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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

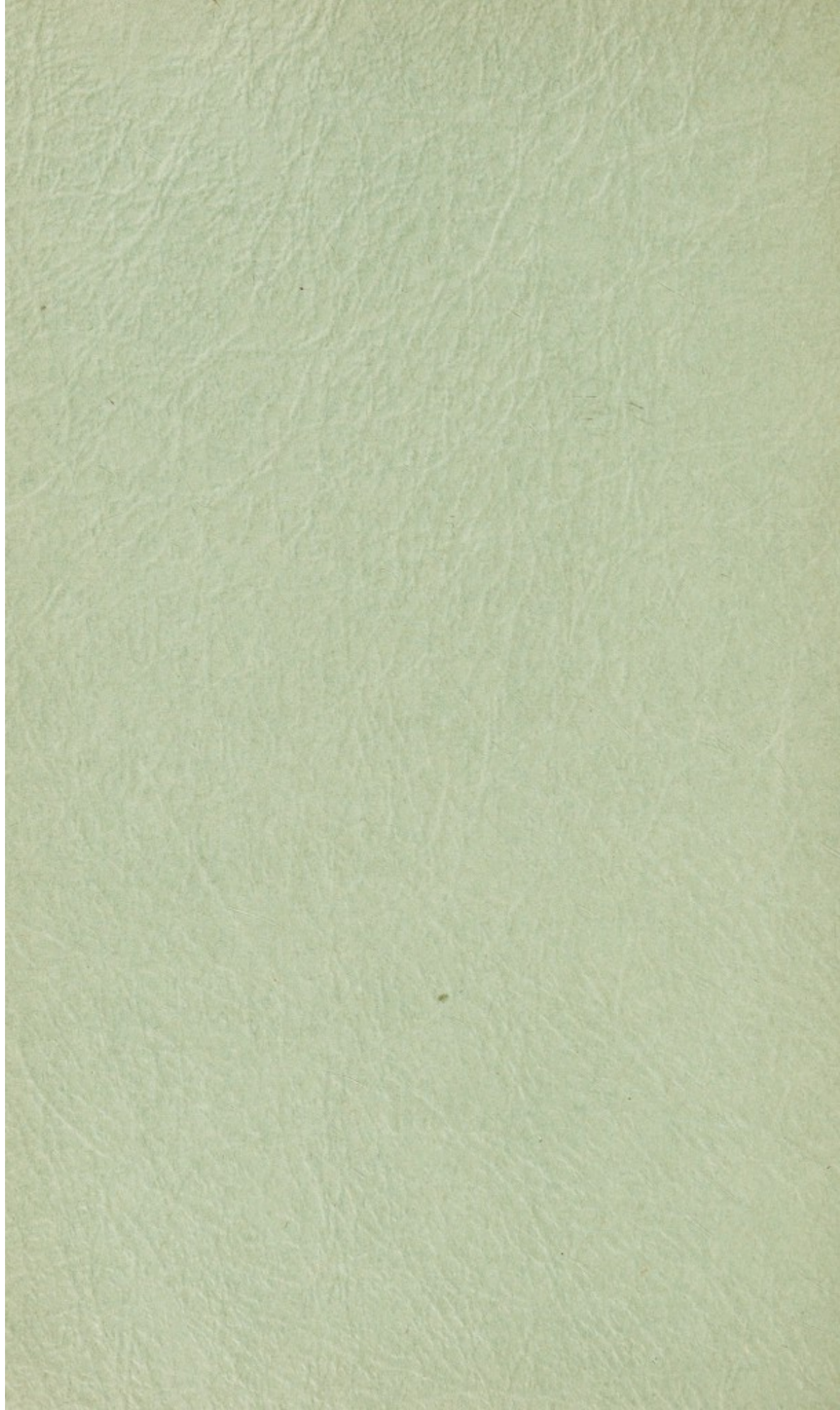
and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for

1958







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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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**MEMBERS OF THE HALESOWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL,
1958**

Mayor

Councillor N. GARNER, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Councillor P. W. SCOTT

Aldermen

L. HARPER

W. HODGETTS

G. A. SOUTHALL, J.P., C.C.

F. L. ROSE, J.P., C.Ald.

C. WILLETTS, C.C.

Councillors

Central Ward

Miss E. M. BRIDGE

W. J. CADD

P. TIMMINS

North Ward

S. W. FIELD

N. GARNER

R. BLAKEWAY

South Ward

D. C. HERBERT

L. HUGHES

Mrs. E. SMITH

East Ward

H. DAVIES, C.C.

P. W. SCOTT

A. H. SPRING

West Ward

H. A. NEALE

J. F. TROMANS

A. WHITEHOUSE

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. D. TERRELL, 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.)

B. BREAKWELL (a) (*from October, 1958*)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

K. ADAMS

Chief Clerk:

G. W. J. LEWIS

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

MRS. I. ROUSE (*until September, 1958*)

MISS P. MARSH (*from November, 1958*)

Clerks:

MRS. H. DEELEY

MRS. B. BRADLEY (*from May, 1958*)

MISS M. COLEY

MISS J. PARKES (*until April, 1958*)

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, 1958.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

We had a very wet summer, but on the whole the health of the Borough has been fairly satisfactory. The continued reduction in the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is most welcome, but our efforts to eradicate this preventable disease must not be relaxed. Twenty-four deaths from lung cancer is more than usual. Other years our death rate from this disease has been lower than the average for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate of 14.3 is less than usual, and is lower than that of England and Wales (22.5).

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of our late Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., whose advice was so helpful, and in his place we welcome Mr. J. B. McCooke and wish him well in his new appointment.

I would like to thank the Members of the Council, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Alderman C. Willetts, C.C., The Town Clerk, Mr. McCooke, my fellow officers, and Mr. Archer and his staff for their great help at all times, and also Mrs. Rouse and her successor, Miss Marsh.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	5,247 acres
Population census, 1951	39,884
Population mid 1958	43,480
Rateable value	£449,879
Sum represented by the penny rate	£1,790
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958	14,403
Number of persons per house	3.02

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 brick and fireclay goods. The lighter industries include the making of buttons, spades, shovels, forks, electric motors, and the manufacture of clothes.

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births:	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	343	...	276	...	619
Illegitimate	6	...	5	...	11
	349		281		630

(b) Still Births:					
Legitimate	6	...	7	...	13
Illegitimate	—	...	—	...	—
	6		7		13

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.49
Birth rate for England and Wales	16.4

DEATHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	255	189	444
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			10.21
Area comparability factor			1.26
Adjusted death rate			12.86
Death rate for England and Wales			11.7
Infant mortality rate			14.3
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales			22.5

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the area comparability factor.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	6 ...	3 ...	9
Illegitimate	— ...	— ...	—
	6	3	9

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<i>Total deaths</i>	<i>Under 1 month</i>
Congenital abnormalities	2	1
Prematurity	6	6
Pneumonia	1	—
Atelectasis	—	—
Hypoprothrombinaemia	—	—
	9	7

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	3	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	22	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	18	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2
16. Diabetes	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	33
18. Coronary disease, angina	54	21
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	8
20. Other heart disease	30	39
21. Other circulatory disease	8	9
22. Influenza	2	—
23. Pneumonia	10	2
24. Bronchitis	26	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34. All other accidents	1	4
35. Suicide	3	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	255	189

Death Rates from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	89
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	46
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	439
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (24 deaths)	552

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) *Public Health Officers.*

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

(b) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. M. M. Love, F.R.I.C.

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

2. *Ambulance Service.*

The ambulance service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council. There are six ambulances and six whole time drivers. The ambulance station is situated in the Council depot but the County Council have obtained a site on which they are to build a new ambulance station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham are the Corbett Hospital, Wordsley Hospital, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and Bromsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to Mary Stevens Hospital, Stourbridge, the Lucy Baldwin Hospital, Stourport, and the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried in the two ambulances at Hayley Green Hospital.

3. *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.

4. *Tuberculosis.*

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

5. *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.

6. *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.

7. *Welfare Foods.*

Distribution of welfare food is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, the Public Health Department, and six shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

WATER

The water supply to the Borough during 1958 was derived mainly from the Churchill Pumping Station and the Hayley Green works, with smaller quantities from other pumping stations outside the Borough including Kinver and Prestwood.

The Hayley Green supply is from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct and the Kinver and Prestwood supplies from the Smestow Valley.

During 1958 the 53 samples of the raw water from the Churchill Pumping Station were all free from coliform bacteria, as were 53 samples of the chlorinated water. Fifty-one samples of the chlorinated water were also examined chemically and all were satisfactory. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency but periodic samples for lead are taken by the Company.

The average chemical results for 1958 were:—

	<i>Waxland Road</i>	<i>Fire Station, Hagley Road</i>
Number of Samples	20	50
	<i>Parts per million</i>	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	74	65
Chloride (Cl)	14.9	14.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	.008	.005
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.1	3.0
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	.14	.30
Temporary Hardness	67	59
Permanent Hardness	34	30
Total Hardness	101	89
Iron (Fe)	0.03	0.08
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Nil
Free Chlorine	.01	Trace

The following main extensions were carried out during 1958:

		<i>Lineal yards laid of main</i>	
		<i>3"</i>	<i>4" diameter</i>
HALESOWEN			
	Cobham Road		59
HASBURY			
	Bassnage Estate		163
	Uffmoor	3	23
HAWNE			
	Newfields Park Estate		100
HILL			
	The Hollies	293	
LAPAL			
	Howley Grange Estate		572
	Carters Lane		89
CRADLEY			
	Maypole Hill Fields		118

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. The branch sewers discharge into the main high level outfall sewer. Treatment of the flow is carried out at the Whittington irrigation farms, and the disposal works at Quarry Bank.

At the farm, treatment consists of passing sewage through a detritus tank and to the various distribution centres for irrigation on the land. The disposal works are relatively modern. After removal of detritus the sewage passes through primary settlement tanks and finally humus tanks before discharge into the River Stour. Sludge is drawn from the various units into digestion tanks and then dried on open beds.

Whittington Sewage Farms. The electrification of the pumping station at Whittington has been completed, and as a result the volume of sewage distributed over the high level areas of the farms has been doubled, thus relieving the lower irrigation levels which were becoming saturated. New sludge spraying plant has also been installed at the detritus tank on the inlet sewer at the farms.

The distribution of sewage at the irrigation farms has in the past been carried out by tenant farmers. The Board expect to take over this work in the near future using their own staff.

Freehold Works, Storm Water Tanks and Sewer Duplications.
A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry for the construction of a new disposal works adjacent to the existing Freehold Works, with an initial capacity of 3 million gallons per day and an ultimate capacity of 6 million gallons per day, new storm water tanks at Cradley Heath, the duplication of the Board's Branch Sewer No. 4 from Cradley Heath to the Dudley Borough boundary at Pedmore Road, and the duplication of part of the High Level Outfall Sewer in Chester Road, Cradley Heath. The cost of these works is estimated at about £315,000.

Duplication of sewers within the Borough of Halesowen are unlikely to be commenced until the additional disposal facilities outlined above are available.

The department is indebted to O. C. Rowe, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Engineer to the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board for this information.

SECTION D

HOUSING

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

In 1958, the number of houses built was 290 (101 by the local authority and 189 privately).

Before the war 1,844 houses were built by the Council, and since then, up to 1958, 1,680 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been completed.

Three families were re-housed during 1958 on the grounds of tuberculosis, in the interest of patients and in the hope that extra accommodation would lessen the risk of infection.

SECTION E

Prevalence of, and central control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SMALLPOX

No cases were reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Fifty-nine cases were reported, as against eighteen 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 1958 was as follows:—

	<i>Primary Treatment Completed</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
Under five years	553	109
Five to 15 years	16	301
	569	410

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

There was one case of poliomyelitis reported during the year. There were no deaths. The poliomyelitis virus was Type I.

ERYSIPELAS

There were two cases reported during the year.

MEASLES

There were 49 cases of measles reported this year as against 679 cases reported for last year. We expect a high incidence of measles here every two years.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

	WARDS					
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Total</i>
January ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
April	—	3	—	—	—	3
May	—	1	—	—	—	1
June	—	2	—	2	4	8
July	—	3	3	2	1	9
August ...	—	1	3	—	—	4
September	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	—	1	—	—	1	2
November	—	1	—	1	1	3
December	—	14	—	—	4	18
	1	26	6	5	11	49

FOOD POISONING

There were three cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year and one case otherwise ascertained.

	<i>No. of cases</i>		<i>Total No. of cases</i>
	<i>Notified</i>	<i>Otherwise ascertained</i>	
Agent identified*	1	1	2
Agent not identified	2	Nil	2

*One case Salmonella Enteriditis

One case Salmonella Schwarzengrund

There does not appear to be any connection between the two cases where the agent was not identified.

WHOOPIING COUGH

There were 7 cases of Whooping Cough reported during the year, a reduction of 26 on the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty new cases were reported during the year. They were 18 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. There were 2 deaths as against 3 in 1957. The number of cases remaining on the register for the last two years were as follows:—

		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1957		126	116	4	9
1958		102	108	3	10

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1958

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
0-	—	—	—	—
1-	1	—	—	—
5-	—	—	—	—
10-	—	1	—	—
15-	—	3	—	—
20-	3	2	—	1
25-	1	1	1	—
35-	1	1	—	—
45-	3	—	—	—
55-	—	1	—	—
65-	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
	9	9	1	1

As we see by the following tables, Cancer of the Lung is now a much more common cause of death than tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

<i>Year</i>		<i>New Notifcations</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1948	...	40	11
1949	...	29	22
1950	...	37	14
1951	...	38	8
1952	...	35	9
1953	...	31	4
1954	...	47	2
1955	...	28	3
1956	...	21	1
1957	...	16	3
1958	...	18	2

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF LUNG, BRONCHUS

<i>Year</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1950	...	10	1
1951	...	13	1
1952	...	9	2
1953	...	8	2
1954	...	10	1
1955	...	18	1
1956	...	12	2
1957	...	9	1
1958	...	22	2

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Dudley Mass Radiography Unit of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board visited our area in March and May. The Medical Director of the Visiting Unit, Dr. R. Janet Posner, informs me there were 700 more people X-rayed than during the previous survey at the end of 1955, namely, 5,617 as against 4,917. We welcome also the two evening sessions that are held monthly to which doctors can refer their patients. These sessions commenced in September and are most useful.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1958

Disease	Total	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	age unknown
Scarlet Fever	59	-	5	7	42	4	1	-	-	-
Measles	49	3	10	13	22	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	7	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	46	10	7	3	3	-	1	16	6	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Meningococcal Infections	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-

Council House,
Halesowen.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During 1958 the work of the Department was handicapped by the shortage of technical staff and this is a problem common to many authorities throughout the country especially those near to the large industrial areas. In spite of this a great deal of useful work was accomplished, mainly in the field of slum clearance, food hygiene, and air pollution.

Some of the worst houses in the Borough were dealt with either in clearance areas or by individual action, and within the next four or five years there is a reasonable prospect that most of the sub-standard property which has outlived its useful life will have been demolished.

In the field of food hygiene, standards are gradually improving, and what is needed now is not so much improvement to premises as improvement in food handling techniques. The public themselves can help a great deal in this connexion by buying food only at the shop which looks clean and in which good practices are seen to be carried out.

The refuse collection service was felt to be reasonably satisfactory and carried out at a relatively low cost.

Air pollution is now a subject about which there is a great deal of public concern and it is felt that when smoke control orders come to be made the community as a whole will welcome the proposals.

During the year the department lost a valuable friend and colleague by the death of the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., who over the course of many years was ever willing to help me personally and the department generally with various legal problems which are encountered.

I should also like to thank Dr. R. L. Corlett, Medical Officer of Health, and fellow officers in other departments for their advice and co-operation, my own staff, and the workmen employed on refuse collection and the vehicle maintenance service, for their enthusiasm. Finally, I should like to thank the Chairman, Alderman C. Willetts, C.C., and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

During the year the Belle Vale Clearance Order and the Islington Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed by the Ministry, and these comprise a total of 78 properties. Three additional areas were declared, namely, the New England Clearance Area, the Lyde Green Clearance Area, and the Mogul Lane Clearance Area, a total of 45 houses. In addition, demolition orders were made on 34 houses and closing orders on 3 houses. Certificates of unfitness were issued in respect of 5 Council owned houses.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—
 Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 164
2. Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 87
3. Dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 77
4. Proceedings under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957:—
 Dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 34
 Dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted nil
 Dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 33
 Dwelling houses in respect of which a closing order has been made 3

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

CENTRAL AND SOUTH

110, 112, 114, 150, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402 and 406, Hagley Road.

8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, Chapel Street.

29, 31, 33, 35 and 37, New Street.

NORTH AND EAST

96 and 97, New John Street.

WEST

34, 36, 44, 46 and 48, New Street.

70, 72 and 74, Intended Street.

2, 4, 6 and 8, Lyde Green.

Dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made :

- 148, Hagley Road, Halesowen.
- 19 and 20, Rumbow, Halesowen.

Dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders :—

CENTRAL AND SOUTH

- 194, 196, 198, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 400, 402 and 406, Hagley Road.
- 154, Coombs Road.
- 12, 14 and 16, Belle Vale.
- 4, 5, 6 and 7, Rumbow.

NORTH AND EAST

- 68, 69 and 70, Malt Mill Lane.

WEST

- 1 and 3, Furlong Lane.
- 24 and 26, High Street.
- 118, 120, 122 and 136, Two Gates.
- 130 and 132, Oldnall Road.

HOUSING SUBSIDIES ACT, 1956

Certificates signed by the Medical Officer of Health as to the unfitness of Council owned property 5

- 75, Carters Lane, Quinton.
- 1 and 3 Maypole Hill, Cradley.
- 164 Park Road, Cradley.
- 6, Blue Ball Lane, Cradley.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Applications dealt with	19
(b) Applications approved	16
(c) Applications rejected	1
(d) Applications under consideration	2

RENT ACT, 1957

1. Applications for certificates	67
2. Decisions not to issue certificates	nil
3. Decisions to issue certificates	66
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	52
(b) in respect of all defects	14
4. Undertakings given by landlords under para. 5	16
5. Undertakings refused under proviso to para. 5	nil
6. Certificates issued	64
7. Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	13
8. Objection by tenants to cancellation of certificates ...	nil
9. Decision to cancel despite tenant's objection	nil
10. Certificates cancelled	14

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

MILK SUPPLY

Practically all the milk sold in the Borough is heat treated. During 1958 the following licences were in force:—

Distributors' licence in respect of heat treated milk	31
Distributors' licence in respect of sterilised milk	67

One of the problems which is commonly met with now that all milk is bottled is that of milk being distributed in bottles which have not been properly cleansed. The initial responsibility for this state of affairs arises with those consumers who fail to give the used milk bottle a preliminary rinse or when milk bottles are used for containing all manner of liquids and articles which ought not to be put in them.

The dairy companies make a very great effort to prevent improperly cleansed bottles being filled and distributed, but cases do occur where, because of a failure on the part of the machinery or the temporary lapse of an operator, bottles of milk are brought to the office containing foreign bodies of one sort or another.

ICE CREAM

Many of the small shops in the Borough sell ice cream as a subsidiary item to sweets, confectionery, etc., but there are now no persons manufacturing ice cream. The following registrations were in force at the end of 1958:—

Registration for storage and sale only	147
--	-----

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

The food sampling in the Borough during 1958 consisted of the following:—

Bread.....	2	National Dried Milk	2
Apples	3	Pork Sausage	4
Faggots	1	Minced beef	1

Samples taken in the Borough by the officers of the Worcester-shire County Council were as follows:—

71 formal milk samples
178 informal milk samples
11 formal samples of miscellaneous foods
115 informal samples of miscellaneous foods
29 informal samples of drugs.
The total number of samples taken was 404.

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 help in relation to food samples.

FOOD PREMISES

Systematic visiting of food premises was carried out throughout the year. The general standard in most of the premises is reasonably satisfactory but too little attention is still paid to really good food handling practices.

Details of improvements carried out during the year are as follows:—

Butchers (Inspections 143)

Improvements	1
Redecoration	1

Bakehouses (Inspections 49)

Improvements	1
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Cafes, canteens, etc. (Inspections 66)

Improvements	2
Redecoration	1

Fishmongers, poulterers (Inspections 21)

Dairies (Inspections 1)

Fried fish shop (Inspections 59)

Improvements	1
Redecoration	2

Food preparing premises (Inspections 9)

Improvements	1
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Greengrocers, fruiterers (Inspections 84)

Improvements	1
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Grocers (Inspections 166)

Improvements	12
Redecoration	1

Ice cream premises (Inspections 26)

Markets (Inspections 33)

Improvements	2
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Slaughterhouses (Inspections 926)

Licensed premises (Inspections 73)

Improvements	5
Redecoration	1

School canteens (Inspections 68)

Redecoration	1
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Other food premises (Inspections 130)

INSPECTION OF MEAT

All the animals killed in the Borough were inspected either at the time of slaughter or shortly afterwards. The quality of the animals killed is very good and the amount of meat condemned is relatively small. Details are shown in the table on page .

FOOD INSPECTION

List of food premises in the area:—

Greengrocers	45
Cafes	13
Grocers	127
Butchers	32
Licensed premises	86
Fish shops	19
General food dealers	30
Chemists	15
Bakehouses	6
Confectioners	30
School kitchens	13
Factory canteens	43
	459

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

meat (canned)	210 cans
fruit	622 cans
vegetables	288 cans
fish	121 cans
milk	45 cans
soup	25 cans
cheese	234 lbs.
bacon	27 lbs.
ham	9 lbs.
rice	17 cans
chicken	1 can
jam	5 cans
miscellaneous	5 cans

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excluding cows				Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Animals slaughtered and inspected	500	1	39	5,157	1,744		
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCII:							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	49	—	1	121	42		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.8	—	2.5	2.3	2.4		
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	17		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.6	—	—	—	0.9		
CYSTICERCOSIS:							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

- (1) Total weight condemned 13 cwts. 1 qr. 3 lbs.
 (2) No horse slaughtering is carried out in the area.

RODENT CONTROL

Treatments were carried out at 90 dwelling houses and 46 business premises. In each case the treatment was to deal with minor infestations.

FACTORIES

192 visits were paid to factories in connexion with various matters.

SHOPS AND MARKETS

Regular visits were paid to markets and food shops.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five licences were issued for the keeping of pets.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1953

There are 33 licensed slaughtermen.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

During 1958 four licences were issued authorising persons to station movable dwellings on land in various parts of the Borough.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS

The following licences were in force:—

90 for storage of petroleum spirit.

13 for petroleum mixture.

1 for storage of calcium carbide.

AIR POLLUTION

The five stations at which air pollution is recorded were maintained during the year and once again they showed that pollution in the Hayley Green area is less than that of other areas in the Borough. With the coming into operation of new regulations under the Clean Air Act, a meeting of local industrialists was held in the council chamber in July to discuss the industrial implications of the Act. The meeting was attended by representatives from N.I.F.E.S., the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, The British Cast Iron Research Association, together with representatives from the electricity and gas services. A useful exchange of views took place at the meeting.

The impression gained after the Clean Air Act had been in force for a short while is that the industrial problem in Halesowen is not a great one, although particular industries, namely, the brick making and the foundry trade, do present special problems.

AIR 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 1958 are set out below:—

Station	Monthly deposit of total solids in tons per square mile											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	6.92	5.39	11.3	11.4	9.2	5.94	9.26	4.71	8.33	3.42	7.12	7.84
2	7.84	9.35	5.7	7.3	10.9	10.93	11.0	7.78	12.48	8.01	7.61	11.23
3	8.37	9.07	10.2	6.7	†—	14.66	10.91	8.14	8.71	7.24	7.90	13.44
4	*112.54	†—	9.3	9.11	8.7	8.90	18.19	33.19	11.76	5.82	5.02	9.79
5	†—	6.07	12.5	13.2	8.0	17.18	11.94	9.34	19.92	7.60	11.37	10.77

Station	Weight of sulphur trioxide collected in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	0.92	0.89	1.7	1.5	0.50	0.89	0.29	0.13	0.98	0.37	1.31	1.09
2	0.95	1.34	1.2	1.0	0.30	1.08	0.42	0.24	1.05	0.79	1.97	1.57
3	2.98	2.55	1.8	2.9	0.30	1.27	1.20	0.58	2.25	1.45	2.87	2.57
4	2.26	1.85	2.1	3.6	1.3	0.97	0.83	0.50	1.42	1.12	2.46	2.43
5	2.08	1.71	1.5	2.7	0.8	0.93	0.61	0.31	1.48	0.97	2.64	2.40

*doubtful reading

†collecting jars damaged

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The public cleansing service is administered by the Public Health Department and includes the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage.

Street cleansing, gulley emptying, snow removal and the control of public conveniences is carried out by the Borough Engineer & Surveyor's Department. The Public Health Department carries out the maintenance and servicing of the Council's vehicles and an increasing number of miscellaneous items of equipment.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected by four side and one end loading vehicle. Five teams are employed emptying some 16,000 dustbins from domestic and commercial premises. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and is covered by ashes taken from the site. The tip at Mucklow Hill was in use throughout the year. One new siding loading freighter was purchased to replace a Karrier Bantam.

The labour position remained satisfactory and there was no difficulty in obtaining replacements for the three men who left during the year. An incentive bonus scheme is in operation and employees are able to increase their earnings well above the basic rate; in addition, the Council continues to pay a "plusage" of 8/- per week by agreement with the National Joint Council. Protective clothing comprising gloves, mackintosh sets and overalls are supplied and the Council has been able by providing good working conditions to retain its staff.

DUSTBIN PROVISION

The Council continues to supply dustbins to private houses at a charge of 6/- per annum. The total number issued was 515, an increase of 125 on the previous year. The bins are of 2½ cu. ft. capacity and over a quarter of the houses in the Borough now have a council owned dustbin. A considerable proportion of bins are supplied to new properties.

SALVAGE

The department continued to collect all types of salvage. Trailers for this purpose are attached to refuse freighters and a separate collection of waste paper is made from business premises. The restriction on waste paper imposed by the mills was relaxed and now only waste newspaper is restricted. In July it became impossible to dispose of scrap metal and necessary to discontinue baling tins. The prices for other grades of scrap metal fell sharply. The total income from salvage sales was £2,630.

TRANSPORT

The public health department maintains all the vehicles and most of the mechanical equipment owned by the council. At the end of 1958 the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced.

Public Health Department :

- 7 refuse freighters.
- 2 trucks.
- 2 vans.
- 2 angledozers.
- 1 official car (Humber).

Highways and Parks Department :

- 5 trucks.
- 4 vans.
- 1 gulley emptier.
- 2 road sweepers.
- 2 tractors with trailers.
- 3 motor mowers.
- 1 motor roller.
- 1 motor boat.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN
Cost Statement 1958-59

<i>Item</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Collection</i> £	<i>Disposal</i> £	<i>Totals</i> £	<i>Percentage of</i> <i>total gross</i> <i>expenditure</i> %
1. GROSS EXPENDITURE:					
(1) Labour	...	11,772	1,910	13,682	50.58
(2) Transport	...	8,815	2,480	11,295	41.76
(3) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	...	844	509	1,353	5.00
(4) Other items	...	499	221	720	2.66
(5) Total gross expenditure	...	21,930	5,120	27,050	100
2. GROSS INCOME	...	139	2,736	2,875	—
3. NET COST	...	21,791	2,384	24,175	—
UNIT COSTS					
4. Gross cost per ton (labour only)	...	s. d. 17 7	s. d. 2 11	s. d. 20 6	
5. Gross cost per ton (transport only)	...	13 2	3 8	16 10	
6. Net cost per ton (all expenditure)	...	32 8 £	3 7 £	36 3 £	
7. Net cost per 1,000 population	...	501	55	556	
8. Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	1,493	163	1,656	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each house, per week 7½d.
Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week 2½d.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)	...	...	...	...	...	5,247
Population at 30th June, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	43,480
Total refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	13,356 tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	...	...	...	...	...	16.8 cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	14,623 premises
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	...	...	...	...	...	13,356 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	...	100 per cent.

SALVAGE AND TRADE REFUSE, INCOME AND TONNAGE			
SALVAGE	Income £	Tonnage collected	
(a) Raw kitchen waste	—	—	
(b) Scrap metal	132	18	
(c) Waste paper	2,462	311	
(d) Other salvage	36	4	
(e) Totals	2,630	333	

TRADE REFUSE: (a) Income ... £209

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage, public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances (Section 93)							
Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Cleansing							
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Trade refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Accumulation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke							
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Visits to plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Atmospheric pollution measurements	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous premises							
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	330
Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Watercourses and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories							
With power	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Without power	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	...	...	656
PETROLEUM ACTS	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
RODENT CONTROL	...	...	...	...	...	...	619
SHOPS ACT	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
HOUSING ACTS	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

RENT ACT, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	...	...	...	...	...	...	628
FOOD INSPECTION							
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Cafes, canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	926
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
School canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	...	...	279

FACTORIES ACT, 1937
Cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Reference To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector</i>
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	1	1	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences to home work)	—	—	—
Total	3	2	2

No prosecutions were instituted

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	11	4	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	232	188	5	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworker's premises) ...	—	—	—	—
	243	192	5	—

