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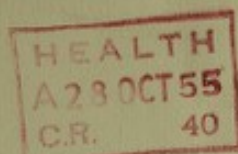
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BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1954



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MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1954/55.

His Worship the Mayor : Councillor J. L. Hatchett.

Deputy Mayor : Alderman E. S. Jones.

Aldermen : Mrs. J. M. Addenbrooke  
A. Blake  
G. Harrison

Councillors : W. J. O. Bartlett  
A. G. I. Cardno  
H. L. Chatterley  
G. Davies  
R. D. N. Fabricius  
Mrs. E. L. Hatchett  
B. Inett  
R. Jolliffe  
J. A. Pittaway  
V. W. H. Rohan  
W. G. Taylor

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.  
(Resigned 1st February 1955)

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.,  
D.P.H.  
(Commenced duties 1st February 1955)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Graham L. Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A.,  
(Certificated Meat and Food Inspector)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

His Majesty the King : Chairman of the Board

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Secretary

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Treasurer

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Auditor

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Counselor

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Librarian

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Steward

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Chaplain

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Organist

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Sexton

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Porter

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Janitor

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Cook

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Baker

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Butcher

WOMEN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

His Majesty the Queen : Chairman of the Board

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Secretary

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Treasurer

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Auditor

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Counselor

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Librarian

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Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Baker

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain : Butcher



Town Hall,  
Droitwich.

August 1955.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Droitwich  
Borough Council.

-----  
Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the Year ended 31st December 1954. I commenced my duties on 1st February 1955 and the substance of this Report has been completed from information presented to me by your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. The report is divided into the usual Sections, and I only wish to make comment here on the Vital Statistics presented, other remarks being made under the appropriate headings.

During the year the general health of the population remained good. The Live Birth and Death Rates have been standardised in order that accurate comparison can be made with the rates for England and Wales. It will be seen that the Birth Rate (17.02) is much higher than that for England and Wales (15.2), whereas the Death Rate (10.8) is slightly lower (England and Wales 11.3). This is encouraging as at first sight the Death Rate looks rather high, whereas the most probable explanation is that a number of elderly people take up permanent residence in order to benefit from the health-giving properties of the Brine, and continue to live to an advanced age. This is supported by the comparatively larger number of deaths recorded under Cardiac diseases and vascular lesions in the Table of Primary Causes of Death on page 3. The Rheumatoid diatheses are seldom recorded as the main cause of death but usually regarded as a contributory factor and do not take their place among the 36 Main causes of death shown on the International List. The two Rheumatic Hospitals in the town are not considered to be the normal places of residence of their inmates, and deaths occurring there are transferred to the District where that person normally resides. Nevertheless, Rheumatism must not be under-rated as a cause of death or in the crippling effect it has upon its victims.

The Infant Mortality rate (42.02 per 1000 live births) is higher than it should be, but as there were only five infant deaths during the year, this gives no cause for concern. Two deaths were due to Prematurity, one to birth injury, one to Jaundice and one to Bronchopneumonia.

There were only eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two deaths during the Year, but the number of cases on the Register continues to increase, and there is no cause for complacency in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. Measles, which comes in two year cycles, avoided Droitwich during 1954, there being only two cases, but a small outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred towards the end of the year, and was responsible for twenty-eight cases. Once again there was no Diphtheria in the town, and it is hoped that this record will be maintained by parents continuing to present their children for Immunisation.

My thanks are due to Dr. Fell for her kind assistance during the early stages of my appointment, and to all the members of the Council for the warm welcome shown to me as a new member of your Authority.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Spencer Stephens,  
Medical Officer of Health.





SECTION "A" - STATISTICS.

Area	1735 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1954.	6780
Number of inhabited houses 1954 (according to Rate Books).	1911
Rateable Value	£47,632
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£182

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	61	56	117
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population					17.55	Comparability Factor = 0.97	
Standardised Birth Rate					17.02		
Birth Rate - England and Wales					15.2		
<u>Still Births</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of population					0.737		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England & Wales					0.36		
<u>Deaths.</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Analysis of Deaths					43	40	83
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population					12.24	Comparability Factor = 0.88	
Standardised Death Rate					10.8		
Death Rate - England and Wales					11.3		
Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES - NIL							
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births					42.02		
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales					25.5		
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age.</u>					<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births					= 25.2		
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales					= 17.7		





<u>Primary Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-
" other.	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
Measles.	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1
" " lung, bronchus.	2	-
" " breast.	-	2
" " uterus.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	1
Diabetes.	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	9
Coronary disease, angina.	11	1
Hypertension with heart disease.	-	-
Other heart diseases.	3	8
Other circulatory diseases.	1	1
Influenza.	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	-
Bronchitis.	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	7	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	-	-
All other accidents.	-	1
Suicide.	1	-
Homicide etc.	-	-

End of Section "A"

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40

Primary Cause of Death	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
Other	-	-
Septic diseases	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Scarlatina	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	2	1
Idiopathic	2	-
Other	-	2
Neuritis	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2
Leukemia, lymphatic	-	1
Metastases	-	-
Functional diseases of nervous system	2	2
Coronary disease, angina	11	1
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
Other heart diseases	2	2
Other circulatory diseases	1	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Gastritis, duodenitis, gastroenteritis	-	-
Hepatitis and cholecystitis	-	-
Hypertrophy of prostate	-	-
Proctitis, hemorrhoids, hemorrhoids	-	-
Concretions, gallstones	-	1
Other diseases of alimentary system	-	1
Other diseases of genital system	-	-
All other accidents	-	-
Unlabeled	-	-
Unlabeled	-	-



SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH  
SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service.

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester, where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is stationed in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and six part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

10	Maternity cases
4	Tuberculosis "
15	Chronic sick "
14	Other "

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service.

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There is also one full-time Health Visitor for the Borough, whose main duty is the care of young children from 0 - 5 years, but she is also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family and especially aged persons. She attends the Infant Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics and is in close contact with the Women's Voluntary Service. A Specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she has access to the patients' clinical records, and is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

Children can be immunised against Diphtheria at this Clinic.

During the year 2,039 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 1876 the previous year.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 225 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 151 the previous year.





(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination.

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out, free of charge, by the patients's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

The following inoculations were done during 1954:-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	...	...	110
---	-----	-----	-----

Number of children who received re-inforcing doses during the year	...	...	58
--	-----	-----	----

Vaccination.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	...	...	26
--	-----	-----	----

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	...	...	3
--	-----	-----	---

II. Hospitals. The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (a) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.
- (b) Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.
- (c) Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Ronkswood.
- (d) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.
- (e) The town is well recognised as one of the leading Centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special Hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 50 - 60 beds and St. Johns Hospital 48 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks, but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of Section "B"



Investigation of the function of the various organs of the body, and the effect of disease on these functions.

The following investigations were conducted during the year:

Physiological Investigations

1. Effect of exercise on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

Experimental Pathology

2. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

3. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

4. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

5. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

6. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

7. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

8. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

9. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

10. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

11. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

12. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

13. Effect of various poisons on the rate of respiration and the rate of circulation.  
The rate of respiration was measured by the method of Douglas and Mitchell, and the rate of circulation was measured by the method of Fick.

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The water supply to the Borough, purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, continued to be adequate in both quantity and quality throughout the year. Samples were taken for analysis and gave satisfactory results. A copy of the County Analyst's report on a sample of this water is given below.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of Standpipes in the area.	12
" " Wells " " "	16

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER.

Physical characters.	Clear.
Odour	None.
Deposit	Very slight; White pH y.4

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C)	Very slight trace
" " solution (Dried at 180° C)	26
" " " (After ignition)	24
Chlorides calculated as common salt	3.4
Hardness, permanent	7
" temporary	12
" total	19
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.72
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	NIL
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	NIL
Toxic metals	NONE DETECTED
Residual chlorine on receipt	NONE

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7

OPINION.

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

DATE. 21st September 1954. (Signed) - M.M.Love,  
County Analyst.





## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| (a) In two days at 37° C | NIL per 100 ml. |
| (b) Faecal Coli          | NIL per cent.   |

## OPINION.

The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) R.J.HENDERSON, M.B., ChB.

### 2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes were made in these services during the year. The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road were under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor. Samples of effluent taken by the Surveyor fluctuated during the year. In some instances the standard of the effluent fell below that laid down by the Royal Commission, and with increase in population it is considered that these Sewage Disposal Works are becoming overloaded. The growth of the town due to the acceptance of Birmingham's overspill population may further increase the volume of Sewage to be treated, and a decision on this problem is awaited before plans are laid down for extensions to the existing works.

### 3. Swimming Bath.

During 1953 negotiations were entered into with the Trustees of Droitwich Sea Bathing Lido for the purchase of the Park and Lido. A suitable price was eventually decided upon by the District Valuer and agreement reached, but objections were raised when the Council sought authority for Loan Sanction. A Public Enquiry was held and the scheme turned down by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Early in 1954, however, the Council asked the Minister to review their proposals and a Public Poll showed that the inhabitants of the town were largely in favour of this property being controlled by the Corporation. The Minister then gave his approval to the scheme and negotiations are now proceeding for the purchase of the freehold from Droitwich Spa Ltd. There is little doubt that this site will eventually become a valuable asset to the Council as the Swimming Bath is becoming very popular with Birmingham holiday-makers. Unfortunately a poor start was made due to thoroughly bad weather during the season, but there appears to be good reason to believe that 1955 will be a successful year. Samples of water taken for analysis at intervals in the summer were found to be satisfactory.

### 4. Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. The Tip was kept under supervision throughout the year by the Borough Surveyor. The site is large enough to provide sufficient space for some years, and it is hoped will eventually be made suitable for use as additional Playing Fields accommodation. Collections of refuse are made weekly from all premises and three times weekly from the large hotels.

End of Section "C".

Number of children developing upon age

(a) 10 per cent

(b) 10 per cent

(c) 10 per cent

The sample is 10 per cent

10 per cent

10 per cent

The sample is 10 per cent

10 per cent

The sample is 10 per cent

10 per cent

The sample is 10 per cent



SECTION "D" - HOUSING.

Towards the end of 1953 the Council decided to make Improvement Grants in suitable cases under the 1949 Housing Act. The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1954:-

Number of new houses erected:-

- (1) By the Local Authority 35
- (2) By other Local Authorities Nil
- (3) By other bodies or persons 42

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts):- 162
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose:- 186
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932:- 58
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose:- 84
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation:- NIL
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation:- 154

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers:- 154

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... .. NONE
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-
    - By Owners ... .. NONE
    - By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. NONE



During the year 1901 the Commission has been engaged in a study of the various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

Under the various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(1) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(2) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(3) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

1. Methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(a) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(b) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(c) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(d) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(e) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(f) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(g) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(h) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(i) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(j) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(k) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(l) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

(m) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(n) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(o) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(p) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(q) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(r) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(s) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(t) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

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(u) The various methods of collecting and distributing the funds of the various departments of the State.

100

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied NONE.

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-

By owners ... .. NONE.

By Local Authority in default of owners NONE.

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. NONE.

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. NONE.

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made:- NONE.

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit:- NONE.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. NO FIGURES AVAILABLE.

(b) Number of families dwelling therein ... "

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... "

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. NONE.

(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 1.

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases 4.

(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ... .. NONE.

(1) Introduction and Purpose of the Study

- (a) The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.
- (b) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

1.1.1. The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

(2) Objectives of the Study

- (a) The primary objective of the study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.

- (b) The secondary objective of the study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.

- (c) The tertiary objective of the study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.

- (d) The quaternary objective of the study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.

- (e) The quinary objective of the study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the response of the patients.

(3) Study Design and Methods

- (a) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (b) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (c) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (d) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (e) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (f) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.

- (g) The study was conducted in a randomized, controlled manner.



SECTION "E" - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This work again received attention during the year. Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out.

As a result of the decision of the Ministry of Food to decontrol meat, in July 1954, one Private Slaughterhouse was licenced under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, and the Sanitary Inspector re-commenced systematic meat inspection. A large amount of meat, which has been killed elsewhere, is also being imported into the town, but there is little doubt that this is being satisfactorily inspected, as all Local Authorities have been forced to make similar arrangements, and the new Slaughterhouse Act 1954 has tightened up existing legislation on this subject.

There are three manufacturers and thirty-five retailers of Ice Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. These premises were kept under supervision during the year.

The one case of Food Poisoning which occurred during the year resulted in the death of an old lady of sixty-two years, who was admitted to Ronkswood Hospital, but subsequently transferred to Newtown Isolation Hospital. The causative organism was found to be Salmonella Typhi-murium.

End of Section "E".



SECTION "F" - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following tables:-

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Measles	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	28	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	-	-	3	-	-
1 "	-	-	2	-	-
2 "	-	-	1	-	-
3 "	-	1	8	-	-
4 "	-	-	2	-	-
5 "	1	1	11	-	-
10 "	-	-	-	1	-
15 "	-	-	-	-	-
20 "	-	-	-	-	-
35 "	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	1	2	28	1	1





# Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below:-

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	2	-	2	2	-	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1954 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
No. of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January 1954	23	13	-	4
Additions to Register during year	6	2	-	2
	29	15	-	6
Deductions from " " "	4	-	-	2
No. of cases on Register at 31st December 1954	25	15	-	4

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculous patients and their families.

Particulars of the cases and dates of the various trials  
and the names of the persons who were present.

Date		Name		Age		Sex		Race		Religion		Education		Occupation		Marital Status		Family Size		Income		Assets		Liabilities		Total	
1910	10	John	Smith	35	35	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000
1911	11	John	Smith	36	36	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100
1912	12	John	Smith	37	37	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200
1913	13	John	Smith	38	38	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300	\$1300
1914	14	John	Smith	39	39	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400
1915	15	John	Smith	40	40	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500
1916	16	John	Smith	41	41	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600	\$1600
1917	17	John	Smith	42	42	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700	\$1700
1918	18	John	Smith	43	43	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800	\$1800
1919	19	John	Smith	44	44	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900	\$1900
1920	20	John	Smith	45	45	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000

The above is a list of the persons who were present at the various trials  
and the names of the persons who were present.

Date		Name		Age		Sex		Race		Religion		Education		Occupation		Marital Status		Family Size		Income		Assets		Liabilities		Total	
1921	21	John	Smith	46	46	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100	\$2100
1922	22	John	Smith	47	47	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200	\$2200
1923	23	John	Smith	48	48	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300	\$2300
1924	24	John	Smith	49	49	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400	\$2400
1925	25	John	Smith	50	50	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500
1926	26	John	Smith	51	51	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600	\$2600
1927	27	John	Smith	52	52	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700	\$2700
1928	28	John	Smith	53	53	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800	\$2800
1929	29	John	Smith	54	54	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900	\$2900
1930	30	John	Smith	55	55	M	M	W	W	C	C	H	H	W	W	M	M	3	3	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000

The above is a list of the persons who were present at the various trials  
and the names of the persons who were present.



BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
DROITWICH.

August 1954.

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my tenth Annual Report, reviewing the work of the Department during 1954. I would once again thank your Council for support and the Town Clerk and other Officers, with the Staff of my Department, for their ever willing co-operation and assistance.

Noteworthy during the year was that the number of private houses built in the Borough exceeded Council Houses, the further continuance of this policy by the development of New Witton Estate for private development, the re-opening of a private slaughterhouse in the Borough.

A statement of inspection made in 1954 is as follows:-

Visits of inspection of works in progress at Stalls Farm, St. Peter's Crescent Estates and New Witton Estates	222.
Visits to direct labour and contract works.	185.
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws.	351.
"    re maintenance of highways.	113.
"    re public water supply.	40.
"    re factories including bakehouses.	13.
"    of Food Shops.	35.
"    at Slaughterhouse.	45.
Visits to Council Houses re repairs.	183.
"    re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip.	106.
"    re supervision of Parks & Public Open Spaces.	110.
"    re Canal Scheme.	16.
Samples taken for analysis including milk, sewage, water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluent.	31.
Number of houses inspected for housing defects.	162.
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded.	60.
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advice re planning and building byelaws.	114.

NEW HOUSING.

For the first time since the war the number of houses built by private enterprise exceeds the number erected by the Council. 42 were built for private ownership and 35 for the Council.

The Council continued the policy of making land available for private development, and the erection of houses on land sold by the Council in Hanbury Road proceeded quickly. Local builders also were quickly building on land ready for development spaced about the Borough in small parcels, and which had not previously been available since the war because of the restrictions in private building.





It was decided to develop 14.660 acres of the New Witton Estate, leaving 22.4 acres for development at a later date; of this 7.35 acres were sold to Messrs. Geo. Bourne Ltd., and 2.03 acres were offered to Messrs. Geo. Harrison & Son (Builders) Ltd., the Council retaining the remainder for sale privately in individual plots. A contract was entered into for the construction of the roads and sewers and this work was well advanced by the end of the year.

Plans were also received for the development privately of two estates on the site of the Allotments in Holloway Road.

The development of St. Peter's Crescent Estate by the Council proceeded, 20 Gregory Flats were tenanted during the year, and work commenced upon the erection of 35 three-bedroom houses, of which 15 were completed. On completion, this will finish the Estate except for a block of shops. Two temporary shops, one a grocer and the other a greengrocer, were permitted to be erected on the Estate in Charles Henry Road by their owners.

The erection of 12 houses in Vines Lane and 8 in Friar Street was commenced at the end of the year.

A further Housing Society was formed by Messrs. Deritend Precision Castings Ltd., which built 6 houses in St. Peter's Crescent, and all were occupied.

At the close of the year a scheme for the erection of some houses during 1955 upon the Chawson Estate was receiving consideration.

The question of overspill from Birmingham, which has been reviewed from time to time, appears to be no nearer settlement. It is to be hoped that some decision one way or the other can be reached in this matter during the coming year, in order that various problems which now confront the Council may be clarified and appropriate action taken.

#### HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH.

There is little variation in the general housing circumstances, the six cottages known as the Old Vicarage in Friar Street were demolished.

The Council also considered the eight cottages known as Hill End Gardens, Nos. 18 - 32 Bromsgrove Road, and a notice to the owner of time and place to consider their demolition was served by the Council. The owner pleaded that she was not in a position to deal with the property, and the Council considered purchasing the site. No decision, however, was reached. Four of the tenants were re-housed and the property stands partially empty. It is to be hoped that the remaining tenants will be re-housed during the coming year and the property demolished.

In August the Government announced that it required all Local Authorities to prepare a 5 year programme of slum-clearance to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing by August next.

The Council reviewed its policy upon the making of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949, and decided to favourably consider grants for improvements without which a dwelling would within 15 years fall into such a condition that it would be lost to the community.

12 applications were received for grants and 4 grants were promised.



It was decided to develop the 1000 acres of the New River  
project. This area is situated on a tract of land of about 1000 acres  
and is bounded by the New River to the north and the  
New River to the south. The project is situated on the  
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### THE NEW RIVER PROJECT

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north and the New River to the south.

It is interesting to note that all the applicants were owner occupiers. This, I believe, is common to the country as a whole. It is perhaps unfortunate, as if applications had been received from owners of tenanted property it may have been much easier for the Council to have formulated its policy.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

These have continued to come to hand in steady flow, in the main from newly married couples or families recently moved into the Town. There are, however, a number of applicants of old standing who are the tenants of sub-standard houses, and possibly the slum clearance programme may clear up these.

A review of all applications was being made at the end of the year.

#### COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT.

Mr. E. Colley was seconded to this work and appointed as Assistant Housing Manager, and was able to give this most important work his almost full time attention. The Council owned 624 dwellings at the end of December, and their efficient management is most important both for the successful maintenance of the property and happiness of the tenants.

Now that repairs to houses are being costed, the costs for a section of houses on each Estate have been examined, and the average cost per house is £8.15.10. per annum. This does not include the majority of new houses where no repairs are needed.

The vast majority of tenants are good ones, but there always remains a hard core who are most unsatisfactory and will always be a problem.

The Council's policy of permitting tenants to transfer has continued, and 19 tenants were transferred in 1954, but the transfer position has now almost worked itself out. There are several tenants wishing to move to cheaper houses and a few wishing to move because they do not get on with their neighbours.

All properties under requisition were vacated and returned to the owners with one exception.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Messrs. Lovett & Hill re-opened by licence from your Council their slaughterhouse off Queen Street at the beginning of July, since when slaughtering has been carried out and regular visits of inspection have been made, and the following carcasses inspected:-

<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
35	4	188	65

205 lbs. of meat including offals were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned as being unfit for food.

Inspections of factory canteens and of foodshops have been made, and these have been found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Messrs. York Jones Ice Cream Factory continues, and satisfactory samples have been taken from time to time.

10 samples were taken during the year, which were satisfactory.





The following statistics are submitted in connection with food premises in the Borough.  
 (a) Number of food premises total 59 made up as follows:-

Hotels	6
Cafes	11
Canteens	4
Grocers	26
Butchers	10
Fishmongers	2
	<hr/> 59

- (b) Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 . . . . . 36
- Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 . . . . . 2
- (c) Number of inspections made of food premises . . . . . 80
- (d) Condemned food is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority.

#### SCAVENGING AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The weekly collection of house refuse from houses within the Borough has continued with also a weekly emptying of pail closets from dwellings in the outlying districts.

Street gullies are still emptied every three months by contract.

Salvage collected during 1954 amounts to:-

	T.	C.	Q.		£	s	d
Mixed Waste Paper	27	14	1	value	182	8	0
Scrap Iron	2	17	2	"	9	15	0
				Total value	£192.	3.	0.

Street sweeping continued on the lengthsman system, but investigation was made into the question of sweeping by a gang with an electrically operated truck. This was found after two weeks trial to afford a substantial saving, and it was accordingly decided to operate this system and a truck was placed on order.

Refuse disposal was by controlled tipping, and the tip was maintained in satisfactory condition by the use of a tractor, bulldozer and scoop which has proved invaluable.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

This work has continued upon a bi-monthly basis, and I can report that the Town is free from any major infestation.

A summary of work carried out is appended overleaf:-

The following conditions are included in the contract for the purchase of the land:

1.	Acres
2.	Value
3.	Interest
4.	Term
5.	Rate
6.	Amount
7.	Balance
8.	Interest
9.	Term
10.	Rate
11.	Amount
12.	Balance

The interest on the loan is to be paid quarterly in advance, and the principal is to be repaid in full at the end of the term.

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# ARTICLE IV

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1.	Acres	2.	Value
3.	Interest	4.	Term
5.	Rate	6.	Amount
7.	Balance	8.	Interest
9.	Term	10.	Rate
11.	Amount	12.	Balance
13.	Interest	14.	Term
15.	Rate	16.	Amount
17.	Balance	18.	Interest
19.	Term	20.	Rate
21.	Amount	22.	Balance
23.	Interest	24.	Term
25.	Rate	26.	Amount
27.	Balance	28.	Interest
29.	Term	30.	Rate
31.	Amount	32.	Balance
33.	Interest	34.	Term
35.	Rate	36.	Amount
37.	Balance	38.	Interest
39.	Term	40.	Rate
41.	Amount	42.	Balance
43.	Interest	44.	Term
45.	Rate	46.	Amount
47.	Balance	48.	Interest
49.	Term	50.	Rate
51.	Amount	52.	Balance
53.	Interest	54.	Term
55.	Rate	56.	Amount
57.	Balance	58.	Interest
59.	Term	60.	Rate
61.	Amount	62.	Balance
63.	Interest	64.	Term
65.	Rate	66.	Amount
67.	Balance	68.	Interest
69.	Term	70.	Rate
71.	Amount	72.	Balance
73.	Interest	74.	Term
75.	Rate	76.	Amount
77.	Balance	78.	Interest
79.	Term	80.	Rate
81.	Amount	82.	Balance
83.	Interest	84.	Term
85.	Rate	86.	Amount
87.	Balance	88.	Interest
89.	Term	90.	Rate
91.	Amount	92.	Balance
93.	Interest	94.	Term
95.	Rate	96.	Amount
97.	Balance	98.	Interest
99.	Term	100.	Rate

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	Type of Property.				Total	Agri- cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including Business & Industrial)			
1. Total No. of properties in Borough.	9	1842	188	2039	11	
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) - (b) 9	5 959	8 42	13 1010	1 11	
3. No. of properties under 2. (a) found to be Major infested by Minor (b) (a) rats or Minor (b) mice. Major	- 6 - -	- 46 2 -	- 5 1 -	- 57 3 -	- 5 - -	
4. No. of infested properties treated.	6	48	6	60	5	
5. No. of notices served under Sec.4 of Act. (a) Treatment (b) Structural work (i.e. Proof ing).	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	

#### SAMPLING.

The following samples were taken for analysis during the year:-

Ice Cream	10
Town Water	3
Well Water	5
Sewage Effluent etc.	8
Trade Effluent	5
TOTAL	<u>31</u>

#### HIGHWAYS.

Your Council's policy of only incurring the minimum expenditure on highways has continued and no improvements to highways generally have taken place.

Tagwell Road Improvement Scheme was prepared, tenders obtained and eventually approval of the Ministry given. The Council then decided to re-apply for the classification of the road and this was under consideration at the end of the year.

Development occurred on the south side of Hanbury Road, and a service road was partially constructed by the Council.



# Table of Expenditures

Type of Expenditure	Total	Type of Expenditure		Total	Type of Expenditure	Total
		Business & Industrial	Personal			
1. Total of expenditures in foreign countries	1000	100	100	100	100	100
2. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
3. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
4. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
6. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
7. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
8. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
9. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100
10. Total of expenditures in foreign countries (a) for business and industrial purposes (b) for personal purposes	100	100	100	100	100	100

## Summary

The following summary was taken from the report during the year:

10	For travel
5	For food
5	For lodging
5	For transportation
5	For entertainment
5	For other
50	Total

## Remarks

From the above it will be seen that the expenditures for travel, food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, and other were all included in the total of \$50.00.

It will be noted that the expenditures for travel, food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, and other were all included in the total of \$50.00. The total of \$50.00 was also included in the total of \$50.00.

The expenditures for travel, food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, and other were all included in the total of \$50.00. The total of \$50.00 was also included in the total of \$50.00.

The footpath along Holloway Road from St. Peter's Walk to St. Peter's Crescent was paved with asphalt. Paving was also carried out in Mayflower Road.

An entrance road was made to land owned by the Council and leased to Messrs. Concrete Products (Droitwich) Ltd.

#### SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers in the Borough have been maintained in the best condition possible with the funds allowed for the purpose. Eight manhole covers have been replaced with new ones.

One major blockage occurred which was successfully cleared, together with a number of minor ones.

Corbett Street sewer was scraped throughout.

Two sewer extensions were made, one along Tagwell Road to the junction with Holloway Road, a distance of 317 yards, for house development. The other along Hampton Road 192 yards to Messrs. Tropicalisation and Packing Co's new factory.

The sewage disposal works have continued to work much overlaid with consequently an effluent below the Royal Commission Standard. Extensions to the works were under consideration at the close of the year following the submission of my report upon them.

Mr. Len Colley retired from the works after 31 years' service and your Council appointed Mr. C. Bevan in his place as Sewage Works Manager.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Water continued to be purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. with whom negotiations for the renewal of the agreement continued for the whole of the second year.

Consumption during 1954 was 106,880,000 galls. averaging 292,800 gallons per day.

911 taps and 453 ball valves were adjusted or washered free of charge.

Upon 5 samples being taken from private wells at Primsland and Chawson they were found to be polluted, and consideration was being given to an extension of the water main to Chawson. This is more difficult at Primsland where the levels are almost as high as the top water level in the reservoir.

#### PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

With the acquisition of the Droitwich Park, efforts were made to increase the output of the greenhouses at the Vines Park and supply the additional requirements of the Park, 125 dozen plants being supplied.

The Vines Park Bowling Green was in use during the year, and the Bowling Club using it was gradually being built up.

The King George Playing Field continues in its overcrowded state which, whilst giving satisfaction that it is fulfilling a useful need, is resulting in a steady deterioration of the field.

The Droitwich Cricket Club gave valuable assistance in work at the field during the cricket season.





The other parks and open spaces were maintained to the best of the ability of the Council staff available.

The setting up of a children's playground at the Stalls Farm Estate with contributions from the National Playing Fields Association, Charitable Bodies in Droitwich and your Council, has provided a most useful and well patronised amenity at this Estate.

#### DROITWICH CANAL.

A further report upon a modified scheme was submitted to you by Sir Arnold Waters, your Consulting Engineer, and this was receiving consideration at the close of the year.

Seepage through the banks at Salwarpe continues, and the large brick culvert conveying a stream below the Canal at Salwarpe was brought to the Council's attention as being in a very unstable condition.

#### FACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

Messrs. Concrete Products' factory built upon land leased from the Council came into production, and Messrs. Tropicalisation and Packing Co. constructed a large factory in Hampton Road.

Agreement was reached with the owners of Berry Hill Farm that they would develop their land for industrial purposes, and the Council accordingly decided not to proceed with the Compulsory Purchase Order which had been made.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Chartered Municipal Engineer.  
Borough Engineer, Surveyor and  
Sanitary Inspector.





### Scavenging and Public Cleansing.

This service has continued during the year with what I feel is a minimum of complaints. House refuse is collected weekly and from the hotels three weekly collections are made, pail closets numbering ten are emptied weekly also. Salvage collected during the year amounted to:-

	T.	C.	Q.		£.	s.	d.
Mixed Waste Paper	34.	8.	1.	Value	274.	12.	10.
Scrap Iron	6.	9.	3.		29.	13.	1.
Scrap Tins	4.	18.	3.		5.	19.	11.
<u>Total Value:</u>					£310.	5.	10.

The disposal of house refuse is by tipping and I feel that the tip has been maintained in good order being regularly covered, particularly during the summer months when only a very short tip face is open.

Street sweeping is still by means of a gang other than for one lengthman in the Town Centre.

### Rodent Control.

I am glad to report that the Borough is free from any major infestation of rats and a summary of work carried out by the Rodent Operator will be found as an appendix to this report.

### Flies.

Complaints were received of flies swarming at certain houses within the Borough, noticeably in Steynors Avenue and Ombersley Road. It is thought that the flies were cluster flies associated with the earth worm on meadow land which hibernate in house roofs during the winter months appearing in warm spring days in large numbers. Steps will be taken during the future winter months to try to deal with this nuisance.

### Sampling.

Samples have been taken during the year as follows:

Ice Cream	6
Town Water	2
Sewage Effluent etc.	2
<u>Total:</u>	<u>10</u>

### Highways.

The year was notable for the completion of a major and quite a number of minor improvements to highways and footpaths.

The Tagwell Road/Newland Road improvement scheme was concluded in so far as the first contract is concerned. There is no doubt that this has made a considerable improvement and has made safe this highway for the use of the traffic travelling along it. It is unfortunate that the western end of Tagwell Road and Newland Road could not be completed at the same time.





## Highways (Continued)

Footpaths were reconstructed in St. Peter's Road on both sides and in Winnetts Lane, and in the Corbett Avenue the footpath was completed near the newly built houses on what was known as the "Hydro" site. A new pathway was made from Manning Road to the footpath near the western entrance of the Sun Rays Hotel, this is undoubtedly a great improvement and appreciated by the residents in that part of the town.

The footpaths were constructed to the major part of the New Witten Estate laid out by your Council, and the verge in Vines Lane was asphalted over.

Towards the end of the year parts of Oakland Avenue were found to be crazing badly due to the omission of the surface dressing during the previous year. Steps had to be taken to carry out surface dressing in late October when the weather was cold by the use of a cold emulsion. This stopped further deterioration but was not a very good dressing as due to the cold weather many of the chips left the road surface.

### Pedestrian Crossing at Oakland Avenue across the A.38.

A request was received that this pedestrian crossing should be removed, after a census had been taken and application made to the Ministry of Transport permission was given for its reinstatement.

Two improvements were put in hand on Class III roads which as your Council will be aware, are County roads delegated to the Town Council. These consisted of an improvement to the alignment of the road by taking off a corner near Prinsland on the Holloway Road and to the widening of part of Vines Lane near the entrance to Messrs. Nu-way Heating Plants. Both these schemes were in progress at the end of the year.

During past years trouble has always occurred during the summer due to the very considerable weed growths occurring on the sides of the wide and not very heavily trafficked highways such as Lyttelton Road and Corbett Avenue, and others in the town. This has always resulted in heavy expense in the weeding of the highways and they have always looked untidy. During 1956 weed control spraying was carried out with very effective results, the streets taking on a much tidier appearance with consequent reduction in labour costs.

Two applications of weed killer were made and I think it is fair to say that the streets looked cleaner and better than they have done for many years at least since the war. Unfortunately several street trees died, in one or two cases probably due to weed killer but in my opinion not in every case, particularly in respect of the cherry tree, which I think was due to the abnormal drought at the beginning of the year. I consider that the cherry has not proved to be a good tree for planting in tarred or paved footpaths as it is too susceptible to either periods of drought or heavy rain and I think it would be wise to discontinue it in the future. With experience the operators will learn how far to keep away from the trees with the weed killer but there is little doubt that whilst several trees may die the overall improvement of the streets makes the application worthwhile.

In Oakland Avenue the front wall of a pair of houses fell into such a state of disrepair that the owner's attention had to be called to the need for the making safe of the wall. No action was taken and your Council had to ask the Magistrates to require the owner to carry out the necessary demolition of the wall and ensure the safety of the public. This he did after the appropriate order was made by the Magistrates.



