

**[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Royal Leamington Spa Borough.**

**Contributors**

Leamington (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1959

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bbs6p6e4>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.


This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Unable to display this page



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29720898>

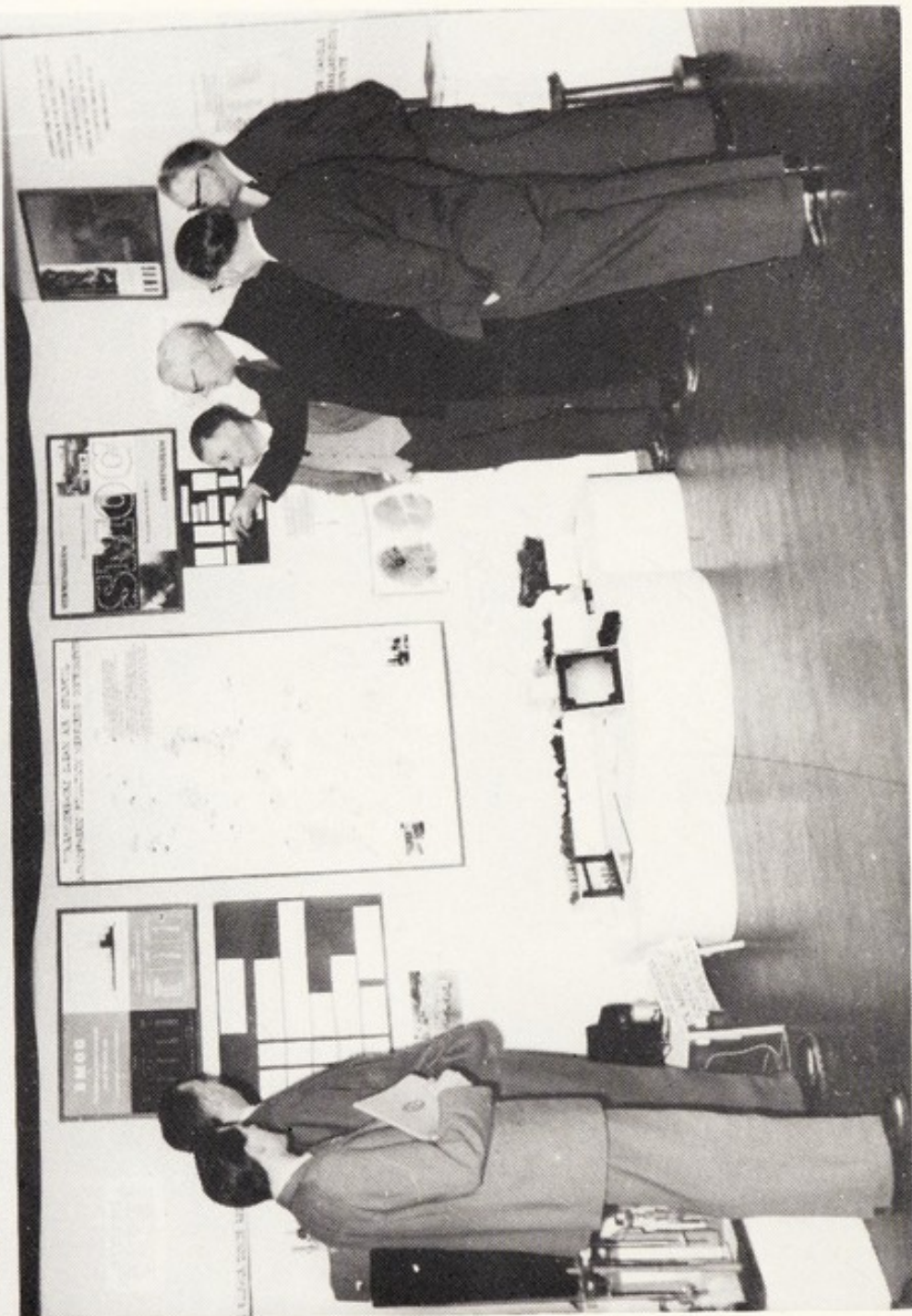




UNHYGIENIC DISPLAY OF VEGETABLES.



# WARWICKSHIRE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL



CLEAN AIR EXHIBITION, MARCH, 1959.



38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

4th August, 1960.

**To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report upon the health of your district during the year 1959. The year was noteworthy for the long fine summer but the unusually hot weather gave rise to no special health problems.

The birth rates were unchanged but a slight rise occurred in death rates. There was a small rise in population but the total increase was less than the amount by which births exceeded deaths but there was obviously new immigration. These factors were balanced by the trend for families to buy houses outside the towns and move into rural areas. There was also much building activity within the borough bounds as the total number of permanent dwellings increased by almost three hundred. Very many of these, however, were erected by the Corporation as replacements for houses demolished or closed pursuant to its slum clearance scheme.

Deaths by suicide rose from two to ten in the year and another resident died thus while temporarily out of the district; seven were males and four females. The average age in this group was 67 years. Six persons took their lives by coal gas poisoning, three men were drowned and one hanged himself; one woman took poison in the form of a massive overdose of a common sedative. Six of the deceased were described as retired and had an average age of more than 78 years. Seven deaths took place in the third quarter of the year and another towards the end of June. Only two suicides occurred during Winter. The unusually hot summer may have been a factor in the occurrence of eight out of eleven suicide deaths between the 22nd June and 13th September, 1959.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is of a detailed nature and will show how active the department has been in regard to a wide range of Services. It is again both a pleasure and good fortune to have a special contri-



bution from the Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and thanks are due to Mr. W. M. Lewis for extracting from a mass of data the figures relating to this Borough and for presenting their lesson in authoritative yet simple terms. Interesting facts emerge from Mr. A. J. Smith's section upon Food and Drugs Act sampling. Blatant adulteration may today be seldom met but there is a good deal of optimistic or inaccurate labelling which without some check might become misleading to purchasers. When one measures the wide field of merchandise covered against the department's expenditure in sampling and analysis, one finds yet another example of a local authority Service which confers great public benefit at a very modest cost.

At about one in every ten visits paid there were found to be breaches of the food hygiene regulations, serious enough to warrant an official letter. The Chief Public Health Inspector appreciates the co-operative attitude of food traders. Nevertheless, one must feel more than a little disturbed after reading the list of contraventions of these regulations. Can a town which aspires to be a regional shopping centre afford to have in a single year as many as 78 instances where food rooms were not clean, 29 instances of unclean equipment and 45 instances where open food was not protected against contamination? After this it comes as less of a surprise to find that staff toilet facilities were below standard in 44 places and 37 sanitary conveniences also offended. These formidable totals take no account of conditions and practices which existed at times when no inspector could be present. A co-operative attitude is most welcome but alone it is not enough. The Food Hygiene Regulations are more than five years old and it does appear that many food traders have not studied them with the attention which they deserve.

Eleven prosecutions were taken during the year for alleged offences in connection with Food and Drugs; only one was dismissed. The list of cases taken speaks for itself and needs but little commentary. One of the two illustrations this year shows one unsatisfactory display of vegetables which were placed too near the pavement of a main shopping street in a manner liable to contamination. There is another type of unsatisfactory display which has led to complaints but can, at present, be stopped only by public opinion. This is the disgusting practice of exposing for sale fruit and vegetables on top of up-ended



empty boxes awaiting return to wholesalers. These keep the open food above the minimum permitted height but the boxes are an irresistible attraction to dogs. No offence is committed as a crate, when fouled, does not contain food. It is not cleansed before return to the wholesalers nor one suspects, before re-use by them. By this time the polluting material has dried in and cannot be detected so that proof of contamination would be difficult to secure. The regulations need strengthening to deal with those too stupid or mean to provide proper display stands outside their shops. A more effective but less likely solution will be for the owners of these crates to take steps to prevent their misuse. Most of these boxes bear clear marks of ownership.

The second plate in the report shows the stand prepared by the Warwickshire Clean Air Council for the Clean Air Exhibition staged in the Leamington Town Hall. There was considerable public interest which well repaid those responsible for the work which had been put in beforehand. A special word of thanks is due to Mr. F. C. Hills, Deputy Public Health Inspector, for organising the exhibits and to the firms and bodies which supported the venture as exhibitors. For those who prefer graphs to figures an attempt has been made to present some air pollution data in composite form.

I have again to offer thanks for the courtesy and kindness shown to me at all times by the Council and for the support and interest of members of the Health Committee in the work which is being done by the department. An acknowledgment is also due to my Colleagues in this and other departments for the friendly help which has been given at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

C. T. JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

*Borough Shops Act Inspector :*

A. J. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.I.S.A.A.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :*

*Deputy Borough Shops Act Inspector :*

F. C. HILLS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

P. D. ARROWSMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

K. G. RAPLEY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*General Assistant :*

A. H. STALWORTH (from 1/4/59).

*Clerks :*

A. H. STALWORTH (to 31/3/59).

Mrs. R. WALTON (to 19/6/59).

Miss E. M. BOCK (from 2/3/59).

Miss D. M. MORRIS (from 22/6/59, to 5/9/59).

Mrs. G. V. EVANS (from 7/9/59).

*Disinfector :*

W. JACKSON.

*Rodent Operative :*

P. JACKSON.

*Public Analysts :*

F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C. (to 31/3/59).

R. K. CHALMERS, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

C. N. GRANGE, B.Sc., F.R.I.C. (from 1/4/59).



## *Borough of Royal Leamington Spa*

### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1959	...	...	39,450
Area of Borough	...	...	2,875 acres
Public open spaces	...	...	126.42 acres
Product of ld. rate	...	...	£2,333 15s. 10d.
Total number of permanent dwellinghouses and flats on 31/3/1959	...	...	11,937
Birth Rate (Crude)	...	...	21.0
Birth Rate (Corrected)	...	...	20.4
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	21.3
Death Rate (Crude)	...	...	12.4
Death Rate (Corrected)	...	...	11.1
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	(From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	— 1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	26.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	25.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	38.4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Anterior Poliomyelitis (all ages)	...	...	—

This year births continued above the 800 mark and the death rate was a low one. Births exceeded deaths by 337 and the rise in total population was 230.

One death was due to Leukaemia, as against three in 1958 and four in 1957.

The chief causes of death were unchanged. Ten deaths were due to suicide and the loss of life by motor accidents was five. Tuberculosis killed only two people whereas accidents, other than those due to motor vehicles accounted for fourteen deaths. More than six per cent. of all deaths therefore were due to suicide or violence and this is an increase above that noted last year. The rise is due mainly to the increase in suicide deaths from two to ten in a year.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, during 1959. It will be noted that there has been a great increase due to investigations of dysentery.

	Positive	Negative	Total
SWABS (from throat or nose) examined for Diphtheria ...	—	1	1
DYSENTERY/FOOD POISONING ...	14	24	38
TUBERCULOSIS ... ..	—	—	—
BLOOD ... ..	—	—	—

In addition to the above many specimens are examined annually for Tuberculosis and numerous throat swabs and stool cultures for dysentery, etc., are examined in hospital laboratories.

## LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

*Infant Welfare Centres.*—The following Centres are held within the Borough:—

4, Hamilton Terrace ...	Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.
No. 1 Community Centre, Tachbrook Road ...	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Bowling Club, Lime Avenue, Lillington ... ..	Mondays, 2 p.m.
Community Centre, Crown Way, Lillington ...	1st and 3rd Fridays, 2 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999). National Welfare Foods are distributed at numerous official and voluntary distribution points in the Borough, details of which have been publicly advertised.

*Ambulance facilities.*—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

*Hospital services.*—Maternity cases are admitted to the Cay Block of the Warneford Hospital. Tuberculosis patients may be admitted at Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*Water.*—The town's water is taken in part from deep wells or boreholes and in part by abstraction from the River Leam. River water is filtered and chlorinated and frequent analyses are made. Bulk supplies are also sold to the Southam Rural District Council so that abstraction from the River Leam is substantial.

1. The waters are of good quality albeit hard for domestic purposes. Troubles from iron deposits or tastes due to algae have been avoided by special measures.

2. Bacteriological examinations are made of the raw and filtered river waters weekly. Bacteriological examinations of the well waters are not made before treatment (which is only chlorination) but results of treatment have been satisfactory. Chemical analysis is made of all well water monthly and of the raw and filtered river water weekly.

3. The water is not plumbo-solvent and contains no excess of any metallic element.

4. Chlorination plants, installed at sources of supply, have operated satisfactorily. No contamination has been reported. After repairs mains are isolated, sterilized and flushed out.

5. 11,988 houses in the town now have an internal piped supply serving 39,024 persons. This leaves 196 people resident in 49 houses without a satisfactory internal supply of water. The new service reservoir at Campion Hills has given enough supply pressure for all but a few tall flats and buildings. The supply to those presents a special problem.

6. Construction is under way on extensions to Waterworks and Sewage Purification Works, and the impounding reservoir.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Water analysis results expressed in parts per million.  
Received on 26th October, 1959.

Description : U.F.C. 795. Unfiltered River Water.

F.C. 795. Filtered River Water.

		<i>U.F.C.</i>	<i>F.C.</i>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	...	0.071	0.025
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	...	0.369	0.145
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	39.0	45.0
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	...	1.5	1.5
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate at 27° C. in 4 hours		3.5	1.3
Total Solids dried at 100° C. ...		960	920
Appearance : U.F.C. Turbid, many large particles. F.C. Bright, few small particles.			
Hardness {	Temporary ...	225	190
	Permanent ...	355	390
	Total ...	580	580
Radioactivity ...	...	—	—
Nitrite Nitrogen ...	...	0.02	Absent.
Metals ...	...	—	—
Free Chlorine ...	...	—	0.15
pH Value ...	...	7.88	7.53
Lead ...	...	Absent.	Absent.
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide ...	...	6.0	17.0
Copper and Zinc ...	Less than	0.05	0.05
Alkalinity as Carbonate ...	...	141.0	126.0

Date 21/10/59, at 10-0 a.m.

Rate of Filtration 50,000 gallons per hour.

Position at which taken : Filter House.

Alumina Dose : 2.84 grains per gallon.

Copper Sulphate : 0.42 parts per million.

Whether or not dosed with Chlorine : Yes. 3.40 lbs./hour.

Residual Chlorine : 1.20 P.P.M.

After Filtration : Nil. Not Dechlorinated.

Immediate : 1.20 P.P.M.

After 20 mins. : 1.10 P.P.M.

Remarks :

Upper Reach of River 3' 0" Below Weir level, for  
Contractors.

Hazen Raw = above scale. Treated = Less 5A.

River Flow = 5½ MG/D. Total at Mill Bridge.

Excluding storm water.

Temp. : = 54° F. Taste good.

Not Dechlorinated, moving plant.

Water to supply mixed well water.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. New mains laid in 1959 :—

		<i>Yards</i>
Town Water Mains	...	2,835
River Water Mains	...	Nil.



2. Amount of Water pumped in 1959 :—

<i>Corporation Source</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
From Campion Terrace ... ..	71,564,000
„ Lillington ... ..	111,207,000
„ Brewery Well ... ..	Nil.
„ Leicester Lane ... ..	29,456,000
„ River (filtered) ... ..	571,129,000
„ River (unfiltered) ... ..	70,446,000
<i>Other Authorities</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Taken from Warwick R.D.C. ...	Nil.
Water supplied to Warwick R.D.C.	33,321,000
Water supplied to Southam R.D.C.	127,577,000

3. Daily consumption of Town Water per head ... ..	43.48
River Water supplied to Residents per head ... ..	4.18
River Water supplied annually to Railway Companies ... ..	21,231,000

*Swimming Baths.*—The new baths have proved to be a valuable and popular amenity. The purification plant has operated satisfactorily as proved by analyses made from time to time.

Total number of swimmers (1959) ...	218,235
Weekly average (summer) ... ..	6,039
„ (winter) ... ..	2,845

*Sewerage.*—Considerable preparatory work, research and design was carried out with a view to enlargements to the Sewage Disposal Works for which a contract has since been let.

*Scavenging.*—The destructor plant handled this year 11,789 tons of refuse as compared with 11,011 in 1958. A regular weekly collection for private householders has been maintained. In view of the large amount of trade refuse in certain parts of the town it has been decided to make a collection charge.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

*Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1951.*

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1952	...	—	46	—	11	1	35
1953	...	—	46	—	49	10	39
1954	...	—	20	—	41	2	51
1955	...	—	36	—	36	5	38
1956	...	—	17	—	39	—	1
1957	...	—	6	—	47	18	8
1958	...	—	8	—	31	—	2
1959	...	—	49	—	22	—	2

*Diphtheria.*—No case of diphtheria was reported so that this was the eighth consecutive year of freedom from this disease. Few will quarrel with the statements that this is due largely to mass immunisation and that it is necessary to continue this campaign if the freedom from this scourge is to be held. Although there have been no actual cases, those responsible for propaganda have achieved good results as will be seen from the following figures.

The details were as follows :—

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Children under 5 years	642	659	506	603	564
Children 5 to 14 years	27	48	29	54	101
Children given booster doses	...	...	...	...	...
	765	630	342	466	781

*Whooping Cough (Pertussis).*—In 1959, 643 children were given prophylactic injections and a combined Diphtheria/Pertussis suspended vaccine was employed except for children who had already been immunized against Diphtheria.

*Pneumonia.*—As might have been expected in a year which saw a long hot summer and a mild winter free from



epidemic influenza the incidence of notifiable forms of pneumonia was well below average.

*Poliomyelitis.*—For the second year there was not one notification but it would be rash at this stage to seek to relate this to the recent mass vaccinations.

*Hygiene.*—No definite or large outbreak of food poisoning is known to have occurred but dysentery notifications rose alarmingly from 3 in 1958 to 22 in 1959. Most of the reports concerned the milder (or Sonne) variety but this nevertheless can be dangerous to infants and the elderly. It was found that the complaint often spread quickly through an entire household especially where hygiene was not good. Spread was also traced from one household to another by way of child contact at play. Control of this disease is therefore primarily a matter of domestic and personal hygiene and it is not aided by the current fashion of eating in the streets where no preliminary toilet can be undertaken and hands remain sticky so that dirt can easily adhere thereto. Unfortunately in this matter children are given a bad example by too many of their parents and elders.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	—	—	—	1	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
25-35	4	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	2	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	9	1	4	5	12	1	2	—	2	—	—



		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cases	...	23	43	26	40	45	43	42
Deaths	...	5	10	23	22	17	22	19
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cases	...	38	65	25	46	42	30	53
Deaths	...	11	24	26	18	6	12	4
		1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	...	68	57	73	98	57	66	54
Deaths	...	4	6	6	5	4	2	2

B.C.G. Vaccine was administered to 65 child contacts and 4 adults. 307 persons were vaccinated under the School Children and Student Scheme.

23 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium and 34 were discharged.

The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit continued the new experimental programme of visits to Hamilton House on one fixed day each month to examine patients referred for investigation by local doctors. The Medical Director of this Unit has reported that this service proved very effective in that it gave an incidence of Tuberculosis discovered, per thousand examined, of 9.63 in Coventry and 14.53 in Leamington. Excluding doctor's referrals the Unit's 1958 figure was 0.92 per thousand. The above figure for Leamington concerned 344 patients referred by their doctors. Of these 4 were noted as requiring occasional supervision and 5 in need of close clinic supervision and treatment: 3 of these were open or infective in that tubercle bacilli were present in the sputum.

In July the Unit made one factory visit and then proceeded to carry out an extended public survey upon a central site bordering upon Dormer Place. Thanks are due to the Parks and Gardens and the Water and Sewage Committees for the special facilities given and to the Spa Manager for his help. Although the results fell far short of the target, 4,550 members of the general public attended and X-ray findings were as follows:—

Number examined.	Assessment.		Tubercle Bacilli present.	Prevalence per 1,000 in need of treatment, etc.
	Occasional supervision.	Close clinic supervision or treatment.		
4,550	4	8	2	1.76



One may thus say that the survey was worthwhile and repaid the time devoted to it by various officers of the Council. A special word of thanks is due to Councillor T. H. Saunders, who not only opened the survey in person but previously launched an appeal for voluntary help in distribution of publicity material. With considerable help from teenagers the whole town was covered before the day and this effort was very valuable as other forms of publicity were hamstrung by a trade dispute affecting the Press and printing industry.

#### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948** **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951**

Where elderly, sick or infirm persons are found to be living in neglected and insanitary conditions and are not obtaining proper care or attention the Council has authorised the Medical Officer of Health to take action on its behalf by application before a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for the removal of the said person to a hospital or institution.

From time to time the Council is called upon to arrange for the burial of the dead and this action, under the powers of Section 50, has been entrusted to the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Details follow of three persons reported during 1959 as needing proper care and attention.

*Case 1. Mr. G. H.*—(82) lived alone in an unfurnished room of which landlord desired to have vacant possession. Mr. H. was reported to be deaf, partly blind and shaky and to have set fire to the room. He had, in fact, had an oil stove on fire which was his only means of space heating. He was found to be in good condition for his age and had done factory work till the age of 79 years. He refused to go to a daughter's house and no action was deemed necessary then.

*Case 2. Miss A. P.*—(82) had lived for some years alone amid increasing disorder. She had some private savings but preferred her independence. The M.O.H. and Geriatrician were called in by the family doctor. It was necessary to force an entry and she was found moribund and cold lying partially clad in the fireplace. The fire fortunately had burned out before she fell. She died four days later in hospital from the effects of severe pneumonia and weakness resulting from chronic ulceration of the legs. An inquest was held by H.M. Coroner whose verdict was "Death from natural causes."

*Case 3. Mr. T.*—was reported first in 1958 and supervision continued. There appeared to have been an improvement as he was able to employ a woman to cook for him and do some cleaning.

#### **MORTUARY**

The attendant here has again been Mr. H. Barnett. 158 bodies were received and 152 post mortem examin-



ations carried. This represents a further increase in the work undertaken. The Council therefore decided to increase the allocation of time for this work in the next financial year and also to redecorate and improve the premises.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

*Milk.*—Heat treated milks were satisfactory upon sampling but once again a high proportion of samples of raw T.T. milk failed the methylene blue tests and firm action was taken concerning the dealer responsible.

*Ice cream.*—No samples gave Grade 4 results and only 3 out of 141 fell into the third grade. Thus at last a high standard of purity has been attained in this town and it is especially welcome now that ice-cream sales are so much greater.

*Watercress.*—Concern was expressed by the Council at the frequency with which bacteria of excremental origin were grown in culture from consignments of fresh watercress.

### *Contraventions.*

Proceedings were taken before the Courts regarding one offence under the food hygiene regulations and in ten cases where it was alleged that, as provided in Section 2 of the main Act, there had been a sale of food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded to the detriment of the purchaser. Details are reported by Mr. A. J. Smith elsewhere in this report.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### SECTION 31

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk  
Samples for Biological Examination during  
the Year 1959—Nil.

## HOUSING, 1959

Number of houses built in the town during 1959 :—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	187
(b) By Private Enterprise	... ..	66

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is 3,001

The number of Prefabricated Bungalows is ... 113



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ending December 31st, 1959

**Complaints.**—The steady fall in the number of complaints received in recent years did not continue. This year 526 complaints were received which is an increase of over 100 on the previous year. Again the largest number concerned bad housing conditions, (145) being about the same as last year, but there was a large increase in the number of complaints regarding rat and mice infestations (110) and infestation by insect pests (78).

**Public Health Act, 1936.**—105 informal notices and 90 abatement notices were served under this Act, the majority of which were to secure the remedy of housing defects. Of these 64 were complied with informally and 74 after the service of formal notices.

**Section 81, Leamington Corporation Act, 1952.**—12 notices were served under this section, which enables the public health inspectors to require owners, by notice, to remove obstructions from stopped-up drains, etc., within 48 hours. In 7 instances the work was carried out by the owner in the specified time and in 5 it was done by the Borough Engineer's Department in default.

## Summary of visits and inspections and work done during the year

Inspections of food shops and premises	...	...	750
Inspections of factories	...	...	82
Inspections of dairies	...	...	13
Housing Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	2,097
Visits re Rent Act, 1957	...	...	40
Housing allocation enquiries	...	...	136
Drainage inspections	...	...	115
Visits re dustbins	...	...	385
Visits re offensive accumulations	...	...	42
Visits re Clean Air Act	...	...	1,894
Visits re rodent control	...	...	91
Visits re Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	114
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	1,339
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	...	...	164
Other samples taken for bacteriological examination :—			
Ice Cream	...	...	141
Watercress	...	...	8
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	205



Water—Swimming Bath ...	...	...	...	23
Therapeutic Pool...	...	...	...	20
Paddling Pool ...	...	...	...	23
Others ...	...	...	...	16
Visits in relation to notifiable infectious diseases ...				86
Rooms disinfected ...	...	...	...	79
Steam disinfections ...	...	...	...	22
Books disinfected ...	...	...	...	183
Bundles of clothing disinfected ...	...	...	...	19
Rooms disinfested ...	...	...	...	232
Persons cleansed ...	...	...	...	9

## HOUSING

A Public Inquiry was held in September in respect of the King Street Compulsory Purchase Order but the result had not been received by the end of the year. The Vincent Street Compulsory Purchase Order was submitted in June and confirmed in September. Repairs under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 have been proceeding satisfactorily and in several cases work is being carried out in default although only two houses were completely repaired by the end of the year.

### **Action under Section 42 Housing Act, 1957**

1. Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made ... 5
2. Number of unfit houses in respect of which Clearance Orders or C.P.O's were confirmed 5
3. Number of houses demolished ... 116

### **Action under Sections 16, 17 and 28 Housing Act, 1957**

1. Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made ... 16
2. Number of demolition orders made ... 9
3. Number of closing orders made ... 1
4. Number of closing orders replaced by demolition orders ... 19
5. Number of houses demolished ... 35

### **Action under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957**

1. Number of parts of buildings in respect of which official representations were made ... 12
2. Number of closing orders made ... 7
3. Number of closing orders becoming effective by vacation of parts of buildings closed ... 1



### **Action under Section 9 Housing Act, 1957**

1. Number of informal notices served ... ..	5
2. Number of informal notices complied with ... ..	20
3. Number of formal notices served ... ..	60
4. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners ... ..	22
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	2

### **Houses let in lodgings**

1. Number of notices served to provide additional facilities ... ..	5
2. Number of notices served to abate overcrowding	10

### **Action taken under Housing Acts since 1925**

Houses demolished ... ..	526
Houses and parts of buildings closed (not including houses now demolished) ... ..	73
Undertakings given in lieu of demolition orders and closing orders on dwelling houses ... ..	6
Clearance orders made but houses not yet demol- ished ... ..	144
Demolition orders made but houses not yet demol- ished ... ..	76
Basement dwellings closed ... ..	119
Undertakings given in lieu of closing orders on parts of buildings ... ..	14

### **Prosecution**

#### **Section 27 (1) Housing Act, 1957**

For letting the basement of a house in contravention of a Closing Order the owner was fined £5.

### **Appeals**

Six appeals were entered in the County Court against notices served under Section 9, Housing Act 1957. All the appeals were withdrawn before the dates of the hearings.

### **RENT ACT, 1957**

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair and for cancellation of certificates have almost ceased. The majority of the applications were received during the first quarter of the year.



### **Applications for Certificates of Disrepair**

1.	Number of applications for certificates	...	11
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates		1
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates :—		
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects		4
	(b) in respect of all defects	... ..	5
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	4
5.	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	... ..	Nil.
6.	Number of Certificates issued	... ..	9

### **Applications for Cancellation of Certificates**

7.	Application by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	... ..	6
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	... ..	1
9.	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	... ..	1
10.	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	5

### **Applications for Certificates as to Remedying of Defects**

11.	Number of applications by tenants for certificates	... ..	4
12.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates		Nil.
13.	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	4

### **CARAVANS**

One application was received for a licence to station a caravan on land within the borough and permission was granted for a period of one year.

### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

164 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year who certified 150 to be



genuine and 14 not genuine, 9 of these being due to unsatisfactory labels.

Two samples of glacé cherries were found to contain liquid glucose which was not declared on the labels. Letters were sent to the packers of both products requesting them to amend the labels accordingly, which they agreed to do.

A sample of savoury minced steak was reported to contain only 80% meat whilst in the opinion of the analyst it should have contained 95% meat. This information was sent to the manufacturers who replied that this type of product was the subject of discussions now proceeding between the Food Manufacturers' Federation and the Association of Public Analysts with the object of setting up statutory meat content standards or a voluntary code of practice and until a decision had been reached by these bodies they did not wish to alter the label on their product. Northamptonshire County Council have already been negotiating with this firm for some time on the labelling of their product and future negotiations are to be carried out by them in consultation with our analyst.

A sample of strained beetroot was found to contain 380 parts per million of tin whereas the recommended limit is 250 parts per million. The whole of the stock of this and similar products was removed and replaced by the manufacturers before the result of the sample was received.

An informal sample of ham cheese was reported to contain 8% butterfat whereas the label stated that it contained 20% butterfat and 30% fat on the dried substance. A formal follow-up sample was taken and this was reported to contain 13.2% butterfat and 33% fat on the dried substance. The analyst said that the two statements "20% butterfat" and "30% fat on the dried substance" are not consistent as with a moisture content of 60%, which the sample has, 20% butterfat corresponds to 50% of fat on the dried substance. This information was passed on to the importers, who in turn, communicated with the manufacturers in West Germany.

A sample of Gruyere processed Cheese was reported to contain 44.3% butterfat whereas the standard recommended by the Food Standards Committee is that it should contain a minimum of 45%. A letter was sent to the



importers who have referred the matter to the manufacturers in Switzerland.

A sample of Epsom Salts compound was reported to contain 0.5 grains of phenolphthalein which was not declared. A letter was sent to the manufacturers, who stated that they would either discontinue the product or amend the labels.

The analyst reported that he did not consider the unqualified description of "fruit cream" was justified in relation to a health food called "fruit cream sandwich" which was submitted to him. A letter was sent to the manufacturer who agreed to call the product "fruit sandwich" in future.

A sample of cough pastilles was reported to have an unsatisfactory label in that it was labelled "Pholcodine 0.106% W/W (2 mg. Pholcodine per pastille)." The analyst weighed the pastilles and found that their average weight was 2.57 grams and therefore 0.106% W/W corresponds to 2.72 mg. in each of the pastilles. The manufacturers have been asked to reconcile these conflicting declarations.

A Christmas pudding was reported to be labelled unsatisfactorily as the ingredients were not specified in the order of the proportion in which they were used. The manufacturer agreed to amend the labels.

A sample of sal volatile was found to be deficient of 9.8% ammonia. The deficiency was apparently due to lengthy storage and the remainder of the stock was withdrawn from sale.

A sample of white chocolate drops was analysed and found to contain no significant amount of cocoa butter. The analyst was of the opinion that the description "chocolate" implies the presence of some material derived from the cocoa bean and that the description of the sample was misleading. An endeavour was made to obtain a formal follow-up sample but supplies were no longer available. A letter was sent to the manufacturer calling attention to the analyst's opinion.

An informal sample of wine cocktail which should have contained not less than 35° proof spirit, contained only 33° proof spirit. A formal follow-up sample was reported to be satisfactory.

<i>Article</i>	<i>In- Formal</i>	<i>formal Genuine</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Baking Powder ... ..	1	1	
Beverages ... ..	2	2	
Buttered Buns, etc. ...	2	2	
Canned Cream and Milk	8	8	
Canned Fish and Paste ...	6	6	
Canned, Dried and Glace			
Fruits ... ..	9	7	2
Canned and Prepared			
Meats ... ..	12	11	1
Canned Vegetables ...	11	10	1
Cereals ... ..	2	2	
Cheese and Cheese Spread 1	8	6	3
Epsom Salts Compound	1		1
Fish Cakes... ..	4	4	
Flour ... ..	2	2	
Flour Confectionery ...	5	5	
Frozen Foods ... ..	1	1	
Ground Almonds and Mar-			
zipan ... ..	5	5	
Health Foods ... ..	14	13	1
Ice-Cream and Lollies ...	2	2	
Jelly ... ..	1	1	
Malt Vinegar ... ..	2	2	
Margarine ... ..	1	1	
Milk ... ..	2	2	
Olive Oil ... ..	1	1	
Pickles ... ..	1	1	
Pork Pies ... ..	1	1	
Preserves ... ..	11	11	
Proprietary Medicines, etc.	12	11	1
Puddings and Cake Mix...	7	6	1
Rennet ... ..	1	1	
Sal Volatile ... ..	2	1	1
Soft Drinks ... ..	3	3	
Stuffing, etc. ... ..	3	3	
Sugar Confectionery ...	17	16	1
Wine Cocktails ... .. 1	2	2	1
	2	162	150
			14



**Unsound Food.**—Quantities and descriptions of food found to be unsound and surrendered for destruction as being unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon :  $33\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.  
 Beef :  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.  
 Butter :  $32\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.  
 Cheese : 49 lbs.  
 Dates : 10 lbs.  
 Dried Apricots : 20 lbs.  
 Flour : 16 lbs.  
 Fish and Fish Cakes : 263 lbs.  
 Lobsters : 56 lbs.  
 Margarine and Suet :  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.  
 Onions : 1,456 lbs.  
 Poultry and Game : 95 lbs.  
 Puff Pastry : 9 lbs.  
 Prunes : 30 lbs.  
 Horseradish Sauce :  $8\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.  
 Salted Ox Tongues : 47 lbs.  
 Tea :  $4\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.  
 Yoghourt : 24 lbs.  
 Miscellaneous Tinned foodstuffs : 1,821 tins.

Reasons for condemnation were, in the case of canned food, blown, holed or rusted cans ; in the case of bottled food, broken glass or defective caps ; in other cases the causes were contamination or decomposition.

**Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**—750 visits were made to food premises resulting in 67 letters being sent calling attention to breaches of the regulations. The list of contraventions remedied as a result of letters sent during the current and previous years shows that the traders have been co-operative in securing the objects of the regulations.

**Food Premises subject to Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955**

Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	84
Hotels	...	...	...	...	21
Hostels and Homes	...	...	...	...	13
Clubs	...	...	...	...	16
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	44
Church Halls, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
Places of Public Entertainment, etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Grocers	...	...	...	...	67
Bakers and flour confectioners	...	...	...	...	32

Sugar confectioners ... ..	54
Fishmongers and Fish friers ... ..	21
Butchers ... ..	51
Greengrocers and fruiterers ... ..	31
Chemists ... ..	17
General shops ... ..	48
Food Factories ... ..	4
Factory canteens ... ..	6
Dairies, etc. ... ..	4
Miscellaneous ... ..	11
	<hr/>
	544
	<hr/>

### **Contraventions remedied in Food Premises, etc.**

Cleanliness of equipment ... ..	29
Protection for open food ... ..	45
Personal cleanliness ... ..	1
Sanitary conveniences ... ..	37
Personal washing facilities ... ..	44
First Aid Materials ... ..	8
Accommodation for clothing ... ..	5
Facilities for washing equipment ... ..	7
Lighting of food rooms ... ..	2
Ventilation of food rooms ... ..	15
Cleanliness of food rooms ... ..	78
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	3
Provision of Water Supply ... ..	1
Washing facilities in vehicles ... ..	3

### **Prosecutions**

#### *Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 2.*

1. For selling a wholemeal loaf containing a pencil and metal cap, fined £15 and costs.
2. For selling a tin of creamed rice containing a small bee, fined £5.
3. For selling sultanas containing a cockroach, dismissed without costs.
4. For selling a loaf of bread containing dust and grease, fined £10 and costs.



5. For selling Welsh Rarebit containing cheese mites, fined £5 and costs.
6. For selling a loaf of bread containing the body of an insect, fined £5 and costs.
7. For selling a loaf of bread containing mineral grease, fined £5 and costs.
8. For selling a cake containing a pencil and metal cap, fined £5 and costs.
9. For selling a jam doughnut containing the body of a cockroach, fined £10 and costs.
10. For selling a packet of mouldy smoked cheese, fined £5.

*Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.*

1. For placing open food on the forecourt of a shop lower than 18" from the ground and not otherwise protecting it from the risk of contamination, fined £3 and costs.

**Leamington Corporation Act, 1952—Section 139.**—This section enables the Local Authority to require the registration of food hawkers and their premises. Two applications were received for registration and both were approved.

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS,  
1949-53**

Licences issued during the year under the above Regulations :

Dealers (Pasteurisers) Licence ... ..	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	12
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	12
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk ...	3
Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	49
Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk... ..	47
Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk ... ..	8

Samples of milk were taken regularly for bacteriological examination and the results are set out below :—

Designation	No.	Nature of Tests	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	66	Phosphatase	66	—	—
		Methylene Blue	65	—	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	86	Phosphatase	86	—	—
		Methylene Blue	77	2	7
Tuberculin Tested	50	Methylene Blue	32	18	—
Sterilised	3	Turbidity	3	—	—

As a result of a number of samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failing to pass the Methylene Blue Test a notice was served on a retailer for breaches of a condition of his Dealer's licence. He was informed in the notice that in the event of his committing a further breach of the licence within twelve months he would be liable to prosecution under Section 43 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

## ICE-CREAM

There are five premises registered for the manufacture, sale and storage of ice-cream but only three were used for manufacture during the year. In addition there are 177 premises registered for sale and storage only.

Results of the bacteriological examination of samples of ice-cream :

Grade 1	...	...	119	} Satisfactory
Grade 2	...	...	19	
Grade 3	...	...	3	
Grade 4	...	...	—	} Unsatisfactory



## WATERCRESS

10 samples of watercress were examined and in 5 cases Bact. coli (Type 1) were reported to be present. The results of the examinations have been sent to the local authorities in whose area the watercress was grown and several have been co-operative in endeavouring to improve the condition of the product at source. The results have been sent also to the Secretary of the Association of Municipal Corporations.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Enforcement of the provisions of these Acts rests with two bodies, the Ministry of Labour and the Local Authority, there being well-defined duties shared by H.M. Inspector of Factories and by Public Health Inspectors.

For the purposes of the Act, factories are classified as follows :—

- (i) Factories where mechanical power is not used.
- (ii) Factories where mechanical power is used.
- (iii) Other premises such as sites of building operations, etc.

The following tables detail the work done by the Public Health Inspectors during the year :—

### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
Factories Class (i) ... ..	23	10	2
Factories Class (ii) ... ..	236	72	18
Other premises ... ..	10	10	3
Total ... ..	269	92	23

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—			
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	23	2	1
Total ... ..	27	2	1

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Local authorities may grant licences to suitable persons to keep pet shops which they approve, subject to specified conditions. Three licences were issued and each of the premises were inspected.

### RODENT CONTROL

1,185 inspections of properties were made during the year. The number of infestations treated were as under :—

Private dwellings ... ..	147
Corporation properties ... ..	31
Business premises ... ..	1

The sewers were treated twice during the year. During the first treatment, commenced in April, 803 manholes were baited out of a total of 858 manholes in the district. 83 complete takes were recorded and 12 part takes. During test baiting in October, 189 manholes were baited with 9 complete takes and 1 part take recorded. The river banks and part of the canal banks were treated once during the year.

### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

Regulations made under this Act require shopkeepers to mark certain imported goods or produce with an indication of origin. The manner in which this is to be done



is laid down in the regulations. 114 visits were made to shops to remind shopkeepers of the requirements. 2 warning letters were sent for failure to indicate the country of origin of tomatoes which were exposed for sale.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

The department is concerned with two sections of this Act, one whereby persons in need of care and attention can be removed to suitable accommodation and the other which lays on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made otherwise than by the Authority. One person was buried in such circumstances during the year.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

#### **Smoke Control Areas**

##### **Smoke Control Area No. 1**

This area comprises 202 acres of land in the north-west corner of the town on which private housing development was commenced recently and is continuing at present. At the time of the survey there were only 63 premises in the area but at the date on which the order became operative there were over 200 premises completed. The decision in principle on the area was made and submitted to the Minister in 1957. Provisional clearance to these proposals was given in February, 1958, and the survey of the area followed immediately. In August a smoke control order was made which was confirmed in October and came into operation on 1st July, 1959.

##### **Smoke Control Area No. 2**

This area comprises 325.25 acres of land in the north-east corner of the town which has been largely developed as a council housing estate and development is still continuing. At the time of the survey there were 1,202 premises in the area which had been increased by about a hundred additional houses by the time the order became operative. The decision in principle on the area was made and submitted to the Minister in 1957. Provisional clearance to these proposals was given in February, 1958, and the survey was carried out after the survey of No. 1 area



had been completed. In November a smoke control order was made which was confirmed in January, 1959, and came into operation on 1st September, 1959.

### **Smoke Control Area No. 3**

This area comprises  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres in the north-west part of the town. The majority of the properties, which have now been demolished, were included in a clearance area and as it is intended to re-develop the whole site eventually, all existing buildings have been excluded. The decision in principle on this area was made and submitted to the Minister in 1958. Provisional clearance to these proposals was given in January, 1959, and a smoke control order was made in April. In July the order was confirmed without modification and comes into operation on 1st July, 1960.

### **Smoke Control Area No. 4**

This area comprises approximately 5 acres of the town's shopping centre and contains 124 premises, 70 of which are commercial premises and 54 are dwellings. The decision in principle on this area was made in December, 1958, and submitted early in 1959 to the Minister, who gave his provisional clearance to the proposals in March. The survey of the area followed immediately and a smoke control order was made in July. In December the order was confirmed without modification and comes into operation on 1st July, 1960.

### **Smoke Control Area No. 5**

This area comprises 95 acres of fully developed land in the south together with 195 acres of undeveloped land, part of which is ripe for development, in the south-east corner of the town. The area contains 676 premises. The decision in principle on this area was made in July and the Minister gave his provisional clearance to the proposals in August. The survey of the area followed and a smoke control order was made in December. As objections have been received to the making of the order a public inquiry will be held.

In July a letter was sent to the Warwick Rural District Council requesting them to consider the establishment of a smoke control area in the remainder of the built-up area of Whitnash, which is within their district and adjoins No. 5 area. A reply has been received stating that they



have requested the Medical Officer of Health to prepare and submit a report to them on the matter.

### **Smoke Control Areas Nos. 6, 7 and 8**

These areas are all extensions of No. 2 area and comprise respectively 12.7 acres, 5.2 acres and 18.8 acres of fully developed land containing 143, 38 and 126 premises. The decision in principle on these areas was made in June and the Minister gave his provisional clearance to the proposals in July. The survey of the areas followed and smoke control orders were made in October.

Objections to the making of the Smoke Control Orders have been received by the Minister and public inquiries will be held.

### **Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution**

The results from the four deposit gauges, four lead peroxide candles and the daily smoke/SO<sub>2</sub> apparatus are indicated on the diagrams included in the report. An appraisal of these results has been prepared by W. M. Lewis, Esq., Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and is appended below :—

“City Laboratories’ Service,  
Shortley Road,  
Coventry.

### **Atmospheric Pollution at Leamington Spa**

At the request of the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough I have been extended the privilege of again examining and reporting upon the records of atmospheric pollution data as determined by us on the five sites situated within the Borough boundary.

Members may recall that my last Report covered a period of six months only from July, 1958 to December, 1958, but on this occasion a complete year’s results are available for appraisal.

### **Deposit Gauges**

The pattern of pollution as measured by this type of instrument is almost the same as that described in the 1958 assessment. The gauge collecting the heaviest monthly deposit is once again situated at Victoria Park Bowling Green.



Comparison of results immediately reveals that over the twelve-monthly period reviewed, the Victoria Park area suffers a grit nuisance twice as great as any other area in Leamington. The location which is least affected from this nuisance is as previously reported Cubbington Pumping Station area, which received a deposit of some 65 tons per square mile; whereas Victoria Park during the same period received 151 tons per square mile.

To appreciate these values, the County average grit deposit over this same period, as measured by some 42 such gauges, is recorded as 110 tons per square mile.

On no less than two occasions during 1959 the Victoria Park deposit gauge headed the list of 42 gauges as being the most heavily polluted for the County. The occasions being February and March, when the gauge collected 27 tons and 25 tons per square mile respectively.

A summary of the range of grit deposit collected by each of your four Stations is set out below, with an indication of the worst and best monthly position occupied by each gauge in the County list.

	<i>Average Monthly Grit Deposit</i>		<i>Range</i>	<i>Cnty. Pos'ns.</i>	
	<i>Tons/sq. Mile.</i>			<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>
Milverton Cemetery	7.1	4.3 September— 9.6 November		41	18
Cubbington Pump- ing Station	5.9	2.5 February— 9.7 April		41	15
Victoria Park Bowling Green	13.8	7.3 September— 27.2 February		26	1
Leamington Ceme- tery	6.3	4.3 August— 13.1 January		37	11
County Average	10.0				

Once again it would be fair to state that Victoria Park area consistently records grit deposits which are higher than the County average for the months reviewed, whereas the other areas are more fortunate.

Industrial grit contamination in deposit gauges is measured essentially by the insoluble matter present in the collected material and for the four sites this contamination is as tabulated over.



			<i>Average Insoluble</i>	<i>Range</i>
Milverton Cemetery	...	...	63%	53.6—79.4
Cubbington Pumping Station	...	...	57%	28.3—76.8
Victoria Park Bowling Green	...	...	74%	59.4—84.9
Leamington Cemetery	...	...	56%	26.4—69.5

Whereas the variation recorded by Cubbington Pumping Station and Leamington Cemetery is quite large and may in part be accounted for by wind variations, the range for Milverton Cemetery Site is not so marked and that for Victoria Park site less so, the latter gauge on these figures showing a more persistent contamination from industrial grit.

This pattern of pollution is also substantiated by a determination of the tarry matter in the deposit gauges, and analysis again shows as mentioned in my Report of last year, that the contribution to atmospheric pollution by domestic users in the Victoria Park area is appreciably less than in the other three areas.

### **Load Peroxide Instruments**

Four of these instruments are in operation at the same sites as the Deposit Gauges measuring monthly the sulphur gases contained in the various atmospheres, and once again the highest recorded monthly average is shown by the Cubbington Pumping Station Site. The gauge recording the minimum monthly average is that at Milverton Cemetery.

If it can be assumed that the prevailing wind is mainly South Western, then the gauge at Milverton is collecting the sulphur gases mainly from the Warwick Borough area, whilst that at Cubbington will be affected essentially by the atmosphere of Leamington itself.

The County average value for the period reviewed is almost identical with the value obtained at Cubbington site.

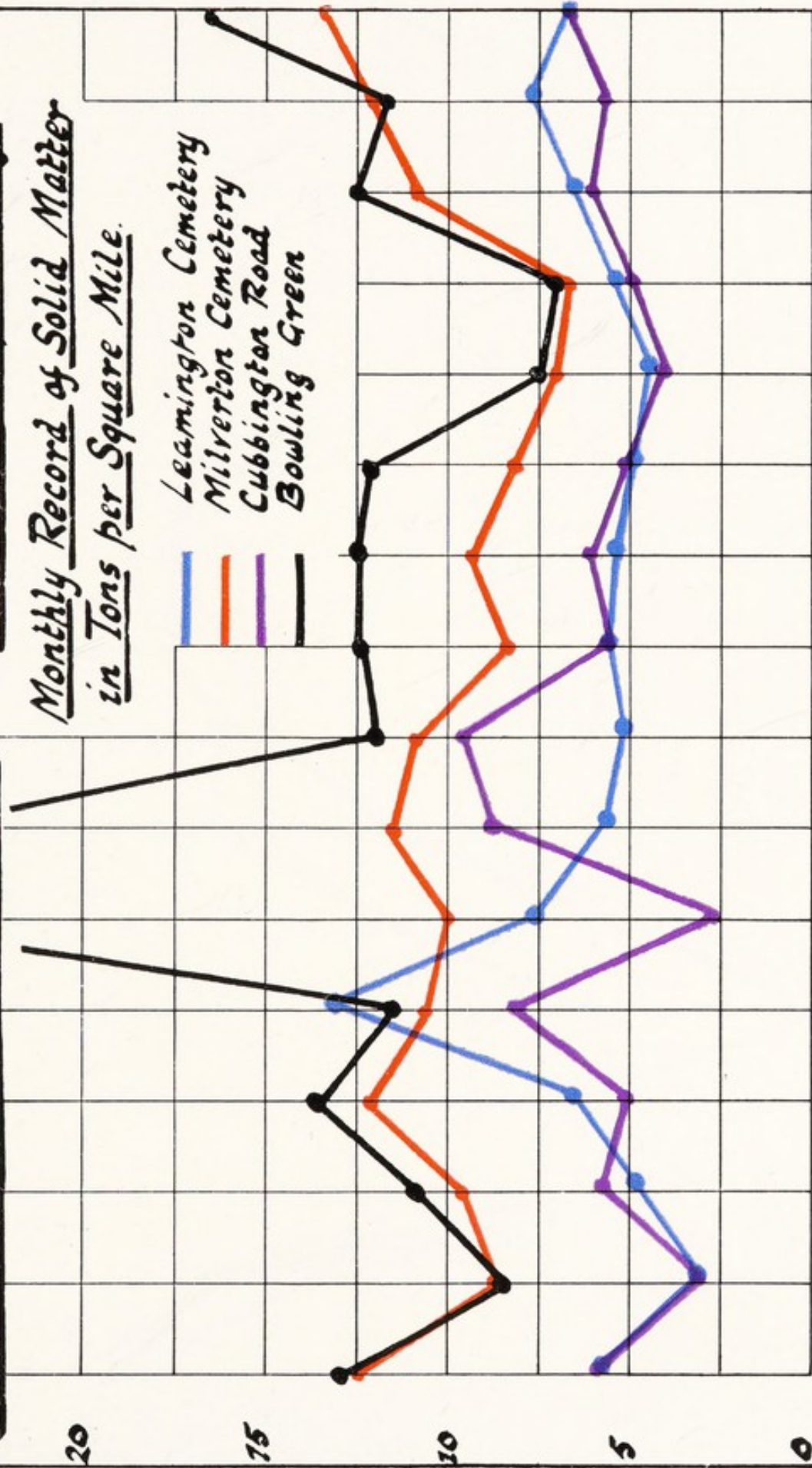
Maximum and minimum monthly values at the various locations, together with the average county values, is given in the table over :—



# 25 DEPOSITED MATTER

Collected in Deposit Gauge  
Monthly Record of Solid Matter  
in Tons per Square Mile.

Leamington Cemetery  
Milverton Cemetery  
Cubbington Road  
Bowling Green



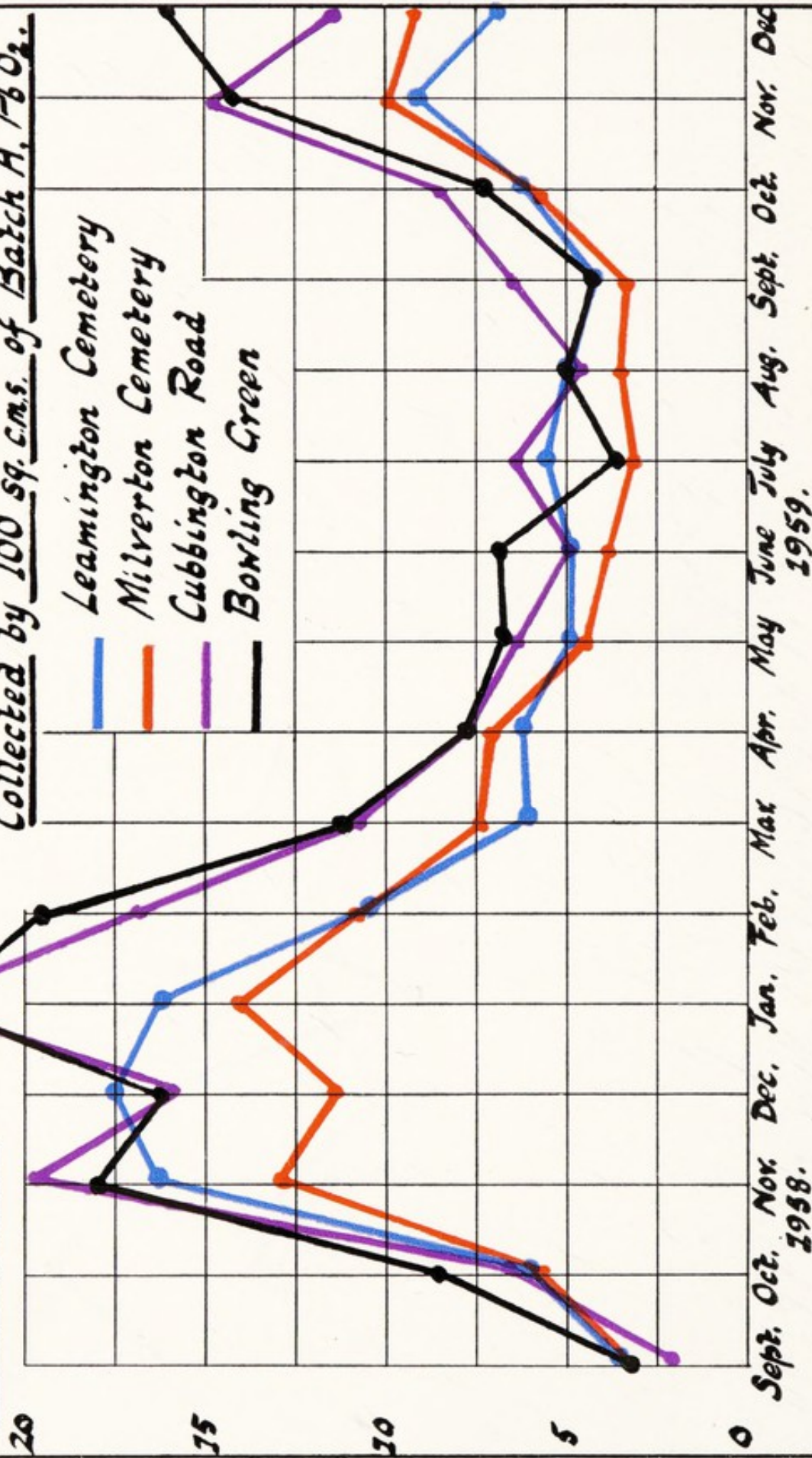
Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.  
1958 1959



# ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR

Lead Peroxide Method

Daily Average in Milligrams of  $\text{SO}_3$   
Collected by 100 sq. cms. of Batch A,  $\text{PbO}_2$ .



Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.  
1958. 1959.

Average of Daily Concentrations of Smoke  
in Milligrams per 100 Cubic Metres.

SMOKE

20

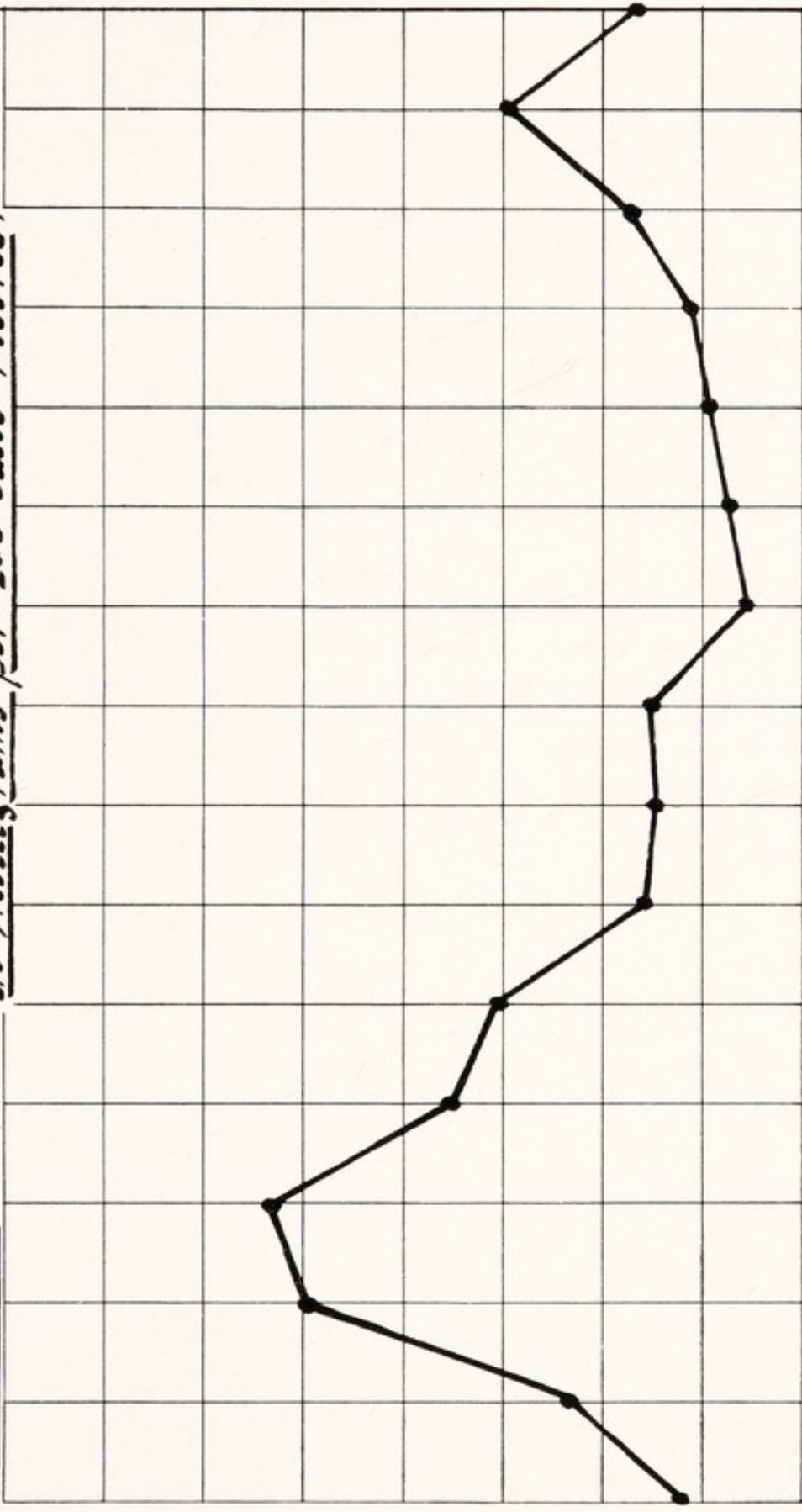
15

10

5

0

Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.  
1958 1959





# ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR.

(Volumetric Method)

Average of Daily Concentrations of  
SO<sub>2</sub> in parts per 100 Million.



Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.  
1958 1959

	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Yearly Average</i>
Milverton Cemetery	1.59 (Jan.)	0.35 (July)	0.754
Cubbington Pump- ing Station	2.58 (Jan.)	0.50 (August)	1.108
Victoria Park	2.51 (Jan.)	0.41 (July)	1.096
Leamington Ceme- tery	1.83 (Jan.)	0.48 (Sept.)	0.823
County Average	2.48 (Jan.)	0.58 (July)	1.128

It would be interesting to know if there is a reason why the variation in levels of sulphur gases at Victoria Park between July and January is in excess of sixfold, whereas the variation at Leamington Cemetery is less than fourfold.

I have remarked previously that in the not too distant future the oil industry particularly, because of the continually increasing use of their products, will have to heed the call for a reduction in the sulphur content of their heavier fuels. A reduction in smoke with a corresponding increase in sulphur gas pollution might appeal to the sense of sight, but could certainly give rise to a situation which would be far from healthy, especially to the very young and old.

### **Daily Appraisal of Smoke and Sulphur Gases**

The County average daily smoke concentration for the period reviewed is 7.2 milligrams per 100 cubic metres of air, and during this period the smoke recorded in the South West of Leamington at the Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education was 5.1 milligrams—a value significantly below the County average.

January was the month of the year when the highest daily average was obtained at this Station, 8.9 milligrams of smoke being recorded; whereas a value of 2.2 milligrams was the minimum value obtained in August, the increase in this type of pollution due to incomplete full combustion is thus fourfold during the winter months—a pattern yielded by the County generally.

The highest single daily recording for smoke occurred on 29th January, when in each one hundred cubic metres of air a concentration of 25 milligrams of smoke was recorded.



It might at this point be of interest to point out that the first serious fog of the fourth quarter of 1959 occurred on 6th November, and whereas the previous day had yielded a smoke concentration of 5.1 milligrams in the atmosphere, this value was increased to 20.9 milligrams during the 6th November, and fell to 2.6 milligrams the following day. Just how much the activities of the night of 5th November had been responsible for this value is difficult to say, but it may not be insignificant.

However, the average daily smoke concentration for the last quarter of 1959 was 5.2 milligrams per hundred cubic metres of air compared with a value of 10.3 milligrams for the corresponding quarter of 1958.

Turning our attention now to the daily assessment of sulphur gases in the atmosphere, we have an average value for the last quarter of 1959 of 4.2 parts per hundred million, compared with a very similar figure of 4.6 parts for the same quarter of 1958.

The highest daily value for sulphur gas pollution was also recorded on 6th November, the values obtained being some five times greater than the daily average obtained during the past twelve months. This irritating gas, plus the smoke hazard at the levels recorded, goes some way to explaining the high incidence of chest ailments which follow that period of the year.

The County daily average sulphur gas concentration for the past twelve months is given as 3.23 parts per hundred million of air, and the value for the Leamington Station is 3.49, i.e. very slightly in excess of the County average.

In conclusion, it would be fair, I think, to state that conditions of atmospheric pollution during 1959 at Leamington Spa, except in relation to smoke for the last quarter of the year were very similar to those obtaining during 1958.

The improvement in levels of smoke for this quarter may not be unconnected with the activities of the Public Health Inspectorate in their attempts to implement the Clean Air Act, 1956.

(Signed) W. M. LEWIS,

Analyst,

Warwickshire Clean Air Council.

22nd January, 1960.



## **Clean Air Exhibition**

A clean air exhibition was held in the Assembly Room at the Town Hall from the 3rd to the 7th March and was attended by over 1,500 people. The main objects of the exhibition were to interest and inform those people affected by or likely to be affected by Smoke Control Orders and to provide evidence of the methods which are being used or are about to be used by industrial and commercial undertakings in the town to reduce their smoke emissions to a minimum. It was felt that as a result of the exhibition these results had been largely achieved. Further information was provided for people in the two smoke control areas which came into operation during the year by visits by the mobile exhibition provided by the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation and the Clean Air Demonstration Vehicle belonging to the West Midlands Gas Board.

## **Applications for prior approval**

Five applications were received for prior approval of new boiler installations. All were approved, two after the proposed chimney heights had been increased. One notification of intention to instal a new boiler plant was received from a Government Department and after negotiations it was agreed that the chimney height should be increased.

## **Prosecution**

The owners of a local laundry were fined £5 for permitting dark smoke to be emitted from the chimney of their premises contrary to sub-section (1) of Section 1 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1959.

## **SHOPS ACT, 1950**

The Health and Welfare provisions of the Shops Act are the concern of the District Public Health Inspectors but the Shops Act Inspectors only deal with matters of Closing Hours, Weekly Half Holidays, Sunday Trading and Hours of Employment of Young Children.

During the year tours of the town were made for the following purposes :—

Weekly half holiday closing	...	32
Sunday trading	... ..	22
General closing hours, etc.	...	16



Whilst no legal proceedings were instituted a few shopkeepers received warnings about failing to close at the proper times and for not exhibiting the required notices.

## ADMINISTRATION

Although there were several changes in the clerical staff during the year no change occurred among the Inspectors and another satisfactory period of work was again due to the loyal co-operation of all concerned.

Thanks are due, also, to our Public Analysts, Messrs. R. K. Chalmers and C. N. Grange, who continue to be most helpful in all matters pertaining to the sampling of food and drugs, and to Mr. W. M. Lewis, Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, who once again very kindly produced his annual assessment of the state of air pollution in the Borough.

A. J. SMITH,

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Borough Shops Act Inspector.

TABLE I.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1959  
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950	36,370	581	16.0	17	29.3	463	12.7
1951	36,520	571	15.7	14	24.5	507	13.9
1952	36,730	601	16.4	13	21.6	461	12.5
1953	37,390	684	18.3	17	24.9	432	11.6
1954	37,800	640	16.2	16	25.0	455	12.0
1955	37,950	697	18.4	19	27.2	459	12.1
1956	38,220	793	20.7	18	22.6	456	12.0
1957	38,940	767	19.4	17	23.6	451	11.6
1958	39,220	825	21.0	19	23.0	433	11.0
1959	39,450	827	21.0	22	26.6	490	12.4

## VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1959.

## ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1959.**(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under Deaths. one year to 1,000 Births.	
England and Wales	...	...	16.5	20.9	11.6	22.2



TABLE II.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1959.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..									
Plague ... ..									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..									
Erysipelas ... ..	2			1			1		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	49		19	28	1	1			
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..									
Enteric Fever ... ..									
Pneumonia ... ..	22	1	4	5	1	2	4	5	
Malaria ... ..									
Dysentery ... ..	11		5	5		1			3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2				1	1			2
Meningococcal Infection ... ..									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..									
Whooping Cough ... ..	16	4	5	7					2
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..									
Measles ... ..	763	24	388	365	3	3			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	29		4	4	4	8	9		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	5			1		3	1		
Food Poisoning ... ..									
Totals ... ..	899	29	415	416	10	19	15	5	7

TABLE III.  
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	2
2 Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	1	—
4 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5 Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8 Measles ... ..	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	3	4
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	19	4
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	4
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	16	22
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	1
16 Diabetes ... ..	—	2
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	24	47
18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..	36	24
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	8
20 Other heart disease ... ..	20	49
21 Other circulatory disease ... ..	9	14
22 Influenza ... ..	5	2
23 Pneumonia ... ..	18	19
24 Bronchitis... ..	20	8
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	5	3
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	3
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1
31 Congenital malformations ... ..	2	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	26
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	4	1
34 All other accidents ... ..	2	12
35 Suicide ... ..	7	3
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	1
All causes ... ..	220	270















