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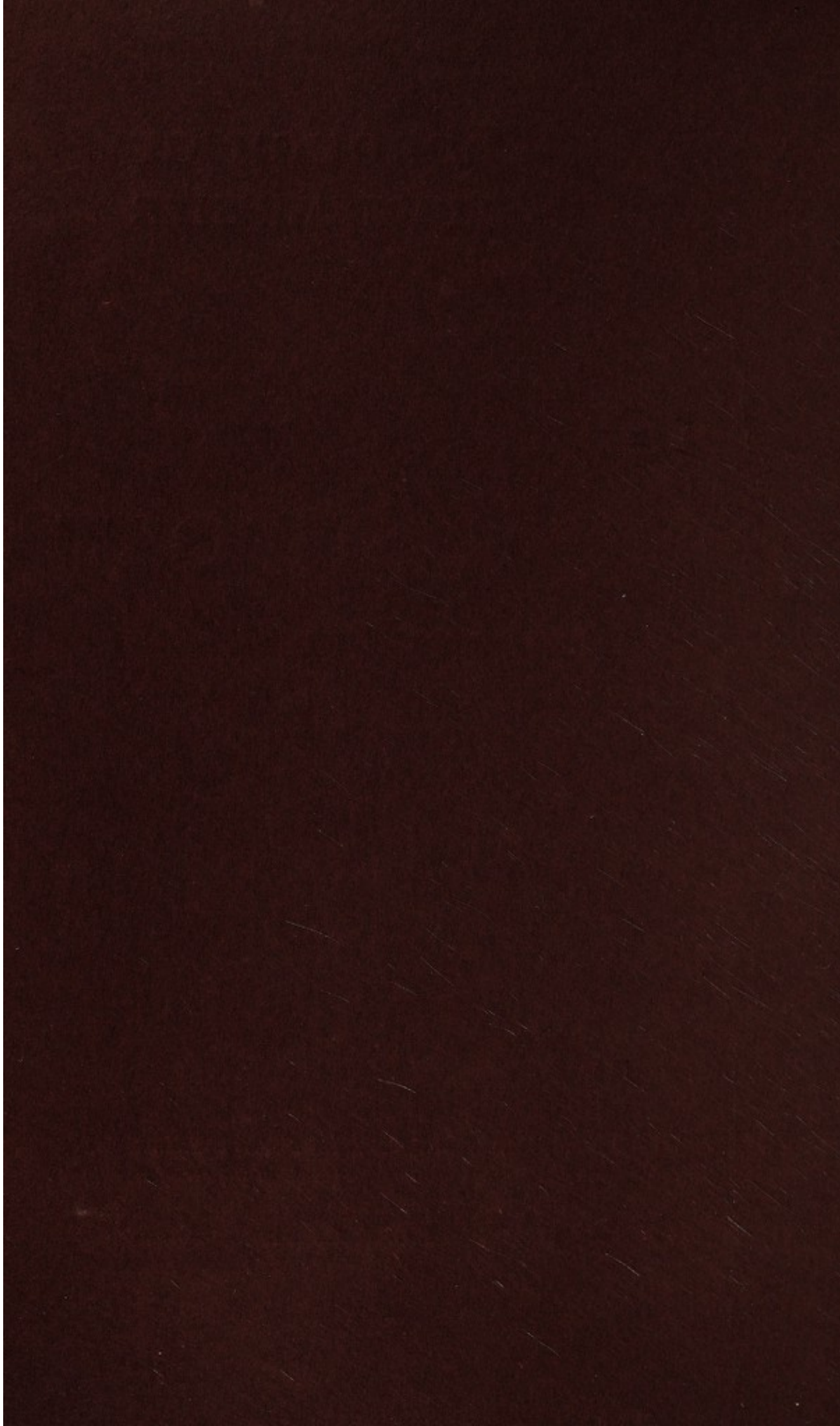
**BOROUGH OF
KIDDERMINSTER**

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR
1951.

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.,
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1951-1952.

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.

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

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1951 and 1950.

	1951	1950
Area of district in Acres	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1951	37423	28917
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate	37390	37700
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated	10750	10543
No. of Persons per House	3.48	3.57
Rateable Value	£198177	£195347
Sum Represented by Penny Rate	£793	£777
Number of Marriages	400	389
Number of Live Births	645	597
Birth Rate (Live and Still)	18.25	16.23
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live and Still)	15.86	16.17
Number of Illegitimate Births	42	41
Number of Deaths	512	461
Death Rate	13.61	12.22
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.5	11.6
No. of Deaths under one year of age	26	29
Of these there were Illegitimate	2	2
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	40.3	47.40
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	29.6	29.8
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil	2
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	9	18
No. of Deaths from Cancer	72	70
No. of Deaths from Influenza	29	10
No. of Deaths from Measles	Nil	Nil
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough	1	Nil
Rainfall in inches	32.57	22.66

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
1951	645	515	130

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

TOWN HALL,
KIDDERMINSTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Public Health is so much a part of every aspect of life that it should be considered in relation to the social and economic aspects of the times.

This country has not yet recovered from the upheaval of World War II. The World is divided into two political camps, viz., the Russian dominated group and the "rest."

War is being waged now in Korea, Indo-China and Malaya. Nearer to us, Europe is sharply divided by the so called "Iron Curtain."

Atomic weapons are being developed in various parts of the world, and atomic energy is on the point of being used for useful purposes also. The threat of total atomic war has had a great influence on social conditions including public health.

This country has had to embark on a re-armament programme and on Civil Defence activities at a time when its resources were at their lowest ebb. This has interfered with the production of houses, schools and other social amenities, including many articles in everyday use where only "Seconds" or "Minimum Quotas" have been available on the home market.

Many goods are still rationed and the cost of living has been continuously rising.

There has been virtually no unemployment, and in spite of high prices the general standard of living has remained good.

This is reflected in the general health of the community which, on the whole, has been satisfactory.

It is against this background of national and world events that the Public Health of Kidderminster is recorded. In this record

I have included a graph showing the annual infant death rate since 1890 (p.23) which shows clearly the great saving in infant life brought about by the general application of medical and social knowledge during the last sixty years.

A most important event has taken place during the year. I refer to the taking of a census of the population. The last census was made in 1931 and showed the Borough's population to have been 29,521. The 1951 census shows an increase of nearly 8,000 to a figure of 37,423. During this 20 year period there has been an increase of nearly 3,000 houses in the Borough, most of them having been built before 1940.

Lack of sufficient houses is still the most pressing social and health problem to be solved.

The pages of this report deal in some detail with the many and varied sides of public health work, but inevitably they present only a skeleton framework which must be clothed by the knowledge and insight of the reader, if a full appreciation of the department's work would be obtained.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1951.

Total Births (Live and Still)	..	..	..	..	675
Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	18.25
Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Live and Still)	..				15.86
Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	645
Birth Rate (Live)	..	..	..	..	17.25
Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Live)	..	..			15.5
LIVE BIRTHS :					
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	317	291		608
Illegitimate	..	20	17		37
STILL BIRTHS :					
Legitimate	..	14	11		25
Illegitimate	..	4	1		5
Deaths	..	512.	Death Rate	..	13.61
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1951	..		..	..	12.5
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions					31.02
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth	[		from sepsis	..	Nil
			from other causes	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births)	..				Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	..	..			79
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—					
Legitimate	..	24	Illegitimate	2	Total 26
Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births	..				40.03
„ „ „ „ (England and Wales 1951)					29.6
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	39.47
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	54.05
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	72
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..			Nil

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1951 are as follows :—

Under 1 year	26
Between 1 and 2 years	2
Between 2 and 5 years	3
Between 5 and 15 years	2
Between 15 and 25 years	4
Between 25 and 45 years	27
Between 45 and 65 years	89
65 years and upwards	359
	<hr/>
	512
	<hr/>

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death	Male	Female
1.—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3
2.—Other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	2
3.—Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
4.—Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
5.—Whooping Cough	Nil	1
6.—Meningococcal Infections	2	Nil
7.—Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
8.—Measles	Nil	Nil
9.—Other infective and parasitic diseases	Nil	Nil
10.—Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach ..	5	4
11.— „ „ Lung, Bronchus	8	2
12.— „ „ Breast ..	Nil	11
13.— „ „ Uterus ..	Nil	4
14.—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	25	13
15.—Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	4	1
16.—Diabetes	2	3
17.—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	27	36
18.—Coronary Disease Angina	25	11
19.—Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	3	6
20.—Other Heart Diseases	35	47
21.—Other Circulatory Diseases	12	13
22.—Influenza	12	17
23.—Pneumonia	10	12
24.—Bronchitis	14	22
25.—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	4
26.—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	4	3
27.—Gastritis and Diarrhœa	Nil	1
28.—Nephritis and Nephrosis	8	4
29.—Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	Nil
30.—Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ..	Nil	Nil
31.—Congenital Malformations	3	4
32.—Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	27	31
33.—Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1
34.—All other accidents	2	8
35.—Suicide	2	3
36.—Homicide and Operations of War ..	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ..	245	267

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) St. Oswald's, Monday 2-4 p.m. (2) Sutton Park, Monday 2-4 p.m. (3) Franche Clinic, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (4) Families Camp, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (5) 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
Family Planning Clinic	Coventry Street Clinic, Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Family Planning Assoc.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The five Infant Welfare Centres situated at Coventry Street, Broadwaters, Birchen Coppice, Foley Park and Franche, have continued to provide adequate facilities for infant welfare work in all areas of the town.

The attendances at the various clinics were as follows :

<i>Clinic</i>							<i>Total Attendance</i>
Franche	..	..	..	..	..	..	957
St. Oswald's	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,350
Foley Park	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,170
Coventry Street	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,065
Families Camp	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,316
Ante-Natal. (100 Sessions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,600
Sewing Class	..	..	..	..	..	..	759
Total Attendances at Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,217

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

Visits to babies : First	..	..	..	..	..	617
Subsequent	..	..	..	..	..	2,152
Visits to Children over 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	5,382
Special cases	..	..	..	..	..	240
Diphtheria Immunisation—completed	..	..	..	..	..	429

Infant Deaths.

I regret to record the death of 26 infants, before they reached the age of 1 year. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 40.3 per 1,000 live births and compares unfavourably with the Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 29.6 per 1,000.

An analysis of the causes of death is as follows :

<i>Causes of Death</i>							<i>Number</i>
Congenital Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Infectious	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Congenital causes of death, among which 10 are ascribed to "prematurity," account for the majority of infant deaths.

Twenty infants died before they were 4 weeks old. Twenty-three babies died in hospital or maternity homes.

No association could be discovered between insanitary housing and infant deaths.

The seasonal occurrence of deaths is marked. During the first five months of the year 20 babies died whereas only 6 died during the remaining 7 months.

At a time of worst weather and when infections were most prevalent (influenza, measles and whooping cough in particular), the greater mortality in infants occurred, but only 5 out of the 26 deaths were ascribed to infections.

We do not know the answer to the question "Why should there be such a large proportion of infant deaths due to congenital causes occurring during the Winter and Spring seasons?"

We can however continue to urge the importance of very thorough ante-natal care throughout the whole period of gestation.

The accompanying graph is of great interest in that it shows the Infant Mortality Rate for each year since 1890 and clearly depicts the fall to the present figure from the peak in 1901, when a fifth of all the Kidderminster babies died before they were one year old!

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			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	23	10	—	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	173	19	—	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority — (excluding out-workers premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		196	29	—	—	

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)	Referred 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	1	—	—	1	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	5	4	—	3	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ..		6	4	—	4	—	

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 for the care of unmarried mothers and under Diocesan administration.

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. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made weekly. 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 1951.

Samples taken from Borough Main Wells	66
Samples taken from Taps at various premises ..	34
Samples taken from Reservoir	28
Samples taken from Private Wells	1
	<hr/>
	129
	<hr/>

Housing.

Number of houses built by Private Enterprise ..	31
Number of Prefabricated Houses (temporary, etc.) ..	Nil
Number of Permanent Houses built by Local Authority	42
Number of non-traditional houses	96

There is a waiting list of about 1,674 applicants for Corporation houses. One hundred and sixty-nine have been built in the Borough during the year 1951.

The actual increase in population, not considering immigration, was 130 in 1951. 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, 1951.

Influenza.

During the latter half of January and the first week in February, there was an outbreak of Influenza in this district. Although there were very many cases of this illness the mortality was low.

Whooping Cough and Measles.

Following on the influenza outbreak there were many cases of whooping cough and measles notified, (196 cases of whooping cough) (655 cases of measles), nearly all occurring before the summer holidays. One death occurred from whooping cough. It is hoped that more children will be immunised against whooping cough each year.

Diphtheria.

No cases of Diphtheria occurred. It is only by keeping the Immunisation state of the children at a high level that this very serious disease will be kept in its present bounds. Immunisation has been carried out at all clinics attended by the Medical Officer, at private doctors' surgeries, at schools and in some cases at patients' own houses, by their private practitioner.

The numbers inoculated were :—under 5 years, 429 ; over 5 years, 68, a total of 497.

There are unfortunately still some parents who are too ignorant, too apathetic or just too obstinate to have their children protected against diphtheria, in spite of all that has been said to warn them.

The only 2 deaths from diphtheria in the Borough since 1937 have been in *non-immunised* children.

The table on page 18 shows the decrease in diphtheria cases and deaths since 1935.

Scarlet Fever. 16 cases—no deaths.

Scarlet fever has been mild in type. 4 cases sent into hospital were admitted chiefly on account of environmental factors and not essentially because the patient required hospital treatment.

Acute Poliomyelitis. 2 cases.

These cases recovered but with some degree of residual paralysis.

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	—	—	—	—	—
1951	—	—	—	—	—
	281	24	—	3	—

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1951.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Totals Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	15	4	Nil
Enteric Fever	1	1	Nil
(including Paratyphoid) ..	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	42	11	22
Anthrax	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	4	Nil	Nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	2	2	Nil
Whooping Cough	196	12	1
Measles	655	6	Nil
Meningitis	2	2	2

**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than
Tuberculosis) during the year 1951.**

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Sonne Dysentery	Anthrax
0-1 years ..	2	19	—	20	—	—
1-3 years ..	1	48	1	151	—	—
3-5 years ..	4	56	—	191	—	—
5-10 years ..	3	65	—	288	—	—
10-15 years	4	4	—	11	—	—
15-25 years	—	—	—	6	—	—
25 & over ..	2	4	1	7	—	1
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ..	16	196	2	674	1	1

Age Groups	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Menin- gococcal Infection	Para- Typhoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Gastro Enteritis
0-5 years ..	1	—	1	1	—	1
5-15 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-45 years	4	—	—	—	—	—
45-65 years	15	3	—	—	—	—
65 & over ..	21	1	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ..	41	4	1	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 30 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1951 :—
29 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	
1947	26	15	2	4	.52
1948	24	15	3	3	.48
1949	22	14	6	1	.39
1950	34	16	1	2	.47
1951	29	7	1	2	.24

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	1	5	—	—	—	1	—	1
35 to 45 years	5	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 years	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	15	14	Nil	1	4	3	Nil	2

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	—
Tuberculosis	10 cases.
Cancer	1 case.
Bugs	51 cases.
Flies	12 cases.
Fleas	15 cases.

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.

Health Education.

The spreading of knowledge on health subjects continued throughout the year and followed two definite trends.

1. A policy of continuous teaching.
2. A set health exhibition of one week's duration.

Under continuous education the following activities were carried out :—

- a. Special reports were presented to the monthly meeting of the Health Committee and included reports on :—

Cleaner Food.

Influenza.

Tuberculosis.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

Home Helps.

Problems of Adoption.

The Health of the Nation.

- b. Discussions with a Parents' Association and a Young Wives' Association, with Cafe, Canteen, Bakehouse and other personnel handling food.
- c. A health topic stand was on continuous display in a public room in the Public Library.

The Health Exhibition.

This was essentially a clean Food Exhibition, organised by the Public Health Department, etc.

A full report on the Exhibition is given on pages 30 & 31.

CONCLUSION.

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

General Health	..	..	Good.
Epidemics	..	..	Nil.
Birth Rate	..	..	Decreased.
Death Rate	..	..	Increased.
Infant Death Rate	..	..	Decreased.
Maternal Mortality	..	..	Nil.
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) More short term residential nursery accommodation.
- (b) Nursery schools or classes.
- (c) More Convalescent Home treatment 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 still 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,

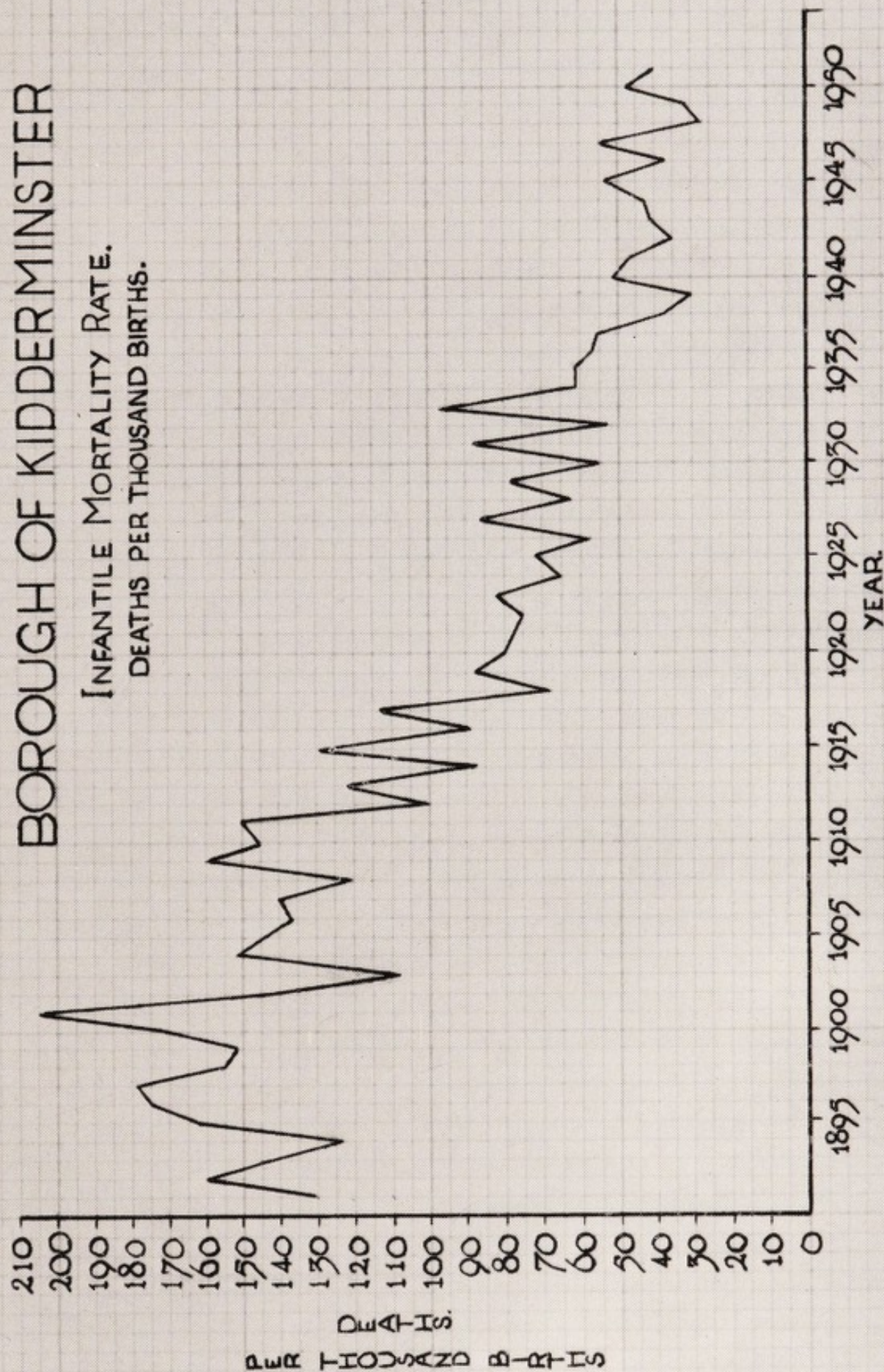
Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.
DEATHS PER THOUSAND BIRTHS.



REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

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, 1951.

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 1951.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,608	1,393	722	9,750	607
Number inspected	2,608	1,393	722	9,750	607
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	13	30	96	143	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	770	680	2	1,609	29
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30.0	50.9	13.5	17.9	8.9
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	16	36	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	151	198	1	—	27
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis	6.4	16.8	0.1	—	4.4

MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1951.

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Tuberculosis	19	8	80
Distomatosis, Cirrhosis	6	18	106
Physiological Poorness	3	4	85
Johnes Disease, Emaciation, Dropsy	4	8	56
Bruising, Injury	1	11	50
Dropsy, Emaciation		13	95
Parasitic Cysts	1	1	36
Angiomatosis		16	80
Moribund, Decomposing	1	16	64
Immaturity		9	109
Pyogenic Abscesses	1	6	68
Septic Pneumonia		2	41
Jaundice		3	94
Septic Injuries		11	102
Septic Pericarditis		3	77
Septic Metritis		8	101
Septic Pleurisy		2	111
Advanced Disease of Kidneys		4	36
Inflammation		1	70
Strongylosis		4	64
Pyaemia		2	60
Pleurisy		5	5
Haemorrhage (Parturition)		9	16
Swine Erysipelas		2	62
Actinomycosis		3	88
Pneumonia			43
Septic Mastitis		1	40
Decomposition		1	38
Pyaemic Poly-arthritis		1	26
Melanosis			23
Bone Taint		5	27
Septic Enteritis		2	84
Uraemia			70
Arthritis			54
Total Weight Condemned	45	18	33

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

2,138 Tins of various Foodstuffs.	60 lbs. Canned Corned Beef.
154 Pkts. of various Foodstuffs.	175 lbs. Cake.
902 Bottles and Jars of various Foodstuffs.	19 lbs. Bacon.
28 Stone Fish.	12 lbs. Black Puddings.
30 lbs. Dried Fruits.	3 Galls. Synthetic Cream.
348 lbs. Marshmallow Mixture.	5 Rabbits.
112 lbs. Butter Mixture.	676 blocks Wrapped Ice Cream.
93 lbs. Sausage.	308 Mince Pies.
22 lbs. Frozen Egg.	72 Fish Cakes.
19 lbs. Confectionery.	60 Eggs.
978 lbs. Cooked Ham.	
449 lbs. Cheese.	

SUMMARY.

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned ..	47	2	54
Grand Total Weight (Meat) Condemned	45	18	33
Grand Total Weight (Tuberculosis) Condemned ..	19	8	80

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (8 YEARS).

1944 — 1945 — 1946 — 1947 — 1948 — 1949 — 1950 — 1951.

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	14	0	27	2	1
1951	4,001	9,750	607	722	45	18	1	19	8	3

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.

The improvements mentioned in my report for last year, have been effected, the general standard of the premises has in consequence, been raised accordingly.

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 1951 .. 144
 Milk, 73 (informal), and 3 (formal), Ice-Cream, 20, Sausages, 21,
 Meat Pie, 1, Orangeade, 1, Brawn 1, Jam 2, Table Jelly 4,
 Beef Paste 1, Fish Paste 2, Vinegar 7, S.R. Flour 1, Sausage Rusk 1,
 Orange Curd 1, Mayonaise 1, Tomato Piquant 1, Coffee and
 Chicory Essence 2, Gelatine Powder 1.

Action taken regarding samples not genuine.

Sample No.	SAMPLE OF	RESULT, ACTION, ETC.
1054	Milk (Informal) ..	Repeat Samples Genuine.
1060	" " ..	" " "
15	" " ..	" " "
17	" " ..	" " "
24	" " ..	" " " (Formal)
88	" " ..	" " "
95	" " ..	" " "
85	" " ..	" " "

Nos. 98, 122, 123—Sausages. Letter sent to manufacturers and premises visited. Further samples genuine.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Sample	No. Sub- mitted	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Designated Milks :			
T.T.	20	19	1
Accredited	3	2	1
Pasteurised	43	37	6
T.T. Pasteurised	7	7	—
Sterilised	14	14	—
Non-Designated	14	11	3
TOTAL	101	90	11

MILK—BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION (For Tubercle Bacilli).

Nature	No. Sub- mitted	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Ungraded	10	10	0

DETAILS OF MILK DISTRIBUTED.

No. of Distributors (excluding shops selling sterilised milk only) 33

No. of Licences Issued.

T.T. Milk	(a) Bottling 4.	(b) Distribution 6.
T.T. (Pasteurised)Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution 2.
Accredited Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution Nil
Pasteurising Plants 2.	Retail Distributors 6.	
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 the taking of routine samples of Ice-Cream manufactured and retailed in the Borough. The tables below show satisfactory results.

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	..	..	84
„ „ „ „ and bulk is sold	..	..	18

1. Ice Cream—Chemical Analysis.

No. Submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20	20	—

2.—Ice Cream—Bacteriological Examination.

No. Submitted	GRADES			
	1	2	3	4
29	24	4	1	Nil
Percentages ..	82.76%	13.79%	3.46%	Nil

The results for 1951 are very satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaign.

During the year the campaign was concentrated on the "main front" of food manufacturers and the large food retailers, together with some general publicity directed at the smaller retailer and the general public. At the beginning of the year intensive inspections were made of catering establishments, factory and school canteens, bakehouses, butchers and the main confectionery and grocery retailing premises. Improvements in washing facilities, food storage, food handling, decoration and general cleanliness were obtained where necessary. In the latter part of the year the inspection of the licenced houses in the Borough was commenced, this task being completed early in 1952, and a report presented to the Licensing Justices and the Public Health Committee. A Food Premises Inspection sheet designed by the Department to give the maximum of information and the minimum of resultant clerical work was the subject of an article in the Municipal Journal.

The swabbing of catering utensils was carried out to a limited degree.

At all times food traders showed co-operation and courtesy, and although a number of notices were served, the raising and maintaining of hygiene standards depended largely on the personal contact between the inspectorate and the traders.

Type of Premises	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Cafes, and Canteens, etc.	212	55
Grocers and General	110	31
Licensed Houses	77	49
Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Retailers	60	42
Bakehouses and Confectioners	56	17
Food Delivery Vans	25	10
Butchers	23	12
Markets	20	25
Fried Fish Shops	13	3
Sweet Shops	7	1

Education is a most important aspect of food hygiene and is playing an increasingly important role in the work of the Department. The facts of food poisoning were presented to the food handlers and the general public by means of an exhibition and by lectures.

EXHIBITION (17th to 22nd May, 1951)

The exhibition was launched by a very successful Press Luncheon at the Lion Hotel, where 60 people were guests of the Chairman of the Health Committee. Following this the Exhibition was formally opened by the Mayor of the Borough.

In the exhibition itself all the exhibits were well studied but some were particularly attractive. The cinema probably captured more attention than the rest of the displays, and demonstrated in a pleasing and easy manner many very important health facts. Of the eight films shown, "The Modern Guide to Health" and "Another case of Food Poisoning" were outstanding. The very clean, attractive snack bar was of great service and was well patronised.

The drinking glass washing machine kept many visitors interested and made them realise that clean methods could be applied easily in many public places.

Demonstrations by the Electricity Board of the hot air hand drier, showed the public how to overcome that most unhygienic article, the roller towel, alas found so often in all its sodden filth in an otherwise well appointed establishment. The live exhibits of rats, flies, cockroaches and crickets were a constant source of interest to visitors of all ages, and pressed home the principle of protecting food against dangerous pests and vermin.

The Guilty Hand depicting photographically five common but very unhygienic practices always claimed attention and will long remain in peoples' memory.

The bacteriological, and the "Cracked Cup" exhibits did not claim immediate interest, but proved very instructive when explained by the Staff of the Public Health Department.

The Ice Cream Stand proved very popular more from the point of view of palate than of clean food preparation.

The "Fashions in Dress for Catering," the "Cold Storage" and the "Danger" stall were well set out but did not attract much attention, nor did the "Thoughtful Shopper" stand.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Food's Press button exhibit was very attractive but gave no emphatic message.

The beautiful and well arranged kitchen, household and sanitary fittings were a joy to behold, and although shallow purses prevented immediate purchase of many things, yet the desire to have clean hygienic utensils had been firmly implanted.

Contrasts in style, methods and cleanliness were well shown in the exhibit of the old and modern grocer's shop and such contrasts will remain in the public mind for a long time.

The Hall of Publicity was an inspiration which not only enabled Clean Food Posters to be adequately displayed, but gave depth to the whole exhibition and invited visitors to sit and discuss the things they were seeing.

The Health Department was well satisfied by the public interest and support.

Visitors to the Exhibition included :

The Mayor and Members of the Council.
Teachers and senior scholars—710.
Members of the Catering Trade.
Health Department Staffs from neighbouring towns.
Football team from Holland.
Competitors for the Best Cake Competition.
The general public, over 6,000.

Statistics.

No. of leaflets, 5,000.
No. of booklets, 3,000.
No. of Silk screen posters, 250.
No. of insertions in local press—8.
Period of advertisement in cinema—1 week.
No. of schools circulated—5 senior.
No. of hours exhibition was open—50.
No. of visitors estimated at exhibition—over 6,000.
No. of school children visitors—710.
No. of advertisements in brochure—27.
No. of personal invitations—190.

One of the exhibits prepared for the exhibition, "The Guilty Hand" was borrowed by the Borough of Wembley, and was featured prominently in a window display during the Clean Food week there.

Lectures.

Using filmstrips and the Central Office of Information film projection unit, a number of talks were given to food handlers and the general public, as follows :—

To factory and school canteen staffs, at place of work	14
To butchers and bakery staffs during working hours in K.I.C.S. Hall	4
To general food handlers in evening at Museum	6
Others	2
	—
	26
	—

In order to give local interest to the talks, a filmstrip was produced by the Department.

Common Lodging Houses.

We have now only three of these houses left in the Borough which are regularly inspected and disinfested if necessary.

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 facilitate the work.,

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

Number of house disinfested by Local Authority 78.

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) 275

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 401

(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 3

(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 Nil

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 209

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 ..	42
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By owners	35
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2

Summary of Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects) ..	173
Intimation letters sent (<i>re</i> sanitary defects)	49
Statutory notices served (for housing defects) ..	43
Reminder Notices served (for housing defects) ..	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal).

	£	s.	d.
*The cost of collection and disposal of salvage and refuse for the year 1951 was	26,124	0	0
*The income was	13,753	0	0
The net cost being	12,371	0	0

**Financial Year ended 31st March, 1952.*

SALVAGE.

The total WEIGHT of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1146 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc., etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £12,467.

Total number of Loads taken to Main Salvage Depots 2,398.

KITCHEN WASTE.

Collected and disposed of for sterilised Pig and Poultry Food.
Weight : 366 tons, 4 cwts., 1 qr.

RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Month	Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
January	85	4	2	756	4	0
February	86	10	2	859	16	3
March	103	3	0	884	11	2
April	92	9	1	872	14	9
May	105	6	3	921	1	3
June	99	14	1	1,111	2	10
July	107	14	2	1,245	11	0
August	84	15	0	1,190	4	11
September	89	1	2	1,175	4	3
October	100	19	2	1,219	5	11
November	106	10	1	1,287	3	3
December	84	8	1	944	2	4
TOTALS	1145	17	1	12,467	1	11

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

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	544	3	2	8,281	5	1
Heavy Scrap	28	9	3	114	18	7
Baled Tins	57	8	1	199	15	10
Textiles	32	4	1	818	8	8
Household Bones		12	1	3	10	3
Cullet (Broken Glass)	106	17	3	246	2	10
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	7	0	51	1	3
Bottles and Jars	8	10	1	60	3	3
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	193	11	6
Rubber	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kitchen Waste	366	4	1	2,498	4	8
TOTALS	1,145	17	1	12,467	1	11

COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE.

Total No. of loads of Refuse removed (all vehicles)	7250
Closet Pans emptied	3731
Loads of Night Soil removed	59

Disposal of Household Ashes.

Tipped at Broadwaters	Nil
Tipped at Puxton	4
Tipped at Hoobrook	4848
Tipped at Worcester Road	Nil
Total	4852

RODENT CONTROL.

The relatively low level of infestation in the Borough continued, and was maintained by routine surveys of business premises and residential areas, monthly treatment of the Department yards and tips, twice yearly treatment of the sewers, and the contract service to an increased number of business premises.

During the year the Department was one of eight in the Country chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Division) to carry out special controlled testing of a new rat poison "Warfarin." As a result of these tests, the poison has been officially recognised and in the future will be used extensively in the constant battle against rodents.

The Department has continued to receive excellent co-operation and help from the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and its Officers.

	No. Treated	
Corporation Properties	18	Tips now treated monthly. Treated twice in year.
Corporation Sewers	190	
Individual business premises on contract	31	Comprising an average of 30 houses and business premises per block.
Block Control	109	

Total number of bodies picked up during year 800.

Estimated kill 3000.

RAINFALL.

YEARS 1950 AND 1951.							
Monthly		Inches		RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS			
		1950	1951	Years			Inches
January	..	.70	2.87	1942	..	..	22.01
February	..	3.88	2.61	1943	..	..	23.43
March	..	1.20	4.61	1944	..	..	24.50
April	..	1.55	2.00	1945	..	..	20.45
May	..	1.70	2.98	1946	..	..	31.80
June	..	1.27	1.03	1947	..	..	23.41
July	..	2.36	.98	1948	..	..	27.62
August	..	2.27	3.92	1949	..	..	19.46
September	..	1.88	3.06	1950	..	..	22.66
October	..	.67	.56	1951	..	..	32.57
November	..	3.89	6.24				
December	..	1.29	1.71				
Total	..	22.66	32.57	Average	..	..	24.79

MORTUARY.

During the year 29 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.



