[Report 1966] / Medical Officer of Health, Halesowen Borough.

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN





ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1966

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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

REPORT

of the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

1966

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1966

Chairman

Alderman C. WILLETTS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor K. W. JOHNSON

The Mayor

Councillor R. J. BIRD, J.P.

Members

Alderman Miss E. M. BRIDGE; Councillors A. N. BROWN, C.C., W. J. C. RAY, D.F.C., R. D. BARKER, R. BLAKEWAY, D. SKELDING

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. W. J. HINGSTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H. (until 31.5.66)

J. TWOMEY, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M & H., D.P.H. (from 1.6.66)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. TWOMEY, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H. (until 31.5.66)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Officer:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

District Public Health Inspectors:

B. L. BREAKWELL (a.b.) (until 31.1.66)

J. RICHARDS (a.b.)

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

Miss J. C. TREVIS (d.) (from 7.2.66)*

I. B. W. CUTLER (d.) (from 1.3.66)*

R. J. SHAW (d.) (from 1.8.66)

R. J. WILDE (d.) (from 1.8.66) (until 30.9.66)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

R. J. SHAW (until 31.7.66)

R. J. WILDE (until 31.7.66)

C. RICKETTS (from 12.10.66)

Technical Assistant:

P. WATSON

Chief Clerk:

G. W. J. LEWIS (until 1.5.66)

N. BOOCOCK (from 1.6.66)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. H. COTHILL (until 13.11.66) Miss V. MEREDITH (from 7.12.66)

Clerks:

Mrs. M. CHECKETTS

Miss V. MEREDITH (until 6.12.66)

Mrs. A. WILLIAMSON

(a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate.

(b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

(c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

(d) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1966

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Halesowen.

Resignation of Dr. Hingston

Dr. C. W. J. Hingston resigned on the 31st May, 1966, in order to take up an appointment as Divisional Medical Officer of Health in his native Cornwall and I was appointed Medical Officer of Health as from 1st June, 1966. There was no deputy Medical Officer of Health in the second half of the year.

Vital Statistics

The population of the Borough showed an increase of 3,190 as compared with the previous year but this is difficult to interpret in view of boundary changes. The vital statistics in general are close to national averages. Once again the year has been free of maternal deaths in childbirth, and all who are concerned with maternity services deserve our warmest congratulations on this.

The Changing Pattern

As this is my first annual report, it may be appropriate to recall the function of a medical officer of health. Basically, this has not changed since 1855, when it was defined by the General Board of Health as follows:—

"The officer of health is appointed in order that through him the local sanitary authority may be duly informed of such influences as are acting against the healthiness of the population of his district; and of such steps as medical science can advise for their removal; secondly to execute such special functions as may devolve on him by the statute under which he is appointed; and thirdly to contribute to that general stock of knowledge with regard to the sanitary condition of the people and of the preventable causes of sickness and mortality."

Since these words were written, many diseases have disappeared from our midst or lost their terror, and the M.O.H. has to adjust his sights accordingly and focus on the influences which are acting against health at the present time. The importance of infectious diseases has declined. Some, like diphtheria and typhoid, are prevented from occurring; others, like pneumonia, can now be successfully treated; and yet others such as scarlet fever have changed in character and lost their power to kill. Improved living conditions are playing their part and the time can

be foreseen when rheumatic fever, to give another example, will be merely a ghost of our unhealthy past. There has, however, been an increase in certain non-infectious conditions, chief among which are heart disease and malignancies. This increase is partly accounted for by the fact that there is now a greater proportion of elderly people in the population, as the diseases concerned are, in the main, ones which affect the older age-group.

Causes of Mortality in 1966

The general pattern of mortality in the Borough is very similar to that of recent years and, as usual, diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for more deaths than any other cause. 262 deaths out of a total of 499 are attributable to this group of diseases. As far as is known to medical science we can best protect ourselves against the modern scourge of heart disease by keeping our weight down, taking as much exercise as possible and avoiding cigarette smoking. My predecessor, Dr. Hingston, advised in his annual report that we sometimes leave the car at home and walk to work. I wholeheartedly agree with this and in cases where it is not possible I would suggest a walk in the evening or a round of golf or an hour or two working in the garden.

Malignant diseases accounted for 97 deaths. There were 24 deaths from lung cancer. During the year there was an encouraging report from the Ministry of Health which suggests that health education regarding the hazards of smoking is bearing fruit and that fewer young people are taking up cigarette smoking than would have been expected according to the trends a few years ago. It is clear that we must continue and intensify our efforts to protect the younger generation from lung cancer, which is to a great extent an avoidable disease, and also from the other health risks of cigarette smoking, namely coronary heart disease and bronchitis.

Still on the subject of cigarette smoking, it ought to be more generally known that if women smoke during pregnancy their babies are likely to have a reduced birth weight and a lower chance of survival.

22 deaths were caused by accidents, 7 of which involved motor vehicles. The prevention of accidents is something which clearly comes within the field of health education and this brings us to the next section, the Halesowen Home Safety Committee.

The Halesowen Home Safety Committee

Efforts to make people aware of every-day hazards were continued by every available means of communication, including newspaper publicity, posters, an essay competition, film-shows by health visitors and others, and talks. In addition, Mr. H. Taylor,

the proprietor of the "Circular," very kindly arranged to publish a column each month written by me on behalf of the Committee on some subject pertaining to safety in the home. As the "Circular" has a circulation of 30,000 and reaches practically every home in the Borough, I regard this as an important break-through and I am most grateful to Mr. Taylor for his public-spirited action in granting us this facility.

Infectious Diseases

There was no major outbreak of infectious disease during the year. One case of typhoid fever occurred—a man who had been infected abroad and travelled to this country during the incubation period. He made a good recovery in Hayley Green Hospital and tests showed that he was clear of infection, but as an added precaution this man did not handle food for public consumption either in Halesowen or elsewhere after his discharge from hospital.

There was an outbreak of smallpox (variola minor) in neighbouring parts of the Midlands. Dr. Hingston and I were asked to see suspicious cases in consultation with general practitioners on a number of occasions but fortunately no case of smallpox occurred in the Borough. There were 194 cases of measles in the Borough as compared with 511 in 1965, and 9 new cases of tuberculosis as compared with 6 in 1965.

Verruca Pedis

Verruca Pedis is a troublesome and time-wasting, though not serious condition in which there are infectious warts on the soles of the feet. Children and young people are most often infected. Following complaints from family doctors and others, a survey was undertaken in the schools of the Borough in October. The head teachers of 26 schools, 8 secondary and 18 primary, were asked to try to find out how many children at their schools had had one or more verruca in the past year. A reply was received in each case and the following is a summary of the information obtained.

	198.8	Children at Risk	Children who have had a verucca	Percentage
Primary		4,018	226	5.62
Secondary		3,211	392	12.21
Total		7,229	618	8.55

Of the twenty-six schools, plimsolls were worn at physical education in nineteen. Head teachers are in a difficult position as they are advised by those in charge of P.E. that the exercises

should be performed barefooted, whereas medical authorities condemn this practice as being a cause of verrucae and other foot infections. The present investigation lends support to the view that barefooted P.E. is one of the factors responsible for the spread of verrucae as the three schools with the highest incidence did not use plimsolls.

The part played by schools showers is probably important and may be one of the reasons why verrucae are more common in secondary schools than in primary schools, which do not usually have showers.

With regard to the public swimming pool, this was regularly visited throughout the year by a Public Health Inspector and the standard of cleanliness and hygiene is very high. It is most important, however, that persons with foot infections should not use the pool.

The Health Education Officer to the County Council has been approached with a request to produce posters for display in schools and swimming baths regarding the infectivity of verrucae and has promised to make every effort to do so. In the meantime I would like to give the following advice:—

- Any lump or rash of the feet should be regarded as suspect until proved non-infectious by medical inspection. (A rash of the feet may be athlete's foot (also an infectious condition).
- 2. Any sufferer from verruca (or athlete's foot) should refrain from communal barefootedness.
- 3. Sharing of footwear should be avoided.
- 4. Sharing of towels should be avoided.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I have received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. McCooke, Mr. Archer, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster; Dr. Markham, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster; and Dr. C. H. Phillips, Medical Officer of Health, Bromsgrove, for having made themselves available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. TWOMEY, Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1967.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	
Population census, 1961	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June, 1966)	48,630
Rateable Value (31st December, 1966)	£2,072,110
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.)	£8,390
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 19	
Number of persons per dwelling	2.9
Deaths in Halesowen	
Male Female	Total
279 220	499
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident po	opulation 10.2
Area comparability factor	1.16
Adjusted death rate	
Death rate for England and Wales	11.7
The adjusted death rate is obtainable by mu death rate by the comparability factor.	ltiplying the crude
The following vital statistics relate to mothers and	d infants for 1966:
Live Births:	764
Number	
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live bi	
Stillbirths: Number	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	10.3
Total Live and Still Births	772
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	15

Infant Mortality Rates:	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	19.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	10.4
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	7.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	18.1
Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	12.9
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96	15.0
Birth rate of England and Wales	17.7
Still birth rate for England and Wales	15.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	26.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	19.0

VITAL STATISTICS

Let ainid svil stand		Males	all mob	nendari	Female	s
imate, live births 11.2	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit
Live Births	404	385	19	360	347	13
Still Births	3	2	1	5	5	_
Deaths of Infants:			(edea		mor 00	
Under 1 year of age	7	7	_	8	7	1
Under 4 weeks of age	2	2	_	6	5	1
Under 1 week of age	1	1	_	5	4	1

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	43
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	Nil
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	562
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (24 deaths)	493
Other cancer per million, England and Wales	1,107
Corresponding figure for Halesowen	1,480

			Total	Tindae	4 Weeks				A	Age in Years	ars			
	CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	4 Weeks	I Year	÷	.5	15-	25-	35-	45-	-55-	-59	75 & over
3	Syphilitic disease	M	1	1			,				,	,		1
		Н	-	1	,	1	,	,	1	,		,	-	1
-	10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	×	12	1	1	,	,	,	1	,	-	·	, 4	"
		Н	1		,	1	,	,	,		- 1	171	9	-
=	Malignant neoplasm.	×	20		,	1	-	-	61	-	,	9		
		ц	4	,	,	1	1	- 1		- ,	10	0 -	, ,	+-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	1	1	,	,	,	,	,	,		. ,		
		ц	=	,	•	1	1	1	_	1	3	1	3	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	Н	9	ı	1	,	1	1	1	,	1	-		-
4.	Other malignant and lymphatic	Σt	22	1	1	1	,	-	1	1	2	4	9	6
2	reopiasms	L ;	14	ı	,	,	1	ı	-	1	-	3	9	3
	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Σ	-	,		ı	,	,	,	1	1	-	1	1
		Ļ				1	ı	ı	,		,			1
16.	Diabetes	Z	2	1	1	,	1	,	1	7	1	1	-	2
		Н					1	1	1		1	1	,	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	Σπ	84 4	1 1	- 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1		∞ v	18	20
18.	Coronary disease, angina	M	55	1	,	,	,	1		-		2	33	3 7
		ц	41	,	1	1	1	1	1		. –	9	14	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	M	4	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		"	-
		Н	9	1	,	1	ı	ı	1	1	-	-	2	7
20.	Other heart disease	Σ	25	,	,	1	1	1	1	1	-	8	3	15
		ц	53	1	ı	ı	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	21
21.	Other circulatory disease	×	7		1	1			-	,	,	-	-	4
		ц	00	1	,	,	1	1	1			•		

22.	Influenza	Σπ		1 1	1 1		1.1	1.1	1.1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	
23.	Pneumonia	ΣH	13	171		- '		1 1	1.1			-2	111	L4
7.	Bronchitis	Σu	31	1 1	. –	1 1	1 1		1 1	1 1	4-	7	0.4	12
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	ΣH	-7	1 1		1 1	-				- 1		1 1	
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	Σπ	- 15		1 1	1 1	1.1	٠.	1 1				1 1	17
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	ΣH	. 2		1.1	(-1	1.1	1 1			1 1	1 1	1 1	14
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	ΣH	e -	1 1	1 1	11	1.1	1.1	1 1		1.1	- 1	-	
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	×	7	1	1	•	,	1	•	,	1	•	1	7
31.	Congenital malformations	Σπ		1 1	- 1	1 1	1 '	()		, ,		1 1	1 1	' '
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	Σπ	12	4			1 1	• •	1 -		22	23	7-	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	ΣH	7 1	1.1	1 1	1-1	- '	- 1	7 1	1 1	1-1	- 1	- 1	1
34.	All other accidents	ΣH	r &		- '		1	1 1	- '	- 1		- 1	22	19
35.	Suicide	ΣH	- 1		1 1	1 1	1 1		1 1		1.1	- 1	1 1	
36.	Homicide and operations of war	Mπ	-		, ,	1 '		1-					- 1	' '
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	Σμ	279	79	20	- '		111	40		17	28	84	102

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOWEN

St. Schoolse 18	1966	1966 1965	1964		1963 1962	1961	1960	1960 1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Food Poisoning		2	9	3	1	9	7	4	3	13	00	9	-
Measles	194	511	285	794	10	545	39	699	49	629	15	574	14
Scarlet Fever	29	24	19	20	25	13	37	57	59	18	32	34	000
Typhoid	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	.	3
Paratyphoid	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1		
Whooping Cough		-	23	30	1	9	99	29	7	33	153	47	89
Dysentery	1	3	2	15	99	1	2	12	5	7	29	15	17
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	7	5	10	7	7	11	14	21	18	16	21	28	47
Meningococcal Infections	1	П	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	-		:
Diphtheria	- 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	_	1	1	-	
Erysipelas	. 1	3	2	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	3	4	3
Neonatal Mortality Rate Infant Mortality Rate					10.6	16.8	14.4	16.6	14.3	26.1	20.5	29.5	8.9
Ferinatal Mortality Kate	18.1	31.7	25.8	33.4			41.9	43.8					

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. W. E. Jones, M.Sc., 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, M.D., Ch.B.

2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fifteen whole-time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio-controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

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

Maternity cases are taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham, and premature babies to the Unit at the Marston Green Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried by the special ambulance stationed at the Hayley Green Hospital.

3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. In conjunction with the W.V.S. there is a "Home Help" and "Meals on Wheels" service.

4. Tuberculosis

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

5. Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital

Board and administered by 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, and three shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

Housing

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report In 1966, 611 dwellings were erected, 78 by the local authority, 89 by other local authorities and 444 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1966, owned 4,391 dwellings.

SECTION D

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are maintained by the County Council. During the year, most babies were being immunised with triple antigen to confer immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The number of children treated at the clinics and by General Practitioners during 1965 was as follows:—

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under five years	. 793	258
Five to 15 years	11	721
	804	979
	programming .	

Measles Notifications, 1966

		WARD	S			
	North	South	East	West	Central	Total
January	-	2	1	7	1	11
February	2	_	1	2	-	5
March	2	1	5	1	-	9
April	4	1	3	1	1	10
May	2	-	1	1	3	7
June	. 7	3	-	5	1	16
July	19	24	6	6	4	59
August	11	4	5	4	15	39
September	_	1	_	2	1	4
October		-	-	-	1	1
November	_	3	1	6	_	10
December	_	5	3	5	10	23
December	_	_	_	_	- 20	
	47	44	26	40	37	194
	_		-		-	_

Tuberculosis

Nine new cases were reported during the year.

0- -		TAINE NEW Cases		onary 7	1 1110		ulmonary 2
0- -		Permaker					
1- -	Age	Periods	Male	Female		Male	Female
5- -	0-		-	-		-	-
15- - - - 20- - - - 25- - - - 35- - - - 45- 2 1 - 55- 1 - -	1-		-	-		-	E201-
20- - - - 25- - - - 35- - - - 45- 2 1 - 55- 1 - -	5-		-	-		-	1281-
25 1 35 1 45 2 1	15-		-	d -		-	- 1955
35- - - 1 45- 2 1 - - 55- 1 - - -	20-		-	-		-	-
45	25-		-	-		-	1
55 1	35-		-	-		1	10001-
	45-		2	1		-	-
65_ 1 2	55-		1	-		-	5801-
05	65-		1	2		-	1301-
							_
4 3 1			4	3		1	1
			-	-		-	_

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register: -

		Pulm	ionary	Non-F	ulmonary
		Males	Females	Males	Females
1965		62	46	 3	11
1966	***************************************	63	47	 6	12

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year		New	Notifications	Deaths
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
1959		 	21	_
1960			14	3
1961			11	_
1962		 	7	3
1963		 ****	7	4
1964		 	10	1
1965		 	6	1
1966		 	7	1
	90000	 		

Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus

	To contents	 Cancer	or Lung,	Dionenus	
Year			Males		Females
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
1959		 	15		2
1960		 	27		-
1961		 	14		1
1962		 ****	14		2
1963		 	19		2
1964		 	15		1
1965	5111	 	25		1
1966		 	20		4

Notifiable Disease, 1966

Disease		Total	0-	<u>-</u>	2-	3-	4	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	known
Scarlet Fever		29	1	1	-	4	4	16	3	-	1	1	1
		194	7	27	32	29	25	19	3	1	1	1	3
ng Cough	:	11	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	17
lytic		Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	:	Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	:	Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	:	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	9	-	-
Erysipelas		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	IN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	:	Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı
Dysentery		Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia		Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	:	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	1
Typhoid In	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	_	1	ı
Paratyphoid	:	N.	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	ı	1
Encephalitis	:	1	1	1	ľ	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1

Public Health Department, Council House, Halesowen.

November, 1967.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The work of the department during 1966 was, in the main, a continuation of the work done in previous years to clear away unfit houses and to publicize the opportunities for modernizing those houses which lack amenities, such as bathrooms and hot water supply. Other work which called for more and more attention included the reduction of air pollution both by continuing the development of smoke control areas and by the study of those industrial processes which give rise to local nuisance. In addition, special attention was paid to the hygienic conditions under which food is stored, prepared and sold, whilst the conditions under which staff are employed in shops and offices were also examined.

Local government is undergoing a complete reappraisal and so far as public health departments are concerned it is becoming increasingly clear that regard needs to be had to a positive concept of health as a state of complete physical, social and mental well-being rather than as the mere absence of disease. In the light of this we are conscious of the need to look at the urban environment as a whole and to regard avoidable air pollution, excessive noise and a drab and dreary environment as being enemies of health. There is an increasing public awareness of this point of view and local government is becoming more conscious of the team work which must be developed between, on the one hand the policy maker and the administrator and on the other the public at large.

Once again my thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support, to Dr. J. Twomey, to the Town Clerk Mr. J. B. McCooke, to my fellow officers and their staffs for their ready co-operation and, not least, to my own staff for the hard work which they have carried out during the year.

A. ARCHER, Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Because of the effect of boundary revision as well as the building of new houses, the total number of dwellings in the Borough at the end of 1966 was 16,604. Of these, 4,391 were owned by the Council and this figure includes 1,766 built before 1945. The Council began dealing with unfit houses in the 1930's and by the outbreak of war in 1939 had made 405 demolition and closing orders. From 1945 the position is as follows:

Dwellings	
Undertakings accepted 15	
Closing orders made 24	
Demolition orders made 308	347
Clearance orders (26) 274	341
Compulsory purchase orders (17) 329	603
	003
Council owned property:	
Unfitness certificates 34	34
Total	984
Unfit Dwellings Dwellings dealt with in the period 1955/66: Included in clearance areas	634
Dwellings on which demolition or closing orders have	
been made	234
Council owned dwellings found to be unfit	34
Inspection of dwellings during 1966—	
Dwellings inspected for housing	89
Dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	53
Proceedings under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957:-	
Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were	3
Dwellings demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	7
Dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
Dwellings included in clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders which were demolished	67

Demolition and Closing Orders

Dwellings Demolished

Central and South Wards

3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 35, 37, 39, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57,

59, 61, 63 and 65, Alexandra Road.

18, 20, 50, 52, 56, 58, 62 and 64, New Street.

9 and 23, Highfield Lane.

168, 170, 172 and 174, Hagley Road.

80 and 82, Attwood Street.

58, High Street.

1, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69 and 71, Hill Street.

West Ward

1, 3, 21, 23 and 25, Foredraft Street.

2, 4, 6 and 8, off Foredraft Street.

110 and 112, Butchers Lane.

7. Foxcote Lane.

North and East Wards

49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58, Coombs Wood Buildings.

123 and 124, Olive Lane.

5 and 6, Cakemore Road.

18, 19 and 20, Coombs Road.

Dwellings in respect of which demolition or closing orders were made:—

West Ward

12, Butchers Lane.

North Ward

65 and 67, Hurst Green Road.

Clearance Areas

During the year the Council made two clearance orders and one compulsory purchase order involving a total of 37 dwellings.

Title			D	wellings	
Cherry Tree Lane				6	
High Street (Cradley)				5	
Cradley Compulsory Purch	nase Or	rder		26	

Three clearance orders and one compulsory purchase order involving 27 dwellings were confirmed.

Title	Dwellings
Wall Well No. 2 Clearance Order	 4
Gorsty Hill Road No. 2 Clearance Order	 5
Cherry Tree Lane Clearance Order	 6
Slims Gate Compulsory Purchase Order	 12

Gorsty Hill Road No. 2 Clearance Order was made by Rowley Regis Borough Council but the properties came within the Borough of Halesowen when the West Midlands Order, 1965, came into operation.

Rehousing

During the year the Council rehoused the following families from properties subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1957:—

From individual unfit property	13
From dwellings included in confirmed clear-	
ance or compulsory purchase orders	47

Improvement Areas

After discussions with officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government about improvement areas, it was decided not to proceed further with the Halesowen No. 1 Beaumont Road and Halesowen No. 2 Summer Hill Improvement Areas which had been declared in April, 1965. A great deal of useful information had been acquired in dealing with the areas and it was eventually decided to include the Beaumont Road properties in a much larger improvement area.

Houses Outside Improvement Areas

Only two tenants made representations in 1966 to have their houses improved. It is difficult to understand why so few tenants take advantage of the facilities which enable them to have additional amenities in their homes but it may be because a fairly high proportion of tenants in this type of house are elderly and do not wish to be involved in the disturbance which is entailed. Another factor is that many of the landlords are owners of only two or three properties, often live in the vicinity, and tenants hesitate to put them to the expense.

Five tenants applied for their houses to be improved in 1965 and by the end of the year two of these had been equipped with the standard amenities. In the case of the other three, undertakings had been given by the owners to do work.

Improvement Grants

(a) Standard Grants

	Applications Approved			Amount paid	Number of Tenanted	Owner/
1964 66	59	7	38	£5,500	3	35
1965	37		32	£4,737	2	30
1966	35	_	23	£3,857	3	20
Amer	nities provid				23	niG rig min)
		nd basin			23	
	hot wa	ter suppl	у		23	
	water o	closet .			23	
	food st	ore .			22	

(b) Discretionary Grants

Applications Received Approved Refused		Grants paid	Amount paid	Number of Tenanted	of Houses Owner/ occupied	
1964 10	8	2	8	£1,835	1	7
1965	4	1	6	£1,845	1	5
1966		1	2	£503	1	1

WATER

The Water supplied to the Borough is from three sources. The Churchill and Hagley Pumping Stations both supply water from boreholes, and the Hayley Green Works from the Birmingham Corporation's Elan Valley Aqueduct. In the Cradley area, water is normally supplied from the Springsmere Reservoir.

The water was satisfactory in quality and quantity and was not subject to plumbo solvency.

			Raw Water	water	Ireate	I reated Water	1. 50 50 S1
Station	In the period	Dustes back office	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	Result of Chemical Test
Churchill Pumping Station	ma i c		52	51	52	52	Satisfactory
Hagley Pumping Station		hvo i d	100	86	50	50	Satisfactory
Hayley Green Works			50	36	50	50	Satisfactory
Fire Station, Halesowen	:		1	1	50	50	Satisfactory
Waterman's House, Waxland Road, Halesowen	меп		1	1	=	=	Satisfactory

The average chemical results for 1966 were as follows:-

Number of Samples	Waxland Road 11	Fire Station 50
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) Chlorides (C1) Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) Oxidised Nitrogen (N) Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) Temporary Hardness Permanent Hardness	20.5 Trace 008 7.5 21 98	nillion 108 21.1 Trace Trace 7.5 .12 102 76
Total Hardness Iron (Fe) Manganese (Mn)	170	178 Trace Nil

Fluoride

The fluoride content of the Churchill water averaged .04 p.p.m., Hagley .07 p.p.m. and Hayley Green .94 p.p.m. The water at the latter is affected by the introduction of fluorides by Birmingham Water Department. The water is, however, mixed with the output of Churchill and Hayley Green Pumping Stations and, on average, is diluted at the ratio 1:8 approximately.

Details are set out below of the method of water supply to dwellings in the Borough:—

Number of dwellings supplied direct from public water	
mains	13,546
Number of persons	44,434
Number of houses supplied from stand pipe or party taps	4
Number of persons	11

The following main extensions were carried out during 1966:—
SITE

	Size of Main	Length in Yards
Huntlands Estate	. 3"	127
	4"	102
Lyde Green	. 4"	147
Carol Crescent	4"	214
Park Lane Industrial Site		282
	9"	2
Hayseech Road	6"	80
Kent Road	6" 2"	118
	3"	173
	Total	1,245 yds.

Only a few isolated dwellings are not supplied with mains water.

The Public Health Department is indebted to R. H. Taylor, Esq., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for this information.

Sewerage and Drainage

The Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board ceased to exist on the 31st March, 1966, and the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority was set up with effect from the 1st April, 1966. The purposes for which the new Drainage Authority was established are:—

- (a) the main sewerage of the district and the making of such provisions, by means of sewage disposal works or otherwise, as may be necessary for effectually dealing with the contents of their main sewers; and
- (b) the exercise of functions in respect of the discharge of trade effluents into public sewers in the said district.

The Authority's district is comprised of the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge, and parts of the County Boroughs of Dudley and Warley as altered by the West Midlands Order. It can generally be described as the areas served by the former Upper Stour Valley and Stourbridge Main Drainage Boards, the former Brierley Hill U.D.C. and parts of the former Sedgley Urban District and Dudley County Borough within the Severn Catchment area. The Authority consists of twelve members drawn from the constituent Authorities as follows:—

Dudley County Borough Council—6 members Warley County Borough Council—2 members Halesowen Borough Council —2 members Stourbridge Borough Council —2 members

Halesowen Borough Council's representatives during 1966 were Alderman P. W. Scott and Alderman A. Brodie (then Councillor Brodie). There have been no fundamental changes in the conveyance and treatment of sewage from the Borough of Halesowen during 1966. Treatment of part of the flow has continued at the Caledonia Sewage Purification Works, Quarry Bank, and the remainder at the Whittington Irrigation Farms near Kinver.

Capital works initiated by the former Boards have continued under the new Drainage Authority. Those affecting the Borough of Halesowen are as follows:—

- (a) new freehold treatment works—Completion of these works, which will relieve both the existing Caledonia Works and Whittington Farms, is anticipated in July, 1967.
- (b) branch sewers Nos. 3 and 5 and Titford Pumping Station —Work on this scheme was commenced in March, 1966, and is likely to be completed during early 1968.

The Drainage Authority are currently investigating the necessity for duplication of existing sewers at the following points in the Borough:—

- (a) Manor Lane to Rumbow and New Road
- (b) Park Lane and Mogul Lane, Cradley.

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Only by frequent and regular advisory visits to premises where food is handled can it be ensured that high standards of hygiene will be maintained. Because of the growing complexity of food manufacture, packaging, storage and labelling, it has become necessary for this work to be done by an inspector specializing in these duties. A great deal of advice and help is given to food handlers, but in far too many cases foods are easily contaminated because they are handled unnecessarily. This is something which can be readily seen by the public when it is done in the retail shop and the housewife who is wise enough to refuse to shop where this happens, and frank enough to say so, is of great assistance in improving food hygiene standards.

Particularly in some of the larger shops, the impression is gained that whilst the managerial staff accept advice about good hygienic practices, they are not sufficiently vigilant in seeing that the staff carry them out.

Complaints

In twenty-three cases food was brought to the notice of the Department as being unsatisfactory in one way or another. The complaints were all investigated and in many instances faulty practices either during manufacture, storage or distribution, were brought to light and remedied. Only one prosecution was undertaken.

The complaints included:

milk bottle containing dry battery
canned meat containing piece of cloth
discolouration (oil) in loaf of bread—four separate
complaints
sausage containing piece of string
biscuit containing fly larvae
canned meat having peculiar flavour and odour
bacon joint containing maggots
sausage containing piece of wire
Cornish pastie containing pig's tooth
fly, and milk mould in bottle of milk
sausage roll containing a fly
jar of beetroot containing vinegar fly larvae
sausage meat which was unfit

can of corned beef affected by decomposition
can of processed meat with an area of discoloured meat
corned beef affected by mould growth
bottle of milk with a deposit in the bottom
vanilla slice containing a piece of hardened discoloured
dough

apple turnovers affected by mould growth joint of pork affected by decomposition.

Legal proceedings were taken against the vendor of the bacon joint which contained maggots and a fine of £10 with £5 5s. costs was imposed. In all other cases warning letters were sent to the manufacturers and vendors and advice given as to how to prevent a recurrence of the complaint.

Type of food premises

The number of food premises and their type is as follows:tobacconists & newsagents butchers 33 cafes 13 (selling sweets) fish and chips 14 confectionery (bread, 34 19 cakes, sweets) greengrocers fishmongers (wet fish only) grocers 99 school canteens 27 wholesalers 5 25 work canteens bakehouses 1

hospitals, etc.

83

Milk Distribution

Sixty-eight licences are issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, in respect of premises in the Borough. Five new licences were issued during the year. As last year, the milk is supplied by seven firms which process and bottle the milk outside the Borough, and untreated milk is supplied by one farmer whose premises are in an adjoining authority.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

licensed premises

246 samples of foods and drugs were taken during the year; foods which are bought regularly were sampled rather than uncommon foods, though many new products which appeared in shops were also sampled.

Foods

Food				No	examined
baking powder				 	4
beverages				 ****	2
butter				 	11
cereal products				 	3
cheese products				 	11
chocolate and ch	ocolate	confe	ctionery	 	3
coconut				 	2
coffee				 	3
colourings and fl	avouring	gs		 	6
cream and cream		200		 	15
fish products				 	7
flour confectioner	y			 	7
fruit (canned and				 	16
fruit juices				 	7
ground almonds				 	3
ice cream				 	6
lard				 ****	4
margarine				 	5
marzipan				 	4
meat products				 	36
milk				 	27
mincemeat				 	4
preserves				 	8
sauce and salad				 	5
soft drinks					6
soup (canned and	dried)				5
spices				 	8
sugar confectione	rv			 	7
vegetables	- 7			 	8
vinegar and pick				 	7
TOTA	AL			 	240

All but one of the samples were satisfactory and in accordance with legal or recommended standards. The irregular sample was one of sausage which had a meat content lower than that recommended; when a formal sample was taken later the meat content was satisfactory.

Bacteriological Sampling

Ten samples of food were submitted for bacteriological examination. Six of these were processed meats from cans which were blown or sour, and which the department had been asked to inspect by either the retailer or wholesaler; in no cases were pathogenic organisms found. Two were samples of fresh cream, which were satisfactory, and two were jars of beverage one of which was brought in by a customer who complained that after drinking part of it vomiting had occurred; no pathogens were isolated.

Milk Sampling

Forty-six samples of milk were submitted, twenty-seven to the Public Analyst for chemical examination and nineteen to the Public Health Laboratory, seventeen for general bacteriological examination, and two of them, untreated milk, for tests for the presence of brucellosis or tuberculosis. All forty-six samples were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Seventeen samples of ice cream were sent to the laboratory for examination. Fourteen of these were bought from shops within the Borough and three from mobile vans operating from outside the Borough.

Results:

Grade	I	****	****	 11
Grade	II			 3
Grade	III			 2
Grade	IV			 1

Grades I and II results can be considered satisfactory, but Grades III and IV suggest careless practices in either manufacture or distribution. In the three cases where these results were found the manufacturers and vendors were informed and, in the case of the mobile van concerned, the authority in whose area the van was normally kept, was notified.

drug				examinea
Aminophylline tablets	B.P.	,	 	1
Neo Naclex tablets			 	1
Dexamphetamine table	ts		 	1
Pethidine tablets B.P.			 	1
Elboxin tablets			 	1
Adexolin capsules			 	1
TOTAL			 	6

All drug samples were satisfactory.

Frying Pans with high lead content

Following information from an adjoining authority that certain frying pans on sale in the area had an exceptionally high lead content, investigations were carried out at a wholesaler's in the Borough. It was found that the wholesaler had 30 to 40 gross of frying pans with linings of 50% tin, 50% lead. The manufacturer stated that this had been common practice with commercial grade tinning for a number of years but that the practice would be discontinued and only pure tin used in future. It was agreed that the existing frying pans held by the manufacturer and wholesalers would either be re-tinned or destroyed.

Food Condemned

Other than meat at slaughterhouses the amount of food condemned was as follows:—

meat	150	cans
fruit	325	cans
golden syrup	2	cans
pork dripping	2	cartons
cheese	39	lbs.
fish	73	cans
vegetables	76	cans
soup	37	cans
milk pudding	44	cans
milk and cream	39	cans
vinegar	1	bottle
jam	13	jars
pickles	3	jars
baby foods	3	jars
fish paste	1	jar
custard powder	1	can

Meat Inspection

At the beginning of the year there were six licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough but killing was carried out at only five of them. During the year, however, two of the slaughterhouses were closed and subsequently demolished, one because of road widening, and one because of its inclusion in the Central Redevelopment Area.

All animals slaughtered were inspected during or immediately after slaughter, and because of the high quality of the animals killed very little meat was condemned. The number of animals affected by tuberculosis is decreasing every year and the very few cases of tuberculosis found were all in pigs. In each case specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Where the disease was confirmed, the Divisional Veterinary Officer was informed so that he could carry out investigations at the farm if he considered it necessary.

In one of these cases the Divisional Veterinary Officer reported that—

"The breeder maintains 10 sows on free range and sells weaners therefrom. A small flock of pullets and hens are also kept, and range over the same pasture as the sows. Advice has been given to the farmer concerning the separate management and conditions of poultry."

Details of the animals slaughtered

Pigs	799	1	80	10.1	1	91	2		1	1	1
Sheep and Lambs	2,135	ю	09	3.0	1	1	1		Į.	1	1
Calves	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Сомѕ	1	1	1	F	-1	1	1		1	1	1
Cattle excluding Cows	370	1	28	7.5	ī	ı	1		7	2	1
	Animals slaughtered and inspected	whole carcases condemned	carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or C.Bovis	TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: whole carcases condemned	carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	culosis	CYSTICERCOSIS:	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	carcases submitted to refrigeration	generalised and totally condemned

The total weight of meat rejected as unfit was 8 cwt. 102 lbs.

Disease and conditions affecting parts or organs of animals inspected.

Disease or (Conditi	on	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Tota
abscesses			 4	3	1	8
ascaris			 -	-	30	30
cirrhosis			 3	-	4	7
congestion			 -	9	8	17
c.bovis			 2	-	-	2
c.ovis			 -	1-	-	1
echinococcus	cysts		 6	1	-	7
fascioliasis			 10	3	-	13
fat necrosis			 1	_	_	1
hydronephro	sis		 _	_	2	2
inflammation	1		 1	-	_	1
parasites			 1	35	-	36
pericarditis			 -	4	8	12
peritonitis			 _	1	4	5
pleurisy			 1	-	12	13
pneumonia			 4 4 9	3	14	17
tuberculosis			 _	_	16	16
poor bleedin	g		 _	1	_	1
oedema			 1	2	-	3
			30	63	99	192

AIR POLLUTION

Domestic

Smoke Control Orders covering 87 acres and including 649 dwellinghouses came into operation during 1966. Orders concerning a further 1,195 acres and including 1,111 dwellinghouses were made by the Borough Council and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. The inspection of a further 1,254 dwellinghouses included on 204 acres of land has now begun.

Many occupiers in smoke control areas are fitting either gas appliances or the modern room heater whilst more people are now using the grant to offset the cost of full or partial central heating. So far as Council property is concerned the policy is to install solid fuel room heaters in rooms where water heating is required in addition to space heating and gas fires in rooms used only intermittently with a proviso that in either case a tenant can choose to have an open fire if he prefers it.

Because of the increased cost of appliances for which grant has become available more private householders applied for full grant for the cost of alterations or adaptations.

Smoke Control Programme

	Premises	Dwellings	Acres
Covered by orders made up to 31st December, 1966	6,508	6,397	2,906
Estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1967		1,200	350
Final objective (the whole of the Borough) * estimated	18,338*	17,838*	5,237

The following table shows the progress achieved by December, 1966:—

Order	Operative Date	Dwellings Acreage	
Lapal No. 1	Nov., 1961	489 82	
Highfields No. 1	Oct., 1961	93 3	
Howley Grange No. 1	Jan., 1962	375 37	
Central No. 1 Grange Cres.	Nov., 1962	57 5	
Central No. 2 Woodman Rd.	Nov., 1962	14 2	
Long Innage, Cradley	Nov., 1962	50 5	
Dencil Close, Cradley	Nov., 1962	54 4	
Holcroft Road, Cradley	Nov., 1962	24 3	

Central No. 3	Town Ce	ntre	Dec.,	1962	339	19
Bath Meadow,	Cradley		Nov.,	1962	70	4
Furlong Lane,	Cradley		Nov.,		30	2
Central No. 4 (Cobham R	oad	Apr.,	1963	31	2
Hawne No. 1	****		Apr.,		8	1
No. 14 Cradley	Fields		July,		22	3
No. 15 Hope St			May,		65	5
No. 16 Cocksho			May,		20	2
No. 17 Spring S			Sept.,		38	5
No. 18 Hayley			Nov.,		1,047	520
No. 19 Colley			Nov.,		- 36	3
No. 20 Colley			July,		35	3
No. 21 Hasbury			June,		51	301
No. 22			July,		1,135	322
No. 23 Lapal	****		Nov.,		554	87
No. 24			July,		578	81
No. 25			Oct.,		978	1,181
No. 26			July,		71	
No. 27	••••		June,		133	6
No 20*						13
	****		Aug.,		1,191	192
No. 29*	****		June,	1968	63	13
					7,651	2,906
					LUI CARRELL	

^{*} Orders submitted to Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

Industrial

The amount of smoke emitted from boiler plant has now been reduced, for all practical purposes, to the minimum but complaints continue to be received about the emission of smoke and fumes, grit and dust, from ironfoundries. At three foundries improved methods of gas cleaning were installed during the year. In one case the equipment consisted of wet type grit arresters, in a second case the equipment is wet type grit arresters followed by final discharge of the gases at a height of 120 feet, whilst in the third case the plant consists of a venturi scrubber. The latter plant is designed to give gas cleaning not exceeding 0.05 grains per cubic foot. By the end of the year, although it was working fairly satisfactorily, several problems had arisen and had not been solved.

Unfortunately, the pressure drop is such that the fans used in the plant had created a local noise problem.

The foundry problem is a difficult one because some of the answers are not known and even where they are there is the economic difficulty associated with the installation of gas cleaning plant where the cost may be quite prohibitive for the small foundryman. The department's aim is to strike a balance between achieving conditions which are acceptable to the local residents whilst not imposing a burden on the foundryman which is so severe as to cause the plant to be closed and reduce the possibilities of employment for local work people.

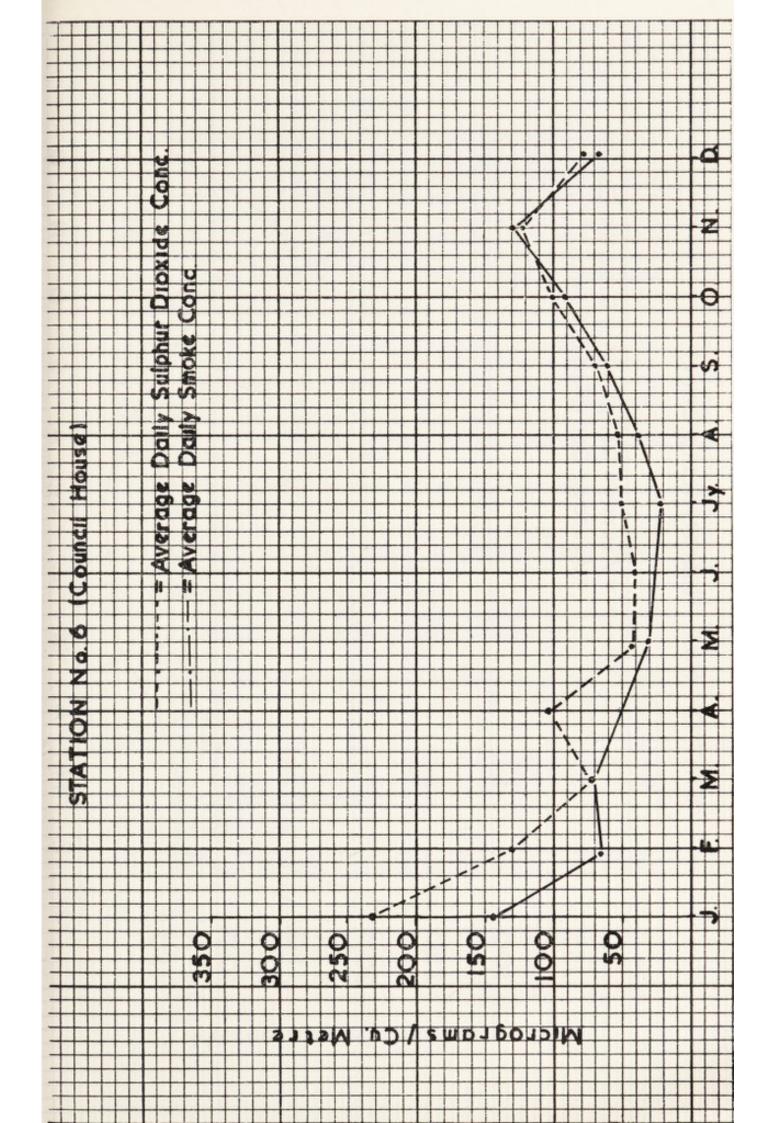
Measurement of Air Pollution

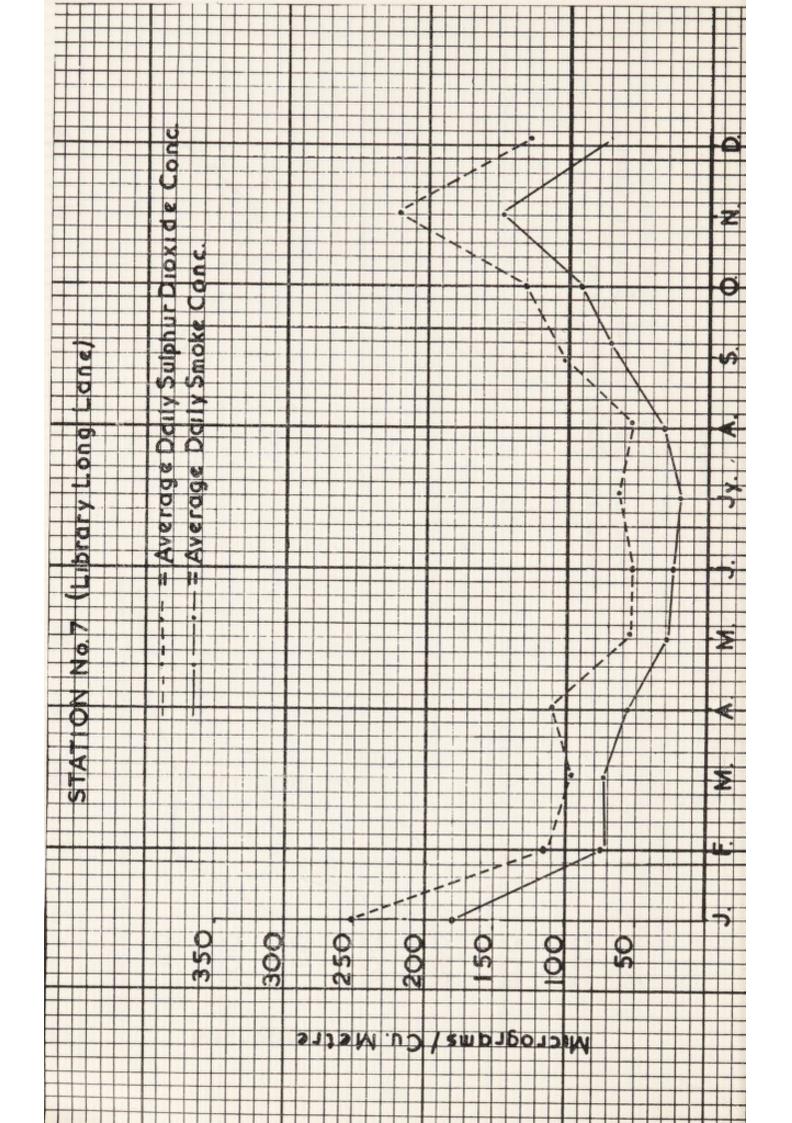
Two stations using combined smoke filter-volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus measuring the sulphur dioxide and suspended matter in the air have continued to be used. They are No. 6 situated at the Public Health Department, Council House, Halesowen, and No. 7 at the Public Library, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore.

The average daily results are given below: --

		9/		. Dec.	82	
N	129	148		Nov.	125	223
Š	91	06		Oct.	100	131
S		65	N	Sept.		105
4	39	31	ENTRATIC	Aug.	54	24
metre	22	20	E Conci	July	51	69
Micrograms per cubic metre	29	25	Dioxid r cubic	June	45	55
rams pe	52 31	29	AVERAGE DAILY SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION Micrograms per cubic metre	May	41	26
Anr	52	99	Daily S Microg	Apr.	51 41	110
Mor	71	72	VERAGE	Mar.	75	86
Foh	89	72	Ą	Feb.	131	112
Jan	148	175		Jan.	235	250
	:	:				:
Station	9	7		Station	9	7

The amount of sulphur dioxide varies according to the amount of coal used. Most of it comes from the domestic fire. This is shown on the following graphs.





NOISE

Complaints of noise have again increased during the year, particularly where factories work a night shift. Because of this increase and because of the difficulty of assessing whether a noise is a nuisance it was decided to buy measuring equipment and a number of adjoining authorities were asked to share the cost. The department continued to advise on sound insulation and methods of reducing noise at the time when plans are submitted for planning or byelaw approval. As the trend has been to erect small industrial estates of factory units it is often difficult at this stage, unless the occupier is known, to make recommendations.

Complaints of noise have all been settled by informal action with varying degrees of success. Dust extractor units have again been a major source of complaint but these units are relatively easy to silence. When buying machinery, factory management should always make certain that it is so designed and so placed in the factory that nearby residents are not subjected to any avoidable increase in noise levels.

The following were the main complaints dealt with:-

- (a) milk distribution depot
 - complaint of noise when loading and unloading operations are carried out. This is difficult to control and needs the full co-operation of the staff concerned;
- (b) manufacture of builders' ironware—
 noise from a workshop producing builders' ironware; the
 company have since moved to other premises;
- (c) foundry-

noise from a 'brightening box'; workship doors kept closed and ultimately the equipment is to be resited in a new extension;

(d) foundry-

noise from fans installed as part of a foundry modernisation scheme; two fans had silencers fitted but the results were not really successful:

(e) drop forging factory-

noise from dust extraction units which operate during the night shift; silencers have been installed but have not proved completely satisfactory;

(f) foundry-

noise from dust extraction units operating during the night shift; both units satisfactorily silenced;

(g) clothing manufacturers-

noise from the exhaust of a compressor unit; this was silenced fairly successfully;

(h) foundry—
noise from dust extraction units; all units silenced with
appropriate equipment. A larger unit operating during the
night shift had two silencers fitted;

(i) engineering works—
noise from a cold nut forming machine, lathes and capstans operating during the night shift; one workshop was insulated and a mechanical ventilation system was installed. The larger machine was remounted on resilient mountings.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Initial inspections of shops registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, continued throughout the year. Of the 327 premises registered at the end of the year, 203 of these received a general inspection, and in all 246 visits were made to registered premises in connection with the Act. Compliance with the Act by employers at the time of visit was surprisingly good and the total number of contraventions was only 70.

Analysis of contraventions:

0
1
2
4
2
3
1
1
8
8

Two accidents only were reported during the year and advice was given to help avoid similar accidents in the future.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage. Street cleaning, gulley emptying, snow removal and the management of public conveniences is under the control of the Borough Surveyor.

Refuse Collection

Due to the increase in the number of houses in the Borough brought about by boundary changes it was necessary for the number of teams engaged on refuse collection to be increased from five to six. Two of the teams consist of a driver and four loaders and the other four of a driver and three loaders. The number of bins emptied is approximately 20,000 and vehicles used are all either of fore aft tipping or compression type.

During the year there was a considerable improvement in the labour situation mainly brought about by changes in the bonus scheme. This now enables the men to attain bonus on completion of the workload and, as an additional incentive, the men are allowed to finish work when they have completed the week's collection.

Refuse Disposal

The present tip is nearing completion and it is hoped that additional land earmarked for tipping will be purchased in the near future. At the same time, preliminary discussions are taking place with the view to the construction of an incinerator to serve Halesowen and a neighbouring authority.

Provision of Dustbins

During the year the Council continued to supply $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu. ft. dustbins to domestic premises at a charge of 6s. a year which was included in the rate demand. Arrangements were, however, made for this scheme to be discontinued in the financial year commencing April, 1966, and for the cost of the bins supplied to all domestic premises to be a charge on the general rate.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

5,237	48,630	12,973	25	15.6	18,338	%56	2.5	1	13,223	100%
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	
1	!	:	:	::	:	::	:	:	:	:
10. Area (statute acres)	11. Population at 30th June, 1966 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	12. Total refuse collected (tons)	13. Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	15. Number of premises from which refuse is collected	16. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point (miles)	18. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	19. Total refuse disposed of (tons)	Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping
10.		12.	13.	4.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN
Cost Statement 1965-1966

	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
Revenue Account	131		901	
GROSS EXPENDITURE	£	4	3	%
(a) Labour	23,002	1,581	24,583	47
(b) Transport	15,171	3,477	18,648	36
(c) Plant, etc	691.1	635	8,404	91
(d) Other items	170	156	326	1
Total gross expenditure	46,112	5.849	51.961	100
GROSS INCOME	530	1,655	2,185	-
NET COST	45,582	4,194	49,776	1
Unit Costs	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Gross cost per ton, labour only	35 6	2 5	37 11	
Gross cost per ton, transport only	23 5	5 3	28 8	
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	70 3	6 4	7 97	
	£	3	3	
Net cost per 1,000 population	923	88	1,008	
Net cost per 1,000 premises	7.486	677	7/15	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse including salvage) for each resident, per week, 4.65d. Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse including salvage) for each premises, per week, 12.54d.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

SWIMMING POOL

The Council's swimming pool, opened in July, 1963, is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. It varies in depth from 3 feet to 11 feet 6 inches and holds 183,000 gallons of water. The filtration plant consists of four high pressure filters and ancillary equipment to give a complete turnover of water every three hours. Anthracite is used as the filtering media.

Water samples are taken at intervals during the day to check the water for free chlorine and pH value. Occasional samples were taken by the Public Health Department for chemical and bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory. The number of swimmers using the pool in 1966 was 174,083.

LICENSING ACT, 1961

One new application for registration was received.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS

Licences were issued in respect of 89 premises storing petroleum spirit, 38 of these relating to premises where petrol is offered for sale. 21 licences were issued in respect of premises storing petroleum mixture used in connection with industrial processes.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Six licences were issued for the keeping of pet shops.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the above-mentioned Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Treatment was carried out at 333 dwellinghouses and 56 business premises. In each case treatment was for a minor infestation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

151 visits were made to factories in connection with matters under sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act.

VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The repair and maintenance of the Council's vehicles is carried out by the vehicle repair and maintenance section of the department. The staff consists of one motor engineer, two engineering craftsmen, one skilled garage attendant and one apprentice.

By the end of the year the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced:—

Public Health Departmen	nt Highways
8 refuse freighters	l road roller
1 truck	2 road sweepers
3 vans	2 gulley emptiers
1 Austin Gypsy	4 trucks
2 tractors	1 van
1 official car	1 compressor
	1 vibrator
Housing Repairs	Parks
5 vans	1 van
1 pick-up	2 tractors
1 truck	

Vehicle Testing

The testing of vehicles in accordance with the Ministry of Transport's scheme is carried out by the Council. During the year 412 vehicles were examined, 49 of which failed the test. The main defects found in the vehicles were defective brakes (17), defective steering (39) and defective lighting (9).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Factories Act, 1961)

Reference To H.M. F Reference To H.M. F F F F F F F F F F		Number	Number of cases in which defects were found	ich defects we	re found
Found Remedied Inspector	Particulars			To H.M.	From H.M.
2 2 2 2 2 2 Number on Register Inspections N 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		Found	Remedied	Inspector	Inspector
2 2 2 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	s (S.1)	1	1	1	1
2 2 2		1	1	1	1
2 2 2		1	1	1	1
2 2 2 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —		1	1	1	1
2 2 2	s (S.6)	1	1	1	1.
2 2 2	Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
2 2	Insufficient	-	1	1	1
2 2 2 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1	ı
2 2 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	Not separate for sexes	1	1	1	1
tal 2 2 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	Other offences (not including offences to home work)	1	1	1	1
Number on Inspections Register Inspections	Total	2	2	-	-
be 7	Premises	Number on			Written
be 7 - 231 cal 238 151		Register	Inspec	nons	Nonces
cal 231 151	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	7	yaqı	hene vesa i	1
238 151		231	151		7
Total 238 151	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local				
238 151	authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
	Total	238	151		2

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUE	BLIC HEALTH ACT. 1	936					
	Drainage, public se	wers					154
	Drains						446
	Sanitary accommod	ation					1
	Nuisances (Section 93)						
	Premises						777
	Keeping of animals	****					27
	Dust or effluvia						51
	Infectious diseases						37
	Food poisoning						10
	Tuberculosis						1
	Offensive trades						1
	Verminous premises						
	Council houses						10
	Other houses						16
	Watercourses, streams						9
	Public Cleansing Dustbins						358
				****			43
	Tips	****		***			14
	Accumulations						36
	Refuse collection		****		****		8
	Trade refuse		****		****	****	0
НО	USING ACT, 1957						
110	Number of houses	inspecto	ed and	record	ed		142
	Houses in multiple						8
	Individual unfit						63
	Slum clearance				****		804
	Improvement grant	S		ripano			1,330
	0 1:			931			25
CLI	EAN AIR ACT, 1956						
	Nuisances	****					53
	Observations				****		50
	Visits to plant						27

	Atmospheric pollution measurement						485
	Smoke control are	as					6,142
Н	ousing survey	****					1,094
В	usiness premises surv	ey					639
M	oveable dwellings				em and		10
N	oise control						219
OFFIC	CES, SHOPS & RAIL	WAY	PREM	IISES	ACT, 1	963	246
PETR	OLEUM (REGULAT	TON)	ACTS,	1928	& 1936		40
PREV	ENTION OF DAMA	GE B	Y PEST	S AC	T. 1949	****	326
	ORIES ACTS, 1937-						
	With power			****	erentum 		151
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955							
	Butchers' shops				Term III		33
	Bakehouses				d.madic		1
	Cafes, canteens, etc	2.					35
	Dairies, milk shop	s	****				3
	Fishmongers, poult	erers					12
	Fried fish shops				en de la constant		4
	Food preparing pre	emises					4
	Greengrocers, fruite	erers			****		49
	Grocers		****				226
	Ice cream premises						41
	Markets		****				23
	Slaughterhouses						524
	Other food premise	S					50
	Licensed premises						51
	School canteens						9
	Street vendors						16
LAND	CHARGES			111110			560
MISCE	LLANEOUS		88		WAIA		353



