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BOROUGH OF DROITWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

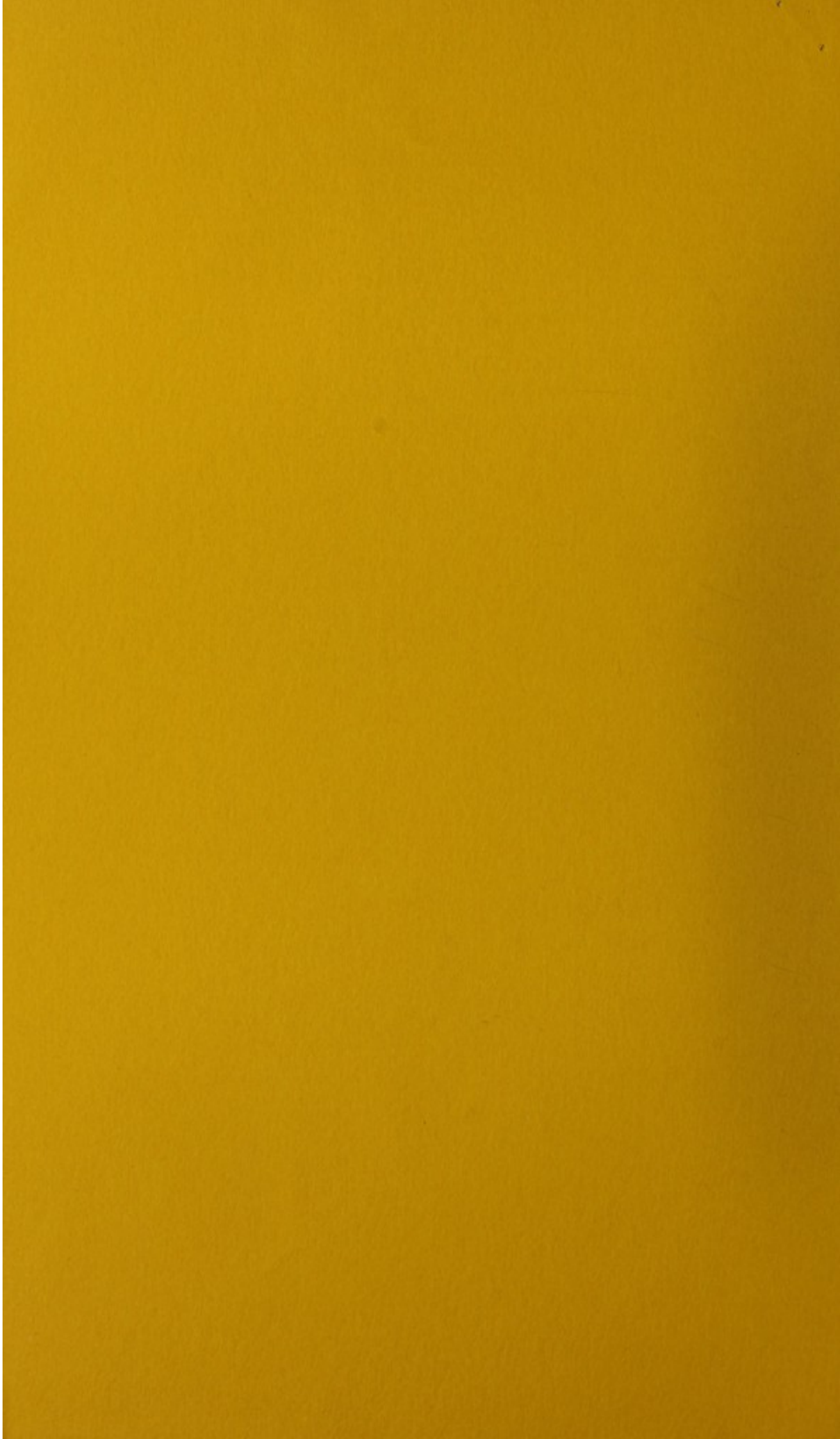
and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR  
and  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1968





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, C.Eng., F.I.Mun.E., M.I.H.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Certificated Meat & Food Inspector
Additional Public Health Inspector	Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I., Certificated Meat & Food Inspector Certificates in Sanitary Science (Meat and Foods) Liverpool School of Hygiene

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, 1888-89

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

J. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., B.A., B.S., D.T.M.	Medical Officer of Health
Osman L. Robinson, C.S.G., F.I.S.M.S., M.I.H.S., F.R.S.S., M.A.P.H.I.	Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector
Certified Meat & Food Inspector	
Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I., Certified Meat & Food Inspector	Additional Public Health Inspector
Certified in Sanitary Science (Meat and Poultry)	
Liverpool School of Hygiene	

Telephone: Droitwich 2352

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

August, 1969.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my 15th Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

My first observation (from Section A) is that the Borough enlarged its boundaries by some 305 acres as a result of the Worcestershire (Droitwich - Alteration of Areas) Order, 1967, which came into effect on 1st April, 1968. This has already provided some extra land for factories on the Industrial Estate, and the remainder will eventually be built upon. Town Development is progressing steadily, some 350 out of the 400 houses or more on Chawson I Estate having been completed at 31st December, and another 65 - 70 out of 245 on Boycott I Estate. Contracts have also been placed for a further 561 dwellings on Boycott II and III where the spine road is already being used and a new Primary School is occupied. The other new school opened in September was Westacre Intermediate (9-13 years) which formed the first decisive step towards 3 tier Comprehensive Education for the Borough. The County Education Committee are to be congratulated on the prompt manner in which they have executed these arrangements (which are to be completed by September, 1970), for they are nicely ahead of the new development. The Schools are modern, well designed and a pleasure to work in, from the point of view of the School Health Service.

Other points of interest are that the second 'Pasveer' Ditch at Ladywood was ready to be commissioned in January, 1969 which should assist with the private development to the S.E. of the Borough. The foul sewer has been laid across Falsam Pits and also the brook course together with a Surface Water Culvert across the A.38 was lowered to allow for improved drainage of this area

Development looks as if it is imminent at Primsland where access roads have been constructed and a Sewage Pumping Station erected. With all these changes it is surprising that the estimated population of the Borough remains below 10,000. It will not be possible to be more accurate until the Census is taken in March, 1971.

The Health of the Borough has remained good. There were very few cases of Measles (Section F) and with the introduction of Measles Vaccine in June, 1968, 150 doses were given in six months. If parents will continue to accept this procedure which I strongly recommend, then the disease could well die out in future years. Immunisation acceptance rates are high, as I estimate that 97% of children have received a Primary Course against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the last five years, and similar numbers have received at least one booster dose. Smallpox protection is less encouraging, only 75% of Infants receiving Primary vaccination during the same period, and very few persons being revaccinated unless they are going abroad. Admittedly Eczema is a bar to this procedure, but since the introduction of the multiple puncture method (instead of the scratch) the procedure is much safer, the best age being 1-2 years, and I would advise all mothers to ensure that their babies are done at this stage rather than later. A 95% acceptance rate should be possible, and revaccination at 5-7 years would then be purely routine.

May 20th-27th 1968 was Droitwich Clean Food Week. A considerable number of leaflets on Food Hygiene were distributed to the Trade and Housewives in the town, but the response to an invitation to join in lectures and discussions was poor. Our Public Health Inspectors continue to do good work in protecting the consumer and I would like to thank them for their conscientious approach to this subject.

I remain, Madam Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.



Public Health Department,  
Government,  
Bristol.

Telephone: Bristol 5552

August, 1968.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the BOROUGH OF BRISTOL.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my 15th Annual Report on the health  
of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

My first observation (from Section A) is that the Borough enlarged its  
boundaries by some 300 acres as a result of the Worcester (Bristol -  
Aston) Order, 1967, which came into effect on 1st April, 1968.  
This has already provided some extra land for houses on the industrial  
estate, and the remainder will eventually be built upon. Town Development  
is progressing steadily, some 350 out of the 400 houses or more on Dawson I  
estate having been completed at 31st December, and another 65 - 70 out of 215  
on Boycott I estate. Contractors have also been placed for a further 201  
dwellings on Boycott II and III where the spine road is already being used  
and a new primary school is occupied. The other new school opened in  
September was Westgate Intermediate (9-13 years) which formed the first  
positive step towards 5 year Compulsory Education for the Borough. The  
County Education Committee are to be congratulated on the progress made  
in which they have executed these arrangements (which are to be completed by  
September, 1970), for they are nicely ahead of the new development. The  
Schools are modern, well designed and a pleasure to work in, from the point  
of view of the School Health Service.

Other points of interest are that the second 'Lawson' site at Ladbroke  
was ready to be completed in January, 1969 which should assist with the  
private development to the S.E. of the Borough. The first cover has been laid  
across Pains Pitt and also the brick course together with a surface water  
drain across the A.78 was lowered to allow for improved drainage of this area.

Development looks as if it is imminent at Failand where access roads  
have been constructed and a Sewage Pumping Station erected. With all these  
changes it is surprising that the estimated population of the Borough remains  
below 10,000. It will not be possible to be more accurate until the Census  
is taken in March, 1971.

The health of the Borough has remained good. There were very few cases  
of Measles (Section F) and with the introduction of Measles Vaccine in June,  
1968, 150 doses were given in six months. It remains to be seen if this  
procedure which I strongly recommend, then the disease could well die out  
in future years. Immunisation acceptance rates are high, as I estimate that  
95% of children have received a Primary Course against Diphtheria, Whooping  
Cough and Tetanus during the last five years, and similar records have received  
at least one booster dose. Bacterial protection is less encouraging, only 75%  
of infants receiving primary vaccination during the same period, and very few  
persons being re-vaccinated unless they are going abroad. Admittedly, however,  
is a bar to this procedure, but since the introduction of the multiple vaccine  
method (instead of the separate) the procedure is much easier, the best age being  
1-2 years, and I would advise all mothers to ensure that their babies are born  
at this stage rather than later. A 95% acceptance rate should be possible, and  
re-vaccination at 5-7 years would then be purely routine.

My 20th-25th 1968 was Bristol's Clean Food Week. A considerable number of  
letters on food hygiene were distributed to the Trade and Housewives in the town,  
but the response to an invitation to join in fact was and discussion was poor.  
Our Public Health Inspectors continue to do good work in protecting the consumer  
and I would like to thank them for their conscientious approach to this subject.

I remain, Madam Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. BERNARD BURNING,  
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	2040 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid 1968	9,670
Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1968 (according to Rate books)	3,000
Rateable value at 31st March, 1968	£397,198
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1968	£1,520

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	67	85	152	
Illegitimate	3	5	8	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				5%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population				16.5
Birth Rate - England and Wales ... ..				16.9
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	1	1	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				12
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales ... ..				14
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	65	67	132	
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population				10.6
Death Rate - England and Wales ... ..				11.9
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				25
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales				18
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	2	-	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				12.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales				12.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births				19
Perinatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales				25
Maternal Deaths ... ..				Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births				Nil



SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

2040 acres

Area

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-  
 and represented by a Penny Rate, 1968  
 Maternity value at 31st March, 1968  
 (according to Rate books)  
 Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1968  
 Registrar General's Estimate of  
 resident population mid 1968

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	87	85	172
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			2%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population			16.2
Birth Rate - England and Wales			16.9
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			12
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales			14
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	65	67	132
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population			10.6
Death Rate - England and Wales			11.9
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>			
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			25
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales			18
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>			
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			12.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales			12.3
Fetal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births			19
Fetal Mortality Rate - England and Wales			25
Maternal Deaths			811
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births			811

CAUSES OF DEATH

(in accordance with the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases, B List - 65 Main Causes)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B.18 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
B.19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	1	-
B.19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	2	2
B.19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	2
B.19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	10	5
B.21 Diabetes Mellitus	2	1
B.46(4) Other diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-
B.26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
B.27 Hypertensive Disease	-	1
B.28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	14
B.29 Other forms of Heart Disease	1	3
B.30 Cerebrovascular Disease	7	19
B.46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1
B.32 Pneumonia	2	5
B.33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	-
B.46(6) Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	4
B.46(8) Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	4
B.46 (10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1
B.42 Congenital Anomalies	3	-
B.44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
B.45 Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	1
BE.47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
BE.48 All Other Accidents	1	2
BE.49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	<u>65</u>	<u>67</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH  
 (in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of  
 Diseases, 9th Revision)

	Male	Female
ME.43 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	-
WE.48 All Other Accidents	1	2
ME.47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
B.45 Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	1
B.44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
B.42 Congenital Anomalies	3	-
B.46 (10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1
B.46 (8) Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	4
B.46 (6) Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	4
B.33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	-
B.32 Tuberculosis	2	2
B.46 (7) Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	1
B.30 Cerebrovascular Disease	7	19
B.29 Other forms of Heart Disease	1	2
B.28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	14
B.27 Hypertensive Disease	-	1
B.26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
B.46 (4) Other diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-
B.21 Diabetes Mellitus	2	1
B.19 (6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	19	2
B.19 (7) Malignant Neoplasms - Breast	-	2
B.19 (8) Malignant Neoplasms - Lung, Bronchus	2	2
B.19 (1) Malignant Neoplasms - Stomach	1	-
B.18 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>



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

1. 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. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is provided by the Hospital Management Committee. 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.

(b) Home Help Service

This service has now been taken over by the County Council from the W.V.S. being administered from the Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Street, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in case of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 14 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

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

General	(77)	79
Maternity	(7)	8
Tuberculosis	(Nil)	<u>Nil</u>
Total		<u>87</u>

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully, 2,106 (2,282) meals being served during the year. (Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

(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 are also two Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she 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.

During the year, 4,583 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 4,099 the previous year.

There were 693 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1968 compared with 745 the previous year.

SECTION "B" - GENERAL DIVISION OF  
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. 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. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for domestic cases is provided by the Hospital Management Committee. 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.

(b) Home Help Service

This service has now been taken over by the County Council from the W.V.S. being administered from the Royal George Buildings, Handbury Street, Worcester. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in case of illness, and for elderly cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 14 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to needs.

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

General	(77)	77
Maternity	(7)	8
Tuberculosis	(81)	81
Total		166

The introduction of a Home on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully. 2,106 (2,232) visits being served during the year. (Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visitor Service

Two District Nurse Heliwaves 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 are also two Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she 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, Worcester.

During the year, 4,587 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 4,099 the previous year.

There were 697 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1968 compared with 745 the previous year.



The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwife and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

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

The following inoculations were done during 1968:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation (including Tetanus)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year ... .. 185 (164)

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year ... .. 280 (396)

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year ... .. 178 (157)

(iii) Measles Vaccination

Number of children who received a Primary dose 150 (N/A)

(iv) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year ... .. 138 (125)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ... .. 0 (8)

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(v) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 3 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.



The County Council's Anti-Malaria Clinic is now closed but Parental and Relieving classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of workers attending their General Practitioners. A Physiotherapist, Miss M. and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the town is approved.

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation

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

The following inoculations were done during 1968:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation (Schick's Test)

182 (184)	Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year ... ..
280 (386)	Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year ... ..

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

178 (237)	Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year ... ..
-----------	--

(iii) Measles Vaccination

150 (214)	Number of children who received a Primary dose
-----------	--

(iv) Vaccination against Sepsis

178 (192)	Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year ... ..
-----------	---

(v) Poliovaccines  
 Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ... ..  
 (figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(vi) Poliovaccines Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a drop of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 2 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(vii) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation.
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

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

- (i) The District is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are 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 60 beds and St.John's 64 beds. It was with regret that the Council heard that the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board intended to end their Out-Patient contract with the Brine Baths with effect from 31st March, 1968. A meeting was held at the Raven Hotel on 18th January, 1968 in an effort to prevent this, and Mr.Peter Walker, M.P., was commissioned to make representations to the (then) Minister of Health in order to reverse the decision. The outcome has been that the contract continues for 2 years until March, 1970, but it is doubtful whether the Medical Trust will be able to continue to keep the Baths open for private patients very long after that date.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage, Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

End of Section "B"



The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act includes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Health Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of centres or other facilities for training or occupation.
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any auxiliary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(b) Special Health Services

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation in the routine testing of hearing with an audiometer, in order to select children who are particularly deaf for special investigation.

3. Hospitals

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

- (i) The District is served by General Hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Newton Leiston Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Rockwood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient department situated at the Prince of Wales. There are 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 60 beds and St. John's 64 beds. It was with regret that the Council heard that the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board intended to end their Out-Patient contract with the Prince of Wales with effect from 1st March, 1968. A meeting was held at the Raven Hotel on 18th January, 1968 in an effort to prevent this, and Mr. Peter Walker, M.P., was commissioned to make representations to the (then) Minister of Health in order to reverse the decision. The outcome has been that the contract continues for 2 years until March, 1970, but it is doubtful whether the Medical Trust will be able to continue to keep the beds open for private patients very long after that date.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Lovick, Worcester and Ramsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage, Food, Urine, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.



SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gall water tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from six boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all six boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date	No. of Colonies growing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli	Remarks
	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 22°C			
17.12.68					
No.1 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	9	27	Nil	-	Satisfactory
No.1 Borehole Burcot P/Station	11	7	Nil	-	"
Nos.1 & 3 Boreholes Sugarbrook P/Station	9	24	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Washing-Stocks P/Station	4	5	Nil	-	"
No.2 Borehole Washing-stocks P/Station	21	1	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	68	26	Nil	-	"

Chemical Analysis

No.3 Borehole, Washingstocks Pumping Station

31st December, 1969.

Colour            Colourless  
 Odour            None  
 Deposit          None                      pH 7.6

## (a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcester (Dorchester) Water Order 1900 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcester Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 Gall water tower at Fox Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressure throughout the town have improved. There has been no change of water and no can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

## (b) Chemical and bacteriological examination

The water is drawn from six boreholes near the Micky Hills. Samples are taken from sources by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all six boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date	No. of Colonies growing on Agar		No. of Coliform Bacteria	No. of Faecal Coli	Remarks
	2 days at 37° C	5 days at 22° C			
17.12.68	9	27	Nil	-	Satisfactory
No. 1 Borehole (No. 11) Station					
No. 1 Borehole (No. 11) Station	11	7	Nil	-	"
No. 1 Borehole (No. 11) Station	9	24	Nil	-	"
No. 1 Borehole (No. 11) Station	4	2	Nil	-	"
No. 2 Borehole (No. 11) Station	21	1	Nil	-	"
No. 1 Borehole (No. 11) Station	68	28	Nil	-	"

## Chemical Analysis

No. 3 Borehole, Washington Pumping Station

1st December, 1968.

Colour None  
 Odour None  
 Colourless None

pg 7.6



Chemical ExaminationParts per million

Suspended Matter (Dried at 100° C)	-
Total Dissolved Solids (Dried at 180° C)	310
Chlorine present as Chloride	25
Hardness Non-Carbonate	58
" Carbonate	132
" Total	190
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27° C)	0.24
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	Trace
Fluorine	-
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)	-
Phosphates (as PO <sub>4</sub> )	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	12

Bacteriological Examination

## Number of Colonies Developing upon Agar

(a) in Two Days at 37° C	12 per one ml.
(b) in Three Days at 22° C	46 per one ml.
Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable Number of Faecal Coli	- per 100 ml.

Analyst's Report: The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent but is fairly hard.

(c) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough Boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2,993
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	1

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Steady progress has been made towards the provision of a new Sewage works for the developing town. New sewers have been laid to cater for the new development on Chawson II and Boycott I Housing Estates, but so far it has not been possible to divert any of this sewage away from the existing works on the Hampton Road. This plant has been increasingly overloaded, and it has indeed been fortunate that the Pasveer Ditch has functioned so satisfactorily since August, 1966 and taken some 250,000 gallons of crude sewage without producing unsatisfactory results. In fact the County Analyst has embarked on a programme of regular sampling and analysis over a period of two years, and results in February 1968 showed Suspended Solids and B.O.D. to be well above the standard set by the Royal Commission. (S.S.11.5.ppm. B.O.D. 8.0 ppm. Royal Commission Standard SS.30 B.O.D.20). This high standard was maintained during the year.

By the end of 1968 the trunk sewer to Ladywood was virtually complete and a certain amount of sewage has now been diverted to fill the second Pasveer Ditch on the same site. This will give an opportunity for further development to proceed, particularly to the S.E. of the town before the conventional treatment plant is brought into operation.



Chemical Examination Parts per million

Spent water (filtered at 100°C)	-
Total Dissolved Solids (Dried at 100°C)	210
Chloride present as Chloride	22
Hardness Non-Carbonate	28
" Carbonate	132
" Total	190
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace
Alumina Nitrogen	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	111
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C)	0.24
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	Trace
Fluorine	-
Synthetic Detergents (as Hexanol)	-
Phosphate (as PO <sub>4</sub> )	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	12

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing upon agar	
(a) in two days at 27°C	12 per one ml.
(b) in three days at 22°C	46 per one ml.
Probable Number of Coliform Bacteria	111 per 100 ml.
Probable Number of Faecal Coli	- per 100 ml.

Analyst's Report: The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no pump-solvent but is fairly hard.

(c) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with mains water	2,932
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	1

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Steady progress has been made towards the provision of a new sewage works for the developing town. New sewers have been laid to cater for the new development on Goswami II and Goswami I Housing Estates, but so far it has not been possible to divert any of the sewage away from the existing works on the Langdon Road. This plant has been increasingly overloaded, and it has indeed been fortunate that the Rawer Mill has functioned so satisfactorily since August, 1966 and taken some 250,000 gallons of crude sewage without producing unsatisfactory results. In fact the County Analyst has expanded on a programme of regular sampling and analysis over a period of two years, and results in February 1968 showed Suspended Solids and B.O.D. to be well above the standard set by the Royal Commission (B.C.D. 1954). B.O.D. 8.0 p.p.m. Royal Commission Standard 22.50 B.O.D. 20). This high standard was maintained during the year.

By the end of 1968 the trunk sewer to Ledwood was virtually complete and a certain amount of sewage has now been diverted to fill the second Rawer Mill on the same site. This will give an opportunity for further development to proceed, particularly to the S.E. of the town before the conventional treatment plant is brought into operation.

### 3. Refuse Disposal

No Tipping of refuse took place within the Borough boundary during 1968. An arrangement has been made with Droitwich Rural District Council for them to dispose of the refuse from the Borough in the future and ultimately it is hoped to use Hanbury Wharf Brickworks site for both districts. Negotiations took place with the owners on these lines during the year.

All refuse was deposited at the Briar Coppice Refuse Tip, Westwood, but as this site will eventually be used for "Overspill" development and some settlement is required, it was closed on 31st December, 1968, arrangements having been made by the Rural District for a new site at Jacobs Ladder, Claines. Details of the refuse collection service are included in the Borough Surveyor's section of the report.

### 4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control., etc., and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worth while. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

### 5. Rodent Control

Inspections were carried out by the Rodent Operative in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. No major infestations were encountered, and the work involved was not substantial. None of the sewers were found to be infested, but it is interesting to note that some minor infestations were related to the demolition of old buildings.

1968	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	<u>Domestic and business premises</u>	<u>Agricultural Buildings</u>
Number of properties in the District	3,339	5
Total number of properties inspected	105	1
Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	111 7	1 -

End of Section "C"

No lifting of refuse took place within the Borough boundary during 1968. An arrangement has been made with Rochdale Rural District Council for them to dispose of the refuse from the Borough in the future and it is hoped to use Handery Wharf Rinkworks site for both districts. Negotiations took place with the owners on these lines during the year.

All refuse was deposited at the Brian Copples Refuse Tip, Westwood, but as this site will eventually be used for "overgrowth" development and some settlement is required, it was closed on 31st December, 1968. Arrangements having been made by the Rural District for a new site at Jacobs Ladder, Clitheroe. Details of the refuse collection services are included in the Borough Surveyor's section of the report.

4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Roadside Control, etc., and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worth while. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

5. Robert Control

Inspections were carried out by the Robert Operative in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. No major infestations were encountered, and the work involved was not substantial. None of the severe were found to be infested, but it is interesting to note that some minor infestations were related to the demolition of old buildings.

TYPE OF PROPERTY		1968
<u>Agricultural Buildings</u>	<u>Domestic and business premises</u>	
2	3,333	Number of properties in the District
1	108	Total number of properties inspected
1	111	Number infested by (i) rats
-	7	(ii) mice



SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1968.

	<u>1968</u>
A. <u>Number of new houses erected:-</u>	
(i) By the Local Authority	190
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	16
B. <u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>	
(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act)	96
(ii) Number of re-inspections	75
(iii) Under the Housing Acts	
Number of inspections	205
Number of re-inspections	132
C. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
1. <u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>	
(a) Number of notices served	12
(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices	
(i) By owners	12
(ii) By Local Authority	Nil
2. <u>Under the Housing Act, 1957</u>	
(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	4
(c) Number of undertakings accepted	1
(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	5
(e) Number of houses demolished during the year	Nil
D. <u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)</u>	
1. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	3
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	3
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	26
2. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
3. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil

CLEARANCE AREAS

The Holloway Compulsory Purchase Order 1966 was confirmed on 25th September 1967 and the Area is being cleared for the erection of an old peoples block of Flats.

Worcester Road No 1. Clearance Order (8 houses) confirmed by the Minister on 22nd July 1968.

Bromsgrove Road (No 2) Clearance Area (4 houses) Submitted to Council in October 1968 and awaiting submission to the Minister.

End of Section "D"

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slim Clearance during 1968.

1968	
190	Number of new houses erected -
111	(i) By the Local Authority
16	(ii) By other Local Authorities
	(iii) By other bodies or persons
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-	
96	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act)
75	(ii) Number of re-inspections
265	(iii) Under the Housing Acts
135	Number of inspections
	Number of re-inspections
Action under Statutory Powers during the year	
Under the Public Health Act	
12	(a) Number of notices served
	(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices
12	(i) By owners
111	(ii) By Local Authority
Under the Housing Act, 1957	
111	(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)
4	(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)
1	(c) Number of undertakings accepted
2	(d) Number of demolition or clearing orders made (Section 17)
111	(e) Number of houses demolished during the year
Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)	
3	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year
3	(b) Number of families dwelling therein
26	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein
111	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year
111	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases
111	(a) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved
111	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year

SLIM CLEARANCE

The Housing Compulsory Purchase Order 1966 was confirmed on 25th September 1967 and the area is being cleared for the erection of an old people block of flats.

Worcester Road No 1, Clearance Order (8 houses) confirmed by the Minister on 2nd July 1968.

Broomgrove Road (No 2) Clearance Area (4 houses) Submitted to Council in October 1968 and waiting submission to the Minister.



Routine inspection of all food premises in the town was carried out during the year. The various categories of premises dealt with are shown below and the number of inspections carried out dealt with in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. It will be observed that all premises complied with Regulation 16 (Hand washbasins) and Regulation 19 (Sinks) where required:-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Licensed Premises	28
Grocers	18
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	5
Wet Fish Shop	1
Fish & Chip Shops	2
Cafe's	8
Butchers' shops	8
Bakehouses	3
Works Canteens	4
Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream	25
School Meals Kitchens	8
Institution Kitchens	4
<hr/>	
Total number of premises	<u>120</u>

Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 - 120

Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies - 66

Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 - 66

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and 25 retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year are shown below:-

1968	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Hard Ice Cream	61	56	4	1	-
Soft Ice-Cream	41	27	12	1	1

In addition, Two Ice Lollies were sampled and considered to be satisfactory. This produce is not graded according to the Methylene Blue Test, but Coliform counts are carried out and investigations made in the factory when necessary.

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' Licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Only limited sampling was carried out during the year, but results were satisfactory.

	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	3	Satisfactory
Sterilized Milk (U.H.T)	4	"
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	"

Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests are used or Guinea Pig inoculation if considered necessary.

SECTION "A" - INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year, the various categories of premises dealt with are shown below and the number of inspections carried out dealt with in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. It will be observed that all premises complied with Regulation 16 (Hand washbasins) and Regulation 19 (Sinks) where required:-

Food Premises (General) Regulations, 1960

28	Licensed Refreshment
18	Grocers
6	Greenhouses
2	Confectioners
1	Wet Fish Shop
2	Fish & Chip Shops
8	Cafe's
8	Restaurants
3	Takeaways
4	Workshops
22	Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream
8	School Kitchens
4	Institution Kitchens
150	Total number of premises

Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 - 150  
 Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies - 66  
 Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 - 66

There is one manufacturer of ice-cream in the town and 52 retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The gradings of samples taken during the year are shown below:-

1968	No. of samples taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hard Ice-Cream	61	56	4	1	-
Soft Ice-Cream	41	37	12	1	1

In addition, two ice lollies were sampled and considered to be satisfactory. This product is not graded according to the Milk and Dairy Act, but different counts are carried out and investigations made in the factory when necessary.

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dairies' licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Dairies) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Only limited sampling was carried out during the year, but results were satisfactory.

Health	No. of samples taken
Pasteurized Milk	3
Sterilized Milk (U.H.T.)	4
Raw Sterilized Treated Milk	2

The Milk and Dairy Act are not on Dairies for inspection if considered necessary. - 11 -



Examinations of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

- 6½ lbs Tinned Peaches
- 4½ lbs Tinned Peas
- 3 lbs Tinned Apricots
- 12 lbs Canned Tomatoes
- 14 lbs Canned Soups
- 9 lbs Cheese.

The Imported Food Regulations 1968

The amount of foodstuff examined as conveyed by containerisation vehicles from various ports to Droitwich amounted to 150 tons.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1968 are shown below:-

	January		February	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases of tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1968.	2	4	2	1
Additions to register during the year	-			
- new cases	1	2	-	-
- transfers	1	2	2	1
	2	4	2	1
Reductions from register during the year	-			
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1968.	2	4	2	1

End of Section "E"

Examination of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

- 6 1/2 lbs Tinned Peaches
- 4 1/2 lbs Tinned Tomatoes
- 3 lbs Tinned Apples
- 12 lbs Tinned Tomatoes
- 1 1/2 lbs Tinned Soup
- 2 lbs Cheese.

The Tinned Food Examination 1952

The amount of foodstuff examined as conveyed by contribution vehicles from various parts of British Columbia amounted to 150 tons.



## SECTION "F"

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1968

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Polio-myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 years +	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	10	2	-	-	-	1	1

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1968 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases of Tuberculosis' on register at 1st January, 1968.	8	4	-	1
Additions to register during the year				
- new cases	1	-	-	-
- Transfers	1	-	-	-
	10	4	-	1
Deductions from register during the year	3	2	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1968.	7	2	-	1

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1968. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.

End of Section "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1968

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Polio-Myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Infectious Jaundice
Under 1 Year	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 Years	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 Years	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 Years +	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1968 are shown below:-

Number of cases of tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1968.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1968.	7	2	-	1
Deletions from register during the year	3	2	-	-
Additions to register during the year	1	1	-	-
Number of cases of tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1968.	8	4	-	1

The Alter Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1968. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the Alter Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.



## ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1967:-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	27	4
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	68	30	4

## NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Factory Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
1. Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	2	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of Floors	-	-	-	-	-
6. Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	2	-

Number of outworkers - NIL

End of Section "G"



ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1947

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1957:-

Written Notices	Inspections	No. on Register	Premises
-	3	3	1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, are to be enforced by local authorities
4	27	62	2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority
Nil	Nil	Nil	3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises)
4	30	65	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Factory Inspector	No. of cases in which provisions were inspected
1. Want of Cleanliness	2	-	2	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
6. Badly constructed Conveyances	-	-	-	-
(a) Inefficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unstable or defective	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate lot marks	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	2	-

Number of outworkers - Nil

Borough Surveyor's Department,  
Covercroft,  
Droitwich.

August, 1969.

To: Her Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Members of the Droitwich Town Council.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present to you my 24th Annual Report of the work of the Department during 1968. I have detailed a variety of matters, upon which the Department has been engaged, and in particular I would call the Council's attention to my notes on Refuse Disposal and Collection, Sewage Disposal, together with housing and the improvement of older houses in the town.

I would thank the Town Clerk and my colleagues and members of my staff for their ever ready co-operation and assistance, particularly Mr. Hill for his valuable work as an Additional Public Health Inspector. I would also thank your Council for their support during the year.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

	<u>1968</u>
Accumulations found	9
Visits under Pet Animals Act	7
Visits to Piggeries	4
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	2
Drains tested	5
Drains found defective	3
Visits to Works in Progress	9

Dwelling Houses

Visits re: Improvement Grants	98
Repairs and Public Health Conditions	96
Re-inspections re above	75
Housing Act inspections	205
Visits to Factories re Trade Effluents Sampling	36

Rodent Control

Primary visits	17
Re-visits	22
Factory Act Visits	30

August, 1969.

To: Her Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Members of the Drogheda Town Council.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present to you my 24th Annual Report of the work of the Department during 1968. I have detailed a variety of matters, upon which the Department has been engaged, and in particular I would call the Council's attention to my notes on Airborne Disposal and Collection, Sewage Disposal, together with housing and the improvement of older houses in the town.

I would thank the Town Clerk and my colleagues and members of my staff for their ever ready co-operation and assistance, particularly Mr. Hill for his valuable work as an additional Public Health Inspector. I would also thank your Council for their support during the year.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

1968  
2

Inspections found

7

Visits under the Animals Act

4

Visits to Pigeons

Drainage

2

Drains found choked

2

Drains tested

3

Drains found defective

3

Visits to Works in Progress

Dwelling Houses

38

Visits re: Improvement Grants

36

Repairs and Public Health Conditions

75

Re-inspections re above

208

Housing Act Inspections

36

Visits to Properties re Trade Effluents Sampling

Robert Control

17

Primary visits

22

Re-visits

30

Factory Act Visits



## Visits to:

Butchers' shops	26
Bakehouses	21
Confectioners' shops	18
Grocers	22
Greengrocers	19
Fried Fish & Chip Shops	25
Ice Cream shops and Manufacturers	116
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens	53
Factory Canteens	12
Licensed Premises	21

Visits:-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	114
Clean Air Act	9
Water Supplies	-
Council Tip	-
Caravans	46
Lido	10
Sewage Works	125
Miscellaneous visits	162
Food Vending and Delivery Vehicles	10
Noise Abatement visits	12
Sewage Works samples taken	146
County Analyst	32
Public Health Laboratory	46
Visits Imported Food Regulations 1968	5

Housing

During the past year a good deal of housing work was continued. The tenants of 10 houses the subject of housing action were rehoused by the Borough Council during the year. Efforts are now being made to concentrate on areas of unfit property rather than upon individually unfit houses. The Holloway Clearance Area Nos. 1, 2 and 3 containing 15 houses and The Holloway Compulsory Purchase Order comprising 24 houses, numbers 51 to 91 The Holloway having been confirmed by the Minister were the subject of the gradual re-housing of the tenants by the Borough Council, and towards the end of the year nearly all the houses were empty and it was hoped that the site would be cleared and redevelopment well under way during 1969. The Council has decided to build old people's accommodation on the site with a Warden living in which should make possible much more attention for the older people by the Warden.

Worcester Road Clearance Area No. 1, Nos 50 to 64 was the subject of a Clearance Order which was confirmed by the Minister.

Council House Improvements and Modernisation

The modernisation of the Charles Henry Road and the Elizabeth Avenue Estate was progressing and by the end of the year well under way towards completion. Modernisation in this way is a difficult business both for the Council the tenants and the officers. Given goodwill and co-operation on all parts the improvements can be carried out and the results are, generally speaking, very satisfactory. The tenants when one talks to them afterwards are very enthusiastic after the work has in fact been undertaken.

A particular problem which appears to arise sometimes is condensation and the problem according to the press would appear to be widespread nationally. This is often due to increased facilities, particularly water heating and incomplete space heating and it can become a real nuisance unless the tenant understands the problem and applies simple precautions. These precautions in themselves concern mainly adequate heating and ventilation, but tenants who have lived for many years with the windows shut to ensure heat retention, with very little hot water, and only one fire place, find that to open windows, to occasionally wipe down walls on which condensation has occurred, is quite different from anything they have encountered before and they feel automatically that there is something wrong with the house. On the other hand when the tenant has appreciated the problem, has the experience to overcome it and takes the appropriate steps to deal with

Visits to:

26	Butchers' shops
21	Bakery
18	Confectioners' shops
22	Grocers
19	Greengrocers
25	Fried Fish & Chip Shops
116	Joe Green shops and manufacturers
23	Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens
12	Factory Canteens
21	Miscellaneous Premises

Visits:-

114	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act
9	Clean Air Act
-	Water Supplies
-	Council Tip
46	Caravans
10	Idas
122	Sewage Works
162	Miscellaneous visits
10	Food Vending and Delivery Vehicles
12	Home Appliance visits
146	Sewage Works samples taken
25	County Analyst
66	Public Health Laboratory
2	Visits reported Food Regulations 1968.

Housing

During the past year a good deal of housing work was completed. The tenants of 10 houses the subject of housing action were rehoused by the Borough Council during the year. Efforts are now being made to concentrate on areas of unfit property rather than upon individual unfit houses. The Holloway Clearance Area Nos. 1, 2 and 3 containing 15 houses and the Holloway Company Purchase Order comprising 24 houses, numbers 21 to 31 The Holloway having been confirmed by the Minister were the subject of the gradual rehousing of the tenants by the Borough Council, and towards the end of the year nearly all the houses were empty and it was hoped that the site would be cleared and redevelopment well under way during 1969. The Council has decided to build old people's accommodation on the site with a warden living in which should make possible such more attention for the older people by the Warden.

Worcester Road Clearance Area No. 1, Nos 20 to 24 was the subject of a Clearance Order which was confirmed by the Minister.

Council House Improvement and Modernisation

The modernisation of the Charles Henry Road and the Elizabeth Avenue Estate was progressing and by the end of the year well under way towards completion. Modernisation in this way is a difficult business both for the Council the tenants and the officers. Given goodwill and co-operation on all parts the improvements can be carried out and the results are, generally speaking, very satisfactory. The tenants when one talks to them afterwards are very enthusiastic after the work has in fact been undertaken.

A particular problem which appears to arise sometimes is condensation and the problem according to the press would appear to be widespread nationally. This is often due to increased facilities, particularly water heating and inadequate space heating and it can become a real nuisance unless the tenant understands the problem and applies simple precautions. These precautions in themselves occur mainly adequate heating and ventilation, but tenants who have lived for many years with the windows shut to ensure heat retention, with very little hot water, and only one fire piece, find that to open windows, to occasionally wipe down walls on which condensation has occurred, is quite different from anything they have encountered before and they feel understandably that there is something wrong with the house. On the other hand when the tenant has requested the problem has the experience to overcome it and before the appropriate steps to deal with



condensation, the house is dry and comfortable and without these unpleasant symptoms of growth from condensation which can be seen in some properties. This occurs sometimes in adjoining houses, one warm and dry, the next badly affected with mould.

Albert Street/St. Richard's Gardens houses were subject to an improvement scheme and work was commenced upon these during the latter part of the year.

Only the Vines Lane houses now remain to be modernised to complete the whole of your pre-war house modernisation, and following careful consideration the Housing Committee decided to modernise the Vines Lane Houses as simply as possible in view of their comparatively short life. A scheme has been prepared for the provision of a hot water supply, damp proofing where necessary and provision of a more modern firegrate in each. Work should commence in 1969.

#### Council House Building

Pridzor scheme was begun during the year and at the end of the year was almost completed. This will provide a very attractive group of bungalows lying between Pridzor Road and the railway line. A scheme has been prepared for an extension of development at Steynors Avenue and a further thirteen bungalows and some garages are to be built in 1969.

90 Houses were painted during the year, by contract and by direct labour.

#### Improvement Grants

Three Improvement Grants were made during the year. There is no doubt that improvement in this form is a useful method of the retention of the older houses. In Droitwich this is in some measure made more difficult owing to the fact that many of the houses suitable for modernisation and improvements lie within areas of Special Consideration.

The two cottages known as 'Rose Cottages' in Vines Lane were improved and on completion appear to be very satisfactory, and the attractive appearance of the cottages standing beside the bridge overlooking the river Salwarpe had not been lost.

#### Private Building

The amount of private house building has been disappointing. There have been a number of individual houses built together with small groups off Bainbrigg Avenue and St. Andrews Estate. Unfortunately building did not begin upon the larger estates for which planning permission was issued in 1968 to the South East of the Borough. A great deal of negotiation which was very time consuming both for the Council and the Officers was entered into, the object being to obtain Estates in this area of the town which were attractive both to the locality and the future owners, bringing in more rateable value. It is regrettable that in each case after approval of detailed plans had been given the sites were put on the market and changed hands. This resulted once more in another round of negotiation and the re-depositing of plans. It is hoped that in 1969 a serious start will be made upon development in this part of the town.

The sewers were in course of construction during 1968 to allow this development to take place.

A small but interesting building scheme was proposed by the demolition of The Gables and annexe, St. Peters Walk and redevelopment with three storey flats. This also took a good deal of time during negotiation and discussions, but by the end of the year approval was given and it was hoped that 1969 would see work in hand.

#### Refuse Collection

This important public service has been maintained satisfactorily and weekly collection has been operated over the year to all houses and premises.

The container system which was introduced in 1968 for all large commercial and industrial users has been developed and extended. This is a very satisfactory method of refuse disposal. It is convenient and clean and much more quickly carried out than the old system of numerous bins in various conditions, frequently



condensation, the house is dry and comfortable and without these unpleasant symptoms of growth from condensation which can be seen in some properties. This occurs sometimes in adjoining houses, one warm and dry, the next badly affected with mould.

Albert Street, St. Richard's Gardens houses were subject to an improvement scheme and work was commenced upon these during the latter part of the year.

Only the Vines Lane houses now remain to be modernised to complete the whole of your present house modernisation, and following careful consideration the Housing Committee decided to modernise the Vines Lane houses as simply as possible in view of their comparatively short life. A scheme has been prepared for the provision of a hot water supply, damp proofing where necessary and provision of a more modern fireplace in each. Work should commence in 1968.

#### General House Building

Further scheme was begun during the year and at the end of the year was almost completed. This will provide a very attractive group of houses lying between Friar Road and the railway line. A scheme has been prepared for modernisation of development at Stephens Avenue and a further thirteen houses and some garages are to be built in 1969.

90 houses were painted during the year, by contract and by direct labour.

#### Improvement Grants

Three Improvement Grants were made during the year. There is no doubt that improvement in this form is a useful method of the retention of the older houses. In practice this is in some measure made more difficult owing to the fact that many of the houses suitable for modernisation and improvements lie within areas of Special Consideration.

The two cottages known as 'Rose Cottages' in Vines Lane were improved and on completion appear to be very satisfactory, and the attractive appearance of the cottages standing beside the bridge overlooking the river Salway had not been lost.

#### Private Building

The amount of private house building has been disappointing. There have been a number of individual houses built together with small groups of bungalow houses and St. Andrew's Estate. Unfortunately building did not begin upon the larger estates for which planning permission was issued in 1968 to the South East of the Borough. A great deal of negotiation which was very time consuming both for the Council and the Officers was entered into, the object being to obtain a site in this area of the town which was attractive both to the locality and the future owner, bringing in some resale value. It is regrettable that in each case after approval of detailed plans had been given the sites were put on the market and changed hands. This resulted once more in another round of negotiation and the re-depositing of plans. It is hoped that in 1969 a serious start will be made upon development in this part of the town.

The covers were in course of construction during 1968 to allow this development to take place.

A small but interesting building scheme was proposed by the demolition of the Gables and annex, St. Peter's Park and redevelopment with three storey flats. This also took a good deal of time during negotiation and discussions, but by the end of the year approval was given and it was hoped that 1969 would see work in hand.

#### Rubbish Collection

This important public service has been maintained satisfactorily and weekly collection has been operated over the year to all houses and premises.

The container system which was introduced in 1966 for all large commercial and industrial users has been developed and extended. This is a very satisfactory method of refuse disposal. It is convenient and clean and each more quickly carried out than the old system of numerous bins in various conditions, frequently



dirty to look at and timewasting in removal. The continued use of plastic sacks has taken place at Chawson which was nearing completion at the end of 1968 and also houses at Bcycott as they came into operation. On both Estates use has been made of electric trucks for carrying sacks along the Radburn system of footpaths. Refuse collectors are difficult to get and the application of a Works Study with the introduction of a bonus system was under construction by the Borough Council.

#### Refuse Disposal

This has been a very difficult question. The Borough Council have for two years now tipped at the Rural District Council's tip by agreement and with the co-operation of that Authority. With the completion of the Briar Coppice tip it had been hoped to use the Hanbury Wharf Brick Company's tip but whilst negotiations were in hand agreement as to its use had not been reached by the Rural District Council, hence an alternative tip was found west of Fernhill Heath. This was not a particularly easy site and complaints were received from the refuse lorry drivers about the difficulty of access.

During the year communications were received from both Worcester City Council and Bromsgrove U.D.C. enquiring as to whether the Borough Council would be interested in joining in a scheme for refuse incineration. With the hope that the pit would be available at Hanbury Wharf and bearing in mind the considerable cost of incineration the Borough Council were not able to proceed with negotiation other than to indicate in informal talks that the Borough Council might be interested. From a national and conservation point of view one does wonder whether the saving of money is necessarily the wisest plan when by utilisation by several Districts combines together incineration might be taking place the resulting ash being much less in capacity and easier to handle. The tip at Hanbury Wharf would then last for a longer period dealing with the burnt refuse from quite a number of authorities.

#### Salvage Collection

Salvage was collected as follows during the year.

Mixed Waste Paper	£234. 11. 6.
Scrap Metal	38. 10. 0.
	<u>£273. 1. 6.</u>

#### Sewage Disposal Works

1968 saw Messrs. Thomas Vale & Sons begin building the new sewage works at Ladywood. The Contract was commenced in May and by the end of the year good progress had been made. The permanent Pasveer Ditch at Ladywood was also commenced and as a result of good progress came into operation in December 1968.

This should ease the burden on the old town sewage works which as a result of overloading required continuous nursing during the past year. The town Pasveer Ditch continued to operate very satisfactorily throughout the whole period.

There is no doubt that the next two years will be difficult ones for the disposal of sewage. The rapid development now occurring and the build up of the quantity of sewage is a continuing anxiety. The works now in three parts, i.e., the two Pasveer Ditches and the main works all require constant and very vigilant attention.

#### Sewers and Sewage

The Grant Lyon Contract for the laying of the new Sewer from Ladywood to the town made good progress and by the end of the year was nearing completion. A branch trunk sewer was laid up to Princes Avenue and this enabled the Princes Avenue and Falsam Pitts ejector stations to be superseded, the sewage from these areas being discharged directly into the new trunk sewer. This came into operation in December when the Ladywood Pasveer Ditch commenced work. This was none too soon as with the development of the Windsor Road area of the town the amount of sewage going through the Princes Avenue ejector station was a maximum and at times supplementary pumping plant had to be installed, to prevent flooding caused by the sewers surcharging.



first to look at and interesting in itself. The continued use of plastic  
 pipes has taken place at Chawson which was nearing completion at the end of 1968  
 and also houses at Hoxton as they came into operation. On both dates use has  
 been made of electric trucks for carrying waste along the Hoxton system of  
 footpaths. Hoxton collectors are difficult to get and the application of a  
 Works Study with the introduction of a bonus system was under consideration by  
 the Borough Council.

Refuse Disposal

This has been a very difficult question. The Borough Council have for two  
 years now tipped at the Rural District Council's tip by agreement and with the co-  
 operation of that Authority. With the completion of the Rural District tip it  
 had been hoped to use the Hoxton Wharf Brick Company's tip but whilst negotiations  
 were in hand agreement as to its use had not been reached by the Rural District  
 Council, hence an alternative tip was found west of Farmhill Heath. This was  
 not a particularly easy site and complaints were received from the refuse lorry  
 drivers about the difficulty of access.

During the year communications were received from both Worcester City Council  
 and Bromsgrove R.D.C. enquiring as to whether the Borough Council would be interested  
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 being much less in quantity and easier to handle. The tip at Hoxton Wharf would  
 then last for a longer period dealing with the burnt refuse from quite a number of  
 authorities.

Refuse Collection

Refuse was collected as follows during the year.

6234.11.6	Mixed Waste Paper
28.10.0	Scrap Metal
<u>6262.1.6</u>	

Refuse Disposal Works

1968 new Refuse. Thomas Veis & Son began building the new sewage works at  
 Ladbroke. The Contract was commenced in July and by the end of the year good  
 progress had been made. The permanent Refuse Ditch at Ladbroke was also  
 commenced and as a result of good progress came into operation in December 1968.  
 This should ease the burden on the old town sewage works which as a result  
 of overloading required continuous running during the past year. The town Refuse  
 Ditch continued to operate very satisfactorily throughout the whole period.  
 There is no doubt that the next two years will be difficult ones for the  
 disposal of sewage. The rapid development now occurring and the build up of the  
 quantity of sewage is a continuing anxiety. The works now in three parts, i.e.,  
 the two Refuse Ditches and the main works all require constant and very vigilant  
 attention.

Refuse and Sewage

The Grant Loan Contract for the laying of the new sewer from Ladbroke to the  
 town made good progress and by the end of the year was nearing completion. A  
 branch trunk sewer was laid up to Frisco Avenue and this enabled the Frisco  
 Avenue and Frisco Halls ejector stations to be superseded, the sewage from these  
 areas being discharged directly into the new trunk sewer. This came into operation  
 in December when the Ladbroke Refuse Ditch commenced work. This was now too  
 soon as with the development of the Windsor Road area of the town the amount of  
 sewage going through the Frisco Avenue ejector station was a maximum and at times  
 supplementary pumping plant had to be installed, to prevent flooding caused by the  
 sewage overflowing.



It is known that the sewer adjacent to Windsor Road is occasionally surcharged with the inflow of ground water. It is not thought wise at this stage to take steps to try and deal with the infiltration as with the new development of the Parklands estate new storm drainage is to be put in and the ground water table lowered, as a result of the lowering of the level of the brook under the A.38 at Falsam Pits. This lowering of the ground water table may well lower it below the level of the defective sewer in Windsor Road and thus prevent a great deal of the infiltration.

A further trunk sewer was laid along the Boycott Brook Valley to the Boycott Estate and this should be brought into operation early in 1969.

Steps were taken to improve the High Street ejector station by the installation of a supplementary submersible pump which with the provision of a small balancing tank eased the work of the ejectors considerably. During the year there was no flooding of High Street.

The trouble from flooding at the back of the Queen Street area still takes place from time to time due to a surcharging of the sewer. There is no doubt that this will continue until the new trunk sewers are continued up the valley to this area of the town when it is hoped that the situation will be eased.

The trunk foul sewer was laid under the A.38 at Falsam Pits in tunnel. This was a major job satisfactorily undertaken. Nearby a storm sewer was similarly laid and in this case the existing brook which passed by a very shallow culvert under the A.38 was capable of being lowered to the new level, and this should enable the whole of the Parklands area to be effectively drained during 1969 thus allowing development to proceed.

Regular sampling of the sewage effluent took place during the year. This generally speaking gave satisfactory results in respect of the Pasveer Ditch and improved but not satisfactory results over the past year for the sewage works.

#### Trade Waste

Careful and regular sampling of trade waste was carried out. Generally speaking the industrialists were co-operative and samples taken were satisfactory, with one exception. In one instance an unsatisfactory discharge took place and trouble in the sewer resulted in a major blockage caused by the deposit of a trade waste on the inner side of the sewer which eventually had to be removed by an outside contractor who had to bore through the blockage. This was unfortunate and expensive as it held up the Grant Lyon Contract due to water from the blocked sewer flushing into the workings.

#### Highways

Owing to financial stringency this has been a period of marking time upon the Highways. An improvement to the junction of Tagwell Road and the Holloway (a Class III road) was authorised by the County Council and this should be carried out early in 1969. The long awaited Old Coach Road scheme was put in hand and completed during the year giving a needed improvement to this much trafficked thoroughfare, with easier access and a safer way to the County Secondary School. This improvement was much appreciated by road users generally.

#### Bus Service

A town bus service was introduced and it is pleasing to note that the pay load has gradually increased since the inception of the scheme. Bus stops were carefully sited and in fact two only had to be re-sited following experience gained by usage.

#### Road Sweeper

The Verro Road Sweeper continues in its use. Unfortunately following a road accident this machine was seriously damaged and off the road for some months. This resulted in considerable difficulty in keeping the town in a clean condition, as it is almost impossible to obtain labour for street sweeping.



It is known that the sewer adjacent to Windsor Road is occasionally overcharged with the inflow of ground water. It is not thought wise at this stage to take steps to try and deal with the infiltration as with the new development of the Parklands estate new storm drainage is to be put in and the ground water table lowered, as a result of the lowering of the level of the brook under the A.38 at Farnham Hill. This lowering of the ground water table may well lower it below the level of the defective sewer in Windsor Road and thus prevent a great deal of the infiltration.

A further trunk sewer was laid along the Boycott Brook Valley to the Boycott Estate and this should be brought into operation early in 1969.

Steps were taken to improve the High Street ejector station by the installation of a supplementary submersible pump which with the provision of a well balancing tank eased the work of the ejectors considerably. During the year there was no flooding of High Street.

The trouble from flooding at the back of the Green Street area still takes place from time to time due to a surcharging of the sewer. There is no doubt that this will continue until the new trunk sewers are completed up the valley to this area of the town when it is hoped that the situation will be eased.

The trunk foot sewer was laid under the A.38 at Farnham Hill in 1968. This was a major job satisfactorily undertaken. Nearly a storm sewer was satisfactorily laid and in this case the existing brook which passed by a very shallow invert under the A.38 was capable of being lowered to the new level and this should enable the whole of the Parklands area to be effectively drained during 1969 thus allowing development to proceed.

Regular sampling of the sewage effluent took place during the year. This generally speaking gave satisfactory results in respect of the Passover ditch and improved but not satisfactory results over the rest of the sewage works.

#### Trade Waste

Careful and regular sampling of trade waste was carried out. Generally speaking the industrialists were co-operative and samples taken were satisfactory with one exception. In one instance an unsatisfactory discharge took place and trouble in the sewer resulted in a major blockage caused by the deposit of a trade waste on the inner side of the sewer which eventually had to be removed by an outside contractor who had to bore through the blockage. This was unfortunate and expensive as it held up the Grant Loan Contract due to water from the blocked sewer flowing into the workings.

#### Highways

Owing to financial stringency this has been a period of making the most of the highways. An improvement to the junction of Gwelf Road and the Holloway (a Class III road) was authorized by the County Council and this should be carried out early in 1969. The long wanted Old Coach Road scheme was put in hand and completed during the year giving a needed improvement to this much trafficked thoroughfare, with easier access and a safer way to the County Secondary School. This improvement was much appreciated by road users generally.

#### The Buses

A town bus service was introduced and it is pleasing to note that the bus load has gradually increased since the inception of the scheme. The route was carefully sited and in fact two miles had to be re-sited following experience gained by usage.

#### Road Sweeping

The Vairo Road Sweeper continues in its use. Unfortunately following a road accident this machine was seriously damaged and left the road for some months. This resulted in considerable difficulty in keeping the town in a clean condition as it is almost impossible to obtain labour for street sweeping.



Your old Depot in Friar Street had become quite inadequate over the years and consequently a series of sub-depots in different parts of the Borough had come into use. Town development proposals were beginning to affect these depots and the main depot in particular was to be in the line for laying a major trunk sewer during 1968.

It so happened that the Ministry of Transport depot at Hill End came on the market and the Borough Council negotiated for its purchase for re-development was their policy for Hill End. This was successfully concluded and the Council decided to develop this property as a suitable temporary yard. This transfer was undertaken and completed at the end of the year, all the sub-depots being gradually relinquished. This should last for some years when it is hoped the Borough Council will be in a position to build a permanent depot upon the Berry Hill site.

Mud on the Roads still continues although not as badly as in 1967. Arrangements have been made for regular and systematic sweeping to be carried out by the Contractors concerned. Until the major development of the town is complete, trouble with mud on the roads is likely to continue.

#### Parks and Open Spaces

Droitwich park has been maintained in good condition during the year as has the bowling green and also the Vines Park Bowling Green and both Clubs seem satisfied with playing conditions. For the second year a gala was held in the Park but on this occasion unfortunately it was a very wet day with consequently disappointing results for the large amount of work put into the effort.

The tennis courts are becoming again well used and it is particularly pleasing to note that the Droitwich Open Lawn Tennis Tournament was held in May for the first time since the war. Some very good tennis was played but unfortunately the weather was bad being both wet and cold.

A major difficulty presenting itself to your Park Superintendent is the cutting of the very large areas of grass which are being quickly handed over for maintenance with the completion of estates. These together with the landscaped shrubberies and the rigid economy in Council expenditure makes it almost impossible to carry out a really satisfactory job during the summer period. With introduction of Work Study and a bonus system it is hoped that this difficulty will be mitigated.

With tipping having ceased at the old refuse tip adjoining the King George Playing field it was possible to give thought to the extension of the playing fields to cover this area. When suitable plant was operating in the vicinity, together with the availability of a convenient supply of top soil it was made possible to make arrangements for the old tip to be levelled and top soiling to be carried out during 1969. An important improvement was the straightening out of a number of bends in the river adjoining the tip allowing some of the river area to be included in the playing fields which will allow a much better use of them. The demand for football pitches is increasing a good deal and there is no doubt a full use will be made of the extra pitches when they are ready.

#### Lido

A rather wet summer did not help the lido. At the beginning of the season the pool was lined with fibreglass and it proved most successful, retaining a good appearance without the disfigurement of the peeling off of paint which has been experienced in the past. This will save the cost of repainting every year. A leak was found in the pool purification plant which entailed opening up the drainage system to rectify. The two strainer boxes were renovated and the overall running of the plant was as a result much smoother the frequent air locks which discoloured the pool being much reduced.

The operation of outdoor pools is always difficult with the staff underworked in the Winter period and much overworked during hot spells in the Summer. There is no doubt that this is not good for morale and should it ever be possible to operate an indoor pool with the lido there is no doubt that the acquisition and retention of suitable staff will be much easier.



Your old depot in River Street had become quite inadequate over the years and consequently a series of sub-depots in different parts of the Borough had come into use. Town development proposals were beginning to affect these depots and the main depot in particular was to be in the line for laying a water trunk sewer during 1966.

It so happened that the Ministry of Transport depot at Hill End came on the market and the Borough Council negotiated for its purchase for re-development was their policy for Hill End. This was successfully concluded and the Council decided to develop this property as a suitable temporary yard. This transfer was undertaken and completed at the end of the year, all the sub-depots being gradually relinquished. This should last for some years when it is hoped the Borough Council will be in a position to build a permanent depot upon the Ferry Hill site.

And on the roads still continues although not as badly as in 1967. Arrangements have been made for regular and systematic sweeping to be carried out by the contractors concerned. Until the major development of the town is complete, trouble with mud on the roads is likely to continue.

#### Park and Open Spaces

Brookside Park has been maintained in good condition during the year as has the bowling green and also the Tennis Park Bowling Green and both Clubs soon satisfied with playing conditions. For the second year a gala was held in the park on this occasion unfortunately it was a very wet day with consequently disappointing results for the large amount of work put into it.

The tennis courts are becoming again well used and it is particularly pleasing to note that the "Trotter" Open Tennis Tournament was held in July for the first time since the war. Some very good tennis was played but unfortunately the weather was bad being both wet and cold.

A major difficulty presented itself to your Park Superintendent in the course of the very large areas of grass which are being quickly handed over for maintenance with the completion of estates. These together with the landscaped shrubbery and the right economy in Council expenditure makes it almost impossible to carry out a really satisfactory job during the summer months. With introduction of Work Study and a bonus system it is hoped that this difficulty will be mitigated.

With tipping having ceased at the old refuse tip adjoining the King George Playing Field it was possible to give thought to the extension of the playing fields to cover this area. When suitable ground was available in the vicinity together with the availability of a convenient supply of top soil it was made possible to make arrangements for the old tip to be levelled and topsoiling to be carried out during 1969. An important improvement was the straightening out of a number of beds in the river adjoining the tip allowing soon of the river area to be included in the playing fields which will allow a much better use of them. The layout for football pitches is increasingly a good deal and there is no doubt a full use will be made of the extra pitches when they are ready.

A rather wet summer did not help the tide. At the beginning of the season the pool was lined with fibreglass and it proved most successful, retaining a good appearance without the disfigurement of the peeling off of paint which has been experienced in the past. This will save the cost of repainting every year. A leak was found in the pool purification plant which entailed opening up the drainage system to rectify. The two siphon boxes were repaired and the overall running of the plant was as a result much smoother the frequent air locks which discoloured the pool being much reduced.

The operation of outdoor pools is always difficult with the staff underworked in the winter period and much overworked during hot spells in the summer. There is no doubt that it is not good for morale and should it ever be possible to operate an indoor pool with the tide there is no doubt that the repainting and retention of suitable staff will be much easier.

### Incinerator

The provision of an incinerator at the Sewage Works for carcasses of small domestic pets has proved most useful and the old insanitary process of burying dogs and cats and other domestic animals in the tip has ceased. As the plant is becoming more widely known it is being much more used.

### Caravans

Difficulties were experienced with caravans being stationed without permission on the car park off Queen Street. This trouble appeared to be aggravated by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease which caused farmers to move itinerant families off their property. Complaints were received from adjoining property owners and after it became clear that the Council were not prepared to agree to this the remaining caravans ceased to be parked on this site from the latter part of the year.

### Property Acquisition

The last parcel of the Old Gas Works property was made over to the Borough Council at the Gasholder Site. The Gasholder was demolished, and the hole left is gradually being filled in with earth.

### Office Accommodation

Difficulty is being experienced at the Town Hall due to lack of space for the departments of the Town Clerk and Borough Treasurer. The Borough Council are giving consideration to the conversion of the first floor of the Norbury Hotel into Offices for the two departments together with the Housing Department.

With the growth of the town, expansion of staff is inevitable, and in my own department further space is urgently needed.

### Town Development

Town Development is proceeding apace with the Chawson Estate some two thirds completed and occupied, Boycott Estate was well under way with the roads and sewers provided and houses being erected. Steady progress in the development of the industrial area also is proceeding. All these matters are adding to the day to day maintenance problems of the department and at the end of the year the Borough Council were giving consideration to the introduction of a Work Study of the department to ensure that development is proceeding efficiently and economically.

Further it is hoped that with the provision of a bonus the necessary labour can be attracted and retained. At the present time the number of manual workers in the department is the least since the war and the largest population with the result that hardly any work, except absolute essentials can be carried out and during the holiday period the only workmen available have to be on refuse collection with the result that the many necessary duties affecting highways etc. cannot be satisfactorily attended to.

I am

Your obedient servant

GRAHAM.L.ROBINSON

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.



The provision of an indicator at the sewage works for purposes of stall domestic gas proved most useful and the old indicator process of burning gas and water and other domestic animals in the tip has ceased. As the plant is becoming more widely known it is being much more used.

Caravans

Difficulties were experienced with caravans being stationed without permission on the east side of Queen Street. This trouble appeared to be aggravated by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease which caused farmers to move livestock off their property. Complaints were received from adjoining property owners and after it became clear that the Council were not prepared to agree to this the remaining caravans ceased to be parked on this site from the latter part of the year.

Property Acquisition

The last vestment of the Old Gas Works property was made over to the Borough Council at the Gasometer Site. The Gasometer was demolished, and the hole left is gradually being filled in with earth.

Office Accommodation

Difficultly is being experienced at the Town Hall due to lack of space for the departments of the Town Clerk and Borough Treasurer. The Borough Council are giving consideration to the conversion of the first floor of the Norway Hotel into offices for the two departments together with the Housing Department.

With the growth of the town, expansion of staff is inevitable, and in my own department further space is urgently needed.

Town Development

Town development is proceeding apace with the Gasometer Estate some two thirds completed and occupied. Brompton Estate was well under way with the roads and sewers provided and houses being erected. Steady progress in the development of the industrial area also is proceeding. All these matters are owing to the fact that maintenance programs of the department and at the end of the year the Borough Council were giving consideration to the introduction of a Work Study of the department to ensure that development is proceeding efficiently and economically.

Further it is hoped that with the provision of a home the necessary labour can be attracted and retained. At the present time the number of casual workers in the department is the least since the war and the largest population with the result that hardly any work, except special occasions can be carried out and during the holiday period the only workers available have to be on other sections with the result that the very necessary duties allocated highway etc. cannot be satisfactorily attended to.

I am

Your obedient servant

WARREN L. HOBSON

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

1924