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BRIERLEY HILL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

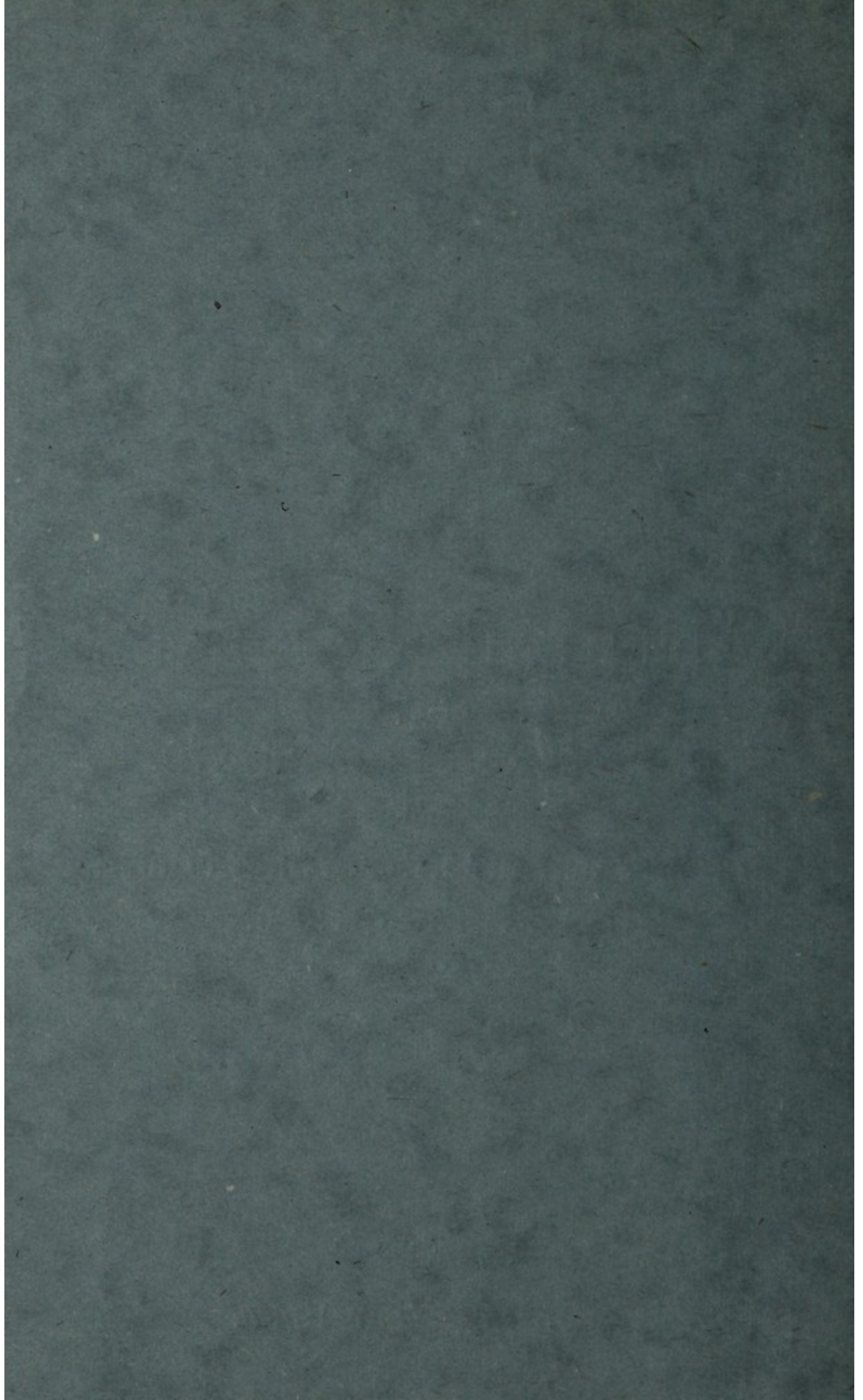
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR & PUBLIC

CLEANSING OFFICER.

For The Year 1947.



**BRIERLEY HILL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



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of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
and  
**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR & PUBLIC  
CLEANSING OFFICER.**

For The Year 1947.

**BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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Councillor S. WOODHOUSE, C.C., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. H. HOUGH

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## BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

+ N. V. HEPPLER, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire and Medical Superintendent West Midlands Joint Hospital Board)

+ H. J. PARKER, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:  
Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

+ J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.  
Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

+ C. H. CRAWFORD, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.,  
Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

+ W. WHITFIELD, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., A.M.I.P.C.,  
Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

Veterinary Inspector:

D. J. ANTHONY, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

D. HOWIE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Analyst:

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N. BELLAMY, F. L. BILLS, D. A. HULLAND, L. SMITH, J. BIRCH

+ Salary contribution made by Exchequer Grants.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Brierley Hill.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit Report for the year 1947. Dr. N. V. Hepple resigned in January, 1948, having obtained another appointment in the Ridings of Yorkshire.

The general health of the Urban District continued to be satisfactory. The birth rate again shows an increase over the previous year, while the death rate is slightly higher than 1946. The main causes of death were Diseases of the Heart, Cancer and Bronchitis. Deaths of infants under one year of age were extremely low and compared very favourably with the rest of the country.

In his last report Dr. Hepple called attention to the Housing situation and I should like to emphasise that the provision of new houses to replace those Unfit Houses is most urgent; also that the provision of a house for each separate family at the earliest time is most important for the welfare of the people residing in this area.

H. W. PLANT,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

**Statistics:—**

Registrar General's estimate of population (mid. 1947)	47,060
Area (in acres) ... ..	5,932
Rateable Value (1st April, 1947) ... ..	£178,780
Sums represented by a Penny Rate, 1947-8 ... ..	£713

**Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1947.**

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births : Legitimate ... ..	984	490	494
Illegitimate ... ..	31	17	14
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>1015</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>508</b>

Birthrate per 1,000 civilian population: 21.57.

	Total	Males	Females
Still Births : Legitimate ... ..	33	22	11
Illegitimate ... ..	3	1	2
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 34.25.

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths ... ..	520	264	256

Death rate per 1,000 civilian population: 11.05.

**Comparability Factor.**

The Registrar General has again found it impossible to supply this factor, which was used to make comparisons possible with death rates of other areas.

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—**

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	24.63
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	24.59
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	32.26



Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	78

## NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

### Births.

The Birth Rate of 21.57 shows a slight increase on that of 20.04 for the previous year. It is higher than the rate of 20.5 for England and Wales, but less than that of 22.2 for 148 towns of a comparable size.

### Deaths.

The Death Rate of 11.05 is higher than that for the previous year, 10.67. It compares with a rate for the whole country of 12.00, and for the smaller towns of 11.9.

The most frequent causes of death in order of importance numerically were Heart Disease, Cancer, Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions, Bronchitis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These categories included 317 deaths.

### Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 531.

### Infantile Mortality.

25 children under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 24.63 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 41 for the country as a whole, 36 for the towns of comparable size, and 46.3 for 1946.

The following table gives the ages at death of 22 of these children, about whom information was collected locally:—

				Male	Female	Total
Days	0—1	...	...	2	1	3
	—7	...	...	3	3	6
	—14	...	...	—	—	—
	—21	...	...	—	—	—
Months	—6	...	...	4	6	10
	—12	...	...	2	1	3
Total under one year				11	11	22

#### Maternal Mortality.

No maternal death occurred during the year.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

## REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

Diseases.	1947		Total.
	Male.	Female.	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .. ..	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .. ..	—	1	1
Scarlet fever .. ..	—	—	—
Whooping cough .. ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	2	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. ..	11	14	25
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	2	2	4
Syphilitic diseases .. ..	—	—	—
Influenza .. ..	—	2	2
Measles .. ..	1	1	2
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—
Acute infantile infective encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F) .. ..	1	7	8
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	6	10	16
Cancer of breast .. ..	—	9	9
Cancer of all other sites .. ..	24	21	45
Diabetes .. ..	1	3	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .. ..	32	36	68
Heart disease .. ..	45	46	91
Other diseases of circulatory system .. ..	10	6	16
Bronchitis .. ..	34	17	51
Pneumonia .. ..	7	10	17
Other respiratory diseases .. ..	3	—	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. ..	6 <sup>a</sup>	1	7
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. ..	1	—	1
Appendicitis .. ..	1	—	1
Other digestive disorders .. ..	5	8	13
Nephritis .. ..	1	2	3
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .. ..	—	—	—
Other maternal causes .. ..	—	—	—
Premature birth .. ..	3	1	4
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disorders .. ..	4	6	10
Suicide .. ..	6	1	7
Road traffic accidents .. ..	6	—	6
Other violent causes .. ..	9	3	12
All other causes .. ..	45	47	92
	264	256	520

**Birthrates. Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.**

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin'tve County	Brierley Hill
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births :					
Live Births.. ..	*20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	21.57
Still Births .. ..	*0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.76
Deaths :					
All Causes .. ..	*12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	11.05
Typhoid and Paratyphoid .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough .. ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria .. ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04
Influenza .. ..	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.04
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles .. ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths all causes under 1 year of age	†41	47	36	37	24.63
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age .. ..	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.9

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

\* Rates per 1,000 population.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever .. ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever .. ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.51
Whooping Cough .. ..	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.23
Diphtheria .. ..	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.47
Erysipelas .. ..	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.42
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles .. ..	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	15.09
Pneumonia .. ..	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.87

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

(a) Notifications :

Puerperal Fever .. ..	} 7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21	} 3.81
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..					

## (b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-146, 148-150 Other	Brierley Hill
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85	0.00

Abortion—Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England & Wales.

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis.	Brierley Hill
9	5	0

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire. This arrangement has many advantages, as it enables a proper integration of the Council's health functions with those services which are administered by the County Council. The Medical Officer also acts as Medical Superintendent for the Kingswinford Isolation Hospital of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

### Post Mortem Room.

22 bodies were brought to the post mortem room during the year. The causes of death were as follows:—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	8
Suicide	...	...	...	7
Misadventure	...	...	...	2
Accidental Death	...	...	...	5

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### **Milk and Other Foodstuffs.**

Sampling was undertaken throughout the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. Particulars of the results will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

### **Meat.**

Meat inspection occupied a great deal of the time of the Inspectors. Details are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Two Veterinary Officers are employed by the Council to inspect meat at a large meat factory in the area.

The Chief Veterinary Officer reports as follows:—

I beg to submit the annual report, showing the activities of the veterinary department during the year 1947.

The following tables show the meat condemned as unfit for human food, both home killed and imported.

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1947 — PIGS. No. Slaughtered : 34,629.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stom- achs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Tuberculosis ..	14	1045	570	558	563	264	105	30	1174	27 Fq.
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ..	—	—	2199	459	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Endocarditis ..	—	—	—	—	284	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ..	—	—	—	—	321	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltrn. ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1875	—	—
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pyæmia ..	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2 Hq.
Congestion ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq.
Empyæmia ..	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	—	1	1 Hq.
Peritonitis ..	1	1	1	1	703	3	3	2	13	3 Fq.
Lymphosarcomata ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Jaundice ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Septicæmia ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Oedema & Emaciation ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Swine Erysipelas ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in Lairage ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Died in Transit ..	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	66	33	—
Totals ..	59	1094	2820	1070	1923	311	152	1997	1231	31 Foreqrs. 3 Hindqrs.

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1947 — SHEEP. No. Slaughtered : 21,521.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testin	Other Parts
Muelleriasis ..	—	—	3012	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ..	—	—	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ..	—	—	226	46	273	—	—	—	—	—
Melanosis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq.
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fascioliasis ..	2	2	2	2	3433	2	2	4	2	—
Empyema ..	1	3	14	12	3	1	1	2	1	18 Fq.
Carcinoma ...	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Oedema & Emaciation ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	—
Jaundice ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in lairage ..	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	14	7	—
Died in transit ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—
Totals ..	19	22	3350	85	3727	19	19	39	19	19 Foreqrs.



MEAT CONDEMNED, 1947 — CATTLE. No. Slaughtered : 6778.

Diseases.	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Actinomycosis	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 Tongues
Actinobacillosis	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	266 Fq. 12 Hq.
Tuberculosis	211	952	1501	687	261	219	246	422	839	11 Flanks. 1 Shin
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	2	2	386	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	269	—	147	—	1	1	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	—	1935	—	—	—	—	—
Bac. Necrosis	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	—
Cavernous Angioma	—	—	—	—	203	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fractures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq. 1 Hq.
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Empyæma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	2	2	1	1	118	—	303	—	—	2 Fq.
Bruising	1	1	2	2	1	29	1	4	19	1 Flank
Oedema and Emaciation	5	5	1	1	5	1	5	10	1	1 Fqr.
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Mastitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	599 Udders
Died in transit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Totals	223	980	2167	704	2741	259	561	459	868	3 Tongues, 270 Fqs. 13 Hqs. 12 Flanks 1 Shin 599 Udders

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1947 — CALVES. No. Slaughtered : 2415

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts
Tuberculosis ..	1	1	8	8	8	1	7	2	1	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Melanosis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Pyæmia ..	2	5	5	4	6	2	4	4	2	1 Hq.
Septicaemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fevered Flesh ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Jaundice ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Oedema ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Bruising ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Totals ..	9	12	23	20	22	9	18	21	9	1 Hq.

## Summary of Imported and Canned Goods Condemned.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Beef, frozen .....	1	16	1	1	—
Mutton, frozen ... ..	—	—	3	11	8
Pork, frozen ... ..	—	1	1	19	—
Beef, dehydrated ... ..	—	2	2	8	—
Mutton, dehydrated ... ..	—	—	3	24	—
Tongue roots ... ..	—	—	—	32	8
Bacon ... ..	—	—	1	22	15
Canned Mutton ... ..	—	—	—	18	—
Minced beef loaf ... ..	—	—	—	9	4
Pork sausage ... ..	—	—	1	4	6
Sausage meat ... ..	—	—	3	3	7
Stewed steak ... ..	—	—	—	13	5½
Ham ... ..	—	—	—	1	8
Irish stew ... ..	—	—	1	5	—
Meat and Veg. ... ..	—	—	—	14	—
Vienna sausage ... ..	—	—	—	3	11
Steak and Kidney ... ..	—	—	—	6	—
Kidney & fat ... ..	—	—	—	19	12
Boned turkey ... ..	—	—	—	1	—
Baked beans ... ..	—	—	—	1	—
Spaghetti ... ..	—	—	—	4	—
Potatoes ... ..	—	—	—	2	—
Potted meat ... ..	—	—	—	—	5½
Patte de fois gras ... ..	—	—	—	—	6
Corned beef ... ..	1	4	2	18	13½
Ox Runners, 44 bundles					
Total ... ..	3	9	2	20	13½

### Post Mortem Examinations on Animals Dead in Transit.

Cause of Death	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Anaemia . . . . .	—	1	—	1	2
Empyaema . . . . .	—	—	1	—	1
Enteritis . . . . .	—	—	—	1	1
Entero-toxaemia . . . . .	—	—	3	—	3
Fractures and Bruising . . . . .	1	—	—	—	1
Impaction of Rumen . . . . .	—	1	1	—	2
Internal haemorrhage . . . . .	—	—	2	1	3
Peritonitis . . . . .	—	—	2	—	2
Pneumonia . . . . .	—	1	5	1	7
Septicaemia . . . . .	—	2	1	—	3
Syncope . . . . .	—	—	1	35	36
Total . . . . .	1	5	16	39	61

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Diphtheria.

30 notifications of Diphtheria were received during the year, compared with 34 in 1946. Seven of these on investigation proved to be tonsillitis and one scarlet fever.

The 22 confirmed cases give an attack rate of 0.47 per 1,000 population as compared with 0.71 for the previous year and 0.14 for 148 towns of comparable size.

Two deaths occurred during the year, giving a mortality rate of 0.04 per 1,000 population.

### Immunisation.

The routine immunisation or re-immunisation of entrants has been carried out during the year in the schools, while toddlers have been dealt with at the Infant Welfare Centres of the County Council.

	Under 5 years.	5—14 years.	Total
Number immunised during the year ...	567	95	662

In addition 393 children received a reinforcing dose during 1947, making a total of 1,772 thus re-immunised up to the end of the year.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

72 notifications were received during the year, giving a notification rate of 1.51 per 1,000 civilian population as compared with 1.10 for 1946 and 1.37 for the whole country. The disease was mild in type.

### **Erysipelas.**

20 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.42.

### **Pneumonia.**

41 cases were notified during the year. The notification rate is 0.87 compared with 0.79 for the country as a whole.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Four notifications were received during the year, giving a rate of 3.81 per 1,000 total births. The County Council provide consultant services and hospital treatment where necessary.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Two notifications were confirmed, giving a rate of 1.97 per 1,000 live births.

### **Whooping Cough.**

There were 58 notifications as compared with 1942 for the previous year. The notification rate of 1.23 compares with 2.22 for the whole country.

**Acute Poliomyelitis.**

An epidemic of acute poliomyelitis, commonly known as infantile paralysis, affected the country during the summer months.

Of the three notifications in this area, two were confirmed, the final diagnosis in the third case being influenza.

**Measles.**

There were 710 notifications compared with 47 for the previous year, giving a notification rate of 15.09 per 1,000 civilian population.

**Scabies.**

The Scabies clinic continued to hold two sessions weekly during the year. 44 patients attended, 23 of these being school children. They made 77 total attendances.

**Tuberculosis.**

56 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were brought to notice by notification or otherwise. This gives an attack rate of 1.34 per 1,000 population. There were 10 new non-pulmonary cases.

(Table giving a summary of register for 1947—Over page)

The following table gives a summary of the register for 1947 :

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
Number on register 1st January, 1947 .. .. .	166	60	181	55	462
New Notifications, 1947 ..	21	2	27	6	56
Number restored to register, having been removed in previous quarter .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification .. .. .	5	2	3	—	10
Number removed from register 1947 .. .. .	14	3	22	4	43
Number on Register 31st December, 1947 .. .. .	178	61	189	57	485

Age and Sex of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis—1947.

TABLE VIII.

Age	New Cases.				Cases removed from register due to Death			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery
0—1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
—5	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
—15	2	1	5	4	—	—	—	—
—25	8	—	10	1	—	—	8	1
—35	9	—	8	1	1	1	6	—
—45	6	—	3	—	2	—	1	—
—55	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—
—65	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	26	4	30	6	9	2	17	1

### Cancer.

There were 78 deaths from Cancer during 1947, giving a death rate of 1.66 per 1,000 population.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

No. of cases originally notified during year ended December 31st, 1947, and of Final numbers after corrections of diagnosis, etc.

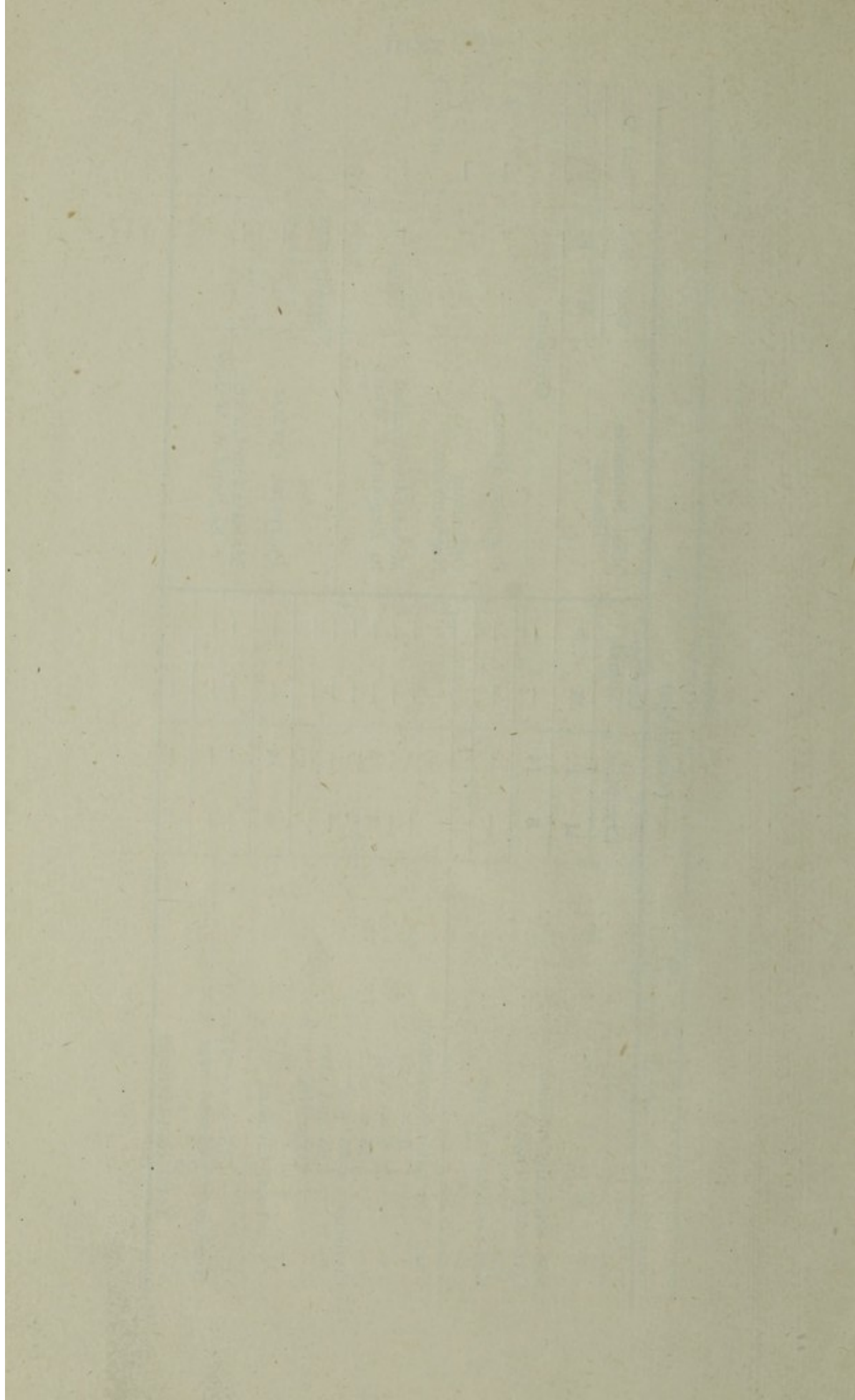
Ages (NK = unknown)	Scar. Fever		Whoop. C'gh		Ac. Poliomyelitis		Ac. Polioencephalitis		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified												
Civilians (all ages) ..	30	41	33	25	1	2	—	—	361	350	11	19
Non-civilian (all ages) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final Nos. after correction :												
0 —	—	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	19	12	—	—
1 —	2	2	11	7	—	—	—	—	87	87	1	—
3 —	5	8	9	11	—	—	—	—	105	103	2	1
5 —	15	15	7	3	1	—	—	—	143	130	2	10
10 —	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	—	2
15 —	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2
25 and over	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Age NK	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Total civilians ..	31	41	33	25	1	1	—	—	361	349	6	16
Non. Civ. { 15 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ or NK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



(Continued)

	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica		Enteric or Typhoid		Paratyphoid Fevers	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified : Civilians (all ages) ..	26	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilian (all ages) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final Nos. after correction :												
Civilians	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 0 — ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 5 — ..	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 15 — ..	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 45 — ..	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Age NK ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians ..	26	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civ. { 15 — or NK ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ 45 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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I present herewith the Report on the work carried out in my Department during 1947.

Generally some progress has been made in repairs to houses during the year, but the chief difficulty is the high costs, particularly when work is requested at worn-out houses, in order to keep the houses in occupation for a few more years.

There are a considerable number of houses which, but for the war, would have been demolished by now. The clamour by the tenants is for new houses and by the owners to be relieved of the high cost of keeping sub-standard houses in occupation.

The control of Civil Building Licences by this Department so far as it related to repairs to dwellings was of some assistance in arranging for urgent repairs to receive priority, in addition this brought more work into the Department.

Public Cleansing made more progress in mechanisation by the purchase of a second Lewin sweeper collector and a bulldozer for disposal work.

The cost of house refuse collection and disposal when reduced to figures easily understandable reveals that the service was operated for **1.07d.** per week per head of the population. When applied to houses the cost per week per house was **3.80d.**

Salvage of waste materials increased again over the previous year, the total income being £4,356.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1947

(Houses other than Council Houses)

	Inspections	Re- Inspections
<b>Housing</b>		
Section 9 ... ..	5	—
Section 11 ... ..	3	—
Section 12 ... ..	1	—
Other Visits ... ..	6	1
 <b>Public Health Acts.</b>		
Houses ... ..	858	3006
Overcrowding ... ..	49	38
Water Supply ... ..	3	—
Entertainment Houses ... ..	12	1
Ashes accommodation ... ..	168	51
Accumulations ... ..	24	2
Drainage inspection ... ..	105	3
Drainage tested ... ..	3	—
 Cesspools ... ..	 3	 1
Urinals ... ..	5	—
Sewers and street gullies ... ..	17	1
Infectious Diseases ... ..	98	—
Rag and Bone Dealers ... ..	1	—
Smoke Abatement ... ..	54	3
Licensed Premises ... ..	29	7
Rivers Pollution ... ..	8	—
Public Conveniences ... ..	61	—
Building Licences ... ..	751	330
 <b>Bye-Laws.</b>		
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	125	4
Stable Premises ... ..	5	—
Piggeries ... ..	36	5
Slaughterhouses ... ..	158	—
Petroleum Act ... ..	18	4

**Factory Act.**

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	157	...	35
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—

**Food and Drugs Act.**

Food Premises and Markets	...	...	...	...	...	234	...	13
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	3
Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	—
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	120	...	148
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	86	...	25
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	55	...	1
Interviews with Owners on property	...	...	...	...	...	605	...	—
Meat and Food Surrenders	...	...	...	...	...	43	...	—
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	537	...	6

**Complaints.**

405 complaints were received against 396 for 1946; 228 related to stoppages in drain pipes. All of these received immediate attention, a workman from the Cleansing Department being sent to the property to relieve the nuisance.

137 of the complaints related to defective housing conditions, all being investigated and action being taken where necessary.

Two complaints were received relating to smoke nuisance and in both cases action was taken which resulted in the cutting down of smoke to reasonable proportions.

On two occasions during the year considerable emissions of grit came from one of the Steelworks in the area, which has been the cause of trouble over a number of years. On each occasion representations were made to the Owners, who took steps to minimise the nuisance. The reconstructions scheme mentioned in my Report for 1946 relating to this works is now under way, and when this is completed, which is expected within the next two years, the nuisance from grit and smoke should disappear.

During the year the Public Health Committee had under consideration the measurement of atmospheric pollution, but certain difficulties arose as to the possibility of obtaining the services of a Chemist, and the matter was adjourned until more suitable arrangements could be made.

## Infectious Disease Prevention.

98 visits were made to cases of Infectious Diseases, including revisits; 90 houses were disinfected.

58 houses were dealt with for the elimination of bed bugs and the following table shows the work carried out in this direction:—

COUNCIL HOUSES				OTHER HOUSES			
Vermin	No. of houses sprayed	No. of sprayings	Vermin found	Vermin	No. of houses sprayed	No. of sprayings	Vermin found
Bugs ...	49	49	5	Bugs ...	9	11	6
Cock-roaches	—	—	—	Cock-roaches	1	1	—
Ants ...	3	3	—	Ants ...	—	—	—
Fleas ...	1	1	1	Fleas ...	1	1	—
Flies ...	—	—	—	Flies ...	1	1	—
Total ...	53	53	6	Total ...	12	14	6

### Sanitary Improvement carried out as a result of Inspections made and Notices served (work actually carried out)

#### Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	172
House brickwork repointed	...	...	...	...	16
Gables, cement rendered	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	27
Chimney pots provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Defective brickwork of walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater spouting repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	87
Walls and Ceilings:					
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	150
Walls and Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	190
New firegrates provided	...	...	...	...	6
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	13
New doors provided	...	...	...	...	6
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	25

New door sills provided	...	...	...	...	3
Latches provided	...	...	...	...	5
Door steps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
New windows provided	...	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	70
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	100
Top sashes of windows hung	...	...	...	...	5
Window fasteners provided	...	...	...	...	26
New window casements provided	...	...	...	...	4
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	25
Quarry floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	15
Livingroom floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Bedroom floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	30
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Hand rails on stairs provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Pantry floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Pantries limewashed	...	...	...	...	15
New covers to cellar lights provided	...	...	...	...	1
Cellar walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	2
Verandahs repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	3

### Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc.

Wash-house roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	39
Wash-house doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Wash-house chimneys repointed or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
W.C. walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	7
Water taps renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Wash-house windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-house floors repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Insanitary brick sinks demolished	...	...	...	...	1
New earthenware sinks provided	...	...	...	...	6
Repairs to sink, brickwork, etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Water supply provided to sinks	...	...	...	...	9
Wash-houses limewashed	...	...	...	...	8
Wash-house doors repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Washing boilers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	24
Washing furnaces provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Brickwork of washing boilers repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Water closet brickwork repaired or repointed	...	...	...	...	4
Water closet roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Leaking W.C. joints repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Water closet floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3



Water closet flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	72
Water closet pans provided ... ..	27
Water closet seats renewed ... ..	14
Rainwater spouting provided or repaired to wash- houses and W.C.'s ... ..	4
Water closets limewashed ... ..	4
Coal stores repaired ... ..	3
Yards paved or paving repaired ... ..	5
Ashbins provided ... ..	982
Boundary walls rebuilt ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	1

### Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleared ... ..	238
Drains repaired or reconstructed ... ..	5
Inspection chambers provided ... ..	1
New covers provided to inspection chambers ... ..	1
Trapped drain inlets provided ... ..	2
Waste pipes repaired ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	1

### Slaughterhouses.

Walls limewashed after notice ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	1

### Food Premises.

Food shops cleansed ... ..	1
Hot water supply provided ... ..	6
Fish Frying rooms cleansed ... ..	2
Accumulations removed ... ..	1

### Smoke Abatement.

Smoke nuisance remedied ... ..	5
--------------------------------	---

### Shops Act.

Forms required to be exhibited ... ..	1
Stores cleansed ... ..	4
Hot water service provided ... ..	1

**Ice Cream Premises.**

Sterilising apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	1
Separate rooms for manufacture	...	...	...	...	7
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	3

**Licensed Premises.**

Sanitary conveniences limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences not screened	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water service provided	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1

**Milk and Dairies.**

Walls of cowsheds limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty cowsheds	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1

**Factories and Workshops.**

Factories and workshops limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
W.C.'s or Urinals limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4

**Bakehouses.**

Limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	1
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

**Other Nuisances.**

Stables limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans removed	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	...	...	...	...	2
Piggeries cleansed	...	...	...	...	1

**Letters and Notices Sent Out.**

Preliminary notices and housing schedules	...	...	...	...	1094
Letters	...	...	...	...	880

**Statutory Notices.**

## Public Health Act, 1936:

Section 39	...	...	...	...	...	3
Section 44	...	...	...	...	...	1
Section 45	...	...	...	...	...	15
Section 75	...	...	...	...	...	19
Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	79

**Legal Proceedings.**

## Public Health Act, 1936:—

## Section 93-94.

Work required at 10 and 11, Buckpool, Brierley Hill, not carried out. Order made for work to be completed within 28 days. Work carried out in default at a cost of £41 10s. 6d.

## Section 254.

Distributing toys to children under 14 years of age. Fined 10s. 0d.

Distributing toys to children under 14 years of age. Fined £5 and 2 gns. solicitors costs.

## Section 269.

Using ground as Camping Site without a licence. Fined £5.

Using ground as Camping Site without a licence. Case withdrawn on payment of costs.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Obstruction of a Sampling Officer. Fined £5 and 3 gns. costs.

**HOUSING ACT, 1936**

One house was represented as being unfit during the year and was dealt with by the Committee:—36, Caledonia, Quarry Bank. Demolition Order.

During the year the attention of the Public Health Committee was again called to the large number of unfit houses—180—which are still in occupation, and after representations the Housing Committee agreed to allocate a small number of houses for rehousing families residing in houses on which Orders are operative.

There are now 14 houses on which Orders under the Housing Act are operative opened under licence.

The housing needs of this area from the number of applications for rehousing appear to be as great as ever, but I am of the opinion that until a comprehensive housing survey has been carried out, which should be initiated by the Ministry of Health, and cover the whole of the country, the proper housing needs of any Authority cannot be discovered. Until this is done, it is not possible for an Authority to prepare any long term plans.

One of the points which requires more consideration is the type of houses. At the present time there is a greater demand for two bedroom houses.

Another factor which a national survey should reveal is the number of persons who reside in areas and who work in other districts.

### **Overcrowding.**

The known number of Statutory overcrowding cases has increased by 15 over 1946 as the following table shows, but until a complete survey of the area is made the total number of statutory cases of overcrowding cannot be assessed.

There are still quite a large number of families living in two bedroom houses who require three bedrooms, also a large number of two and three person families residing in three bedroom houses owned by this Authority, the policy as to whether such tenants should be forced to exchange is one which must cause any Authority considerable difficulty in arriving at a decision fair to all, but from a Public Health view it is wrong for large families with growing families to be forced to remain in overcrowded conditions whilst two or three person families occupy three and four bedroom houses and are assisted by subsidy so to do.

Number of known statutory overcrowding cases, 1946 ...	130
New cases ... ..	20
	<hr/>
Abated, 1947 ... ..	150
	5
	<hr/>
Known cases, December, 1947 ... ..	145
	<hr/>

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 1,275 pigs were examined at the two Bacon factories still remaining under my supervision and this total represents the whole of the animals slaughtered on the premises. 8.9 per cent. of these were found to be affected with tuberculosis.

In addition 601 pigs were examined on private premises against 749 for 1946.

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned at various shops:

- 31½ lbs. Cheese.
- 14½ lbs. Figs.
- 3 lbs. Flour.
- 42 lbs. Currants.
- 56 lbs. Codling.
- 30 lbs. Seedless Raisins.
- 122 lbs. Tea.
- 38¾ lbs. Bacon.
- 4¼ lbs. Butter.
- 72 lbs. Oat-flakes.
- 53 lbs. Prunes.
- 32 pkts. Shredded Wheat.
- 3 jars Jam.
- 2485 tins Misc. foodstuffs.

As far as possible the whole of these were utilised either for fat rendering or for feeding of animals, so that very little was actually wasted.

The total weight of meat and food condemned (excluding tinned goods) was 19cwts. 2qrs. 20lbs.

No.	Article	Formal	In-formal	Remarks
27	Milk ... ..	22	5	Genuine.
3	„ (Pasteurised) ...	3	—	Genuine.
1	„ (Sterilised) ... ..	1	—	Genuine.
1	„ ... ..	1	—	Slightly deficient in solids-not-fat.
1	„ ... ..	1	—	5% deficient in fat.
1	„ ... ..	—	1	Contains added water 10.5%.
1	„ (Goats) ... ..	—	1	23.2% deficient in fat. 4.7% deficient in solids-not-fat.
2	„ ... ..	2	—	Taken in course of transit by County Inspector.
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
38	Miscellaneous foodstuffs ...	5	33	Genuine.
1	Peppermint Water ... ..	—	1	Appears to be lime juice cordial.
1	Baking Powder ... ..	—	1	Available Carbon Dioxide — 4.0% instead of 10% deficiency — 60%.
1	Almond Paste Substitute ...	—	1	Infested with live acari and eggs.

**Milk.**

During the year 55 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and set out below is a table showing the analysis of results.

Plate Counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.	1/1000th c.c.
29	16	4	6	33	3	7	12

Samples were also submitted as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test ... 38 satisfactory, 11 unsatisfactory  
Phosphatase Test ... .. 32 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.

In addition 15 samples of milk produced in this area were submitted for examination for the detection of Tuberculosis; these gave negative results.

### Ice Cream.

In May the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations came into operation and an inspection was made of all premises licensed under Sec. 14 manufacturing or retailing ice-cream. In consequence 15 persons were given notice to attend before the Public Health Committee to show cause as to why registration should not be refused or cancelled.

In nine cases, registration of the premises was cancelled, and six cases were adjourned to enable the owners to comply with requirements of the Order and to obtain the necessary apparatus.

In a number of other cases the applicants were notified that they would not be permitted to manufacture ice-cream on the existing premises until they complied with the Regulations; practically all discontinued, the premises being registered for the Storage and Sale only. Registration of premises for Storage and Sale was agreed only where the applicant provided proper means for sterilisation and the washing of hands.

At the end of the year the following premises were registered:

Manufacture and sale	...	17
Storage and sale	... ..	28

Five samples of ice-cream were submitted for chemical analysis, all of these were reported as being genuine. In two cases a small amount of boric acid was noted, but it was assumed this was probably due to the use of margarine. The definition of ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act includes water ices, and in this area in order to increase the turn-over of ices, several persons commenced to manufacture 'lollipops' or 'fruities.' In each case the person concerned was informed that registration was necessary and until they could comply with the standard of cleanliness required the premises would not be registered. Five samples were submitted for bacteriological examination; in all cases coli was not present in 1 c.c. and direct platings was sterile.

39 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for the Methylene Blue test.

### Food Premises.

During the year the following new premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Fish Fryers	... ..	4
Manufacture of sausage, brawn, etc.	...	3

making a total of 20 premises on the register.

### Milk and Dairies.

The following are registered under the Milk and Dairies

Regulations, 1926-1943:—

Dairymen	...	...	...	...	34
Retail Purveyors of Bottled Milk	...				250

There are 17 cowsheds in the area; these are in fair condition.

Licences issued under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1942:—

Supplementary:—

Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	3

### Slaughterhouses.

There are 22 slaughterhouses in the area; four of these only are in use at the present time.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 63 slaughtermen licensed to carry out the work of slaughtering.

### Water Supply.

Four samples of water from the mains supply were taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, all being certified as fit for drinking.

One sample of the sewage effluent at the Council's Farm was taken; this was most satisfactory.

Two samples were taken from a water course into which effluent from a Galvanising Works discharged. The analysis disclosed pollution. This matter is the subject of negotiations with the view to a more efficient plant being installed for neutralising acid.



## FACTORIES

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	162	168	nil
Factories without Mechanical Power	120	31	"
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including Outworkers' premises).	18		"
Total ... ..	300	199	—

## Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .	—	—	—	—
Inadequate temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—				
Insufficient ... ..	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	5	6	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	9	9	—	—

Eight outworkers lists were received notifying 13 outworkers.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

One female operative is engaged wholly on this work, dealing with all private and industrial premises. In this district industrial concerns contract with this Department to deal with infestation of both rats and mice on their premises, 40 contracts being opera-

tive during the year, the income for the work carried out being £157 16s. 11d.

The following is the work dealt with during the year:—

	No. of Premises Visited	No. of Treat- ments	Total Visits
1. By contract ... ..	40	126	565
2. Private houses ... ..	137	145	394
3. Council properties ... ..	9	21	70
4. Amblecote U.D.C. ... ..	9	13	44
	195	305	1073

Two sewer treatments were carried out:—

Number of manholes baited ...	77
Number of pre-bait takes ... ..	15
Number of 'C' takes ... ..	4

It will be seen from the above that this Authority's sewers are reasonably clear.

#### Private Dwellings (Special Scheme).

This survey, which was commenced in 1946, was completed during 1947 to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Food. In all 11,898 inspections were made and 258 Private Dwellings were found to be infested.

#### SHOPS ACT

There are 709 shops on the register.

#### PETROLEUM ACT

There are 98 licensed premises to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licensed being 88,900 gallons. Licence fees amounted to £60 10s. 0d.

In addition four licences to store Calcium Carbide were issued; total amount 15,904lbs.; licence fees £2 5s. 0d.

#### CAMPING SITES

One application was received during the year for a site to be licensed for camping at the Kingfisher Lido. The site com-

prised of ground approximately 15 acres. The site plan prepared by the architect for the owner was somewhat original, being entirely different from the usual type of camping site. Subject to certain restrictions and provision of water supply, sanitary and washing accommodation the licence was granted.

An application was also received from an owner of one piece of ground for the site to be licensed for one caravan; this application was refused.

A camping site for four caravans which was first licensed in 1944 was again licensed for a period of 12 months.

### **RENT RESTRICTION ACT**

One application under the above act was received and one certificate was issued.

### **CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING**

The issue of licences relating to the repair of houses, etc., is dealt with by my Department, a considerable amount of time being devoted to this work.

In all 688 applications were received, 11 of these being disapproved. The total cost of work licensed was £36,735. Several infringements were observed and warnings issued, one case was taken before the magistrates and resulted in the defendant being fined £100 and costs.

### **TOWN AMBULANCE**

The staff employed for this work is two male drivers and two female attendants, four vehicles being in use, as follows:—

- 1 Morris Ambulance.
- 1 Morris Ambulance-auxiliary.
- 1 Hillman Ambulance.
- 1 Wolseley Car.

An order for a new Austin ambulance was placed in September.

The work carried out has increased considerably over 1946, the total number of patients dealt with being 3,682, an increase of 855; mileage 31,330 against 23,300.

One hundred and twenty-nine cases dealt with were for outside authorities as follows:—

Seisdon R.D.C. ... ..	87
Amblecote U.D.C. ... ..	34
Stourbridge B.C. ... ..	1
Staffordshire County Council ...	4
Sedgley U.D.C. ... ..	3
	<hr/>
	129
	<hr/>

The following table shews type of cases dealt with:—

Maternity cases ... ..	117
Treatment cases ... ..	2616
Discharges ... ..	346
Admissions ... ..	462
Accidents ... ..	89
Removals ... ..	42
	<hr/>
	3672
	<hr/>

H. J. PARKER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

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This section of the Report deals with work up to the 31st March, 1948.

### Staff.

The following staff is employed:—

					Collection, Disposal & Sweeping.		• Salvage
Men	...	...	...	...	32	...	6
Women	...	...	...	...	—	...	9
Boys	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

Staff difficulties were not so acute as the previous year, there being an increase of five employees over 1946, but still more men are required before the Department can carry out work at a pre-war standard.

### Vehicles.

The following is a list of vehicles operated by this Department:

- 1 S.D. Freighter (11 cubic yards).
- 3 S.D. Freighters (7 cubic yards).
- 1 S.D. Gully/Cesspool Emptier, dual purpose body  
(7 cubic yards).
- 3 Morris (1 2-ton and 2 1-ton).
- 1 Ford (1-ton).
- 2 Lewin Road Sweeper Collectors.
- 1 Fordson half-track bulldozer.
- 1 Austin utility van (Foreman).

Four additional vehicles were purchased during the year, one being a Lewin Sweeper. Two vans, Morris and Austin ex-Army vehicles, were purchased from the Ministry of Supply. The Fordson half-track vehicle was also an ex-Army vehicle.

### Collection.

The system of emptying ash bins fortnightly was revised during the year and the period of emptying was reduced to ten or eleven days. It was not possible to revert back to the weekly collection due to the shortage of labour, but as additional staff become available this will take place as early as possible.

During the year, 1,164 ash receptacles were supplied by this Department to owners and to houses owned by the Council. All were of a standard type and galvanised.

I again wish to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, Local Authorities may provide and maintain dustbins for the reception of house refuse. In my opinion ownership of ash receptacles or dustbins by the owners or occupiers is the weak link in the collection of house refuse. Authorities throughout the country are coming to this conclusion and are considering taking over the ownership of all ash receptacles. I think this is a matter which all progressive Authorities will be considering in the future, the advantages are so many. When one realises that in this area over one-third of the ash receptacles are owned by the Authority, the taking over of the remainder would not place any undue strain on the Council from the financial angle.

The following table shows the loads moved by the various vehicles:—

Vehicle.	Number of loads.					Total
	Bins	Fixed Receptacles	Cesspools	Trade	Ashes from Sandfield Hospital	
S.D.1 ...	422	25	—	4	13	464
S.D.2 ...	1344	—	—	—	—	1344
S.D.3 ...	1293	—	—	—	—	1293
M.C.4 ...	124	9	—	15	110	249
S.D.5 ...	116	58	220	2	82	478
S.D.9 ...	1320	—	—	—	—	1320
Horse and Cart ...	—	371	—	134	—	505
<b>Total 1947</b>	<b>4619</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>5653</b>
<b>Total 1946</b>	<b>4212</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>5067</b>

### Disposal.

All refuse, either from houses or from the streets and gullies, was disposed of by tipping at the Leys Disposal Ground, which is an area of ground purchased for refuse disposal operations. This ground will take all house refuse, etc., from the Council's present area for a considerable number of years. The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

Three or more men, according to the numbers available, are employed on the tip for control purposes, but during the year difficulties arose owing to the type of work, and it became very difficult to replace men leaving; in consequence the question of dealing with the refuse by mechanical means was considered. After a trial, one half-track Fordson Tractor was purchased, and fitted with a blade so that it could be used as a bulldozer. The use of the vehicle has meant that one man can spread and deal with the house refuse easily, and instead of four men only one workman and the machine are now employed.

All refuse taken to the disposal ground is first of all weighed. The following is the tonnage of materials taken to the Leys

Disposal Ground:—

House refuse	... ..	14,073 tons
Road sweepings	... ..	2,957 tons
		17,030 tons

Table showing the Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1948

Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Collection and Disposal
Revenue Account	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure ...	10,325	1,232	11,557
Gross Income ... ..	495	63	558
Net Cost ... ..	9,830	1,169	10,999
Unit costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross Expenditure per ton ... ..	14 8	1 9	16 5
Gross Income per ton ...	8½	1	9½
Net cost per ton ...	13 11½	1 8	15 7½
Net cost per 1,000 population ... ..	£ 207	£ 25	£ 232
Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	735	88	823

Total refuse collected (actual)	...	...	...	14,073 tons
Population (Midsummer)	...	...	...	47,400
Area (Statute acres)	...	...	...	5,932
Weight per 1,000 population per day	...	...	...	16 cwts.
Number of houses and premises	...	...	...	13,352
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£178,780
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£713
Rate in £ (Collection and Disposal)	...	...	...	1s. 3½d.

Vehicles are included under Gross Expenditure collection at a daily rate, which amount includes running costs, petrol, oil and depreciation.

### Street Cleansing.

A second Lewin Sweeper was purchased for use in street cleansing and with two of these vehicles the whole of the curbed and channelled streets in the area are being swept at least once each week, some twice and others daily.

Generally speaking the vehicles are most successful; without these the lifting of ashes, etc., which were placed on the roads during severe weather in the early part of 1947 would have been extremely difficult. For example, in the month of April, 1947, the two sweepers lifted 485 tons from the roads. The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

	Working Days.	No. of loads.	Weight. Tons.	Loads of water.
No. 1 Machine	249	542	1255	197
No. 2 Machine	272	581	1365	275
	—	—	—	—
		1123	2620	472
Street sweepings moved by horse vehicle or other vehicles	...	448	337	
	—	—	—	—
Total	...	1571	2957	472
	—	—	—	—



### **Gully Cleansing.**

There are 1,752 street gullies, all of which are emptied by mechanical means. In all 6,173 cleansings were effected and 361 loads removed.

### **Cesspools.**

The number of cesspools cleansed during the year was 110, 220 loads being removed.

### **Public Conveniences.**

There are seven for males and three for females in the area, all receiving daily attention. The sum of £12 has been collected during the year.

### **Salvage.**

During the year an attempt was made to collect salvage at the same time as house refuse, each freighter having a trailer attached, and in addition to the house refuse collecting gang, two women were attached for the collection of paper, etc. This system, after operating for five or six months, was eventually discarded, as the workmen employed on the collection of house refuse were more concerned in the collection of house refuse and consequently the whole system was revised.

The collection of tins and bottles at the houses ceased and householders were notified that a fortnightly collection of waste paper and rags only would take place.

The area was divided into three sections, one van with a driver and female collector dealing with each section. Immediately this was brought into operation an increase in the amount of waste paper collected was shown.

Again there was an improvement during the year in the amount of salvage returned to industry, the total being 921 tons, an increase of 73 tons over 1946. Waste paper increased by 32 tons and kitchen waste by  $21\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

The electric baling press which was ordered in March, 1946, had not been delivered at the end of the year. This was due to the fact that the electric power in this area was different to the greater part of the country, a suitable electric motor not being available.

The collection of waste food was fairly satisfactory, but the distribution of small waste food containers was not extended due to the large number of people in the area who are either keeping pigs or poultry. At the present time there are over 1,250 persons known to be keeping pigs in the urban area.

There are 460 3-gallon containers, waste from these being collected weekly; in addition there are 100 communal waste bins placed in various streets, these are emptied twice weekly. Waste is also collected from a number of works canteens.

It will be observed from the tables below that considerable amounts of salvaged materials have been returned to industry between April 1940 and March 1948. The total tonnage of all materials amounted to 7,768 tons and the value being £30,522.

	Tons 1940	Tons 1941	Tons 1942	Tons 1943	Tons 1944	Tons 1945	Tons 1946	Tons 1947
Paper ... ..	317½	371	365	309½	310¾	225½	245	277
Tins ... ..	213	155½	216	174½	129	122	149½	162
Metal ... ..	100	74½	92	37	24½	42½	52	61
Broken glass, Jars and Bottles ...	77	102¾	190½	167	130	110	88½	82
Condemned Meat	1½	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	1	1
Household Bones	8	8	13½	14	15	8½	8½	7
Textiles ... ..	20½	38	36	34	25¼	18½	12¼	18
Kitchen Waste...	58½	303½	332	400½	320	226½	291½	313
Miscellaneous ...	—	11¼	16	22	2½	—	—	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>1263½</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>958½</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>848¼</b>	<b>921</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Paper ... ..	1,352	1,606	2,448	2,467	2,301	1,866	1,860	2,246
Tins ... ..	293	252	439	273	231	217	244	336
Metal ... ..	231	234	283	94	81	148	124	151
Broken glass, Jars and Bottles ...	169½	447	780	639	447	460	487	493
Cndmnd. meat & H'sehold Bones	32	45	54	66	65	45	47	41
Textiles ... ..	90	247	624	499	438	278	271	330
Kitchen Waste .	89	510	540	595	483	339	483	471
Miscellaneous ...	3	12	33	43	11	8	5	26
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>2,259½</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>4,676</b>	<b>4,057</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>4,094</b>

In addition collection allowances of £262 were received via the Board of Trade, £215 being for Kitchen Waste and £47 for Waste Paper.

The following is the statement of expenditure and income for the year ended 31st March, 1948.

EXPENDITURE		£	INCOME		£
Salaries and Wages	... ..	2,230	Waste Paper	... ..	2,246
Superannuation	... ..	59	Textiles	... ..	330
Repairs & Maintenance of			Bottles, Broken Glass, etc.	... ..	493
Buildings	... ..	13	Scrap Metal	... ..	151
Haulage	... ..	959	Tins	... ..	336
Materials & other expenses	... ..	556	Bones	... ..	41
Equipment purchased	... ..	419	Kitchen Waste	... ..	471
Income over Expenditure	... ..	120	Miscellaneous	... ..	26
			Board of Trade Collection		
			Allowances:—		
			Kitchen Waste	... ..	£215
			Waste Paper	... ..	£47
					262
Total	... ..	<u>£4,356</u>	Total	... ..	<u>£4,356</u>

H. J. PARKER.

Cleansing Superintendent



