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BOROUGH OF  
HALESOWEN



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

**1968**



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# BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN



## REPORT

of the work of

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

# 1968



**THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE,  
1968**

**Chairman**

Alderman K. W. JOHNSON

**Vice-Chairman**

Councillor W. C. J. RAY, D.F.C.

**The Mayor**

Alderman K. W. JOHNSON

**Members**

Alderman C. WILLETTS, Councillors A. N. BROWN, Mrs. D. E. COOK, Mrs. C. N. C. GRAHAM, H. HITCHENS, L. HUGHES, N. G. ROUND, B. J. SHAW and P. J. WORTHINGTON

## STAFF

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

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

### **Chief Public Health Inspector :**

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

### **Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :**

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

### **Senior Public Health Inspector :**

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

### **District Public Health Inspectors :**

R. J. SHAW (d.c.)

Mrs. J. C. CUTLER (d.)

I. B. W. CUTLER (d.c.)

J. N. OAKLEY (d.) (until 2.9.68)

J. E. EVANS, B.Sc. (e) (from 2.12.68)

### **Pupil Public Health Inspector :**

C. RICKETTS

### **Technical Assistant :**

P. WATSON

### **Chief Clerk :**

N. BOOCOCK (retired 8.3.68)

L. S. QUARTLY (from 1.7.68)

### **Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :**

Mrs. P. PETERS

### **Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector :**

Mrs. V. HALL (until 20.6.68)

Mrs. P. MARSH (from 8.8.68)

### **Clerk/Shorthand Typists :**

Mrs. M. CHECKETTS

Mrs. A. WILLIAMSON (until 30.6.68)

Miss E. A. ARMSTRONG (from 12.8.68)

### **Part-Time Clerk :**

Mrs. P. MARSH (until 8.8.68)

- (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.
- (e) B.Sc., in Environmental Health.



## **ANNUAL REPORT, 1968**

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

### **Vital Statistics**

The estimated mid-year population was 51,180 as against 50,390 at the corresponding time of the previous year.

The maternal mortality rate once again is nil as it has been every year since 1960 when this rate was first recorded in the Annual Reports of the Public Health Department. It is a notable achievement for everyone connected with the maternity services that no woman has died from causes associated with pregnancy or child-bearing over such a long stretch of time and without doubt this is worthy of recognition and congratulation to all concerned.

The birth rate and the death rate in the Borough are very close to the corresponding national figures. It is, however, most gratifying to see that the Stillbirth Rate and the Perinatal Mortality Rate are very much lower than the figures for England and Wales, again reflecting credit on the obstetric services.

The Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live births, and the Halesowen figure of 8.4 is less than half of that for England and Wales (18.3). This is something that the people of Halesowen as well as their professional advisers, whether doctors, midwives, nurses, health visitors or others, may well be proud of.

### **Causes of Mortality in 1968**

The general pattern is very similar to that of recent years. The number of deaths from lung cancer (33) is the highest yet recorded. In 1950 this figure was 11, from 1950 to 1958 it stood at less than 20 each year, between 1958 and 1967 it was between 20 and 30 five times, and now for the first time it is over 30. This difference is greater than would be expected due to the increase in population which has occurred.

The linkage between cigarette smoking and cancer is by now well known but unfortunately many individuals do not accept the immediacy of that relationship for themselves, and the child or adolescent tends to think of the risk as being remote in time. Nevertheless, it is estimated that in 1967 there were about a million fewer people smoking in Britain than if the trends in 1961 had continued. This grain of comfort may encourage health educationists to redouble their efforts to bring home to the public the danger of the smoking habit, particularly in the case of cigarettes. It should also be kept in mind that cigarette smoking increases



the risk of two other killing diseases, namely coronary thrombosis and bronchitis.

### **Control of Infectious Disease**

Most of the problems in this field were in connection with gastro-intestinal infections i.e. food poisoning and dysentery. When necessary, food-handlers who were considered to be a risk from the point of view of spreading these diseases were requested to discontinue work for a time, and compensation for financial loss was paid by the Council. As well as sporadic cases of the infections in question there was one localised epidemic and this is described in the next section.

#### **Outbreak of Sonne dysentery in an Infants School**

On Friday the 2nd February, 1968 I was notified by the Head Teacher of Cradley Church of England Infants School that many children at the school were ill with diarrhoea or vomiting or both. Out of a total of 85 children at the school, 20 were absent and a further 4 children had had to be taken home during the day. The epidemic was sudden as there had been only 8 absences on February 1st.

It was not possible to trace the origin of the outbreak. Samples of the food from the school dinner of 2nd February were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, for analysis with negative result.

Faecal specimens were taken from the affected children and sent for culture. The absence rate remained high (between 27 and 36) during the week 5th - 9th February. During this week efforts were made to impress on the children the importance of hand-washing after defecation.

On February 9th the laboratory reported that many of the specimens taken were positive for *Shigella sonnei*. It was decided that for reasons of staff shortage in the Halesowen Public Health Department and fear of overburdening the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, it would not be reasonable to follow-up the infected children by taking repeated faecal specimens in each case. No child was precluded from school once free of symptoms.

The following measures were taken :—

1. The regime described by Beer, O'Donnell and Henderson in the Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service 1966, 25 36 was initiated on Monday February 12th. As recommended, plastic basins were issued, two or three per class and a 1 per cent solution of benzalkonium chloride (Roccal, Bayer) was also issued with instructions to dilute 2 oz. to a pint of water, thus the final solution was 1,000 ppm. Stocks of paper towels were placed beside the basins. All the children in the school paraded in front of the basins and each in turn held his or her hands in the disinfectant, rubbing the fingers together while the child counted up to 10 slowly and aloud. The



hands were then dried in a paper towel. Washing in the disinfectant was carried out :—

- a) When the children arrived at school in the morning
- b) Before taking mid-morning milk
- c) Before dinner
- d) Before going home.

When a child visited the lavatory the hands were always washed with soap and water there and rinsed in the benzalkonium chloride on returning to the class.

2. I took every opportunity of advising on matters of hygiene e.g. by discussions with teachers, by speaking to a group of mothers who called to take their children home in the afternoon. In addition every child in the school was issued with a copy of the following letter to take home, signed by me.

Dear Parent,

Some children at your child's school have been found to be excreting germs which can cause a mild type of dysentery. This condition is very rarely serious but it is highly infectious. Special care should be taken to prevent infection of any small babies as they are least well able to withstand illness.

The germs come from the bowel, are passed to others by touch, either directly after using the toilet and failing to wash the hands carefully, or indirectly when food is handled without first washing the hands carefully.

Thorough hand washing is the most effective defence, especially after visiting the toilet, and before meals. Hands should be scrubbed with soap and hot water for at least 30 seconds (count from 1 to 30 slowly). Children should be encouraged in this, and should be supervised whilst washing hands. Where there are very young children, particular attention should be paid to soiled nappies and toilet utensils. The possibility of contaminating lavatory chains, taps and doorknobs before washing hands should be borne in mind and when possible one hand should be kept clean for handling these fittings. The risks of contamination by towels should also be remembered.

With common-sense precautions the infection will clear quickly. In the meantime if your child has diarrhoea, vomiting or abdominal pain keep him or her away from school and notify your own doctor.

3. All the general practitioners in the area and adjoining medical officers of health were informed of the outbreak.

4. Specimens were taken from all the adults at the school as children in this age group may need help with meals, toilet, etc. A school meals supervisor was found to be excreting *Shigella sonnei* and was put off duty until a series of negative specimens had been taken. A male teacher in the adjoining junior school was also found to be an excretor: after advice on hygiene he was



allowed to continue his teaching duties but not to help with children's meals until he had submitted negative specimens.

5. Enquiries were made as to whether there were any food handlers in the households of the infected children. There was only one such case, a man who worked in a toffee factory. The Medical Officer of Health of the area in which he worked was informed and the contact submitted a faecal specimen from which no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

On Monday February 12th when the Roccal regime was started, there were only 17 absences so it appears that the epidemic was already on the wane. The attendance continued to improve, and was back to normal (8 absences) on the following Friday. The Roccal regime was continued until 8th March.

The outbreak, though troublesome and upsetting for everyone, may have served a useful purpose by impressing on all concerned, children and adults, the importance of personal hygiene.

It is interesting that there were very few children with symptoms suggestive of Sonne infection in the Cradley Church of England Junior School which adjoins and shares lavatory facilities with the Infants School. At a nearby Secondary Modern School I was told that there were no children with gastro-intestinal symptoms.

I am grateful to Miss G. Jones, the Head Teacher of Cradley Church of England Infants School, for her enthusiastic help during what was for her a very difficult period and for all the staff of the school for their co-operation.

### **Precautions against Imported Diseases**

There was one suspected case of smallpox and laboratory tests were carried out. Fortunately these proved negative.

A person suffering from typhoid fever in another borough had close family contacts in Halesowen and these were kept under surveillance for the period at which they were at risk. None of the contacts developed typhoid fever.

### **The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.**

Certain changes in the legislation regarding notifiable diseases came into force during the year.

The principal changes were :—

- (a) any obligation to notify a case of disease now rests solely on a medical practitioner.
- (b) changes and additions are made to the list of diseases which are to be notified and of the sections which apply to each disease ; in particular acute primary pneumonia,



acute influenzal pneumonia, acute rheumatism and puerperal pyrexia are no longer to be notified, and tetanus and yellow fever require for the first time to be notified.

- (c) leptospirosis, hitherto to be notified only in certain areas, is to be notified throughout England and Wales.
- (d) the powers of a medical officer of health of a district to vaccinate contacts of persons suffering from smallpox have been extended to other diseases.
- (e) all documents relating to notifications are to be treated as confidential.
- (f) the powers of a local authority to require a person to stop work, in order to prevent a spread of infection, are extended to permit action in cases of food poisoning.

### **The Halesowen Home Safety Committee**

This Committee, which is financed by the Borough Council, continued in every way possible to increase awareness of domestic hazards.

During the year, competitions based on Ro.S.P.A. picture puzzle were held in every school in the Borough. The Committee awarded prizes of £1 to schools with less than 300 pupils, £2 to schools of 300 - 900 pupils and £3 to the Halesowen Grammar School (943 pupils). The head teacher in each case was given discretion to run the competition in his own way within the school and choose the prize-winner or prize winners. In due course the Chairman of the Committee, Alderman C. Willetts, attended many prize-giving ceremonies and took these opportunities to give an address on home safety.

The project met with general enthusiasm and it was particularly gratifying that there was a hundred per cent acceptance of the offer by the schools of the Borough.

The publication of a home safety column in the "Circular" was continued during the year, the space being kindly afforded free of charge by the proprietor of the "Circular" Mr. H. Taylor.

### **Order under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948**

In the case of an elderly man who lived alone and refused to accept help from relatives or neighbours though unable to care for himself because of senility, a magistrate's order under the above act was granted on 1st January, 1968. The patient was admitted to Hayley Green Hospital and the order was renewed at intervals according to legal requirements. He died on 28th November, 1968.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health**

This post was not filled during the year.

## Acknowledgments

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 Borough Council, Dr. R. W. Markham, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Rural District Council 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.

March, 1970.



## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district .....	5237 acres
Population census, 1961 .....	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June 1968) .....	51,180
Rateable Value (31st December, 1969) .....	£2,275,469
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.) .....	£9,380
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1968 .....	17,614
Number of persons per dwelling .....	2.9

#### Deaths in Halesowen

	Male 304	Female 239	Total 543
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			10.61
Area comparability factor .....			1.12
Adjusted death rate .....			11.88
Death rate for England and Wales .....			11.9

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

#### The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1968:

##### Live Births :

Number .....	829
Rate per 1,000 population .....	16.2
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births) .....	2.29

##### Stillbirths :

Number .....	7
Rate per 1,000 total live births and still births .....	8.37
Total Live and Still Births .....	836
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) .....	7

##### Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .....	8.44
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	8.64
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) .....	4.82
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) .....	3.61

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	11.96
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 .....	12.4
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96 .....	15.55
Birth rate of England and Wales .....	16.9
Still birth rate for England and Wales .....	14.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales .....	24.7
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales .....	18.3

### VITAL STATISTICS

		Males			Females		
		Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births	...	441	433	3	388	377	11
Still Births	...	5	5	—	2	2	—
Deaths of Infants :							
Under 1 year of age		4	4	—	3	3	—
Under 4 weeks of age		2	2	—	2	2	—
Under 1 week of age		1	1	—	2	2	—

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population .....	30
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	19
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales .....	593
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (31 deaths) .....	605
Other cancer per million, England and Wales .....	1,353
Corresponding figure for Halesowen .....	1,720



CAUSE OF DEATH		Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	Age in Years 25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 and over
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
B6	Other tuberculosis, Incl. Late effects	M	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19 (1)	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	M	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	3
		F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
B19 (2)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	5	10	10
		F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	10	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	3	1	1
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
B19 (5)	Leukaemia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	1
		F	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
B19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	M	35	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	8	13	9	5
		F	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	9	-	-
B21	Diabetes mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B22	Avitaminoses, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B46 (a)	Other endocrine, etc. diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B23	Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46 (3)	Mental disorders	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46 (4)	Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
		F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2	1
B27	Hypertensive disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	M	79	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	11	30	28	28
		F	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	10	28	6
B29	Other forms of heart disease	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	11
		F	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	26	26
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	M	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	16	16	30
		F	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12	12	30

B46 (5) Other diseases of circulatory system	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	3
B31 Influenza	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	7
B32 Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
B33 (1) Bronchitis and emphysema	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
B33 (2) Asthma	M	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	12	11
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	4
B46 (6) Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B34 Peptic ulcer	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B35 Appendicitis	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B36 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B37 Cirrhosis of liver	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46 (7) Other diseases of digestive system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B38 Nephritis and nephrosis	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B39 Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46 (10) Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B42 Congenital anomalies	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B43 Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44 Other causes of perinatal mortality	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45 Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47 Motor vehicle accidents	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48 All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE50 All other external causes	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</b>	M	304	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	19	51	97	120
	F	239	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	12	32	62	120



COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESWEN

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Food Poisoning ... ..	4	2	—	2	6	3	—	6	7	4	3	13
Measles ... ..	237	294	194	511	285	794	10	545	39	699	49	679
Scarlet Fever ... ..	17	36	29	24	19	50	25	13	37	57	59	18
Typhoid ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	33	50	11	1	23	30	—	6	66	29	7	33
Dysentery ... ..	26	3	—	3	2	15	50	—	2	12	5	7
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory T.B. (new cases) ... ..	2	12	7	5	10	7	7	11	14	21	18	16
Menigococcal Infections ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	2	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	1	1	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	1
Infective Jaundice ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatal Mortality Rate ... ..	4.8	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8	14.4	16.6		
Infant Mortality Rate ... ..	8.4	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4	23.1	24.1	14.3	26.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate ... ..	11.9	22.5	18.1	31.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6	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 1968, 544 dwellings were erected, none by the local authority and 544 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1968, owned 4,684 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 the General Practitioners during 1968 was as follows:—

			<i>Primary Treatment Completed</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
Under five years	...	...	683	506
Five to 15 years	...	...	14	847
			<hr/> 697	<hr/> 1353



# Measles Notifications, 1968

	WARDS							
	Belle Vale	Cakemore	Central	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapd
								Total
January	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
February	2	—	3	1	13	11	—	30
March	1	—	14	—	10	16	3	44
April	1	—	17	3	1	—	—	23
May	6	20	9	1	3	1	—	43
June	4	21	12	—	—	—	5	42
July	9	8	3	—	2	—	1	26
August	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	4
September	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
October	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	9
November	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	5
December	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	5
	35	51	63	7	32	30	10	237

## Tuberculosis

Four new cases were reported during the year.

				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				2		2	
<i>Age Periods</i>				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
1-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
5-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
15-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
20-	...	...	...	—	—	...	1
25-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
35-	...	...	...	1	—	...	—
45-	...	...	...	1	—	...	—
55-	...	...	...	—	—	...	1
65-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
Age unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
				2	—	1	1
				—	—	—	—

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register :—

				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1967	...	...	...	70	53	7	13
1968	...	...	...	51	44	6	12

### Pulmonary Tuberculosis

<i>Year</i>				<i>New Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
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	—
1967	...	...	...	12	1
1968	...	...	...	2	1

### 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
1959	...	...	...	15	2
1960	...	...	...	27	—
1961	...	...	...	14	1
1962	...	...	...	14	2
1963	...	...	...	19	2
1964	...	...	...	15	1
1965	...	...	...	25	1
1966	...	...	...	20	4
1967	...	...	...	17	2
1968	...	...	...	27	4

# Notifiable Diseases, 1968

Disease	Age Un-										Age Un-
	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65- known
Scarlet Fever ...	17	-	-	-	-	2	9	3	3	-	-
Measles ...	237	12	24	33	30	39	96	2	1	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	33	2	4	5	2	5	14	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Meningococcal Infections ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	26	-	1	-	-	1	14	2	-	6	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Typhoid ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Public Health Department,  
Council House,  
Halesowen.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

The clearing away of houses which are now worn out and which lack basic amenities, improving sound but sub-standard houses, improving the ways in which foods are prepared and distributed, examining manufacturing processes which result in unnecessary air pollution, arranging for the collection and disposal of refuse, are all services which every inhabitant of a community expects to be carried out efficiently and economically.

It is good to record that the climate of opinion is to support those who have been campaigning for improvements in the environment and there is a growing body of opinion which suggests the need for a much greater sense of urgency. People not only want clean air, because it must surely be healthier than air which is contaminated, but they want it now; they link smoke control with better home heating, and the use of modern, efficient and aesthetically satisfying heating equipment.

In spite of the increasing amount of work in the public health field the whole of the staff, clerical, administrative and technical made important contributions to the department's activities.

I am particularly indebted to Dr. J. Twomey, Medical Officer of Health, for his help and advice, to Mr. J. B. McCooke, Town Clerk, and his staff for their willing co-operation and to all my fellow officers and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

A. ARCHER,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.



## DEMOLITION, REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The total number of houses in the Borough at the end of 1968 was 17,614 and this figure is steadily increasing as council and private development continues. There are 4,692 council houses, of which 1,766 were built before 1945.

### Slum clearance

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.

Progress from 1945 to the end of 1968 was as follows :—

					<i> dwellings</i>
undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	20
closing orders	...	...	...	...	32
demolition orders	...	...	...	...	357
clearance orders (36)	...	...	...	...	337
compulsory purchase orders (21)	...	...	...	...	394
council owned property :					
—included in clearance areas	...	...	...	...	4
—certified as unfit	...	...	...	...	34
total	...	...	...	...	1,178

Of this total of 1,178 dwellings, 1,088 have been dealt with since 1955. The main effort in slum clearance during the year has been concentrated in the Cradley and Hill and Cakemore areas of the Borough.

### Property dealt with during 1968

#### Part II of the Housing Act, 1957

					<i> dwellings</i>
houses reported as unfit	...	...	...	...	34
demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	25
closing orders made	...	...	...	...	5
undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					66
					—

# Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

The following clearance areas were declared during the year :—

	<i> dwellings</i>
Halesowen Street/New John Street Clearance Area	17
Long Lane No. 1 Clearance Area	17
Long Lane No. 2 Clearance Area	10
Long Lane No. 3 Clearance Area	6
Long Lane No. 4 Clearance Area	4
Long Lane No. 5 Clearance Area	7
Malt Mill Lane No. 1 Clearance Area	5
Malt Mill Lane No. 2 Clearance Area	37
Malt Mill Lane No. 3 Clearance Area	2
Malt Mill Lane No. 4 Clearance Area	5
Malt Mill Lane No. 5 Clearance Area	5
Cocksheds Lane No. 2 Clearance Area	12
Colley Lane No. 1 Clearance Area	5
Butchers Lane No. 4 Clearance Area	4
Lyde Green No. 4 Clearance Area	4
Butchers Lane No. 3 Clearance Area	4
Cocksheds Lane No. 1 Clearance Area	11
Hales Road Clearance Area	8
Blue Ball Lane No. 1 Clearance Area	11
total	174

The following orders were made and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government during the year :—

	<i> dwellings</i>
Furlong Lane No. 1 Clearance Order	4
Butchers Lane No. 3 Clearance Order	4
Lyde Green No. 4 Clearance Order	4
Two Gates Clearance Order	6
Beach Street Clearance Order	11
Lyde Green No. 3 Clearance Order	7
Bloomfield Street No. 1 Clearance Order	8
Hales Road Compulsory Purchase Order 1968	8
Blue Ball Lane Compulsory Purchase Order 1968	11
total	63



The following orders were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government during the year :—

	<i>dwellings</i>
Hill Street Compulsory Purchase Order, 1967	20
Blue Ball Lane Compulsory Purchase Order, 1968	11
Hales Road Compulsory Purchase Order, 1968	8
Bloomfield Street Clearance Order	8
Beach Street Clearance Order	11
Lyde Green No. 3 Clearance Order	7
Two Gates Clearance Order	6
Butchers Lane No. 3 Clearance Order	4
Lyde Green No. 4 Clearance Order	4
total	79

#### **Rehousing from slum clearance property during 1968**

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

from property dealt with under Part II	10
from property dealt with under Part III	37
total	47

#### **Dwellings demolished during 1968**

##### **Hasbury, Central and Hayley Green Wards**

40, 42, 44, 46 and 48, Cherry Tree Lane.

45, Cobham Road.

41, Alexandra Road.

12, 13 and 14, Rumbow.

2, 4 and 6, Bromsgrove Road.

##### **Belle Vale and Cradley Wards**

37 and 39, Park Lane.

##### **Hill and Cakemore and Lapal Wards**

72, 73, 74 and 75, Malt Mill Lane.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48, Coombs Wood Buildings.

112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 120, 121 and 122, Olive Lane.

1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, Gorsty Hill Road.

## **Improvement of houses**

### **Improvement areas**

Surveys have been carried out in the Hill and Cakemore and Cradley areas of the Borough and the results of these surveys are being used to draw up comprehensive schemes for general improvement of the areas concerned. Many of the older houses not affected by proposed slum clearance or redevelopment action had been improved and many others lack only one or two amenities. Most of the unimproved properties are tenanted and few owner occupiers had not made an effort to provide some standard grant amenities.

A working party consisting of representatives of the County Planning Department, Borough Surveyor's Department, Town Clerk's Department, Borough Treasurer's Department and Public Health Department has been formed to consider the problems of the Cradley District. The intention is to publish a district plan which will lay down the principles of redevelopment, improvement of houses and roads, the building of houses and improvement of shopping areas which will occur during the next few years. Before any action is taken, discussions will be held with the residents.

The piecemeal way in which slum clearance, redevelopment and house improvement has been carried out in past years has not been satisfactory and it is hoped that by co-ordinating the work of a number of departments, the working party will be able to ensure that all the work is carried out logically and progressively over a number of years.

A second area in the Borough, which has completely different problems to Cradley, is also being considered and a second working party is likely to be set up to consider this second area.

### **Compulsory improvement of houses outside improvement areas**

During 1968 one representation was received from a tenant to have a house improved. The owner gave an undertaking to provide the required facilities and applied for a standard improvement grant.

Two houses were improved during 1968 as a result of applications made in 1965.



## Improvement grants

### Standard grants

applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
1964				£		
66	59	38	7	5,500	3	35
1965						
39	37	32	—	4,737	2	30
1966						
38	35	23	—	3,857	3	20
1967						
44	42	23	—	3,373	5	18
1968						
50	41	50	1	8,353	17	33

amenities provided :—

fixed bath	...	...	...	44
wash-hand basin	...	...	...	44
hot water supply	...	...	...	45
water closet	...	...	...	42
food store	...	...	...	38

There was a noticeable increase in the number of applications for improvement grants in 1967 and 1968 and more grants were paid in 1968 than in previous years. The largest increase was in grants paid for the improvement of tenanted houses and it is hoped that the tendency for landlords to apply for grants to improve their properties will continue as surveys carried out in the Cradley and Hill and Cakemore areas show that the majority of unimproved houses are tenanted.

### Discretionary grants

applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
1964				£		
10	8	8	2	1,835	1	7
1965						
5	4	6	1	1,845	1	5
1966						
1	—	2	1	503	1	1
1967						
1	1	3	—	922	2	1
1968						
2	2	1	—	382	—	1

## Repair and maintenance of dwellings

Complaints of disrepair have been dealt with in the following manner during the year :—

Informal notices requiring work to be carried out	...	...	...	...	...	39
Statutory notices (S.93 Public Health Act, 1936) requiring repair work to be carried out	...	...	...	...	...	14

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supplied to the Borough is from boreholes at Churchill and at Hagley, and from the Hayley Green Works which is fed from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct. All the supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity and are not subject to plumbo solvency.

Only the Hayley Green works supply showed any measurable amount of fluoride, the supply being affected by the introduction of fluoride by Birmingham Corporation Water Department. The average fluoride content for the year was 0.89 p.p.m.

All the houses in the Borough are supplied direct from the public mains.

During 1968 the following samples of water were taken :—

Churchill Pumping Station	... 52 raw	52 chlorinated
Hagley Pumping Station	... 102 raw	51 chlorinated
Hayley Green Works	... 49 raw	50 chlorinated

All the treated samples were satisfactory as were the results of the chemical analysis. The following results were obtained from samples taken at Waxland Road and at the Fire Station, Hagley Road :—

	<i>Waxland Road    Fire Station</i>	
	<i>Parts per million</i>	
alkalinity ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	... 109	108
chlorides (Cl)	... 21.7	21.7
ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	... Trace	Trace
albuminoid nitrogen (N)	... Trace	Trace
oxidised nitrogen (N)	... 7.1	7.3
oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at $27^\circ\text{C}$ )	... 0.12	0.12
temporary hardness	... 103	104
permanent hardness	... 81	75
total hardness	... 184	179
iron (Fe)	... 0.01	0.02
manganese (Mn)	... Nil	Nil



The following main extensions were carried out in Halesowen during 1968:—

<i>Size of mains</i>	3"	4"	6"	9"
Central Redevelopment ...		8		
St. Margarets Well ...		122	130	
Halesmere Housing ...	64	773	124	
Graham Road ...		196		
Goss Hall ...	108	534	257	
Tanhouse Lane ...		397	302	
Park Lane ...			102	
Hilston Avenue ...	91	93		
Hagley Road ...		57		
Woodbury Road ...	40		238	
Mogul Lane ...	2	55		1
Blackberry Lane ...		235		
Cherry Tree Lane ...		83		
Woodbury Road ...	180			
Newfield Park Estate ...	65	85		
Total in yards ...	550	2638	1153	1

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The main sewerage for the Borough and the treatment of sewage is the responsibility of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority, whose district is comprised of the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge and parts of the County Boroughs of Dudley and Warley.

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

There have been no major changes during 1968 in the systems of trunk sewers administered by the Drainage Authority within the Borough. It is expected that work on the new main trunk sewers to link Manor Lane with the Authority's Rumbow and New Road sewers will begin in February, 1969, and will take approximately ten months to a year to complete.

A scheme for a new sewer to drain the Park Lane, Mogul Lane, Lyde Green and Tanhouse Lane areas is now being produced and it is anticipated that a start on this scheme will be made during 1970.



## **Sewage disposal**

The Authority's new Freehold Treatment Works at Lye provides full treatment for a maximum of nine million gallons per day. The works was commissioned in August, 1967, and is producing effluent of a very high standard. This has relieved the previous overloaded condition at the adjacent Caledonia Works, as well as providing some measure of relief at the Whittington Hall and Whittington House Sewage Farms. Sewage from the Borough is now mainly treated at the Freehold Works, although there is still some flow to Caledonia and the Whittington Sewage Farms.

## **FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

Routine inspection of food premises, including retail shops, restaurants, canteens, etc., continued throughout the year. During the latter part of the year a great deal of time was devoted to the new town centre shopping area. The shopping centre is in two distinct parts, both are pedestrian precincts, but at the moment they are divided by Hagley Street. New stock is delivered and refuse removed through rear service areas. Some of the larger stores have their own service areas and the remainder share facilities.

A new indoor retail market is also included in the centre. The usual difficulties were experienced with this centre when a developer builds a number of shop units and provides only a brick shell with a minimum of facilities. The unit may be let to any one of a number of trades and the fixtures and fittings will vary from trade to trade. On the whole shopkeepers were co-operative and provided any additional facilities asked for by the department. There is a predominance of food shops in the town with five large supermarkets and a number of smaller shops operated by either local or multiple grocers. This may seem high but Halesowen serves a fairly young and growing population who tend to shop at supermarkets and will use modern shopping facilities. Large, free car parks have also been provided which not only attracts shoppers from other areas of the town such as Cradley and Hill and Cakemore but also from Stourbridge and Kidderminster where construction of new town centres has only just started.

Even though facilities and equipment in the new shops should be first class there is always a need for advisory visits to ensure that food handling and cleanliness is up to standard. Much of the food sold in supermarkets is pre-packaged but food such as cheese, bacon and meat are often packaged on the shop premises.



## Complaints

The number of complaints received from the public remains about the same from year to year with bread containing either mould or foreign bodies forming about a quarter of the complaints.

A list of complaints is given below; legal proceedings were taken on only one occasion, when a loaf was found to contain parts of a broken thermometer. The explanation submitted by the bakery was that the small alcohol thermometer had been used by the manager to take temperature readings of small mixings of dough being made on a new mixing machine; the dough containing the thermometer was then tipped into a dividing machine whilst the manager was at another part of the plant. It was thought that the dough containing the thermometer had been destroyed.

loaves containing lumps of discoloured dough (2 complaints)

milk containing milk mould (2 complaints)

can of peas containing piece of cinder

packet of crisps which were damp and stale

malt loaf which was mouldy

lamb chop with contaminated fat

loaf containing a fly

can of corned beef with discoloured meat

can of corned beef containing boiler scale

packet of processed cheese with label moulded in the cheese

Cheshire cheese which was mouldy

can of broad beans having a peculiar smell

pasteurised milk containing small fabric purse

sterilised milk in dirty bottle

loaf containing broken thermometer

In all cases but the one already described warning letters were sent to the manufacturer or vendor concerned.

## Milk distribution

73 licences have now been issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, for the sale of milk from shops in the Borough, only two new licences being applied for during the year. As in previous years all the milk is processed and/or bottled outside of the Borough.

## Type of food premises

butchers	...	...	...	33	confectionery (bread and	
cafes	...	...	...	14	sweets)	...
fish and chips	...	...	...	15	fishmongers (wet only)	...
greengrocers	...	...	...	35	school canteens	...
grocers	...	...	...	102	works canteens	...
wholesalers	...	...	...	5	hospitals, etc.	...
bakehouses	...	...	...	1	licensed premises (including	
tobacconists					licensed restaurants	...
and newsagents			...	27		86

## Sampling of food and drugs

190 samples of foods were submitted to the public analyst during the year for chemical analysis; the samples formed a cross section of foods available to the public with special attention being given to new products appearing on the market. Only two foods, both pork sausage were found to be unsatisfactory.

### Food samples

<i>food</i>	<i>no. examined</i>
almonds ... ..	4
baking powder ... ..	2
barley ... ..	1
beverage mix ... ..	1
biscuits and flour confectionery ... ..	2
bread sauce mix ... ..	1
butter ... ..	12
cheese and cheese spread ... ..	12
chicken products ... ..	3
chocolate confectionery ... ..	4
coffee extract ... ..	1
cream and cream products ... ..	11
diet foods ... ..	3
edible oil ... ..	1
fish ... ..	1
fish (canned) ... ..	1
fish paste ... ..	1
flavouring ... ..	3
food colouring ... ..	1
fruit, dried ... ..	3
fruit juice ... ..	4
fruit pies ... ..	2
herbs ... ..	1
ice cream ... ..	3
ice cream mix ... ..	1
ice lollies ... ..	1
infant food ... ..	1
jams, mincemeat ... ..	4
lard ... ..	1
margarine ... ..	2
marzipan ... ..	1
meat paste ... ..	2
meat products, open ..	22
meat products, closed ... ..	12
milk ... ..	17
pickles ... ..	1
pie filling ... ..	1
preserves ... ..	8
ready meal ... ..	1



salad cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
sauce	...	...	...	...	...	3
sausage	...	...	...	...	...	7
shandy (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	1
soft drinks	...	...	...	...	...	1
soup (canned and dried)	...	...	...	...	...	5
spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	1
spices	...	...	...	...	...	2
sugar and sugar confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	2
table jelly	...	...	...	...	...	1
vegetables (canned, dried and frozen)	...	...	...	...	...	5
vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	2
vitamin preparation	...	...	...	...	...	1
wine	...	...	...	...	...	4
yeast extract	...	...	...	...	...	1
<hr/>						
total	...	...	...	...	...	190

### Milk sampling

In addition to eighteen samples of milk submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, thirty bottles were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples and bottles were found to be satisfactory.

### Ice Cream

Ten samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, six from ice-cream vans and four from shops registered for the sale of ice-cream. A table of results is given below:—

			Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
From vans	...	...	2	1	1	—
From shops	...	...	6	—	—	—

Grades I and II can be considered satisfactory, but Grades III and IV indicate careless practice in manufacture or handling or lack of care in cleaning the machines and equipment.

### Food condemned

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

#### *Frozen foods :*

	Quantity
poultry	250 lbs. and 114 packets
fish and fish products	230 lbs. and 833 packets
meat and meat products	202 lbs. and 583 packets
vegetables	334 lbs. and 302 packets
fruit	34 lbs. and 7 packets
desserts	25 lbs. and 364 packets
pastry	35 lbs. and 75 packets

### *Canned foods :*

fish and fish products ...	12 lbs. and 34 cans
meat and meat products	200 lbs. and 24 cans
vegetables ... ..	43 lbs. and 197 cans
fruit ... ..	80 lbs. and 106 cans
fruit juice ... ..	100 cans
desserts ... ..	11 lbs. and 19 cans
milk and cream ...	7 lbs. and 11 cans
meat and meat products	2020 lbs.
cheese and cheese products ... ..	2 lbs. and 10 packets

The large quantities of frozen foods and chilled meats condemned were due mainly to refrigerator breakdowns at the new supermarkets.

### **Meat inspection**

There are four licensed slaughter houses in the Borough and killing took place at three of them during the year. Regular slaughtering was carried out at each place usually two or three times each week. Inspections of all carcasses and offals were carried out either whilst slaughtering was taking place or immediately after. As in previous years, the quality of animals killed was very high and very little diseased meat was found. Two carcasses were affected by tuberculosis and two affected by cysticerci. In the case of the latter the beef was submitted for refrigeration.

Diseases and conditions affecting parts or organs of animals inspected :—

<i>disease or condition</i>	<i>cattle</i>	<i>pigs</i>	<i>sheep</i>	<i>total</i>
abscess ... ..	13	—	2	15
ascaris ... ..	—	32	—	32
cirrhosis ... ..	1	5	2	8
echinococcus cysts ... ..	1	—	7	8
fasciolasis ... ..	13	—	29	42
necrosis ... ..	4	—	—	4
parasites (unidentified) ... ..	8	5	21	34
pericarditis ... ..	—	1	—	1
peritonitis ... ..	1	1	—	2
pleurisy ... ..	—	1	—	1
tuberculosis ... ..	—	2	—	2
	41	47	61	149



# Details of animals slaughtered

		cattle excluding cows					pigs	sheep	calves
animals slaughtered and inspected	...	...	...	...	299	—	531	1,733	—
all diseases except tuberculosis and cycticercus bovis					—	—	—	—	—
a) whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	41	—	47	61	—
c) percentage of number inspected with disease	...	...	...	...	13.7	—	8.8	3.5	—
tuberculosis:									
a) whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	—
cycticercosis:									
a) whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
b) carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—
c) carcasses subjected to refrigeration	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—

# OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

## Registered and general inspections

<i>class of premises</i>	<i>number of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>number of registered premises at end of the year</i>	<i>number of premises receiving a general inspection during year</i>
retail shops	13	216	93
offices	2	77	28
wholesale shops and warehouses	1	9	5
catering establishments	—	51	43
fuel storage depots	—	—	—
<b>totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>169</b>

## number of contraventions of the Act found

cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	10
overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
temperature	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	12
lighting	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	3
supply of drinking water	...	...	...	...	...	2
washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
clothing accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1
sitting facilities	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
seats (sed. workers)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
eating facilities	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
floors, passages and stairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
fencing exposed parts of machinery	...	...	...	...	...	15
first aid	...	...	...	...	...	3
other matters	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<b>total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>51</b>

As in the previous year the conditions in shops and offices were good and even when employers were unaware of the existence of the Act, the premises usually complied with the relevant regulations. In no case was it necessary to resort to court action to get the necessary work carried out.



## Reported accidents on registered premises

<i>workplace</i>	<i>number</i>		<i>action taken</i>	
	<i>reported and investigated</i>	<i>informal advice</i>	<i>no action</i>	
offices ... ..	—	—	—	
retail shops ... ..	6	—	—	6
wholesale warehouses ... ..	1	—	—	1
catering establishments ... ..	2	—	—	2
fuel storage ... ..	—	—	—	—
	9	—	—	9

## Cause of accidents

<i>place</i>	<i>cause</i>
retail shops	falls of persons (4 cases) handling goods (1 case) struck by falling object (1 case)
catering establishments	fall (1 case) struck by falling object (1 case)
warehouse	use of hand tool (1 case)

All accidents were investigated to find out whether any of them could have been avoided. In no case could the accident have been foreseen.

## AIR POLLUTION

### Domestic smoke control

Two smoke control orders, Halesowen Nos. 28 and 29 which came into operation during 1968, covered 204 acres and included 1,254 dwelling houses, 73 commercial premises and 5 industrial premises. No new smoke control orders were made during 1968 because of the economic situation but two orders should be made early in 1969 and these will include approximately 1,300 dwelling houses.

More than half of the houses included in No. 28 smoke control area were council owned and the majority required conversions. The council continued the policy of installing gas fires or solid fuel room heaters but gave tenants the choice of retaining an improved inset open fire, as an alternative. The work of conversion was carried out by private contractors and supervised by the department. Altogether 316 solid fuel room heaters (boiler models) and 164 gas fires were installed with a number of tiled surrounds and gas or electric ignition. Although the council install appliances of a high standard this is not always appreciated by the tenant who would rather install an appliance of his own choice and claim grant, in much the same way as an owner occupier. This would have the advantage of not only giving the tenant what he wants but also reduces the cost of smoke control to the council.

The most significant development in the appliances field for a number of years has been the announcement of the 'National Coal Board Housewarmer' which is a built-in openable stove. The appliance has been developed to burn singles, a grade of coal readily available in the Midlands. There seems to be no doubt that the appliance can burn coal smokelessly but whether or not it will be competitive when released on the open market where the emphasis seems to be upon greater boiler output for feeding a radiator system remains to be seen.

The removal of the designation from direct acting electric fires means that electric appliances will be more competitive in smoke control areas. The following table shows that the trend towards gas continues with electricity coming a poor third behind solid fuel.

Fireplace conversions in smoke control areas <i>smoke control order</i>	(percentages)			
	<i>gas</i>	<i>electricity</i>	<i>solid smokeless fuel</i>	<i>oil</i>
No. 18 (operative date 1/10/63)	2	9	89	—
No. 25 (operative date 1/10/67)	63	3	34	—
No. 28 (operative date 1/8/68)	56.5	5	38	0.5



# Smoke control programme

	<i>dwelling</i> s	<i>acreage</i>
covered by orders operative at 31st December, 1968 ... ..	7,651	2,906
orders becoming operative during 1969 estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1969 ... ..	Nil	Nil
final objective for whole of the Borough	2,000	500
	18,375	5,237

The following table shows the progress achieved by December 1968 :—

<i>order</i>	<i>operative date</i>	<i>dwelling</i> s	<i>acreage</i>
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 ... ..	Nov., 1962	57	5
Central No. 2 ... ..	Nov., 1962	14	2
Long Innage ... ..	Nov., 1962	50	5
Dencil Close ... ..	Nov., 1962	54	4
Holcroft Road ... ..	Nov., 1962	24	3
Bath Meadow ... ..	Nov., 1962	70	4
Furlong Lane ... ..	Nov., 1962	30	2
Central No. 3 ... ..	Dec., 1962	339	19
Central No. 4 ... ..	Apr. 1963	31	2
Hawne No. 1 ... ..	Apr. 1963	8	1
No. 14 Cradley Fields ... ..	July, 1963	22	3
No. 15 Hope Street ... ..	May, 1963	65	5
No. 16 Cocksheds Farm ... ..	May, 1963	20	2 ...
No. 17 Spring Street ... ..	Sep., 1963	38	5
No. 18 Hayley Green ... ..	Nov., 1963	1,047	520
No. 19 Colley Gate ... ..	Nov., 1963	36	3
No. 20 Colley Gate ... ..	July, 1964	35	3
No. 21 Hasbury ... ..	June, 1964	51	301
No. 22 ... ..	July, 1965	1,135	322
No. 23 Lapal ... ..	Nov., 1964	554	87
No. 24 ... ..	July, 1966	578	81
No. 25 ... ..	Oct., 1967	978	1,181
No. 26 ... ..	July, 1966	71	6
No. 27 ... ..	June, 1967	133	13
No. 28 ... ..	Aug., 1968	1,191	192
No. 29 ... ..	Oct., 1968	63	13
 totals		 7,651	 2,906



## Progress at 31st December, 1968

	<i>National</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>	<i>Halesowen</i>
percentage acreage covered by confirmed smoke control areas (black areas) ... ..	40.75	30.87	55.40
percentage dwellings included in confirmed smoke control areas (black areas) ... ..	50.50	32.30	42.80

As can be seen the position in Halesowen compares favourably with the remainder of the West Midlands and with the national position, although by delaying the implementation of the smoke control programme during 1968 for economic reasons, the position is not as good as it was a year ago.

### Industrial air pollution

The amount of air pollution from traditional industrial sources such as brickworks, gas works or ironfoundries has gradually diminished during the past few years, mainly because of the closure of factories either for economic reasons or because of nationalisation. During 1968 three ironfoundries and a brickworks closed and in previous years two other brickworks, a gas works and several ironfoundries were closed.

Throughout the remaining industry there is a continuing trend for the replacement of coal or coke fired equipment with either gas or oil which is not only more efficient but also reduces air pollution when maintained and operated properly. As with all automated plant it is sometimes doubtful that proper maintenance is carried out. One obvious saving a company can make upon the installation of an automated gas or oil fired boiler is the wage of a stoker and the work previously done by this man may be done by a fitter from the maintenance section. The man will also have many other jobs and the amount of attention given to the boiler will be minimal as long as it is providing enough steam for production and heating. Two examples of this were found during the year, the first following a complaint of soot deposits on cars in an adjoining car park and the second when dark smoke emissions were noticed from a chimney serving a triple pass economic boiler. In the first case it was found that a 'soot cake' had formed at the base of the chimney and that soot particles were emitted each time the boiler ignited, the second was cured by minor adjustments to the oil burner.



A large part of industry in Halesowen can be classed as light engineering of which there are many separate small companies. A simple and relatively inexpensive way of heating the workshops is to install oil fired warm air heaters. These heaters, which burn gas oil, are quite small and have a rated capacity of less than 3,000,000 BTU's/hour. Most of the individual units do not come within the scope of the Memorandum on Chimney Heights issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but in some of the larger works the aggregate capacity of all the heaters installed may be several million BTU's/hour. One example of this is an engineering works in the Hill and Cakemore district where the total capacity of 34 heaters is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  million BTU's/hour all of which emit sulphur dioxide at a relatively low level.

The notification of new installations continues to be ignored by some companies and although legal action can be taken against the occupier of a factory for failure to notify the local authority, previous experience in the magistrates court has made officers reluctant to recommend legal proceedings.

### **Grit and dust**

The Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and Dust) Regulations came into operation on the 1st May, 1968 and shortly afterwards the Senior District Public Health Inspector attended a course organised by N.I.F.E.S. which dealt with methods for measuring grit and dust and included some practical use of equipment. The cost of purchasing grit and dust measuring equipment would be prohibitive for a small authority and the only way this could be considered would be as a joint venture with neighbouring authorities. This does not mean that the training was wasted because a company which is required to take grit and dust measurements may carry out the work themselves, engage consultants, or, if the local authority are required to do the work they may engage consultants in which case it would be essential to have staff with specialised knowledge.

The closure of small ironfoundries continues; three, operating five cold blast cupolas, closed down during 1968. The reasons for closure varied, one moved at the end of the year to larger premises in West Bromwich, the second closed the foundry for economic reasons and now buys in castings and the third closed and sold the site of the foundry for another industrial use. Six cold blast cupolas in the remaining foundries are equipped with dry arresters of varying designs and the remaining seventeen cold blast cupolas use some form of wet washing. Two foundries do all the metal melting with electric furnaces. Of the foundries operating cupolas with dry arresters only one was approached during the year about improvement of the gas cleaning equipment.

This foundry operates two quite small cold blast cupolas with a penthouse type dry arrester which was in a state of collapse; this led to complaints from the residents of a nearby council estate.



Because of this the company were asked in October 1968 to consider providing wet type arresters and to increase the height of the cupolas; a decision was expected early in 1969. Although the other dry arresters require replacement with a more efficient method of gas cleaning no approach will be made by the department until the recommendations of the Working Party studying emissions from ironfoundries is published. Some of the smaller foundries may decide to close down rather than provide new gas cleaning equipment not only because of the high cost but also because newer processes such as the use of plastics and steel are becoming more competitive and are replacing some articles made of cast iron.

One other source of dust which has caused some concern is from dust extractor units serving fettling or shot blast plant. Many of these units use cotton bags as the filtering medium which are maintained once a week. If one or more of these bags split early in the week it may not be found until the maintenance period the following weekend. Where this difficulty has arisen companies have been asked to review their maintenance methods and to use synthetic fibre (dacron, terylene) bags, which although more costly, have a longer life.

### **The measurement of air pollution**

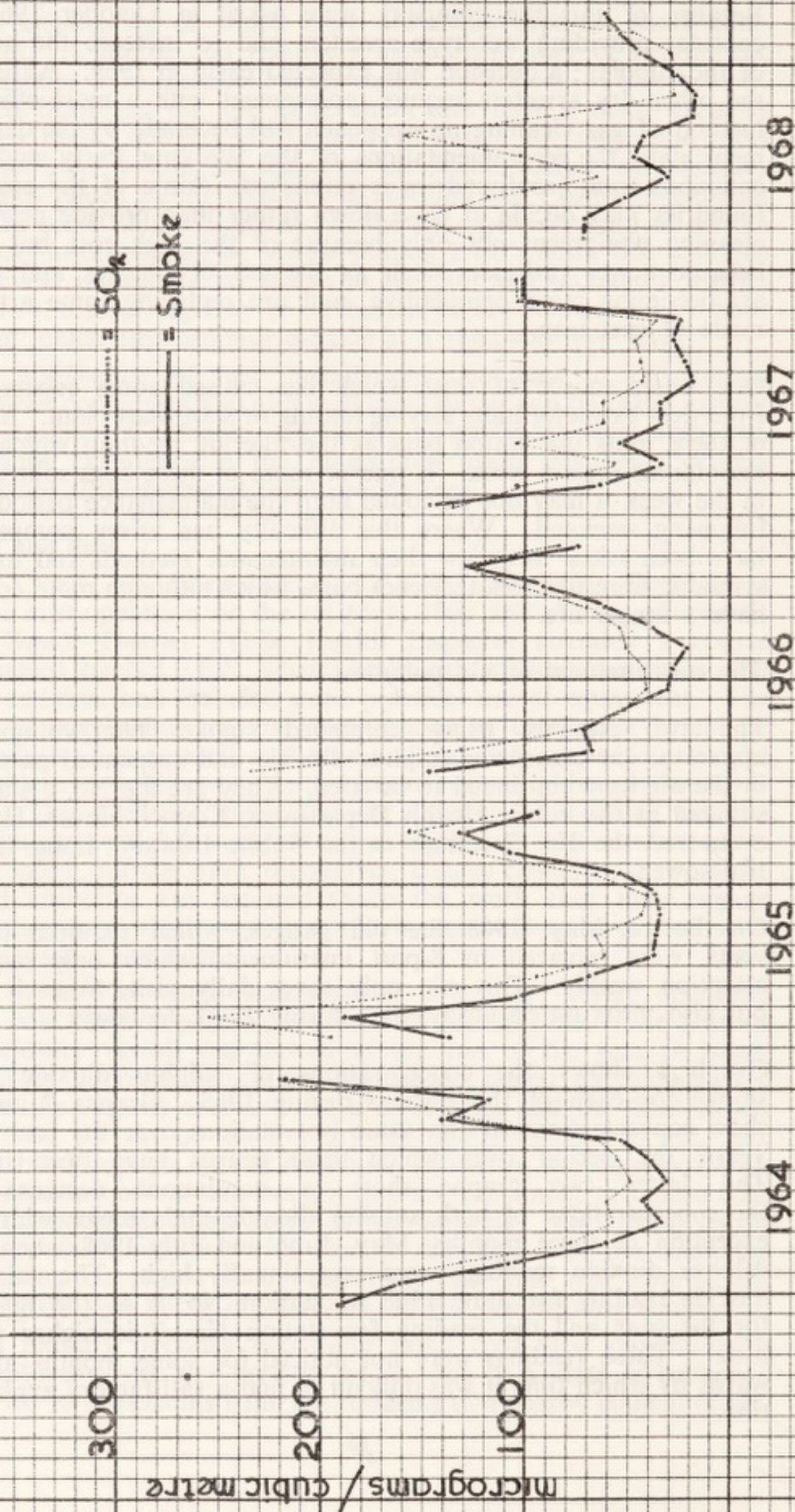
The two stations using combined smoke filter/volumetric apparatus for measuring sulphur dioxide and suspended particles in the air have continued to be used. They are the No. 6 station situated at the Public Health Department, Council House, Halesowen and the No. 7 station at the Public Library, Long Lane, Halesowen.

On the 1st May, 1968 the old gauges, which required daily visits, were replaced by 8-port instruments which only require attention weekly. This not only saves daily visits to each site but also visits on Saturdays and during Bank Holidays.

Graph 1 shows the concentrations of sulphur dioxide and smoke for each of the stations during 1968. Graphs 2 and 3 show concentrations at the same two stations over the past five years, the period over which these gauges have been used. The latter two graphs show a continuous decrease in the concentrations of both sulphur dioxide and smoke with the exception of three months, May, June and July 1968 when the sulphur dioxide readings were exceptionally high. The sulphur dioxide reading for June 1968 at station No. 6 is the highest for the year and the reading for station No. 7 is higher than usual. These readings were not noticed for some months afterwards by which time it was difficult to find a satisfactory explanation.

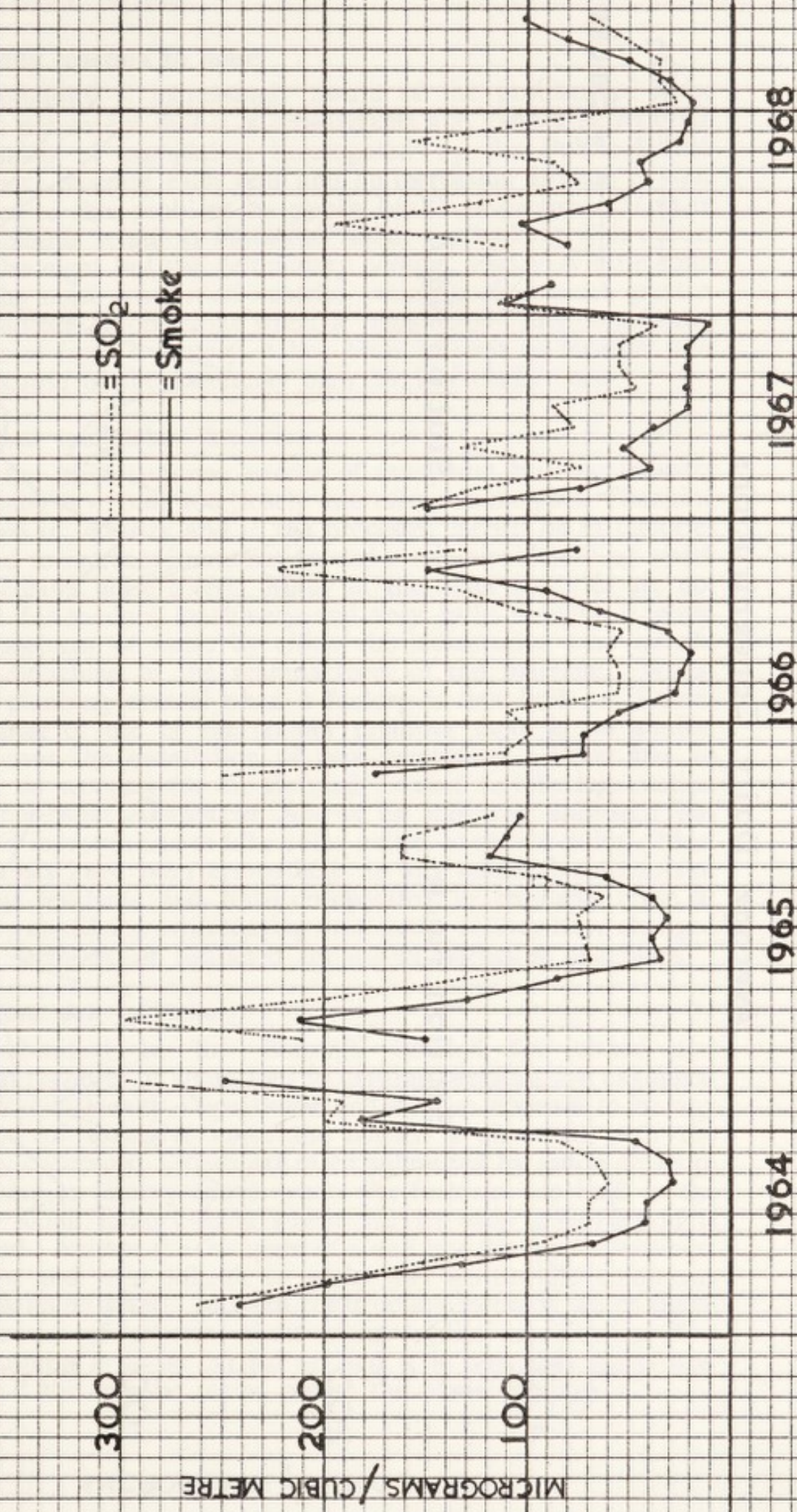


# Station No. 6 - Average Daily Concentrations - 1964-68





Station No.7 - Average Daily Concentrations - 1964-68





# Average Daily Concentrations

MICROGRAMS / CUBIC METRE

300

200

100

Station No. 6

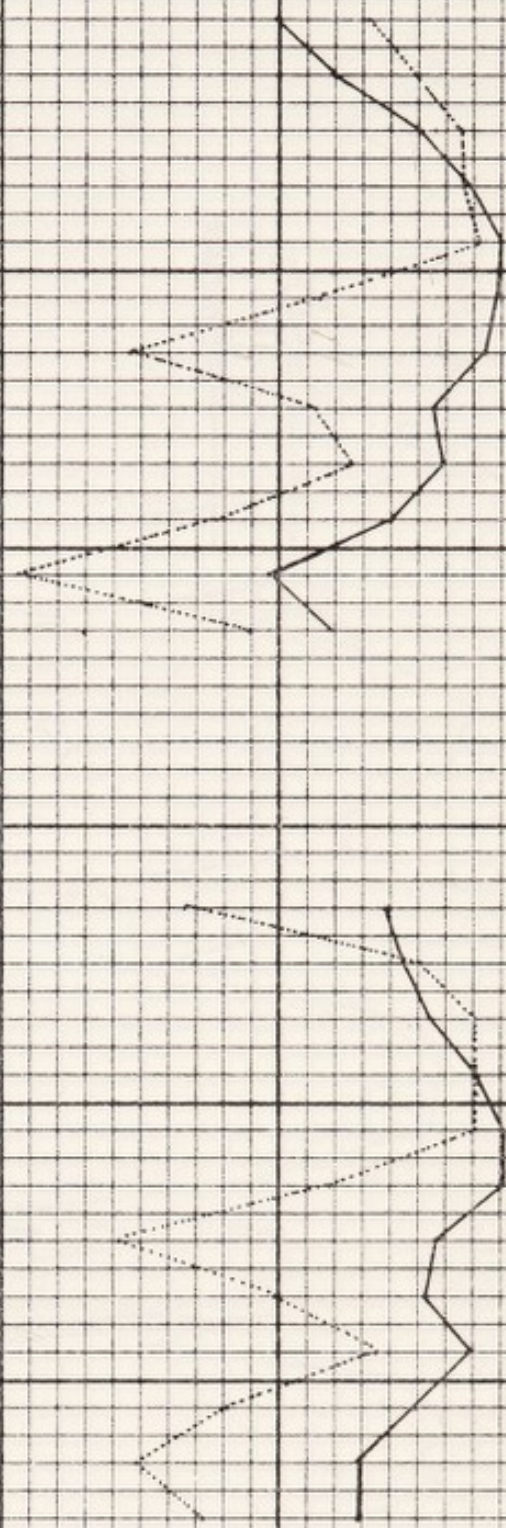
Station No. 7

— — — — — =  $\text{SO}_2$

————— = Smoke

J F M A M J J A S O N D

J F M A M J J A S O N D





## **INDUSTRIAL NOISE**

### **Community reaction to noise**

The community is increasingly aware of the problem of noise and does not accept that it is unavoidable and cannot be reduced. The number of complaints investigated by the Public Health Department increase each year and an increasing amount of time is devoted to this problem by public health inspectors. Most of the complaints relate to industrial noise, particularly if it occurs during the night but the community accepts, with very little complaint, the noise from road vehicles, which is often much greater. On a number of occasions when a householder has complained about noise from a factory it has been difficult to measure this noise because of the extremely high level of traffic noise.

### **Noise from established factories**

This is the most common source of complaint because industry and housing have been too closely intermixed in the past. Changing techniques in industry and in the processes carried on in factories have led to increased automation and mechanical handling which often increases noise levels. Many of the older factories are not designed for modern machinery and very little thought is given to the problem of noise by either the industrialist who installs the new machine or the manufacturer of the machine. Whilst there is planning control when a factory is first built or if there is a change of use of the factory premises there is no similar control over the installation of new machinery. There has so far been no necessity for the Borough Council to take legal action under the Noise Abatement Act as an informal approach has prompted industrialists to take some action to reduce noise. Most industrialists have been sympathetic to any reasonable complaint made by residents and have co-operated in reducing noise at source by modifying or insulating machinery, or they have changed working methods, or restricted the use of particular machines.

### **Noise from new factories**

Plans submitted to the Borough Council for either new industrial premises or alterations to existing premises are examined by the Public Health Department and if there appears to be any likelihood of excessive noise the matter is discussed with the company concerned. Plans are often submitted by estate developers relating to factory estates where the factories are built in the form of small factory units which are let after construction is completed. Neither the occupant of a unit nor the type of business is known and it is difficult to make any worthwhile comments at the planning stage. Modern construction methods which make extensive use of asbestos sheet often require modification if a noisy business is to be carried on and it is obviously easier and cheaper if this can be sorted out at the planning stage.



## Measurement of noise

The Halesowen Borough Council together with three neighbouring authorities have purchased a sound level meter which is now extensively used. A survey was commenced at the beginning of 1969 in which sound level readings have been taken at points throughout the Borough, firstly on a grid system, and secondly around factories where there is or where there is likely to be a noise problem. Efforts will be made to either maintain or reduce these noise levels during the next few years.

British Standard 4142 Method of Rating Industrial Noise Affecting Mixed Residential and Industrial Area has been used extensively and is a useful guide when establishing whether or not noise is likely to give rise to complaint. Like all publications of this sort it is limited in use and cannot take account of all circumstances and assumes that complainants are all average unbiased people.

A reduction in noise levels may well satisfy British Standard 4142 but may not remove the annoyance as far as a complainant is concerned. It is difficult to see how any national standard can be adopted because noise is so subjective.

## Training of staff

Three public health inspectors have attended specialist courses on noise control.

## Typical complaints

Some typical examples of complaints and the various remedies are given below :—

- a) drop forging factory : noise from hammers (all hammers were properly mounted)—number of hammers was reduced.  
Noise from the burners of the oil forge furnaces—this matter was taken up with the manufacturers and the British Drop Forging Association but they were unable to reduce the noise.
- b) iron foundry : noise from fans to the gas cleaning equipment serving cold blast cupolas : silencers fixed.
- c) drop forging factory : noise from fans of dust extraction units : silencers fixed.
- d) engineering works : noise from transport in the early hours of the morning : delivery schedule re-arranged so that no lorries left the factory during the night.
- e) engineering works : noise from cold heading machines : workshop insulated and an insulated enclosure built around the machine.
- f) milk delivery depot : noise from the handling of crates of milk bottles in the early hours of the morning : circular sent to the staff concerning reducing noise : steel wire crates being replaced with plastic crates.

## CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

### Abandoned vehicles

A local authority's powers under the Civic Amenities Act and the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulation 1968 came into operation on the 27th January, 1968 but the power under the Civic Amenities Act 1967 to remove motor vehicles did not become a statutory obligation until the 27th July 1968.

During the year seven vehicles were removed.

At the present time a low loader is used to transport vehicles to the council's refuse tip but as this is a most unsatisfactory method there are plans to purchase a freight-loader which will handle motor vehicles more easily. Although this vehicle will be useful to remove abandoned vehicles promptly and easily, this is not its primary purpose and it is hoped that private scrap merchants will agree to both collect and dispose of vehicles in the future.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

During the year the services continued to function satisfactorily. Adjustments were made to the refuse collection service to cater for the continuing growth of the Borough. Household refuse is collected by six teams, four of the teams consist of five men and two or four men. The vehicles are all rear loaders, three being compaction type and the remainder fore and aft tippers, and it is hoped during the next few years to complete the change-over to compaction type vehicles. It was possible throughout the year to maintain a weekly collection from all household premises.

Trade waste is collected and a reasonable charge made, the charge being based on quantity and frequency of collection. Traders may use either ordinary dustbins or one and a quarter cubic yards containers, which are supplied on a rental basis. In spite of the arrangements trade waste continues to be a problem especially in the town centre. The main difficulty is not collection but storage at the respective premises. Although the council have made the necessary provisions, far too many traders regard the storage and collection of their waste as something which need not be taken into account in the organising of their business. Only when faced with an unsightly and sometimes offensive accumulation do they take the trouble to find out what arrangements can be made to dispose of the refuse, such enquiries invariably being in the way of a complaint as to the lack of facilities provided by the authority.

During the year a bulk container vehicle was ordered for delivery early in 1969. This vehicle will be used both for trade waste and to assist in collecting 10 cubic yard containers placed at vantage points in the Borough, for use by the general public in accordance with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act. This vehicle will eventually be used for the collection of abandoned vehicles, special collection of bulky articles from household premises and collections from premises such as schools, etc. which at the present time use a number of ordinary dustbins or paper sacks. Discussions with the Borough of Stourbridge continued during the year with a view to a joint incinerator project and subject to loan sanction being obtained it is hoped to erect the incinerator by March 1973. In the meantime, by agreement, Stourbridge Borough will use the refuse tip at Halesowen.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN**  
**Cost Statement 1968-1969**

	collection	disposal	totals	percentage of total gross expenditure
<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>				
Gross expenditure	£	£	£	%
(a) labour	26,298	2,111	28,409	47
(b) transport	17,584	6,418	24,002	40
(c) plant, etc.	5,795	2,287	8,082	13
(d) other items	241	180	421	—
Total gross expenditure	49,918	10,996	60,914	100
Gross income	2,197	2,390	4,587	—
Net cost	47,721	8,606	56,327	—
<b>UNIT COSTS</b>				
gross cost per ton, labour only	s. d. 39 7	s. d. 3 2	s. d. 42 9	
gross cost per ton, transport only	27 6	9 8	36 2	
net cost (all expenditure) per ton	71 10	12 11	84 9	
net cost per 1,000 population	£ 932	£ 168	£ 1,100	
net cost per 1,000 premises	2,362	426	2,788	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident : per week, 5.07d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each premises : per week, 12.83d.



## OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11.	Population at 30th June, 1968 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	5,237
12.	Total refuse collected (tons)	...	...	...	.....	...	51,180
13.	Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	...	...	...	...	...	13,279
14.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	...	...	25
15.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	14.2
16.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly (%)	...	...	...	...	...	20,195
17.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point (miles)	...	...	...	...	...	100
18.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	...	...	...	...	...	2.5
19.	Total refuse disposed of (tons)	...	...	...	...	...	—
20.	Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping (%)	...	...	...	...	...	13,480
							100

## 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 foreman, 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 Department*

9 refuse freighters  
3 vans  
1 Austin Gypsy  
2 tractors  
1 official car

### *Highways Department*

2 road rollers  
3 road sweepers  
2 gully emptiers  
4 trucks  
1 van  
1 compressor  
1 vibrator

### *Housing Repairs Department*

5 vans  
2 trucks

### *Parks Department*

1 van  
2 tractors

## Vehicle testing

During the early part of the year minimum requirements were raised for equipment facilities and staff carrying out vehicle testing under the Ministry of Transport scheme. In view of this and the increased cost involved the council discontinued testing vehicles after the 31st March, 1968.

For the period 1st January, 1968 to 31st March, 1968, however, 58 vehicles were examined, 3 of which failed the test. The main defects found in the vehicles were defective brakes (3), defective steering (3), and defective lighting (2).



# **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS** (Factories Act, 1961)

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				
	<i>found</i>	<i>remedied</i>	<i>to H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>reference from H.M. Inspector</i>	
want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
ineffective draining of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	7	7	-	-	4
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
other offences (not including offences to home work)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Premises</i>	<i>number on register</i>	<i>inspections</i>	<i>written notices</i>		
factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	7	-	-	-	-
factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	252	126	-	-	-
other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>totals</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## **PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 and 1936**

During 1968 all the 103 premises which store petroleum or petroleum mixtures were visited. All but five of the installations had some defect which ranged from having no legible copy of Section 2 (4) of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts 1928 on the premises, to using portable electric fires near petrol pumps. A second visit later in the year revealed that all but a number of minor faults had been remedied.

## **RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964**

Two licences were issued authorising the use of the premises in accordance with the above-mentioned Act.

## **DRAINAGE**

Two notices were served in 1968 requiring work to be carried out in connection with the drainage of properties.

Public Health Act, 1961, Section 17 (clearing of drains) ...	1
Public Health Act, 1961, Section 18 (repair of drains) ...	1
	<hr/>
total	2

Clearing of obstructed drains at private dwellings is carried out by the Public Health Department workmen as a free service to the public.

total number of obstructions cleared in 1968	...	...	262
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## **RODENT CONTROL**

Infestations are dealt with following complaints and each complaint may require several visits. There was a slight increase in complaints received in 1968 compared with 1967.

number of complaints from domestic premises ...	...	370
number of complaints from industrial premises ...	...	46
		<hr/>
total complaints treated in 1968	...	416

## **KEEPING OF ANIMALS**

An informal notice was sent during 1968 ordering the removal of a nuisance caused by the keeping of a goat in unsatisfactory conditions.



## RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts						
drainage, public sewers and drains	...	...	...	...	...	366
Nuisances						
premises	...	...	...	...	...	719
keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	18
dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	...	16
Public cleansing						
dustbins, salvage, trade waste	...	...	...	...	...	21
tips and accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	31
refuse collection survey	...	...	...	...	...	361
Verminous premises						
council houses	...	...	...	...	...	9
other houses	...	...	...	...	...	47
offensive odours	...	...	...	...	...	7
moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	10
watercourses and streams	...	...	...	...	...	5
infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	60
food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	119
Housing Acts						
number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	58
houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	...	23
overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	2
individual unfit	...	...	...	...	...	77
slum clearance	...	...	...	...	...	1,548
Rent Restriction Acts						
improvement area	...	...	...	...	...	4
improvement grants	...	...	...	...	...	840
housing survey	...	...	...	...	...	355
Clean Air Act						
smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	57
observations	...	...	...	...	...	55
visits to plant	...	...	...	...	...	65
atmospheric pollution measurements	...	...	...	...	...	276
smoke control areas	...	...	...	...	...	3,645

Noise Abatement Act							
noise control visits and measurements	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Factories Acts							
factories with power	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	247
Food and Drugs Act (Food Hygiene Regulations, etc.)							
butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
cafes, canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
dairies, shops selling milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
food preparation premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	224
other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
school canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
street vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Land Charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,019
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	175









