

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Halesowen Borough.

Contributors

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B O R O U G H O F H A L E S O W E N

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for

1956.



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH
OF HALESOWEN

1956

Mayor:

Councillor A.H. SPRING, J.P. {until May, 1956}
Councillor P. TIMMINS, J.P. {from May, 1956 }

Deputy Mayor:

Councillor G.A. SOUTHALL, C.C. {until May, 1956}
Councillor A.H. SPRING, {from May, 1956 }

Aldermen:

H.J. COX, J.P. W. HODGETTS
F.L. ROSE, J.P., C.C. L. HARPER
W. PARKES, C.C.

Councillors:

C E N T R A L W A R D

Miss E.M. Bridge P. Timmins
E.C. Emery

N O R T H W A R D

F. Higgs N. Garner
Miss D.L. Parkes, J.P.

S O U T H W A R D

J.H. Green (until May, 1956) D.C. Herbert (from May, 1956)
G.A. Southall, C.C. Mrs. E. Smith

E A S T W A R D

P.W. Scott A.H. Spring, J.P. H. Davies, C.C.

W E S T W A R D

C. Willetts, C.C. A.H. Neale J.F. Tromans

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

A.M. Nelson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

A. Archer (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

R. Mather (a.b.c.)

D. Knight (a.b.)

K. Adams, Pupil Public Health Inspector (until July, 1956)

R. Casson, " " " " (from August, 1956)

Chief Clerk:

G.W.J. Lewis

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

Miss I. Wood

Clerks:

Mrs. H. Deeley

Miss J. Parkes

Miss M. Coley

Mrs. M. Grainger (Welfare Foods)

- (a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate.
- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- (c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Council House,

Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

We had the usual wet and cold summer.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease, though we had 163 notified cases of Whooping Cough, the highest incidence since 1952. There were no deaths from this cause.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that there was a fall in the crude death rate, from 9.63 per 1,000 of the population to 8.96. Of the 381 deaths, 148 were in people aged 70 years and over, including 41 who were over 80 years of age.

70 to 80 yrs.		81 to 90 yrs.		Over 90 yrs.	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
44	63	10	28	1	2

The birth rate fell from 29.5 to 20.5 per 1,000 live births.

There were 14 deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus, 12 males and 2 females. Last year there were 19 deaths from this cause.

The number of newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a welcome fall from 28 to 21, and there was one non-pulmonary case. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and kindly consideration, also the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., for his help and advice and Mr. A. Archer and his staff and Miss Wood, for their help, consideration and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R.L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

70-80 yrs.		61 to 70 yrs.		Over 80 yrs.	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
14	13	10	28	1	2

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of district	5,247 acres
Population Census, 1951	39,884
Population mid 1956	42,490
Rateable Value, 1956	£438,105
Sum represented by the penny rate	£1,700
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956	13,723
Number of persons per house	3.09

The Borough of Halesowen is in the northern part of the County of Worcester. The larger industrial plants in the Borough comprise the manufacturing of tube and tube fittings, the manufacture and machining of heavy forgings for the marine, electrical and mining industries, the production of die blocks for the drop forging industry, drop forging, the polishing of stainless steel, and the manufacture of bricks and fireclay good. There is one small colliery in the Borough. The lighter industries include the making of buttons, spades, shevals, forks, electric motors, and the manufacture of clothes.

VITAL STATISTICS

(a)	Live Births:	Male	Female	Total
	Legitimate	268	307	575
	Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
		271	314	585
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Still Births:			
	Legitimate	7	7	14
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		7	7	14
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.77

Birth Rate for England and Wales 15.7

DEATHS

Males	Females	Total
187	194	381

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 8.96

Area Comparability Factor 1.26

Adjusted Death Rate 11.29

Death Rate for England and Wales 11.7

Infant Mortality Rate 20.5

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 23.8

The Adjusted Death Rate is obtainable by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the Area Comparability Factor.

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	7	5	12

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total Deaths	Under 1 month
Prematurity	4	4
Mongolism	2	2
Congenital abnormalities ...	3	2
Congenital heart disease ...	1	1
Broncho pneumonia	2	-
	12	9

DEATHS OF PEOPLE OVER 70 YEARS OF AGE

70 to 80 yrs.		81 to 90 yrs.		Over 90 yrs.	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
44	63	10	28	1	2

CAUSES OF DEATHS:	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ...	19	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	35
18. Coronary disease, angina	31	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	9
20. Other heart disease	22	46
21. Other Circulatory disease	7	3
22. Influenza	3	-
23. Pneumonia	10	3
24. Bronchitis	16	13
25. Other disease of respiratory system	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformation	-	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	12
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	-	1
34. All other accidents	3	4
35. Suicide	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	187	194

Death Rates from Respiratory Tuberculosis, England and Wales
per million population 109
Corresponding figure for Halesowen per million population .. 23.5

Cancer of the Lung and bronchus per million England and
Wales 407
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (14 deaths) 329

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen.

(a) 1. Public Health Officers.

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

2. 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 Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council. There are five ambulances and six whole time drivers. The ambulance station is situated centrally in the Council Depot but the County Council are proposing to build a new station in the Borough as soon as a suitable site can be found.

The Hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough are those in the City of Birmingham, the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, Dudley Guest Hospital and the Bromsgrove General Hospital. Maternity cases go to Mary Stevens Hospital, Stourbridge, the Lucy Baldwin Hospital at Stourport, and the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham. Ambulance facilities are also provided for Romsley Hill Hospital. Patients suffering from infectious diseases are dealt with by the

two ambulances at Hayley Green Hospital.

(a) 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 Cokemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

(g) Welfare Foods

The distribution of Welfare Foods, which became a County Council function in June, 1954, is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, Public Health Department and nine shopkeepers in the Borough.

SECTION C.

WATER

The water supply to the area is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. It comes from four sources. Churchill Pumping Station, Hayley Green Works, Kinver Pumping Station and the Prestwood Pumping Station. The Hayley Green supply is from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct, and the Kinver and Prestwood supplies are from Smestow Valley. The water is not liable to plumbic solvency but periodic samples are taken for lead by the Company. The average chemical results for 1956 were as follows:-

	Waxland Road 11 Samples Parts per million	Fire Station Hagley Road 51 Samples Part per million
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	71	60
Chlorides (Cl)	14.6	12.9
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.008	0.010
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.4	2.9
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C.)	0.22	0.41
Temporary Hardness	65	53
Permanent Hardness	29	26
Total Hardness	94	79
Iron (Fe)	0.05	0.13
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Trace
Free Chlorine	0.01	Trace

Main extensions during 1956

		Lineal yards laid of	
		4" dia.	6" dia.
Halesowen	Lodgefield Road	91	
	Central Redevelopment	99	131
Hasbury	Highfields Lane	243	
	Bassnage Farm	940	459
	Hasbury Farm Site	183	39
Hawne	Newfield Park Estate	66	
	Furnace Park Estate	616	
Hill	Off Halesowen Road	385	
Lapal	Howley Grange Estate	58	
	Lapal Lane		126
	Manor Abbey	1161	288

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

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage from the Borough, together with a certain amount of storm water is drained into various branch sewers of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board, which runs through the district. These branch sewers discharge into the Board's main high level outfall sewer, and the sewage is taken either to the freehold disposal works at Quarry Bank for bacteriological treatment, or to the irrigation farm at Whittingham for disposal

by broad irrigation.

The proportion of sewage treated at the disposal works is approximately one fifth, the remainder being treated at the irrigation farm.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

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

In 1956 the number of houses built was 308 (77 by the local authority, 221 privately and 10 by Worcestershire County Council). Before the war 1,844 houses were built by the Halesowen Council and since then up to 1956, 1,385 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been built by the Council.

Four families were rehoused during 1956 on the grounds of tuberculosis, in the interest of the patient, and the hope that extra accommodation would lessen the risk of infection.

SECTION E.

Prevalence of, Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SMALLPOX

No cases were reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Thirty-two cases were reported, as against thirty-four for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were reported during the year.

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 1956 were as follows:-

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under five years	274	68
Five to 15 years	<u>9</u>	<u>190</u>
	<u>283</u>	<u>258</u>

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

There were four cases of poliomyelitis reported during the year. Three were non-paralytic and one paralytic. All recovered.

ERYSIPELAS

Three cases were reported during the year.

MEASLES

There were 15 cases of measles reported as against 574 cases reported for last year. We expect a high incidence of measles here every two years.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

	Wards					Total
	North	South	East	West	Central	
January	-	-	1	-	-	1
February	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	1	-	-	-	-	1
May	-	-	-	1	-	1
June	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	1	-	-	-	-	1
August	-	1	-	-	1	2
September	-	1	-	-	-	1
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	4	-	-	-	4
December	-	4	-	-	-	4
	2	10	1	1	1	15

FOOD POISONING

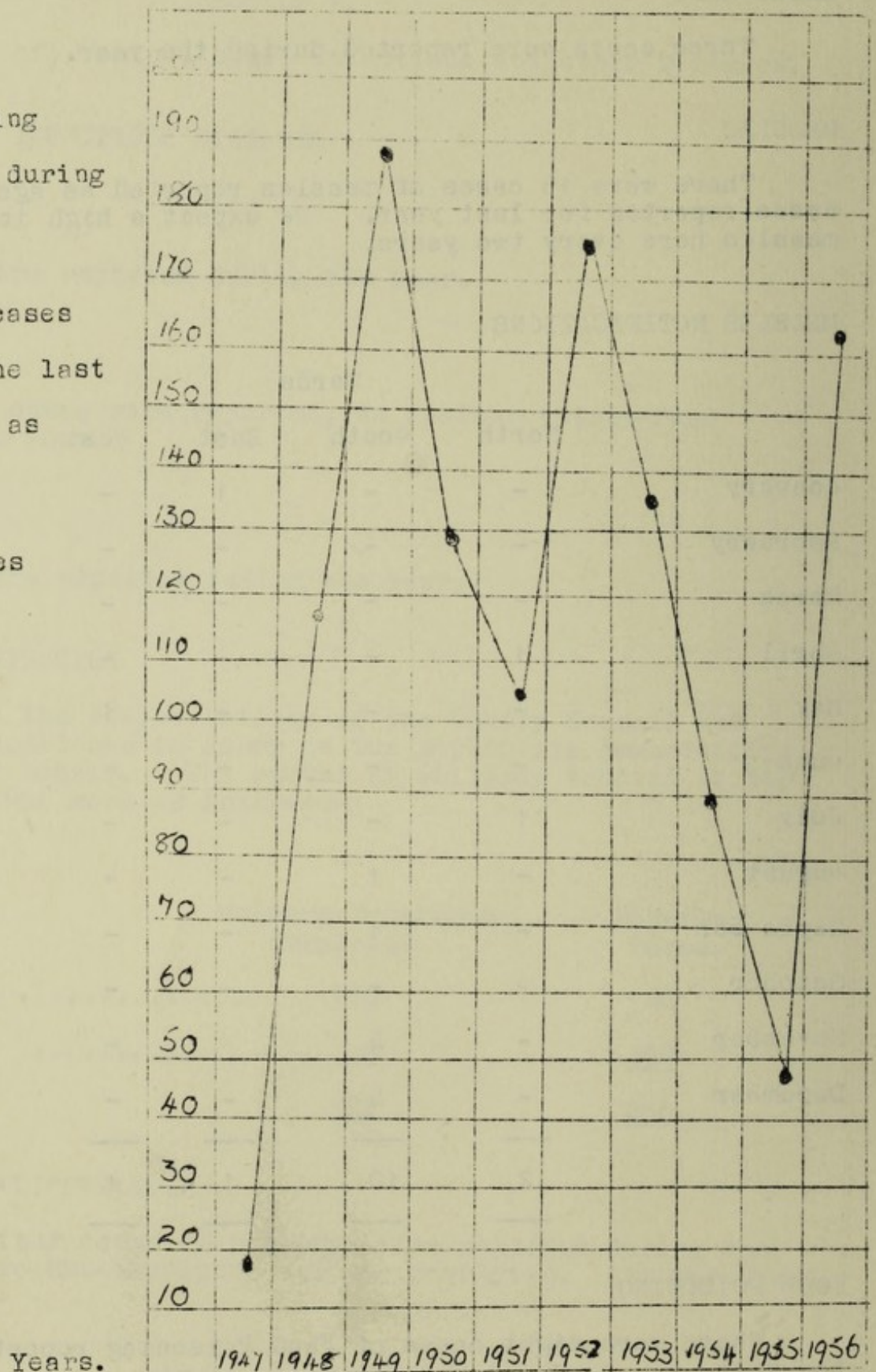
There were eight cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year.

No.
of
Cases

There were 163 cases of Whooping Cough reported during the year.

The number of cases reported for the last ten years were as follows:-

1947 -	18	cases
1948 -	115	"
1949 -	188	"
1950 -	127	"
1951 -	102	"
1952 -	175	"
1953 -	132	"
1954 -	89	"
1955 -	47	"
1956 -	163	"



TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-two cases were reported during the year, twenty-one were pulmonary and one was non-pulmonary. There was one death as against three for the previous year. The number of cases remaining on the register for the last two years were as follows:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1955	140	122	9	16
1956	139	121	9	15

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956.

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Age	Periods				
0-	.....	-	1	-	-
1-	.....	-	-	-	-
5-	.....	-	-	-	-
10-	.....	1	-	-	-
15-	.....	1	3	-	-
20-	.....	-	1	-	-
25-	.....	2	1	-	-
35-	.....	4	1	-	1
45-	.....	2	-	-	-
55-	.....	1	-	-	-
65-	.....	-	1	-	-
Age	Unknown	1	1	-	-
		12	9	-	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1956.

Disease	Total	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	32	-	2	3	20	5	-	-	-	2
Measles	45	-	7	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	153	18	18	47	70	2	1	4	-	3
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	3	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	38	6	2	3	2	1	1	17	5	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	8	2	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	1
Meningococcal Infections	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	29	-	4	2	8	6	1	5	1	2

Council House,

Halesowen.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The work of the Public Health Department in 1956 followed a similar pattern to that of previous years, with the emphasis on food hygiene and housing. Preparations were made to deal with the first slum clearance areas for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In the field of food hygiene regular visits were paid to all food preparation premises. Staff shortages again reduced the amount of work which ought to have been done in many important spheres. It was found impossible to replace the public health inspectors who had left, but towards the end of the year an additional pupil was appointed.

In spite of the fairly rapid expansion of the number of domestic properties in the Borough, the work of collection and disposal of refuse and salvage was generally satisfactory. The cost of the service was again kept down to a reasonable figure, i.e. something less than 7d per house, per week.

I should like to pay tribute to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., Dr. R.L. Corlett, fellow officers for continued help and advice, and to my own staff and workmen for their interest and enthusiasm. Finally, I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillor C. Willetts, C.C., and members of the Public Health Committee for their support.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

Work on housing during the year was concentrated on the preparation of slum clearance schemes.. The Council is hoping to clear an average of one hundred unfit houses a year.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 167

2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation 63

3. 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 104

4. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 4

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking were accepted Nil

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 3

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which a closing order has been made Nil

Dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made:-

128A, Colley Gate, Cradley.

128B, Colley Gate, Cradley.

Nursery Cottage, Manor Lane, Halesowen.

10, Lyde Green, Cradley.

Dwelling houses demolished: 110, Long Lane, Blackheath, 164, Long Lane, Blackheath and 165, Long Lane, Blackheath.

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

MILK SUPPLY

All the milk sold in the Borough is heat treated.

During 1956 the following licences were in force.

Distributors' licence in respect of heat treated milk	19
---	----

Distributors' licence in respect of sterilised milk	74
---	----

ICE CREAM

The following registrations were in force at the end
of 1956 in respect of ice cream:-

Registration for the manufacture, storage and sale	nil
Registration for sale only	137

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Although Halesowen Borough Council is not a Food
and Drugs authority, some food sampling is carried out and
the table below indicates the foods sampled.

Coffee	1	Minced meat	1
Fish paste	1	Ground ginger	1
Pepper	1	Sage	1
Orange juice	1	Dried milk	1
Lard	1	Tea	2
Sandwich spread	1	Baking powder	1

Tomato Ketchup	1	Cake mixture	1
Dressed crab	1	Glaze cherry	1
Tinned salmon	1	Cough mixture	1
Meat	2	Jelly crystals	1
Margarine	1	Mustard	2
Mint Sauce	1	Milk	2

Samples taken in the Borough by the officers of the Worcestershire County Council were as follows:-

78 formal milk samples.

244 informal milk samples.

8 formal samples of miscellaneous foods.

33 informal samples of miscellaneous foods.

1 formal sample of drugs.

13 informal samples of drugs.

1 formal sample under Food Standards Orders.

8 informal samples under Food Standards Orders.

The total number of samples taken was 386.

15 samples of milk were slightly deficient in milk fat and the producers notified.

The department is indebted to Mr. M.M. Love, F.R.I.C., and his staff for their help, to Mr. E.A. Spencer, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, and to Mr. N.T. Jones, Divisional Inspector, for the information concerning samples taken by Worcestershire County Council.

FOOD PREMISES

The inspection of food premises took a large part of the Inspector's time. The general standard at most of them was quite good, but there are some where only continuous supervision ensures that attention to details which is so necessary in this type of premises.

Details of inspections and improvements carried out are as follows:-

Butchers (Inspections 118)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	6
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improvements	...	...	...	...	1
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Bakehouses (Inspections 49)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	3
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Cafes and Canteens (Inspections 75)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	1
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improvements	...	...	...	...	1
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Fishmongers and Poulterers (Inspections 10)

Fried Fish Shops (Inspections 66)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	1
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Grocers (Inspections 167)

Improved hot water	...	...	...	...	3
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Wash hand basins fitted	...	...	...	...	2
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Ice Cream (Inspections 39)

Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Inspections 46)

Markets (Inspections 29)

Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Dairies, Milkshops (Inspections 4)

Food Preparing Premises (Inspections 3)

Slaughter Houses (Inspections 932)

Licensed Premises (Inspections 84)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	3
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improved hot water supply	...	...	...	...	2
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

School Canteens (Inspection 62)

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	2
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improvements to stop condensation	...	...	...	...	2
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Other Food Premises (Inspections 40)

Inspection of Meat

All the animals killed in the Borough were inspected although this involved regular evening duties for the staff. The quality of the animals killed was high, and the butchers take a pride in producing clean well dressed carcasses.

MEAT INSPECTION

Animals slaughtered and inspected	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
507	2	92	6,145	1,184	-	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	76	1	-	89	36	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.99	50	-	1.45	3.02	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.51	-	-	-	1.48	-
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight condemned: 15 cwt. 2 grs. 4 3/4 lbs.						

The following is a list of foodstuffs, other than meat, found to be unfit for human consumption.

Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	322	cans
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	283	cans
Meat (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	135	cans
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	86	cans
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	18	cans
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	56	cans
Macaroni	...	...	...	...	...	2	cans
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	7	cans
Crabmeat	...	...	...	...	...	11	cans
Tinned chicken	...	...	...	...	...	1	can
Cheese spread	...	...	...	...	...	5	packets
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	1	can
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	3	cans
Creamed rice	...	...	...	...	...	3	cans
Fish paste	...	...	...	...	...	2	jars
Ground coconut	...	...	...	...	...	10	lbs

LIST OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

Greengrocers	...	...	...	49
Cafes	...	...	...	11
Grocers	...	...	...	117
Butchers	...	...	...	30
Licensed premises	...	...	...	62
Fish shops	...	...	...	23
General food dealers	...	...	...	33
Chemists	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
Confectioners	...	...	...	28
School kitchens	...	...	...	31
Factory canteens	...	...	...	38
Total -				<u>442</u>

Number of food premises registered under Section 16
of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 ... 148.

RODENT CONTROL

A routine sewer treatment was carried out but as all the sewers are small and usually fairly full, rat infestation is not a problem.

Treatments were carried out at sixty four private houses and thirty three factory premises.

FACTORIES

Two hundred and sixty eight visits were paid to factories in connection with various matters including sanitary conveniences, canteens, and means of escape in case of fire.

SHOPS AND MARKETS

Regular visits were paid to the two markets in the area because food is sold there, and regular visits were paid to all shops where food is prepared or sold. Apart from this, it was not possible to visit other shops except on complaint.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Seven licences were issued authorising the keeping of pet shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1953

There are thirty-eight licensed slaughtermen.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269.

During 1956, ten licences were issued authorising persons to station caravans on land in various parts of the Borough.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

One certificate of disrepair was granted and one certificate revoked during 1956.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Ninety licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit, eleven for petroleum mixtures and two for carbide of calcium.

AIR POLLUTION

The five recording stations for the measurement of air pollution were maintained. These show that the air brought into the Borough on the prevailing wind is relatively clean, both from domestic and industrial pollution. During October, 1956, a Clean Air Exhibition was held in the Borough Hall, as part of the West Midlands Clean Air Campaign. This campaign was initiated by the Midland Centre of the Association of Public Health Inspectors and took the form of exhibitions held throughout the Midlands, supplemented by lectures, discussions, etc. It was estimated that something like 800 people attended the exhibition which was felt to be very successful in stimulating interest.

When the Clean Air Act is in operation, the Council is to consider declaring several areas in the Borough Smoke Control Areas,

Atmospheric Pollution

There are five stations with deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments. These are sited as follows:-

1. Hayley Green Hospital, Hayley Green, Halesowen.
2. Central Library, Council House, Halesowen.
3. Olive Hill County Primary School, Springfield Road, Blackheath.
4. Cradley County Modern School, Homer Hill, Cradley.
5. County Modern School, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

The statistics for 1956 are set out below:-

Monthly deposit of total solids in tons per square mile.												
Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1.	5.77	9.09	4.90	10.82	7.12	9.55	11.72	5.63	9.61	5.05	7.30	5.35
2.	9.95	12.20	11.06	13.30	16.80	15.19	15.02	9.99	10.42	11.90	11.80	8.91
3.	11.71	8.47	11.04	16.04	10.88	10.61	11.55	18.55	9.08	11.41	10.34	8.07
4.	9.92	7.50	11.28	13.71	10.65	14.67	11.94	10.16	10.87	44.34	10.13	8.43
5.	8.06	9.40	8.97	13.91	7.96	11.31	14.24	7.77	10.17	10.57	11.08	6.87

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.	0.78	1.68	0.92	0.54	0.31	0.59	0.56	0.32	0.34	0.90	1.07	0.47
2.	1.67	3.02	1.96	1.08	0.57	0.68	0.48	0.58	0.68	1.39	2.22	1.62
3.	3.06	4.57	3.30	2.11	1.16	1.43	1.30	1.38	1.77	2.59	3.29	2.43
4.	2.40	3.51	2.75	1.91	0.90	1.01	1.06	0.96	1.26	1.88	3.03	1.74
5.	1.71	4.02	2.42	1.65	0.43	0.87	0.63	0.63	0.84	1.59	2.95	1.77

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The public cleansing service administered by the Public Health Department includes the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage. Street cleansing, gulley emptying, snow removal and the control of public conveniences comes under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. The Public Health Department services and maintains the Corporation's vehicles and an increasing number of miscellaneous items of equipment.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is collected by four side loading and one end loading vehicle. Five teams are employed to cope with the ever increasing housing development in the Borough. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, refuse being immediately covered with ash and waste moulding sand. The new tipping site at Mucklow Hill was used during the year but since July, tipping has taken place on land at Howley Grange to level a sports field. This work should be completed in early 1957, when tipping will be resumed at Mucklow Hill.

The labour position continued to be satisfactory. An incentive bonus scheme is in operation and employees are able to increase their earnings to a figure well above the basic rate. The Council also make additional payment of 10/- per week to its employees. Protective clothing is issued to all workmen. By providing good working conditions the Council has been able to retain its staff. Collection intervals have been maintained at a reasonable level,

and possibly due to the good weather in autumn and early winter sickness rate amongst the staff was low.

The Council continues to supply dustbins to private houses at an annual charge of 5/-. The total number issued was 543. One quarter of the houses in the Borough now have a Council dustbin.

Salvage

The department continues to collect all types of salvageable material. Trailers for this purpose are attached to the refuse freighters, and in addition, a separate collection of waste paper is made from business premises. The Council has felt it necessary to draw the attention of the Association of Municipal Corporations to the reduction in prices being paid by the Mills to local authorities to a point which makes paper salvage uneconomical. The mills agreed to advance their prices but due to over production and a trade recession, found it necessary to impose in June a tonnage restriction. This continued to the end of the year.

The total income from sales was £2,297.

Transport

The Public Health Department maintains all the vehicles and most of the mechanical equipment owned by the Council. At the end of 1956 the following vehicles were being maintained:-

List of Vehicles

Public Health Department

7 refuse freighters

2 trucks

2 vans

2 angledozers

1 official car (Humber 'Imperial')

Highways and Parks Departments

5 trucks

2 vans

1 gulley emptier

1 road sweeper

2 tractors with trailer

3 motor mowers

1 motor roller

1 motor boat

Depot

The new depot at Witley Hill, Halesowen, will be completed in 1957. It will provide improved working conditions and in consequence increased efficiency.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Cost statement 1956-57

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:	£	£	£	%
	(1) Labour	9648	1322	10,970	44
	(2) Transport ...	8309	3440	11,749	48
	(3) Plant, equipment, land and buildings ...	1663	248	1,911	8
	(4) Other items ...				
	(5) Total gross expenditure	19620	5010	24,630	100
2.	GROSS INCOME	580	2370	2,950	-
3.	NET COST	19040	2640	21,680	-
	UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
4.	Gross cost per ton (Labour only)	15. 9.	2. 2.	17. 11.	
5.	Gross cost per ton (transport only)	13. 7.	5. 7.	19. 2.	
6.	Net cost per ton (all expenditure)	31. 1.	4. 4.	35. 5.	
7.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 448	£ 62	£ 510	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1286	178	1464	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each house, per week 6.76d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week 2.35d.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,247
Population at 30th June, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,490
Total refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,229 (t) tons
Weight (cwt) per 1,000 population per day	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,807
Premises from which collections are made weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.3% of total
Average haul by collection vehicle to disposal point	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2½ miles
Total refuse disposed of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,229 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded) - Controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100 per cent.

Salvage and Trade Refuse, Analysis of income and tonnage

Salvage:	Income £	Tonnage collected
(a) Scrap metal	...	...
(b) Waste paper	...	...
(c) Other salvage	...	...
	2298	295

Trade Refuse - Income £225.

(t) test weighings taken one week in eight when all refuse is weighed.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:

Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage - public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	37
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	243
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	-
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	17
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food Infections	...	...	...	...	...	59
Nuisances (Section 93)						
Premises	...	...	...	...	...	845
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	...	-
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	-
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse - Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	330
Trade refuse	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	161
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	11
Observations	...	...	...	...	...	32
Visits to plants	...	...	...	...	...	13
Atmospheric Pollution measurements	...	...	...	...	...	72
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	...	...	...	-
Verminous premises						
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	45

Watercourses, Streams	...	...	...	...	-
FAIRGROUNDS	...	...	...	...	-
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	617
RODENT CONTROL	...	...	...	...	612
FACTORIES - with power	...	...	...	...	263
without power	...	...	...	...	5
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	1
HOUSING ACTS					
Detailed house inspections	...	...	...	...	26
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	2
Slum clearance	...	...	...	...	102
COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	...	...	...	...	539
PETROLEUM	...	...	...	...	52
PIGSTYES	...	...	...	...	4
PET ANIMALS ACTS	...	...	...	...	1
FOOD INSPECTION					
Butcher's shops	...	...	...	...	118
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	49
Cafes, canteens	...	...	...	...	75
Dairies, milkshops	...	...	...	...	4
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	10
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	66
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	46
Grocers	...	...	...	...	167
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	39

Markets	...	...	...	...	29
Street Vendors	...	...	...	...	-
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	40
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	84
Pigs inspected on private premises	...	...	...	...	5
School canteens	...	...	...	...	62
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	932
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	156

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Reference	
			T. H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	4	-	4
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	1	-	1
Other offences (not including offences relating to home work)	-	-	-	-
Total	2	6	-	5

No prosecutions were instituted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	8	5	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	225	263	4	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworker's premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	233	268	4	-

