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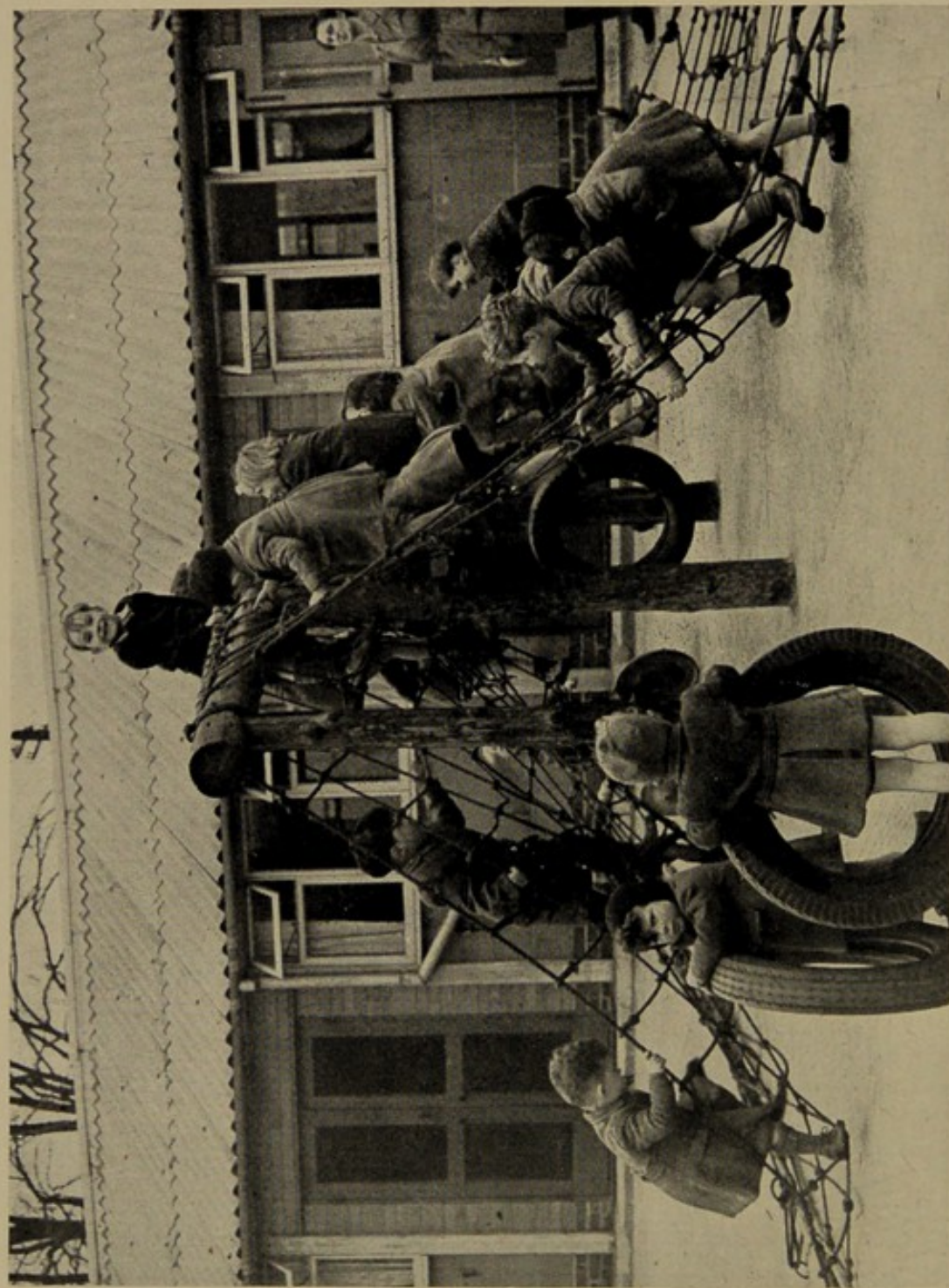
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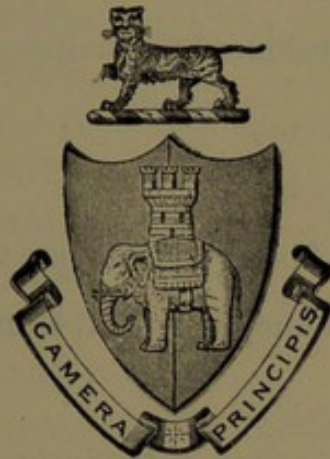
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Foleshill Road Day Nursery : Recreation.

CITY OF COVENTRY.



The Health of the City in 1948.

Annual Report

. . . BY . . .

T. MORRISON CLAYTON, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Advisor to the Pensioners'

and to the Children's Committees

Coventry:

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1948.

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. E. ALLEN.*Vice-Chairman*—Councillor W. CALLOW.

The Mayor (Councillor W. H. MALCOLM, J.P.).

The Deputy Mayor (Alderman V. A. HAMMOND).

Miss Alderman A. ARNOLD.

Mr. Councillor W. A. BINKS.

Mrs. Councillor J. CANT, J.P.

Mr. Councillor P. D. KINSEY.

Mr. Councillor J. LATHAM.

Mrs. Councillor A. OSBORNE.

Mr. Councillor C. J. RODMELL.

Mr. Councillor A. J. WAUGH.

Dr. H. P. McNAMARA (nominated by the Coventry Branch of the British Medical Association).

Dr. W. D. COGHILL (nominated by the Local Executive Council).

Mrs. M. M. BLOXHAM (Co-opted for Mental Deficiency and

Mrs. A. GERAGHTY Mental Treatment Acts).

PENSIONERS' COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1948.

Chairman—Councillor E. A. HULL.*Vice-Chairman*—Councillor Mrs. H. E. GIVENS, J.P.

The Mayor (Councillor W. H. MALCOLM, J.P.)

The Deputy Mayor (Alderman V. A. HAMMOND).

Alderman Mrs. S. A. GRIFFITHS, M.B.E., J.P.

Mr. Councillor A. E. EAGLES.

Mr. Councillor H. STANLEY.

Mr. Councillor H. WESTON.

Co-opted members :—

Mrs. E. EAVES.

Mrs. E. M. GARDNER.

Mrs. E. RUMBLE.

Mrs. G. TUCKER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Adviser to the Pensioners' and Children's Committees :

T. M. Clayton, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

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

Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

C. I. Ham, M.D., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., D.R.C.O.G.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Medical Officers .. C. Glynn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

C. T. Howat, M.B., Ch.B.

M. Ormiston, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Analyst .. F. G. D. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

Veterinary Officer W. Dale, M.R.C.V.S.

Sanitary Inspectorate :

Chief Sanitary Inspector W. Beaumont

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector E. A. Johnson

Food Inspector, Senior Factories and Smoke

Inspector T. E. Willmott

Food Inspector, Factories and Smoke Inspector D. C. Norcliffe

Meat Inspectors .. C. Ash (Senior) and L. Vivian

Food and Drugs, Dairies and Cowsheds'

Inspectors H. Ellis, H. Lenton

Housing and Canal Boats' Inspector R. Hayne

District Sanitary Inspectors : D. H. Evans, B. McCutcheon,

J. E. Saunders, R. Pickford, S. Whitten, J. A. Sadler

Student Sanitary Inspectors : J. B. Salt, H. C. Watkin,

P. J. Wightman, N. Adams

Rodent Officer W. J. Brown

Health Visitors :

Superintendent Miss M. D. Lloyd

Health Visitors : Miss M. Beddow, Mrs. E. M. Birmingham,

Misses M. E. Brown, P. M. Clarke, Mrs. L. Christian,

Misses M. K. Cotterill, M. M. Cowgill, J. B. Crawford,

M. J. J. Crockett, A. Docherty, P. Findlay, Mrs. M. M.

Golby, Misses D. Jones, G. R. McAleer, M. O. McKay,

A. F. McKenzie, E. M. Owen, A. E. Price, M. Ratcliffe,

A. J. Ringrose, M. Saunders, H. Saunderson, B. Sims,

M. Slevin, A. E. Stokes, A. Stevens, G. M. Weatherall,

C. Wilcox, Mrs. H. Wright.

Municipal Midwives :

Non-Medical Supervisor Miss M. A. E. Taylor
 Deputy Supervisor .. Mrs. Woodley (Appointed 1.4.49)

Midwives : Mrs. E. Adams, Miss A. Allen, Mrs. I. Argyle,
 Miss V. Bate, Miss M. Brett, Miss D. Brown, Mrs. E. Caskie,
 Miss J. Corbett, Miss J. Cornthwaite, Mrs. D. M. Cox,
 Mrs. M. Diaper, Mrs. J. Duckett, Mrs. F. Fardon, Mrs. M.
 Flynn, Miss I. Gunn, Mrs. E. Harris, Miss D. Heritage,
 Mrs. A. Hubbard, Mrs. A. Jennings, Miss E. Judge, Mrs. W.
 Kinsey, Mrs. E. McDowell, Miss G. Midgeley, Miss I.
 Neilly, Miss P. Norton, Mrs. S. O'Donnell, Miss E. Raine,
 Mrs. E. Reddick, Mrs. D. Reeves, Mrs. M. Rouse, Miss
 J. K. Ryan, Mrs. J. Smith, Miss W. S. Sparkes, Mrs. A.
 Spragg, Mrs. B. Stock, Miss D. G. Taylor, Mrs. I. Trasler,
 Miss M. Wagstaffe, Miss A. Ward, Mrs. E. Wright

Day Nurseries :

Supervisor Miss V. E. Johnson

Nursery Matrons : Miss M. Allan, Miss K. G. Blackmore,
 Miss K. Buckley, Mrs. B. Bruton, Mrs. E. Crawford,
 Miss D. M. Griffiths, Miss A. E. Walker, Mrs. E. M.
 Williams, Mrs. E. T. Young.

Nursery Staffs Nurses—128. Others—50

Home Nursing Service :

Superintendent Miss H. B. Auckland

Assistant Superintendent Miss I. C. J. Clarke

Nurses.. Full-time 29 (includes 2 male). Part-time 14

Home Helps' Service :

Supervisor Mrs. E. Marshall

Assistant Mrs. B. Nice

Home Helps 52

Ambulance Service :

Superintendent F. Warwick

Ambulance Personnel Males—29. Females—7

Blind Welfare :

Home Teacher Miss E. Fox

Administrative and Clerical Staff :

(General Public Health Services.)

Principal Administrative Assistant and
 Senior Authorised Officer J. H. Grant

Senior Sectional Officers :

Statistical and General T. Lord

Mental Health and Blind Welfare and
Authorised Officer F. Ellis

Authorised Officers : A. Sturdy, Mrs. G. Gould, Miss F. Holly

Senior Clerks : W. Barber, H. Jewison, E. Moore, Miss M.
Goddard, Miss V. Robinson.

Clerks : Messrs. M. R. Fullwood, J. Gwynn, H. E. Hubbard,
G. Hubbard, E. O. Johanson, D. Wood, Misses S. Bednall,
B. Bellamy, B. Dyke, E. Camwell, B. Clarke, J. Clarke,
J. Grant, M. M. Hands, J. D. Jennings, A. Land,
I. Mottram, J. Murray, J. L. McGregor, J. Pettifer,
B. Quick, M. Rewhorn, B. L. Smith.

Sub-Department "H" :

(Pensioners and Other Welfare Provisions.)

Senior Administrative Assistant J. H. Ryner

Senior Assistant Officer R. Nicol

Senior Clerk Miss M. Pugh

Clerks : J. B. Hopkins, R. J. Pickering, F. M. Riley, Miss J. E.
Adrian, Mrs. G. C. Downes, Miss J. Harvey, Miss K.
Kiley, Mrs. M. Riley, Miss S. Watts

Old People's Homes :

Superintendent-in-Charge Mr. C. Lipscombe, Moat House

Matron-in-Charge .. Mrs. C. Lipscombe, Moat House

Officers-in-Charge : Mr. and Mrs. Fallon, Chaterhouse

Mr. and Mrs. C. Anderson, Stone House

Miss A. Stanley, St. Paul's

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	19,167
Population (Census, 1931)...	...	...	...	...	178,126
Population (estimate for mid. year 1948)	...	...	...	...	250,400
Density of population (1931) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	9.5
Density of population (estimate mid. 1948) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	13.0
Number of inhabited dwellings (1931) 42,190 (Dec., 1948)	...	...	...	...	69,950
Average number of persons to each occupied house (mid. year)	...	...	...	...	3.58
Rateable Value of City (Dec. 1948)...	...	...	...	...	£1,702,962
Sum represented by a penny rate (Dec., 1948)	...	...	...	...	£6,448

Live Births—	Males.	Females.	Total.	
(Legitimate)	2467	2302	4769	
(Illegitimate)	178	154	332	
	<u>2645</u>	<u>2456</u>	<u>5101</u>	= Birth rate of 20.3 per 1000 people.

Stillbirths ... 62 55 117 = Rate of **22.9** per 1000 live births.

Deaths ... 1247 980 2227 = Death rate of **8.8** per 1000 people.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis ... 2 = 0.39 per 1000 births

Other Puerperal Causes 4 = 0.78 „ „

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births ... **45.5**

(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 45.5

(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births 45.2

Marriage Rate ... 18.3

*Death Rate from Principal Infectious Diseases ... 0.10

Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles, Diarrhoea, under 2 years, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis

Respiratory Death Rate ... 0.95

Phthisis ... 0.50

Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis ... 0.10

Death Rate from Cancer ... 1.40

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of this city for the year 1948, and in doing so would comment that I have taken the opportunity to increase, to some extent, for the benefit of the Council and other members of the public who are interested in the preventive services, the detail of information and statistical evidence. Previously it was necessary to limit considerably the scope of the report in conformity with the recent war and immediate post-war economies.

Two administrative events which have probably left the greatest marks upon the Public Health Service of this country during the past thirty years are those associated firstly with the transference of the Poor Law Hospitals to the control of the major Local Authorities under the Local Government Act of 1929, and secondly, the recent provisions made under the National Health Service Act of 1946. It is interesting to note that in these latter provisions is one which has had the effect of transferring responsibility for the late municipal hospitals from the major Local Authorities to the newly constituted Regional Hospital Boards throughout England and Wales.

To the general public, I suppose, the transference has passed unnoticed to a large extent and it would seem that the change of administration has, for so major an event, been formed with comparatively few heartburnings. It is natural that in so comprehensive a piece of legislation as the National Health Service Act, especially with other important and contemporary enactments running closely alongside (*e.g.*, Education Act, 1944, National Assistance Act, 1948, Children's Act, 1948, etc.), there should be some parts which do not appear to be functioning quite so well as they perhaps were intended. It is, however, by the usual experience of trial and error that such points come to light and it is to be hoped that, as they do, there is sufficient broadmindedness abroad to rectify any errors or omissions which have become apparent.

It will be recalled that in my Annual Report for 1947, brief mention was made of the various provisions for which this Local Authority would in future be responsible under the National Health Service Act, and I have therefore taken the opportunity to comment upon these to a greater extent under the various headings as the Report progresses. The Report has been rearranged to some extent to conform to the various sections of the new Act. Meanwhile it is necessary to review some of the more salient features of the vital statistics for 1948.

The Registrar General's estimate of population shows a further increase of 7,540, bringing the total population of the city to 250,400. This is in keeping with the trend in recent years and during the past three years there has been a sizeable increase in the City's population of 28,430, *i.e.*, by some 13 per cent.: it continues to accentuate the difficulties experienced by the Local Authority in all its social services (*e.g.*, Housing, Education and Health and Welfare provisions).

There has been a significant recession in the number of births for the city from 5,643 in 1947 to 5,101 in 1948, thereby reducing the birth rate per 1,000 population from 23.2 in 1947 (highest but one since 1920) to 20.3 in 1948 ; this is the lowest birth rate recorded in Coventry since 1942 when the rate was 19.3 per 1,000 population.

(*N.B.*—The lowest recorded annual birth rate was that for 1933 at 13.4 per 1,000 population.)

The death rate for the city during 1948 was at 8.8 per 1,000 population and was the lowest ever recorded, the previous lowest being 9.0 in 1944. The 1947 figure was 9.9 per 1,000 population.

The infantile mortality rate for 1948 was at 45.5 per 1,000 births (1947—45.1) and this is the lowest but one ever recorded. This, however, appears in less favourable perspective when compared with the figures for England and Wales at 34 and for the large towns at 39. It would seem, therefore, that there is need for constant vigilance and continued effort and research in an endeavour to reduce the infant mortality rate for this city to considerably lower proportions. A more detailed examination of the causes of infantile deaths shows that over the past 5 years (1944-48) and in the last pre-war 5 years (1934-38), the principal causes have been as follows :

	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Prematurity	62	65	86	79	71	70	39	52	56	51
Pneumonia	34	43	53	72	46	20	28	29	22	26
Congenital malformations	20	22	20	42	44	27	12	14	16	13
Atelectasis (Collapse of lung)	16	33	17	27	20	12	6	7	10	4
Diarrhoea and enteritis	16	19	59	55	34	16	18	6	6	10
Congenital debility and sclerema (hardening of the skin) ..	16	16	14	11	6	12	13	15	4	5
Totals of these six causes	164	198	249	286	221	157	116	123	114	109
Total of all infant deaths in year	232	255	284	338	265	203	158	151	128	144

These six conditions therefore accounted for the following percentages of all infantile deaths during the respective years under review :—

	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
	71%	77%	84%	84%	83%	77%	73%	81%	89%	76%

It would therefore seem from these latter figures that there has been relatively little reduction in the infantile deaths due to these six causes, during the past fifteen years. This "concentrate" now calls for more specific measures, since it is felt that a proportion at least of such deaths might, in future, be avoided. Prematurity, for example, is, to my mind, inordinately high and there is need for a careful review of existing provisions and methods of dealing with this cause. At the time of writing, administrative arrangements are being made for a detailed analysis of every infant death and an enquiry into the associated maternal history.

The appointment of Dr. H. Parry Williams as Paediatrician by the then Joint Hospital Advisory Committee in early 1948 has been of great value to this local authority, and indeed to the city as a whole. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Parry Williams for his interest in all matters affecting child life and for his ready co-operation in the development of the related local authority services.

One further point I would like to emphasise is that relating to the provision of residential nurseries. This responsibility, as is well appreciated, has, since July 5th, 1948, passed to the various Children's Committees throughout the country and, *in general*, there can be little to complain of in this respect. I am at one, however, with those who recognise the urgent need for sufficient short term residential nursery accommodation to meet the requirements of, and be administered through the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. Such categories of children as I have in mind must be apparent to all and never were "deprived" in the sense that this word has come to mean; they are a Maternity and Child Welfare problem in the true sense of the word and it is hoped that this will come to be recognised universally in due course.

Prior to the appointed day, 5th July, 1948, a considerable amount of time and thought was given to the preparation of the nine schemes called for by Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 51 of the National Health Service Act and of the two further schemes under Sections 21 and 29 of the National Assistance Act. From the operative date the newly absorbed or transferred duties commenced to function through the administrative staff of the Department and opportunity was taken to reorganise the whole of the clerical administration. This affected the existing clerical staff of the Department and the transferred staffs of the former Social Welfare Department and of the District Nursing Association.

The work was organised into six main sections, and two sub-departments as follows:—

Section	A. Finance and Statistics.
"	B. Infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis.
"	C. Mental Health and Blind Welfare.
"	D. Typing and Filing.
"	E. Departmental Orders and Supplies.
"	F. Maternity and Child Welfare.
Sub-Dept.	G. Sanitary Inspectorate—Clerical.
"	H. National Assistance Act.
	Care and After Care.
	Administration of Homes for the Aged.

Each section (A to F) was placed in the charge of a separate Clerical Grade officer (four men and two women): two senior sectional officers were appointed to correlate the work of the several sections and a principal administrative assistant was appointed in general charge of the clerical staff of the main Health Department and to assist in the administration of the Department.

Sub-Department "H" was placed in charge of a senior administrative assistant having two senior assistants and other clerical staff to help him in the work. A large proportion of the work in this sub-department is concerned with matters dealt with by the Pensioners' Committee, but certain other welfare provisions of the Health Department arising out of the National Health Service Act have also been allocated there.

Changes have proceeded smoothly taking into account the considerable difficulties experienced through insufficient office accommodation, and one envisages that administration of the Department will be facilitated when more adequate and appropriate space becomes available.

Additional local public health legislation came into effect on July 30th, 1948, in certain sections of the Coventry Corporation Act, 1948. This contains interesting and useful provisions relating to smokeless zones, prohibition of sale of verminous articles, registration of hawkers of food and their premises, registration of hairdressers and barbers, etc. A more detailed account of these provisions is given on pages 60-61.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population for mid-1948 was 250,400, which compares with the previous year's estimate of 242,860.

Birth Rate.

The births registered as Coventry births during the year numbered 5,101, giving a birth rate of 20.3 per 1,000 population. Further details relating to births occurring within the city are given elsewhere under the heading of "Midwifery."

General Death Rate.

The number of deaths recorded as belonging to the city during the year was 2,227, which gives a death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 population. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 10.8 and with a similar rate for the great towns of 11.6. The major causes of death during the year under review were heart disease and other vascular conditions; cancer; tuberculosis; infantile afflictions; and respiratory conditions. An analysis of the various causes of death is given in the appropriate table on page 85.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1948 was 232, giving an infant mortality rate of 45.5 per 1,000 births. I have gone into this subject more thoroughly on page 9.

Maternal Mortality.

The maternal mortality rate for the city was 1.17 per 1,000 births, and this is the lowest rate so far recorded. This is very satisfactory, but gives no room for curtailing our endeavours to maintain and indeed improve upon, the existing high standards of ante-natal and midwifery services in Coventry.

Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications in respect of infectious diseases were received in the department during 1948 :—

Diphtheria 12 (53 : 212) ; scarlet fever 420 (385 : 406) ; measles 3,482 (3,252) ; whooping cough 522 (564) ; acute primary pneumonia 138 (140 : 290) ; puerperal pyrexia 23 (35 : 54) ; typhoid and paratyphoid fever Nil (6 : 19) ; cerebro-spinal meningitis 9 (26 : 36) ; acute anterior poliomyelitis 10 (33 : 2) ; ophthalmia neonatorum 9 (25 : 16) ; erysipelas 54 (39 : 60) ; malaria 2 (2 : -) ; and dysentery 3 (10 : 15).

The comparative figures in brackets are those for 1947 and for the last complete pre-war year 1938 in that order. In the last-mentioned year measles and whooping cough were not notifiable.

The total incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was higher than that during 1947 (*i.e.*, 5,092 : 4,986), but this is accounted for by the increased number of measles notified.

Once more there has been a considerable reduction in the case rate for diphtheria during the present year and the following figures continue to tell their own story, and incidentally that concerned with the campaign of immunisation against diphtheria in Coventry :

1945—146 cases (5 deaths—none immunised).

1946—115 cases (4 deaths—none immunised).

1947— 53 cases (2 deaths—none immunised).

1948— 12 cases (No deaths).

This disease it will be recalled, only a few years ago levied a severe toll in human suffering and human life and filled many thousands of hospital beds throughout the country. The position has now been reached when diphtheria can be written off as a major cause of mortality and serious debility. This remarkable result is not unconnected with the continued and intensive campaign of immunisation against diphtheria which has been waged here and throughout the country. Some memories are quite, or conveniently, short in respect of such achievements, but the service will continue nevertheless.

Scabies.

The scabies and cleansing unit continued to function at the Central Welfare Centre : this is open daily for women and children from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and for men from 6 to 8 p.m.

The work of the unit was as follows :—

	No. of Patients	No. of Treatments
Scabies.		
Male adults ..	127	206
Female adults ..	129	240
School children ..	254	508
Children under 5 years	87	114
Total ..	597	1,068

Cleansing.

Male	19
Female	21

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1948, 370 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 69 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified or re-notified in the city (1947—366 and 56).

The number of Coventry patients who at the 31st December were awaiting admission to Hertford Hill Sanatorium was 86, of whom 29 were men, 51 were women and 6 were children.

As a result of the National Health Service Act the Warwickshire and Coventry Joint Committee for Tuberculosis which was formed on March 30th, 1914, passed out of existence on the 5th July, 1948, after a long period of useful and commendable service. The sanatorium at Hertford Hill near Warwick, and the various dispensaries throughout the county passed to the administration of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and the close link between the municipality and the sanatorium has thereby ceased after some twenty-five years. The ancillary domiciliary functions such as the supply and maintenance of shelters for the tuberculous and the provision of extra rationed foods for tuberculous patients at home have been taken over by the Health Department of the City and County respectively. It is fitting at this junction to record the long and efficient service rendered by Dr. J. McG. Williams and his staff in the interests of tubercular patients in this city and to recall that they too have had their very serious problems in connection with the treatment of sufferers from and the examination of contacts associated with this disease.

Mass Radiography.

The work of this new service continues apace and the number of Coventry cases dealt with by the unit during 1948 was more than double that of the preceding year, *i.e.*, 1947—9,035 ; 1948—18,651 (M. 15,116 : F. 3,535). Of the total figure, 51 were found to be infected with pulmonary tuberculosis (1947—37).

The relations between the Health Department and this service, which has been transferred to the Regional Hospital Board, continue to be most cordial, and I am indebted to the director of the unit, Dr. A. Gordon Evans, for his willing co-operation and helpfulness.

There is little doubt that, given the eventual facilities in the way of additional sanatorium beds in which further cases can be referred and treated, this service will be of great value in singling out early cases for appropriate treatment, and should be extremely useful in the preliminary examination of "contacts."

Home Visiting.

The tuberculosis visitor continues to do excellent and arduous work in her extended sphere of action, and although the number of domiciliary visits is slightly down on the preceding year (*i.e.*, 1948—2,097 : 1947—2,178), yet there are other items transferred from the former Joint Tuberculosis Committee and additional lines of enquiry which prolong the length of many of the routine visits (*e.g.*, consideration of the need for the provision of supplementary rationed foods to tuberculous patients, greater present-day attention to "contacts" in view of overcrowding, etc.).

In addition to the above duties the tuberculosis visitor has been responsible for some 24 special housing reports of urgent problems connected with tuberculous patients, and I am grateful to the Housing Department for their help in giving special consideration to such cases when possible.

It is apparent that the increasing volume of work connected with the welfare of tuberculosis patients will call for the services of additional tuberculosis visitors in the near future.

From 1st January to 4th July, there were 37 Coventry residents who applied for tuberculosis allowances, and of these 35 were granted by the Tuberculosis Officer. From the 5th July, 1948, this work was taken over by the National Assistance Board and from that date until the 31st December, 1948, there were 64 applications made and granted. At the end of the year there were 123 tuberculosis allowances being paid.

There is one additional point which calls for mention, namely, the apparent delay experienced by my department in receiving notifications of admissions and discharges from sanatoria outside the county area, and no doubt this may be due to the universal administrative problems which have arisen since 5th July, 1948.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Up to the 5th July, 1948, the Coventry Health Department was responsible for the administration and treatment facilities available at the Venereal Disease Centre at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Stoney Stanton Road, but subsequent to that date, responsibility passed to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The local authority, however, still has duties under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and continues to employ the services of a venereal diseases' social worker in connection with follow-up work associated with defaulters and contacts to whom she offers appropriate advice.

Statistics of new cases seen at the clinic during 1948 again show a recession on those for 1947 (*i.e.*, 1,005 : 1,190). It will be recalled that the peak year of 1946 gave a figure of 1,470. It is also of interest to record that of the 1,005 new cases seen, no less than 695 were later proved to be non-venereal.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

In the following pages I have dealt with the existing and the newly inaugurated services which came within the terms of the National Health Service Act, in the following order :—

- Section 21. Health Centres.
- „ 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- „ 23. Midwifery.
- „ 24. Health Visiting.
- „ 25. Home Nursing.
- „ 27. Vaccination and Immunisation.
- „ 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.
- „ 29. Domestic Help.
- „ 51. Mental Health.

HEALTH CENTRES.

In accordance with Section 21 of the National Health Service Act it shall be the duty of every Local Health Authority to provide and maintain to the satisfaction of the Minister, premises which shall be called "Health Centres," at which facilities shall be available for all or any of the following purposes :—

- (a) For the provision of general medical services under Part IV of this Act by medical practitioners.
- (b) For the provision of general dental services under Part IV of this Act by dental practitioners.
- (c) For the provision of pharmaceutical services under Part IV of this Act by registered pharmacists.
- (d) For the provision or organisation of any of the services which the Local Health Authority are required or empowered to provide.

- (e) For the provision of the services of specialists or other services provided for out-patients under Part III of this Act.
- (f) For the exercise of the powers conferred on the Local Health Authority by Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or Section 298 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the publication of information on questions related to health or disease and for the delivery of lectures and for the display of pictures or cinematograph films in which such questions are dealt with.

The Health Committee have given much thought to the subject of Health Centres and have provisionally approved a number of sites selected for accessibility and to serve the needs of the City's population.

In collaboration with the City Architect, plans have been drafted for the initial experimental centre and there will be a more suitable opportunity to report progress in this matter in a later Annual Report.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

(Section 22.)

Child Welfare Clinics.

It will be remembered that prior to the 5th July, 1948, nine of the maternity and child welfare centres were organised by voluntary committees and functioned in conjunction with the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Health Department. Since 5th July, in accordance with the City Council's approved scheme under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, however, all maternity and child welfare centres throughout the city have become the direct responsibility of the Health Department. It is appropriate, therefore, at this juncture to proffer thanks on behalf of the Health Committee and myself to all those voluntary organisations who for many years gave of their valued time and services for the benefit of so many mothers and children attending the centres.

There were at the year end, under the control of the department :

- 18 infant welfare centres with 18 weekly sessions.
- 8 ante-natal clinics with 10 weekly sessions.
- 2 post-natal clinics with 2 weekly sessions.

The total number of attendances at the various city infant welfare centres during the year was 67,359 (1947—63,532), whilst those attending the ante-natal clinics was 13,511 (1947—12,186).

It will therefore be apparent that the work of this department continues to extend and *underlines the need for appropriate and adequate clinic facilities and staff throughout the city.*

During 1948 opportunity has been taken to appoint three state registered nurses to undertake part-time duties at the infant welfare centres, which has meant that the health visiting staff has been released to a greater degree for their essential work of home visiting, teaching and advising.

A further consequence of the transference to the Local Authority of all welfare centres has been the necessity of appointing nine part-time clinic attendants for the sale of dried milk foods, etc., and for simple clerical duties at the centres.

Care of Premature Infants.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 20/44, routine arrangements made in this connection have continued to operate as follows :—

The notification of all infants under 5½ lbs. at birth.

The availability of four premature baby sets, consisting of treasure cot fitted with pockets for hot water bottles ; rubber hot water bottles ; mackintosh-covered flock pillows ; Gamgee sheets (for use by the Municipal Midwives).

Each midwife is supplied with two Gamgee sheets and a maternity outfit for use in each appropriate case.

Oxygen supplies are available at the Health Department and at the Ambulance Station also, for any doctor or midwife.

Special carry cots are available at the Ambulance Station and are transported to houses as required.

The services of a consultant paediatrician are available on request by medical practitioners in the city.

The following are statistics of premature births occurring within the city during 1948 :—

1. The number of premature babies notified was 287.
2. Of the above 152 were born at home and 135 in hospital.
3. Of those born at home (152), 7 died in the first 24 hours and 128 were alive at the expiration of one month.
4. Of those born in hospital (135), 7 died in the first 24 hours and 103 were alive at the expiration of one month.

Dental Care.

The Senior School Dentist (Mr. M. Raeside) advises me that the following work was accomplished during 1948, in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service :—

Infant Welfare.

Attend- ances for Treat- ment	Com- pleted	New Cases	Temporary Teeth		General Anaes- thetic	Other Operations		Appli- ances
			Fitted	Ex- tracted		Per- manent	Tem- porary	
450	156	192	122	393	111	2	—	1

Ante-Natal.

Attend- ances for Treat- ment	Com- pleted	New Cases	Permanent Teeth		Dentures Fitted	General Anaes- thetics	Other Operations		Appli- ances
			Fitted	Ex- tracted			Per- manency	Tem- porary	
1,407	320	399	102	1,960	180	251	524	—	—

Under existing local schemes the services of the school dentists are also available for the essential dental needs of those expectant and nursing mothers recommended for treatment by the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officers. Both conservative and radical treatment is provided, including the provision of dentures, and the amount of time given by the dentists to this work has been, to date, the approximate equivalent of one half a full-time dentist's services.

Under the provisions of the new Act, the number of dentists available for work in the Maternity and Child Welfare Service will need to be increased quite considerably, since it would seem that *all* expectant or nursing mothers attending the clinics will, in future, be seen by the Local Authority dentists unless, of course, they opt to receive treatment by other dentists either privately or under the National Health Service Act. Provision has therefore been made by the Health Committee in their approved scheme under Section 22 of the Act for the eventual appointment of sufficient fulltime dentists. It is hoped that this aspect of the work will develop and progress as soon as supplementary dentists and suitable accommodation become available.

Supply of Welfare Foods.

A selected list of dried milks and other suitable preparations are stocked at all the Infant Welfare Centres either for sale, or if the need is proved, for free issue.

During the year sales to the value of £8,169 19s. 4d. were made at the various centres.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

Standardised maternity outfits are available from the Health Department for the needs of expectant mothers who are to be confined at home. A recommendation signed by the midwife or doctor is required before issue.

In 1948, the number of such outfits issued was 1,087. Since July 5th, 1948, no charge has been made for these.

Nursery Provision.

Day Nurseries.

The nine day nurseries in Coventry still continue to have great demands made upon them. There are considerable waiting lists in respect of all the nurseries and priority admissions are decided after a careful study of all the relevant facts.

In 1948 there were 455 children on the nursery registers and they accounted for 88,650 attendances during the year.

The number of days upon which day nurseries were open during the year was 249.

The following table shows the number of attendances made and the numbers on the register of each day nursery.

DAY NURSERY	No. on Register	ATTENDANCES		Total Attendances
		Age 0 to 2 years	Age 2 to 5 years	
Canley	50	2,778	7,516	10,294
Foleshill	80	6,975	8,353	15,328
Holbrooks	50	3,014	7,283	10,297
Poole Road	50	2,204	5,448	7,652
Queen Philippa ..	39	2,620	6,058	8,678
Stoke Green	50	4,278	6,625	10,903
Whoberley	50	2,616	6,751	9,367
Windmill Road ..	36	2,410	4,547	6,957
Wyken	50	2,463	6,711	9,174
Totals	455	29,358	59,292	88,650

Residential Nursery Accommodation.

From 1st January, 1948, to 4th July, 1948, a limited number of places were available in the nurseries maintained by the Children's Department to children recommended for short-stay periods by the Health Department. Admissions were as follows:—

Keresley Manor Residential Nursery	21
Stoke House Receiving Home	25

As and from 5th July, 1948, all admissions to Residential Nurseries were dealt with by the Children's Officer under the Children Act which came into being on this date. I am to thank

the Children's Officer for her ready co-operation in helping to solve many of my department's problems in respect of children requiring short-term residential accommodation; further reference has been made to this subject and the need for distinct accommodation in my opening remarks to this report.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2866, the names of all unmarried mothers attending ante-natal clinics or calling in municipal midwives are notified to the Health Department. The Child Protection Health Visitor visits all such cases and also visits the hospitals weekly to follow up emergency cases: in addition, she makes arrangements, where necessary, for the care of mother and baby on discharge from the hospital. Seventeen expectant mothers were sent to special homes outside the City by the Council for their confinements during 1948.

There is a St. Faith's Shelter in the City which caters for unmarried mothers and their babies: it is maintained by a voluntary committee and fulfils a commendable service. During 1948, newly admitted cases numbered 89, making a total of 262 women assisted in the year. Ninety-five babies also passed through the shelter.

To meet their responsibilities under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act the Health Committee came to an interim agreement with the voluntary committee whereby:—

- (a) Local Authority cases could be admitted into the home.
- (b) The Local Authority would pay 75% of the net cost of maintenance of all such cases.
- (c) The Local Health Authority would nominate four members to serve on the Shelter Committees.
- (d) The Shelter Committee would provide supplementary accommodation for an additional eight beds at their home.

It is of interest to note that the Health Committee under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act have made provision in their approved scheme for the eventual erection of a separate Mother and Baby Home.

MIDWIFERY.

(Section 23.)

The City Council is the local supervising authority under the Midwives' Acts, and during the year 1948 notice of intention to practise midwifery was received by them from the following:—

Municipal Midwives	..	..	..	44
Private Midwives	..	..	..	6
Hospital, institution or association midwives..	..	..	..	10
				—
				60
				—

The approved scheme of the City Council under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act confirmed the existing municipal midwifery service and provided for such extensions over a series of years as the growth of the city and the changing conditions should warrant. The Council has to date provided eight Corporation houses and two flats for the use of its midwives, and all midwives are provided with telephones.

The work of the domiciliary midwives (*i.e.*, municipal and private) is under the supervision of the Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health (Dr. C. I. Ham) and the non-medical Supervisor (Miss M. A. E. Taylor), and they are directly responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the efficient working of this service.

A summary of statistics is given below :—

						<i>Total</i>		
No. of births attended : As Midwives						2,013	}	2,599
As Maternity								
Nurses						586		
No. of visits paid :								
(a)	Ante-natal	12,755	
(b)	Nursing	43,881	
No. of requests sent for medical aid		..	..	..	..	677
No. of cases transferred to hospitals		..	..	..	..	127
No. of cases in which gas and air analgesia was used		..	1,210					
No. of abortions		..	..	..	..	52
No. of advisory attendances made at :								
(a)	Ante-natal clinics	..	..	..	..	703
(b)	Post-natal clinics	..	..	..	..	216
No. of analgesic machines in use in department		..	..	36		
No. of municipal midwives trained to use machines		..	40					

The private midwives attended 102 confinements during the year ; they administered gas and air analgesia in 42 cases and sent for medical aid in 19 cases.

The number of births occurring in private nursing homes was 509 : here there were 328 gas-air analgesic administrations and medical aid was required in 8 cases.

The figures relating to the registered Nursing Homes in the city are as follows :—

	<i>Maternity Beds Registered</i>	<i>Births Occurring</i>
The Hollies Nursing Home, 7, Park Road	7	168
Sunnyside Nursing Home, 63, St. Nicholas' Street	9	129
The Laurels Nursing Home, 3, Middleborough Road	6	56
The Bassett Nursing Home, 2, Bassett Road	5	54
The Beechurst Nursing Home, Stoke Green	2	9
The Grenville Nursing Home, 21, Grenville Avenue	1	2
The Friars Crag Nursing Home, Broad Lane	5	11
Coundon Court Nursing Home	10	80
		<hr/> 509 <hr/>

The number of births which occurred in the Gulson Hospital was 1,039. (*N.B.*—The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Keresley, is outside the city.)

Of the 5,101 births allocated statistically to the city, 4,249 actually took place therein. Of this number, 2,599 or 61% were attended by the municipal midwives, and it is of interest to note that 1,210 or 47% of these mothers had gas-air analgesia administered. Supplies of gas cylinders are kept available at the Health Department and a reserve is available at the Ambulance Depot for nights and week-ends. During the year eight municipal midwives were sent for their regular five-yearly post-graduate training.

HEALTH VISITING.

(Section 24.)

The health visiting staff, numbering some 29 fully qualified nurses, continued their essential domiciliary work under the supervision of the Superintendent Health Visitor, (Miss M. D. Lloyd), offering advice and guidance to mothers both for themselves and their children.

The scheme of the City Council approved by the Minister under Section 24 of the National Service Act provided for the continuation of the existing health visiting service augmented, should occasion arise, to meet the necessary requirements of an increasing population and such changes and developments as may arise from an increasing public interest in the general welfare of the family as a social unit.

An innovation has been made by the introduction of state registered nurses into some of the infant welfare centres in lieu of the health visitors, thereby relieving the latter for their fundamental work of home visiting.

During the year the visits made by health visitors are as shown in the following table :—

DOMICILIARY VISITS	1948	1947
Ante-natal cases	895	711
Notified births	5,339	6,019
Revisits to notified births	13,881	11,759
Children aged 1—5 years	18,929	12,346
Infant death enquiries	19	19
Stillbirth enquiries	66	76
<hr/>		
Visits to ophthalmia cases	7	46
„ „ tuberculosis cases	2,038	2,025
„ „ non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases	59	153
„ „ other infectious diseases	63	177
„ „ special cases	1,186	765
„ under Public Health Act, 1936	345	333
„ to homes under Public Health Act, 1936	246	258
„ to contacts of poliomyelitis	49	299
„ to contacts of cerebro-spinal fever	63	31
Swabs taken of diphtheria contacts	111	384
Sessions at Welfare Centres	4,762	3,687

The visiting and revisiting of many houses throughout the City in which there are babies and young children living is one of the most essential factors in the whole range of the maternity and child welfare service. It is obvious that under the provisions of the National Health Service Act the importance of this aspect of a Health Visitor's work will become further stressed. It is envisaged that the development of the domiciliary health services will benefit greatly by the closer co-operation between the work of the family doctor and that of the health visitor.

Parentcraft Teaching.

An attempt has been made to bring before mothers attending the Welfare Centres the importance of some of the modern teachings and methods in regard to parentcraft : suitable books and pamphlets are also made available. It is hoped to develop this service considerably in these and other directions during forthcoming years.

HOME NURSING.

(Section 25.)

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, Section 25, the City Council with the approval of the Minister of Health, adopted a scheme to operate a comprehensive Home Nursing Service for the necessary domiciliary requirements of the city's population. From the appointed day (July 5th, 1948), the Local Authority entered into agreements with the Coventry and Foleshill District Nursing Association (and with the Queen's Institute of District Nursing) to take over and assume direct responsibility and control of the nursing associations' service operating within the city boundaries. In like manner, the Council by agreement, assumed responsibility and control of the Tile Hill and Westwood District Nursing Association in respect of such of the latter's service as operated within the city.

This involved the take-over of the following :—

Personnel : 1 Superintendent Nurse.

38 Full-time Nurses.

6 Half-time Nurses.

Property : Four Nurses' Homes, together with ancillary furniture and fittings :—

Park Road—Manor Road.

Foleshill Road.

Willenhall Lane.

The Nurses' Memorial Home, Tile Hill.

Two small cars.

Thirty-six cycles.

The service was transferred on the appointed day and the secretary was absorbed into the Health Department general staff.

A feature of the service during the last six months of 1948 has been the constant changes in the nursing staff, and to retain this latter at an adequate level it has been necessary to employ non-resident married women nurses on a five-day week basis. This has resulted in the week-end and holiday duties falling upon the shoulders of the resident staff : an undesirable outcome which might be a potential for dissatisfaction.

Preliminary steps were taken during the year to have the central nurses' home in Park Road approved by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing as a key training home. This, when confirmed, should contribute in due course, to the supply of trained nurses and give a helpful supplementary service to Coventry during the training period of the nurses concerned.

The nursing staff at 31st December, 1948, was :—

1 Superintendent.
25 Full-time Nurses.
11 Part-time Nurses.

Statistics for the 6 Months Period July 5th, 1948, to December 31st, 1948.

Total number of cases attended	..	1,914
Number of new cases attended	.. ..	1,476
Number of visits made	.. ..	69,106
Number of operations attended	..	63

New cases referred for treatment by :—

Private doctors	.. ..	1,079
Health Department	..	160
Hospitals	.. ..	94
Others	.. ..	143
		<hr/> 1,476 <hr/>

Results of treatment were as follows :—

Convalescent	.. ..	715
Sent to hospital	.. ..	153
Relieved	.. ..	340
Died	.. ..	208
Remaining under care	..	498
		<hr/> 1,914 <hr/>

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION SERVICES.

(Section 26.)

The scheme approved by the Minister under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act provided for the continuation and extension of the City Council's scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and for the provision of such existing facilities and those which may become available in regard to immunisation against whooping cough ; it also provided for a general voluntary scheme of vaccination of infants against smallpox.

The arrangements provided were :—

1. An invitation—with tear-off replies—is sent to the parent of each child whose birth is notified to the Health Department.
2. Upon the return of the tear-off (which allows for the selection of a private doctor or the medical staff at the infant welfare centre) the doctor or the centre is advised of the parents' request and asked to make the necessary arrangements.
3. Supplies of antigens and of lymph are available upon request by the doctor.
4. The doctors and/or the centres return the completed cards to the Health Department showing the work done and the appropriate dates.

The following are statistics available for the six months period July 5th, 1948, to December 31st, 1948 :—

1. Number of invitations sent out	..	..	..	2,200	
2. Number of requests received : —					
For Immunisation	..	..	..	2,037	} 2,646
,, Vaccination	..	..	..	609	

		<i>Infant Welfare Centre</i>	<i>Private Doctor</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a)	For diphtheria immunisation ..	2,003	133	2,136
(b)	Included in (a) are the requests for combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation which were	1,593	133	1,726
(c)	For whooping cough immunisa- tion only	340	5	345
(d)	For vaccination	182	427	609

The above figures are in respect of completed immunisations. Regarding vaccination—where the actual vaccination may stand over for some months—211 children were vaccinated.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

The following table shows the number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised in Coventry since 1929 :—

1929	..	..	1,171	1938	..	..	188
1930	..	..	234	1941	..	..	1,424
1931	..	..	157	1942	..	..	11,379
1932	..	..	185	1943	..	..	4,872
1933	..	..	427	1944	..	..	4,325
1934	..	..	399	1945	..	..	4,438
1935	..	..	2,985	1946	..	..	4,687
1936	..	..	1,624	1947	..	..	3,337
1937	..	..	688	1948	..	..	4,427
				TOTAL	..		46,947

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

(Section 27.)

The City Ambulance Service continued to function from the depot in Abbots Lane without change up to the 5th July, 1948.

As from that date the provisions of Section 27 of the National Health Service Act became operative and the City Council announced its policy to provide and maintain a complete ambulance service to meet the needs of all citizens in the area: administration to be through the existing City Ambulance Service by agency arrangements with the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital Saturday Fund Committee whereby the staff and vehicles of both services would operate from one central ambulance depot situate in Swanswell Terrace. This latter building is the property of the Hospital Saturday Fund Committee and as from 8th November, 1948, was rented by the Council and used in common by both services. On that date also the depot at Abbots Lane was closed down and the combined ambulance services commenced to operate from the Central Ambulance Depot, Swanswell Terrace (Telephone: Coventry 5041).

A feature of the new depot facilities has been the provision of a new garage (aeroplane hangar type) of sufficient size to accommodate the combined fleets of vehicles.

The Council's scheme, approved by the Minister of Health, indicates quite clearly their policy to own and operate a fleet of vehicles (ambulances, sitting case cars and utility vehicles) adequate to meet the needs of the city, and it also envisages a service comprising up to 22 ambulances, 8 sitting case cars and a personnel of between 40 and 65. The ambulance service for infectious diseases which functioned separately prior to July 5th, 1948, has been merged into the general scheme with a safeguard that certain ambulances will be reserved for use in connection with infectious diseases' work only.

The record of work performed during 1948 therefore falls into two different phases: (1) the period from January 1st to July 4th, (2) the period from July 5th to November 8th and from then to December 31st.

(1) From 1st January, 1948, to 4th July, 1948:—

No. of calls received	5,321
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Classification of calls:—

1. Accidents	991
2. Removals to hospital	3,041
3. Transfers from hospital to lying-in or convalescence	1,051
4. Private removals	..	..	..	..	17
5. Removals to institution	..	..	..	..	221
No. of patients removed	..	..	..	..	6,522
Mileage covered	..	..	..	..	50,122

(2) From 5th July to 31st December, 1948 :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Allocated to</i>	
		<i>City Ambulance</i>	<i>Hospital Fund Saturday Ambulance</i>
No. of calls	22,897	8,099	14,798
Classification of calls :			
Accidents		1,166	253
Removals to hospitals ..		300	—
Removals from hospitals		281	—
Removals to Isolation Hospital		275	—
Removals from Isolation Hospital		24	—
Transfers from hospital to lying-in or convalescence		237	—
Transport of out-patients ..		4,960	—
Transport of mental patients ..		16	—
Transport of patients to country or seaside convalescence ..		48	—
Transport of nurses, midwives, sanitary inspectors and others		711	—
Transport of equipment		81	—
(Midwifery)			
(Cylinders)			
(Specimens)			
No. of patients moved	28,843	12,661	16,182
Mileage		88,007	70,093

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE.

(Section 28.)

The proposals of the City Council under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act as approved by the Minister provided for the taking over by the Health Department of certain services formerly available for Coventry through (a) the Warwickshire and Coventry Joint Tuberculosis Committee (now dissolved) and (b) the former Social Welfare Department; for the correlation of such services with those of the Health Department and for their development and extension as circumstances require; for the continuance and extension if necessary, of the existing service whereby a selection of simple medical and surgical appliances is available on loan; and for the introduction of a scheme for the provision of meals for sick and aged persons in their own homes.

The effect of these proposals is briefly set out hereunder :—

(a) Tuberculosis.

The Health Committee to be responsible for the provision of open-air shelters, for the provision of supplementary rationed foods, for assistance in providing beds, bedding and personal clothing in appropriate cases, and for the supply of sputum flasks and disinfectants when required.

(b) Venereal Diseases.

The Health Committee to continue with the services of a special follow-up visitor in connection with venereal diseases' work and in co-operation with the Venereal Diseases' Treatment Centre.

(c) Meals for the Sick and Aged.

The Health Committee has approved a scheme for the provision of a "Meals on Wheels" service for the benefit of aged and sick persons in need thereof.

(d) Health Education.

A scheme for the extension of health education facilities is under consideration.

(e) Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus.

The existing service in connection with the loan of sick-room appliances has been extended and co-ordinated with the work of the Home Nursing Service.

The action taken under the above headings during the second part of the year was as follows :—

- (a) The department now owns open-air shelters of various types for the use of some domiciliary cases of tuberculosis who have been recommended for them. At the year end four of the shelters were in use at the homes of patients ; supplementary rationed foods were supplied on the recommendation of the tuberculosis visitor for periods of three months at a time, subject to renewal for similar periods. In the first quarter, 24, and in the second quarter, 35 persons were supplied with supplementary foods ; in the six months to 31st December, 1948, the cases assisted with articles of bedding have numbered 18 ; no requests were received for the supply of sputum flasks although a stock of these is now available.

DOMESTIC HELP.

(Section 29.)

Home Help Service.

This service, which was inaugurated in Coventry in 1945, continues to perform sterling work in tending to the domestic needs of harassed enquirers either in the field of midwifery or in that of sickness and old age. This popular service continues to extend its sphere of activity as times goes on.

The City Council's scheme under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act provided for the continuance of the existing service of Home Helps and for its augmentation to meet possible demand for extensions. The staff engaged in this section consists of one Superintendent, one assistant and two clerks and the growth

of the work has necessitated the provision of additional office accommodation : this was fortunately made available within the premises already occupied by Sub-Department " H " in St. Patrick's Road. During the year each home help was provided with three sets of overalls and a distinctive brooch badge.

The following are the relevant statistics during 1948 :—

Average number of Home Helps ..	52
Number of applications for assistance ..	712
Number of applications dealt with ..	621

The establishment of personnel for this service was fixed at the equivalent of 70 full-time helps and at the year end there were :—

- 50 full-time helps working an average of 42 hours weekly.
- 14 part-time helps working an average of 30 hours weekly.

The average number of helps engaged during the year was 52.

Percentages and nature of cases assisted :—

- 65% Illness (including chronic cases).
- 18% Maternity.
- 17% Old Age.

The figures for the previous year (1947) were 365 cases dealt with by 39 home helps.

It is hoped that in succeeding years the services of home helps may become available in the homes of tuberculous patients. There is at present an understandable reluctance of the home helps to undertake duties in households in which there are patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. However, one is confident that as time goes by there will be practical means of reducing the anxiety of the helps in this respect.

MENTAL HEALTH.

(Section 51.)

The Mental Welfare section of the Department continued to function up to the 5th July, 1948, and carried out the provisions of the Mental Deficiency and the Mental Treatment Acts respectively.

As from the appointed day (5th July) the Mental Health Service (both that in the Department and that in the former Social Welfare Department) was reorganised, and in accordance with the Council's scheme under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act a single integrated service responsible for all mental health work of the local authority was set up. The scheme set out the following details as to organisation, control and direction.

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible to the Health Committee for the Mental Health Service, and to assist him he has :—

- (a) The Deputy Medical Officer of Health as Director of the Mental Health Service and of any mental health social workers who may be appointed by the local authority.
- (b) Appropriately qualified and experienced Assistant Medical Officers for the purposes of certification and other related duties.
- (c) A Senior Authorised Officer and Petitioning Officer with adequate staff comprising "duly authorised officers," statutory visitors and clerks for carrying out duties and obligations under the powers of the Mental Deficiency, Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts respectively.

The duties of the Mental Health Section as from the 5th July, 1948, have consisted of :—

1. All the former duties of the Relieving Officers in connection with the visiting, certification and removal of persons of unsound mind to the mental hospital in accordance with the Lunacy Act, 1890.
2. The duties arising out of the acceptance of and arrangements for the admission and treatment of "voluntary" and "temporary" patients in the mental hospital as provided for under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.
3. The domiciliary supervision of all notified cases of mental deficiency, the home visitation and welfare of mental defectives under guardianship, and the detailed arrangements arising in connection with the removal of those mental defectives whom it is found necessary to admit to institutions or colonies.
4. The maintenance of a close liaison with the Psychiatric Social Workers attached to the mental hospital in respect of Coventry cases.

The staff appointed to carry out these duties consisted of :—

The Medical Officer of Health.

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health as Director.

A Senior Authorised Officer and Petitioning Officer.

Four Duly Authorised Officers (two men and two women).

Two Clerical Assistants.

The Section has worked at full pressure since its inauguration, the Authorised Officers being available for duty on a roster basis for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. In addition to ordinary office hours of work, each officer is available on call for nights and week-ends as follows :—

For one week on duty as required.

For the next week on second call for duty.

For two weeks—clear of evening and week-end duties.

The officers have telephones provided and the duty roster is supplied to the City Police, to the hospitals and to all medical practitioners.

The work carried out during the year was as follows :—

Lunacy Acts, 1890-1891.

	Section 16	SECTION 20		Totals
		Exhall Lodge	Central Mental Hospital	
No. of patients taken over on 5th July, 1948 ..	315	—	—	315
No. of admissions from 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948	46	13	3	62
No. of discharges, including deaths from 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948	361	13	3	377
	38	13	3	54
No. of persons of unsound mind remaining in Central Hospital on 31st December, 1948	323	—	—	323

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Under this Act treatment in a mental hospital or an institution is available without prior certification, to persons of unsound mind who are accepted as voluntary patients for treatment, or for whom temporary treatment is recommended by their medical advisers.

During 1948 the facilities under this Act were utilised as follows :—

1. No. of patients in Central Hospital, Hatton, under this Act on January 1st, 1948.	Voluntary	176
	Temporary	2
2. No. of patients admitted during 1948	Voluntary	159
	Temporary	5
3. No. of patients discharged or died ..	Voluntary	187
	Temporary	3
4. No. of patients remaining in hospital at 31st December, 1948	Voluntary	148
	Temporary	4

Of the 164 patients admitted in the year, 33 had previously received treatment in a mental hospital. The average length of stay in hospital for those patients who were subsequently discharged or who died in hospital was 98 days.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

Table showing Classification of all Mental Defectives on Register at 1st January, 1948, and how dealt with.

	In Institutions			Under Guardianship			Under Supervision in own homes			Grand Totals		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Feeble-minded	67	81	148	7	12	19	102	92	194	176	185	361
Imbeciles	35	34	69	7	7	14	33	30	63	75	71	146
Idiots ..	8	6	14	—	2	2	4	3	7	12	11	23
Moral Imbeciles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
TOTALS	110	121	231	14	21	35	140	126	266	264	268	532

Totals do not include 26 (9 males, 17 females) on licence from institutions.

During the year 12 patients were admitted to St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, where there were 211 Coventry patients in residence. In the six months since the appointment of the Authorised Officers, domiciliary visits have been made as follows:—

Mental Deficiency Cases	1,141
Mental Treatment Cases	312
Lunacy Patients	252

The Health Committee has given considerable time and attention to the subject of an Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives, and I am happy to state that by the year end a provisional site with draft layout and plans had been decided upon. The complete proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health for their examination and approval early in the current year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

With the coming into operation of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the long heralded termination of the "Poor Law" was effected and alternative administrative arrangements were made to assist needy persons through the National Assistance Board and Local Authorities respectively.

Under this Act there devolves upon the Council certain duties, including the provision of residential accommodation for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or other circumstances are in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them and temporary accommodation for persons who are in need of it in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen.

Under the same Act, Local Authorities are given power to make arrangements for promoting the welfare of handicapped persons.

By its administrative scheme made in pursuance of the National Assistance Act, the Council disbanded its former Social Welfare Committee and Department and delegated its duties in respect of residential accommodation for the aged to a newly appointed Standing Committee (the Pensioners' Committee) and its other duties under the Act to the Health Committee.

The whole of the work is now undertaken by the Health Department as a part of which a new Sub-Department was established (Sub-Department "H") under the control of the Medical Officer of Health and was organised with a Senior Administrative Assistant in charge, who, together with appropriate staff, mostly transferred from the Social Welfare Department, is responsible for matters relating to residential accommodation (including the administration of four existing Homes for Old People), temporary accommodation, the compulsory removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention (Section 47 of the Act) and the care and protection of property of persons admitted to hospitals where relatives or friends cannot undertake this duty. This Sub-Department also deals with certain duties in relation to the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, under the National Health Service Act and with the residual functions of the late Social Welfare Committee, including the administration of the Baginton Fields Hostel on behalf of the Ministry of Health, the distribution of Commonwealth Food Gifts, etc.

The Sub-Department retained the use of the offices at 1, St. Patrick's Road, and has continued to function there pending the provision of new and enlarged central offices for the entire Health Department.

Homes for Old People.

At the present time there are four Old People's Homes as follows :—

<i>Name and address of establishment.</i>	<i>Type of Present number resident. of beds.</i>
Moat House Home, Wilson's Lane, Exhall	Males 47
Charterhouse Home, London Road, Coventry	Males 30
St. Paul's Home, St. Paul's Road, Coventry	Females 19
Stone House Home, Birmingham Road, Allesley	Females 30

Included in these figures are a number of infirm and handicapped persons for whom it is intended to make special provision as soon as practicable.

The administrative scheme will provide for further Homes to alleviate existing overcrowding, to allow for growing demands and to make provision for married couples. Every effort is being made to improve the existing establishments by modification of ablution facilities to secure privacy, the substitution of small dining tables for long tables, the redecoration of rooms and corridors in brighter colour schemes, the provision of comfortable chairs and the obtaining of furnishings of a home-like character.

Each resident has now chosen a doctor under the National Health Service Scheme and nursing attendance is available at each establishment. Each Home is visited periodically by a chiropodist and medical practitioners have been appointed to exercise medical supervision of the residents.

Further amenities being provided include all manner of recreational facilities, clothing suitable to individual requirements, extras such as tobacco and sweets, opportunities for religious worship, facilities to move freely inside and outside the establishments, to visit and to be visited by relatives and friends at any reasonable hour, holidays by the sea, coach outings, visits to the Hippodrome, cinema, etc.

It is hoped to press on with further accommodation by the acquisition of existing buildings (if possible) and the erection of new buildings.

Baginton Fields' Hostel.

The Baginton Fields' Hostel houses repatriates from the Far East, Palestinians and British subjects from India, Egypt and Europe for whom the Ministry of Health is responsible. As a temporary measure, in urgent circumstances, the Ministry allowed two blocks at the Hostel to be used for temporary accommodation cases, of whom at the end of December, 1948, there were resident 7 men, 11 women and 14 children, making a total of 32.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children.

Until the Health Committee is able to provide a Home for unmarried mothers in the immediate ante and post-natal periods, as envisaged in the administrative scheme for the Care of Mothers and Young Children, under the N.H.S. Act, it has been necessary to arrange with the St. Faiths' Shelter for the reception of such cases and during the period from 5th July, 1948, to the 31st December, 1948, there were 50 women and 34 children for whom accommodation was provided at St. Faith's Shelter.

Prevention of Illness Care and After-care.

(a) *Provision of beds, bedding, etc., to T.B. cases.*

Assistance in providing beds, bedding, etc., to necessitous tuberculous patients has been given as indicated hereunder during the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948 :—

No. of cases involved	No. OF ARTICLES ISSUED						
	Blankets	Pillows	Pillow Cases	Quilts	Beds	Mattresses	Sheets
18	44	2	2	7	3	4	2

(b) *Meals for Sick and Aged.*

Active steps are being taken with regard to the operation of a Mobile Meals' Service ("Meals on Wheels") for the benefit of aged and sick persons who are in need of such an arrangement.

Commonwealth Food Gifts.

The work of the late Social Welfare Committee in connection with the distribution of Commonwealth Food Gifts has continued and 2,500 parcels were distributed in November, 1948, bringing the total number of parcels distributed during the year to 8,650.

General.

Wherever possible assistance or advice has been given in social problems, particularly where aged, infirm and sick have been concerned. Claims for pensions, supplementary pensions, children's allowances, etc., have been prepared for those unable to complete the necessary forms, hospital admissions have been arranged, applications for the appointment of Receivers of Income have been prepared and submitted to the Court of Protection on behalf of persons unable to manage their own affairs, furniture has been transported and stored for Part III National Assistance Act Accommodation cases, arrangements have been made with the National Assistance Board to afford assistance to persons in necessitous circumstances, and employment has been found for a number of persons. The Medical Officer of Health acts as agent for certain patients in hospital for the purpose of drawing their National Health Sick Pay.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

TABLE "A"—RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.

Description of persons (1)	NUMBER OF PERSONS ACCOMMODATED IN											No. of persons accommodated for whom other local authorities are responsible (7)		Total No. of persons for whom the Council are responsible (8)	
	Former "mixed" Institutions		Other premises managed by the Council (4)		Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council										
					By other local authorities (5)		By voluntary organisations (6)								
	Managed by the Council (2)		Vested in Minister as hospitals (3)		M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W			
1. Aged		W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W			
2. Physically or mentally infirm			7		49	38	3	2			1	2	58	38	
3. Blind or partially sighted			2	1	15	6	2			1			19	7	
4. Deaf and dumb					7	2				15			7	18	
5. Epileptics			1		1	1					7	2	2	1	
6. Cripples					3	2					2		5	2	
Total			10	1	75	49	5	3	9	17	1	2	98	68	
GRAND TOTAL			11		124		8		26		3		166		

TABLE "B"—TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

Description of persons (1)	NUMBER OF PERSONS ACCOMMODATED IN										No. of persons accommodated for whom other local authorities are responsible (7)		Total No. of persons for whom the Council are responsible (8)	
	Former "mixed" Institutions			Other premises managed by the Council (4)		Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council								
Managed by the Council (2)		Vested in Minister as hospitals (3)		M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	
1. Persons over 16 :														
(a) Evicted ..					3	8					3	8		
(b) Others ..			6		4	3					10	3		
Total ..			6		7	11					13	11		
2. Children accompanied by persons over 16 :														
(a) Evicted ..						9						9		
(b) Others ..						5						5		
Total ..						14						14		
GRAND TOTAL ..			6			32						38		

WELFARE SERVICES : BLIND PERSONS.

Under Section 29 of this Act the Local Authority has power to make arrangements for promoting the welfare of persons to whom this Section applies, *i.e.*, persons who are blind, deaf or dumb and other persons who are substantially or permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed by the Minister.

An existing service in the Health Department, that of blind welfare, comes under the provisions of this section and work in connection with blind home workers and unemployable blind and general welfare of the blind was administratively centred for present convenience, in the Mental Health and Welfare Section of my Department.

Under the new Act the financial assistance rendered to the unemployable blind has been transferred from the Local Authority to the National Assistance Board, but all other work continues in the department. A home teacher for the blind is employed by the Local Authority, whose work is concerned with the welfare of the blind, training in braille and moon and in simple handicrafts.

During the year one motor coach outing to Oxford was held, at which 298 blind persons and guides were entertained for the day ; and one Christmas Party was organised at which 287 blind persons and guides were present.

The register of blind persons as at 31st December, 1948, gives the following details of all blind persons registered in the city.

Age periods of Registered Blind Persons.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age Period 0— 1	—	—	—
„ „ 1— 5	1	1	2
„ „ 5—16	8	5	13
„ „ 16—21	6	2	8
„ „ 21—40	20	14	34
„ „ 40—50	12	11	23
„ „ 50—65	36	32	68
„ „ 65—70	21	30	51
„ „ 70 & over	69	105	174
„ Unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL	173	200	373

Ages at which Blindness occurred.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age Period 0— 1	17	12	29
„ „ 1— 5	2	6	8
„ „ 5—10	7	3	10
„ „ 10—20	7	6	13
„ „ 20—30	14	7	21
„ „ 30—40	10	10	20
„ „ 40—50	20	14	34
„ „ 50—60	21	26	47
„ „ 60—70	35	48	83
„ „ 70 & over	40	68	108
„ Unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL	173	200	373

CORPORATION HOSPITALS.

The municipal hospitals formerly under the control of the Coventry Health Committee passed to the Hospital Management Committee (Group 20) of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board as from 5th July, 1948.

As from that date admissions were not limited to residents of the city, but serviced a larger area and therefore any statistics which I might attempt to include for the year may prove somewhat misleading. It is probable that the Hospital Management Committee will in due course publish its own report upon the work of the hospitals under its administration.

I would like to take this final opportunity of recording my appreciation of the consistent helpfulness of the Medical Superintendents (Drs. A. Seddon and J. F. Galpine) and the Matrons (the Misses M. Donagh and J. M. Blake) of the Gulson Road Hospital and City Isolation Hospital respectively, who, together with their staffs worked so diligently and efficiently in the service of the Health Committee, and for the benefit and welfare of many Coventry citizens who passed through the hospitals as patients, during their terms of office with the Local Authority.

HOUSING.

The health services of this country are partly directed towards the creation and maintenance of such environmental conditions as are conducive to the health, happiness and general wellbeing of the national community. Such conditions, it is submitted, are nowhere more vital or essential than in the homes of the people, for it is upon good housing conditions (coupled with reasonable financial and social standards) that much of the moral strength and character of a community depends. Lack of adequate housing and the inability to produce it or an indifference adequately to maintain existing housing will react unfavourably upon the outlook of a community and will engender undesirable social evils such as will tend to sap vitality and optimism. There are few things which react so fundamentally upon the outlook of man—whether in the mental, physical or moral planes—as does his home and family environment. This applies particularly to the child, whose early outlook is largely fashioned according to his initial domiciliary environment and impressions. The need and desire for more and better housing is everywhere apparent.

The efforts of the Health Department's inspectorial staff during the year under review have been directed towards the maintenance and repair of occupied dwelling-houses. The restrictions on building materials, labour difficulties and kindred conditions consequent upon the ravages of war, which still make themselves apparent, have largely determined the extent of housing progress. Coventry continued to be confronted with many difficult situations during the year under review in its untiring efforts to solve this most pressing of present-day problems: the real cure will come when the road is

open to permit the abolition of the slum dwellings in our midst. Plans and schemes formulated by officers of the Health Department are ready for the day when "housing" regains its true and full meaning.

It is fitting and proper to mention the close co-operation which has existed with other departments throughout the year, and particularly with the Housing Department. It has been possible to secure the rehousing of 18 families from dangerous and unfit houses which were afterwards demolished or closed. The housing repairs achieved during the year have been effected mainly under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following brief statistical survey of the activities locally in connection with slum clearance, embodying completed schemes together with an indication of future proposals gives a composite picture which is of special interest. It is a major contribution towards better public health standards.

It will be recalled that the work of slum clearance was planned in two phases, each of five years' duration. The first five years has been completed and commencement on the second five years' programme was about to begin when war broke out; the second part of the programme is therefore held in abeyance.

The following table summarises the position as it stands at the present time :—

First Five Years' Programme, 1935-1939.

Number of Clearance Orders dealt with	.. ..	40
Number of dwelling-houses involved	.. ..	1,545
Number of persons in occupation	.. ..	4,846
Number of dwelling-houses demolished	.. ..	1,412
Number of dwelling-houses not demolished due to wartime housing shortage	.. ..	133
Number of <i>individual unfit houses</i> dealt with	.. ..	257
Number of persons in occupation	.. ..	760
Number of houses demolished or closed	.. ..	255

Second Five Years' Programme (Proposed), 1940-1944.

Number of Proposed Clearance Orders	.. ..	76
Number of dwelling-houses involved	.. ..	1,531
Number of dwelling-houses in proposed Clearance Orders demolished by enemy action	.. ..	796
Number of individual unfit dwelling-houses included in proposed Second Programme	.. ..	744
Number of individual unfit dwelling-houses demolished by enemy action	.. ..	219
Number of dwelling-houses rendered unfit through war damage and subsequently included in the proposed Second Programme	.. ..	55
Number of unfit dwelling-houses in occupation at the end of the war	.. ..	1,315

OVERCROWDING.

There is a close relationship between overcrowding as a contributory factor to bad housing and the problem of housing itself. The provision of sufficient space in which to live in decency and in health is an important item in the many and various activities of the Health Department. At no time has the need for the abatement of overcrowding been more demanding than it is at the present time. After nearly six years of war and the resultant destruction of thousands of dwelling-houses, the cessation of building operations, the marked increase in population and relatively larger proportion of smaller family units, this city is still confronted with an unprecedented demand for housing much of it initiated on health grounds or because of gross overcrowding. In this connection it is gratifying to place on record the cordial relations which exist with the Corporation Housing Department, and I am greatly indebted to the Housing Manager for his willing co-operation. The acute housing shortage has called for the united efforts of both departments and the work has been carried on throughout the year in unison and harmony. Opinions on housing conditions with special reference to overcrowding have been frequently expressed or debated. As a result 84 cases of overcrowding have been abated during the year. The Housing Department has kindly supplied the following figures with regard to the housing position locally. The number of applicants for Corporation housing accommodation recorded at 31st December, 1948, was 14,212. Under the scheme of classification designed to distinguish the order of priority in the allocation of Corporation houses, this figure is composed of:—

392 cases in Category "A." First priority.

2,545 cases in Category "B." Second priority.

8,434 cases in Category "C." Third priority.

2,841 cases in Category "D." Fourth priority.

During the year a total of 1,230 families have been provided with separate housing accommodation in Corporation-owned property.

A significant achievement in the progress towards the rehousing of applicants for Corporation houses has been the reduction of first priority "A" cases. Of a total of 1,100 such cases, no less than 708 have been provided with housing accommodation during the year under review. Incidentally, this has been of great service to the Health Department in its fight against the spread of tuberculosis in the Coventry area, *and I would plead that this latter factor may never be lost sight of in the allocation of housing priorities.* Overcrowding and pulmonary tuberculosis are a very real menace in this modern age, and are two factors which will inevitably join hands and forces to confound a community and react against its physical wellbeing.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to the Water Engineer and Manager for the following information as to the city's water supply :—

Houses with water supply laid in	68,614
Houses supplied by standpipe or similar means ..	1,201
Total houses	<u>69,815</u>
Population supplied direct	246,758
Population obtaining mains supply by standpipe or other means (not direct)	4,324
Total population supplied	<u>251,082</u>

The supply has been satisfactory (*a*) in quality, and (*b*) in quantity for all essential purposes.

During the year good progress was made on the first instalment of the River Severn Scheme designed to provide an additional six million gallons of water per day. Work proceeded on two sections of the pipeline and on the Bredon Hill reservoir.

In spite of the difficulties inherent in the construction of major engineering works at this time there is no reason to fear that the works will not be finished by the estimated date of completion in 1952.

The second reservoir at Meriden to provide an additional 10 million gallons storage in the area of supply was nearing completion by the end of the year.

The appendix given below contains information as to the frequency of bacteriological and chemical examinations of water from the various sources of supply.

The waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

No special action has been necessary to meet any contamination of underground sources of supply. Chlorinating equipment is installed at all Pumping Stations for emergency use.

Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses.

	<i>Samples from</i>	<i>Frequency of Examination</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>
Bacteriological Examinations	All underground supplies	Twice weekly	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		Fortnightly	Coventry Public Health Laboratory
		Monthly	Birmingham University
	Ryton Waterworks	Daily Fortnightly Monthly	As above
	Distribution System	6 samples each week	Undertaking's own Laboratory
Chemical Examinations	All underground supplies	Fortnightly	Coventry Laboratory
		Full chemical and mineral periodically	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	Ryton Waterworks	Partial analysis daily	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		Full analysis weekly	"
		Full chemical and Bacteriological analyses at various stages of treatment monthly	"
		Fortnightly	Coventry Laboratory

FOOD POISONING.

It has been apparent for some time that the incidence of food poisoning throughout the country has been rising to such an extent as to be greatly disturbing to all those who are directly concerned, or interested in the preventive services and the future of the national "larder." There is little doubt that food rationing has been the means of popularising the use of canteens and restaurants by the public at large and, indeed, such a policy would appear to have been fostered from an economic point of view. Many hundreds of communal canteens and restaurants had been inaugurated during the late war and post-war periods and have provided means for the public to supplement their basic rations: but this trend has not been free from considerable risk, as events have only too clearly demonstrated. The publication by the Central Council for Health Education of statistics relating to the national incidence of bacterial food poisoning during the period 1939 to 1944 is most interesting and it will be observed from the following table that even in this comparatively brief period of six years, total notifications for the conditions mentioned have been more than quadrupled. A sobering thought!

Notifications of	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Bacterial food poisoning ..	83	47	151	241	247	550
Bacillary dysentery	1,941	2,860	6,670	7,296	7,805	13,346
Typhoid and paratyphoid	{ 734 745	886 1,947	1,058 3,705	486 390	385 328	356 303

It is, for example, inevitable in view of the tremendous increase in mass feeding and the somewhat hasty manner in which many of these ventures were inaugurated, that new staffs were obliged to be pressed into service without essential knowledge as to the need for high standards of cleanly food handling and preparation and stringent standards of general and personal hygiene: always essential factors to bear in mind, but of greater magnitude and significance when communal feeding has of necessity become such a fetish. This incidentally, stresses the need for eliminating "carriers" of infection from any process connected with food preparation or food handling.

Coventry has not been without its own problems and anxieties in this important field of hygiene and it says much for the industry of the public health staff and the interest and responsiveness of the citizens at large, to advice and suggestions which have been offered, that this highly industrialised city has probably been less affected by serious outbreaks of food poisoning than other communities of comparable size.

The important conference organised by the Central Council for Health Education in October, 1948, on the subject of "Food and Drink Infections," did much to direct attention to the seriousness of a position which was taking toll of thousands of valuable lives annually and the Coventry Health Committee were not slow to appreciate the vital need for initiating an active local campaign. Practical measures included the institution of lecture-demonstrations on food handling to all interested food handlers throughout the city; dissemination of appropriate health education literature; advice and assistance in current matters of food hygiene; and, in view of the City Council's position as a large scale employer of catering staff, intensified attention to the hygienic standards of municipal food establishments and equipment and also arrangements for the free voluntary and confidential medical surveillance of appropriate employees. The co-operation of the industrial managements and that also of the Coventry Joint Advisory Council for Industrial Health has been of valued assistance to my Department. The climax to the 1948 campaign in Coventry came in October when a Food Safety Exhibition was organised by the Health Department with the active co-operation of the Coventry Gas Department, and this was inaugurated by His Worship the Mayor of Coventry. At the same time the National Council of Women (Coventry Branch) with the full co-operation of my Departmental staff, were to be congratulated for their initiative in convening a local Food Safety Conference in which certain distinguished speakers, having considerable experience in this branch of hygiene, took part.

Following the Aberystwyth typhoid outbreak, all persons engaged in the manufacture or handling of ice cream were asked to attend the hospital laboratory for various bacteriological tests. The response was very encouraging and approximately 99 per cent. of those interviewed attended the laboratory.

During 1948 a number of lectures and demonstrations were given by the personnel of a company manufacturing a detergent and sterilizing agent, to officials and employees of the Civic Restaurants Department and the School Meals' Service and to various private traders in the city. The result of these lectures, etc., is that several Corporation-owned establishments and a number of private traders now use a well-known detergent and hypochlorite solution for washing and sterilisation of eating and drinking utensils in their catering establishments.

It gives cause for regret that my Departmental staff were obliged to initiate court proceedings relating to poor food safety measures against certain persistently irresponsible managements in this city: such duties are not pleasant but salutary measures are very necessary at times when the health and well-being of the community are at stake. Further details of measures taken under this heading are dealt with by the Chief Sanitary Inspector elsewhere in this report and he and his vigilant staff are to be congratulated for their valuable work in this field throughout the year. The great interest shown in this branch of Public Health work by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health during the year is worthy of commendation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

by Mr. W. BEAUMONT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Particulars in detail of the work carried out by the Inspectorate during the year are set out under the respective headings in tabulated form.

The outstanding features of the year's work worthy of special note are :

- (1) Abatement of nuisances in and around dwellings, extension of the city's sewerage system, abolition of cesspools and pail-closets.
- (2) Overcrowding.
- (3) Food Inspection.

Abatement of Nuisances.

The total number of complaints received and investigated during the year was 7,248, this includes all complaints with respect to nuisances, defective dwelling-houses, overcrowding and food ; this is a decrease of 1,516 compared with the previous year's figure of 8,764. The majority of these complaints referred to overcrowding and housing defects. Appropriate action was taken in every case, serious cases of overcrowding being referred to the Housing Department for consideration by the Housing Committee resulting in the applicants' families being rehoused or granted some priority, special consideration being given to persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The abatement of nuisances and remedy of defects at dwelling-houses was dealt with as expeditiously as practicable.

Overcrowding.

The subject of overcrowding of families is the greatest and most difficult of our present-day problems. The loss of 4,099 working-class houses during the war, cessation of house building, and growth of population has created an unprecedented demand for accommodation. Every effort is being made to relieve the pressure by the provision of new houses, temporary and permanent, and making available temporary accommodation by the adaptation of dis-used army camps and industrial hostels. In many instances, however, such buildings have proved to be insufficient protection even against comparatively mild wintry weather and fall far short of reasonable housing standards. The lack of accommodation has also rendered necessary the postponement of slum clearance schemes, resulting in a large number of dilapidated, unfit and war-damaged houses being retained for temporary occupation. The work of maintaining houses generally in a weatherproof condition and the efforts involved in making war-damaged property habitable have met with difficulty and frustration, particularly so when one bears in mind the controls upon and the high costs of building materials and labour.

Food Inspection and Prevention of Food Contamination.

In consequence of the increase during the war and post-war years of the incidence of bacterial food poisoning and bacillary dysentery, the work of inspection of food premises such as factory canteens, restaurants, cafes, and food kitchens, has been intensified during the year. Co-operation by the persons engaged in the preparation and handling of food for human consumption and also by the public generally has been solicited by means of organised lectures, public meetings and conferences, also by articles published in the local press dealing with the different aspects of this very important subject. The number and variety of food premises registered, number of inspections and statutory action taken are set out in the paragraph dealing with "Supervision of Food Supplies."

SOWE VALLEY SEWER—WALSGRAVE BRANCH.

During the year, good progress has been made with this branch of the sewer, the main being laid in the Hinckley Road and Woodway Lane, with branches in Hall Lane and Schoolhouse Lane. Work is at present in progress in laying the main to Potters Green.

In consequence of the provision of the new sewer, 16 cesspools have been abolished (13 in Hinckley Road and 3 in Woodway Lane) and the house drains being connected to the sewer ; and 45 pail closets have been dispensed with, the houses being provided with new drainage and water closets. It has also been possible to provide an indoor water supply to 16 houses in Woodway Lane which were formerly supplied by 2 stand pipes. I think it is fitting to record that the willing co-operation of property owners in carrying out sanitary improvements in these areas under the direction of the District Sanitary Inspectors has been well marked.

LODGINGS FOR WORKING MEN.

Lodging accommodation provided in the city for persons of the working class consists mainly of hostels.

There are six of these hostels within the city which are controlled by the National Service Hostels' Corporation.

In addition to these, one hostel formerly controlled by the above Corporation is now under the control of the Local Authority and is known as the "Guild House."

The hostels and "Guild House" admit male and female residents and there is accommodation for 6,500 persons. The average number of residents during the year was approximately 6,000.

The only place providing accommodation exclusively for men is a common-lodging house in the city. This is under the control of the Salvation Army and has accommodation for 414, the average number of nightly lodgers during the year being 160.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The D.D.T. and Gammexane insecticides developed during the war years have now proved themselves superior to all other "safe" insecticides, and the disinfection methods adopted by the department have now been concentrated upon these two substances. New preparations of these insecticides have been mixed and new methods of application have been practiced even in large blocks of infested houses with considerable success. The use of Gammexane has been particularly effective in the destruction of cockroaches.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Corporation-owned houses	..	..	..	8
(b) Other houses	..	..	..	177
Total	..	..		185

Number of houses disinfested :—

(a) Corporation-owned houses	..	..	..	8
(b) Other houses	..	..	..	174
Total	..	..		182

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

The facilities for public swimming and bathing within the city boundary consist of three baths :—

- (1) *Livingstone Road Swimming Bath.* A covered bath in the ownership of the Coventry Corporation.
 - (2) *Gosford Green Swimming Bath.*
 - (3) *Kenpas Swimming Pool.*
- { Both open-air baths in the ownership of private companies respectively.

Each bath is supplied from the public water supply and suitable equipment is installed in each case for the efficient filtration and chlorination of the water while the baths are in use. Suitable and adequate changing facilities and cubicles for the reception of bathers' clothing are provided at each pool, which are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Adequate sanitary provision is made and the strictest supervision maintained by the management to see that the conveniences are kept in a clean state.

Samples were obtained at intervals during the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis and these in all cases were satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Several instances of pollution of water courses in the city occurred during the year, most of the pollution being from industrial sources.

Periodical pollution of the Springfield, Eastern Green and Canley brooks has occurred either from industrial undertakings or from sewage effluents, but in all cases reference to the responsible parties has met with co-operation and steps have been taken to abate the nuisances and prevent their recurrence as far as possible. The City Engineer has also co-operated actively in these matters.

POLLUTED WELLS.

One well, supplying water for use of occupants at a cottage near the outskirts of the city, has been closed during the year, the water being found to be unfit for drinking purposes ; a pipe supply has since been made available.

There are now very few dwelling-houses in the city where town water is not available for drinking purposes ; in these cases the occupants have to rely upon their supply from wells. Periodic precautionary measures are taken by submitting samples of the water for bacteriological and chemical analyses.

SANITARY PROVISION AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The estimated number of sanitary conveniences existing at the close of the year is shown below :—

	<i>Dec., 1947</i>	<i>Dec., 1948</i>
No. of water closets in houses, institutions, schools, factories and workplaces in the city ..	88,088	90,810
No. of privy middens	86	86
No. of pail closets	505	456
No. of ash pits	22	22
No. of cesspools	456	437

The collection of refuse and its disposal is under the direction of the City Engineer. Most of the refuse (about three-quarters) is disposed of by controlled tipping, the remainder is destroyed by incineration at the city's refuse destructor.

The quantity collected during the year was 47,773 tons. Of this 15,844 tons was destroyed at the refuse destructor and the remainder 31,929 tons was disposed of by controlled tipping.

As a result of the sewerage in the Binley and Walsgrave areas all pail closets with a few exceptions have been converted to the water carriage system : this involved some 40 pail closets. In addition 19 cesspools were abolished during the year in the Walsgrave, Willenhall and Tile Hill districts.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year 182 visits were made and 260 canal boats were examined. The number found to comply with the appropriate Acts and Regulations was 246, while 24 infringements were noted on 14 boats. The cabins of the boats inspected were found to be occupied by 165 men, 157 women and 168 children.

One case of infectious disease was notified during the year. The patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the boat detained for disinfection.

In two instances the cabins were found to be verminous, and were disinfested before the boats were allowed to proceed.

Other details for the year are as follows :—

Total number of boats registered to 31st December, 1948 ..	547
Boats added to the Register in 1948	Nil
Registrations cancelled	271
Actual number of boats on Register in 31st December, 1948 ..	276

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

That portion of the work of the Health Department connected with nuisances in and around dwellings and with property improvements can best be set out in tabular form. The figures in relation to these matters for the year are as follows :—

Drainage and Pavement.	1947	1948
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	1,913	1,541
Drains provided with efficient traps	30	77
New drains, inspection and intercepting chambers provided ..	45	113
Drains relaid	98	153
Soil pipes and ventilating shafts improved or repaired	46	51
Rain water pipes disconnected from the sewer	1	—
Courts and back yards paved and repaired	21	69
Sink drains disconnected from the sewer	3	1
Dwellings.		
Floors of dwellings relaid or repaired	367	401
Dilapidated walls and ceilings repaired	1,158	967
Damp walls—damp courses inserted	12	8
repointed or cement-rendered	124	177
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	895	752
Dangerous stairs repaired	28	32
Additional windows provided and others repaired and made to open	293	365
Defective guttering repaired	424	427
Houses provided with food stores	—	1
Existing pantries provided with external ventilation	—	2
Sculleries provided or reconstructed or enlarged	—	6
Wash-houses provided	—	2
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	32	39
New sinks provided	15	38
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	29	34
Houses lime-washed and cleansed	23	18
Houses cleansed after infectious disease	10	—
Verminous houses and furniture disinfected	144	139
Cases of overcrowding remedied	60	84

Water Closets and Urinals.						1947	1948
Additional water closets provided	..	..	..	..	..	2	18
Water closets reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	10	12
Water closets repaired and lime-washed	..	..	..	..	..	74	48
Water closets provided with new pedestals	..	..	..	..	..	278	358
Water closet pans replaced with pedestals	..	..	..	..	..	90	—
Defective joints in flush pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	207	162
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	19	26
Defective water closet cisterns repaired	..	..	..	..	..	239	212
New flushing cisterns provided	..	..	..	..	..	76	88
Urinals cleansed and reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
Urinals abolished	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Privies, Cesspools, Ashpits and Dustbins.							
Cesspools abolished	..	..	..	..	..	7	19
Offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets	..	..	..	..	..	15	40
Offensive privies or pail closets abolished	..	..	..	..	..	3	9
New water closets erected in place of above	..	..	..	..	..	1	9
Offensive ashpits abolished	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Sanitary dustbins provided in place of above	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other houses provided with sanitary dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	568	504
Various.							
Smoke nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	8	15
Nuisances from animals kept, abated	..	..	..	..	..	23	22
Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	249	206
Courts and back yards cleansed by tenants	..	..	..	..	..	13	17
Gipsy tents and caravans removed	..	..	..	..	..	141	100
Cowsheds improvements	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Dairies reconstructed or improved	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
Water supply—additional taps provided	..	..	..	..	..	9	29
Polluted wells dispensed with	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Town water supplied in place of well water	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
Offensive ditches cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	10	22
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	1,116	1,118
Improvements effected at factories	..	..	..	..	..	2	13
Improvements effected at shops and food premises	..	..	..	..	..	10	56
Bombed sites cleared	..	..	..	..	..	43	7
Drains sealed on bombed sites	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
						<hr/> 9,005	<hr/> 8,616

Summary of Inspectors' Work
IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF NUISANCES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Totals.
No. of drains opened and cleansed from obstruction...	880	1277	1890	2214	2362	2037	2014	1690	1913	1541	17,818
drains provided with efficient traps ...	132	22	19	29	23	5	14	25	30	77	376
new drains provided to premises ...	325	177	270	294	156	75	53	72	45	113	1,580
sink drains disconnected from the sewer ...	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	3	3	1	11
floors and walls of houses repaired ...	1979	602	23	85	291	499	716	1332	1525	1368	8,420
new sinks provided and others repaired ...	337	80	19	46	—	12	12	136	47	77	766
roofs of houses repaired and made weatherproof ...	833	468	43	117	209	305	467	655	895	752	4,744
defective spouts repaired ...	433	1435	28	64	101	151	200	311	424	427	3,574
houses limewashed and cleansed ...	144	42	92	—	19	21	15	20	23	18	394
houses cleansed after infectious disease ...	3	3	—	—	1	7	4	—	10	—	28
offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets ...	7	28	—	—	6	50	7	12	15	40	165
offensive privies or pail closets abolished ...	19	1	11	19	—	—	4	12	3	9	78
new water closets erected in place of above ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	12
additional new water closets provided ...	86	12	—	6	9	9	16	12	2	18	170
water closets provided with new cisterns ...	144	103	25	46	40	48	55	44	76	88	669
" " " pedestal pans ...	67	81	43	269	165	173	163	112	368	358	1,799
foul water closet drains cleansed ...	95	94	95	114	47	22	38	27	19	26	577
defective water closet cisterns, etc., repaired ...	685	633	251	378	361	248	283	391	239	212	3,681
offensive ashpits abolished ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
sanitary dustbins provided in place of above ...	—	17	2	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	26
" " " to other premises ...	966	619	119	364	551	555	580	692	568	504	5,518
urinals cleansed, repaired and reconstructed ...	—	2	—	4	—	1	—	1	7	3	18
courts and backyards paved and repaired ...	227	40	23	41	40	43	33	45	21	69	582
nuisances from animals kept, abated ...	48	11	18	24	12	11	27	15	23	22	211
offensive accumulations removed ...	358	283	1807	4730	2127	697	792	410	249	206	11,659
smoke nuisances dealt with ...	16	—	—	—	1	4	4	30	8	15	78
cases of overcrowding dealt with ...	21	7	5	—	—	—	—	5	60	84	182
vent and soil pipes removed or replaced and miscellaneous sanitary improvements effected	3424	1835	2581	3537	3005	2539	1973	2223	2431	2579	26,127
	11,231	7,874	7,365	12,381	9,528	7,513	7,479	8,275	9,005	8616	89,267

Summary of other Miscellaneous Work
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
No. of visits and revisits to premises ...	44328	36719	45088	58086	44861	44572	39009	41747	41309	42860
" drains tested ...	562	348	178	368	437	353	259	260	207	365
" visits respecting infectious diseases ...	1012	720	291	620	2073	1052	691	437	560	635
" notices issued for abatement of nuisances including informal and statutory ...	3747	2364	2444	2354	2769	2725	3428	3965	3950	3275
" statutory notices not complied with at the close of the year ...	1	—	—	2	3	1	1	6	6	7
" summonses issued for non-compliance with notices served to abate nuisances ...	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	2
" registered premises under supervision ...	2047	2541	2738	2210	2165	2118	2118	2145	2180	2345
" visits paid to registered premises ...	3083	2796	978	2077	2275	3622	2016	2163	2216	4345
" references to City Engineer and Water Manager	459	640	844	761	2075	1538	1222	1053	1134	1076

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following tables are inserted in compliance with Section 128 of the Act.

TABLE 1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number on	Number of		
	Register.	Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ..	93	19	4	Nil.
Factories not included in above in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	933	281	39	Nil.
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	1,026	300	43	Nil.

TABLE 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1) ..	1	..	..	1	..
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Unreasonable tempr. (Sec. 3) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6) ..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7)					
(a) Unsuitable or defective ..	32	7	..	11	..
(b) Insufficient	5	..	..	5	..
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	5	3	..	6	..
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork) .. ..	..	..	10	..	..
TOTALS	43	10	10	23	..

SANITARY CONDITION OF THEATRES, CINEMAS AND MUSIC HALLS.

The majority of the cinemas in the city are maintained in a cleanly state, but in some instances sanitary conveniences are subject to irregular unhygienic usage by the public.

During the year 27 inspections were made of the 19 cinemas and the one theatre in the city. In 5 instances, it was found necessary to call the attention of the managements to sanitary defects.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS DURING 1948.

Magisterial proceedings were instituted against four persons and five limited companies and in all, 48 summonses were issued. Of these, 42 were issued in relation to industrial canteens and in 24 instances the defendants were fined: the remainder were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders' Act.

Of the remaining seven summonses, three were issued for offences under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, two under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for selling unsound food and two under the Public Health Act, 1936, for failure to comply with notices to abate nuisances.

Fines were imposed in all above cases except one, in which an order to abate the nuisance was made.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register January, 1948	69
Number discontinued during the year	3
Number unoccupied	11
Number of changes of occupation	3
Number opened during the year	1
Number on Register December, 1948	67
Number of visits to bakehouses during the year ..	78
Number of written notices sent	1
Number of verbal notices given	2

During the year contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to uncleanly equipment were observed in three bakehouses; appropriate notices were served.

Plans were deposited and approved during the year for alterations or extensions to seven bakehouses and for the erection of one new bakehouse.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

This Act contains important provisions in respect of :—

- (a) Regulating the employment of young persons under 18 years of age.
- (b) Securing improved arrangements for the health and comfort of all shop workers.

Only that part of the Act dealing with ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, is dealt with by the Inspectorial staff. The remainder of the Act is administered by Shops Inspectors appointed for this purpose, and attached to the Weights and Measures Department.

Three hundred and seventy-nine inspections of shops were carried out during the year and appropriate action was taken where necessary.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

RAG FLOCK ACT (1911) AMENDMENT ACT, 1928.

Rag flock is not manufactured in the City and that which is used by upholsterers is purchased under guarantee or warranty that it complies with the prescribed standards of cleanliness as are set out under the above legislation.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

The inspection and control of temporary dwellings during the year has involved some 535 visits to sites in various parts of the city. Whereas in previous years the caravan dwellers were chiefly those of the showman, hawker, and Romany sections of the community, their composition has now become much more complex. During 1948 the Health Department has been concerned with large caravan sites, the existence of which is directly associated with the urgent housing demands prevailing. Attention has also been given to the condition of communal hutments which are relics of the local defence measures made during the war. These hutments were occupied by families after being abandoned by the Military Authorities, and their continued occupation has given rise to extraordinary problems connected with public health and habitable conditions. Detailed enquiries have been on various occasions made by the departmental staff into communal outbreaks of sickness.

One large caravan site situated on the outskirts of the city was the subject of prolonged negotiations with the land owner. Plans were eventually submitted for the provision of improved water supplies, water closet and domestic washing accommodation and additional drainage facilities.

An important event in connection with the control and supervision of tents, vans, sheds and similar structures in this locality has been the revocation of the Coventry Corporation Act, 1927, as applied to these establishments, and the adoption of the appropriate sections of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Local Authority is thereby empowered to authorise by licence the use of land as sites for moveable dwellings. Conditions may be attached and it is anticipated that the adoption of the Public Health Act, 1936, will be in the interests of the Public Health generally. The years' activity in this section of the work of the health services has been a strenuous one, demanding much care and attention to ensure that the risks and dangers associated with rough living of this kind were obviated.

During the year under review a total of 100 caravans were removed following informal action and hutments were demolished after the occupants had been provided with more suitable housing accommodation elsewhere.

REFERENCES TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

References made to Corporation Departments numbered 1,074 and related to refuse removal, clearing of obstructed sewers and combined drains, dangerous buildings, wastes of water and the erection of unauthorised buildings.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one house in the city which is registered as a common lodging house and this is under the control of the Salvation Army. It is well-conducted and maintained in a clean condition.

It has accommodation for 414 lodgers and the nightly average number of lodgers sleeping there during 1948 was 160. Twelve inspections of the house were made during the year and no contravention of the bye-laws was observed.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings.

No. on Register, January, 1948	..	..	..	6
No. added to Register during the year	..	..	..	3
No. discontinued during the year	..	..	..	0
No. on Register December, 1948	..	..	..	9
No. of visits during the year	..	..	..	35
No. of contraventions observed	..	..	..	5

Fish Friars.

No. on Register January, 1948	..	..	..	81
No. discontinued during the year	..	..	..	2
No. added during the year	..	..	..	4
No. on Register December, 1948	..	..	..	83
No. of visits during the year	..	..	..	110

OFFENSIVE TRADES.**Tripe Boilers.**

No. on Register	3
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Hide and Skin Dealers.

No. on Register	2
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Rag and Bone Dealers.

No. on Register	3
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Gut Scrapers.

No. on Register	1
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Tallow Melters.

No. on Register	1
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Bone Boilers.

No. on Register	1
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The hide and skin dealers are located at the Public Abattoir where also at the present time all tripe boiling in the city is carried on.

The registered premises have as far as possible been kept under observation during the year. A reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained and the requirements of the bye-laws complied with.

During the year 16 lists were received, in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, from firms employing outworkers. Of these lists 10 were received in August and related to 73 outworkers; 42 of the outworkers were employed in making or altering wearing apparel, the remaining 31 were employed in making cardboard boxes.

Forty-four inspections were made of outworkers' premises, all were found satisfactory and no contravention of the Factories Act, 1937, was observed.

COVENTRY CORPORATION ACT, 1948.

The above Act received Royal Assent and became law on 30th July, 1948. It contains eleven parts and eighty-two sections, some of which deal with matters enforceable by the inspectorial staff of the Health Department. Most of these matters are contained in Part 6, which under the heading of Nuisances and Sanitary Matters contains seven sections providing for measures which may be taken to suppress or to prevent nuisances.

Some of the provisions in the Act are entirely new in the sense that they have no parallel in any Public Health Act, although in a very few instances similar provisions are contained in private Acts of other local authorities; other provisions although not new give additional power in certain matters to that already possessed by the Corporation.

A brief description of these new or additional powers obtained are given below :—

(1) Prohibition of Smoke in Certain Areas (Section 51).

This gives power to establish a "Smokeless Zone"—that is a zone in which the emission of any smoke from any premises would constitute an offence—within the Central Area of the city ; this is more fully described under "Atmospheric Pollution."

(2) Prevention of Smoke from Industrial Furnaces (Section 52).

This prohibits the installation in any building of any furnace for raising steam or for any trade or manufacturing purpose unless the furnace can be continually operated without emitting smoke, also there is what is known as the "prior approval" clause which requires any person who proposes to instal a furnace in any building to submit his proposals to the Corporation for approval in the first instance. Further reference to the application of this section is made elsewhere in the report under the heading "Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution."

(3) Prohibition on Sale of Verminous Articles (Section 53).

This prohibits the sale of any verminous article such as furniture, mattresses, bed linen, etc., by any dealer and places upon him the responsibility of ensuring that any article sold by him is not verminous. Power is given to the Corporation to order the removal, cleansing, disinfection or destruction of any verminous article.

This Section gives enhanced powers to those contained in the Public Health Acts.

(4) Cleansing of Filthy or Verminous Premises (Section 54).

These provisions are somewhat similar to those contained in Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but give useful additional enforcement powers relating to *any premises* (not necessarily used for human habitation). Concerning premises used for human habitation, or as shops or offices, the notice may require the removal of wall-paper, etc., and the papering or painting of the interior surface.

(5) Power to Require Persons to Vacate Premises during Fumigation (Section 55).

This gives the Corporation power to require persons exposed to risk to vacate premises when it is proposed to use gas to fumigate any verminous premises. In such cases the Corporation must, if necessary, provide temporary shelter for the people concerned.

(6) Registration of Hawkers of Food and Premises (Section 56).

These powers are entirely new and additional to those contained in any other local Act. They are aimed at safeguarding the public from food which has been exposed to the risk of contamination, and empower the Corporation to require the registration of any person, other than a person who keeps an open shop and who sells food

externally from any receptacle and any premises where such person stores or keeps food for sale. The Corporation may, where necessary and in the interests of public health, refuse to register any person or premises.

(7) Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers and Premises (Section 57).

These provisions are new, the registration of hairdressers or their premises has never been required by any public health act and only a few local authorities in the country possess similar powers through private acts. It has long been felt that there was need for registration of such premises although it can be rightly said that in Coventry the standard is reasonably high and hairdressers generally have welcomed rather than opposed the provision of this section as it will tend to improve those few premises which may be below the standard adopted by the majority.

Every hairdresser will be required to register his name and address and also his place of business with the Corporation. Bye-laws for securing the cleanliness of premises, persons employed, towels and equipment, etc., may be made by the local authority.

Other matters in the Act which are the direct concern of the Department are the powers to deal with "neglected sites," and to order the alteration of chimneys causing a nuisance from the emission of smoke or gas. A "neglected site" is defined as the site of a ruinous or partly demolished building which is in such a condition as to be prejudicial to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood (*e.g.*, dumping of refuse, etc.).

The Corporation now have power to require the owner of any such site to remove any material or rubbish from the site within a specified reasonable time and if he fails to do so may remove the same themselves and recover the cost of removal.

The powers possessed to compel a person to carry out alterations to a chimney which causes a nuisance is additional to the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with the suppression of "smoke nuisances." Action can now be taken against a person for permitting a dwelling-house chimney to create a nuisance, whereas in the above-mentioned Act, dwelling-houses are excluded. The amount involved in raising the chimney or carrying out other works for preventing or mitigating a nuisance is limited to £20.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Public opinion has been exercised in recent years concerning the necessity for smoke abatement and the control of atmospheric pollution. The publicity service of the National Smoke Abatement Society has been of value in helping to educate the public mind, as to the serious consequences and effects upon health and general well-being which result from the smoke nuisance.

It has been estimated that over two and a half million tons of soot and five million tons of sulphur dioxide are discharged each year into the atmosphere in Great Britain. Most of the sulphur dioxide is discharged from industrial plant, but probably half the soot is produced in domestic firegrates. It is obvious that much heavier pollution occurs in industrial areas than elsewhere, and that the intensity and nature of the aerial impurities in a city is determined by the particular type of industry concentrated therein.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Coventry, although a leading engineering centre, is comparatively free from the serious atmospheric pollution which might be considered inevitable in a city with such concentrated industries. There is no doubt that this is due in the main to the fact that many of the larger factories are of fairly recent construction, organised on modern lines, and relying to a large extent upon electrical power for driving machinery, whilst potential smoke-producing installations are used solely for the production of steam for space heating. Many of these steam generators are oil-fired, or used in conjunction with scientifically devised mechanical stoking equipment which eliminates the unreliable "human element" factor of hand-firing.

There are, however, a number of factories, mainly of the older type, concerning which complaints of smoke emissions have been made. During the year under review 38 complaints were received and 156 observations were made of chimneys at 46 factories. In 30 instances, nuisances were observed, 15 of which were abated. In the remaining cases, where the furnaces were hand-fired improved methods of stoking recommended by this Department were adopted and further observations are being made. Improvements were effected in other cases by the consumption of better fuel, repairs to flues and furnaces and, where necessary, the installation of more efficient boilers and mechanical stoking equipment has been advocated. Thirteen written notices were served and eighteen verbal notices given. In 25 instances the complaints related to excessive smoke emission, and in 13 instances to soot, grit or dust emission.

Smoke Nuisances at Local Establishments.

With a view to obtaining the co-operation of manufacturers and stokers in the matter of smoke abatement, a card of "Instructions to Boiler Attendants" has been supplied in several instances by the Health Department.

Other recent routine activities in the city have included in certain instances, the installation of modern mechanical stoking equipment or of thermostatically controlled stokers, etc. Advice has been offered throughout the year by the specialist inspectorate to various concerns as to the best means of dealing with problems arising out of uneconomical or inefficient stoking.

Dust and Grit Nuisances.

Investigations have been made following complaints of dust and grit emission during the year at several factories in the city. The

fitting of grit-arresting apparatus, the repair, improvement and adaptation of such apparatus has been effected in three instances during the year.

In order to obtain widespread continuous measurement of the extent of aerial pollution in the city, a number of stations are being established. The Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has been approached for advice regarding the location of the stations and the methods of measurement of atmospheric pollution.

COVENTRY CORPORATION ACT, 1948.

The Smokeless Zone.

Coventry may justly lay claim to be included in the ranks of the enlightened minority possessing as it does the powers and provisions for the establishment of "smokeless zones" and the prevention of atmospheric pollution, contained in the Coventry Corporation Act, 1948.

The area chosen in Coventry where smoke prevention is considered to be most advantageous, where it can most readily be accepted and applied, and where a considerable proportion of properties do already conform to the desired practice, is a central area of 30 acres. This area of Coventry devastated by enemy action is to be the focal point of the City's ambitious proposals.

It is hoped in the future to extend the initial "smokeless zone" gradually over a larger area, but the rate and direction of such extensions would be factors dependant on circumstances and local conditions obtaining at the time.

Prior Approval of Boiler Plant and Equipment.

Another important provision of the Coventry Corporation Act, 1948, and one which has already commenced to operate successfully, is the "prior approval" of proposed industrial steam-raising installations. Before the passing of the local Act the only method of enforcing smoke abatement law was after the act of default had been committed. A new principle of legislation has now been advanced locally, and one which might well be the forerunner of similar national statutory control. In the Coventry Corporation Act, 1948, it is laid down that :

"No person shall instal in any building in the city whether erected before or after the passing of the Act any furnace for steam raising or for any manufacturing or trade purpose unless such furnace is, so far as practicable, capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke."

This local legislation means, in effect, that in future plans for the installation of furnaces for industrial steam raising within the city must have the prior approval of the local authority (acting in conjunction with the Ministry of Fuel and Power when necessary) before the work can be instituted.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT MARKETS, SHOPS AND STORES.

During the year 5,812 inspections were made of markets, shops, stores and warehouses where food was prepared, stored or exposed for sale ; of this number 1,962 visits were made for the purpose of examining food. Many of these visits were made at the request of shopkeepers, and appropriate certificates were issued enabling compensation or replacement.

Where food surrendered has any salvage value for animal feeding or otherwise, it is utilised for this purpose ; other food is disposed of at the refuse destructor.

The nature and quantities of food found during the year to be unfit for human consumption are set out under the heading " Un-sound Food."

MILK.

It is estimated that the daily consumption of milk in the city is approximately 23,000 gallons.

This comprises :

Milk produced at farms in the city ..	2,000	gallons.
Milk produced at farms within 25-30 miles radius	14,000	„
Milk supplied from distributing depots	7,000	„

Of the 23,000 gallons approximately 21,000 gallons are pasteurised or heat treated, the remainder being raw milk and about 25% of this being either Accredited or Tuberculin Tested.

It is pleasing to report that there has been a decrease in the number of complaints received during the year concerning stale milk and dirty milk bottles. This improvement is considered to be due primarily to better organisation in production and distribution, less difficulties being experienced in the supply of equipment and labour. Furthermore, relaxations with regard to distribution and control have been the means of introducing greater competition through giving consumers free choice of milkman.

Approximately 1,209 gallons of *Pasteurised milk* were supplied daily to the City schools, this being served to an average number of 29,026 children per day, each child receiving one-third of a pint. The milk has been sampled frequently and submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination : results have shown reasonably good standards of quality and cleanliness throughout the year.

PURVEYORS OF MILK.

	1947	1948
Number of retail purveyors selling loose milk within the city :		
(a) Residing in the city	99	100
(b) Residing outside the city ..	44	42
Number of retail purveyors selling bottled milk only :		
Residing in the City	383	410
Number of Wholesale Traders and Producers within the city	16	25

During the year 714 inspections were made of dairies, milk shops and milk vehicles.

The sale of loose milk by retail purveyors residing outside the city was discontinued in two instances.

Four contraventions respecting dirty walls and ceilings of dairies and dirty conditions of vans were observed: these were remedied following verbal warnings.

During the past year one large new dairy, equipped with pasteurising plant, bottle-washing machine, bottle filler and cold store has been erected.

Two new dairies have also been erected at two farms where tuberculin tested milk is produced: both dairies are equipped with mains water supply and sterilizers are also installed.

At the time of writing, two other large dairies are under construction, and when completed they should provide increased facilities for the efficient pasteurisation of the city's milk supply.

THE HEAT TREATMENT OF MILK PRESCRIBED TESTS ORDER, 1944.

During the year samples of milk have been obtained from the nine licensed Heat Treatment Plants (licences issued by the Ministry of Food) in the city.

All unsatisfactory results were notified to the Ministry of Food. Each case was investigated by an Inspector who advised the dairyman and resampled.

The number of samples obtained, together with the results, are set out in the table below:

No. of Samples Obtained	PHOSPHATASE		METHYLENE BLUE	
	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
133	123	10	130	3

DESIGNATED MILK.

The production and distribution of milk comes principally within the scope of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1936-1946.

All designated milk is subjected to periodical tests in order to prove that the conditions under which licences have been granted are being complied with and to ascertain the standard of cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk.

The number of licences issued to persons using the special designations during the year are set out in the following table, together with the number of licences issued in the previous year (1947).

Table Setting out the Number of Licences Issued during 1948 and Number Issued during 1947.

	1948	1947
Tuberculin tested ; producers' licence and bottling establishments	—	1
„ „ producers' licence	2	1
„ „ bottling establishments	4	2
„ „ dealers' licences	8	4
„ „ supplementary licences	2	2
Accredited ; producers' licences	8	8
„ producers' licences and bottling establishments	1	1
„ dealers' licences	—	—
„ supplementary licences	1	1
Pasteurised ; pasteurising licences	8	6
„ dealers' licences	4	4
„ supplementary licences	2	1

Samples of milk have been obtained from the holders of the licences and submitted for bacteriological examination. The number of samples submitted and the results of the tests are set out below :—

Designation	No. of Samples Examined	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested ..	20	10	10
Accredited	29	17	12
Pasteurised ..	108	99	9

With regard to unsatisfactory samples, investigations were carried out at farm premises and appropriate action taken in each case. In no instance was it found necessary to suspend or revoke a licence during the year.

Milk Samples Obtained and Submitted for Biological Tests for Evidence of Tubercle Bacilli.

During the year 21 samples of milk were submitted to the laboratory for biological tests for tubercle bacilli. In two instances the tests proved positive. Reports concerning these results were forwarded immediately to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and in both cases the affected cows were isolated and slaughtered. Repeat samples of the milk produced by the herds in question were taken and these gave a negative result.

COWSHEDS.

No. of cowkeepers on register, December, 1948 ..	56
No. of cowkeepers added during the year ..	1
No. of visits during the year	145
No. of notices issued	7

All farm premises have been inspected during the year and in 7 instances contraventions were observed. Appropriate action was taken and remediable measures were carried out by the cowkeepers concerned.

During the year the conditions generally at farm premises in the city were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

At one farm the premises were improved by repairs to the floor of the cowshed and yard pavement respectively.

At two other farms large new cowsheds were designed and constructed under the directions of the farmers concerned following consultation with the Health Department's inspector. The cowsheds comply with the conditions required under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations for the production and sale of tuberculin-tested milk.

The construction and equipment is of the latest design, comprising tubular steel standings with concrete floors and drinking bowls supplied from the town's main.

PIG KEEPING.

Pig keeping is very popular within the city, and during the last two months of the year over 900 cottagers' pigs were killed on private premises; others were killed at the Public Abattoir.

Applications from persons wishing to keep pigs showed a considerable increase over the previous year, being 63 as compared with 23: of these 63 applications, 44 were approved and the remaining 19 were rejected.

Every application for pig-keeping is decided on merit, regard being made to locality, avoidance of nuisance and general hygienic circumstances.

Persons are discouraged as far as possible from killing pigs on their own premises especially if they are within a reasonable distance of the public abattoir. The latter has excellent facilities for pig slaughtering of which the public tend to make good use.

A few complaints were received in respect of pig-keeping during the year and these were appropriately dealt with by the Health Department.

Two hundred and ninety visits were made by members of the inspectorial staff to premises where pigs are kept.

MEAT INSPECTION—PUBLIC ABATTOIR. YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1948

Summary of Inspections of Carcasses Slaughtered.

		Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. slaughtered	.. .. .	7,372	4,535	6,114	35,666	609
No. inspected ..	.. .. .	7,372	4,535	6,114	35,666	609
Diseases and Conditions other than Tuberculosis	Whole carcasses unfit ..	12	33	90	78	13
	Cases where parts or organs unfit ..	1,969	853	64	2,679	163
	Percentage of No. ins- pected found affected	26.87	19.54	2.52	7.73	28.9
Tuberculosis ..	Whole carcasses unfit	22	130	13	1	5
	Cases where parts or organs unfit ..	795	1,784	8	—	38
	Percentage of number inspected found affected	11.08	42.2	0.34	0.003	7.06

Notes : (1) All female bovines which have calved are classified as cows.

(2) Carcasses dually affected with tuberculosis and some other disease are classified as carcasses affected with tuberculosis only.

Classified Causes of Unfitness of Whole Carcases.

DISEASE OR CONDITION	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Tuberculosis, generalised or with emaciation	22	130	13	1	5	171
Emaciation, general, pathological	4	15	3	39	1	62
Septicaemia	5	17	7	9	1	39
Immaturity	—	—	43	—	—	43
Fever, acute	—	—	22	1	2	25
Pyæmia (inc.—Joint III and Polyarthritis)	1	—	8	5	1	15
Dead or moribund animals ..	1	—	1	12	—	14
Jaundice	—	—	5	—	1	6
General Dropsy	—	—	—	5	1	6
Uraemia	—	1	—	1	3	5
Anaemia, pronounced	1	—	—	3	—	4
Erysipelas, acute swine	—	—	—	—	2	2
Bruising, extensive	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gangrene	—	—	—	1	—	1
Leukemia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Melanosis, generalised	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	34	163	103	79	18	397

LOCAL CONDITIONS RENDERING PARTS OR ORGANS UNFIT.

		No. of cases.
<i>PARASITIC</i>	Distomatosis, 3,048 ; Pentastomes, Strongyli, etc: 1,067 ; Cysticerci, 1,248 ; Actinomycosis, 198	5,561
<i>LOCAL INFLAMMATORY PROCESSES.</i>	Mastitis, 806 ; Pleurisy, etc., 609 ; Pneumonia, 209 ; Abscesses, 678 ; Enteritis, 382 ; Others, 516 ..	3,263
<i>LOCALISED TUBERCULOSIS.</i>	Respiratory, 92% ; Digestive, 26% ; Others, 13% ..	2,625
<i>VARIATIONS, within Physiological Limits.</i>	Angiomatosis, 327 ; Pigmentation, 23 ; Other, 28	378
<i>NEOPLASMS</i>	.. .. .	6

Weight in lbs.	ORGANS AND TISSUES COLLECTED FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PROCESSING								NOS.	
	Orchitics	Livers	Spinal Cords	Pancreas	Thyroids	Supra- renals	Ovaries	Prostates	Pitui- taries	Lungs
Cattle	33	31,144	453	4,438	296	82	21	6	4,776	3,666
Calves				205						
Sheep	18	348		946	73		1			
Pigs ..	3						1			
Totals	54	31,492	453	5,589	369	82	23	6	4,776	3,666

Total weight of livers : 14 tons 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 20 lbs. Other glands :
2 tons 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 24 lbs.

Weight of meat and offal, from all sources, found unfit.		tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
	Tuberculosis	83	8	2	11
	Other disease	56	8	1	15½
	Total	139	16	3	26½

Classified Summary of Inspections Carried Out by Meat Inspectors.

Ante and post-mortem examinations of animals slaughtered	54,296
Post-mortem examination of animals dead on arrival or in lairs	13
Inspections of country-dressed carcasses and inter-depot transfers	658
Reinspections of home-killed meat	12
Detailed inspections of imported meat	1,794
Inspections of canned meats	964
Inspections of food other than meat	13
Inspections of Fatstock Collecting Centre	57
Inspections under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations ..	2,055
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	256
Inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	65
Inspections under the Shops Act	80
Inspections in conjunction with Ministry of Food Enforcement Branch	41
Totals	60,304

Meat Inspection, Public Abattoir.

The increases observed in 1947 were generally maintained, except for a reduced demand for pharmaceutical by-products, because of stocks in hand. Overall incidence of bovine tuberculosis declined, though more cases of generalised tuberculosis in cows were encountered. The upward trend of parasitic and local inflammatory processes continued, most marked in the case of traumatic peritonitis, possibly because of the widespread use of bailing wire with risk of foreign-body penetration of the animal stomach. Geographical distribution of certain parasitic conditions was emphasized during periods when Irish cattle and Welsh hill sheep were being consigned in quantity for slaughter. Johnes disease, mastitis and tuberculosis of the udder show a discouraging incidence, though perhaps economic necessity prompted by acute meat shortage may yet compel a remedy where public health pleas have been in vain.

Diseases of Animals' Acts.

No cases of notifiable disease were encountered, though fourteen animals died in transit or in lairages. Most of these were animals consigned for emergency slaughter, but one or two examples were of animals in an ailing or unthrifty state consigned considerable distances from collecting centres contrary to Ministry of Food instructions. The indifference or ignorance responsible for such incidents not only inflicts unnecessary suffering on animals, but causes loss of human food whereas appropriate action may often yield a salvageable carcase.

Tuberculosis Order.

Fourteen cows were slaughtered, of which eight were found in an advanced state of tuberculosis. There is a tendency for more non-advanced cases to be seen because of changes in classification effected in 1946 by an amending order and the practice of consigning to knackers' yards those cases which seem unlikely, ante-mortem, to yield salvageable carcasses.

" Congenital " Tuberculosis in Calves.

Seven cases were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in the slaughter of four tubercular cows. Loss of market tickets from live animals and failure of dealers to identify animals with their place of origin prevent full benefit from this practice.

Imported Meat.

A relatively minute fraction of imported meat handled was found unfit—under 3 tons out of 6,550 tons. Fewer cases of bone-taint were seen, and a much smaller quantity of canned meat was found unfit, possibly because old stocks had been exhausted.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

The general effect of these regulations is dealt with more fully elsewhere. Close co-operation from the Meat Transport Organisation has effected some detailed improvements regarding transport and handling of meat at the abattoir. The clothing of hauliers remains a difficult problem, but the Organisation and the Ministry of Food are hopeful of the outcome of experiments now proceeding. Few contraventions of Part IV of the Regulations were observed, though in one instance of bulk delivery it was necessary to institute magisterial proceedings.

A number of cases of illicit slaughter have been investigated in conjunction with Ministry of Food officials and where appropriate, magisterial proceedings instituted.

Co-operation.

Close liaison continues with central and local agencies and with farmers and veterinary surgeons whose work is often associated with that of the departmental food inspectors.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS' ACT, 1933.

The figures as to licensed slaughtermen in the city are as follows :—

New licences granted during 1948	..	..	9
Total number in operation, December, 1948	..	..	118
Number of licences renewed during 1948	..	..	31

No contravention of the Act was observed during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.
PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS,
1935-1948.

Under the provisions of the above regulations 2,501 inspections of shops, stores, stalls and vehicles used for the conveyance of meat were carried out as part of the routine work of the inspectorial staff. Twenty-six contraventions of the regulations were observed and magisterial proceedings instituted in three instances—these have been mentioned previously under the heading “Magisterial Proceedings.”

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

**Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Act for the Manufacture,
Storage or Sale of Food.**

Before registration is effected, such premises must comply with the provisions of Section 13, which lays down certain requirements relating to structural conditions, suitability and cleanliness which must be observed in order to prevent contamination of the food produced or sold.

The number of registered premises under the Act is set out as follows :—

	1947	1948
Number of premises on register, January	466	501
Number of premises discontinued during year	5	0
Number of premises added to register during year	40	56
Number of premises on register, December	501	557
Number of inspections during the year ..	1,393	3,016
Number of contraventions observed ..	10	48

Classification of Premises Registered at the Close of the Year.

	1947	1948
Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	77	82
Premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream	135	176
Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of pressed, potted or preserved meat, etc... ..	200	209
Premises registered for manufacture of sausages only	89	90

During the course of inspection of these premises, contraventions were observed in 48 instances.

Magisterial proceedings were instituted in two instances.

ICE CREAM.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, which became operative in May, 1947, require that the ingredients of ice cream shall be heat-treated prior to sale for human consumption.

Ice cream is prepared at present by two different methods, the "complete cold mix" and "hot mix" methods respectively.

In practically all cases in the city where manufacture is carried out on a comparatively large scale, the "hot mix" method is used, and the apparatus required for heat treatment and sterilisation has been installed and approved by the local authority.

In the case of the small manufacturer who has not the facilities for the installation of machinery for the heat treatment method, a "complete cold mix" is used and facilities for sterilisation are provided.

All necessary precautions are advised by the department to protect ice cream and apparatus from dirt, dust or other contaminating substances during manufacture, storage or distribution.

Most of the ice cream sold in the city is supplied wholesale by local manufacturers and large well known distributors.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream in the city at the close of the year, together with comparative figures for the year 1947 are as follows :—

	1947	1948
No. of premises registered for manufacture and sale	77	82
No. of premises registered for storage and sale only	135	176

Inspections of all ice cream premises are made as frequently as possible and samples of the ice cream procured for bacteriological examination. During the year 736 inspections were made and 170 samples submitted to prescribed tests for bacterial cleanliness and grading.

The samples were graded according to provisional Ministry of Health suggestions as follows :—

- Grade 1. 58 satisfactory.
- Grade 2. 41 satisfactory.
- Grade 3. 29 fair.
- Grade 4. 42 unsatisfactory.

Grades 3 and 4 invariably call for further investigation of production methods and steps are taken to rectify faults when observed.

The number of samples procured is an increase on the previous year and although the number of unsatisfactory samples is still high, there is a substantial increase in the percentage of satisfactory samples, the percentage for 1948 being 58% and that for 1947, 36%.

In all cases where unsatisfactory samples are reported, investigations are made at the manufacturers' premises and it is usually found that the defect is due to inefficient sterilisation and unsuitable storage; repeat samples are obtained and steps taken to ascertain and remove the cause.

The compulsory registration and specified requirements under the Food and Drugs Act with respect to all ice cream premises, together with the introduction of the Heat Treatment Regulations has had most beneficial results not only in regard to customers, but also to the trade generally. During the year under review there have been marked improvements generally in structural condition of premises and standard of hygiene under which ice cream has been manufactured and sold in the city. Ice cream traders as a whole have welcomed the introduction of legislation requiring all persons engaged in the trade to raise their standard of manufacture and distribution.

It is gratifying to record that local manufacturers and vendors have shown in a practical fashion their willingness to co-operate. Keen competition is having the effect of squeezing out of the trade persons who are not prepared to keep pace with modern requirements.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925-1940.

These Regulations prohibit the addition to food of preservatives, except to those foods named in the Regulations, in which case it is permissible to add one of two specified preservatives in prescribed amounts. The Regulations, which have been amended from time to time, also prohibit the addition of metallic colouring matters to any food.

Samples of food submitted during the year were examined for the presence of preservative. No sample was found to contravene the above Regulations.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Report on the Administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to Sampling and Analysis of Food and Drugs for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

During the year 364 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified 338 to be genuine and 26 unsatisfactory.

The samples detailed in the table below were collected in the following manner :—

Formal samples : 68

Informal samples : 295

Appeal to cow samples : 1

ARTICLE	Total	Genuine	Not Genuine
New milk	80	74	6
Baking Powder	5	5	—
Butter	17	16	1
Cake and Pudding Mixtures ..	27	26	1
Cereals and Breakfast Foods ..	9	8	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence ..	3	3	—
Colouring and Flavouring Essences	14	14	—
Cooking Fat	15	15	—
Dessert Mould	4	4	—
Gelatine	4	4	—
Gravy Powder and Browning ..	5	3	2
Ice Cream	10	10	—
Jam	8	7	1
Jelly and Jelly Crystals	6	6	—
Margarine	15	15	—
Meat and Fish Paste	18	17	1
Medicines and Drugs	18	18	—
Mustard and Mustard Sauce ..	6	5	1
Sauces and Pickles	13	10	3
Sausage and Sausage Meat ..	11	7	4
Self-Raising Flour	6	5	1
Spices and Herbs	22	21	1
Sugar	15	15	—
Tea	14	14	—
Vinegar	4	4	—
Miscellaneous	15	12	3
TOTALS ..	364	338	26

The samples of milk, with the exception of six mentioned below, were found to be genuine, free from preservative and artificial colouring matter.

The samples of food other than milk were found to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

ARTICLE	Number
Butter	1
Culinary Herbs	1
Farinoca	1
Gravy Browning	1
Gravy Powder	1
Jam	1
Meat Paste	1
Mustard Sauce	1
Oranges	1
Piccalilli	1
Pickled Onions	1
Pudding and Flour Mixture	1
Refined Oil	1
Sausage	3
Sauce	1
Savoury Sausage	1
Self-Raising Flour	1
Sweets	1

Particulars Relating to Unsatisfactory Samples of Milk.

Of the 80 samples submitted for analysis, 64 were formal, 15 informal and 1 was an "appeal to cow" sample.

In respect of the 6 unsatisfactory samples, 5 were formal samples obtained following two unsatisfactory informal samples taken at the close of last year and reported upon in my last annual report.

Three of the formal samples were taken in course of delivery to a dairy within the city from a farmer residing within the county area. The samples were found to contain 5.4%, 3.5% and 1% of added water. Three formal samples were obtained at the farm, two were found to contain 1.7% and 1% added water, the third being genuine

An appeal to cow and two further formal samples were obtained ; these were found to be genuine. As there had been no previous complaints the farmer was cautioned in writing on this occasion.

With respect to the remaining unsatisfactory sample of milk, this was a formal sample, comprising a pint bottle, purchased from a dairy within the city and reported by the analyst to be 20% deficient of fat. The dairy was again visited and a further 7 formal samples procured from 7 churns which were in the dairy at the time of visit and had been delivered by three different farmers. The analyst certified all these samples to be genuine. In this case the Committee took into consideration the previous good record of the dairyman, and in view of the fact that there did not appear to be any deliberate abstraction of fat, a cautionary letter was addressed to the dairyman.

Samples of Food other than Milk found to be Unsatisfactory.

Particulars of Action Taken.

The 20 unsatisfactory samples other than milk were made up of 18 informal samples and 2 formal samples. Appropriate action was taken in each case and where necessary manufacturers were informed and remedial action suggested. In cases of unfitness, the food was surrendered and destroyed.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following quantities of unsound food have been surrendered from markets, shops and stores :—

Apples	40 lbs.	Fish (cured) ..	1,312½ stones.
Bacon	34½ lbs.	Fish (shell) ..	48½ cwt.
Bacon (tinned) ..	86 tins.	Fish (tinned) ..	3,596 tins.
Beans (tinned) ..	10 tins.	Fish (cakes) ..	5,952
Beans (baked) ..	895 tins.	Fish (paste) (jars)	24 jars.
Beans (haricot) ..	160 lbs.	Fish (paste) (tins)	336 tins.
Beetroot (tinned) ..	111 tins.	Fish Roes ..	139 stones.
Black Pudding ..	5 cwt.	Fish Cakes (tinned)	5 tins.
Bread	912 lbs.	Flour	490 lbs.
Butter	78 lbs.	Fruit (tinned) ..	1,777 tins.
Cake	18½ lbs.	Fruit (bottled) ..	20 bottles.
Cake Mixture ..	9 packets.	Fruit Juice (tinned)	426 tins.
Carrots (tinned) ..	257 tins.	Fruit (packets) ..	466 packets.
Cheese (tinned) ..	2 tins.	Fruit (dried) ..	2,360 lbs.
Cheese	253 lbs.	Fruit (bags) ..	12 bags.
Cereals (packets) ..	88 packets.	Gherkins	18 jars.
Cereals	672 lbs.	Gravy Powder ..	87 tins.
Chickens	37	Ham	31½ lbs.
Chickens (tinned)	24 tins.	Horseradish ..	2 tins.
Cocoa	1 packet.	Herbs	51 lbs.
Crab (tinned) ..	10 tins.	Jam (tinned) ..	141 tins.
Crabs	5 boxes.	Jam (jars)	69 jars.
Chitterlings ..	537 lbs.	Lemons	25 lbs.
Corn (sweet) ..	2 tins.	Lemon Curd ..	3 jars.
Egg, dried (Packets or tins)	127	Milk (dried) ..	228 lbs.
Eggs (shell) ..	767	Milk (tinned) ..	1,992 tins.
Fat (cooking) ..	2½ lbs.	Margarine	1 lb.
Fat (tinned) ..	5 tins.	Meat (tinned) ..	887 tins.
Fish (wet) ..	3,436½ stones.	Meat (fresh) ..	24 lbs.
		Meat (extract) ..	2 jars.

Meat Paste (jars) ..	30 jars.	Rabbits (tinned) ..	2 tins.
Meat Paste (tinned)	39 tins.	Rabbits	40
Meat (cooked) ..	2½ lbs.	Sauce	16 bottles.
Macaroni (tinned)	1 tin.	Sausages	60 lbs.
Macaroni	2 lbs.	Sausage Meat ..	60 lbs.
Mincemeat	2 tins.	Sausages (tinned)	39 tins.
Marmite	11 jars.	Soup Powder ..	68 lbs.
Marmalade (tinned)	74 tins.	Soup (tinned) ..	425 tins.
Marmalade (jars)	23 jars.	Spaghetti	31 lbs.
Macaroni and Cheese	2 jars.	Spaghetti (tinned)	14 tins.
Olives	2 jars.	Sugar	44 lbs.
Peas (dried)	2 lbs.	Sweets	27 lbs.
Peas (tinned)	393 tins.	Syrup	12 tins.
Parsnips	83 tins.	Tea	5½ lbs.
Potatoes	59 tins.	Tomatoes	109 chips.
Potatoes, Pom (pkts.)	75 packets.	Tomatoes (tinned)	266 tins.
Puree	82 tins.	Turkey	2 tins.
Pickles	157 jars.	Vegetables (fresh) ..	171 bags.
Prawns	299 lbs.	Vegetables (dried)	305 lbs.
Pikelets	193 dozen.	Vegetables (tinned)	5,401 tins.
Puddings	43	Watercress	1 chip.
Pudding Mixture ..	115 packets.	Whalemeat	220 lbs.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

In accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Order, 1943, and directions issued by the Director of Infestations Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the work of Rodent Control has been continued throughout the year, 1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949, by the Corporation staff comprising six Rodent Operatives supervised by a Rodent Officer.

Complaints from occupiers of 2,022 premises have been investigated and treatment carried out where necessary. During the year surveys have been made systematically in district order and infestations dealt with forthwith. In addition, the work of baiting sewer manholes systematically throughout the city with poison baits has been continued.

The work carried out by the Rodent staff is enumerated in the following tables :—

TABLE 1. Investigations Made and Cases Dealt with by Rodent Officer.

No. of complaints dealt with at food premises	668
No. of complaints dealt with at other premises	48
No. of revisits to infested premises	727
No. of instances where drains were examined in consequence of rat-infested premises	178
No. of instances where defective drains are remedied and rat runs sealed	105
No. of instances where premises were made rat-proof	11

TABLE 2. No. of Cases Dealt with and Work Carried Out by Departmental Rodent Operatives.

No. of complaints investigated	.. .. .	1,306
No. of premises surveyed :		
Dwelling-houses	.. .. .	75,521
Business premises	.. .. .	5,686
No. found to be infested :		
Dwelling-houses	.. .. .	702
Business premises	.. .. .	334
No. of revisits made for :		
prebaiting		
Dwelling-houses	.. .. .	3,971
Business premises	.. .. .	2,176
No. of infestations treated	.. .. .	756
No. of infestations cleared	.. .. .	620
No. of poison baits laid	.. .. .	7,225
No. of poison baits taken	.. .. .	4,720
No. of instances where gas was used	.. .. .	693
No. of carcasses found following treatment	.. .. .	1,410

Treatment of Sewers.

Treatment of sewers has been completed in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' instructions.

Two maintenance treatments were carried out as requested :—

FIRST MAINTENANCE TREATMENT (23rd AUGUST, 1948, TO 12th NOVEMBER, 1948).

16 Centre Sections.

No. of sewer manholes baited	.. .. .	952
No. of sewer manholes where poison baits were taken	.. .. .	434
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken	.. .. .	518

7 Outside Sections.

No. of sewer manholes baited	.. .. .	591
No. of sewer manholes where poison bait was taken	.. .. .	209
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken	.. .. .	382

7 Outlying Areas—Initial Treatment (17th January, 1949, to February 10th, 1949).

No. of sewer manholes baited	.. .. .	350
No. of sewer manholes where poison bait was taken	.. .. .	4
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken	.. .. .	346

Test-baiting in the outlying areas of the city was carried out in order to ascertain the degree of infestation ; this was done by pre-baiting one sewer manhole in every ten approximately.

SECOND MAINTENANCE TREATMENT (21st FEBRUARY, 1949, to 31st MARCH, 1949).

16 Centre Sections.

No. of sewer manholes baited	.. .. .	800
No. of sewer manholes where poison was taken	.. .. .	287
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken	.. .. .	513

7 Outside Sections.

No. of sewer manholes baited	.. .. .	506
No. of sewer manholes where poison bait was taken	.. .. .	120
No. of sewer manholes where no bait was taken	.. .. .	386

Summary.

	<i>Manholes baited.</i>	<i>Takes.</i>	
First Maintenance treatment	.. .. . 1,543	643	(41%)
Second Maintenance treatment	.. .. . 1,306	407	(31%)

The extent of sewer infestation is ascertained by recording the number of takes in the manholes. It is, therefore, possible in this way to estimate the success or otherwise of the treatment. It will be seen by comparison in the foregoing summary, that the number of takes in the first treatment was 41 % of manholes baited, whilst in the second treatment the percentage of takes is 31 %. This is a sure indication that the sewer rat population has decreased by approximately 25 % over a period of six months and it can be reasonably assumed that the surface rat population has correspondingly been reduced.

Tips—Canley and Wyken.

The above-mentioned refuse tips have been inspected in the past year at monthly intervals and the infestations arising from these inspections have been successfully dealt with.

The routine monthly inspections will be continued and maintenance treatment carried out whenever necessary.

In concluding this report I wish to place on record my appreciation for the kind co-operation received from the City Engineer's staff in carrying out sewer treatment.

FOOD HYGIENE AND FOOD POISONING.

Food safety is a highly topical subject and a matter which has received an immense amount of publicity in post-war years. Public interest has been stimulated nationally by newspapers which almost daily make references to disquieting facts concerning the increase in food-poisoning cases. There is no doubt that the greatest single factor in the increased incidence of outbreaks of food poisoning is communal feeding.

Although the increase in outbreaks locally has, perhaps, not been so great as in some comparative cities, food poisoning has undoubtedly become more prevalent, and almost every case in recent years has been associated with food prepared at factory and school canteens.

Strict administration by the inspectorial staff of the existing food preparing legislation over a considerable period has, without doubt, played a major part in lessening the frequency and severity of the outbreaks.

With respect to the furthering of health education, a great deal has been and is being done as routine work by the trained and specialist staff by personal touch with proprietors and managers during visits of inspection.

Propaganda by means of posters, the issue of leaflets dealing with every aspect of food hygiene applicable to the food handler, and the organising of courses of lectures and demonstrations on food hygiene are of considerable value. With regard to the latter activities such bodies as the Central Council for Health Education and the local branch of the National Council for Women are to be commended on their public spirited efforts, as are the Coventry Dairymen's

Association, the Coventry Master Bakers' Association and the Coventry Grocers' Association for their admirable co-operation.

During the year there were 17 outbreaks of suspected food poisoning and bacillary dysentery of which 6 might be classed as major occurrences in that in each a number of persons was effected. There were 51 visits made in connection with the notifications and in all 564 persons had symptoms of poisoning. Of these persons, 549 were affected as a result of partaking meals at school or factory canteens. The investigations and bacteriologists' analyses met with varying degrees of success in the detection of the causative organisms.

The various establishments concerned in these outbreaks included an approved school for girls (30 cases); 3 local industrial canteens (affecting 40, 70 and 17 cases respectively); 2 schools, involving a fairly large number of children. In these latter instances at school it was ascertained that all the food was prepared in one large central kitchen and transported in insulated containers to the schools. Exhaustive investigations were made, including a detailed inspection of the kitchen, bacteriological examination of foods, containers and kitchen equipment, medical examination of all canteen staff. Subsequent investigation included thorough inspection of the butcher's shop from which the meat was delivered, bacteriological examination of meat in the shop, medical examination of the butcher's assistants, minute examination of the food containers and chemical analysis of the material of the metal food trays and containers. As is usual in such investigations, which are invariably made several hours after consumption of the subsequently suspected food, none of the food was available for bacteriological examination. It was decided, however, that the "time lag" which existed between the cooking and serving of the meals was again an important contributory factor in this outbreak. Extensive cleansing, the removal of several possible sources of contamination, repair and replacement of equipment and containers, provision of improved facilities for personal ablutions of kitchen staff, and other large scale improvements were effected in accordance with the recommendations of the department.

It is apparent from various instances of food poisoning which have come to our notice that there is a great need to acquaint food handlers concerning all possible sources of contamination and for insisting that they conform to a code of practice which would help to eliminate known risks and hazards of food preparation. Methods of food preparation and hygiene which are considered reasonable in the home invariably fall short of standards which are considered *necessary* when applied to communal feeding because of course there are greater possibilities, unknowingly, of contaminating much larger quantities of food, thereby affecting many more people.

STAFF CHANGES.

In a year of so many administrative changes, for the most part resultant upon new arrangements under recent Acts, it is perhaps unnecessary to dwell unduly upon this subject, but it is nevertheless appropriate to make mention of the following staff changes :—

Dr. Winifred Kane, Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, resigned her appointment on May 5th 1948, upon appointment to a similar but larger post in Manchester.

Dr. C. I. Ham, who has been for long in the service of this Authority, was promoted to the post of Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare as from May 8th, 1948.

Miss H. B. Auckland, Nursing Superintendent of the former Coventry and Foleshill District Nursing Association was appointed as Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service with the Local Authority as from July 5th, 1948.

Mr. J. H. Ryner, latterly deputy Director of Social Welfare with this Local Authority, was appointed as Senior Administrative Assistant in charge of Sub-Department "H" of the Health Department as from July 5th, 1948.

Dr. C. R. Mayou resigned his appointment as Deputy Medical Officer of Health on December 31st, 1948, upon appointment to the medical staff of the Regional Hospital Board.

Mr. E. R. Wood resigned his post as Senior Clerical Assistant on January 21st, 1949, upon appointment to a post under a Regional Hospital Board. Mr. T. Lord was promoted to the vacancy thus created.

CONCLUSION.

It is a privilege for me to proffer grateful thanks to all members of my staff for their customary efficiency and helpfulness in the work of the Department during the year.

I would particularly commend those who willingly gave of their own time to assist in the collection and compilation of evidence and statistics needed in the many special reports submitted to the Health Committee and its Sub-Committee under the terms of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, respectively : these have been no simple tasks and therefore deserves particular mention.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee it is again a pleasure to record my appreciation of their great helpfulness during this eventful year. Finally, my thanks are also due to various colleagues in other Municipal Departments who have kindly furnished me with certain items of information included in this report and likewise to others who performed a similar service in connection with some of the schemes under the Acts mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. M. CLAYTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

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CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, YEAR 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total Deaths 1948.			Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in C. & W. H.	Deaths in G. R. M. H.	Deaths in other Inst.
	Males	Females	Total									
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid Fevers .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
3. Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Whooping Cough	1	4	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
5. Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	89	38	127	2	3	..	79	34	9	2	4	30
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	15	11	26	4	11	3	5	2	1	4	13	10
8. Syphilitic Diseases	11	1	12	1	..	..	..	9	2	3	1	3
9. Influenza	2	2	4	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..
10. Measles	1	2	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	10	..	10	..	..	..	1	3	6	..	..	..
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	45	25	70	..	..	..	7	23	40	3	1	1
15. Cancer of Breast .. ..	..	39	39	..	..	..	6	20	13	1	1	7
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	133	79	212	..	..	1	16	93	102	33	30	29
17. Diabetes	1	11	12	..	..	..	3	1	8	1	5	4
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	127	127	254	..	..	..	5	78	171	4	37	46
19. Heart Disease	336	304	640	..	..	3	34	158	445	27	59	122
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	21	16	37	..	..	..	3	8	26	13	14	10
21. Bronchitis	86	32	118	1	1	..	9	36	71	7	10	16
22. Pneumonia	50	42	92	34	7	1	8	13	29	5	32	20
23. Other Respiratory Disorders	13	8	21	2	..	..	3	10	6	5	3	5
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	12	2	14	..	..	..	1	10	3	7	4	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	14	2	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8
26. Appendicitis	4	2	6	..	1	..	..	4	1	1	2	1
27. Other digestive disorders ..	24	23	47	4	2	..	5	10	26	15	20	7
28. Nephritis	23	21	44	1	1	1	6	14	21	5	9	4
29. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis .. ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..
30. Other maternal causes .. ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	3	..
31. Premature Birth	31	31	62	62	..	..	..	..	..	13	40	4
32. Congenital malformations, Birth Injuries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Infant Diseases	49	36	85	76	3	..	2	4	..	6	31	9
33. Suicide	14	12	26	..	..	..	9	13	4	..	11	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	20	6	26	..	2	4	12	6	2	9	14	5
35. Other violent causes	33	17	50	14	1	2	10	8	15	7	20	6
36. All other causes	82	57	139	8	10	5	18	32	66	18	31	23
TOTALS	1247	980	2227	232	44	21	251	606	1073	192	409	386

VITAL STATISTICS OF CITY DURING 1948 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE CITY.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE CITY.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate per 1,000 population.	of Non-residents registered in the City.	of Residents not registered in the City.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 population.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number.	Rate per 1,000 population.
1943	214,870	4,889	4,889	21.2	1,683	7.3	57	593	244	49.9	2,219	9.6
1944	220,400	5,466	5,466	24.8	1,664	6.9	81	583	265	48.4	2,166	9.0
1945	221,970	4,949	4,949	22.2	1,847	8.3	68	569	338	68.2	2,348	10.5
1946	232,850	4,326	5,225	22.4	1,856	7.9	69	562	284	54.3	2,349	10.0
1947	242,860	4,787	5,643	23.2	2,051	8.4	126	503	255	45.1	2,428	9.9
1948	250,400	4,249	5,101	20.3	1,803	7.2	65	489	232	45.5	2,227	8.8

Table of Comparative Vital Statistics over a period of ten years
for Coventry, the large Towns, and England and Wales.

	BIRTH RATE			DEATH RATE			INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE		
	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales	Coventry	126 Large Towns	England and Wales
1939	17.7	14.8	15.0	9.4	12.0	12.1	55	53	50
1940	16.4	16.0	14.6	13.3	15.8	14.3	63	61	55
1941	17.1	14.7	14.2	12.8	14.9	12.9	55	71	59
1942	19.3	17.3	15.8	10.2	13.3	11.6	62	59	49
1943	21.2	18.6	16.5	9.6	14.2	12.1	49	58	49
1944	24.8	20.3	17.6	9.0	13.7	11.6	48	52	46
1945	22.2	19.1	16.1	10.5	13.5	11.4	68	54	46
1946	22.4	22.2	19.1	10.0	12.7	11.5	54	46	43
1947	23.2	22.0	20.6	9.9	12.5	12.3	45	44	41
1948	20.3	20.0	17.9	8.8	11.6	10.8	45	39	34

Infant Mortality during 1948.

Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.																	
All Causes	Certified { Uncertified	Total Deaths under One Year.															
		Under 1 Day.	1—2 Days.	2—3 Days.	3—4 Days.	4—5 Days.	5—6 Days.	Total under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	
Measles	69	16	15	4	4	1	109	10	5	10	134	34	30	16	15	229
Whooping Cough	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	4
Influenza...	1	1
Tuberculosis of Nervous System...
Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	6
Syphilis	1
Meningitis
Convulsions
Bronchitis
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	4	7	5	12	9	1	34
Other Respiratory Diseases
Inflammation of Stomach
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4	16
Hernia: Intestinal
Obstruction	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	2	7
Congenital Malformations	...	4	3	2	...	...	...	9	2	2	1	14	6	...	...	...	20
Congenital Debility and Sclerema	6	1	2	1	1	...	11	...	1	1	13	2	...	1	1	16
Icterus
Premature Birth	36	6	6	2	1	...	52	6	...	2	60	...	...	...	...	62
Injury at Birth	8	4	1	1	...	...	14	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	14
Diseases of Umbilicus	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis	10	2	3	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	15	1	...	...	...	16
Suffocation in Bed and not stated	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	4	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	7	1	1	3	29
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		79	16	15	4	4	1	112	10	6	10	137	34	30	16	15	232

Vital Statistics. (Historical Summary).

Year.	Houses Inhabited (December)	Vacant.	Popula- tion (Mid-year)	Mortality	Infectious Mortality	Deaths under one year per 1000 born.	Birth Rate
1586	..	..	6,502	..	..	..	..
1643	..	..	9,500	..	..	..	..
1694	..	..	6,711	..	..	..	..
1723	1,934	..	..	..	..	..	..
1748	2,066	..	12,817	..	..	..	..
1801	2,930	..	16,034	..	..	..	..
1811	3,448	*60	17,923	..	..	..	..
1821	3,729	*114	21,448	..	..	..	..
1831	5,444	*421	27,298	..	..	..	..
1841	6,531	*590	31,032	..	..	..	..
Ten Years' Average.							
1851	7,783	*151	36,812	27	..	..	..
1861	8,991	*1,026	40,936	25	..	..	..
1871	8,535	*816	37,670	22	..	..	..
1881	9,239	*643	42,111	20	3'3	150	35'4
1891	11,465	*284	52,724	18'5	1'7	142	32'0
1901	15,571	353	69,978	16'96	1'9	153'7	29'8
1911	23,515	95	106,349	13'7	1'4	109'3	28'0
1921	28,355	502†	128,157	11'3	0'7	83'6	23'2
1931	41,275	917†	167,083	10'1	0'2	67'7	15'7
1897	†12,440	73	61,234	16'8	1'8	157	31'3
1911	23,515	95	107,287	13'3	2'08	109'8	26'9
1912	24,590	50	111,166	11'9	1'35	76'1	26'4
1913	25,051	113	115,064	11'4	0'84	91'6	26'0
1914	25,860	99	119,003	11'7	0'70	84'6	26'9
1915	26,667	56	122,982	12'9	1'39	87'8	23'8
1916	27,366	12	127,089	10'9	1'23	87'5	23'5
1917	27,531	15	130,000	10'4	0'47	78'5	20'2
1918	27,735	25	133,000	14'6	0'42	92'5	20'7
1919	27,829	20	136,000	9'3	0'32	82'8	18'2
1920	27,973	48	130,000	9'8	0'35	76'0	25'0
1921	28,355	502†	128,157	10'2	0'25	79'3	22'1
1922	28,661	72	129,000	10'6	0'34	70'4	18'9
1923	29,414	40	130,500	9'3	0'20	64'9	16'9
1924	29,685	90	132,000	9'6	0'19	79'4	16'0
1925	30,199	83	133,500	10'6	0'30	77'1	16'3
1926	31,034	111	135,000	9'7	0'15	68'9	15'7
1927	32,260	151	139,000	10'2	0'23	63'4	14'8
1928	38,474	175	161,600*	9'6	0'34	65'7	14'4
1929	39,374	750	163,700	12'1	0'63	73'1	14'8
1930	40,519	800	165,800	10'1	0'32	57'0	14'5
1931	41,275	917	168,900	10'0	0'10	57'7	14'8
1932	45,781	1000	182,000*	9'4	0'33	69'7	13'5
1933	47,175	1000	184,500	9'9	0'21	64'5	13'4
1934	48,730	1500	184,900	10'0	0'17	57'1	13'6
1935	50,622	1854	190,000	9'7	0'16	46'5	14'4
1936	54,273	1361	192,360	10'1	0'20	51'8	15'1
1937	57,888	1606	206,500	10'4	0'18	48'5	15'7
1938	61,580	1316	229,900	9'5	0'13	56'0	16'5
1939	—	—	—	9'4	—	54'6	17'7
1940	—	—	229,400	13'3	0'11	63'0	16'4
1941	—	—	193,070	12'8	0'21	54'8	17'1
1942	—	—	207,200	10'2	0'07	62'3	19'3
1943	—	—	214,870	9'6	0'23	49'9	21'2
1944	65,926	—	220,400	9'0	0'24	48'4	24'8
1945	—	—	221,970	10'5	0'30	68'2	22'2
1946	—	—	232,850	10'0	0'32	54'3	22'4
1947	68,900	—	242,860	9'9	0'18	45'1	23'2
1948	69,950	—	250,400	8'8	0'10	45'5	20'3

* This number includes all business offices, whether in dwelling houses or factories, not occupied on the night the Census was taken.

† This number omits all business offices, factories, etc.

‡ The Census returns show unoccupied "dwellings"—not houses.

* In these years an extension of the City Boundaries took place.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Return relating to Coventry Cases treated at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1948.

	Syphilis.		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa.		Conditions other than Venereal		TOTALS. 1948.			1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
Persons under treatment or observation on 1st January, 1948	303	210	1	...	137	61	76	58	517	329	846	840	601	624	615
Old cases returned	14	11	...	...	8	...	...	...	22	11	33	10	25	22	12
New cases :—															
Syphilis, primary	23	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	7	30	76	91	43	55
" secondary	9	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	14	23	56	61	21	36
" latent 1st year of infection	4	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	15	19	22	30	9	9
" late	13	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	17	30	41	45	28	34
" congenital	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7	11	22	10	15
Soft Chancre	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	...
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	175	25	...	...	175	25	200	272	340	312	374
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	416	277	693	710	882	746	799
Conditions undiagnosed at 31/12/48	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...
Cases transferred from other areas	45	12	2	...	10	2	..	...	57	14	71	105	150	60	59
TOTALS	412	292	4	...	330	88	493	336	1239	716	1955	2145	2248	1876	2008

Return relating to Coventry Cases treated at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1948.

	Syphilis.		Soft Chancres.		Gonorrhoea.	Conditions other than venereal.	TOTALS 1948.			1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.				
Cases discharged after cure ...	38	11	1	...	108	28	391	259	538	298	836	915	1017
Cases ceasing attendance before completing treatment:—													
Syphilis, primary ...	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	12	25	25
" secondary ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8	15	15
" latent 1st year of infection ...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7	8	1
" all later stages ...	16	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	18	34	26	29
" congenital ...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	8	11
Soft Chancres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	51	8	...	...	51	8	59	85	100
No. of cases under treatment or observation which died from the disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...
From other causes ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	...
Cases ceasing attendance after completing treatment but before tests of cure ...	41	15	2	...	38	5	...	...	81	20	101	41	29
Cases transferred to other centres ...	34	19	...	...	22	3	5	5	61	27	88	149	146
Cases under treatment on 31/12/48 ...	268	211	1	...	111	44	97	72	472	327	799	601	624
TOTALS...	412	292	4	...	330	88	498	336	1289	716	1955	1876	2008

No. of attendances for medical treatment ...	2983	3438	12	...	1961	164	1417	873	6373	4475	10848	11419	12207
No. of attendances for intermediate treatment ...	31	132	...	...	2331	900	648	1775	3010	2807	5817	13578	13630
In-patients:—													
Admissions ...	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	4	2	6	4	...
In-patient days ...	14	3	...	...	22	9	...	...	36	12	48	183	...

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total number of cases notified.	NOTIFICATIONS IN AGE GROUPS.						NOTIFICATIONS IN THE VARIOUS WARDS OF THE CITY.															
		AGE GROUPS.						Bablake	Charter's & Bin.	Chelyesmore	Earlsdon	Foleshill	Godiva	Holbrook	Longford	Lower Stoke	Radford	St. Michael's	Sherbourne	Upper Stoke	Walsgrave	Westwood	Whoberley
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 45.	45 & under 65.																	65 & upwards.
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	2	5	2	3	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) .. .. .	..	1	1	4	2	16	22	7	4	4	..	4	1	2	4	2	3	3	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	12	..	123	251	23	20	3	9	18	42	37	10	15	39	44	33	18	14	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever (R) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever (C) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	23	..	..	..	7	16	..	2	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	10	..	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Respiratory Tuberculosis	338	1	8	22	112	136	52	22	29	22	12	26	27	25	24	10	28	27	12	27	22	19	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	61	3	12	14	9	17	6	3	7	1	3	3	6	5	5	3	5	3	3	5	4	3	2
Malaria	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	138	10	19	25	8	29	31	16	8	10	9	5	7	10	22	4	10	9	8	2	3	12	3
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	9	..	..	1	1	2	3	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	3482	143	2177	1121	20	18	3	329	169	288	158	99	151	106	268	210	310	179	225	263	260	289	178
Whooping Cough	522	58	316	143	2	2	1	46	16	45	23	12	35	13	21	27	57	18	32	34	37	73	33
Total	5092	227	2666	1593	188	263	122	437	254	415	247	160	248	205	394	294	437	259	296	381	358	466	251

Live Register of Tuberculosis Patients.

	Pulmonary Cases.			Non-Pulmonary Cases.			Total Cases (All Forms).		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. No. on Register at 31/12/1947...	938	572	1510	115	156	271	1053	728	1781
2. Cases notified (or otherwise coming to knowledge) in 1948	209	161	370	38	31	69	247	192	441
3. Cases removed from Register in 1948	149	94	243	32	22	54	181	116	297
4. No. on Register at 31/12/1948...	998	639	1637	121	165	286	1119	804	1923

Tuberculosis.

YEAR	CASES ON REGISTER		CASES NOTIFIED (or brought to notice)		DEATHS			
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1939	M.	535	88	165	29	0.63	8	0.09
	F.	361	93	99	40		15	
1940	M.	578	115	194	44	0.72	12	0.12
	F.	362	111	102	30		18	
1941	M.	598	122	191	29	0.71	12	0.08
	F.	371	111	85	20		4	
1942	M.	636	124	184	32	0.60	13	0.15
	F.	402	109	131	29		19	
1943	M.	710	142	258	36	0.72	16	0.10
	F.	450	124	137	34		7	
1944	M.	797	140	235	21	0.59	8	0.08
	F.	471	131	121	25		12	
1945	M.	848	142	227	30	0.79	10	0.04
	F.	542	136	147	31		10	
1946	M.	857	119	162	13	0.58	10	0.09
	F.	564	136	132	29		12	
1947	M.	938	115	223	22	0.67	9	0.08
	F.	572	156	143	34		11	
1948	M.	998	121	209	38	0.50	15	0.10
	F.	639	165	161	31		11	

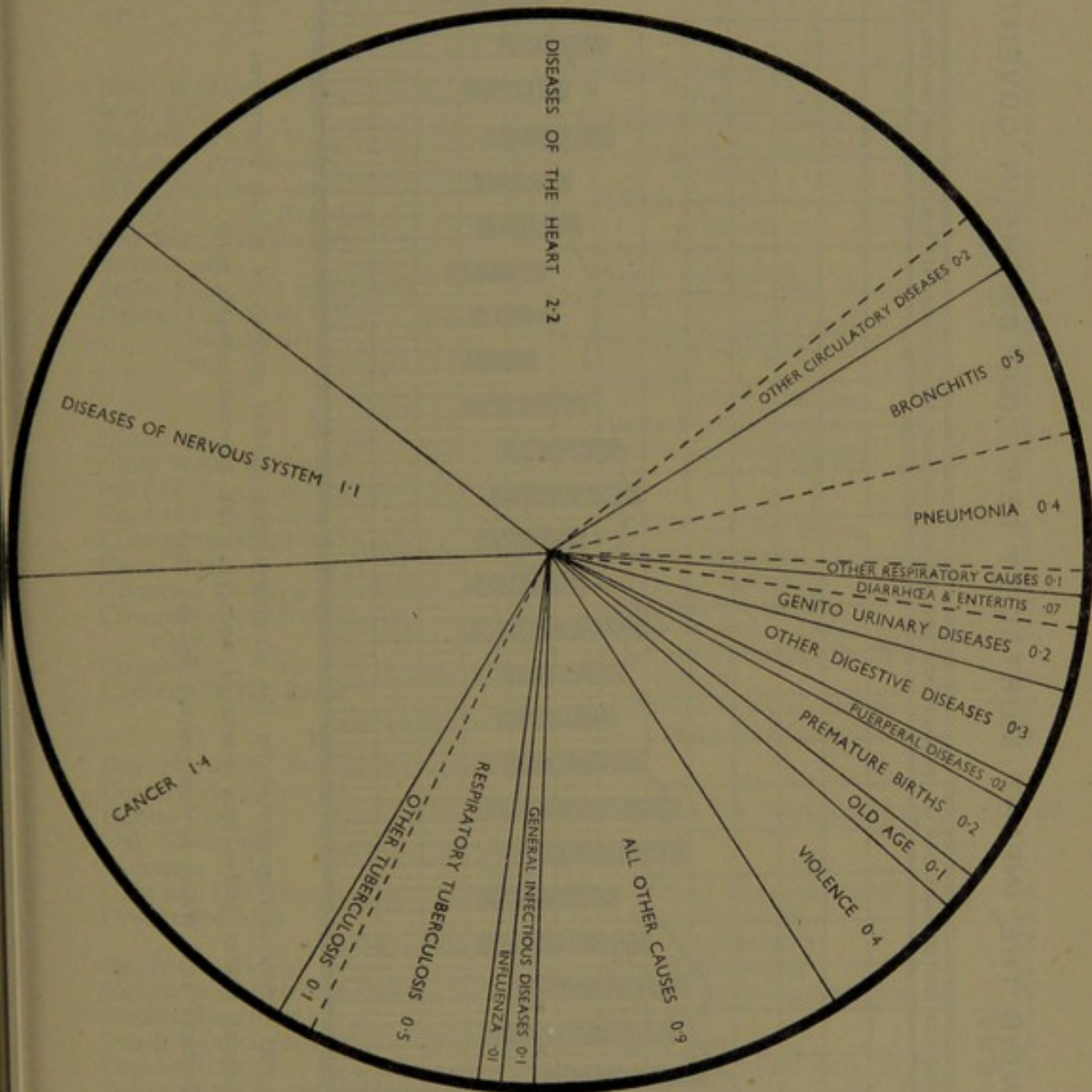
Meteorological Observations made at the City Hospital, Coventry, 1948.

Lat. 52° 23' 26" Long. 1° 29' 4" W. Height of rim of rain gauge above Mean Sea Level 240ft.

The cistern of the barometer is situated 326 feet above sea level.

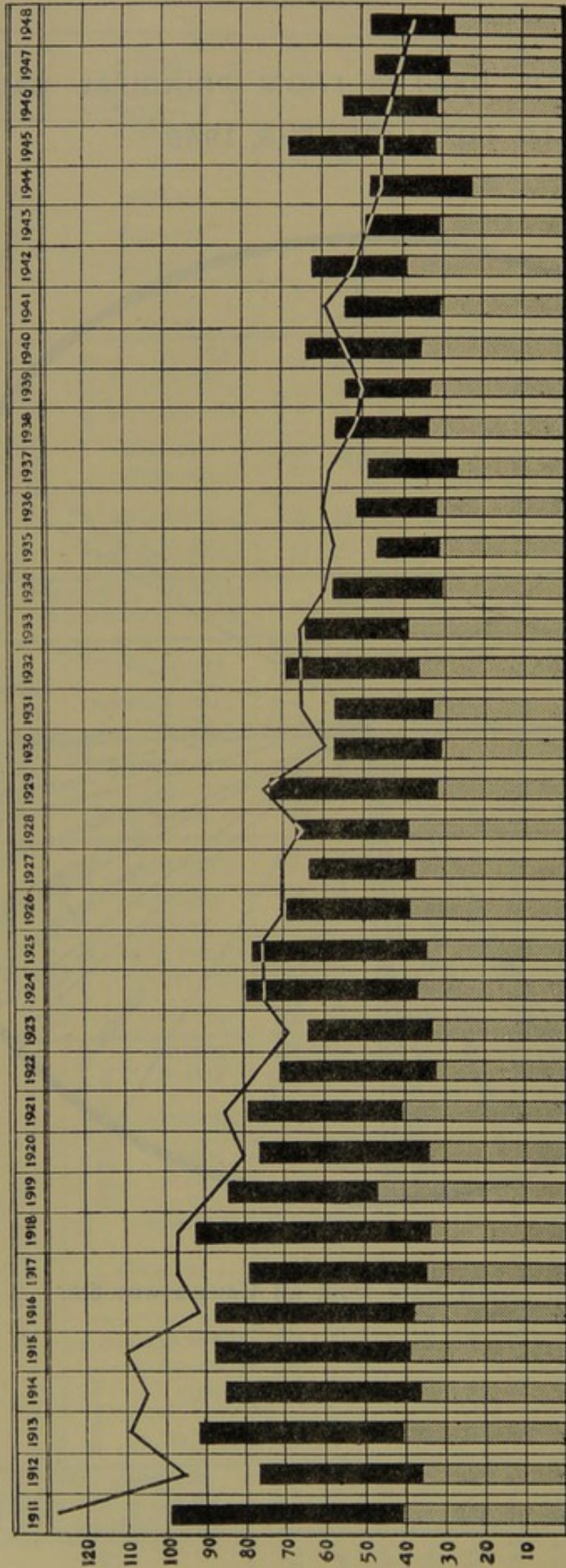
1948	Baro- meter. Ins.	Air Temperature.						Hygrometer.				Earth Tempera- ture.		Bright Sun- shine.		Cloud. (Scale 0-10).	Rain and other Forms of Precipitation.					Weather, No. of Days of						Wind Force (0-12.)		Wind Direction. No. of daily observations each month.									
		Mean of		Absolute Minimum and Maximum.				Mean of Observa- tions at 9 a.m				At 1 foot depth.		Per cent. of Total Possible.			Daily Mean.	Number of Days.	Total Fall.	Percentage of Average.	Amount.	Day of Month.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunderstorm.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Fog.	Gale.	Number of Observa- tions of Moderate and Strong Winds.	Calm or Light Wind.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
		Max'm. a	Min'm. b	Mean of a and b.	Difference from Average.	Minimum	Day of Month.	Maximum	Day of Month.	Dry Bulb	Depression of Wet Bulb.	Vapour Pressure	Humidity.	At 4 feet depth.	At 1 foot depth.																								
	Mean Pressure at 32° F. at Sea Level.	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	%	%	°	°	%	hrs.	m/m	m/m	%	m/m	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	1	1	1	6	1	14	1	6		
JAN.	29.475	47	35	1	55	2/3/4	40.6	1.9	7.4	83	42.0	48.2	14	1.1	5	30	107.5	206	18.2	10	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	31	1	1	1	6	1	14	1	6		
FEB.	30.164	46	34	21	58	29	39.5	1.8	7.2	84	41.5	47.2	25	2.4	5	13	23.1	52	4.9	12	6	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	28	0	7	6	0	1	9	6	0		
MAR.	30.344	56	36	24/25	68	9	44.8	2.3	8.4	82	45.8	49.0	40	4.7	5	10	20.3	43	6.9	31	0	0	0	5	5	6	0	0	31	0	4	2	5	0	14	1	5		
APR.	29.894	58	38	10	68	21/27	49.2	3.6	8.9	75	50.1	52.4	43	6.0	4	17	37.7	88	7.2	4	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	30	1	7	1	3	2	4	6	6		
MAY	30.006	63	42	3	75	18	53.9	4.2	10.5	74	56.1	56.4	47	7.4	4	12	70.1	138	17.5	1	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	30	1	15	1	2	1	1	3	7		
JUNE	29.914	64	48	9	76	14/26	56.9	3.1	13.0	81	60.3	59.7	24	4.0	6	23	52.0	96	11.2	1	0	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	30	0	6	0	0	11	4	9			
JULY	30.007	69	52	17	89	28	61.2	3.1	15.5	82	62.5	61.8	30	4.9	5	16	41.7	70	7.6	17	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	31	2	2	2	1	1	12	1	10		
AUG.	29.884	66	51	28	73	29/30/31	59.4	1.9	15.3	88	63.0	64.3	24	3.4	6	18	124.3	190	39.2	11	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	30	0	3	1	3	1	12	5	6		
SEPT.	29.933	64	50	22	75	9	57.4	2.1	14.8	87	63.6	64.3	30	3.8	6	10	87.4	189	41.3	12	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	3	16	3	8		
OCT.	30.072	56	40	27	67	10	48.6	2.3	10.9	91	54.0	61.7	21	2.3	6	17	41.6	88	21.7	17	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	30	0	0	2	4	2	16	3	4		
NOV.	29.850	49	35	9	59	19	42.3	1.0	8.8	92	47.7	54.2	19	1.6	5	26	34.2	59	6.2	1	0	0	0	1	7	8	0	0	28	0	2	0	3	8	13	5	4		
DEC.	29.727	47	35	26	58	3	40.7	1.3	7.8	88	44.7	52.3	20	1.5	3	19	79.0	119	22.8	30	0	1	1	0	5	4	0	0	29	1	2	5	4	2	8	5	4		
Year.	23.939	57	41	Feb. 21/48	89	July 28/48	49.5	2.4	10.7	84	52.6	58.9	—	3.6	5	211	29.2	—	41.3	12	7	6	10	16	45	25	0	1	358	6	49	21	31	17	130	43	69		

PROPORTIONS OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
TO TOTAL DEATHS, 1948.



The Total Death Rate from all Causes was 8.8.

CHART SHOWING THE INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN COVENTRY.



The Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births is represented by the chimneys, the shaded portion of which represents the death rate amongst babies under four weeks of age (*i.e.*, the neo-natal death rate).

The Infant Death Rate for England and Wales is represented by the line

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