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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1952





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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN.

Mayor:

Councillor W. PARKES, J.P., C.C. (until May, 1952) Councillor J. H. GREEN, J.P. (from May, 1952)

Deputy Mayor:

Councillor C. WILLETTS (until May, 1952)
Councillor W. PARKES, C.C. (from May, 1952)

Aldermen:

H. J. COX, J.P. W. HODGETTS F. L. ROSE, J.P., C.C. T. SMITH

L. HARPER

Councillors:

CENTRAL WARD

Miss R. D. Grove P. Timmins C. Brown

NORTH WARD

F. Higgs N. Garner W. Parkes, C.C.

EAST WARD

P. W. Scott A. H. Spring W. J. Balderstone

WEST WARD

K. Kirton (until May, 1952)

J. J. Shakespeare

C. Willetts

J. Timmington (from May, 1952)

SOUTH WARD

J. H. Green F. D. Woodhall G. A. Southall, C.C.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. S. MELVILLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Resigned 29.2.1952.

D. SMYTH, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Appointed 28.4.1952.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

F. COLBERT (a.b.c.)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

A. R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

M. K. TAYLOR (a.b.c.)

T. H. MEREDITH (a.b.c.)

Chief Clerk:

G. W. J. LEWIS.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

MRS. M. FIELD.

Clerks:

MRS. H. DEELEY.

MRS. V. JEFFS.

D. PERKS.

- (a) Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate.
- (b) Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate.
- (c) Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

Council House.

Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

Mr. Mayor, Councillor Miss Grove and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Halesowen.

There has been a fall in the Death Rate from 12.1 to 9.87 with an Adjusted Death Rate of 11.36. There was only one death attributed to influenza as against 20 for the previous year and there were fewer deaths due to pneumonia and bronchitis. The winter was comparatively mild and the summer wet. In view of the rather limited amount of sunshine we enjoy, I think it is important that householders should be careful when planting trees in their gardens to see that they are of a suitable type, and are so placed as not to cause any obstruction to light and sunshine entering their homes.

I thought you would be interested in the following figures:

	Estimated Population	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths under one year	Deaths	Crude Death Rate
1902	29,458	851	36.00	46	307	13.00
1952	39,730	530	13.35	13	392	9.87

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for their help and consideration, also to Mr. Archer and his staff and to Mrs. Field.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. L. CORLETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions

The area of the district is	5,247 acres
Population Census 1931	31,058
Population mid 1952	39,730
Rateable Value, March 1952	£172,623
Sum represented by a penny rate	£657
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1952	12,276

Halesowen forms part of the northern area of the County of Worcester. It is partly industrial, partly residential and partly agricultural. The altitude above sea level varies from 648 feet at Hill and Cakemore, 434 feet at Halesowen to 481 feet at Cradley.

The principal industries are: brickmaking, button manufacture, clothing manufacture, fire clay and terra cotta, chain and spike making, tube and tube fittings, perambulators, iron casting, odd iron work, coal mining, electrical work and agriculture. The majority of the population work in these industries.

VITAL STATISTICS

(a)	Live births:	Male	Female	Total
	Legitimate	267	 256	 523
	Illegitimate	3	 4	 7
		270	260	530
				-
(b)	Stillbirths:			
	Legitimate	3	 9	 12
	Illegitimate	0	 1	 1
		3	10	13

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.35

DEATHS

Male	Female	Total	
234	158	392	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	9.87
Area Comparability Factor	1.15
Adjusted Death Rate	11.36
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.30
Death Rate for 160 smaller towns estimated resident popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	11.20
Infant Mortality Rate	24.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	27.60

The Adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the area comparability factor.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11	 2	 13
Illegitimate	-	 -	 -
	_		
	11	2	13
		_	_

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Cause of death	Total	deaths	Under	1 month
Prematurity		4		4
Asphyxia Neonatorum		1		1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage		2		2
Peritonitis		1		1
Broncho Pneumonia		4		-
Asphyxia (Overlaying)		1		-
		13		8
	-			_

CAUSES OF DEATHS:-

		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	7	2
2.	Tuberculosis other	1	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	3	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections		0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis		0
8.	Measles		0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	- 11	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	18
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	U
16.	Diabetes	0	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	23
18.	Coronary disease, angina	23	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	6
20.	Other heart disease	32	41
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	4
22.	Influenza	1	0
23.	Pneumonia	9	6
24.	Bronchitis	18	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	0	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	2	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1
31.	Congenital malformations	3	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0	1
34.	All other accidents	6	5
35.	Suicide	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
		234	158

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

(a) (i) Public Health Officers.

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R. J. Henderson.

(b) Ambulance Facilties.

The ambulance service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council, the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as Ambulance Officer for the Borough.

There were five ambulances with four whole-time drivers, but an additional driver is to be employed on account of the increase in work. A new ambulance of improved design has been allocated to the station.

The ambulance station is situated centrally in the Council Depot, but it is the intention of the County Council to construct a permanent ambulance station within the next two years.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade attend at the station at week-ends and during the week and participate in the work.

Set out in the following table are the statistics giving details of the cases conveyed in the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

	Illness	Accident	Mater- nity	Hospital Transfer	Treat- ment	Deceased	Total
1949 1950 1951 1952	469 1037 560 647	157 118 220 166	206 211 166 229	7 36 82 119	4430 5944 8696 8633	23 21 29 28	5292 7367 9753 9822
Increase of decrease 1951/52	+87	- 54	+63	+ 37	- 63	- 1	+69

The number of patients carried shows an increase of 69 as compared with the previous year.

The ambulances travelled 74,363 miles during the year as compared with 72,738 miles in the previous year, an increase of 1,625 miles. The average number of miles travelled per patient was 7.5.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough are those in the City of Birmingham, the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, Guest Hospital, Dudley, and All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove. Maternity cases go to the Mary Stevens Hospital at Stourbridge, the Lucy Baldwin Hospital at Stourport, and the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham. Ambulance facilities are also provided for Romsley Sanatorium.

Infectious diseases are conveyed by the two ambulances stationed at Hayley Green Hospital.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. They have also arranged a "home-help" service in conjunction with the W.V.S.

(d) Tuberculosis.

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment is the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(e) Infectious Disease.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital which is recognised by the General Nursing Council as a training school for fever nurses. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered under Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

(f) School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions.

These are provided by the County Council and the district has three centres, Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER

The water supplied in the area is a constant supply and is satisfactory in both quality and quantity. The supply is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company from two main sources, one from the Kinver and Prestwood Pumping Stations in the Smestow Valley, and a bulk supply from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct tapped at Hayley Green, Halesowen.

Regular monthly sampling and analysis is undertaken by the Company both of raw and treated water. The results from both sources have been satisfactory. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency but periodic samples are taken for lead by the Company. The average chemical results for the two sources of supply during 1952 were as follows:—

Kinver and Prestwood				
	Pumping Stations	Hayley Green		
No. of Sample	s 20	54		
	Parts per million	Parts per million		
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	. 34	13		
Chlorides (C1)	. 18.9	11.5		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	. Trace	Trace		
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	. 0.014	0.020		
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	. 2.0	0.9		
Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 27°C)	1.19	1.47		
Temporary Hardness	. 28	8		
Permanent Hardness	. 33	21		
Total Hardness	. 61	29		
Iron (Fe)	. 0.23	0.25		
Manganese (Mn)	Trace	Trace		
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	. Nil	Nil		
Free Chlorine	. Nil	Nil		

Main Extensions during 1952

Hasbury Farm Site	1538	yards,	4"	265 yards, 6"
Carol Crescent Site	163	yards,	4"	
Mucklow Hill	227	yards,	3"	
Lutley Lane	68	yards,	4"	
Howley Grange Esta	te 403	yards,	4"	
Furnace Lane	7	yards,	6"	

Only a few isolated dwellings are not supplied with mains water. These depend on private wells for their supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is a dual system of sewers in the district, the surface water being collected separately from the foul wastes. Except for isolated dwellings in the rural parts of the Borough and a group of 18 houses at Illey, most of the premises in the Borough are connected to a sewer. The Borough of Halesowen is one of the constituent authorities of the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board and most of the Board's area is treated by broad irrigation of farm lands at Whittington, near Kinver. There is an additional disposal works at Quarry Bank where the process is sedimentation in tanks followed by treatment in filter beds. To deal with storm water, tanks have been constructed at Belle Vale, Halesowen.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT

The Chief Sanitary Inspector supervises the removal of refuse, the collection of salvage and the maintenance of Corporation vehicles.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Details on inspection of houses are given later in the report.

In 1952 the number of houses erected was 199 (148 by the Local Authority and 51 Privately). Before the War, 1,844 houses were erected by Halesowen Council and since then, up to the end of 1952, 838 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been built.

Ten families were re-housed during 1952 on the grounds of tuberculosis.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details of this work will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

Typhoid	England and Wales 0.00	Halesowen 0.00
Paratyphoid	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever		1.84

Whooping Cough	2.61	4.40
Diphtheria	0.01	0.02
Measles	8.86	4.73
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.05
Pneumonia	0.72	0.45
Acute Poliomyelitis:		
Paralytic	0.06	0.02
Non Paralytic	0.03	0.00

SMALLPOX

No case was reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Seventy-three cases were reported, as against 71 for the previous year. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA

One case was reported. Patient recovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The work is the responsibility of the County Council and the Department continues to carry on the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics on their behalf. The number of children treated at the clinics during 1952 was as follows:—

P	rimary Treatment completed	Boosting Doses completed
Under five years	. 418	_
Five to 15 years	. 38	635
	456	635

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

One case (paralytic) was reported. The patient recovered.

ERYSIPELAS

There were two cases reported, both recovered.

MEASLES

There were 187 cases of measles reported. One hundred and fifty-one of these lived in the North Ward. In April and May combined there were 78 cases in the North Ward, but in June there were only two. There were no further cases in this Ward until one in November, whilst in December there were 67. East Ward had 13 in December and West Ward had five. The Measles figures for January, 1953, were: North Ward 18, East Ward four, West Ward 55. There were no deaths.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

MEMOLES NOTHIC	North		Wards East	West	Central	Total
January	0	0	0	0	1	1
February	2	1	0	0	0	3
March	1	3	0	1	0	5
April	50	4	1	2	0	57
May	28	0	0	1	0	29
June	2	1	0	0	1	4
July	0	1	0	0	0	1
August	0	1	0	0	0	1
September	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	1	0	0	0	0	1
December	67	0	13	5	0	85
	151	11	14	9	2	187

WHOOPING COUGH

One hundred and seventy-five cases were reported. There were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS

Thirty-eight cases were reported during the year. Thirty-five were pulmonary and three were non-pulmonary. There were 10 deaths as against 11 for the previous year. The number of cases on the register at the end of 1952 was:—

Pulm	onary	Non-pulmonary			
Males	Females	Males	Females		
112	99	11	19		

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1952

	Puln	onary	Non-pulmonary		
Age periods		Females		Females	
0 —	_ = =	-		100	
1 —	-	1	-	-	
5 —	-	-	-	. 1	
10 —	1	1	-	- 11	
15 —	4	5	-	-	
20 —	3	2	-	_	
25 —	1	3		1	
35 —	2	5	-		
45 —	4	2	-	1111-	
55 —	1	-	_	11-117	
65 —	_	- 1	1	-11-4	
	-	_	_		
	16	19	1	2	
		_	_		

FOOD POISONING

No cases were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

No cases were notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1952

65-	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Q
15—	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
-01	12	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
5-	51	109	89	0	0	2	0	0	0
3-	7	48	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
-I	2	20	40	1	0	2	0	0	0
-0	0	7	16	0	0	3	0	0	0
Total	73	188	175	1	1	18	2	Nil	Nii
Disease	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningococcal Infection

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

During 1952, routine work which included such matters as the inspection of houses, factories, food preparing premises, the inspection and sampling of food, and the supervision of refuse collection and disposal, went on satisfactorily.

In addition, a housing survey was carried out, the results of which are likely to be useful in connection with the removal of unfit houses and the repair of those which still have a reasonably long life.

A great deal of attention was paid to inspection of every type of premises where food is handled, and the Sanitary Inspectors carried out much educational work. Much more requires to be done before everybody is fully alive to the dangers of food contamination, and still more pressure will be exerted towards improving standards of cleanliness in shops, cafes and bakehouses.

From the point of view of atmospheric pollution, Halesowen is a comparatively clean Borough. At worst, this is a position to be zealously maintained, at best, it should encourage both the residents of the Borough, and industrial managements, to strive much harder to improve the position.

In presenting this Annual Report, I should like to express my appreciation to all the workmen in the refuse collection service, to the staff in the Public Health Department for their loyalty and enthusiasm, and to express my personal gratitude to Dr. R. L. Corlett for his help and advice. On many occasions the Department was indebted to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., and to colleagues in other Departments for their assistance and co-operation, and to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his active interest in public health matters.

A. ARCHER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING SURVEY

During 1951 and 1952 a survey was carried out of the privately owned property in the Borough. A total of 9,230 houses were dealt with and for the most part inspections were confined to the external examination of blocks of property rather than individual houses. The survey was done in this way because it was felt that it would be a waste of time to acquire a mass of detailed information, much of which would be out of date before it could be used. The disadvantage was that some degree of accuracy had to be sacrificed, but it was not such as to interfere substantially with the results.

In respect of each block of property, including detached and semi-detached houses, inspection notes have been compiled and a sketch block plan made, showing the number or name of each property, and its position in the street or road.

Houses were placed in the following groups:-

- I No repairs needed.
- II Minor repairs needed.
- III Major repairs needed.
- IV Houses which ought to be demolished within next fifteen years.

This latter group was sub-divided into two sub-groups, namely,

- IVa Houses which ought to be demolished within five to seven years.
- IVb Houses which ought to be demolished when those in Group IVa have been dealt with.

At the time of the completion of the survey there were 52 nouses in the Borough still occupied and in respect of which demolition orders had been made.

GROUP I. No repairs needed.

This group of 4,740 houses comprises 51% of all the houses in the Borough. Nearly half of these houses are in the North and East Wards, 37% are in the Central and South Wards, whilst only 17% are in the West Ward.

GROUP II. Minor repairs needed.

There were 2,746 houses in this group, comprising 30% of the total number of houses.

GROUP III. Major repairs needed.

The 541 houses in this group would require extensive repairs or re-conditioning to make them completely satisfactory. The type of improvement envisaged is the provision of bathrooms, internal water-closets, proper food storage accommodation and so on.

Of the houses in this group, 55% are in the Central and South Wards, 29% in the North and East Wards, and 16% in the West Ward. The houses in this group are those where the structure is sound, and which could, for a reasonable expenditure although not necessarily a small one, provide satisfactory housing accommodation for many years.

GROUP IV.

This group includes 1,161 houses which, by reason of disrepair, sanitary defects, bad arrangement internally, or bad arrangement of the street, or which for various other reasons are so far below modern standards, that no amount of repair would transform them into good accommodation. The group was subdivided because all the houses could not be replaced in a short period, or in the near future. Those which it is considered present a serious hazard to healthy living were placed in sub-group IVa. Even amongst this sub-group some were considered worse than others, and a list of 104 houses was prepared in repect of which demolition was considered to be urgent. Sixty-five of these houses are in the West Ward, 34 are in the Central and South Wards, and five in the North and East Wards.

TABLE I

P II GROUP III GROUP IV(a) GROUP IV(b)	er sisting Early Future Existing Early Future Demolition Demolition Order Orders Totals	% No. % No. % No. %	27.5 157 4.0 13 0.4 52 1.3 361 9.2 3901	37.5 89 4.5 19 0.9 136 7.1 164 8.5 1906	28.5 295 8.5 10 0.3 187 5.5 261 7.7 3423	
75			13 0.4	6.0	0.3	30 04
GROUP III		,	157 4.0		295 8.5	541 58
GROUPII	Minor Repairs	No. %	1058 27.5	712 37.5	976 28.5	0.00 2450 4.13 0454 22.00
GROUPI	Satisfactory	No. %	2260 57.6	786 41.5	1694 49.5	1740 614
	Ward		North & East	West	Central & South 1694 49.5	Torres

SUMMARY

- 1. The housing survey carried out in 1951 and 1952 showed that there are in the Borough 9,230 privately owned houses. Of these, 3,901 are in the North and East Wards, 3,423 in the Central and South Wards and 1,906 in the West Ward.
- 2. 7,486 of the houses either need no repairs or only minor repairs. As the survey did not include internal inspections, this figure should be treated with reserve.
- 3. 541 houses would require major repairs, re-conditioning or improvement to make them satisfactory.
- 4. 1,161 houses will probably need to be demolished in the next 15 years.
- 5. 375 of these ought to be demolished within the next few years and 104 of the 375 need to be demolished as quickly as possible.
- 6. Fifty-two houses have been made the subject of demolition orders, but are still occupied.
- 7. There are 1,106 applicants for Council houses living in privately owned property. 529 are tenants and 162 of these live in houses, which if the occupants are re-housed, might well be demolished. The remaining 367 houses would be available for re-use for varying periods of years.
- In connection with Group III houses, the 541 which need reconditioning or repair, the Council is advised to consider the
 possibility of acquiring property suitable for improvement in
 accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949.

TABLE II

1.	Inspeci	tions of dwelling houses during the year:—	
	(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	185
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,135
	(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	18

	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	45
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation	18
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	167
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—	diares.
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	102
	Distributors licence in respect of rich Tessica	102
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	(a) Proceeding under Public Health Acts:	
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	53
	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	34
	(a) by owners	34
	(b) by local authority	Nil
	(b) Proceedings under Sections 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	15
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	Nil
	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	5
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which a Closing Order has been made	Nil
	The invited is east at cast anomatains and anne a	
1.	Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding:—	
	No detailed figures are available as to the extent of overcrowding.	

Food Manufacture, Preparation and Distribution

MILK SUPPLY

As only a very small proportion of the milk sold in the Borough was raw, ungraded, the implementation of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) Order, 1952, passed almost unnoticed by the general public. Nearly all the milk sold is heat-treated, only a small amount of raw graded milk being retailed.

During the year the only heat treatment plant in the Borough was closed down. In the several years this plant had been in operation, very many samples had been taken without a single failure.

Dui	ring 1952 the	follow	ing lic	ences w	ere in	force:	The production	
	Dealers lice Milk (ence in Distribu	respe	ct of T	Tuberc 	ulin T	ested	2
	Distributors Milk			respect		eat Tr	eated	38
	Distributors	licenc	e in r	espect	of Ste	rilised	Milk	95
	e following s examination:		of m	ilk wer	e subi	mitted	for bac	terio-
	Tuberculin	Tested	Paster	urised				37
	Pasteurised							51
	Sterilised			10.000				38
	Raw					07	(de)n	3
	1000							

Twelve samples of milk were submitted for biological examination. All were negative for tubercle bacilli.

Thirty-nine milk bottles were submitted for examination and all proved satisfactory. The results were as follows:—

Number of Bot	Bacterial Count		
3	30.1	Nil	
6		1- 50	
24		51-150	
6		151-300	

ICE CREAM

The following registrations were in force at the end of 1952 in respect of ice-cream:—

Registration	for	manı	ıfacture,	storage	and sale	 3
Registration	for	sale	only		.andebw	 96

The manufacturers operate on a very small scale each using the complete cold mix method. The sample results were again very satisfactory, none falling within Grades III or IV.

No. of	Samples	Grade	%
	87	I	94.6
	5	II	5.4
Total	92		
10001	_		

There was a wide variation in fat content. The results were as follows:—

No.	of Sam	ples	Fat Content %
	_		0.1 — 3.0
	1		3.1 - 5.0
	5		5.1 — 7.0
	14		7.1 — 9.0
	36	7.1	9.1 - 11.0
	17		11.1 - 13.0
	8		13.1 - 15.0
	3		15.1 - 17.0
	1	***	17.1 — 19.0
	2		19.1 - 21.0
	1		21.1 - 23.0
			23.1 - 25.0
	1		25.1 - 27.0
	1		27.1 — 30.0
	1		30.1 — 35.0
	_		55.0
Total	91		
	_		

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Halesowen is not a Food and Drugs authority, but a keen interest is taken in the quality of food sold in the district. A total of 325 samples were submitted to the Analyst. Of these, eight were unsatisfactory. They included a sample of dried milk, two samples of tomato paste containing excess copper, a tin of ham and a sample of Indian tea. All the 130 samples of milk were genuine.

FOOD SAMPLING

Milk	 	130	Dried Milk	 12
Tea	 	2	Caraway Seeds	 1
Gelatine	 	4	Evaporated Milk	 1
Flour	 	3	Butter	 1
Ginger	 	1	Margarine	 3
Semolina	 	7	Cooking Fat	 2
Baking Powder	 	13	Artificial Food Colour	 1
Dried Eggs	 	2	Medicinal Products	 31
Custard Powder		10	Indian Brandee	 1
Sugar	 	2	Blancmange	 2
Cod Liver Oil	 	2	Sauce	 1
Orange Juice	 	2	Pork Pie	 1
Rice	 	3	Cake Mixture	 4
Tomato Paste	 	4	Fruit	 10
Jam	 	8	Suet	 2
Salad Cream	 	2	Coffee and Chicory	 3
Fish Paste	 	8	Cockles	 2
Condiments	 	20	Soup	 1
Jelly Crystals	 	5	Sausage	 5
Malt Vinegar	 	3	Pickle	 2
Meat		7	Dressed Crab	 1
111000	 			

Samples taken in the Borough by the Worcestershire County Council were as follows:—

- 187 formal milk samples.
 - 55 informal milk samples.
 - 26 formal samples of miscellaneous foods.
 - 22 informal samples of miscellaneous foods.
 - 17 informal samples of drugs.
 - 1 formal sample taken under the Food Standards Orders.
 - 8 informal samples taken under the Food Standards Orders.

A sample of sweets, namely, Malt and Butter Fingers, was 77% deficient in butter fat. The manufacturer was prosecuted, the magistrates imposing a fine of £4 and £1 1s. 0d. costs.

A caution was issued under the labelling of Food Order in the case of a sample of whisky which contained an addition of 7% of water.

The Department is indebted to Mr. M. M. Love, F.R.I.C., County Analyst, and to his Staff for their ready help and co-operation; to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector, Weights and

Measures, Worcestershire County Council, and to Mr. N. T. Jones, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the information relating to samples taken by the Worcestershire County Council.

FOOD PREMISES

Further progress continues to be made in improving premises where food is handled, or from which food is distributed. Many of the premises were not designed originally for the purposes for which they are now used and this often results in difficulty. Perhaps the most important single defect is lack of floor space. During visits to food premises, opportunity is taken to observe methods and it is emphasised that the personal element is of particular importance. In this latter connection, great emphasis is laid on the provision of a plentiful supply of really hot water.

By far the largest suppliers of meals is the Worcestershire County Council through the medium of the school meals service. The canteens, the methods used and the general organisation are of a very high standard. Good co-operation is maintained with the officers of the County Council, particularly in connection with advice on the fitness of any food used, the collection of kitchen waste and of refuse.

Some of the improvements which have been carried out are set out below.

FOOD PREMISES

Butchers (Inspections 143)				
Improved hot water sup	pply			 8
Redecoration				 7
New display slabs				 3
Improved refuse storage				 1
Improved sanitary acco	mmodat	ion		 1
Bakehouses (Inspections 72)				
Structural improvements				 5
Redecoration				 4
Improved refuse storage				 1
Improved sanitary accor	nmodati	on		 1
Cafes and Canteens (Inspect	tions 124	4)		
Improved hot water sup	pply			 2
Redecoration				 7
Fishmongers and Poulterers	(Inspect	ions 29	9)	
Redecoration				 1

Fried Fish Shops (Inspections 89)				
Improved hot water supply				3
Redecoration				4
Structural improvements				3
Grocers (Inspections 232)				
Improved hot water supply				14
Redecoration				14
Improved sanitary accommodation	1			1
Structural improvements				2
Premises making or selling Ice-Cream	(Insp	ections	102)	1797
Improved hot water supply				6
Redecoration				5
Improved sanitary accommodation				1
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Inspection	ns 61)			
Improved hot water supply				3
Redecoration				2
M - 1 - 1 (I				
Markets (Inspections 76)				
Covers to protect loose sweets from	m coi	ntamin	ation	1
Licensed Premises (Inspections 130)				
Improved hot water supply				2
Improved sanitary accommodation	n			11
Improved drainage system				1
Improved refuse storage				1
Structural improvements				4
Redecoration	• • • •			2
School Canteens (Inspections 46)				
Improved hot water supply				1
Improvements to cooking boilers				1
Redecoration				1

INSPECTION OF FOOD

All the fresh meat sold in the Borough is distributed from Birmingham in specially designed vans. One slaughter house was used intermittently for the slaughter of pigs of which a number are reared in the district, mainly by the domestic pig keeper. It is rare for them to be other than completely sound.

The following is the list of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption:—

MEAT

- 1 pig and all organs, uraemia.
- 1 sheep's carcase, decomposition.
- 13 heads (beast), decomposition.
- 1 head (pig), tuberculosis.
- 4 kidneys (pig).
- 2 kidneys (sheep), decomposition.
- 5 lungs (pig), pneumonia.
- 3 hearts (pig), septic pericarditis (2) and valvular endocarditis.
- 60 lbs. liver (sheep), tyrosin deposits.
 - 7 lbs. liver (beast), cirrhosis.
- 224 lbs. beef, decomposition.
- 61 lbs. beef, bruised.
- 112 lbs. ham, decomposition.
 - 22 lbs. pork, bruised.

OTHER FOODS

				2,599	tins
				1,759	tins
				130	tins
				285	tins
				267	tins
				9	tins
				14	tins
				48	tins
es				5	tins
				1	tin
				60	lbs.
					lbs.
					lbs.
	1990				lbs.
					lbs.
					lbs.
					lb.
				1	lb.
ocolate				1	lb.
				1	lb.
				62	
a Cake	es			310	
	 	es	ss	ss	1,759 130 285 267 9 14 48 5

CONTROL OF RATS, FLIES, Etc.

Complaints of rat infestation and mouse infestation were dealt with promptly and usually with satisfactory results. Sewer treatments were done, but as the sewers in the district are small and usually running fairly full, it is unusual to have more than an occasional take.

The number of flies seen appears to be less than a few years ago, which may be accounted for by the absence of privy middens, the more efficient collection and disposal of refuse and the better standard of hygiene on premises which accumulate organic waste of one sort or another.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Ninety-four licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit, and three for the storage of calcium carbide.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Especial interest is taken in atmospheric pollution, not least because Halesowen, owing to its favourable position, receives comparatively little pollution from neighbouring districts during times of the prevailing wind. Nevertheless, there is more pollution than is either necessary or desirable, and in some areas, notably Hill and Cakemore, and in parts of Cradley, the position needs improvement. The three main sources of industrial pollution are smoke from boiler plant, smoke from brickworks, and dust and grit from foundries. Of these three, the problem of smoke emission from the brickworks is probably the most difficult to correct, partly because the kilns are old and partly because of the type of brick or ware produced. There is little excuse for heavy smoke emission from chimneys of boiler plant, and the foundry problem can be substantially improved by care in the design and maintenance of exhaust equipment, and by good design of grit arresters fitted to cupolas.

A total of 585 observations were carried out during the year, and 385 visits were paid to inspect plant. 130 visits were made in connection with the atmospheric pollution recording apparatus.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There are now five In October, 1952, an additional station was set up at the County Modern School, Halesowen. stations with deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments. These are sited as follows:—

Hayley Green Hospital, Hayley Green, Halesowen. Central Library, Council House, Halesowen.

Olive Hill County Primary School, Springfield Road, Blackheath. Cradley County Modern School, Homer Hill, Cradley. County Modern School, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. -12.6.4.2

The statistics for 1952 are set out below:--

Monthly denosit of total colide in tone

6.5 5.3 9.3	5.3	5.3
9.1		
10.2		
*	-	
0 4.1		
10.4 9.0		
7.9 10		
3.7		
5.0	5.0	9.2
	: :	
1	2	2
	6.9 16.1 14.3 13.2 10.2 16.1 9.1 12.6 10.3 11.6	6.9 16.1 14.3 13.2 10.2 16.1 9.1 12.6 10.3 11.6 5.0 14.8 21.9 15.5 7.5 11.6 9.1 15.3 10.5 16.0

*No figures available.

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day.

Station Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1															
.85 1.03 .96 .56 .29 .12 .31 .69 .73 1.54 1.17 1.18 1.39 .73 .70 .50 .39 .47 1.07 1.85 2.27 1 1.91 2.81 1.68 1.13 1.21 .96 .89 .81 2.39 2.22 2.90 1 1.43 1.66 1.45 1.07 1.14 .59 .61 .76 1.60 1.35 2.67 1	Statio	n n		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1.18 1.39 .73 .70 .50 .39 .47 1.07 1.85 2.27 2.81 1.68 1.13 1.21 .96 .89 .81 2.39 2.22 2.90 1.66 1.45 1.07 1.14 .59 .61 .76 1.60 1.35 2.67	1	:		.85	1.03	.92	.56	.52	.29	.12	.31	69.	.73	1.54	.95
2.81 1.68 1.13 1.21 .96 .89 .81 2.39 2.22 2.90 1.66 1.45 1.07 1.14 .59 .61 .76 1.60 1.35 2.67	2	:	:	1.17	1.18	1.39	.73	.70	.50	.39	.47	1.07	1.85	2.27	1.75
1.66 1.45 1.07 1.14 .59 .61 .76 1.60 1.35 2.67	3	:		1.91	2.81	1.68	1.13	1.21	96.	68.	.81	2.39	2.22	2.90	1.17
	4	***		1.43	1.66	1.45	1.07	1.14	.59	19.	.76	1.60	1.35	2.67	1.57

Again it is apparent that the atmosphere at Hayley Green Hospital is substantially cleaner than that in the vicinity of the other stations.

FACTORIES

305 visits were paid to factories and so far as possible they were in the nature of comprehensive visits to check not only sanitary conveniences, but conditions in the canteens and kitchens, atmospheric pollution and rodent infestation.

Whilst in some factories, both large and small, there is a good standard of general cleanliness, there are others where conditions are much less satisfactory.

A feature often remarked upon by the Inspectors is the high noise level which is encountered. Sometimes it is such as to give rise to complaints from people living in the area. Although the Council have no legal powers to deal with such situations, efforts are always made to try and effect improvement, usually with success.

SHOPS AND MARKETS

Little time was found available for shop inspections except where the shops deal in food. The two markets were inspected regularly.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Eleven licences were issued authorising the keeping of pet shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

There are 35 licensed slaughtermen.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, Section 269

During 1952, ten licences were in force authorising persons to station caravans on land in various parts of the Borough.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920-1938

No rent certificates were applied for during 1952.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The public cleansing service is administered by the Public Health Department, and includes the collection and disposal of refuse and of salvage. The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and repair of Corporation vehicles. Street cleansing, gulley emptying and snow removal are dealt with by the Highways Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected by three side-loading freighters and one end-loading vehicle. The latter has a capacity of 18 cu. yards and it has been possible to reduce the number of teams from five to four.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in the centre of the Borough. The refuse is consolidated by using an angledozer, and is immediately covered with ashes and waste moulding sand. The site is developing rapidly and when completed will form a most useful recreation ground.

The labour position was reasonably satisfactory during 1952 mainly due to the conditions of service. The men are paid an incentive bonus which has proved economical to the Council and satisfactory to the men. In addition, they are given protective clothing. A problem to which no satisfactory solution has yet been found is that of getting a glove for the men which is both reasonable to wear and has a life of more than a week or two.

The collection interval was satisfactory on the whole, although for a few weeks in winter it was greater than the department would have wished.

The Corporation supplies dustbins to private houses at an annual charge of 5/-, and one hundred and seventy dustbins were issued during the year.

SALVAGE

Associated with the collection and disposal of refuse is the recovery of all kinds of salvageable material. Trailers for this purpose are attached to the refuse freighters, and in addition separate collection of waste paper is made at business premises. Kitchen waste is collected both from domestic premises where a small domestic container supplied by the Council is used, and from canteens and cafes.

The high prices received in 1951 for paper were not maintained and the position with regard to paper salvage was difficult. Not only did prices fall rapidly but there was a restriction on the amount of paper which could be sent to the mills.

Since 1945 the income from the sale of salvage has been nearly £26,000, and in that time 1,800 tons of paper, 1,400 tons of kitchen waste, 564 tons of scrap metal, and 64 tons of rags, have been collected and sold.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The Public Health Department maintains all the vehicles, and most of the mechanical equipment owned by the Council.

At the end of 1952 the following vehicles were being serviced:

Public Health Department

6 refuse freighters.

2 trucks.

2 vans.

1 angledozer.

5 ambulances.

1 mayoral car (Austin 16).

Highways and Parks Department

5 trucks.

2 vans.

1 gulley emptier.

1 road sweeper.

1 tractor.

3 mowers.

1 motor roller.

1 official car.

In addition the mechanical and boiler installations are maintained.

DEPOT

The present depot is most unsatisfactory in several respects. It is occupying valuable space in the centre of the town, the buildings are very old and unsuitable. There is only one entrance and this is very narrow. The Council is proposing to acquire land suitable for the erection of a depot which will serve all the Council's needs, and such a project is a matter of some urgency.

FUTURE TIPPING

The Council has bought land off Mucklow Hill as a site for the future tipping of house refuse.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Drainage-public sew	ers	 	 	24
Drains		 	 	206
Sanitary accomm	odation	 ***	 ***	21
Infectious Disease		 	 	84
Tuberculosis		 	 	26
Food Infections		 	 	7

	Nuisances (Section 93)					
	Premises				 	1,829
	Keeping of Anima	ls			 	115
	Dust or effluvia				 	27
	Accumulations				 	12
	Offensive Trades				 	3
	Refuse—Dustbins				 	147
	Trade refuse				 	29
	Tips				 	223
	Smoke Nuisances				 	88
	Observations				 	585
	Visit to plants				 	385
	Atmospheric Pollution	mea	suremen	nts	 	130
	Tents, vans, sheds				 	153
	Verminous premises					
	Council houses				 	25
	Other houses				 	21
	Watercourses, streams				 	8
	Water supply				 	15
						2
FA	AIRGROUNDS				 	3
CI	NEMAS				 	4
LA	AND CHARGES				 	388
RO	DDENT CONTROL				 	335
RI	ENT ACTS CERTIFICA	TES			 	
FA	CTORIES—with power				 	295
	without pow	ver			 	10
	Outworkers				 ***	25
H	DUSING ACTS:					
110	Housing Survey					4,386
	Detail house inspection					64
	Overcrowding					14
	J. C.				 	

COUNCIL HOUSE APPL	ICATI	ONS	***	 	1137
PETROLEUM				 	24
PIGSTYES				 	81
SHOPS ACTS				 	5
FOOD INSPECTION:					
Butchers' shops				 	143
Bakehouses				 	72
Cafes, Canteens				 	124
Dairies, Milkshops				 	38
Fishmongers, Poulterer	'S			 	29
Fried Fish shops				 	89
Food preparing premis	es			 	6
Greengrocers, Fruitere	rs			 	61
Grocers				 	232
Ice-cream premises				 	102
Markets				 	76
Slaughterhouses				 	1
Street vendors				 	37
Other food premises				 	73
Licensed premises				 	130
Pigs inspected on priva	ate pre	mises		 	225
School canteens				 	46
Miscellaneous				 	853

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Cost Statement 1952-53

-	-		C			
_	Item	n Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	
		1	2	8	4	
		REVENUE ACCOUNT				1
	Τ.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:	÷	£	÷.	
-			5,736	2,654	8,390	
-			6,861	2,703	9.564	
			843	1,159	2,002	
		(1V) Other Items (including £ nil paid to other local authorities				
		(v) Total gross expenditure	13,440	6.516	19.956	1
	2.	GROSS INCOME (including £ nil received from				
		other local authorities	09	3,949	4,009	
	·.	NET COST	13,380	2,567	15.947	I
	4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included				
	1	above)	N:I	Nil	Nii	
		UNIT COSTS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1
	5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only	12 9	5 11	18 8	
	9.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	15 3	0 9	1 1 3	
	7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	1 9 10	5 9	1 15 7	
	×	Not coot most 1 000	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	T
_	0	iver cost per 1,000 population	335 9 6	64 7 3	400 16 9	
'	6	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,066 19 9	204 14 1	1.271 13 10	
				-		I

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each house per week 5.8d. per year £1 5s. 5d. Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident per week 1.85d. per year 8.2d.

Comparative Salvage Statistics for the Financial Years 1947-1952 TONNAGE

T. C. Ors. 187 13 3 225 10 0
5 2
13 3 10 0 5 2
187 13 3 225 10 0 258 5 2

Year	Kitchen Waste	Paper	Scrap Metal	Baled Tins	Bones	Rags	Bottles	Total Income
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1947	514 10 3	1207 710	79 10 11	112.15 8	0 2 9	6 91 061	21 16 6	2147 12 5
1948	791 14 6	1480 5 8	79 10 1		617 8	0	59 1 10	2662 15 10
1949	0 8 201	1654 12 1	88 1 2	27 17 3	5 15 10	16	57 7 1	3080 18 2
1950	1071 5 6	1670 2 9	103 6 10	16 4 4	10 6 10	-	2	2991 10 3
1951	1209 5 1	5308 13 9	313 11 5	51 18 2	6 13 0	4	29 6 4	7192 12 6
1952	1276 11 9	2263 2 10	232 411	1311 1	6 2 6	150 16 6		3945 12 10

INCOME

TABLE V FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Cases in which defects were found

Number of cases in which defects were found	Reference	Found Remedied Inspector Inspector		1	1	1	1		2 1 - 1	17 12 - 2		1	20 13 - 3
		Particulars	Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Overcrowding (S.2)	Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	(a) Insufficient	(b) Unsuitable or defective	(c) Not separate for sexes	Other offences (not including offences relating to home work)	TOTAL

No prosecutions were instituted.

TABLE VI FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number of	Written Occupiers Inspections Notices Prosecuted	4	301 20 -		305 20
	Number on Register Ins	15	225		240
	Premises	1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Total

Operational Statistics

5,247 acres.	39,884	8,474 tons.	12.2 cwts.	12,540 premises	3 miles.	13.9% daily.	8,474 tons.		700%
:	::	:	:	:	:	:	:		:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		÷
:	:	:	year)	:	:	:	:		:
:	:	:	days to	collected	sal point	:	:		::
:	:	:	(365 (se is o	dispos	:	:		:
:	:	:	r day	h refu	cle to	:			:
:	1951	:	ion pe	whic	n vehi	:	:		:
Area	Population at 30th June, 1951	Total refuse collected	Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	Average haul by collection vehicle to disposal point	Frequency of collection	Total refuse disposed of	Method of disposal:	Controlled tipping

Salvage and Trade Refuse. Analysis of income and tonnage:

					Income	collected
Salvage:					4	Tons
(a)	Kitchen Waste	:	:	:	1,276	200
(q)	Scrap Metal	:	:	:	232	41
(0)	Waste Paper	:	:	:	2,263	260
(p)	Other Salvage	:	:	:	173	12
	Trade Refuse	:	•	:	99	1

1 五百百百		
	4	



Reliance Printing Works, Church Lane, Halesowen