March	..	Average	..	..	..	3.4	18
		Highest	..	..	..	7.6	38
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.4	8
April	..	Average	..	..	..	4.1	20
		Highest	..	..	..	9.2	48
		Lowest	..	..	..	2.2	10
May	..	Average	..	..	..	4.4	10
		Highest	..	..	..	6.8	18
		Lowest	..	..	..	2.2	4
June	..	Average	..	..	..	3.5	7
		Highest	..	..	..	6.2	13
		Lowest	..	..	..	2.0	4
July	..	Average	..	..	..	2.7	9
		Highest	..	..	..	4.4	13
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.5	4
August	..	Average	..	..	..	2.7	9
		Highest	..	..	..	4.4	16
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.1	6
September	..	Average	..	..	..	2.8	11
		Highest	..	..	..	7.1	34
		Lowest	..	..	..	0.4	1
October	..	Average	..	..	..	3.1	14
		Highest	..	..	..	8.7	30
		Lowest	..	..	..	0.7	4
November	..	Average	..	..	..	2.3	18
		Highest	..	..	..	5.8	30
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.1	12
December	..	Average	..	..	..	2.8	21
		Highest	..	..	..	6.5	52
		Lowest	..	..	..	1.0	6

# LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS

Mgs. of SO<sub>3</sub> per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch 'G'

Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Library ..	3.51	3.20	3.74	1.98	1.50	0.90	0.69	0.95	1.43	2.78	1.41	3.10
Park ..	3.09	3.17	3.26	2.00	1.49	1.08	1.06	0.98	1.21	2.66	2.54	3.34
Wellington Road ..	3.17	2.99	2.93	1.80	1.24	0.79	0.63	0.69	—	1.98	4.00	3.01
Ettingshall Road ..	2.89	2.39	2.93	1.75	1.29	0.90	0.59	0.67	1.30	2.28	1.02	2.80
Vicarage, Bradley ..	3.67	3.52	3.47	2.14	1.80	1.18	0.80	0.95	1.54	3.30	2.39	3.86
Moxley Hospital ..	—	3.30	3.45	2.20	—	1.11	0.78	0.78	1.67	2.82	2.70	3.61
Fire Station ..	5.88	6.43	6.88	5.36	2.61	2.13	1.54	1.85	3.20	6.76	3.98	6.29
Lunt Road Depot ..	4.54	3.55	4.73	2.54	2.31	1.48	1.04	1.33	2.23	3.92	3.30	4.69
Freeman Place ..	2.87	2.74	3.02	1.49	1.31	0.94	0.60	1.20	1.39	2.40	2.30	3.04
Centre Health Clinic..	3.66	3.17	4.19	1.98	1.94	1.34	1.11	0.94	1.88	3.24	3.08	3.87
Tomhill Waterworks..	1.29	1.42	2.37	0.75	0.74	0.52	0.26	0.52	0.73	1.28	0.61	1.33



# CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	315	—	—	1,166	30,795	—
Number inspected ..	315	—	—	1,166	30,795	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	46	—	—	29	5,839	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	14.60	—	—	2.49	18.96	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	1,765	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	5.73	—
<b>Cysticerci:</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

## CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	..	4
Oedema	..	..	..	1
Pig Paratyphoid	..	..	..	1
Extensive and Severe Bruising	..	..	..	—
Abnormal Odour	..	..	..	—
				—
				6
				—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Bacon .. ..			24	Decomposition.
Bacon .. ..			67½	Bone Taint.
Cheese .. ..			71	Mould.
Tinned Goods ..		8	13½	Blown and/or Decomposition.
“ “ ..		2	100¾	Taint.
“ “ ..			1¼	Damaged.
Fresh Meat ..	17	12 10	54 55¼	See Table.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>109¼</b>	

### Food Preparing Premises

35 inspections have been made of food preparing premises.



DISEASE	Carcase and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomach and Intestines
	<i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	<i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	<i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	<i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	<i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	<i>T. C.</i>
Abscesses .. .. .		2- 0-108	10		1- 36	
Ascarides Lumbricoides ..					1- 7- 90	
Bruising .. .. .						
Cavernous Angioma ..					13	
Cirrhosis .. .. .					2- 54	
Cysticercus Bovis .. ..				12		
Distomatosis .. .. .					1- 96	
Haematoma .. .. .						
Hydatid Cysts .. .. .					16	
Hydronephrosis .. .. .						
Infarcts .. .. .						
Nephritis .. .. .						
Pericarditis .. .. .				4- 82½		
Peritonitis .. .. .					1- 7- 69	11
Petechiae .. .. .						
Pleurisy .. .. .			19-106			
Pneumonia .. .. .			2- 0- 28			
Strongylosis .. .. .			10			
Tenuicollis Cysts .. ..					4	
Tuberculosis .. .. .	5- 97	8-16- 10	78½		1- 47½	2
Urticaria .. .. .						
Pyæmia .. .. .	1- 44					
Emaciation .. .. .	1- 8					
Actinomycosis .. .. .		16				
Echinococci .. .. .			27		1- 90	
Congestion .. .. .			18			
Retention Cysts .. .. .						
Hepatitis .. .. .					9	
Fatty Degeneration ..					12½	
TOTALS ..	8- 37	8-19- 22	3- 1- 53½	4- 94½	3- 4- 9	15

## E (EXCLUDING COWS)

Lungs	Spleens		Omentum		Peri-Toneums		Mesenteries		Parts of Carcases		TOTALS		
	T. Lbs.	C. Lbs.	T. Lbs.	C. Lbs.	T. Lbs.	C. Lbs.	T. Lbs.	C. Lbs.	T. Lbs.	C. Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
		2½	2		4				37			5	107½
											1	7	90
									3				3
													13
												2	54
													12
												1	96
		5½											5½
													16
3½													3½
		34½											34½
2½													2½
												4	82½
	3- 93				5- 33				2-108		2	11	26
5¼													5¼
												19	106
											2	0	28
													10
			3										7
	7						13½		110		9	7	105½
									1-105			1	105
												1	44
												1	8
													16
												2	20
													18
23													23
													9
													12½
34½	4- 31½		5		5- 37		13½		6- 27		17	10	55¼



### Ice-cream

There are 141 registered premises selling ice-cream in the Borough. 13 shops were inspected and 11 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were :—

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	10
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	1
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	—
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	—

In addition 4 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.

<b>Milk</b>	Pasteurised	..	..	..	3
	Sterilised	..	..	..	2
	T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	6
					—
					11 <i>All genuine.</i>
					—

## General Foods

Number of samples taken	..	67
Number of samples genuine	..	62
Number of samples adulterated..		5

## Classification

Minced Beef	Grilling Mushrooms
Minced Beef and Gravy	Calamine Lotion B.P.
Beef Dripping	Cream Cakes
Casserole Steak	Egg Custards
Plain Flour	Dairy Ice Cream
Lemon and Barley	Cremery Ice Lollies
Glycerine Lemon and Ipec Mixture	Ice Cream
Peeled Melons in Syrup	Ice Lollies
Ham and Tongue	Butter
Cocktail Sausages	Pea with Ham Soup
Self Raising Flour (2 samples)	Butter Madeira
Sweetened Coffee and Chicory Essence	Fresh Fruit Blackcurrant Jam
Lard	Mustard Sauce
Pork Sausage with preservative (6 samples)	Ginger Cordial
Apiol and Steel Pills	Cherries for Cocktails
Pork Sausage	Fancy Red Salmon
Chopped Piccallili	Danish Butter
Tablets of Menthol B.P.C. and Eucalyptus Oil B.P.C.	Desiccated Coconut
Seville Orange Marmalade	Aspirin Tablets B.P.
Currie Powder	Port
Breakfast Cereal	Aniseed Cordial
Creamed Mushrooms	Pink Champagne Perry
Cream of Chicken Soup	Cream British Sherry
Corned Beef Hash	Wine Cocktail
Lemon Barley Glucose Drink	Cooking Oil
Pickled Red Cabbage	Parsley Sauce Mixture
Junior Aspirin	Beetroot in Wine Vinegar
Cheese Crisps	Chocolate Fudge Cigarettes
Jelly—Orange Flavour	Fruit Crush
Malt Vinegar	Rum Fudge
	Rum Truffles



## Particulars of Adulterated Samples

### 26C/A—MINCED BEEF—INFORMAL

Contains only 74.1% of meat with 25.9% of gravy and so should be described as "Minced Beef in Gravy".

*Labels amended.*

### 62 C/A—CASSEROLE STEAK—FORMAL

32.8% of the sample consists of gravy, the sample should be described as "Casserole Steak in Gravy".

*Whole question referred to C.C.A.*

### 67 C/A—HAM AND TONGUE—FORMAL

Should contain not more than 5% of ingredients other than Ham and Tongue and this sample contains 26.7% of such ingredients. Sold under an incorrect description.

*Labels amended to omit the words "All Meat".*

### 1 C/C—PORK SAUSAGES CONTAINING PRESERVATIVES—FORMAL

Should contain 65% of meat, sample is 23.4% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.

*A fine of £20 together with £3 7s. 0d. costs was imposed.*

### 97 C/D—CREAM CAKES—FORMAL

Cream like filling consisted mainly of imitation cream.

*Designation changed to "Fancy Cakes".*

## 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) .. ..	47
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	18
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	34
Fish Shops .. .. .	5
	<hr/>
	322
	<hr/>

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### Food Hygiene Regulations

A total of 358 food premises were visited. 101 improvements were effected, and a number of improvements of a structural nature are in progress.

## PART VI.

### HEALTH EDUCATION

*'Let not England forget her precedence of teaching nations how to live'.*

—The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce.  
John Milton (1608–1674).

Health Education embraces a very wide field and includes such diverse activities as impressing on young school children the necessity for hand washing after using the toilet and carrying out large scale immunisation campaigns against the various infectious diseases. The methods employed are as varied as the subjects. Many Local Health Authorities employ special Health 'Educators', who are usually nurses or Health Visitors, who have undergone a course in this type of work and use various gimmicks to put across their 'stuff'. Pamphlets, posters, group discussions, lectures, press articles, advertisements in papers, radio and television, are all utilised in this effort to prevent disease and promote better health among all members of the community.

The most important function of Infant Welfare and Local Authority Ante Natal Clinics today is educational and for this reason, if for no other, the recommendation put forward at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association at Sheffield in July, 1961, that such clinics were no longer necessary and should be closed down in the interests of economy, cannot be seriously accepted.

In their day to day work, Public Health Inspectors, Health Visitors and General Practitioners, and everyone who is associated with either the Curative or Preventive Health Services, make some contribution towards educating the public in better methods of living.



## HOME SAFETY

Home Safety has increased in importance in recent years, owing to the ever mounting death roll from accidents in the home. If as many people succumbed each year to Acute Infectious Diseases as meet their death through misadventure in the home—approximately 7,000 per annum—there would be a public outcry and demands that 'something must be done about it'. Unfortunately, the majority of people and of Local Authorities is apathetic towards Home Safety and regards these 'accidents' as inevitable, which, of course, they are not—the most of them being preventable.

The Bilston Home Safety Committee was one of the first to be established in the United Kingdom and there was indeed a time when it was the only functioning one of its kind in the West Midlands. This voluntary body under the aegis of the Bilston Corporation, which donates generously to the Home Safety Committee funds, strives hard in its fight to reduce the appallingly high incidence of domestic accidents. While indulging in the usual type of propaganda, *e.g.*, displaying posters, issuing book markers, distribution of appropriate instructional booklets, holding of Poster and Essay competitions amongst the school children, is indeed very helpful, a much more intensive campaign is required. I feel television, especially the commercial channel, is not utilised sufficiently, since it is such an ideal medium for disseminating this type of propaganda, impinging as it does upon the auditory and visual receptors of so many millions of the population. The Minister of Health would do well to divert some of the vast sums being spent on the Curative Health Services to this important aspect of Preventive Medicine.







