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CITY AND COUNTY OF LITCHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968



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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1968

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
City and County of Lichfield.

I again have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the community and on the work of the Health Department during the year.

As on other recent occasions, I do not attempt to summarise the contents of this report, but refer readers to the comments contained in the various sections of the report.

I again take this opportunity of thanking Members and other Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation, and of acknowledging the contributions made, from various sources, to the material contained in this report.

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health

Guildhall,
August, 1969.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Particulars of area in acres, estimated mid-year population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of district and the product of a penny rate are set out below:-

Area (in acres)	3,597
Population (as estimated by Registrar General)..	22,680
Number of Inhabited Houses	6,907
Total Rateable Value of Property ...	£882,212
Product of a Penny Rate	£3,500

It will be seen that all the figures, except those relating to area, show the same type of increases as have been shown in other recent years, resulting from overspill, officially sponsored and otherwise, from the neighbouring

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics, as provided by the Registrar General, are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	283	242	525
Illegitimate	13	9	22
Totals	296	251	547

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 24.1

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	5	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	5	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births = 9.1

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	5

Perinatal Mortality per 1,000 Total Births = 18.1

<u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	4	2	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Mortality per 1,000 Live Births = 11.0

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	5	3	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births = 14.6

<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	105	113	218

Death Rate (All Ages) per 1,000 population = 9.6

As no stillbirth or death occurred in an illegitimate foetus or infant, comparison of mortality, as between legitimate and illegitimate, does not arise.

The percentage of all births, live and still, which were illegitimate is shown below, with corresponding figures, for other recent years, included for purposes of comparison:-

Year	Percentage of Illegitimate Live Births & Stillbirths	Year	Percentage of Illegitimate Live Births & Stillbirths
1959	4.2	1964	3.6
1960	3.6	1965	4.8
1961	5.6	1966	4.8
1962	4.6	1967	5.2
1963	3.2	1968	4.0

It may be noted that the figures compare well with those for other recent years although, in view of the small population and marked variation from year to year, too much significance should obviously not be attached to the present favourable figures.

The following table shows how the figures, as a whole, compare with those of previous years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1957	11,190	20.1	26.0	26.7	26.7	11.6
1958	11,510	21.4	39.0	12.2	24.4	12.4
1959	12,180	17.6	13.7	9.3	18.6	12.7
1960	12,840	22.0	20.8	10.6	24.8	14.2
1961	14,240	21.8	40.2	12.9	12.9	12.6
1962	15,350	20.0	19.2	12.0	19.5	9.5
1963	16,490	24.4	17.1	10.0	12.4	10.4
1964	18,130	24.4	15.5	11.3	27.1	9.9
1965	20,030	26.6	9.3	3.8	9.4	10.2
1966	21,130	24.6	22.5	9.6	21.1	10.1
1967	22,100	23.9	15.0	7.6	11.0	7.8
1968	22,680	24.1	9.1	11.0	14.6	9.6

It will be seen that the population is now roughly double that of a decade ago. The live birth rate was comparable with those of other recent years. The stillbirth rate was very much below the average of other recent years, and was also the lowest in the last decade. Neonatal and infant death rates were somewhat up on the very low figures of the previous year. The death rate for the whole population, regardless of age, was also higher than in the previous year, but compared favourably with the average figure for other recent years.

After adjusting the local figures for births and deaths, in accordance with the appropriate area comparability factors, as provided by the Registrar General, to take account of variations of age and sex in Lichfield as compared with England and Wales as a whole, the following table shows the comparison between the local and national figures:-

Area	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
Lichfield City	24.7	9.0	18.0	11.0	14.6	10.7
England and Wales	16.9	14.0	25.0	12.3	18.0	11.9

It will be seen that all the figures are very satisfactory indeed, being, in the case of the birth rate, above the national figure and, as respects death rates, well below the national figures.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of persons, ordinarily resident in Lichfield, who died during the year, regardless of the place of death, headings being omitted where no death was attributed to the group of diseases in question:-

Disease	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	Total 1967	1968		
							M	F	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other Infective & Parasitic Disease	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	4	2	2	-	3	4	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	2	7	8	10	8	5	7	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	2	1	3	7	7	7	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	10	15	10	20	17	6	10	16
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	2	-	1	4	1	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	24	22	31	36	27	22	7	17	24
Coronary Disease, Angina	24	28	27	25	40	23	24	16	40
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	3
Other Heart Disease	18	17	19	23	18	16	2	7	9
Other Circulatory Disease	15	15	10	27	21	17	10	7	17
Influenza	6	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	9	4	6	6	9	9	5	5	10
Bronchitis	12	17	9	7	9	7	11	1	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	4	2	4	1	3	4	7	11
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Mephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	3	2	4	3	3	-	-	-	-
Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases	16	26	32	29	22	27	5	16	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	4	2	3	3	8	4	3	7
All Other Accidents	3	2	2	2	4	-	3	1	4
Suicide	1	1	-	3	1	2	-	-	-
All Diseases	166	172	180	205	213	172	97	102	199

Of these deaths, eight occurred in infancy, none between 1 year and 5 years, 3 between 5 years and 15 years, 4 between 15 years and 25 years, 7 between 35 years and 45 years, 14 between 45 years and 55 years, 19 between 55 years and 65 years, 41 between 65 years and 75 years and the remaining 112 deaths at ages over 75 years.

Male deaths by far exceeded female deaths at ages up to 55 years, but the numbers were almost exactly equal at ages from 55 to 75 years, while of the 112 deaths at ages over 75 years, 72 were in females and only 50 in males. So, once again, the disparity in lifespan of the sexes is illustrated.

Of the eight deaths occurring in infancy, no fewer than five occurred in the first week of life, one further death between one week and four weeks and the two remaining infant deaths between the end of the fourth week and the end of the first year of life. Deaths in the first week of life were attributed almost entirely to prematurity, although a congenital abnormality was also present in one of these infants. Inhalation of vomited material played some part in two of the deaths occurring in later stages of infancy.

Of the three deaths occurring at ages between five years and fifteen years, one death was due to a cancer, one to diabetes and the third to an accidental cause.

The eight deaths from cancer of lung and bronchus exceeded those of the previous year but not those of the three years before that. The usual higher incidence in males than in females is again clearly illustrated. A sad feature of the figures on this occasion is that no fewer than three of the eight deaths, all in males, occurred at ages between 35 and 45 years and a further death, also in a male, at an age between 45 and 55 years. It is hardly necessary to stress the tragic effect on families of these deaths, occurring in men at ages when their families are so heavily dependent upon them. As the connection between these deaths and cigarette smoking has been fully commented upon in earlier reports, no further reference is made here to this subject.

It is reassuring to note that death was attributed to cancer of the breast on only three occasions, as against seven in each of the three preceding years, and that all were at ages over 55 years, two being at ages over 75 years.

The one death from cancer of the uterus, although it contrasts with no deaths in either of the two previous years, can be regarded as a reasonably low figure in relation to population.

It may be noted that no fewer than 16 deaths were attributed to cancers other than those affecting stomach, lung, breast, uterus and blood, showing that, although public attention tends to be focused upon these, they are by no means alone, so far as the menace of the cancers to human life is concerned.

Another interesting fact is that 93 deaths out of the total of 218 deaths were due to diseases affecting the heart and circulatory system. Needless to say, the vast majority of these occurred in old age, many in extreme old age. The exception was, of course, in coronary disease, which was responsible for four deaths between 45 and 55 years and a further four deaths between 55 and 65 years of age.

Influenza claimed only two victims, both of these in ages exceeding 75 years.

Figures for deaths due to pneumonia were similar to those for the previous two years, but an unfavourable feature was that, on this occasion, two of these deaths occurred at ages between 45 and 55 years, showing that, in spite of modern drugs, this disease does still claim victims in middle age.

Bronchitis was responsible for 12 deaths, a higher figure than for any year since 1963. Only three of these occurred in persons under 65 years of age. The heavy incidence in males again suggests the strong influence exerted by heavy cigarette smoking, continued over many years.

Deaths from accidents involving motor vehicles were similar in number to those recorded in the previous year, but much higher than in other recent years. Insufficient detail is available of the circumstances of the accidents to enable any useful comment to be made.

A tragic feature of deaths due to accidents not involving motor vehicles is that two of these, as recorded in an earlier paragraph, occurring in infants, were attributed to inhalation of vomited material. These two deaths occurred at ages of twelve days and one month respectively. These deaths illustrate the danger associated, on rare occasions, with something which happens so frequently during the infancy of most children.

It is again very satisfactory to be able to record that no death resulted during the year from either pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The same feeling arises from the absence, on this occasion, of suicide from recorded causes of death.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also, for comparison, the number of cases of these diseases notified during the preceding ten years:-

Diseases	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Measles	52	209	194	320	3	425	315	70	137	388	413
Whooping Cough	15	1	34	-	-	19	16	-	3	6	4
Scarlet Fever	3	7	2	1	2	8	7	10	7	6	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	1	22	-	5	7	44	24	-
Food Poisoning	-	2	-	1	1	13	-	2	3	7	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	6	1	2	2	-	-	8	6	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	12	1	3	4	4	-	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	4	8	8	6	10	12	6	6	1	2

The number of cases of measles was again very large, as it always is during our periodic epidemics. As most of the cases occurred before the new vaccine could be brought into use on any substantial scale, it is not possible, at this stage, to estimate the results of its introduction, but I believe that, if parents now avail themselves of the opportunity of having their children vaccinated in the second year of life, the future incidence of measles, in epidemic years, is likely to be very different from that to which we have been accustomed in recent years.

It will be seen that the figures for notification of cases of whooping cough amply demonstrate the value of vaccination, available for many years, against that particular disease.

The figures for scarlet fever notifications were again satisfactory, and again testify to the fact that this disease can be adequately controlled without recourse to prophylactic vaccination.

As regards poliomyelitis, the absence of cases in yet another year adds further evidence of the value of vaccination against this formerly dreaded disease.

The absence of cases of dysentery notified, if it truly represents an absence of the disease from Lichfield, is very satisfactory, but one must

remember that, owing to the relative mildness of the disease in most instances, it is quite possible for a number of cases to occur but not to be reported to the family doctor.

Of the seven cases of food-poisoning notified, six, in different households, were found on investigation to have a common origin, which was also responsible for a small number of cases in an adjoining district. The necessary steps were taken to eliminate the source of infection. Fortunately, the organism involved, staphylococcus aureus, does not give rise to a "carrier" condition in the bowel of those affected. Although the disease was quite severe in some of the patients, all made a rapid and satisfactory recovery. The remaining case was a sporadic one, quite unrelated to those mentioned in the earlier part of this paragraph. As the person concerned worked in a hospital kitchen, very full bacteriological investigation was carried out, but with negative result. This patient also made a very rapid recovery from his illness.

The two cases of puerperal pyrexia, or raised temperature associated with childbirth, both occurred in hospital, but were not due to causes of a very significant nature.

In addition to the diseases mentioned in the above table, two patients were notified during the year as suffering from tuberculosis. Both infections were of the pulmonary type, one occurring in a man of 60 years and the other in a woman of 42 years. One death resulted from the disease, due to late effects occurring in a very elderly person.

The following table shows how the figures for newly notified cases and deaths compared with those for earlier years:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
1948	6	7	2	-	2	3	-	-
1949	3	3	3	3	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	-	-
1954	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
1955	3	4	1	-	-	-	1	-
1956	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1957	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1958	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1959	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1960	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-
1961	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1962	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
1963	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
1964	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1965	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1966	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
1967	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
1968	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

It will be seen that the number of new pulmonary infections was smaller than in the previous year, and rather better than the average of the previous decade, while the continued absence of non-pulmonary infections for the fourth consecutive year, is a very satisfactory feature of the figures.

Arrangements for diagnosis, treatment, supervision and follow-up of contacts continued along the same lines as in previous years, the secondment of a Health Visitor to work with the Chest Physician at the local clinic ensuring good liaison, even in the more difficult cases.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital accommodation for patients suffering from infectious diseases continued to be adequate to meet demands imposed upon it by the now considerably reduced number of patients deemed to require admission, most patients, apart from those suffering from tuberculosis, being admitted to either East Birmingham or Moxley Hospitals.

Facilities for maternity patients, augmented during the previous year by the opening of the maternity unit at Good Hope Hospital, continued to be adequate for all mothers really requiring admission on medical or social grounds, although a number of patients desiring accommodation still failed to obtain it.

The shortage of beds for the elderly chronic sick remained acute during the year, in spite of the fact that quite a number of patients in this category were admitted to Hammerwich Hospital. It appears obvious that this shortage must continue until adequate facilities can be made available for this type of patient at Good Hope Hospital, to match those already provided there for maternity patients and those suffering from acute medical or surgical diseases and conditions.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No statutory action was taken under either of these Acts during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Facilities remained unchanged, diagnosis and treatment being centred on hospitals in Birmingham, Burton, Stafford and Walsall. No figures are available to indicate the incidence of the disease

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These continued unchanged, but entirely satisfactorily, with the same high level of co-operation as in previous years.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has again made available to me the usual details of water supply, including origin, characteristics, chlorination, results of chemical and bacteriological testing and arrangements for dealing with contamination due to burst pipes etc. The results indicate that the usual, and necessary, high standard was maintained during the year.

The figures for fluoride content, in different parts of the distribution system, varied from 0.06 to 0.19 parts per million. Owing to the reason detailed in my last report, no progress was made by Staffordshire County Council during the year, in arranging for correction of the deficiency in fluoride. There now appears to be reasonable hope, however, that the Minister of Housing and Local Government will initiate legislative action to ensure that the water is brought up to a satisfactory standard in respect of this ingredient, which is so important for the dental health of the children of the community.

FOOD

The particulars relating to the inspection of food shops, hotels and cafes will, as usual, be found in the Public Health Inspector's section of this report, together with observations on complaints received in the Department during the year in relation to food purchased in Lichfield. It would appear that the public, as a whole, are becoming much more conscious of the importance of food hygiene, and much more ready to bring our attention to food not considered to come up to the standard now expected. Although the investigation of complaints and routine inspection of food premises are very time-consuming, I feel sure that, together, they contribute greatly to the maintenance of satisfactory standards of food hygiene.

The County Medical Officer has again been kind enough to furnish me with particulars of results of specimens procured in Lichfield by the Sampling Officer employed by the County Council. These samples included 6 of various types of milk and 101 samples of food, alcoholic and other beverages and drugs of the types which can be purchased without a doctor's prescription. All the samples were found, on this occasion, to be genuine, in accordance with either label or trade description, according to circumstances.

So far as samples of milk examined to check cleanliness of production and the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilisation processes are concerned, the position was not quite so satisfactory, as 12 samples out of 198, all relating to the methylene blue test for cleanliness, were found to be unsatisfactory. These results show that clean milk, a responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has not yet been fully attained, but that the heat treatment processes are very reliable indeed.

HOUSING

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to rehousing and the waiting list for houses in 1968 was as follows :-

Waiting List (Excluding Overspill) at 1st January	...	484
Rehoused from Unfit Houses During 1968	... ..	33
Rehoused on General Needs During 1968	... ..	158
Rehoused under Overspill Arrangement in 1968	... ..	124
Waiting List (Excluding Overspill) at 31st December	...	368

The number of families rehoused from unfit houses was similar to the number of families in this category rehoused in each of the two preceding years and shows the steady, if unspectacular, progress being made in this field. The same is generally true of rehousing on general needs, even though the number of houses allocated to this type of tenant was very much smaller than the huge figure of 429 in 1967. In spite of this progress, and in spite of a review of the waiting list in November 1968, to ascertain whether those on it were still in need of housing accommodation, the waiting list is still quite large in relation to the size of the community from which the applications originate.

Statutory action to secure clearance of unfit houses was limited during the year to securing undertakings from the owners in relation to four houses, 110 - 116, Beacon Street, Lichfield, in order to ensure that they would not be reoccupied, unless made fit, after the tenants had been rehoused. This figure compares with figures of 14 in 1967, 20 in 1966, 36 in 1965, 7 in 1964, 13 in 1963, none in 1962, 3 in 1961 and 51 in 1960. The reasons for the very considerable variation from year to year were set out in my last report. It should also be stressed that the need for statutory action has been very considerably reduced by the extent to which the Council has been able to acquire property, by agreement, for clearance and redevelopment of sites, at an appropriate stage in its redevelopment plan.

The usual advice was given, from time to time, in relation to the degree of priority for rehousing which could be justified on medical grounds.

FACTORIES

Particulars relating to inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1961, are set out in the following table:-

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
71	14	Nil	Nil

As no defects were found, no remedial action was necessary.

Four of the inspections were at a factory in the City from which jam was exported - the object being to ascertain that there was an acceptable standard of hygiene.

Most of the factories are engaged in light industry which is not detrimental to the surrounding area. No complaints were received from residents during the year under review.

Information relating to outworkers is set out below in the prescribed form:-

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on List	No. of Defaults in Sending List to Council	No. of Prosecutions in Failure to supply list	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome Places	Notices Served
Wearing Apparel	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

REPORT OF THE CITY SURVEYOR

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences have been maintained in operation throughout the year but vandalism has again been a major problem.

Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse

The refuse collection service has worked satisfactorily, and the new system introduced with the provision of a dustless loading vehicle and plastic (polypropylene) hinged lid bins has worked well, although not without teething troubles.

The refuse tip off Dimbles Lane has operated without complaint, and the small temporary pulverization plant has operated satisfactorily. The contract for the automatic incineration plant on a site at Chasetown as a joint venture with the Lichfield R.D.C. is now approaching completion.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Further detailed investigations into the modernization required in the City's sewerage system have proceeded, with the construction of a storm water overflow and culverting of the brook at Netherstowe completed, and work due to commence upon a main foul relief sewer at Netherstowe in the immediate future.

An additional pump at the Tamworth Road pumping station has been installed, in view of the overloading taking place due to the growth of the area.

Design of the drainage to allow the development of the northern part of the City is proceeding.

No new applications have been received for discharge of trade effluent.

The cesspool and pail emptying service has been satisfactorily operated throughout the year.

The Sewage Works at Curborough is working substantially above its designed capacity and the contract for the extension and alterations necessary to bring the Works up to size to cater for the increased population is proceeding rapidly. The problem of sludge disposal has created a very difficult situation which can only be resolved with the completion of the new sludge treatment plant. The contract for the trade effluent sludge treatment plant has been completed.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

During recent years there has been a marked change of emphasis in regard to the duties performed by public health inspectors. There is now much more done than formerly in connection with clean air, noise control, food hygiene and the inspection of various registered premises, including offices and shops. Food premises, offices and shops have to be visited at regular intervals to ensure that acceptable standards of hygiene are maintained.

Complaints are received at my office about such diverse matters as housing, food, noise, smoke nuisances, rodents and insect pests. All complaints received are investigated and in appropriate cases legal proceedings are instituted - a procedure which often takes up a considerable amount of time. Not all citizens who visit the public health inspector's office, however, are there to complain. Calls for help and advice in relation to various problems involving environmental hygiene are received daily.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Food and Drugs Act 1955

During the year thirteen complaints were received about various articles of unfit food. Three of these were in regard to food which had become unfit apparently from prolonged storage, while the other ten were all concerned with foreign matter in the food. All complaints received are investigated. There was one prosecution under section 8 of the Act, which resulted in a fine of £5 and 15 guineas costs.

(b) Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

Meat at retail shops	...	...	...	...	1 ton	8 cwts.	12 lbs.
Cooked meat and meat products	...	...	...	...		1 cwt.	2 lbs.
Canned meats	...	...	...	...			36 lbs.
Other foods	...	...	...	...			13 lbs.
Total	...	...	...	...	1 ton	9 cwts.	63 lbs.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

(i) Principal Food Premises in the City

Meat Shops	14	Hotels	7
Fried Fish Shops	2	Restaurants	25
Fresh Fish Shops	2	Public Houses	33
Fruit and Vegetable Shops	14		

Meat is sold at three of the supermarkets in the City.

The figure relating to restaurants includes snack bars of which there are five.

(ii) Routine Inspections

During the year 347 visits were made to food shops and catering establishments in the City. Forty four written intimations were sent to the occupiers of premises where contraventions of the regulations were noticed. The number of inspections made was higher than in any previous year, while the number of intimations was a good deal higher than it should be. Failure to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness was the principal reason for most of the intimations. Conditions in food preparation rooms and methods of food handling receive particular attention during the course of routine inspections of catering establishments.

(iii) Promotion of Food Hygiene

Leaflets dealing with the main requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were sent to all food traders early in the year. Copies of a Code of Practice were sent to all occupiers of premises from which meat pies were known to be sold. The occupiers of these premises were advised to have special regard to regulation 25 of the Food Hygiene Regulations which deals with the temperature at which certain foods are to be kept. There would be very few outbreaks of food poisoning if food handlers would pay proper attention to personal hygiene, keep food at the right temperature and keep all working surfaces and equipment thoroughly clean.

Towards the end of the year I accepted an invitation to speak at a meeting of the local branch of the Licensed Victuallers' Association on the subject of food hygiene in catering establishments and I found it a pleasure to address such an appreciative audience. Because of pressure of other work, however, it was not possible to make regular visits to all the public houses in the City to ascertain that they do comply in all respects with the regulations. It is, of course, essential to secure the co-operation of food handlers in the promotion of acceptable standards of hygiene, but frequent inspections must be made to ensure that these standards are maintained.

Copies of a carefully worded notice requesting customers not to take

dogs into food shops were left with all occupiers who were willing to co-operate. It should be understood, however, that the responsibility for preventing the risk of contamination of food exposed for sale devolves upon the occupiers of food premises and not upon the local authority. During the year no complaints about dogs in shops were received, but many complaints about the fouling of pavements adjoining food premises were made by visitors to the shopping centre.

As Lichfield is still growing rapidly the number of catering establishments continues to increase. In the past I have commented on the fact that catering premises may be opened without prior approval by the local authority. Even new buildings are not necessarily suitable for catering, since they may have been so designed that it is not physically possible to provide all the facilities necessary to ensure proper standards of hygiene in food handling. In old buildings, restricted space invariably gives rise to many practical difficulties. It is true, of course, that once a business is open to the public the local authority can make inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, but the purpose of the initial inspection should really be to determine whether or not any particular building is suitable for catering purposes before it is equipped for this particular trade.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

As far as could be ascertained all shops and offices in the City, to which this Act applies, had been registered and inspected. There were no special problems in connection with lighting and ventilation. At a few registered premises the occupiers were requested to improve the means of heating. At two food shops where heating was found to be difficult because of the risk of affecting the goods on display, the occupiers agreed to provide special heating arrangements in rest rooms for the employees.

Four accidents were notified all of which were investigated. Two of these were sustained while the employees were cleaning machines, while the other two were caused by falls. One of these falls resulted in the employee being off work for several weeks. This accident happened at a warehouse when the employee fell off a ladder. Although there was no structural defect which could have contributed to this occurrence, the occupiers of the warehouse decided to discontinue the use of the special ladder and replace it by a forklift for reaching heavy goods from overhead shelves.

During the course of inspections, special attention is paid to the construction and lighting of staircases. At one shop the attention of the manager was drawn to a stack of cartons on a staircase landing - the kind of oversight which could lead to avoidable accidents.

Details of the inspections made and contraventions noted are set out in

the following table :-

(a) Registrations and Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices,	6	74	6
Retail Shops	9	146	12
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	3	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	37	2
Fuel Storage Depots	-	9	-
Totals	17	269	20

In this Schedule -

"general inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises; and "registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under section 49 of the Act has been received.

(b) Analysis of Contraventions

Contraventions in respect of :	Found
Section 4 Cleanliness	-
Section 5 Overcrowding	-
Section 6 Temperature	6
Section 7 Ventilation	-

Contraventions in respect of :	Found
Section 8 Lighting	-
Section 9 Sanitary Conveniences	-
Section 10 Washing Facilities	1
Section 11 Supply of drinking water	-
Section 12 Clothing Accommodation	-
Section 13 Sitting Facilities	-
Section 14 Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
Section 15 Eating Facilities	-
Section 16 Floors, Passage and Stairs	1
Section 17 Fencing exposed parts machinery	-
Section 18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
Section 19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
Section 23 Prohibition of heavy work	-
Section 24 First Aid - General Provisions	12
TOTAL	20

the following table :-

HOUSING

(a) Houses Demolished

During 1968 twenty one unfit houses were demolished. Nineteen of these were in Victoria Square and two in Stowe Street.

(b) Housing Inspections

Detailed inspections were made at eighteen houses in George Lane, nine in Rotten Row, one in Gaia Lane, four in Beacon Street, two in St. John Street and thirty three in Chapel Lane. As indicated in my report for 1967 the houses in Chapel Lane have been renovated by the owners, who have provided bathrooms where this was found to be practicable. These houses had been included in the City Council's list of unfit properties, but the work that has been done will make them suitable for continued occupation in the present circumstances. It is expected that the houses in George Lane, Rotten Row, Beacon Street and St. John Street will be demolished in the foreseeable future, as they have been already included in the Council's list of unfit properties to be dealt with under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957.

(c) Houses in Multiple Occupation

Six large houses in the City are known to be in multiple occupation. All these properties are inspected at regular intervals. During the year works of improvement were carried out at four of the houses. The available facilities are reasonably satisfactory. Each separate tenement has its own sink and water supply. Most of the tenants have been people without children. In fact the owners now stipulate that the rooms will be let only to adults. There has been no question of overcrowding in any of the houses.

(d) Redevelopment of City

Concern has been expressed in some quarters about what are described as interesting old buildings which might have been preserved having been demolished and replaced by new buildings not in keeping with their surroundings. I would therefore like to make it clear that, with the exception of the Cruck Houses in Stowe Street, none of the houses involved in clearance procedure could be regarded as having either historical interest or architectural merit. They were demolished because the demolition of all the buildings in the areas concerned was undoubtedly the best way of dealing with the conditions in the areas.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Particulars of action taken under this Act are set out in the following tabular statement :-

	(a) Number of observations made	14
1. Dark and black smoke (section 1)		

- (b) Number of contraventions recorded Nil
2. Furnaces
(section 3)
- (a) Notifications received 1
- (b) Application for prior approval 1
- (c) Number of cases in which alterations were required 1
- (d) Number of applications granted 1
- (section 6)
- (a) Number of plans submitted -
- (b) Number of cases in which alterations were required -
- (c) Number approved -
3. Height of chimneys
(section 10)
- (a) Number of plans submitted showing new chimneys 2
- (b) Number of cases in which alterations were required 2
- (c) Number approved 2
- (d) Number of chimneys erected not complying with the approved plans Nil
- (e) Number of chimneys erected outside the control of Section 10 Nil
4. Smoke control
(section 11)
- The City of Lichfield is now one of the few districts in the midland area where there are no smoke control orders in operation. This is a matter which should, I think, receive early consideration.
5. Smoke nuisances
(section 16)
- (a) Two intimations were sent to occupiers of trade premises where nuisance was being caused by the burning of waste materials.
- (b) A number of complaints were again received regarding nuisance from garden bonfires. It is a matter of regret that there are no specific provisions for dealing with the growing practice of disposing of garden rubbish by burning.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The work of rodent control, which is under my supervision, is done by a rodent operator who is employed by the City Council for two full days each week. Up to now the time devoted to this work seems to have been sufficient, but it may be necessary to increase it in the near future.

The total number of visits made by the rodent operator during the year was 403, while the total number of premises treated was 88. No serious trouble was experienced at the refuse tip in Dimbles Lane where permanent baiting has been practised since the day that tipping commenced.

Except in unusual circumstances the only poison used in the City is Warfarin. As far as could be ascertained by checking results there has been no marked resistance to this poison. The materials used have proved to be effective at all premises where treatment has been carried out.

The practice of making block surveys of the district has been continued because this system seems to be the best way of making sure that minor infestations in any part of the area are not overlooked. Another advantage is that accumulations of rubbish are often found and removed before they can harbour rats and mice.

Test baiting of the sewers was continued with negative results. This is a satisfactory outcome, as the absence of rats in sewers indicates that there is no serious infestation in the district.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

During the year under review twenty two samples taken for bacteriological examination were reported to be satisfactory. These samples are, of course, in addition to those taken by the Statutory Undertakers.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY

The only property in the City not furnished with a piped water supply is a small cottage situated outside the supply area. Three samples which were taken from this source were reported to be satisfactory for an unchlorinated supply. As an extra precaution, the occupants of the cottage were advised to boil drinking water.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

Thirty four samples were taken for bacteriological examination and twenty

eight for chlorine test. Current practice is to take samples for both tests at the same time. The results generally are satisfactory, in spite of the heavy use which is now being made of the swimming bath, which serves a population including the City of Lichfield and some of the outlying districts.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

Apart from the inspection of licensed storage installations, the job of licensing involves a considerable amount of administrative work which takes up much of my time. During 1968 no fewer than sixty three letters were sent to licensees and fifteen to the Chief Fire Officer. The letters to licensees were in addition to reminder notices which are sent to the occupiers of all licensed premises towards the end of the licensing year. Frequent checks are necessary to ensure that all statutory requirements are being complied with.

Pressure testing of eight underground storage tanks was carried out, two of which disclosed leakages. These tanks were subsequently filled with inert material to render them safe as required by section 73 of the Public Health Act 1961.

An application for the establishment of two coin-operated petrol pumps at a filling station in the City was subsequently withdrawn by the applicants.

Details of licences issued by the City Council are set out in the following table :-

Name of Licensee	Total quantity of Petroleum stored on the premises
Major Motors Limited	5,000 gallons
Lichfield Rural District Council	2,000 gallons
A. Steel-Bodger, Dam Street	325 gallons
Lichfield Plant Services	1,000 gallons
Johnson Bros., Deanslade Farm	500 gallons
Staffordshire County Police	500 gallons
E.A. Barnes and Sons Limited	500 gallons
Concrete (Midlands) Limited	500 gallons

Name of Licensee	Total quantity of Petroleum stored on the premises
Walsall Road Filling Station	6,000 gallons
Lichfield Laundry and Investment Company Limited	2,000 gallons
F. J. Hall, City Station Wharf	500 gallons
J. T. Leavesley (Lichfield) Limited	11,000 gallons
Swallow Croft Service Station	9,000 gallons
The Battery Service Company (Lichfield) Limited	1,000 gallons
B. & S. Metals, City Station Wharf	500 gallons
Beacon Street Garage	1,500 gallons
Central Garage	1,000 gallons
Mr. H. Bates, 25 Lombard Street	300 gallons
The Midlands Electricity Board	1,000 gallons
Kennings Limited	21,000 gallons
Austin Cote Farm, Lichfield	500 gallons
Chamberlin and Hill Limited	1,000 gallons
Charles Hine and Son Limited	500 gallons
Stowe Street Depot	500 gallons
Three Spires Garage	14,000 gallons
Ketch Plastics Limited	1,000 gallons
Philday Cabinet Company Limited	500 gallons
F. H. Burgess Limited	500 gallons
Burgess Fuels Limited	500 gallons
Swan Self Drive Limited	16,027 gallons
Staffordshire County Ambulance Service	1,000 gallons
Murco Petroleum Limited	12,015 gallons
Eagle Transfers Limited	5 gallons Petroleum Spirit 80 gallons Petroleum Mixtures
Enots Limited	30 gallons Petroleum Mixtures



