

[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Lichfield City & County.

Contributors

Lichfield (England). City & County Council.

Publication/Creation

1949

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cfrrbfw7>

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

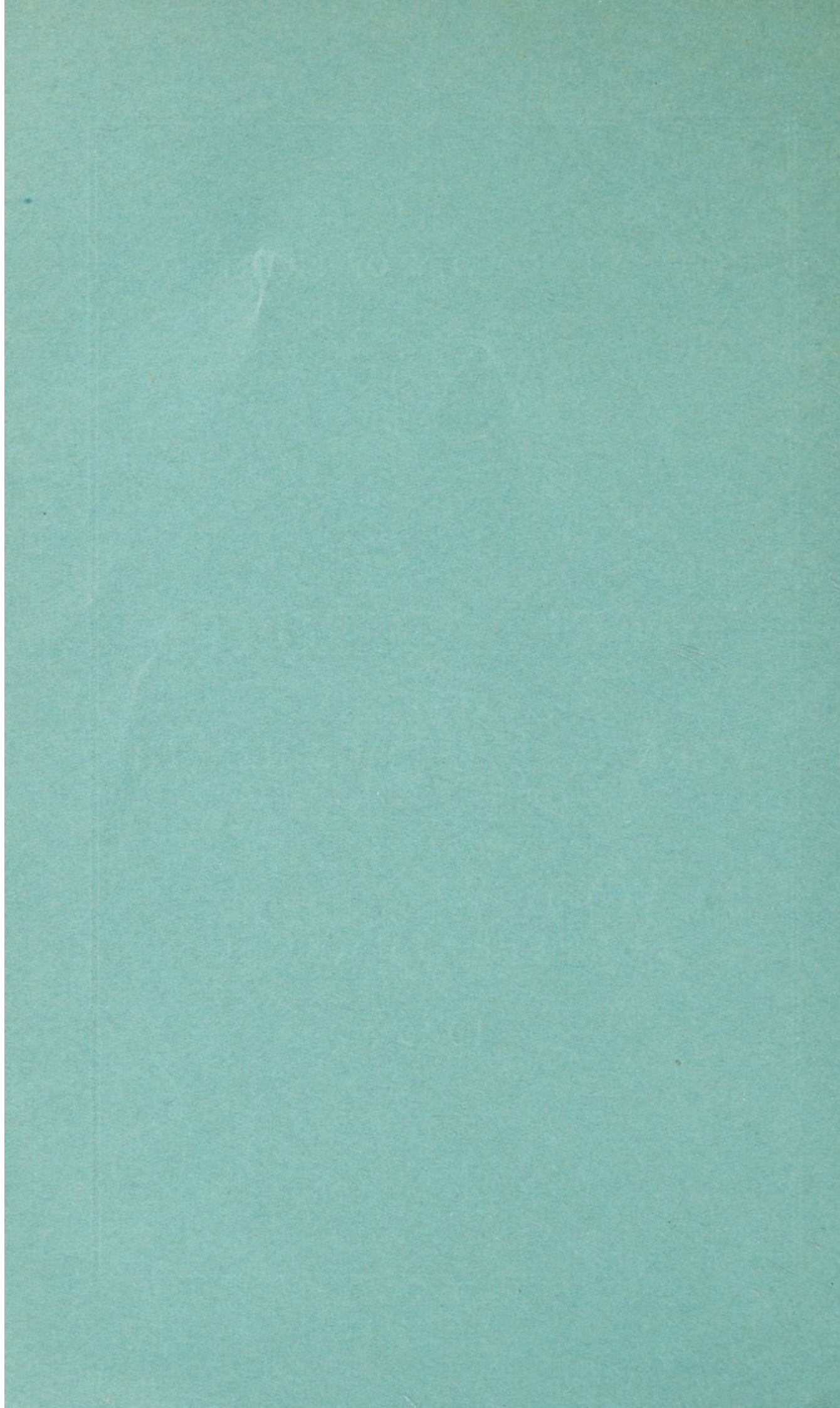
C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

1949



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

1949

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

Health Committee:

Alderman F. Garratt, *Chairman*

Alderman C. H. Averill	Councillor J. Baker
Alderman R. J. Nevill	Councillor J. S. Tayler
Ald. Miss A. M. Thompson	Councillor C. W. Bridgeman
Alderman F. Williams	Councillor H. J. Hall
Councillor A. L. Garratt	Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
(Councillor A. W. Handford)

Medical Officer of Health:

P. D. CONNOLLY, M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.
(Died 14th December, 1949)

Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A. F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1949

*To the Chairman,
Health Committee,
City of Lichfield.*

Dear Sir,

Although only appointed Medical Officer of Health as from 1st April, 1950, it has fallen to me to present the report on the health of the City of Lichfield for the year 1949.

I should like, in doing so, to express my appreciation of the valuable work done by my predecessor, Dr. P. D. Connolly, who died on 14th December, 1949.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to Registrar General—10,200.

Number of inhabited houses—estimated 2,788.

Rateable Value—£62,126.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£242 16s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	91	77	168
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
					—	—	—
TOTAL					97	83	180
					—	—	—

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of population—17.6.

Still Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
					—	—	—
TOTAL					—	1	1
					—	—	—

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of population—0.1.

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Live and Still Births—5.5.

Deaths from all causes—					Male	Female	Total
					76	64	140

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of population—13.7.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
					—	—	—
TOTAL					1	5	6
					—	—	—

ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births—33.3.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—29.8.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—83.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates of certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1949.

(Provisional Figures).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.	LICHFIELD.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
BIRTHS					
Live	16·7	18·7	18·0	18·5	17·6
Still	0·39	0·47	0·40	0·37	0·1
DEATHS					
All Causes ...	11·7	12·5	11·6	12·2	13·7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough...	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01	0·00
Diphtheria... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis ...	0·45	0·52	0·42	0·52	0·39
Influenza	0·15	0·15	0·14	0·11	0·29
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0·01	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·1
Pneumonia ...	0·51	0·56	0·49	0·59	0·39
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01	0·00
Cerebro-Spinal Fev.	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·02	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	1·63	1·72	1·83	1·46	1·17
Whooping Cough	2·39	2·44	2·39	1·70	1·47
Diphtheria	0·04	0·05	0·04	0·07	0·00
Erysipelas	0·19	0·20	0·19	0·17	0·48
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles	8·95	8·91	9·18	8·54	2·15
Pneumonia	0·80	0·91	0·65	0·55	0·88
Acute Poliomyelitis	0·13	0·13	0·12	0·18	0·68
Acute P'encephalitis	0·01	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·00
Food Poisoning ...	0·14	0·16	0·14	0·19	0·48
DEATHS					
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
All Causes under 1 year of age	32	37	30	29	33
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age...	3·0	3·8	2·4	1·7	5·5
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6·31	8·14	5·30	6·82	44

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>
1947	9,816	22.9	10.5	35.5
1948	10,170	20.5	10.9	38.4
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	33.3

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
Typhoid Fever.....	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Diphtheria.....	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2
Other Tuberculosis .....	...	1
Syphilis .....	...	...
Influenza	1	2
Measles .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...
Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	...	...
Cancer	17	8
Diabetes .....	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	7	5
Heart Diseases	22	19
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	7
Bronchitis ..	7	3
Pneumonia	3	1
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	1
Appendicitis	2	...
Other Digestive Diseases.....	1	1
Nephritis .....	...	2
Puerperal Sepsis	—	...
Other Maternal Causes	—	...
Premature Birth .....	...	1
Congenital Causes, etc. ....	...	2
Suicide	1	...
Road Traffic Accidents	1	...
Other Violent Causes	3	1
All Other Causes	3	4
TOTALS—All Causes ...	76	64

INFANT MORTALITY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>				<i>Under 4 Weeks.</i>	<i>Under 1 Year.</i>
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	1	1
Acute Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	—	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	2
Pulmonary Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	1

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table indicates the prevalence of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, and the number of deaths from these diseases during 1949.

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1948	TOTAL 1949	MALE	FEMALE	AGE DISTRIBUTION	DEATHS
Measles ...	29	22	9	13	0 — 1 ... 2 1 — 5 ... 17 5 — 10 ... 3	
Whooping Cough	17	15	7	8	0 — 1 ... 1 1 — 5 ... 8 5 — 10 ... 5 10 — 15 ... 1	
Pneumonia ...	2	9	4	5	5 — 15 ... 1 15 — 45 ... 6 Over 65 ... 2	4
Scarlet Fever ...	13	13	8	5	1 — 5 ... 4 5 — 10 ... 6 10 — 15 ... 2 15 — 25 ... 1	
Erysipelas ...	2	5	2	3	5 — 15 ... 1 45 — 65 ... 2 Over 65 ... 2	
Diphtheria ...	2	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	8	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis ...	1	7	3	4	5 — 10 ... 4 15 — 25 ... 3	1

As will be seen from the foregoing table, seven cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year, with one death, as contrasted with one case in the previous year.

The incidence of scarlet fever, measles and whooping-cough was again low, as compared with the country as a whole, and there were no cases of diphtheria.

The number of cases of puerperal pyrexia was again rather high, with 8 cases notified, but there were no deaths from the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease during the year 1949, are set out in the following table :—

AGE PERIODS		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
5 — 10 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 years	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 years	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 — 25 years	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 30 years	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
30 — 35 years	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 40 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 — 45 years	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 50 years	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 — 55 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 — 60 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 — 65 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	9	5	2	—	1	3	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

I am pleased to be able to record that no case of diphtheria occurred in the City during 1949. This freedom from infection is undoubtedly due to the vigorous diphtheria immunisation campaign which has been carried out in recent years.

HOSPITALS.

General hospital accommodation is provided at Victoria Hospital, where there are 34 general beds, at St. Michael's Hospital, where there are 146 general beds, 23 children's beds and 53 beds for chronic and elderly cases, and at hospitals in Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Burton and Stafford.

As regards maternity beds, 11 are provided at the Victoria Hospital, where 215 cases were delivered during the year, and 32 at St. Michael's Hospital, where 274 cases were delivered.

The Wissage Isolation Hospital was closed down during the year, and the majority of infectious patients who require hospital treatment are now treated at Tamworth Isolation Hospital and Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham. Facilities for isolating and treating suspected cases of smallpox are available at Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are provided by Staffordshire County Council. Special ambulance teams are available at Stafford and Uttoxeter for the removal of suspected cases of smallpox.

CLINICS.

Infant Welfare, Ante-natal, School (including Dental), Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic and Chest Clinics are held periodically at the clinic premises in Sandford Street. Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are available at the General Hospital, Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary, General Hospital, Stafford, Manor Hospital, Walsall, and at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories at Stafford continue to provide a very useful service both to the Health Department of the Council and to medical practitioners in the City.

Arrangements were made during the year for the establishment of a collecting-point for specimens at Rural Council House, St. John Street. Medical practitioners can leave specimens at this collecting-point at any time during the day or night. These specimens are then collected and sent to the laboratory at Stafford by 'bus, in order that they can be dealt with the same day.

HOUSING.

Although 85 Council houses and 10 private houses were completed during the year, the waiting list for council houses increased from 555 at the beginning of the year to 623 at the end.

It has still not been possible to make any progress with the demolition of the 52 houses condemned for human habitation before the war.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was necessary during the year, under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to enforce the removal to suitable premises of any person in need of proper care and attention.

WATER SUPPLY.

As mentioned in previous reports, water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and is chlorinated. Regular routine sampling is done by the company's chemist, and occasional checks are also made by this Department. The number of houses served only by an outside stand-pipe has now been reduced to 23. Two houses are still served by wells.

SEWERAGE.

The sewage works serving the greater part of the City cannot be regarded as adequate to meet present needs, having been designed and constructed more than half a century ago, when the City had many fewer houses than it has to-day. It is, however, being maintained and operated as well as is possible under existing circumstances, pending consent by the Ministry of Health to the commencement of work on the proposed reconstruction.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Building restrictions have again prevented the Council from proceeding with plans for the construction of a new swimming-pool, to replace that at present in use.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Inspections and visits made were as follows :—

Houses—Public Health Act	170
Houses—Housing Act	40
Complaints received and investigated ...	131
Housing Applications investigated	102
Building Licensing	25
Moveable Dwellings	8
Common Lodging Houses	16
Factories	48
Shops—under Shops Acts	70
Slaughter-houses	7
Markets	32
Re-visits and re-inspections	145
Dairies	24
Ice-cream Premises	28
Other Food Shops and Food Premises ...	30
Sampling Visits	29
Piggeries... ..	4

NOTICES.

Particulars of Notices served during 1949 are as follows :—

Informal Notices served	38
Informal Notices complied with	32
Statutory Notices served	1
Statutory Notices complied with	—

CORRESPONDENCE.

In addition to notices and official forms, 184 letters were received and 370 despatched.

BUILDING LICENSING.

During the year 25 applications were dealt with. These were in connection with repairs and maintenance. Applications in respect of proposed new houses are dealt with by the City Engineer and Surveyor.

HOUSING.

During the year the position regarding unfit houses was reviewed when it was reported that 43 houses included in Clearance Areas before the onset of war were still occupied. In some cases there is extensive structural deterioration, but regular visits are made to ensure that the houses are kept reasonably safe and weatherproof.

Apart from inspections under the Public Health Act and Housing Act, 102 housing applications were investigated under the Points Scheme. Most of these concerned families living in rooms or lodgings. Without exception, the applicants in these circumstances were anxious to secure separate accommodation. In this district the number of families who have no homes of their own appears to be the most serious aspect of the housing shortage. Following a report to the Housing

Committee regarding the operation of the Points Scheme in the light of experience gained, adjustments were made in the allocation of points to applicants in lodgings. Much valuable information was gained from enquiries made under the Scheme, and it seems clear that the method of dealing with applications under this system is an improvement on the previous procedure. Preliminary pointing which is done by the Housing Clerk discloses cases which call for early investigation, while the personal visit serves to check particulars given by applicants when their accommodation is inspected.

Following some investigations adjustments were made in the use of existing accommodation with the object of preventing overcrowding.

It is evident that the provision of more new houses is the real solution, although it is realized this is not easy under present conditions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

In view of the interest recently shown by the public concerning the conditions under which food is sold, inquiries were made in a number of other districts about any special methods of publicity. Only two towns were known to have started publicity campaigns, and it was subsequently decided that the better course was to rely on visits to food premises and interviews with those working in the trade. A number of visits were made to restaurants and food shops and the general standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory. In one case a pot-washing machine had been installed and although it appeared to be in the nature of an experiment, this innovation shows that some traders are keen to improve conditions. In a few instances the premises are hardly adequate for the amount of trade carried out, but it is expected that improvements will be effected when labour and materials become more readily available.

An arrangement has been made whereby applications to the Food Committee for catering licences are referred to the Health

Committee for observations and recommendations. This procedure has worked well, since it allows adjustments to be made before a business becomes established. Recommendations are confined to reasonable requirements such as suitable premises and facilities for cleanliness. In several cases flyproof food cupboards have been provided, while in one instance a refrigerator was installed.

Twelve samples of designated milk were submitted for examination, eleven of which were reported to be satisfactory, the only failure being a heat-treated sample collected before the new pasteurising plant was installed. Since the new plant at Crowsnest Dairies has been operating there has been no failure in pasteurised milk.

There are 18 premises in the City registered for the sale of ice-cream, while there is only one registered producer. The Committee rejected a proposal for the manufacture of ice-cream in one instance because of unsuitable premises.

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed :—

32 tins of Carrots	49 tins of Evaporated Milk
17 tins of Beans in Tomato	16 tins of Sweetened Milk
39 tins of Tomatoes	6 jars of Jam
8 tins of Tomato Juice	3 tins of Marmalade
60 lbs. of Tomato Links	1 tin of Syrup
3 tins of Spaghetti	3 packets of Oats
10 tins of Beetroot	2 packets of Semolina
43 tins of Peas	1 Sweetened Sponge
3 tins of Spinach	1 packet of Suet
3 tins of Spinach Juice	11 jars of Salad Cream
1 tin of Potatoes	50 jars of Pickles
1 tin of Greengages	3 boxes of Cheese
3 tins of Rhubarb	15 lbs. of Cheese
6 tins of Grapefruit	3 bottles of Coffee
4 tins of Grapefruit Juice	26½ lbs. of Soya Flour
5 tins of Plums	23 lbs. of Black Pudding
1 tin of Apricots	51 tins of Soup
2 tins of Orange Juice	22 tins of Veal Loaf
1 box of Dates	4 tins of Ham Loaf
1 tin of Apples in Syrup	1 tin of Pork
7 tins of Fish Spread	2 tins of Stewed Steak
13 tins of Sardines	15 lbs. of Bacon
4 tins of Herring Roes	6 lbs. of Sausages
1 tin of Snoek	10 (38 lbs.) Sheeps' Plucks
1 tin of Crab	1 jar of Savory
1 tin of Salmon (Grade 2)	2½ lbs. of Butter
1 tin of Whale Meat	3 tins of Hors d'Oeuvre
17 tins of Mussells	3 tins of Macedoines
3 stone of Haddock	1 Pig's Fry
	1 Sheep's Carcase

OTHER DUTIES.

During the year 37 licences were issued in respect of places for the storage of petroleum. In the case of new applications, proposals for storage are referred to the Fire Prevention Officer before a licence is granted.

There are 14 Hackney Carriages licensed in the City.

