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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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1965  
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.C.E. JAMISON, B.A. M.B. D.P.H.

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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
1965.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Lichfield Rural District Council.

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

As regards the vital statistics, these are set out in generally similar form to that of the previous year, and can be regarded as satisfactory.

With the exception of a fairly large outbreak of measles, the same can reasonably be said of the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases.

Action during the year in relation to the clearance of houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation could be regarded with somewhat mixed feelings, being reasonably satisfactory and yet a little disappointing, for reasons set out in the body of the report.

I mentioned in my last report that much work in connection with sewerage and sewage disposal was then in the planning stage. It will be seen from the details included in the present report that this work is now proceeding much more rapidly, and that the results of earlier work are now beginning to be available to the public on quite a large scale, although much still remains to be done.

Staffing in the Department was affected in the later part of the year by the departure of Mr. Rogerson, Public Health Inspector, with repercussions mentioned by Mr. Leeder in his section of this report.

I would avail myself of this opportunity of thanking both Members and Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation and assistance.

C.E. JAMISON  
Medical Officer of Health.

Rural Council House.  
3rd August, 1966



## GENERAL STATISTICS

The following figures show the area, population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of property of all types and the product of a penny rate:-

Area (in acres) ... ..	83,906
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	44,730
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	14,798
Total Rateable Value ... ..	£1,794,143
Net Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£7,200

The area was, of course, again unchanged in 1965, although 1966 will show a different picture, following the recent boundary alterations. Both population and number of inhabited houses reflect the quite considerable building activity which has now become a familiar picture, and it is obvious that a large unofficial "overspill" is taking place from neighbouring conurbations, altogether apart from the official scheme operated by the Council. The moderate increases in the rateable value of property as a whole and in the product of a penny rate are, of course, the direct and obvious result of the spate of building activity referred to above.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Live Births -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	562	489	1,051
Illegitimate ... ..	25	14	39
Total ... ..	436	448	884

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 24.4

Still Births -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	5	13	18
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Total ... ..	6	14	20

Still Birth Rate 1,000 Total Births - 18.9

Deaths in Infants Under One Week -				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	-	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	7	2	9

Perinatal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Births - 26.1

Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks -				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	3	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	-	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	7	3	10

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 9.2

Deaths in Infants Under One Year -				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	4	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	-	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	8	4	12

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 11.0

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths (All Ages)	269	248	517

Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 11.6

It can be seen that 41 live and still births out of a total of 1,110 live and still births were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in every 27. This compares with figures of one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963, one in 17 in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959, and 1958 and one in 22 in 1957. It is difficult to trace any particular pattern in these figures, or draw any firm deductions from them.

Although the proportions of both still births and infant deaths were higher in illegitimate children than in legitimate children, the figures are too small to be statistically significant.



The following table shows how the figure for 1965 compare with those for earlier years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1953	43,180	13.5	15.2	18.9	22.3	8.3
1954	42,580	13.6	13.7	26.0	25.9	10.3
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8
1964	42,880	20.6	18.9	11.3	13.6	10.3
1965	44,730	24.4	18.9	9.2	11.0	11.6

The figures obviously compare quite well, as a whole, with those for previous years. The increase in the birth-rate again reflects the influx of young married couples. While the stillbirth rate was identical with that for the previous year, and below the average for other recent years, the neonatal and infant deaths rates were both lower than in the previous year, and much below the average for the previous ten years. The perinatal death rate, based on stillbirths and infant deaths before the end of the first week of life, at 26.1, compares favourably with the figure of 29.9 for 1964. The one figure which was relatively unfavourable in 1965 was the death rate for all ages, which was slightly higher than that for any other year since 1961.

After the usual adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the birth and death comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution in Lichfield Rural District and in England and Wales as a whole, the local statistics compare with national ones as set out in the table below:-

Place	Live Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All ages)
LICHFIELD R.D.	23.9	18.9	9.2	26.1	11.0	10.7
England and Wales	18.0	15.7	13.0	26.9	19.0	11.5



On the whole, the comparison shows the local figures, after the above-mentioned adjustment, to compare favourably with the national ones. Assuming a high birth rate, representing a vigorous young population, to be a satisfactory feature, the only exception to the favourable picture lies in the figure for stillbirths. This is more than counterbalanced, however, by the lower local figures for infant deaths, as shown by the fact that the local perinatal death rate, a very significant indicator of the efficiency of the maternity and child welfare service, is slightly lower than the national one.

The following table shows the causes of deaths during 1965 of persons ordinarily resident in Lichfield Rural District, regardless of where the deaths actually occurred:-

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1960	Total 1961	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	1965		
						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	1	1	2	3	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	14	10	9	9	14	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	14	8	12	15	18	14	1	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	10	9	5	10	8	-	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	4	1	3	2	-	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	37	38	34	33	22	21	16	37
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	2	1	1	2	1	-	1
Diabetes	4	1	3	3	1	2	2	4
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	61	58	53	64	74	35	43	78
Coronary Disease, Angina	72	102	79	69	89	69	45	114
Hypertension with Heart Disease	17	12	9	11	5	2	6	8
Other Heart Disease	59	55	54	47	47	17	27	44
Other Circulatory Disease	21	17	16	17	10	10	2	12
Influenza	1	9	9	1	3	-	1	1



CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1960	Total 1961	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	1965		
						Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	28	42	50	48	35	21	46	67
Bronchitis	20	19	31	26	18	28	4	32
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	8	5	6	8	7	6	4	10
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	5	4	3	6	2	3	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	4	2	1	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2	2	2	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	1	3	1	4	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	5	8	4	1	4	2	3	5
Other Defined and Ill-Def- ined Diseases	48	62	53	55	36	15	12	27
Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	8	8	8	14	10	8	18
All Other Accidents	11	6	10	8	6	5	6	11
Suicide	1	3	3	3	6	4	-	4
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS	458	492	466	452	441	269	248	517

As recorded on an earlier page, no fewer than ten of the twelve infant deaths occurred before the end of the fourth week of life and, of these ten deaths, nine actually occurred before the end of the first week of life. In both the children dying after the fourth week of life, death occurred in a child suffering from a congenital abnormality. As regards the children dying before the end of the first week of life, death was attributed to congenital abnormality in four, to prematurity in two and to birth injury in two cases. The figures again show that most infant deaths are now attributed to either congenital abnormality or prematurity, and that further progress in reducing infant mortality will largely depend on our obtaining further insight, in the future, into the causation of these factors.

Out of six children dying at ages between one year and 15 years, no fewer than four, all girls, died as the result of motor vehicle accidents. Both the remaining two deaths in this age-group occurred in children suffering from severe congenital abnormality, to which death was very largely attributable.



At the other end of the life-span, 163 male deaths, out of a total of 269, occurred at ages over 65 years, while 194 female deaths out of a total of 248 occurred in the same age-group. The figures illustrate the increased longevity in general, and in women in particular. If one breaks this age-group down further, to compare the figures at ages below and above 75 years, the contrast between the incidence of male and female deaths becomes even more striking, with male deaths in the two age-groups being almost equal but deaths in women at ages over 75 years being considerably more than double those between 65 and 75 years. The figures do not show any marked departure from those of other recent years.

Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus were, fortunately, slightly down from the very high figure of the previous year. The victims were, as usual, nearly all men. It is notable that, in spite of the reduction, the total deaths from this cancer exceeded the total deaths in women from cancer of the breast and womb, taken together. One must reflect with concern as to the probable incidence in future years that will result from the enormous number of people now addicted to the smoking habit, and as to how little is being done, even now, to deal with this very serious problem of public health.

The number of deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis was even higher than the quite large figure for the previous year. Most of the deaths were at ages over 65 years. Most of the deaths occurred at ages over 65 years, but four deaths did occur between 45 and 55 years and ten between 55 and 65 years of age, showing the impact of these diseases in those of middle-age as well as in the elderly. It will be seen that, as is usually the case, bronchitis affected men very much more than women, reasonably attributable to the fact that, in the age-groups in question, the smoking habit continued over many years is much more common in man than in woman.

Both the deaths recorded for gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea occurred in persons over 75 years of age, which tends to lessen the significance of deaths under this heading.

Of the 18 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, two occurred in children of between one and five years, two in children of between five and fifteen years, two in persons between 15 and 25 years, four in persons between 25 and 35 years, three in persons between 35 and 45 years, two in persons between 45 and 55 years, two in persons between 55 and 65 years and one in a person over 75 years of age. As regards mode of causation, ten of the deceased persons were drivers of, or passengers in cars, three of these dying in one accident, two were riders of motor cycles, while the remaining two deaths occurred in children who were run over by motor vehicles. The most melancholy fact of all is that the total number of deaths under this heading constitute a record for the district, and would still have done so even if the tragic accident involving more than one death had not occurred. One is forced to the unhappy conclusion that motor vehicle accidents now constitute the principal hazard to life in childhood and youth, and this is a price which the community is now paying for the fact that motor vehicles use has been allowed to outstrip the provision of the roads necessary to deal with the increased volume of traffic.



Deaths due to accidents other than those related to motor vehicle traffic were less numerous, very varied in cause, and occurred mainly in middle-age, apart from a small number in those very elderly persons who died from the medical complications which tend to follow fractures of the femur in this age-group. The total number of deaths was higher than in the last few years, and equal to the figure recorded for 1960.

All the suicidal deaths occurred in males, one being in a young man, two in middle-age and one in an elderly man. Death resulted from car exhaust fumes, coal gas poisoning and from drowning. The number of persons involved did not differ significantly from the incidence shown in earlier years.

On the negative side, it is pleasing to be able to record that, for the third successive year, no death was attributed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infections notified during the year, and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

Disease	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Scarlet Fever	16	20	27	35	43	39	15	4	6	8	21
Whooping Cough	20	62	79	22	27	50	13	11	6	27	6
Measles	461	23	655	258	196	61	768	56	674	199	342
Poliomyelitis	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	6	11	5	3	1	1	-	3	-	-	2
Pneumonia	19	20	17	33	69	34	59	26	23	9	29
Dysentery	23	26	6	8	23	-	9	21	5	3	6
Food Poisoning	-	4	10	6	3	61	6	18	4	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	18	24	23	16	10	6	7	8	6	3



Although more cases of scarlet fever were notified than in the other recent years the number of cases was still quite small, and the type of disease mild, indicating that the disease is not constituting any great hazard to public health under present conditions. This appears to be one disease in which there is no great need for any prophylactic inoculation.

The number of cases of whooping cough was again satisfactorily low, indicating, in this case, the satisfactory results of large-scale inoculation of children against the disease. The seriousness of the disease when contracted in early infancy and the possibility of serious complications even in cases occurring later in childhood constitute strong reasons for continued emphasis on early protection of children against this disease.

The year saw the usual biennial epidemic of measles, although the number of cases was notably smaller than in other epidemic years. There is no obvious cause to which the reduction can be attributed. Nor is it easy to explain the fact that the biennial type of incidence, characteristic of the disease for many years, is becoming rather less marked. It is possible, however, that this may be due, at least in part, to the large-scale movements of population now taking place, whereby infection is continually being brought into different areas before the susceptible child population has built up sufficiently, following the last outbreak, to produce the usual larger epidemic. Immunisation of children against the disease is now beginning, on a small scale, but it seems unlikely that the present strictly limited action will change the situation appreciably for at least another year or two.

The case of poliomyelitis notified during the year was, as will be seen, the first notified for quite a number of years. Immunisation of contacts was arranged, and no spread of infection occurred.

The case of meningococcal infection was an isolated one, the disease now being relatively uncommon, showing little tendency to spread, in any obvious way, from case to case.

The six cases of dysentery were all located in the Burntwood area, but were sporadic cases, without any known connection, occurring over a period of some months. Routine action was taken to minimise the risk of transfer of infection.

The two cases of food-poisoning were also unrelated to one another. One was of quite uncertain origin, but the other was obviously an infection contracted abroad, during the holiday season, although only becoming apparent after return to this country.



Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and of deaths from the disease during the year, are set out below:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

It will be seen that, in 1965, all the cases occurred either in young persons or in the earlier part of middle-age. This somewhat contrasts with other recent years, when a fair proportion of new cases have been diagnosed in persons in other age-groups.

The one death from tuberculosis which took place during the year occurred in a man of 72 years, who had suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis over a considerable number of years.

The following table shows how the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis compared with those for preceding years:-

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1951	7	11	5	4	5	1	-	1
1952	14	10	6	4	1	2	-	2
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	-	-
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	-	1
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
1964	4	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
1965	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-



As regards new cases, the figures obviously compare very favourably with any of the other years dealt with in the above table, and show very clearly the tremendous advance which has been secured in the control of this disease by modern methods of diagnosis, treatment, surveillance and investigation of contacts.

The figure for deaths from the disease does not contrast quite so dramatically with the figure for previous years, and is not the best figure recorded in the table. This is largely because the improvement in mortality, due to improved methods of treatment, preceded by some years the reduction in the notification of new cases.

#### ANTHRAX

Anthrax was diagnosed in animals on three occasions during the year, being confirmed on two of these occasions. The necessary precautions were taken by the police to minimise the risk of spread of infection to either other animals or to human beings. These precautions appeared to work very satisfactorily, no further infection resulting from either confirmed case.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE

Available facilities and arrangements continued as in other recent years and, in general, appear to work well, although difficulty is occasionally experienced in getting full co-operation in the odd case where an inconveniently long journey to hospital militates against regular attendance for the necessary period of surveillance.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements continued as in earlier years, and proved very satisfactory in the various investigations carried out.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

No significant change in this field occurred during the year, with beds available in fully adequate numbers for patients suffering from tuberculosis and other infections, but with an insufficient number of beds available to meet the needs of maternity and geriatric patients, arising partly from increasing population and partly, in the case of geriatric patients, from the larger proportion of the proportion of the in the older age-groups. Another factor is the increased number of persons going away from home on holidays, during which time old people, ordinarily cared for in the home, are having to be transferred to hospital.



Arrangements for assessment of priorities for admission and for provision of supportive services for those patients who could not be admitted, continued along the same lines as in earlier years.

### PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Arrangements remained as in previous years.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It again proved possible to avoid taking statutory action for the compulsory removal of any person to hospital or other institution, the use of the County Council's home help service being frequently the means of preventing home conditions from deteriorating to a point where admission to hospital, voluntarily or otherwise, might have been required.

### FOOD

Inspection of premises where food is prepared for sale or actually sold to the public and investigation of complaints by the public as to the condition of food when purchased remain the most important safeguards that food is prepared, stored and sold under reasonably satisfactory hygienic conditions. It would appear that the public, as a whole, are becoming much more conscious than they used to be of the importance of food hygiene. It would be a good thing, in this connection if they would help further, by bringing personally to the notice of the shopkeeper and other food handlers any obvious or serious breach of good practice.

I am informed by the County Medical Officer of Health that, of foods sampled by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, all 44 samples of milk were found to be satisfactory while of 30 other samples of other foods taken only one was found to be adulterated, a sample of stewed steak in gravy, found to be 20% deficient in fat.

The results of the examination of samples of milk for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilization and the presence of tubercle bacilli were as follows:-

Grade of Milk	RESULTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness).		Phosphatase (Pasteurisation)		Turbidity (Sterilization)		Biological (Tuberculosis)	
	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Neg.	Pos.
Untreated Farm Bottled	9	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Pasteurised	147	8	161	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Homogenised	33	-	35	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilized	-	-	-	-	83	-	-	-
Totals:	189	8	196	-	83	-	5	-



Apart from the methylene blue tests, all the results are, of course, satisfactory, and fully confirm the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilization processes. As regards the methylene blue test, the proportion of failed samples was smaller than in the previous year, when 16 out of 171 samples failed the test. It is to be hoped that the improvement will continue.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks company, reports that the supply, derived from eleven pumping stations, continued to be satisfactory both in quality and in quantity, although, owing to the number of sources of supply, the actual composition showed quite wide variations from place to place. He mentions, in particular, that supplies were free from any appreciable quantities of lead. Fluoride content was not recorded, but is known to be far below that which is desirable for satisfactory tooth formation. This matter has been referred to in previous reports, and is therefore not referred to further here.

Mr. Taylor confirms that, although chlorination is largely precautionary, in relation to the type of water being dealt with, it was, in fact, carried out at most of the pumping stations, and in all cases where, owing to damage to pipes etc., any danger of contamination had occurred.

Regular sampling of water was carried out, and showed satisfactory results.

It is interesting to note that, for the first time, it was recorded that no houses in the district were supplied by standpipe, a noteworthy advance in hygiene.

#### HOUSING

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to re-housing and the waiting list for council house, during 1965, was as follows:-

Waiting List at 1st January, 1965	...	804
Rehoused in New Houses during 1965	...	83
Rehoused in Relet Houses during 1965	...	107
Waiting List at 31st December, 1965	...	893

Out of 190 families rehoused during the year, 56 families were rehoused from houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation and 18 families from caravans. The figure for unfit houses compares with one of 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. The relatively modest figure for 1965 was, of course, due to continued lack of availability of new houses to allow clearance of unfit houses in Fazeley and Elford to proceed, delay being due to difficulties in either acquisition or redevelopment of the sites in question. It is interesting to note the quite large demands which caravan-dwellers are now making on the number of council houses becoming available for allocation. As most of the caravan occupants tend to be newcomers to the district, it is obvious that the increased number of residential caravans will inevitably lead to increased demand for council houses in future years, as families living in them grow in size and as the children get older, and require more space for study and entertaining of friends.

As regards the waiting-list for council house, it will be noted that the total increased from 804 at the beginning of the year to 893 at the end, the main increase being in tenants, from 561 to 639, although lodgers also increased in numbers, from 210 to 227. It would appear probable that part, at least, of the present demand from families who are already the tenants of their present homes results from the improved standard of living, which naturally produces a demand for houses with adequate amenities.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during the year in relation to houses considered to be unfit for human habitation:-

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
Black and White Cottages Harlaston (2)	Undertaking Accepted, 5th January.
1,2,3 and 4, The Gullet, Drayton Bassett	Undertaking Accepted, 1st April.
3, Main Road, Wigginton	Undertaking Accepted, 15th April.
Caravan at rear of Sheepwash Farm, Whittington	Undertaking Accepted, 13th May.
40-60, (even nos.) Queen Street, Chasetown.	Clearance Area Declared, 21st May.
52,54,56, Main Street, Whittington.	Undertaking Accepted, 28th May.



PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
48, Park Road, Alrewas	Demolition Order, 25th June.
13,15,17, Baker Street, Chasetown.	Demolition Orders, 9th July.
46, Queen Street, Chasetown.	Undertaking Accepted 20th September.
70, Birmingham Road, Shenstone	Undertaking Accepted 7th October
1, Union Street, Chasetown.	Undertaking Accepted 22nd December

The number of houses dealt with during the year in this way, totalling 28 in all, compare with an identical figure for 1964 and figures of 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. While the total for 1965 may not appear unsatisfactory, and represents solid progress, it cannot be regarded with full satisfaction, bearing in mind the quite big backlog of unfit houses still to be represented for statutory action, the completion provided by the occupants of temporary prefabricated bungalows still awaiting clearance, the needs of overcrowded families both in the district and in the "overspill" areas and, above all, the needs of those families, already mentioned in an earlier paragraph, who live in houses already condemned, but not yet cleared. As mentioned in an earlier report, the limiting factor in the undertaking of statutory action for clearance of unfit houses is the supply of houses likely to be available for rehousing those displaced by such action, as any considerable delay in rehousing, after statutory action has been taken, inevitably leads to vehement criticism by those affected.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The necessary inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, the following work being dealt with during the year:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	98	-	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	22	-	-	-
Total:	127	27	-	-

The table set out below shows the defects found, and action taken, as a result of the inspections carried out:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	6	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	8	7	-	6	-

The following table sets out particulars regarding the small number of outworkers in the district who carried out work in their own homes during the year:-

Nature of work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing & Making Apparel etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc., of Buttons.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	3	-	-	-	-	-

It will be noted that none of the work in question involved the handling of food, which made it unlikely that any danger to public health would arise in these instances.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C. Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.  
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and on the whole complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission. However, some of the works are heavily overloaded, due to the considerable amount of development that has, and is at present, taking place mainly in the larger villages. The Council have this year let contracts for the extension and modernisation of these works. Five contracts are at present under construction, the capital expenditure of these being in excess of £500,000. It is anticipated that further contracts will be let towards the end of the year for the complete sewerage of villages, together with treatment works.

ALREWAS - These works are heavily overloaded, and several minor extensions have had to be carried out during the year to maintain a reasonable standard of effluent at these works. Proposals for major extensions of these works are included in the Council's programme and preliminary site investigations have already been carried out. In the village of Fradley the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory, and proposals to deal with this will be included in the Alrewas scheme.

ARMITAGE & LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from these parishes, the effluent from which is reasonably satisfactory, having regard to the large amount of development now draining to these works. A contract for the enlargement of these works has been let and is at present under construction. It is anticipated that work should be complete in the early part of 1967. This contract includes for the construction of a new pumping station to dispense with the old works on the western side of the village, and work on the construction of this station will commence at the latter part of this year.

BRINDLEY HEATH - The new sewage treatment works has at time during the year given an unsatisfactory effluent and, as a result of investigations, the filter capacity of these works has been enlarged. It is anticipated that these works will now produce a satisfactory effluent, complying with the standards laid down by the Royal Commission.

BURNWOOD - A contract has been let for the first stage of the enlargement and modernisation of these works, and work on the construction commenced at the early part of this year. The first stage of this contract should be completed during the early part of 1967, after which a second contract will be let to complete these works. The first stage of the contract provides for the construction of a pumping station at Triangle, including the laying of rising mains etc., these to be connected to the existing gravity sewer, which drains to Peters Lane. The existing sewage works at Chasetown will then be dispensed with, and all sewerage in this area will then be treated at the proposed new works at Peters Lane.



The effluent at present from the existing works is unsatisfactory, but this is to be expected in view of the very considerable development now taking place in this area which has led to the works being heavily overloaded.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - Several modifications have been made in the operation of these works with the result that the final effluent from the works is now satisfactory.

COLTON - A contract has been let this year for the construction of a new sewage treatment works and the laying of new foul and surface water sewers throughout the village. The sewers have been completed, and it is anticipated that this contract should be completed towards the end of 1966. A new pumping station is to be constructed on the western side of the village to drain the properties in the vicinity of the school. The existing settlement tank will be dispensed with upon completion of the new scheme.

CURBOROUGH & ELMHURST - The pumping station and sewage treatment works near the outfall of the sewer in the Elmhurst portion of the parish has effected a considerable improvement.

DRAYTON BASSETT - Excellent results are being obtained from this new sewage treatment works, the effluent being to a very high standard.

EDINGALE - The proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works are now completed. It is anticipated that these will be submitted to the Ministry for approval this year, and that the work will be commenced during the summer of 1967.

ELFORD - The conditions show little change in this parish, but during the year proposals for the construction of a new sewage treatment works and a sewerage system have been approved by the Ministry, and it is anticipated that work will be commenced during the latter part of this year.

FAREWELL & CHORLEY - The works dealing with the Council houses is operating satisfactorily, but it is intended that these works will be disconnected when the new sewers are laid in this village as part of the Burntwood Scheme.

FAZELEY - The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, sewers from this area discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough. This trunk sewer is surcharged during the day period, and there are proposals for constructing a relief sewer for this area. The two pumping stations serving this parish are both working satisfactorily.

GENTLESHAW - Proposals for the sewerage of this village have been considered by the Council, and it has been decided that the scheme should not be proceeded with at the present time, on account of the high cost involved.



HAMSTALL RIDWARE - Submission of this scheme to the Ministry has been delayed owing to difficulties of land acquisition. These difficulties have now been overcome, and the scheme will shortly be submitted for approval.

HARLASTON - The treatment works is badly overloaded, and the effluent from these works is unsatisfactory. A scheme has been prepared for these works to be replaced by a pumping station which will pump the sewage from this area to the new sewage treatment works to be constructed in the parish of Edingale. All the land acquisitions have now been completed and the scheme submitted to the Minister for his approval. It is anticipated that work should commence during the summer of 1967.

HOPWAS - These works, which were reconstructed before the war, are working reasonably satisfactorily, but will require modification in order to comply with the present day requirements.

HINTS - The effluent from the existing works is unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a new sewage treatment works. This scheme has now been approved by the Minister and it is proposed that work should commence on the contract in the early part of 1967.

KINGS BROMLEY - The effluent from the existing sewage tank is unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a new sewage treatment works, together with two pumping stations. The submission of this scheme to the Ministry has been delayed owing to difficulties of land acquisition, which have not yet been resolved.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - The new sewage treatment works for the village of Hill Ridware is working satisfactorily, and is producing a very high standard of effluent. The two new pumping stations discharging to these works are in good working order.

SHENSTONE - The new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village of Shenstone and the pumping station in Lynn Lane and Woodend are working satisfactorily. A contract has been let for the reconstruction and modernisation of the existing sewage treatment works at Stonnall, and it is anticipated that work on this contract should be completed in the early part of 1967.

LITTLE ASTON - These works deal with the drainage of the southern area of the Shenstone parish and properties from the new Aldridge/Brownhills Urban District and the Borough of Sutton Coldfield also drain into these works. The final stage of the construction of these works is almost completed, and the existing units at these works are working extremely satisfactorily and producing a very high standard of effluent.



STREETHAY - These works were reconstructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. camp. A considerable quantity of trade effluent is being discharged at these works with the result that the effluent has not been up to the required standard. Work on the construction of new filter beds at these works is at present being carried out, and it is hoped that this will have the desired effect of improving the effluent up to the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

SWINFEN & PACKINGTON - The disposal works at Botany Bay to deal with the housing estate is working satisfactorily and is producing a reasonable standard of effluent.

WALL - The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. In the Burntwood sewerage scheme allowance has been made to drain the properties in the vicinity of Muckley Corner to the proposed new works at Peters Lane. This will involve the construction of a pumping station.

WHITTINGTON - A contract for the construction of a new sewage treatment works to serve this village and also the drainage from the Whittington Barracks has been let and work is in progress. It is anticipated that this contract should be completed at the early part of 1967. The existing works is operating satisfactorily, and the effluent is of a reasonable standard, having regard to the overload at these works due to the large amount of development now taking place in this village.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of Wigginton Parish which is sewered are quite good, the disposal being carried out under arrangements made by the Tamworth Sewage Joint Committee.

WEEFORD - There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.





ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lichfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit a report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1965.

A staff change took place during the year by the resignation of Mr. B.D. Rogerson, as from 1st August, 1965. A new appointment was not effected until later in the year and Mr. D.G. Hobday commenced duties on 1st January, 1966. Due to the absolute necessity of maintaining the meat inspection service this temporary shortage of staff had its effect on the general public health work of the Department.

The most important change in public health legislation during the year was the introduction of the Rent Act, 1965. This Act, which sets up entirely new administrative procedure for the control of rents, virtually nullifies the administration of the Rent Act, 1957, which provides for the issue of Certificates of Disrepair. The new Act now provides that both tenants and landlords may apply to local Rent Officers appointed under the Act for a decision on a fair rent for regulated tenancies.

Meat Inspection continued to take a great deal of time outside normal working hours, although there was a very slight reduction in the total number of animals slaughtered as compared with the previous year. The Council proposed during the year to discuss the hours of slaughtering with the trade to see whether some voluntary change could be made in this very difficult problem.

The Public Cleansing Service continued at a very high standard. I feel it would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the hard work put into this Service by the Council's manual employees. It is very largely due to their endeavours that we have managed to keep pace with the considerable increase in the demand for this Service. Appreciation of the work undertaken by these employees is only realised by the general public when, due to reasons probably beyond their control, the men fail to arrive for the collection of refuse. This Council in my view, provide a service second to none in the Midland area and full appreciation must be extended to the employees for this standard.

In conclusion I would thank the Members of the Council and particularly the Health Department Staff for the continued whole-hearted support throughout the year. I would also place on record my good wishes to Mr. J.G. Rimand who retired as Engineer and Surveyor at the end of the year. In the twenty years of our joint association with this Council I received great encouragement and gained considerably in experience from him.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

2nd August, 1966.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1965 - 31st March, 1966

### (a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The low level of complaints received in the Health Department was an indication that the collection service was maintained satisfactorily on a weekly basis throughout all parts of the District. Minor complaints due to weather conditions, sickness and mechanical breakdown were, fortunately few, and a small amount of overtime working was sufficient to cover these emergencies. The newer vehicles of 35 cu.yd. capacity were well proved as being the most economical units to operate. Vehicles of this size represent a saving in journeys to the tip, with a consequent increase in collecting time on the round. To some extent this may be offset by their being extremely heavy and bulky vehicles which have to negotiate the narrow and tortuous lanes of some parts of the District. It was very clear, however, that the collection service would require a considerable increase in manpower and vehicles, unless full use is made of these large, modern vehicles.

Disposal problems continue to increase and this will probably be the case until the decision is taken to set the pattern of Refuse Disposal on a long term basis. The tip at Shenstone is rapidly drawing to the end of its useful life and will not be of much use to the Authority in the succeeding year. This will be regrettable as this tip occupies a most useful position, approximately half way between Fazeley and Chasetown. The present method of tipping refuse may be economical but is not desirable, and attention is drawn to this by the action of the County Council in stipulating "treated refuse" only, on the planning approval given on land in the Parish of Burntwood.

The total cost of the services for the twelve months ending on 31st March, 1966 was £48,252 compared to £42,120 for the previous year.

The unit cost of collection and disposal was approximately as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
Net cost of collection per ton	2	13	4
Net cost of disposal per ton		5	10
Net cost of collection per 1,000 population	974	11	7
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 population	104	3	2
Net cost of collection per 1,000 premises	2,617	11	3
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 premises	279	15	0



(b) "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign

The litter baskets provided at various points throughout the District continue to be well used. I understand that the purpose for which they were originally sited has been augmented by other uses, e.g. occasional seats and tying up points for dogs while the owner goes shopping. This probably accounts for some of the damage to these items of street furniture. There is no doubt, however, that these facilities are serving a useful purpose. It would seem, though, that the volume of traffic using the lay-bys and grass verges for picnic areas is increasing, and the question of cleansing these areas after the weekends, becomes more and more a call upon the Local Authority. This type of careless action, reprehensible though it may be, cannot be considered in the same light as the deliberate actions of certain people who seek out odd corners of land on which to tip their unwanted articles. This of course creates a great deal of annoyance to the public at large, and the local ratepayers in particular, besides causing expense to the Authority undertaking the removal of this rubbish. In my opinion the Litter Act has proved remarkably ineffective, and has not made impact on these people. The time has come when the Act should be strengthened, the delegation of authority is too widespread being shared by Local Authorities, Police Authorities and Highway Authorities. The offender is rarely detected and I am satisfied that in its present form the Act has done little to assist in dealing with the problem.

An extension of this problem arises from the depositing of cars on Highway verges and waste land around the District. During the year in question, some four vehicles were the subject of complaint at various parts of the District. The procedure to be followed in obtaining removal of the vehicles is very complex and protracted, and it is regrettably likely that such abandoned vehicles may occupy land for a period of many weeks. Initially it is not always clear if a vehicle has been abandoned or if it is the subject of a breakdown but once the situation becomes clear then exhaustive enquiries regarding ownership must be made and, until the statutory procedure is completed, the vehicle is likely to be the source of complaint, besides the possibility of attracting other litter to the site.

(c) Public Conveniences

The new Public Conveniences at Burntwood were completed and brought into use during the year. It is hoped that experience will prove that a purposely designed building of modern easily cleansed materials will be respected, and that vandalism will be reduced to a minimum. Vandalism, although it does occur, has never been a real problem in the Councils Public Conveniences, as damage is very largely restricted to locks. Clearly the object is theft and purposeless vandalism has never been seriously experienced. In this connection I feel that a way in which this problem may be kept at minimum proportions is to ensure that these facilities are sited, so far as possible, on busy thoroughfares and not, as is so often the case, in quiet, out of the way backwaters.



## HOUSING

### (a) Housing Act, 1957

One new clearance area, i.e. The Lichfield Rural (Queen Street, Chasetown) Clearance Area, 1965 was declared during the year. This contained 11 houses and the slum clearance programme was further continued by four further houses being dealt with by means of Demolition Orders. Official Undertakings were accepted in the case of thirteen houses and one caravan.

### (b) Repairs to Houses

There were 23 houses repaired after the service of Statutory Notices and a further 25 houses were repaired after informal action was taken. The nuisance provisions of the Public Health Acts are now in need of revision. In general the tenant of a property does not understand that a housing defect is not necessarily a nuisance. If the scope of the nuisance sections could be widened a little to cover even a moderate amount of housing defects; then I feel sure that the older properties could have their useful life extended for what could be a lengthy period.

### (c) Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

The Act declines in value until there is no useful object served in keeping it upon the Statute Book. There were no new applications for Rents Acts Certificates during the year. The virtual winding up of the Act came into force with the passing of the Rent Act, 1965. Existing Certificates were not revoked and even though new certificates may be requested and issued, it is far more likely that tenants will take advantage of the opportunity to have a fair rent assessed by the Rent Officers appointed under this Act, than to follow the cumbersome procedure of the Rents Acts, 1920 - 1957.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A total of 67 visits were undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself for the purpose of advising intending applicants for Improvement Grants.

### DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works	Total Value of Grants
Rec'd	No. of Houses	Refused	With- drawn	Owner/ Occup'r	Others		
21	22	1	NIL	14	8	£16,550 12s. 2d.	£6,788 10s. 10d.

### STANDARD GRANTS

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works	Total Value of Grants
Rec'd	No. of Houses	Refused	With- drawn	Owner/ Occup'r	Others		
34	53	-	-	18	34	-	£8,603 9s. 3d.

The Discretionary Grants show a fall in both numbers of applications and total value of Grants from those applications received in previous years. This is, however, more than offset by the increase in figures of the Standard Grant Applications. Unfortunately, no total value of works can be given as this information is not required of the applicant as in the case of a Discretionary Grant.

A complaint received in the Department concerning a particular dwelling house was adjudged to be a suitable case for compulsory improvement under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964. Steps were put in hand to deal with the property on these lines and the owner agreed to improve the property without requesting the Council to purchase. It would appear to me that isolated instances such as this are the only likely result of the Housing Act, 1964, at least so far as this Authority is concerned.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

Six complaints of unsatisfactory water supply were received in the Department during the year. Four of these were in respect of mains piped supplies and proved to be satisfactory after investigation. Two other complaints referring to private well waters, which were found to be so polluted as to be unsatisfactory. The necessary advice was given to the owners and steps were taken to ensure that a wholesome water supply was provided.



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The implementation of this Act, was continued during the year and the following tabular information was supplied to the Ministry of Labour at the end of the year:-

Table A

Class of Premises	Total No. Registered in year.	Total No. of Registered Premises at End of Year.	No. of Registered Premises receiving general inspection in year
Officers	1	15	10
Retail Shops	18	84	63
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	1	7	3
Catering Estabs. & Canteens	NIL	28	15
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	1

Registrations and General Inspection

Table B

No. of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 148.

Table C

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
1	2
Offices	58
Retail Shops	221
Wholesale Depots, Warehouses	199
Catering Establishments	137
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Totals:	624
Total Males:	280
Total Females:	344

There were no application for exemption, and no exemptions were made.

It was found that there were 136 contraventions of the Act, and that these contraventions ranged over the whole of the relevant sections. It was evident that shortage of heating facilities was the commonest deficiency but that in no case was there any contravention of the overcrowding provisions.

Three accidents were reported during the year, and these were all investigated and reported to the Ministry of Labour. In each case it was established that there was no reason to put any blame upon the employer for the occurrence. A special investigation of the lighting of offices and shops was undertaken at the instruction of the Ministry of Labour. This covered a three month period, and was designed to obtain information to help the Minister to frame regulations to cover this section of the Act. Shortage of Staff within the Department and inability to procure a lightmeter of the appropriate type made this task somewhat difficult, but eventually the investigation was completed and the report made to the Minister. The promised Lighting Regulations have not as yet transpired however.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950

The level of complaints appeared to fall this year and in fact the major part of the duties under this Act consisted of advising perplexed traders of what they could and could not sell during the restricted hours of trading. Legislation to alter the present complex system was discussed during the year, but was not prepared sufficiently to be debated in Parliament. A number of visits were made in connection with a particular shop, but it was never clear that a contravention of the Act existed, and therefore no statutory action could be taken.

#### THEATRES AND CINEMAS

Ten premises were inspected in accordance with the provisions of the Theatres Act and as a result of this, 9 Licences were issued for the "occasional" use of premises for the production of stage plays and one licence was granted for the continued use of Cinema premises. There were no difficulties in ensuring that the premises were made to comply fully with the Act and Regulations. In this connection, the advice of the County Fire Authority is greatly appreciated.

#### RODENT CONTROL

A total of 747 visits were made for the purpose of dealing with the rat problem. This was a decrease in the number of calls made in the previous year, but still represents a very great deal of time. There was no evidence of any warfarin resistance found during the year. This phenomena appears to be getting fairly widespread, and in anticipation of this it was felt desirable to obtain some of the newer materials now available for this purpose. Satisfactory results appear to be obtained with all types of bait.



### SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act came into force during the year, and required the Registration of all premises engaged in the handling of Scrap Metal. Thirteen Certificates of Registration were issued during the year, and a considerable degree of liaison with the Police Authority was required. There were no contraventions of the Act.

### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The number of caravan site licences issued during the year fell to 53, of which 7 sites are recreational and provide 323 caravan spaces and 12 chalets. The remaining 46 licences are for permanent residential occupation and provide some 325 caravan spaces.

Certain of the existing licences were amended during the year and more stringent conditions were imposed. No opposition to this move was experienced from these site owners affected, and it was felt that the close approach to the Model Standards was of benefit to both owner and tenant. The licensed sites within the District are well run, and there are few problems connected with the day to day administration of the Act.

Unfortunately, these remarks cannot be held true for the unlicensed van. This problem continues, and grows yearly in size. Far too much time was spent in moving unauthorised caravan dwellers. The sanitary conditions left by these persons are disgraceful, but I am assured that it is almost impossible to serve a summons upon the caravanner for this or any other offence which does not warrant outright arrest. It would appear therefore, that the problem will continue with us until a solution is found.

### THE PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There were 135 licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit issued during the year.

I have to report also that a serious contravention of the above mentioned Act and Regulations was committed by one of the <sup>Persons</sup> ~~above~~ licenced to hold a quantity of Petroleum Spirit. As a result of this the Council instituted proceedings and a successful case was taken to the Lichfield Magistrates Court where the Licensee concerned was fined a total of £10 plus £5. 5s. 0d. costs.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (a) Meat Inspection

The level of animals slaughtered in the district continued at approximately the same point as the previous year. Due to the fact that one Inspector secured another appointment, in the final quarter of the year, all the Meat Inspection was undertaken by two Inspectors working alternate weeks. Much of the work is still undertaken outside normal working hours and there seems little prospect of any alteration to this state of affairs, at least so far as voluntary reduction in working hours is concerned.

The slaughtering figures show a decrease in cattle, calves and sheep killed, but an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered. I am unable to offer any explanation for this, and have concluded that it is due simply to the vagaries of trading and consumer demand.

Tuberculosis continued to be virtually non-existent and this year there is a slight downward trend in the Cysticercosis figures. For the first time it was found necessary to condemn a bovine carcass entire, and although it is too early yet to draw any conclusion from this the fact will be borne in mind. It is to be hoped that a reduction in numbers affected will not be accompanied by an intensification of the disease.

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
Carcasses inspected	7,443	1,489	16,964	41,463	15
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole Carcass condemned	49	20	36	106	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,205	13	1,790	4,310	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	16.8%	2.22%	10.7%	10.65%	6.66%



	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	88	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	-	-	.52%	-	-
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	16	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-

#### DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

<u>All Diseases, except Tuberculosis:</u>	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE: Carcase Meat	17	13	3	6
Offal	6	18	-	1
CALVES: Carcase Meat	-	10	2	4
Offal	-	-	2	6
SHEEP: Carcase Meat	2	-	2	24
Offal	8	14	2	14
PIGS: Carcase Meat	2	18	3	8
Offal	2	2	3	15
GOATS: Carcase Meat	-	-	-	-
Offal	-	-	-	2
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
PIGS: Carcase Meat	-	9	3	3
	41	8	2	27

(b) Other Foods

Condemnation Certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
28 Tins of Apricots	-	1	-	22	14
59 Tins of Baked Beans	-	-	1	9	11
1 Tin of Beans	-	-	-	1	-
13 Tins of Sliced Beans	-	-	-	17	14
6 Tins of Blackberries	-	-	-	6	-
3 Tins Beetroot	-	-	-	3	-
Bacon	-	-	2	26	-
6 Tins Baby Food - Beef	-	-	-	1	10
68 Tins Corned Beef	-	-	1	24	3
8 Tins Carrots	-	-	-	1	10
11 Tins Corned Mutton	-	-	-	8	4
1 Tin Crab	-	-	-	-	8
11 Pkts Cereals	-	-	-	10	-
5 Tins Chicken	-	-	-	1	7
21 Chickens	-	-	1	17	-
48 Pkts Crisps	-	-	-	3	-
63 Tins Fruit Salad	-	-	3	16	-
15 Bags of Flour	-	-	1	17	-
26 Tins Frankfurters	-	2	2	3	12
89 Tins Grapefruit	-	-	3	10	4
Gammon	-	-	-	12	-
21 Tins Ham	-	1	1	8	3
5 Tins Irish Stew	-	-	-	4	14
1 Jar of Jam	-	-	-	1	-
58 Tins of Milk	-	-	1	18	10
6 Tins Oranges	-	-	-	4	2
1 Jar of Pickled Onions	-	-	-	1	-
1 Bottle of Orange Juice	-	-	-	-	-
1 Bottle of Orange Crush	-	-	-	1	-
4 Tins of Ox Tongue	-	-	-	24	-
126 Tins Peaches	-	1	2	11	10
116 Tins Peas	-	1	-	4	14
27 Tins Pears	-	-	1	4	14
1 Tin Pineapple	-	-	-	1	-
93 Tins Pork Loin	-	2	2	7	-
23 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat	-	-	-	21	5
5 Tins Garden Peas	-	-	-	11	6
1 Tin Plums	-	-	-	6	14
1 Tin Pork Roll	-	-	-	-	8
82 Jars Red Cabbage	-	-	1	25	4
20 Tins Rice	-	-	-	20	-
14 Tins Rhubarb	-	-	-	7	8



	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
8 tins Salmon	-	-	-	4	-
3 Tins Sild	-	-	-	-	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
22 Tins Steak	-	-	-	21	8
6 Tins Strawberries	-	-	-	7	8
3 Tins Spaghetti	-	-	-	3	-
2 Tins Soup - Chicken	-	-	-	2	-
7 Tins Soup - Tomato	-	-	-	6	9
37 Tins Soup - Vegetable	-	-	-	27	-
2 Bottles H.P. Sauce	-	-	-	-	14
293 Tins Tomatoes	-	2	1	20	12
3 Tins Tomato Juice	-	-	-	4	15
1 Bottle Tomato Ketchup	-	-	-	-	8
7 Christmas Puddings	-	-	-	14	-
	1	-	1	7	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

(c) Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations

Two persons were prosecuted for using tobacco while engaged in the handling of meat at a slaughterhouse. Somewhat severe fines were imposed by the Magistrates, and it is to be hoped that this will have the desired effect of suppressing this undesirable habit.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The Council authorised the institution of proceedings against a meat trader for 28 alleged infringements of the above mentioned Regulations. The whole of the 28 summonses were dismissed by the Magistrates and this means that the Council failed to prove this case to the satisfaction of the Bench. No appeal against the decision was taken, as it was decided that the grounds for such an appeal were so obscure that the expense involved might have been considerable.

Nevertheless, new premises were found by the trader, and a more satisfactory method of conducting his business was evolved. The case was obviously worthy of the Court Action in the light of this knowledge, as the desired result was brought about even though no punitive effect was achieved.

(e) Food Hygiene

Routine visits were not feasible during the latter part of the year, but a total of 132 visits were made to all types of food premises before shortage of staff took its effect. In general, the degree of co-operation received by the Department from all sections of the food trade remains at a high level. I remain of the opinion that the work of the Inspectors must be reinforced by the Public if a real appreciation of the value of good hygiene is to be instilled into the persons actually employed as food handlers. Any person receiving what he considers to be service of a standard inferior to that which he expects, should tell the owner of the premises that he is not satisfied and explain why not. If this is done frequently enough then good food handling practices will arise naturally. Possibly the customer in a shop may feel embarrassed at taking such steps, but I am confident that it is only by expressing dissatisfaction that improvements will be effected. My opinion on this matter is founded on the fact that very few complaints from the general public are ever received in the Department, and I cannot explain this by the theory that complete satisfaction is experienced. Therefore, the only explanation to be offered is that the public are unable or unwilling to complain to the trader, and are unaware of where they may take their complaint for further investigation. My advice to the customers, therefore, is to complain to the trader if unhygienic practices are observed, and to notify the Health Department for further enquiries to be made. The making of further enquiries as a result of such complaints is with the intention of advising and educating the food handler, rather than with the desire to punish the trader.





