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#### CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

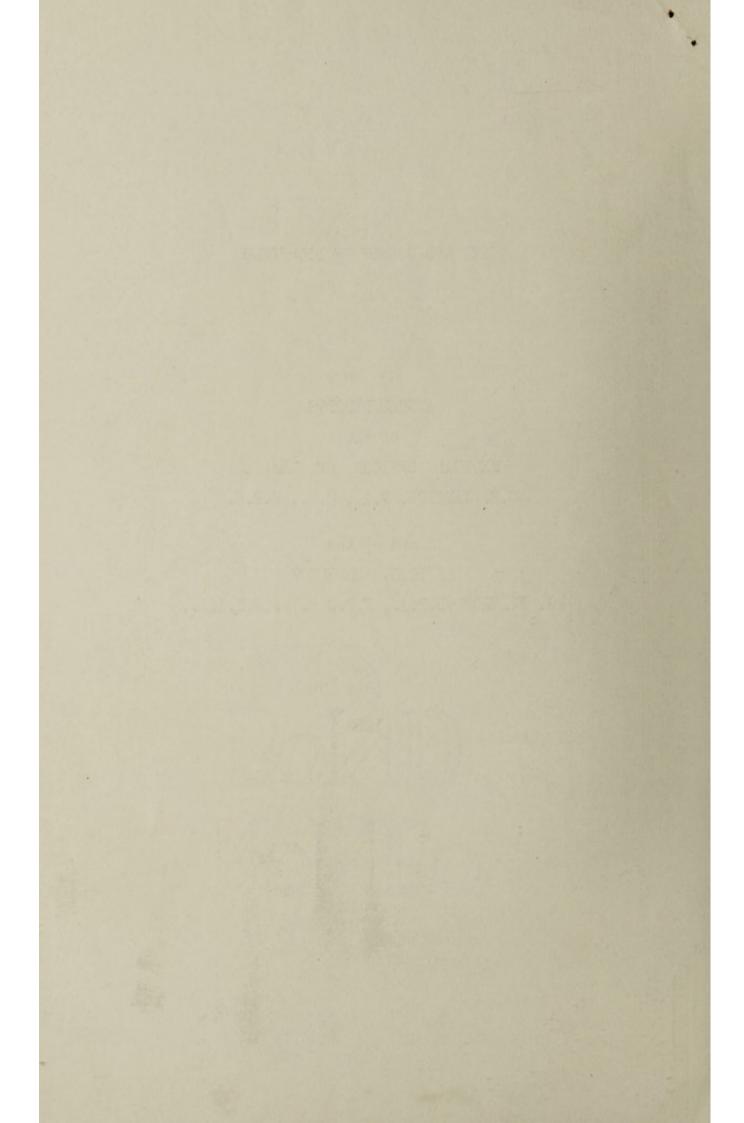
of the

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.R.San. I. F.S.I.A.,





# CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

#### HEALTH COMMITTEE

#### Chairman

Councillor C.W. Bridgeman J.P.

Alderman A. L. Garratt
Alderman F. Garratt
Alderman W.F.L. Salloway
Councillor S. Clarke
Councillor Mrs. F. E. Currie
Councillor J. G. Gill

Councillor F. W.C. Long

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

John Fineron, D.P.A., F.R. San. I. F.S.I.A.

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1953

To the Chairman, Health Committee, City of Lichfield.

Dear Sir,

Once again, it is my duty to report on the health of the community and on the work of the Health Department of the Council during the year.

The vital statistics show some differences from the previous year, but the differences are more apparent than real. Thus, although the death rate, at 16.8 per thousand population, has risen substantially, as compared with the previous year, the increase is due to inclusion in the figures, for the first time, of those aged sick dying in hospital in the City. The birth rate, at 17.8 per thousand population, is higher than in 1952. The infant mortality rate, 30.7 per thousand live births, though higher than in the previous year, is comparable with the figures for other parts of the country.

As regards notifiable infectious diseases, the picture is a mixed one. Measles and whooping cough were both much more prevalent than in the previous year, the figure for measles being particularly high. These marked fluctuations, however, are a well known feature of these diseases. The reduction in the number of new cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis is very satisfactory. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue.

It is satisfying to be able to record that more progress was achieved in dealing with houses unfit for human habitation than was possible in previous years. Some particulars of this progress are given in the body of the report.

It is also very pleasant to be able to note that approval has at last been obtained by the Council for work on the reconstruction of the sewage disposal works, a very much needed improvement, to commence on 1st April next.

I desire to thank members of the Health Committee, Officers of other Departments, and the staff of the Health Department for their usual helpful co-operation. In particular, I should like to thank the City Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector for their help in preparing this report.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. JAMISON.

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1954.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

As w	ill be see	n from the	figures se	t out below	, the City
continued to	grow both	in populat:	ion and in	the number	of inhabited
houses.					

nouses.			
Area (in acres) Estimated resident population according to Number of inhabited houses Rateable Value Sum represented by a penny rate			3,597 10,930 3,066 £67,487 263.15.7
VITAL STATISTIC	S		
Live Births - Legitimate Illegitimate	Male 91 7 98	Female 85 <u>12</u> 97	Total 176 19 195
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of population -	17.8	_	_
Still Births - Legitimate	Male 2 1 3	Female 2 - 2	Total 4 1 5
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Live and	Still 1	Births - 25.0	
Deaths from all causes -	Male 90	Female 94	Total 184
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of population -	16.8		
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	5	1 1	5 1 6
ALL INFAMTS per 1,000 Live Births - Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitim Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illeg	30.7 nate li gitimat	ve births - 28 e live births	3.4 - 52.6
Deaths from Maternal Causes  Deaths from Cancer (all ages)  Deaths from Measles (all ages)  Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)  Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	:::		0 22 0 0 1

The following table gives the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for the City and County of Lichfield, as compared with that for England and Wales, London Administrative County, 160 County Boroughs and great Towns (including London), and 160 smaller Towns:-

	Birt	h Rate Still	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	11.4	26.8
London Administrative County	17.5	0.38	12.5	24.8
160 County Boroughs and great Towns (including London)	17.0	0.43	12.2	30.8
160 smaller Towns (Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	15.7	0.34	11.3	24.3
City and County of Lichfield	17.8	0.45	16.8	30.7

#### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	Rate 33.3 65.0 52.9 11.6 30.7
1950	10,400	16.2	10.5	
1951	10,760	15.8	10.8	
1952	10,870	15.7	10.1	
1953	10,930	17.8	16.8	

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Like immediately preceding years, 1953 was a year of full employment in the City. For this reason, financial stress was not an important factor influencing social conditions, except in those families deprived of a breadwinner. In such cases, payments made by the Ministry of National Insurance and National Assistance Board usually enabled a reasonable standard of nutrition to be maintained. In a few instances, however, other factors, such as lack of interest or skill in household management, entered the picture.

# NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No case occurred during the year in which action was necessary under the National Assistance Acts to secure compulsory removal to an institution in order to ensure that necessary care and attention would be received, this action being reserved for very extreme cases. Domestic assistance was arranged in appropriate cases through the

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#### DEATHS

During the year, 184 deaths occurred which were assigned to the City, 123 of these being in persons over 70 years of age. Causes of death were as follows:-

	Male	Female
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	_	1
Other Tuberculosis	' <del>-</del>	-
Syphilitic Disease Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles		-
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases	-	1
Cancer	8 1 14 10 2 7	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia Diabetes	i	16 3 15 7 10 6 1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	16
Coronary disease, angina	10	3
Hypertension with heart disease Other Heart Disease	$\tilde{7}$	15
Other Circulatory Disease	9	7
Influenza	- 7	7.0
Pneumonia Bronchitis	7	6
Other Respiratory diseases	2	ĭ
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	4	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea Nephritis and nephrosis	_	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion Congenital malformations	2 15	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	12
Motor vehicle accidents		
All other accidents	2	3
Suicide Homicide and operations of war	į	_
The state of the s	90	94
		-

The reason for the large increase in numbers, as compared with the previous year, has been mentioned in my introductory note.

It will be noted that, while no deaths resulted from motor vehicle accidents, 5 deaths were due to other types of accident. Of these, no less than 4 followed fracture of the femur in elderly persons. These figures illustrate very graphically the important fact that these accidents constitute a serious hazard to life in elderly persons.

The greatly increased safety of childbirth is illustrated by the fact that, once again, no death was attributable to this cause.

Of the deaths occurring in children under one year of age, two were due to congenital abnormalities, while the remaining three were due to broncho pneumonia.

BHTURE

#### PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Notifiable Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of cases notified other than tuberculosis, during 1953:-

Nature of case	Total 1952	Total 1953	Male	Female	Age Distribution	Deaths
Measles	23	248	146	102	0 - 14 1 - 239 3 - 460 5 - 9140 10 -144 15 -241	
Whooping Cough	1	86	43	43	0 - 112 1 - 235 3 - 420 5 - 917 10 -141 age unknownl	
Pneumonia	1	15	8	7	5 -14.:1 15 -44.:8 45 -64.:5 65 & over1	17
Scarlet Fever	4	1		1	3 - 41	
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	8		8		
Poliomyelitis Paralytic Non	0	0	0	0	0	
Paralytic	0	1	0	1	15 -241	
Dysentery	1	1	1	0	45-641	
Food Poisoning		1	1	0	15 -441	-

As already mentioned in my introductory note, the incidence of measles and whooping cough was much higher than in the previous year. The incidence of other notifiable infectious diseases was, however, satisfactorily low.

As in recent years, no case of diphtheria was notified. Cases continue to occur, however, in other parts of the country, which leaves no doubt of the continued need for immunisation of all children against the disease. Of children under 5 years, 51% have now been immunised, while 93% of school children in the City have been immunised. The present need is for an even greater proportion of infants to be immunised before reaching their first birthday.

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#### GENERAL PROVISION: OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

As in previous years, the Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories provided a valuable and much appreciated service by reporting on bacteriological and pathological specimens submitted.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service, administered by Staffordshire County Council, continued to provide a twenty four hour service. Where necessary, long-distance journeys were undertaken, the journey being carried out by rail in appropriate cases. A special team of vaccinated drivers is available to convey actual or suspected smallpox patients to hospital, if the necessity should arise.

#### THE HOME HELP SERVICE

This service, also administered by Staffordshire County Council, has come into increasing use during the year. Its use has, on a number of occasions, obviated the need for removal to hospital or welfare hostel.

#### CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Lichfield Old People's Welfare Committee, founded in 1952, increased its work very considerably during 1953. By its efforts, it has done much to bring interest into the lives of many elderly people, and has helped to combat the loneliness which the various other social services, useful as they are, cannot deal with.

Apart from the voluntary work mentioned above, and the "meals on wheels" service, home help and home nursing services have been provided, through the Staffordshire County Council, where required.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

This remained more or less unchanged from that provided in previous years, patients suffering from infectious diseases being transferred to Tamworth, Little Bromwich and Moxley Fever Hospitals. The shortage of beds for aged chronic sick continued, as in other parts of the country, to throw a considerable burden on the domicilory nursing services. The delay in obtaining hospital beds for tuberculous patients showed, however, a welcome and important reduction during the year.

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#### TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases notified, and of deaths from this disease, during the year:-

Age Periods		New Ca	N	Won nonary	Puli	Deat		Non monary
	M	F	M	F	М	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 years	_	-	-	-	_	-	_	_
10 to 15 years	-	-	_	_	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 years	_	-	1	_	_		_	_
25 to 30 years	-	1	7	-	_	_	-	_
30 to 35 years	1	-	-	-	-			-
35 to 40 years	-			1			1	
	-	7	7	1	-		-	
40 to 45 years	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
45 to 50 years	7	7	7	7	7	1	-	-
50 to 55 years	-	-	-		7	-	-	- 1
55 to 60 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 to 65 years	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	,	-	-	-	-
	2	1	1	1	=	1	-	三

The reduction in the number of new cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis has already been commented upon. One of the new cases was discovered by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, which visited the City during the year. This patient has already received sanatorium treatment.

The appointment of a health visitor specialising in tuberculosis case work, made by the County Council during the year for Lichfield and the surrounding district, should help to co-ordinate the preventive with the curative aspects of this work.

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A comparison between the incidence of tuberculosis in 1953 and in the 4 previous years is provided by the following table:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
iear	Pulmo	onary	Pulm	on onary	Pulm	onary	Pulm	on onary
	М	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1949	9	5	2	0	1	3	-	-
1950	3	3	3	3	3	-	_	-
1951	1	3	3	1	-	1	1	-
1952	5	1	-	4	2	1	-	-
1953	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-

#### GENERAL HYGIENE

#### Housing

During 1953, twelve houses in clearance areas were demolished. Two sub-standard houses in Stowe Street, previously acquired by the City Council, were vacated and rendered uninhabitable until demolition becomes practicable. Six houses in Lombard Street, continued to give trouble because of repeated complaints from the occupiers concerning various structural defects. The owner agreed to the purchase of the houses by the City Council. These will be reasonably maintained as long as they remain occupied, but it is hoped they will be demolished in the very near future.

#### WATER SUPPLY

During the latter part of the summer of 1953 a few complaints were received from one section in the district regarding the taste of the water which, however, was found to be of satisfactory quality upon examination. These complaints ceased when the supply to the City from that particular source was discontinued, and the City connected to the deep boring in the Trent Valley district.

As in the previous year, all samples taken during the year were bacteriologically pure and of a satisfactory chemical composition.

# Sewage Disposal (Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor to the City Council, Mr. D. Oglesby, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.,

Some areas of the City continue to cause a certain amount of nuisance, in particular the sewer from Sandford Street across Bird Street and along the Minster Pool and via Dam Street and Stowe Pool Walk, which carries Gas Works liquor. This has been inspected on several occasions by myself and the Sanitary Inspector and flushing has been carried out. A more permanent scheme for the prevention of the nuisance is at present in course of preparation.

The Birmingham Road area continued to flood on occasions of heavy storm, but here again at the time of writing the sewers in this area are being scraped and cleaned, and it appears that the problem is almost under control.

Some of the older sewers are causing me a certain amount of disquiet in that, being built of brick, they will soon require maintenance. A scheme will shortly be submitted covering these.

#### (b) Sewage Disposal Works

(a) Sewerage

Approval has been given to the scheme for the reconstruction of the Works, and work will commence on 1st April, 1955. At the moment, tenders are being invited for the work.

With a view to improving the final effluent, a new distributor has been fitted on the 110 ft. diameter percolating filter and, as a result, there has been some improvement.

#### PUBLIC BATHS

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor)

New filtration plant and a pumped circulatory system have been installed at the Public Baths and a greatly improved water has resulted. Chlorine injection and control are very much more satisfactory, and a new Baths Attendant is striving to maintain high standards of cleanliness both in the water and around the pool. The electric wiring has all been renewed, and is now safe. Further minor works of improvement are in hand, and by the end of the season conditions should be as satisfactory as the present layout and construction will allow.

#### House Refuse Collection and Disposal:

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor)

During the past year a certain amount of difficulty has been experienced in maintaining suitable gangs for refuse collection and the Council is endeavouring to make conditions as attractive as possible in an attempt to assist in the recruitment of men for this job.

Refuse disposal has continued to be carried out by means of controlled tipping and this has resulted in the completion of nearly two acres which are now in a condition to be used as playing fields. Further land has been fenced off and a surface water sewer has been extended to allow for this.

Complaints have been received regarding fly nuisance from Trunkfields Tip and during the summer period this Tip was closed for domestic refuse. I am not entirely satisfied that the nuisance was as a result of the Tip, for I consider that an important factor at this Tip is the marshy ground on either side of the stream course, as well as certain of the farm buildings which to say the least of it are unwholesome. The Sanitary Inspector has I believe inspected the

hen house on this farm. Conditions at this Tip will continue to be kept under careful supervision.

In the proposed extension to the Trent Valley Trading Estate allowance has been made for a salvage plant and for a destructor plant which will have Railway Siding access. It is anticipated that this cannot be available for 4 to 5 years, when the need for it will be rather more pressing than it is now.

#### FACTORIES ACT 1937

1.-Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
90	80	2	Nil

#### 2. Defects Found and Action Taken

N. DOLOGO & CHARLE CLARK ALGORITHM						
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted		
Want of cleanliness	4	4	2	Nil		
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-		
Unreasonable temperature	-	7	-	-		
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-		
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-		
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient Unsuitable or defective Not separate for sexes	2 -	-	2 -	Nil - -		
No certificate as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire	-	<u> </u>	-	<u>:</u>		
Emission of Fumes	_	-	-	-		
Total	6	4	4	Nil		

ben besse on this farm, denditions as this Tip will continue to be kept under careful accertision.

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# SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT General Inspection of District

During 1953 one hundred and fifty five complaints were investigated. The removal of structural defects following most of these complaints continues to be a feature of present day public health work. This is not likely to change until the housing situation becomes still less acute and labour and materials more readily available. The relatively high cost of repair work is, of course, a deterrent especially in relation to houses with the rents controlled at a comparatively low level.

In many cases when these investigations are made other matters are noticed and dealt with which would probably escape attention under more normal conditions. In the case of houses known to be such as to come within the scope of the Housing Act in the near future, repair work is restricted to essential things such as the removal of serious dampness and inconveniences caused by structural defects.

#### HOUSING INSPECTIONS

A special report on all houses already the subject of clearance orders was submitted to the Health Committee followed by recommendations relating to sub-standard houses which it is hoped will be dealt with during the next five years. Progress in this connection was better than in any year since 1939.

An interesting feature of the present shortage of houses is that a number of sub-standard houses are now occupied by tenants constrained by force of circumstance to accept such accommodation in the absence of better provision. These are, of course, chiefly newly married people starting home building without children. In some cases the standard of cleanliness in such houses has been remarkably good, but more often than not the housewife becomes discouraged when children arrive because of the handicaps imposed by lack of amenities such as a constant supply of hot water and bathroom. The incentive appears to be a prospect of more suitable accommodation when the housing shortage is less pronounced. The point is worth considering because it illustrates the effect of unsatisfactory conditions on the attitude and conduct of tenants.

No work of repairs was done under the Housing Act as it is considered better procedure to work under the provisions of the Public Health Act in regard to essential repairs, especially as much of this work has been done in houses known to be likely for inclusion in Clearance Areas in the near future.

Housing investigations in connection with the Points System are now restricted to cases where reports are required on housing conditions, since both the Medical Officer and I consider that other enquiries can be efficiently dealt with by the Housing Department.

One of the principal features in most cases of unsatisfactory accommodation is lack of privacy in sleeping arrangements. An extra point is now allowed for absence of bathroom, while full maximum points for insanitary conditions are recommended in relation to houses known to be earmarked for demolition within the next few years.

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# RODENT CONTROL

Following interviews with the Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Food arrangements were made for a more systematic procedure in connection with this work. Several surveys were made in various parts of the City, followed by treatment of rat infested premises.

It must be realised, of course, that in some cases a recurrence of the trouble is bound to occur due to the nature of materials stored in the buildings. There is also the migratory habits of the rat to be considered. During the autumn rats usually find refuge in buildings to ensure warmer conditions and supplies of food. This often gives rise to complaints from food premises and buildings adjoining.

A slight infestation in the banks of the Minster Pool was successfully dealt with after several treatments by the Rodent Operative. This point was kept under further observation, but up to the end of the year no recurrence of the trouble had been noticed.

All complaints made by occupiers or owners of premises are promptly dealt with by the Rodent Operative.

Food premises are treated on the lines recommended by the Ministry of Food.

#### INSPECTION OF SHOPS

During the year forty five inspections were made under the Shops Act chiefly in regard to health provisions. In two cases better heating facilities were provided together with means of heating water for the use of assistants. Seats for female shop assistants were provided following Intimations sent to three firms. In some cases it is difficult to provide suitable washing facilities because of restricted accommodation. This applies particularly to establishments where trade has grown and the capacity of the premises is no longer adequate.

Occupiers of trade premises are now advised to have trade refuse collected and not try to dispose of it on the premises. The practice of burning trade refuse has now been discontinued following inspections made as a result of complaints by occupants of neighbouring premises.

#### SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Apart from visits necessitated by unsound food, routine inspections of food premises are made at regular intervals, particular attention being directed to the conditions under which perishable articles of food are stored.

Substantial improvements were effected at two catering establishments during the year, in one instance a new dining room being provided and equipped with hygienic tables and other modern utensils. The interior of one bakehouse was reconditioned by the owner who provided better storage facilities for food used in his small catering establishment.

The undermentioned articles of food were surrendered for destruction after being inspected and judged unwholesome and unfit for human consumption.

 Apples 2 tins Apple Puree 21 tins Asparagus 2 tins

Beans 49 tins
Bilberries 15 tins
Beefsteak Pudding 1 tin
Beef (Kneck) 1
Boiling Beef 70 lbs.
Brisket Beef 5 tins
Baby Food 21 tins
Bacon 7½ lbs.
Broth (Rice Chicken) 1 tin

Cherries 20 tins Cheese 72 lbs. Cheese Waste 7 lbs. Cheese Spread 1 packet Cherry Cake 14 lbs. Crab 2 tins Carrots 8 tins Corned Beef 3 tins Cucumbers 2

Dansons 6 tins

Fruit Salad 1 Jar

Grapes 1 tin Greengages 6 tins Grapefruit 4 tins Grapefruit Juice 1 tin

Hen 17 tins Hen (Cooked) 301 lbs.

Jan - 3 Jars & 3 Tins

Kit-e-Kat 13 tins

Luncheon Meat 16 tins Lemon Cells 3 Barrells Milk 62 tins Mincement 1 tin Marralade 4 tins Minced Beef Loaf 2 tins

Oranges 9 tins Orange Juice 1 tin Ox Head 1

Plums 121 tims
Peas 53 tims
Pears 15 tims
Pineapple 1 jar
Peaches 6 tims & 1 jar
Pork (Chopped) 1 tim
Pilchards 1 tim
Prumes 4 tims

Raspberries 5 tins Rabbit 1 tin

Stewed Steak 24 tins
Soup 21 tins
Sausage 235 lbs.
14 tins
Sild 2 tins
Salmon 1 tin
Sheep Heads 11
Sandwich Spread 3 tins
Strawberries 5 tins

Tonatoes 100 tins 167 lbs. Tonato Juice 1 tin Tongue 1 tin

Mixed Vegetables 1 tin Jellied Veal 1 tin

#### PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Only one licence has been issued in respect of premises where pets are kept for sale. The shop concerned deals with a few ornamental fish and the accommodation was found to be adequate and in good condition.

Ch Toll applicable Time Day some