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BROMSGROVE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957.



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FOR THE YEAR
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Chairman of the Council—COUNCILLOR C. H. TOMLINSON.

Vice-Chairman—COUNCILLOR J. J. HUDSON.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.:

Chairman—COUNCILLOR MRS. K. M. FIELD.

COUNCILLOR F. BERWICK.

COUNCILLOR H. ECCLES.

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COUNCILLOR L. G. WAGSTAFF.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health—To 31/3/57.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

C. H. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health—From 1/9/57.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

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Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

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Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.

Liverpool University Meat and Food Certificate.

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Shops Inspector, Petroleum Officer.

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Additional Public Health Inspector.

H. BROOKS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate—To 30/6/57.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

D. TONGE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector—From 1/8/57.

Clerks :

Miss P. WALLACE AND Miss H. WALLACE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FIELD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the report on the state of Public Health in the Urban District of Bromsgrove and the work carried out by the Health Department during the year 1957.

Dr. E. T. Shennan held the post of Medical Officer of Health until 31st March, 1957, and I am sure he would join in expressing our appreciation of the work done by Mr. Holden, the Public Health Inspectors and Staff of the Health Department and also the assistance and co-operation of officers and staff of other departments.

The estimated population increased by 1,110 to 30,910. There was also an increase of 591 in the number of inhabited houses, the total at the end of the year being 9,678.

The Birth Rate increased to 16.76 (13.83) and the Death Rate to 11.77 (9.89).

Among the major causes of death, diseases of the heart and circulatory system, cancer and other malignant disease and respiratory disease, excluding tuberculosis, continued to take a comparatively heavy toll.

Notifications of Infectious Disease showed an increase again, mainly due to the high incidence of Measles, there being 515 cases in the year compared with 4 in 1956.

Action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, to remove two cases to institutions—one an old man of 87 years, the other an old lady of 87 years, who died nine days later.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. H. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 9,228 acres.

POPULATION :

Registrar General's estimate of Population in mid 1957, showed an increase of 1,110 compared with 1956.

1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1938
30,910	29,800	28,980	29,020	28,700	23,540

(Census, 1951 : 27,924).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957 :—

1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1938
9,678	9,087	8,657	8,419	8,201	6,902

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957 : £302,098.

Product of Penny Rate : £1,267/6/10 (£645/17/3d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1956 figures given in brackets).

Live Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	241	243	484 (395)
Illegitimate ...	9	10	19 (13)
Total ...	250	253	503 (408)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population).

1957	1956	1955	1954	1938	1957 (England and Wales).
16.76	13.83	14.74	15.27	17.8	16.1 (15.7)

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 live births) :

1957	1956	1955	1954	1938	1957 (England and Wales)
37.77	31.86	33.1	36.80	33.5	46.0

Still Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	4	1	5 (9)
Illegitimate ...	—	—	— (—)
Total ...	4	1	5 (9)

Still Birth Rate (Still Births per 1,000 total births) :

1957	1956	1955	1954	1938	1957 (England and Wales)
9.84	21.58	20.83	13.61	27.9	22.4

Deaths.

<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
195 (154)	192 (170)	387 (324)

Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population) :

1957	1956	1955	1938	1957 (England and Wales).
11.77	9.89	11.59	12.5	11.5

Major Causes of Death.

1. Disease of the heart and circulatory system ...50.13 % (52.77 %)
2. Cancer and other malignant disease16.28 % (15.43 %)
(leukaemia and aleukaemia) ... 1.03 % (—)
3. Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) 14.96 % (12.65 %)
4. Violent and Accidental Deaths 4.39 % (2.47 %)

Tuberculosis has now been omitted as it no longer is among the major causes of death.

Percentage distribution of Deaths.

<i>Age at Death</i>	%1957	%1956	%1955	%1954
0—1 year ...	3.10 %	2.78 %	3.10 %	4.28 %
1—14 years ...	2.33 %	1.54 %	2.17 %	2.45 %
15—44 years	5.17 %	5.25 %	5.88 %	5.20 %
45—64 years ...	20.67 %	22.53 %	19.50 %	25.38 %
65 and over ...	68.73 %	67.90 %	69.35 %	62.69 %

Maternal Mortality (Maternal deaths per 1,000 total births).

1957	1956	1955	1954	1938	1957 (England and Wales)
Nil.	4.79	Nil.	Nil.	1.17	0.47

Infant and Neonatal Mortality.**Infant Deaths** (Deaths of Infants under 1 year).

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	6	5	11 (9)
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1 (—)
Total ...	7	5	12 (9)

Neonatal Deaths (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks).

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	5	2	7 (5)
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1 (—)
Total ...	6	2	8 (5)

Infant and Neonatal Death Rates :—

(England
& Wales).

	1957	1956	1955	1938	1957
Deaths of legitimately born infants under 1 years of age per 1,000 legitimate births	22.73	22.78	19.56	56.9	—
Deaths of illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births	52.63	—	71.43	166.7	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	15.9	12.25	16.55	—	16.5
Deaths of all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	23.86	22.06	21.28	59.8	23.0

Causes of Infant Deaths (Neonatal figures given in brackets) :

	1957	1956	1955	1954
Congenital Malformations	3 (2)	3 (1)	1 (1)	5 (3)
Prematurity ...	3 (3)	3 (3)	5 (5)	2
Respiratory Disease ...	4 (1)	2 (—)	1	5 (1)
Gastro-Enteritis ...	— (—)	— (—)	—	—
Birth Trauma ...	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Asphyxia ...	1 (1)	— (—)	1	—
Total ...	12 (8)	9 (5)	9 (7)	14 (6)

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT
1957.**

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mor- tality Rate</i>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory... ..	2	—	2	0.06
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1	0.03
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1	0.03
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic Diseases	1	2	3	0.09
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	6	3	9	0.27
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	—	10	0.30
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	10	10	0.30
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	12	34	1.04
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	2	4	0.12
16. Diabetes	2	2	4	0.12
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	27	40	67	2.04
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	37	30	67	2.04
19. Hypertension with Heart disease	9	4	13	0.40
20. Other heart disease	26	21	47	1.43
21. Other Circulatory Disease	3	4	7	0.21
22. Influenza	2	1	3	0.09
23. Pneumonia	11	26	37	1.13
24. Bronchitis	11	6	17	0.52
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory system	1	—	1	0.03
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5	0.15
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1	0.03
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	0.03
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, Abortion	1	—	1	0.03
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	0.03
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	13	12	25	0.77
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	3	3	0.09
34. All other accidents	3	9	12	0.36
35. Suicide	1	1	2	0.06
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
Total	195	192	387	11.77

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The County Council administers the Ante-Natal, Child Welfare, School, Immunisation, Dental and Specialist Services which aim at the preservation of health of the community and the prevention of disease, especially among children. The Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery services provided by the County Council, supported by the Home Help Service, managed by the W.V.S. and the Loan of Nursing Requisites Scheme managed by the Red Cross continued to provide useful domiciliary help.

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--|
| 1. Infectious Disease | ... | ... | Hayley Green Isolation Hospital,
Halesowen; Little Bromwich
Fever Hospital. |
| 2. Maternity | ... | ... | Bromsgrove General Hospital,
Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital,
Stourbridge.
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital,
Stourport. |
| 3. General Medical and Surgical
Cases | | | Bromsgrove General Hospital,
Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital,
Birmingham Hospitals. |
| 4. Chest Surgery | ... | ... | Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove. |
| 5. Children's Diseases. | ... | ... | Children's Hospital, Birmingham. |
| 6. Venereal Disease | ... | ... | General Hospital, Birmingham.
Royal Infirmary, Worcester. |
| 7. Aged Chronic Sick | ... | ... | Bromsgrove General Hospital. |
| 8. Mental Illness | ... | ... | Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove. |

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Royal Infirmary, Worcester and chemical analyses of water, etc., were done by the County Laboratory, Worcester. The Health Department is greatly indebted to the Directors of these Laboratories for their help and co-operation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors is given in the report of your Chief Public Health Inspector and a detailed statement of the sanitary state of the district is included.

The water supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company is sampled frequently, both by the Company and the Public Health Inspectors, and the results of samples are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal are carried out by the Surveyor's Department. Collections were made weekly in the town area and fortnightly in the more rural areas.

The amount of refuse collected during the year was approx. 12,704 tons.

HOUSING.

The housing position at the end of 1957 was as follows :—

Number of houses in the district	...	...	9,678 (9,087)
Number of persons per house	...	...	3.19 (3.28)
Number of houses built by private enterprise	...	...	423 (405)
Number of houses built by Council	...	...	154 (63)
Number of houses under construction at end of			
year	...	...	83 (473)
Number of houses demolished during 1957	...	...	7 (11)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details of the work carried out by the Health Department under this heading are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1957.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Corrected Notifications</i>
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	5
Diphtheria	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	4
Measles	515
Whooping Cough	49
Acute Pneumonia	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	41
Meningococcal Infections ...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2
Acute Encephalitis	—
Dysentery	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3
Erysipelas	—
Malaria	—
Food Poisoning	—
Totals	638 (156)

Three cases of paratyphoid fever were notified from an institution in the area in which cases of paratyphoid fever have occurred from time to time. One further case occurred at home—a Nursing Assistant who had attended contacts at the hospital.

Diphtheria.

For the seventh consecutive year no case of diphtheria was notified. The last diphtheria death occurred in 1945.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1957, was as follows :—

	1957	1956	1955	1954
Under 5 years	... 346	410	303	298
5—14 years	... 36	34	44	47
Total	... 382	444	347	345
Reinforcing injection	235	293	192	306

The " immunisation state " of Bromsgrove children on the 31st December, 1957, was as follows :—

<i>Age at 31/12/57 i.e. born in yr.</i>	<i>Under 1 1957</i>	<i>1—4 1956-1953</i>	<i>5—9 1952-1948</i>	<i>10—14 1947-1943</i>	<i>Under 15 Total</i>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952—1956	59 (81)	1303 (1191)	1643 (1818)	219 (288)	3228 (3378)
1951 or earlier	—	—	422 (424)	1957 (1904)	2379 (2328)
No. of Births	503 (408)	—	—	—	—

Vaccination.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-Vaccinated) during 1957 :—

<i>Age at date of Vaccination.</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total 1957</i>	<i>Total 1956</i>	<i>Total 1955</i>
No. Vaccinated	238 (217)	8	—	4	11	261 (236)	236	225
No. Re-Vaccinated	—	—	2	7	23	32	11	22

The 238 infants vaccinated represents 52.3 % (52.3 %) of the average number of births in the two years 1957 and 1956.

Tuberculosis :—

Tuberculosis registrations at the end of 1957 were as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	102	83	185 (190)
Non-Pulmonary	14	9	23 (19)
Total	116 (115)	92 (94)	208 (209)

Tuberculosis Incidence and Mortality for the year 1957.

<i>Age</i>			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...	...	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
35—	...	...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	8	6	1	2	2	—	Nil (Nil)	
			14	(9)	3	(2)	2	(4)		

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR
THE YEAR 1957.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FIELD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you a report of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in 1957.

Steady progress was made during the year in dealing with unfit houses—the Sidemoor Slum Clearance Enquiry was held early in the year and, at the time of writing, practically the whole of the properties have been demolished.

It is pleasing to see new houses with all their modern amenities springing up on the sites of properties which have outlived their useful life.

Bad housing is a factor affecting the lives of still too many of the people of this district and, although much progress has been made in the last six years, there is still much to be done before we can finally say we have no “ unfit houses.”

My thanks are due to the members of the staff for their loyalty and valued assistance, and to the Officers of the Council and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the courtesy, kindness and help I receive.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. HOLDEN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle Exclu- ding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	329	1	5	1950	782	—
Number Inspected ...	329	1	5	1950	782	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	37	—	—	40	35	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	11 %	—	—	2 %	5 %	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condem'd	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	10	—	—	—	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3 %	—	—	—	1.4 %	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigerat'n	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally... condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION AND APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Tuberculosis ...	257	—	—	158	415
Cysticercus Bovis	80	—	—	—	80
Swine Fever ...	—	—	—	140	140
Septic Metritis ...	—	—	—	190	190
Distomatosis ...	112	—	23	—	135
Cirrhosis ...	32	—	—	26	58
Abscesses ...	114	—	4	1	119
Peritonitis ...	—	—	—	60	60
Uraemia ...	—	—	10	—	10
Pneumonia ...	—	—	2	27	29
Pleurisy ...	—	—	—	11	11
Necrosis ...	23	—	—	—	23
Pericarditis... ..	2	—	—	6	8
Tenuicollis Cysts ...	—	—	44	—	44
Echinococcus Cysts	32	—	7	—	39
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	1	1
Fatty Degeneration	—	—	—	2	2
Bruising ...	—	—	—	6	6
Decomposition ...	36	—	—	—	36
Bone Taint ...	723	—	—	—	723
Totals ...	1411	—	90	628	2129

All the animals slaughtered in the district are inspected. There is a noticeable decline in the number of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis.

Other food found to be unfit for human consumption is listed below :

Gammon	...	...	...	...	25 lbs 10 ozs.
Pickles, Sauces and Savouries	...				33 jars.
Jam	...	...	...	...	10 jars.
Fish	...	...	...	...	7 jars.
Oats	...	...	...	...	2 packets.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	21 packets.
Sweets, Cakes, Etc.	...	...	...	...	10 packets.
Meat	...	...	...	...	45 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	181 lbs.

Tinned Goods.

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	161 tins.
Tinned Soups	...	...	...	...	8 tins.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	149 tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	21 tins.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	...	119 tins.
Tinned Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	27 tins.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11 tins.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

The Public Health Inspectors have continued to act as Certification Officers for the Ministry of Food Fatstock Marketing Division at the four licensed Deadweight Certification Centres in the district. 531 pigs were certified during the year.

Food Premises :

The total number of visits to food premises during the year, including visits to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection was 1,046.

Many structural improvements have been secured at food premises such as the provision of washing facilities and the protection of displayed foods, but the cases of food poisoning notified throughout the country are still in the thousands. This would appear to point to the fact that individual hygiene is at fault and that much still remains to be done to educate the food handler.

Dr. Henderson, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, has kindly continued to examine swabs of crockery etc. taken from catering establishments. A very considerable improvement is noticed when a comparison is made with the earlier results of these examinations.

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is :—

(a) Ice Cream Premises	...	...	102
(b) Premises for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food			24

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Fifteen licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the provisions of this Act.

Milk Supply :

Fourteen visits were made to the two dairies in the district. The number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination was 92 and they are classified below :—

<i>Samples</i>	<i>No. taken for bacteriological examination</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Sterilised Milk ...	18	18	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	21	21	—
Pasteurised ...	33	33	—
Tuberculin Tested	20	20	—
Totals ...	92	92	—

The number of licences in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations is as follows :—

	<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>
No. of Dealers' ... Licences ...	4	8	17
No. of Supplementary Licences ...	9	8	10

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SWABS TAKEN FROM FOOD PREMISES.

TYPE OF UTENSIL	COLONY COUNTS							BACTERIUM COLI			% of Total Swabs taken which are considered satisfactory*
	No. of Swabs Taken	Sterile	Under 100	Over 100 and less than 1,000	Over 1000 and less than 10,000	Over 10,000 and less than 100,000	Absent	Present			
								Non-Faecal	Faecal		
Dinner Plates	14	6	4	1	1	2	11	3	—	57.14	
Tea Cups	25	8	9	6	1	1	20	5	2	68.00	
Forks	4	3	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	100.0	
Tea Plates	9	4	3	—	1	1	7	2	1	77.78	
Glass Tumblers	14	10	2	2	—	—	13	1	—	85.71	
Soup Plates	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	100.00	
Coffee Cups	3	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	33.33	
Totals	71	34	21	9	3	4	58	13	3	73.24	

N.B.—One swab was damaged and no result was obtained.

Samples of Ice Cream taken for bacteriological examination numbered 67. The results, with a comparison of the 1956 figures, are set out below :—

Ice Cream—Bacteriological Results 1956 and 1957.

1956			1957.		
<i>Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>
1.	77	97.47	1.	65	97.02
2.	2	2.53	2.	1	1.49
3.	—	—	3.	1	1.49
4.	—	—	4.	—	—
Total	79	100.0	Total	67	100.00

The number of premises registered is :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	1
Sale only	... ..	35
Sale of Pre-packed only	... ..	66

Food and Drugs Act—Sampling

I am authorised by the County Council to act as a Sampling Officer on their behalf within the district. Sampling under this arrangement is independent of, and in addition to, sampling carried out by the County Officers.

Samples taken and submitted for analysis were as follows :—

Milk—Formal Samples	44
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

An analysis of the sanitary accommodation, drainage and water supply position of houses in the district, is set out below :—

	No.	%
No. of houses in District	9678	100
No. of houses with Separate W.C.'s	8649	89.36
No. of houses with Combined W.C.'s	426	4.40
No. of houses with Privies and Earth Closets	99	1.02
No. of houses with Pails and Chemicals	460	4.75
No. of houses with Combined Pails	23	0.23
No. of houses with Waste Water Closets	21	0.21
No. of houses with separate Mains Water Supply	9147	94.51
No. of houses with Standpost Mains Water Supply	447	4.61
No. of houses with Wells, Springs or Pump Water... Supply	84	0.86
No. of houses with Baths	7235	74.75
No. of houses connected to Sewer	8424	87.04
No. of houses connected to Cesspools	797	8.23
No. of houses connected to Septic Tanks	185	1.91
No. of houses with no proper drainage	272	2.81

Tents, Vans and Sheds :

Public Health Act licences are in force for 87 caravans in the district. Sixty-two of these caravans are situated on two licensed sites—the rest are on individual sites or on sites for not more than 3 vans.

Difficulties have been experienced from time to time on the two larger sites arising from the disposal of sink waste water, but these difficulties have been temporarily overcome.

It is necessary to carry out regular inspection in order to prevent public health nuisances arising.

Water Supply.

Fifty-two samples of the town's mains water supply were submitted to the County Analyst and the Pathological Laboratory for chemical and bacteriological analysis, all of which were satisfactory.

Three samples of water from wells and springs, etc., were submitted, two of which were unsatisfactory.

Drainage :

Below is a summary of the work done on drainage during the year :—

Houses connected to sewer (excluding new houses) ...	61
Houses connected to cesspools (excluding new houses) ...	3
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	36
No. of tests applied to house drains	86
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, urinals, etc., dealt with ...	6
No. of cesspools abolished	57
New W.C.'s provided in lieu of pails, etc.	21
Baths provided	9
No. of pails abolished	16
Defective drains repairs or relaid	16
Waste Water Closets abolished	2
New Chemical Closets provided	1

Cesspool Emptying.

The number of cesspools, septic tanks, etc., where sewers are not available, is 765, and the average routine emptying service given is three times every two years. However, complaints are always dealt with to relieve nuisances.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Emptier during the year :—

No. of Cesspools Emptied	...	...	1207
No. of loads from Cesspools	...	...	1277
No. of Privies Emptied	...	...	208
No. of Pails Emptied	...	...	1193
Mileage Covered	...	...	6329

Ashes Accommodation.

During the year 1275 dustbins were delivered to householders under the Bin Replacement Scheme.

The scheme commenced in 1951, when it was not possible to obtain galvanised bins. These early issues of non-galvanised bins are now having to be replaced.

Disinfestation :

Number of houses disinfested	5
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The method employed for disinfestation of houses is spraying with Zaldecide/D.D.T.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Operator is employed to undertake treatment on all Council and private properties, and a summary of the work carried out is set out below :—

No. of Treatments at Private Dwellings	264
No. of Treatments at Business Premises	50
No. of Treatments at Council Premises (Sewage Outfall Works, Tips, Housing Estates, etc.)	...
No. of Brookcourse Treatments	...
No. of Properties Revisited and Surveyed	1692
No. of Agricultural Properties Surveyed	25

The rodent problem in the district is now mainly reduced to minor scattered infestations and the maintenance treatments of sewers and the brookcourse, together with block control of centres of infestation, have kept the town district comparatively free from rats. The scattered infestations referred to are usually associated with domestic poultry or pig-keeping. The Sewage Works and refuse tips receive regular attention.

Pets Act, 1951.

Three applications were received under the above Act. These licences were granted.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Defects or nuisances discovered	...	172
Number abated	... ..	144
Number of notices served (informal	...	133
Formal 7).		

Inspections :

Inspections carried out in the year are recorded below :—

						<i>Re-</i>
					<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Houses under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	132	245
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	9	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	18	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	132	106
Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	148	31
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	23	7
Animals or Birds	...	...	...	...	3	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	12	9
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	908	491
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	80	6
Closets—Water	...	...	...	...	20	41
Pails or Privies...	...	...	...	...	22	15
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	374	94
Sewers and Street Gullies	...	...	...	...	175	27
Milkshops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	12	3
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	121	2
Slaughterhouses for Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	727	5
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	89	29
General Food Premises	...	...	...	...	158	38
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	6	—
Factories	...	...	...	...	16	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	7	—
Rats and Mice Acts	...	...	...	...	56	9
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	13	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	41	4
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	2	—
Housing—Section 11	...	...	...	...	73	11
Section 25	...	...	...	...	268	41
Housing—Other Visits	...	...	...	...	224	17
Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	50	21
Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	86	28
Petroleum Act	...	...	...	...	42	4
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	399	52
Interviews—Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	...	...	...	...	446	—

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED.

W.C. Pedestals renewed or repaired	...	...	...	4
Obstructed Drains	...	...	...	37
W.C. Flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	9
Ceiling plaster made good	...	...	...	16
Wallplaster made good	...	...	...	18
Walls repaired	...	...	...	7
Wallplaster made good	...	...	...	18
Walls repaired	...	...	...	7
Eavespouting and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	5
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	9
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	3
Firegrates renewed or repaired	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided by Local Authority	...	...	...	1275
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Repairs to waste pipes and gullies	...	...	...	2
Cold water systems	...	...	...	4
Repairs to drains and drainage systems	...	...	...	20

HOUSING.

The five-year Slum Clearance Programme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was as follows :—

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section II or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936—501.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i)	By the local authority	...	...	...	...	154
(ii)	By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	423

1. *Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	833
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	1196
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932	...	35
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	35
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	83
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	64

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	58
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3. *Action under statutory powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :— ...

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 113

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... 6

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 32

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 7

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants.*

One house on which grant for improvements had been approved was completed during the year.

5. *Rent Act, 1957—Certificates of Disrepair.*

Thirty-five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Undertakings were received from owners with regard to twenty-eight properties.

In regard to the remaining seven applications, three were withdrawn by tenants ; three certificates of disrepair were issued and in one case the work was carried out immediately.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT,

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors) :—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	6	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	84	20	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	4	—	—
TOTAL ...	100	30	1	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	1	—	1	—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixty-nine licences were issued during 1957 for the storage of 111,495 gallons of petroleum spirit, 52 gallons of cellulose and 36 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.



