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**BOROUGH OF  
KIDDERMINSTER**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

ON THE WORK OF THE  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR THE YEAR

**1950**

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.,  
(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.,  
(Chief Sanitary Inspector)









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(*Chief Sanitary Inspector*)

REPORT OF  
THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT

1898

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# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1950-1951.

---

*Chairman* - - - COUNCILLOR DR. R. F. LURRING

*Vice-Chairman* - - - COUNCILLOR W. P. HILL

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman J. Ferguson, M.M., J.P.)

Alderman D. SAMUEL. Councillor H. G. PARKER.

Councillor F. BROADBENT. „ R. A. RICKETTS.

„ S. K. CATTELL. „ A. C. ROWLEY.

„ A. H. HUMPHRIES. „ B. THOMPSON.

„ D. KITELEY. „ G. WASE.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.

PUBLIC ANALYST :

M. M. LOVE, F.R.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR :

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND FOOD AND DRUGS  
INSPECTOR :

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

J. WHITTINGSLOW, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

H. H. COUTTS, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

Resigned July, 1950.

R. J. LEWIS, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Appointed November, 1950.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1950 and 1949.

	1950	1949
Area of district in Acres .. .. .	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1931 .. .. .	28917	28917
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate .. .. .	37700	37280
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated ..	10543	10700
No. of Persons per House .. .. .	3.57	3.48
Rateable Value .. .. .	£195347	£195347
Sum Represented by Penny Rate ..	£777	£756
Number of Marriages .. .. .	389	569
Number of Live Births .. .. .	597	702
<b>Birth Rate</b> (Live and Still) .. .. .	16.23	18.82
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live and Still) .. .. .	16.17	16.7
Number of Illegitimate Births .. .. .	41	53
Number of Deaths .. .. .	461	471
<b>Death Rate</b> .. .. .	12.22	12.63
Death Rate for England and Wales ..	11.6	11.7
No. of Deaths under one year of age ..	29	23
Of these there were Illegitimate .. ..	2	3
<b>Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births</b> ..	47.40	32.76
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	29.8	32.00
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .. .. .	2	Nil
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	18	15
No. of Deaths from Cancer .. .. .	70	82
No. of Deaths from Influenza .. .. .	10	9
No. of Deaths from Measles .. .. .	Nil	1
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	Nil	5
Rainfall in inches .. .. .	22.66	19.46

Year	Births	Deaths	Births over Deaths increase
1942 .. .. .	670	384	286
1943 .. .. .	681	430	251
1944 .. .. .	730	418	312
1945 .. .. .	715	424	291
1946 .. .. .	749	396	353
1947 .. .. .	800	453	347
1948 .. .. .	730	383	347
1949 .. .. .	702	471	231
1950 .. .. .	597	461	136

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

TOWN HALL,  
KIDDERMINSTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This report shows the diversity of subjects dealt with by the Public Health Department, and although we can never show a monetary profit, a study of the body of this report will show that your Health Department is working hard to maintain and improve the present hygiene and health of the Borough, and that in so doing it is making an essential contribution to the welfare and happiness of its inhabitants.

By far the most pressing problem is that of "Housing." We know of very many cases of overcrowding and in several instances of there being literally nowhere except a Public Institution for people to live in.

The population in the borough increased naturally by 136, the smallest natural increase for many years, but there was an estimated increase of over 400 due to immigration. There were 161 new houses built in the borough during the year, or just about enough to accommodate the increased population. The urgency of this problem of building houses quickly cannot be overstressed.

The general health of the town as shown by various notifications has been good but there have been increases in the Infantile Mortality Rate, the Maternal Mortality Rate and the number of Tubercular patients notified. The housing department has performed a very great service by giving priority to tubercular patients.

Of the infectious diseases, tuberculosis was the most serious and caused 18 deaths.

Several contacts with smallpox cases had to be followed up, and one case of suspected smallpox caused much work in the health department until the case was proved not to be smallpox.

Tables and comments giving details of the various aspects of the work dealt with are to be found in the following pages and for easy reference there is an index on page 3.



## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1950.

<b>Total Births</b> (Live and Still)	.. .. .	612
<b>Birth Rate</b>	.. .. .	16.23
<b>Birth Rate</b> (England and Wales) (Live and Still)	..	16.17
<b>Total Live Births</b>	.. .. .	597
<b>Birth Rate</b> (Live)	.. .. .	15.83
<b>Birth Rate</b> (England and Wales) (Live)	.. .. .	15.8
<b>LIVE BIRTHS :</b>		
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate .. ..	304	252
Illegitimate .. ..	25	16
		<i>Total.</i>
		556
		41
<b>STILL BIRTHS :</b>		
Legitimate .. ..	7	8
Illegitimate .. ..	Nil	Nil
		15
		Nil
<b>Deaths</b> .. 461	<b>Death Rate</b> .. ..	12.22
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1950	.. .. .	11.6
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions		36.65
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth	{ from sepsis .. { from other causes	Nil 3
<b>Maternal Mortality Rate</b> (per 1,000 Total Births)	..	4.90
<b>Maternal Mortality Rate</b> (England and Wales)	.. ..	0.86
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—</b>		
Legitimate .. 27	Illegitimate .. 2	Total
		29
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births</b>	..	47.40
„ „ „ „ (England and Wales 1950)		29.8
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	44.11
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	3.26
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	70
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	2

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1950 are as follows :—

Under 1 year .. .. .	29
Between 1 and 2 years .. ..	1
Between 2 and 5 years .. ..	Nil
Between 5 and 15 years .. ..	2
Between 15 and 25 years .. ..	10
Between 25 and 45 years .. ..	22
Between 45 and 65 years .. ..	110
65 years and upwards .. ..	287
	<hr/>
	461
	<hr/>



## NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death	Male	Female
1.—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	6
2.—Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	1	1
3.—Syphilitic Diseases .. ..	Nil	Nil
4.—Diphtheria .. ..	Nil	Nil
5.—Whooping Cough .. ..	Nil	Nil
6.—Meningococcal Infections .. ..	Nil	Nil
7.—Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	Nil	Nil
8.—Measles .. ..	Nil	Nil
9.—Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	Nil
10.—Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach ..	8	Nil
11.—" " Lung, Bronchus	12	Nil
12.—" " Breast ..	Nil	7
13.—" " Uterus ..	Nil	5
14.—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. ..	18	20
15.—Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .. ..	Nil	1
16.—Diabetes .. ..	Nil	Nil
17.—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	21	46
18.—Coronary Disease Angina .. ..	32	19
19.—Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	2	3
20.—Other Heart Disease .. ..	22	45
21.—Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	7	7
22.—Influenza .. ..	4	6
23.—Pneumonia .. ..	9	10
24.—Bronchitis .. ..	12	18
25.—Other Diseases, of Respiratory System	5	1
26.—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	4	1
27.—Gastritis and Diarrhœa .. ..	1	1
28.—Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	8	7
29.—Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	3	Nil
30.—Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ..	Nil	3
31.—Congenital Malformations .. ..	3	1
32.—Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	23	30
33.—Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	6	1
34.—All other accidents .. ..	2	1
35.—Suicide .. ..	1	3
36.—Homicide and Operations of War ..	1	Nil
TOTAL ..	218	243

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

### *Laboratory Service.*

The standing arrangements with the County Analyst have remained in force. The Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, is available for examination of medical specimens.

The Medical Practitioners of the Borough have also used the laboratory at the General Hospital. Specimens for examination have been referred through an Honorary Physician in the Out-Patients Dept.

### *Ambulance Facilities.*

Since 1st April, 1947, the Ambulance Service has been provided by the Worcester County Council. Non-infectious cases and accident cases have been provided for.

### *Nursing in the Home.*

The Kidderminster Nursing Association has provided District Nurses as well as District Midwives in the Borough.

The Home and Domestic Help Scheme which commenced in November, 1947, continued to function under the supervision of the Worcestershire County Council.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name	Situation and Time of Session.	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	(1) Prospect Lane, Thursday 2-4 p.m. (2) Mill Street, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (3) St. Oswald's, Monday 2-4 p.m. (4) Sutton Park, Monday 2-4 p.m. (5) Franche Clinic, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (6) Families Camp, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (7) Coventry Street, Thursday 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster General Hospital, Thurs. 2-4 p.m. and at 6.30 p.m. Tues.	County Council
Venereal	Kidderminster General Hospital, Monday 2.0 p.m. Thursday 5.0 p.m.	County Council
Ante-Natal	Monday Session at Coventry Street Clinic 2-4 p.m. Friday Session at Stanmore Nurses Home 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic	Kidderminster General Hospital, Weekly, Wednesday 11 a.m.	County Council



### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Prospect Lane and Mill Street Clinics, Kidderminster, were closed when the new Centre at Coventry Street opened in April, 1950. This new centre has one Ante-Natal and one Infant Welfare Session weekly at which a Medical Officer is in attendance.

On 15th March, 1950, a new Infant Welfare Clinic opened at the Families Camp, Jubilee Drive, for the use of mothers living in the district. The clinic is open one session each week and the Medical Officer attends on alternate weeks.

Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics.

<i>Clinic</i>							<i>Total Attendance</i>
Prospect Lane	..	..	..	..	..	..	540
Mill Street	..	..	..	..	..	..	603
Franche	..	..	..	..	..	..	613
St. Oswald's	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,322
Foley Park	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,393
Coventry Street	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,879
Families Camp	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,198
Ante-Natal. (99 Sessions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,503
Sewing Class	..	..	..	..	..	..	509
Total Attendances at Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,560

The work of the Health Visitors is summarised in the Table below :—

Visits to babies : First	..	..	..	..	..	1,012
Subsequent	..	..	..	..	..	2,034
Visits to Children over 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	7,763
Special cases	..	..	..	..	..	486
Infant Life Protection Visits	..	..	..	..	..	17
Diphtheria Immunisation—completed	..	..	..	..	..	292

### Infant Deaths.

Of the 597 babies born alive, 29 died before they reached the age of one year.

Death occurred in 17 of these babies before they were 4 weeks old.

An analysis of the causes of death as far as may be ascertained, is as follows :—

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Number</i>
Prematurity	8
Congenital Defect	8
Rhesus incompatibility	2
Broncho Pneumonia only	7
Gastro-Enteritis	2
Intussusception (Intestinal obstruction)	1
Violence (fractured skull)	1

Three deaths were of congenitally weak triplets.

In 24 instances the baby was in hospital or Maternity Home when death occurred.

Only six of the deaths occurred in occupants of very sub-standard property and 14 occurred in families occupying very good houses, (new Corporation houses or privately owned houses).

The following table shows the ages at which death occurred :—

Under 1 Week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
15	1	1	Nil	17	5	5	1	1	29

### Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

#### PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	23	11	—	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	175	10	—	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding out-workers premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL .. ..		198	21	—	—	



## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	7	7	—	7	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ..		7	7	—	7	—	

**Hospitals.**

Since 5th July, 1948 the Hospitals and Maternity Home and other Institutions have been administered by the Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of Greenhill Hostel which is still a voluntary Institution.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The sources of water as detailed in the Report for 1933 are still in use and constitute the main supply, with an additional supply from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct, the minimum agreed supply to be 8,000,000 galls. per annum. To connect up the latter three miles of 9 in. main were laid to our service reservoir with four direct connections along its route into the town distribution.

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made fortnightly (weekly in the hot months). Chlorination is permanently carried out, and its efficacy checked by bacteriological examination of tap samples from various points in the town. The results of examination has always shown the water to be fit for use.

As the local well-water supply is hard (average total hardness about 21) and the subsidiary Elan supply is specially treated at its source, the question of plumbo-solvency does not arise.

### TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES DURING 1950.

*(Full chemical analysis here).*

Samples taken from Borough Main Wells	..	92
Samples taken from taps at various premises	..	55
Samples taken from Reservoir	.. ..	43
Samples taken from Private Wells	.. ..	1
		<hr/>
		191

### Housing.

Number of houses built by Private Enterprise	..	24
Number of Prefabricated Houses (temporary, etc.)	..	Nil
Number of Permanent Houses built by Local Authority		135
Number of non-traditional houses	.. ..	2

There is a waiting list of about 1,410 applicants for Corporation houses. One hundred and sixty-one have been built in the Borough during the year 1950.

The actual increase in population, not considering immigration, was 136 in 1950. Houses condemned as unfit must still be used because there is no alternative accommodation for their inhabitants.

The necessity to build many more houses as quickly as possible, is outstanding in this Borough. The moral, mental and physical state of many families is being damaged because there are insufficient decent houses available.



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1950.

### *Measles.*

36 cases were notified, 3 cases were admitted to hospital, no death occurred.

*Whooping Cough.* 40 cases with no deaths.

It is hoped that more children will be immunised against Whooping Cough in the near future.

*Scarlet Fever.* 73 cases—no deaths.

Scarlet fever has been mild in type. 34 cases sent into hospital were admitted chiefly on account of environmental factors and not essentially because the patient required hospital treatment.

*Acute Poliomyelitis.* 6 cases.

These cases all recovered but with some degree of residual paralysis.

*Diphtheria.* No cases of Diphtheria occurred.

Immunisation has been carried out at all the clinics attended by the Medical Officer except during the months of July, August and September, when unfortunately it had to cease temporarily on account of the prevalence of Anterior Poliomyelitis, and such was the scare created by this disease, that parents are still reluctant to have their children immunised even in the absence of Poliomyelitis.

The numbers innoculated were—under 5 years 292, over 5 years 72. Total 364.

Since 1937, there have been only 2 deaths from Diphtheria in the Borough, both in non-immunised children.

The following table is noteworthy.

Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

Year.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Mortality rate.	Immunised Children.	
				Cases.	Deaths.
1935	74	13	17.5	—	—
1936	56	5	8.9	1	—
1937	35	1	2.8	—	—
1938	41	3	6.3	—	—
1939	6	—	—	—	—
1940	7	—	—	*2	—
1941	8	—	—	—	—
1942	9	—	—	—	—
1943	9	—	—	—	—
1944	8	—	—	—	—
1945	13	1	—	—	—
1946	11	1	9.0	—	—
1947	2	—	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	—	—
1949	2	—	—	—	—
1950	—	—	—	—	—
	281	24	—	3	—

\*Two "carriers," at the Public Assistance Hospital evacuated from Birmingham after the blitz.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Totals Deaths</i>
Diphtheria .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever .. ..	73	34	Nil
Enteric Fever .. .. (including Paratyphoid) ..	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	3	Nil
Pneumonia .. ..	16	4	19
Anthrax .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas .. ..	3	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Polio-encephalitis ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Polio-myelitis .. ..	6	6	Nil
Malaria .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough .. ..	40	9	Nil
Measles .. ..	36	3	Nil
Meningitis .. ..	2	2	Nil



**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.**

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	Diphtheria
0-1 years ..	1	6	—	1		
1-3 years ..	6	12	3	6		
3-5 years ..	11	12	1	7		
5-10 years ..	32	8	—	22		
10-15 years	17	1	1	—		
15-25 years	4	—	—	—		
25 & over ..	2	1	1	—		
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—		
Total ..	73	40	6	36	Nil	Nil

Age Groups	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Menin-gococcal Infection	Para-Typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0-5 years ..	1	—	1		3
5-15 years ..	1	—	1		—
15-45 years ..	3	1	—		—
45-46 years ..	6	2	—		—
65 years and over	5	—	—		—
Age Unknown ..	—	—	—		—
Total ..	16	3	2	Nil	3

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**

3 cases were notified during 1950.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

There were 35 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1950 :—  
34 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 Non-Pulmonary.

These figures are not large, but since Tuberculosis is in the category of Preventable diseases, they are too large.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
1945	28	22	4	4	.75
1946	24	22	5	1	.64
1947	26	15	2	4	.52
1948	24	15	3	3	.48
1949	22	14	6	1	.39
1950	34	16	1	2	.47

The visit of the Mobile Mass X Ray Unit enabled more early cases to be detected and so raised the number of notified new cases to 35.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 1 year .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years .. ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10 to 15 years .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years .. ..	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 to 25 years .. ..	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35 years .. ..	4	6	—	—	3	1	—	—
35 to 45 years .. ..	1	4	—	—	1	2	1	—
45 to 55 years .. ..	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years .. ..	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards .. ..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS .. ..	14	20	1	Nil	10	6	1	1

## DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Sterilisation of blankets was carried out at the Blakebrook County Hospital.

Disinfestation and disinfection was undertaken by the Health Department, on account of the following :—

Diphtheria .. ..	2 cases.
Tuberculosis .. ..	31 cases.
Cancer .. ..	3 cases.
Bugs .. ..	61 cases.
Flies .. ..	11 cases.
Fleas .. ..	18 cases.

In addition, the slaughterhouse, the British Restaurant, the School Canteen, Butcher's Premises, Clinics and Offices were sprayed with D.D.T. to protect against flies.

*Catering Establishments and Flies.*

The Health Department has tried to eliminate flies from food shops, cafes, hotels and other places where food is handled or exposed. The use of D.D.T. has been demonstrated and explained to the owners of such establishments.

*Food Preparation.*

In spite of radio, press and other propaganda there is still very much carelessness and ignorance shown in the handling of food, both in the homes and in public places.

The adoption in May, 1950, by the Borough Council of Byelaws, for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air, should help to improve the handling of food.

The Health Department is consistently demonstrating, explaining, urging and even threatening in an endeavour to improve the town's catering. The danger lies in apathy and ignorance of the principles of hygiene, often very elementary, but so often neglected.



## CONCLUSION.

A brief summary of the Borough's health shows :—

General Health	..	..	Good.
Epidemics	..	..	Nil.
Birth Rate	..	..	Decreasing.
Death Rate	..	..	Stationary.
Infant Death Rate	..	..	Increased.
Maternal Mortality	..	..	Increased.
Nutrition of babies and children	..	..	Good.

### *Housing.*

Once more in this report the necessity of building many more houses as quickly as possible cannot be too strongly urged.

### *Maternity Service.*

There are still many mothers-to-be who cannot enter Maternity Homes because of insufficient accommodation. There is obviously an unsatisfied demand for more maternity beds.

### *Child Welfare.*

Future improvements would be :—

- (a) Short term residential nursery accommodation.
- (b) Nursery schools or classes.
- (c) Convalescent Home for many more sick children, especially after acute illness and surgical operations.
- (d) Increased immunisation against infectious disease, particularly diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis.

### *Food.*

There is a great need for more knowledge of and better practice in the clean handling of food.

My thanks are gratefully given to the members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year, and also to my staff at the Health Department for their un-failing work and ever loyal and willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

## Meat and Food Inspection.

The duties of Meat Inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse, Lion Square, have again been rigorously pursued during the year.

Set out below is a synopsis of the work for the year 1950.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	2,222	1,224	1,589	8,953	92
Number inspected .. ..	2,222	1,224	1,589	8,953	92
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	21	44	199	168	27
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	873	544	6	1,632	29
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .. ..	40.2	48.0	12.9	20.1	62.0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	27	55	4	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	303	339	1	—	3
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis	14.9	32.1	0.3	—	3.2



## MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1950.

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Tuberculosis .. .. .	27	2	33
Distomatosis, Cirrhosis .. .. .	7	9	60
Physiological Poorness .. .. .	5	9	19
Johnes Disease, Emaciation, Dropsy .. .. .	5	8	46
Bruising, Injury .. .. .	2	13	56
Dropsy, Emaciation .. .. .	1	11	22
Parasitic Cysts .. .. .	1	2	25
Angiomatosis .. .. .	1	2	81
Moribund, Decomposing .. .. .	1	9	56
Immaturity .. .. .	1	0	11
Pyogenic Abscesses .. .. .		16	8
Septic Peritonitis .. .. .		12	16
Jaundice .. .. .		11	47
Septicaemia .. .. .		10	99
Septic Pericarditis .. .. .		9	11
Septic Metritis .. .. .		8	110
Septic Pleurisy .. .. .		8	103
Advanced Disease of Kidneys .. .. .		8	63
Nephritis, General Dropsy .. .. .		7	9
Strongylosis .. .. .		6	34
Pyaemia .. .. .		6	97
Pleurisy .. .. .		4	109
Haemorrhage (Parturition) .. .. .		4	71
Swine Erysipelas .. .. .		4	58
Actinomyces .. .. .		4	34
Pneumonia .. .. .		2	83
Hypoderma Bovis Infestation .. .. .		2	48
Lymphadenitis .. .. .		2	6
Pyaemic Poly-arthritis .. .. .		1	100
Peritonitis .. .. .		1	85
Melanosis .. .. .		1	66
Brine Contamination .. .. .			108
Bone Taint .. .. .		4	29
Septic Enteritis .. .. .			90
Pericarditis .. .. .			74
Uraemia .. .. .			57
Nephritis .. .. .			53
Parasitic Infestation (Sheep) .. .. .			46
<b>Total Weight Condemned .. .. .</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>107</b>

## OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

1885	Tins of various Foodstuffs.	16½ lbs. Fat.
571	Pkts. of various Foodstuffs.	12½ lbs. Butter.
233	Bottles and Jars of various Foodstuffs.	11½ lbs. Bacon.
25½	Stone Fish.	36 pints milk.
163	lbs. Dried Fruits.	16½ Galls. Synthetic Cream.
158	lbs. Semolina.	4½ Galls. Ice Cream.
131	lbs. Pearl Barley.	1632 blocks Wrapped Ice Cream.
115	lbs. Sausage.	510 Assorted Cakes.
82	lbs. Bread.	174 Small Trifles.
70	lbs. Toffees.	96 Crumpets.
28	lbs. Cooked Meats.	72 Bread Rolls.
25	lbs. Cheese.	703 Eggs.

## SUMMARY.

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned .. .. .	62	4	45
Grand Total Weight (Meat) Condemned .. .. .	61	13	107
Grand Total Weight (Tuberculosis) Condemned .. .. .	27	2	33

## SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (7 YEARS).

1944 — 1945 — 1946 — 1947 — 1948 — 1949 — 1950.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.					AMOUNT OF MEAT CONDEMNED.					
Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected			Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis		
					T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1944	2,886	12,690	145	966	27	8	1	12	16	1
1945	3,246	8,613	489	1,037	38	4	0	18	4	1
1946	4,510	12,231	189	1,433	46	7	2	21	9	2
1947	2,939	7,657	116	1,211	43	1	0	19	4	1
1948	2,725	7,503	125	1,462	36	13	3	17	15	1
1949	2,817	9,534	227	1,703	55	8	2	23	19	2
1950	3,446	8,953	92	1,398	61	13	107	27	3	1

## REMARKS :

These premises were taken over by the Ministry of Food in January, 1940, to serve Kidderminster Borough and four adjoining districts. Previously the premises were used by the local Co-operative Society solely to serve their own shops.

In my report for last year, I drew attention to the lack of accommodation and other inadequacies at the Regional Abattoir in Kidderminster. A scheme for increasing the accommodation and effecting many improvements was prepared by the Ministry of Food and (briefly) provides for :—

- (a) Increased lairages.
- (b) Complete reconstruction and recovering of front yard.
- (c) Increased hanging rails.
- (d) Provision of mess-room for employees.
- (e) Installation of gas boiler for hot water.
- (f) Increased and improved artificial lighting.

At the time of going to press these improvements were well under "way."

No food is rejected unless there is definite evidence that it is unfit for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No food is destroyed but is disposed of to the Waste Product Merchants (contractors to the Ministry of Food) for Animal Foods or Industrial purposes.



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD)**  
**REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.**

**CLEAN FOOD BYE-LAWS.**

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1950 ... 173  
 Milk, 78 (informal), Ice-Cream, 64, Sausages, 30, Molasses 1.

**Action taken regarding samples not genuine.**

Sample No.	SAMPLE OF	RESULT, ACTION, ETC.
921	Milk (Informal) ..	Repeat Samples Genuine.
922	" " ..	" " "
958	" " ..	" " "
961	" " ..	" " "
982	" " ..	" " "
926	Sausages ..	" " "
1186	" ..	" " "

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.**

Sample	No. Sub- mitted	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
<b>Designated Milks :</b>			
T.T. (Cert.) .. .. .	3	3	..
T.T. .. .. .	11	11	..
Accredited .. .. .	5	5	..
Pasteurised .. .. .	25	25	..
T.T. Pasteurised .. .. .	9	9	..
Sterilised .. .. .	10	10	..
Non-Designated .. .. .	12	12	..
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>

**MILK—BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION (For Tubercle Bacilli).**

Nature	No. Sub- mitted	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Ungraded .. .. .	7	7	0

**DETAILS OF MILK DISTRIBUTED.**

No. of Distributors (excluding shops selling sterilised milk only) 31

**No. of Licences Issued.**

T.T. Milk	(a) Bottling 4.	(b) Distribution 4.
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution 2.
Accredited Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution 1.
Pasteurising Plants 2.	Retail Distributors 4.	
Sterilising Processing Plant 1.	Retail Distributors 43.	

**ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947.****Ice Cream.**

The operation of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations has resulted in an increased number of samples being taken. It is pleasing to record that of the 64 samples submitted for examination, only 1 was low graded (Bacteriologically). Prompt action was taken by the Department in this case, and repeat samples submitted. Details of samples and registrations are set out below.

**No. of Registrations for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Ice-Cream.**

Manufacturers (Heat Treatment)	..	..	1
„ (Complete cold-mix only)	..	..	8
Premises (other than above) where bulk ice-cream is sold	..	..	13
Premises where wrapped ice-cream only is sold	..	..	63
„ „ „ „ and bulk is sold	..	..	16

**1. Ice Cream—Chemical Analysis.**

No. No. Submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
64	64	—

**2.—Ice Cream—Bacteriological Examination.**

No. Submitted	GRADES			
	1	2	3	4
64	55	8	0	1
Percentages ..	85.93%	12.5%	0	1.57%

The results for 1950 are very satisfactory.



### Common Lodging Houses.

In my report for 1949, I mentioned that two Common Lodging Houses were being dealt with for structural defects and insanitary conditions. These same houses terminated their use as Common Lodging Houses during the year 1950. Thus we erase from our Register, two houses, which for some time past had been a source of anxiety to the Department. We have now only three of these houses left in the Borough.

### Bakehouses and Food Premises.

The inspection of premises used for carrying on the trade, business and preparation of food for human consumption, has again been carried out during the year. Particular attention has been directed to sanitary and hygienic standards practised. Although some improvement in structure, equipment and methods have been noted, there is still room for considerable improvement, especially as regards the handling and transport of foodstuffs. Mainly due to the operation of the Clean Food Bye-Laws, an intensified campaign of inspection of all Cafes, food preparing places, was commenced during the latter part of the year.

### Offensive Trades.

The following list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades :

Fish Friers	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Gut Scraper	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tripe Boilers	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hide and Skin Trades		..	..	..	..		1

### Disinfestation of Premises, Clothing, etc.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, mainly combating the more common house pests, viz. : bed bugs, fleas, cockroaches, etc.

The method used chiefly is by spraying infested premises, furniture and other fittings with an insecticide containing D.D.T. Where possible, such fittings as picture rails, skirting boards, architraves and wallpapers are removed, so as to effectually facilitate the work.

It is still the practice of the Department to supply insecticides to the Public, and to loan sprays.

Number of houses disinfested by Local Authority 79.

# 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	243
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		590
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.. .. .	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. .	22

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITH- OUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. .. .	179
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### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	59
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	55
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

#### Summary of Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects) ..	97
Intimation letters sent ( <i>re</i> sanitary defects) .. ..	75
Statutory notices served (for housing defects) ..	37
Reminder Notices served (for housing defects) ..	8

### PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal).

	£	s.	d.
*The cost of collection and disposal of salvage and refuse for the year 1950 was .. .. .	21,437	0	0
*The income was .. .. .	7,629	0	0
The net cost being ..	13,808	0	0

*\*Financial Year ended 31st March, 1951.*

#### SALVAGE.

The total WEIGHT of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1069 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc., etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £6,367.

Total number of Loads taken to Main Salvage Depots 2,497.

#### KITCHEN WASTE.

Collected and disposed of for sterilised Pig and Poultry Food.  
Weight : 363 tons, 10 cwts., 3 qrs.

## RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Month	Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
January .. .. .	77	15	0	458	8	5
February .. .. .	78	3	1	491	19	8
March .. .. .	113	12	1	708	16	1
April .. .. .	88	2	0	463	17	7
May .. .. .	85	16	1	470	15	4
June .. .. .	84	12	2	463	18	7
July .. .. .	75	4	0	415	12	7
August .. .. .	103	0	0	517	19	5
September .. .. .	92	10	3	501	11	0
October .. .. .	88	15	2	634	16	0
November .. .. .	102	4	3	705	16	3
December .. .. .	79	17	2	533	18	8
TOTALS .. .. .	1069	13	3	£6367	9	7

The weights of the salvaged materials have been segregated and are set out below.

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .. .. .	530	7	3	3144	7	8
Heavy Scrap .. .. .	17	16	3	44	11	9
Baled Tins .. .. .	58	2	1	126	14	0
Textiles .. .. .	26	7	1	311	3	6
Household Bones .. .. .	1	12	0	9	10	10
Cullet (Broken Glass) .. .. .	62	10	2	141	3	0
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .	2	19	3	108	10	0
Bottles and Jars .. .. .	5	12	1	38	7	2
Miscellaneous .. .. .	—	—	—	54	2	0
Rubber .. .. .	—	14	2	1	19	0
Kitchen Waste .. .. .	363	10	3	2387	0	8
TOTALS .. .. .	1069	13	3	£6367	9	7

## COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE.

Total No. of loads of Refuse removing (all vehicles) .. .. .	7331
Closet Pans emptied .. .. .	3872
Loads of Night Soil removed .. .. .	52

## Disposal of Household Ashes.

Tipped at Broadwaters .. .. .	1088
Tipped at Puxton .. .. .	218
Tipped at Hoobrook .. .. .	2707
Tipped at Worcester Road .. .. .	821
Total .. .. .	4834



## RODENT CONTROL.

There has been a marked decrease in the number and size of the infestations this year. Routine surveys have been carried out and followed by treatments as and where necessary.

Owing to the continued success of the yearly contract system with shops and factories, an increase in the number of contracts for 1950 will be noticed.

Special mention must be made of the excellent co-operation and help which has been received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Division) during the year.

Below are statistics which summarise briefly the work of the Rodent Operatives during 1950.

### RODENT CONTROL OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR 1950.

Premises Surveyed and Treated.	Total No. Treated	Method.	Notes.
Corporation Properties, including Tips .. ..	18	Zinc Phosphide or Arsenic	These premises receive treatment every three months.
Corporation Sewers—Manholes	250	Ditto.	Treated twice in the year.
Individual Business Premises on Contract.	23	Ditto.	Including 6 of the largest factories.
Block Control—Consisting of an average of 30 houses and business premises per block.	87	Ditto.	Approx. 800 bodies picked up. 55 Houses treated for Mice.

Total number of actual bodies picked up during the year :—800.

Total number estimated killed during the year :—3,000.

## RAINFALL.

YEARS 1949 AND 1950.							
Monthly	Inches			RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS			
	1949	1950		Years	Inches		
January ..	.53	.70		1940 .. ..	28.19		
February ..	.61	3.88		1941 .. ..	26.44		
March .. ..	1.71	1.20		1942 .. ..	22.01		
April .. ..	2.00	1.55		1943 .. ..	23.43		
May .. ..	2.59	1.70		1944 .. ..	24.50		
June .. ..	.18	1.27		1945 .. ..	20.45		
July .. ..	.99	2.36		1946 .. ..	31.80		
August .. ..	1.06	2.27		1947 .. ..	23.41		
September ..	1.31	1.88		1948 .. ..	27.62		
October .. ..	4.53	.67		1949 .. ..	19.46		
November ..	2.75	3.89		1950 .. ..	22.66		
December ..	1.20	1.29					
Total ..	19.46	22.66		Average .. ..	26.99		

## MORTUARY.

During the year 27 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

## CONCLUSION.

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton and the staff for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.









