

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Meriden R.D.C.

Contributors

Meriden (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kjhzse4m>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

Library

RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN



Wainwright

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

R. S. McELROY,

M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1956



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

R. S. McELROY,


M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1956

CONTENTS

Air Pollution	41, 42, 43
Births	11, 14
Deaths	11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Diphtheria	17, 18
Dysentery	19
Food Inspection	31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
Food Poisoning	22
Food Premises	37, 38
Game Act, 1831	38
Housing	27, 28
Infant Deaths	13
Infectious Diseases	16
Inspections	24
Measles	17
Milk	22, 39
Moveable Dwellings	40
National Assistance Act, 1948	15, 39
Nuisances	25, 26, 27
Pet Animal Act, 1951	39
Poliomyelitis	19
Pneumonia	19
Population	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	19
Rag Flock Act, 1951	39
Refuse Collection	43
Rodent Control	40, 41
Scarlet Fever	18
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	43
Shops Act, 1950	39
Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54	38
Smallpox	18
Statistics and Social Conditions	11
Tuberculosis	20, 21, 22
Vital Statistics	11
Water Supplies	28, 29, 30, 31
Whooping Cough	17



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

<https://archive.org/details/b29796957>

*To the Chairman and Members of the Meriden Rural District
Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1956. In so doing, the many valuable social services provided under Warwickshire County Council auspices are not specifically mentioned and details of them are included in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

As mentioned in the Report for 1955, my predecessor, Dr. G. W. Knight, took up his appointment as Deputy County Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire, in January 1956. In the interval between his departure and my assumption of duty on the 1st May, 1956 Dr. C. T. Jones, Assistant County and School Medical Officer, acted as your Medical Officer of Health and has been duly thanked by you for his services. He has since been appointed as Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health in the Central Area at Leamington Spa, with effect from the 16th September, 1957.

On the whole, the general health of the community was satisfactory and, compared with 1955, the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases showed a marked decline. This was particularly noticeable regarding measles which had occurred in epidemic form the previous year. On the other hand, cases of whooping cough and dysentery were doubled, and scarlet fever trebled—fortunately mostly of a mild, uncomplicated nature readily responsive to the anti-biotic series of medicaments. The incidence of pneumonia declined by almost half but, unfortunately, with a high mortality rate in the lowest and highest age groups so that this disease must still continue to be viewed as serious and its prevention by further improvements in environmental hygiene remains a challenge. The absence of any cases of diphtheria—none notified since 1949—was gratifying but the need for maintaining a high immunisation level must still be emphasized and a sense of false security dispelled.

Regarding poliomyelitis, only one case was notified, and, although classified as "paralytic" was of a mild nature with complete recovery. The introduction of vaccination against the disease in March of the year under review enabled some 366 children in the 1947-54 age groups to be given some degree of protection against the paralytic form of the disease. It is worthwhile recording that 60% of parents approached consented to their children being enrolled but, unfortunately the limited supplies of vaccine only permitted 10% of these being inoculated before the end of June when it was considered advisable to suspend the work for the summer months.

Notifications of tuberculosis again decreased to a low level for the pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms of this still formidable malady now shorn of its hitherto high death rate mainly by the recent but well-proved drugs.

Regarding food-poisoning, only two cases were recorded compared with 11 the previous year.

Deaths from lung cancer were more than doubled for both sexes and this increase is in keeping with the countrywide situation of which the community is now well informed as to a likely cause.

Fuller details of the factors affecting the lives of the inhabitants will be found in the body of the Report.

Although handicapped by shortage of staff during the second half of the year, there was no serious curtailment of the routine work of the inspectorate and the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector contains ample proof of this. Despite this, the number of inspections and visits increased to 8,750 from 8,150 while nuisances investigated decreased from 659 to 595. The fall in the number of visits regarding housing and overcrowding is a good indication of the continual improvement in the welfare of the population. It will be noted that examinations of premises where food is stored or retailed were more than doubled and are linked with the gradual implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56. The majority of purveyors of foodstuffs are very co-operative and willing to comply with the reasonable requirements of this legislation.

In connection with housing, application for tenancies on the Register at the close of the year had increased by 107 to 724 but it was probable that this figure could be reduced by reason of failure to cancel applications when alternative arrangements had been made. Nevertheless, this is a substantial total which makes the lull in the provision of new houses by the Council all the more disappointing. However, this unavoidable set-back is likely to be overtaken in 1957 with the projected completion of 12 maisonettes and 58 houses all of which are located in Coleshill.

Owing to the hitch in the building programme, material progress in the Council's slum clearance scheme was impracticable. It will be recalled that action under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 envisaged the demolition of some 260 dwellings over a period of 6 years. Nevertheless, with 18 demolitions in 1955 and 23 in 1956 and clearance orders submitted for a further 16, this important measure was not overlooked. A very gratifying feature of the intricate work of the housing section of the Department is reflected by the confidence of the public in its impartiality.

On the whole, water supplies were adequate and extensions to mains supplied increased the percentage of houses so provided from 83.7 to 92.7 among 12,912 dwellings. Schemes completed included 4,890 yards of 4in. mains in Berkswell and Corley Parishes. Works commenced embraced a further extension in Berkswell of 1,200 yards of 4in. main, while schemes approved to be undertaken, albeit without financial assistance from the Central Government, were located in Balsall, Fillongley and Meriden. It is hoped that the low pressure and intermittent shortages at Arley will cease with the take-over by the Nuneaton water undertaking. The quality of the mains supplies continued to be satisfactory whereas the reverse obtained in the majority of wells.

Well founded complaints regarding the hardness of the mains supply in the Furnace End area resulted in the provision of an improved alternative supply by the Birmingham Water Department.

Although very time-consuming, particularly meat inspection on a 100% basis, inspection of foodstuffs was well worth while. Since the resumption of private slaughtering in July 1954 some 16 slaughter-houses continued to be licensed and, while reluctant to curtail the scope of the small family butcher slaughtering and selling meat and offal on his own premises, it is felt that some of the time and expense involved in visiting these premises could be used to better advantage by moderate concentration of slaughtering and relieve the staff of work on Sundays and frequently outside normal working hours. While steady progress towards the elimination of tuberculosis in bovines continues, it will be noted that, out of 2,953 beasts examined, 11 whole carcasses and 213 part carcasses or organs were condemned as unfit for human consumption including 7 whole carcasses of cows with generalized tuberculosis which, apparently, only post-mortem examination had revealed. Information regarding cases of this kind is transmitted to the veterinary authorities for further investigation at source.

The value of meat examination in safeguarding the health of the community was also emphasized by the detection of anthrax in a bullock slaughtered in emergency on a local farm where the owner very wisely sought inspection before sale. In this instance the source of infection could not be traced and the usual disposal measures were effected.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-1956 became fully operative in July 1956. Unfortunately, this came about when the reduction in the inspectorate already mentioned took place and was unchanged until the last month of the year. Nevertheless, 278 visits spread over the 321 food premises revealed 153 defects, the majority of which had been rectified or were in hand and in no instance was statutory action necessary.

Generally speaking, milk supplies and premises were satisfactory. Apart from dairy farms not under our local authority control, only 8 premises were registered as dairies. The majority of the 54 registered distributors retail milk purchased in bottles from wholesalers outside the area. An increase from 94 to 98 in the number of licenses renewed or granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised supplies under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations is noteworthy and, of course, all milk sold in the district must now fall into one or a combination of these categories.

Regarding moveable dwellings, as in 1955, there were 23 licensed sites relating to 183 caravans, 6 huts and 97 tents. The majority of caravan dwellers have come to regard them as permanent homes. Although some occupiers, especially those with families, do not share this viewpoint it was surprising to be informed by parents with two or more children how happy were all the inmates who, in most instances, particularly during inclement weather, must almost live on top of each other. However, in many instances, the comparative freedom of a caravan and its usually

pleasant healthy surroundings are much preferable to "living in rooms" (frequently only one) and sharing "offices" in less salubrious localities. Moreover, physically, the health of the populace was good but signs of mental stress on the part of parents was not infrequent. On the whole, the administration of the larger sites was satisfactory and improved amenities were noticeable.

With four grit gauges and nine sulphur-dioxide instruments now grouped round the Hams Hall electricity generating station, where they are best located, this Council has continued to play the leading part in the whole County in the measurement of atmospheric pollution. With the exception of 1954 when rainfall was above average, there has been a marked reduction in the grit deposit. Also, although without any similar decline, more difficult to obtain on technical grounds, the readings for sulphur-dioxide which indicate the amount of sulphuric acid available as a corrosive agent remain low in the countrywide picture. Conversion to electric winding at Arley Colliery completed the removal of both chimneys helping to restore the overall pleasant landscape in this part of the district.

There is little doubt that the community at work and play has become more conscious of the need for a cleaner atmosphere and the passing of the Clean Air Act 1956 is another of several steps on the part of the Central Government in the last half century to enable an adverse situation to be rectified.

Progress continued with sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, the most noticeable of which was the completion of the works and commencement of sewer laying at Fillongley where private property owners are to be congratulated on their zeal in requesting to be connected with the new sewers.

The provision of housing largely solved the problem of manning the household refuse collection vehicles whereby a regular service, at mostly weekly intervals, was provided. On the other hand, suitable sites for disposal by tipping are becoming more difficult to acquire and long hauls have to be made in some instances.

I am indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for the information regarding sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the work of the staff and the ready co-operation of the members of the other departments and to thank you for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. McELROY
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 9 5 6

Chairman of the Council :—
WALTER BERNARD NEAL

Vice-Chairman of the Council :
JOHN SAMUEL BREEDEN

Clerk of the Council :
S. F. WOODHAMS

Public Health Committee : 1956-57

Antrobus, W.	Clifton, Mr. F. M.	Moore, R. E.
Brian, H.	Earle, R. J.	Neal, W. B.
Butler, F. S.	Fish, E. G.	Schofield, W. F.
Caines, B. G.	Gee, D.	Spencer, R. G.
Callwood, H. J.	Gregg, Mrs. M.	Stewart, J. D.
Cashmore, H. S.	Harper, R. H.	Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.
Chater, R. H.		

Housing Committee : 1956-57

Ash, F. J.	Jackson, Mr. V. L.	Prosser, D. W.
Breeden, J. S.	Kelsey, E. J.	Shaw, W. J.
Cooper, J.	Lawrence, E. M.	Spencer, R. G.
Earle, R. J.	Lowe, G. H.	Stewart, J. D.
Guernsey, Lord	Lynall, Mrs. G. M.	Victor-Halford, C. A.
Hales, A. F.	Parry, Mrs. E. I.	Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.
Hamar, J.		

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

Medical Officer of Health :

R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Tamworth Rural District Council
and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire
County Council)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

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

A. C. GITTINS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (until June 1956)

J. W. BOLTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed December 1956)

Chief Clerk :

J. D. MYNARD

Council Offices :

Old Bank House,
Church Hill,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 3141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health :

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 2331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population (Estimated Mid. 1956).....	46,820
Area in acres	61,775
No. of inhabited houses (Dec., 1956).....	13,317
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1956).....	£529,478
Product of a penny rate	£1,157

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	420	375	795
Illegitimate	8	10	18
Totals	428	385	813

Birth Rate.

17.37 per 1,000 estimated population.

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82	15.50	15.54	17.5	18.2	20.2	22.2

Still Births.

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	8	14
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Totals	7	11	18

Still Birth Rate.

21.67 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81	28.1	32.2	18.2	19.5	28.0	19.0

Deaths.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	195	156	351

Crude Death Rate.

7.49 per 1,000 estimated population.

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8	8.3	10.3	9.2	8.7	9.0	10.0

Classified Causes of Death

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	2	5
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	2	3
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	1	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	14	1	15
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	10	30
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16.	Diabetes	1	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	22	27	49
18.	Coronary disease, angina	34	21	55
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	6	6	12
20.	Other heart disease	19	32	51
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	6	11
22.	Influenza	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	11	8	19
24.	Bronchitis	9	6	15
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	21	17	38
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34.	All other accidents	3	2	5
35.	Suicide	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
37.	All causes	195	156	351

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1947 ..	34,800	773	348	+425
1948 ..	35,380	714	319	+395
1949 ..	36,160	656	313	+343
1950 ..	36,990	646	340	+306
1951 ..	37,950	590	390	+200
1952 ..	37,790	586	315	+271
1953 ..	38,220	643	339	+304
1954 ..	39,590	694	327	+367
1955 ..	42,870	692	358	+334
1956 ..	46,820	813	351	+462

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	9	17
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	8	10	18
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate.

22.1 per 1,000 births.

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7	32.4	34	46	26	39

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	7	7	14
	—	—	—

Neonatal Death Rate .. 17.2 per 1,000 live births.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births		
Live Births ..	*15.98	15.7
Still Births ..	21.67(a)	23.0(a)
Deaths		
All causes	*10.26	11.7
Infant Mortality ..	22.1(b)	23.8(b)
Neonatal mortality	17.2 (b)	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.92 and Deaths 1.37).

(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	41	19	60

Cancer Death Rate = 1.28 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 46,820—an increase of 3,950 over the 1955 figure of 42,870. From the table on the preceding page it will be seen that, since 1942, the number of inhabitants has expanded by more than one third (35.6%) while live births have risen by an almost similar amount (35.5%) with deaths only showing an increase of less than one tenth (9.3%). As would be expected, the greatest population increase took place in the parish of Kingshurst where large scale housing development by Birmingham Housing Department continued with the provision of 329 new dwellings.

Births.

At 15.98 per 1,000 estimated population the Standardised Birth Rate was the highest since 1950 (17.5). This compares favourably with the provisional figure of 15.7 for England and Wales, also the highest since 1950.

(The Standardised or Comparative Birth and Death Rates are obtained by using the relevant Factor supplied by the Registrar General thereby making due allowance for the differences in sex and age distribution of the population of the varying zones throughout England and Wales. By this means the standardised rates obtained are more comparable and accurate than the crude rates).

The illegitimacy rate was 20.36 per 1,000 live births comparing well with the provisional countrywide rate of 46.

Deaths.

The comparative death rate of 10.26 in the District continued lower than the provisional figure of 11.7 per 1,000 home population for England and Wales.

The crude death rate of 7.49 is the lowest for at least 14 years. The chief causes of death recorded on page 10 showed a decided change in order of frequency being heart disease, cancer and vascular lesion of the nervous system with cancer now taking second place and accounting for 60 deaths of which 15 were from disease of the lung or bronchus, males outnumbering females by 14 to 1. Assuming that men are usually heavier smokers than women, non-smokers may well regard this as significant.

For the fifth successive year no maternal death was reported, some 4,029 births having been notified during this same period.

Deaths from infectious diseases were confined to pneumonia and pulmonary tuberculosis. Regarding the former, although the number of cases notified fell from 40 to 25 compared with 1955, deaths were 19 : 25 a much higher proportionate mortality rate clearly showing the still serious nature of this malady with the highest incidence in the younger and older age groups despite the use of the newer antibiotics. Concerning the latter, with 5 fatal cases among 26 reported, the death rate is much lower than that for pneumonia with most fatalities occurring in the middle age groups.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Although many cases requiring removal to hospital or residential accommodation were examined, it is gratifying to be able to record that no statutory action on my part was necessary, all patients ultimately accepting my advice.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1956.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1955 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases re- moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.		
Measles	7 (705)	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	118 (57)	5	56	56	—	1	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5 (3)	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	92 (28)	—	15	68	8	1	—	—	5	—
Pneumonia	25 (40)	—	9	3	4	2	7	—	3	19
Malaria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	122 (60)	4	25	62	9	20	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	100 (73)	—	—	—	59	41	—	—	100	—
Meningococcal Infection	1 (1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	1 (6)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Non-paralytic	— (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1 (—)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	23 (7)	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26 (31)	—	—	—	3	13	7	3	18	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2 (5)	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	2 (11)	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Totals	525 (1030)	35	110	190	86	82	18	4	153	24

General Comment.

Compared with 1955, notifications of infectious diseases were almost halved (525 : 1030), the very large decrease being due to the lower incidence of measles despite substantial rises in scarlet fever, dysentery and whooping cough. The incidence of poliomyelitis sharply declined from 9 to a single mild paralytic case. Deaths were confined to pneumonia and tuberculosis. There were no cases of diphtheria.

Measles.

The incidence of this familiar malady declined to a record low level of 7 cases, all under 5 years of age. Compared with 1955 with 705 cases, the decrease is still in keeping with the biennial periodicity of the disease.

Whooping Cough.

Unlike measles, its childhood companion, whooping cough displays no cyclical occurrence and, as usual, the majority of the cases were in the 1-5 and 5-15 year age groups with only 5 of the 118 patients in the first year of life. Immunisation against the disease (usually combined with diphtheria) has become more popular and the following table sets forth the numbers inoculated. From this and the Table on the previous page it will be seen that infants under 1 year, during which they are normally injected, appear to be less subject to the disease and, therefore, the question of booster doses requires further consideration.

Table showing Number of Children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1956.

(Comparative figures for 1955 are in parenthesis).

Age at Date of Injection				
0—1	1—2	2—5	5—15	Total
456 (356)	111 (121)	62 (22)	27 (5)	656 (504)

Diphtheria.

Once again it is pleasing to be able to record a "nil" return. This satisfactory state of affairs may be fairly attributed to immunisation and be regarded as a triumph for all concerned not only in the original production of the vaccines but also in the day to day close contact with parents in their homes and at the Child Welfare and School Clinics. The Schedule sub-pended gives details of immunisations in 1956 (including booster doses) by County Council Medical Officers or family doctors. While the total number decreased slightly compared with 1955, the number of primary immunisations increased by 25%. This is all the more important because of the necessity for protection in the first year of life. It

cannot be too strongly emphasized or too frequently repeated that a high level of immunisation against this formidable disease is essential for the safety of the community and the tendency to complacency at its present low incidence throughout the country should not beget apathy for this reason.

Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1956.

(Comparative figures for 1955 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection.							Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Primary.....	465 (372)	110 (100)	38 (24)	18 (11)	13 (7)	53 (29)	2 (2)	699 (545)
Reinforcing ..	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	3 (1)	73 (25)	323 (521)	58 (150)	459 (697)
Totals ..	465 (372)	111 (100)	39 (24)	21 (12)	86 (32)	376 (550)	60 (152)	1158 (1242)

Smallpox.

No cases were reported nor was it necessary to keep under surveillance any contacts of cases elsewhere. The total number of vaccinations performed is given in the following table. The figure of 365 compares with 306 primary vaccinations under one year of age in 1955 and 355 in 1954. The total number of live births in 1956 was 813 so that an approximate estimate of the infant population protected in the first year of life is 38%. This is hardly satisfactory as the rapidity of world-wide air traffic has made it easily possible for persons in the incubation stage to introduce the disease to these islands. A recent sharp outbreak with several fatalities, only in unvaccinated patients, served to illustrate this.

Table showing Number of Persons Vaccinated against Smallpox in 1956.

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated ..	365	15	14	12	24	430
Re-Vaccinated ..	—	1	1	8	55	65
Totals ..	365	16	15	20	79	495

Scarlet Fever.

Notifications were more than trebled compared with 1955 but the majority of cases were of a mild nature only requiring admission to hospital in five instances.

Pneumonia.

The incidence was almost halved, but, whereas in 1955 (40 cases), this proportion was found in the two highest age groups (45 upwards) during the year under review the greatest number of patients was spread over the 1-45 age groups with only 7 notifications over this and all below 65 years of age. The severe weather during the winter and spring was a likely cause of the upward shift in 1955.

Dysentery.

Reports totalled 122 and were twice the 1955 figure which, in turn, was double the 1954 amount. This was in keeping with the countrywide spread but the fact that only one case was admitted to hospital shows the mild nature of the outbreak.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Notifications increased to 100 compared with 73 and 97 in the two preceding years. All of these cases were reported from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where the number of admissions has increased.

The greater proportion of the patients were not actually delivered in the hospital but were admitted after confinement elsewhere, so that the infection did not arise therein. As previously stated there were no maternal deaths and this scourge and dread of women in child-birth in the past, has now lost its terror with the use of antiseptics and particularly since the introduction of the "sulpha" series of medicaments, the first of which originated in Germany

Acute Poliomyelitis.

A single mild paralytic case which made a complete recovery was notified.

As mentioned in the introduction, the year 1956 was noteworthy for the introduction of a vaccine in Great Britain for the first time. An untoward incident in the United States of America made many parents hesitant to register their children but the 60% response (3,660 children) compared favourably with other areas. Indeed, a larger response might well have proved more embarrassing because the small amount of vaccine available only supplied 10% of the 3,660 children registered in the 1947-1954 age groups. There were no untoward results or ill-effects from the vaccine and a larger demand is now being made and supplies are increasing.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 26 new cases of the pulmonary and 2 cases of the non-pulmonary type of the disease were reported, a decrease of 5 and 3 respectively, over the 1955 figures. Of the patients with lung involvement, 18 were admitted to hospital. There were five deaths. Taking into account 26 patients who transferred to this district and excluding deletions on account of outward-transfer and death, the number remaining on the Register at the close of the year increased by 18 to 243 cases of the pulmonary type but was unchanged with 48 cases of the non-pulmonary variety.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1955	123	102	22	26
2. New Cases	15	11	1	1
3. Inward Transfers	11	11	3	1
4. Removals	15	15	1	5
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1956	134	109	25	23

The Chest Clinic, opened in Coleshill in 1954, functions very satisfactorily and Dr. W. E. Zundel the Chest Physician has continued in charge with the radiographer from St. Gerard's Hospital, Coleshill, still in attendance. This Clinic operates on Tuesday mornings and alternate Wednesday mornings.

Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1956 :—

	Men	Women	Children	Totals
Pulmonary	58	57	11	126
Non-pulmonary	6	6	11	23
Totals ..	64	63	22	149

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic opened in February, 1955 and from the Table sub-pended it will be seen that 34 children were inoculated.

No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1956.

Men	Women	Children	Total
3	6	34	43

As in 1955, re-housing of tuberculous persons was largely confined to the Kingshurst Hall Estate which continued to expand. Supervision of cases and contacts was fully maintained and, on the whole, those concerned co-operated.

The sex incidence and age groups of the new cases is recorded in the following table and once again the highest incidence was amongst the 15-35 year age group. The Death Rate remained low with 5 fatal cases giving a figure of 0.1 per 1,000 population.

Sex Incidence and Age Grouping of New Cases.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
25	..	4	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
35	..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	..	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	..	15	11	1	1	3	2	—	—

The further decline in the number of cases of non-pulmonary disease usually arising from the ingestion of milk infected with the bovine strain of the organism is noteworthy and may well be associated with the designation of the district as a Specified Area in 1953 whereby all milk retailed therein must either be tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised.

Infected milk supplies are investigated by the County Health Department and the position during the year was as follows :—

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1956.

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	6	Nil
Non-designated	117	6

Results of Investigations of Tubercle Infected Milk Supplies during the year 1956.

No. of :—	Cases found on routine sampling in the County	Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities
1. Investigations	6	5
2. Cows examined	131	81
3. Milk samples for diagnostic purposes	33	22
4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis order	7	3
5. Cows removed from herds during investigations and which may have been infected	—	—

Food Poisoning.

Cases of Food Poisoning decreased to 2 compared with 11 for 1955. Both were of a mild nature.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my report on the work of the department for the year 1956.

The appointment of Mr. J. W. Bolton to the inspectorate, with effect from the 1st January 1956, did much to relieve the burden of meat inspection, which had somewhat limited the department's other activities during the previous year. Unfortunately, however, another of the inspectors, Mr. A. C. Gittins, resigned in June to take up a more remunerative post elsewhere. There was unavoidable difficulty and delay in replacing him and the new inspector, Mr. W. W. G. Cutts, did not begin his duties until December. The advantage of an extra inspector, therefore, was lost for the second half of the year.

R. HAINES,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Town Hall,
Coleshill.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The department received and investigated 700 complaints, compared with 827 in 1955.

Inspections and visits made for various purposes are summarized in the following table :

Housing	761
Overcrowding	33
Nuisances	1754
Air pollution	182
Food examination (including meat inspection)	2358
Slaughterhouses (with regard to premises)	62
Food premises generally	237
Food stalls and vehicles	42
Bakehouses	5
Dairies	24
Water supplies	362
Camping sites and moveable dwellings	544
Factories	31
Shops	22
Infectious diseases (including food poisoning)	620
Rodent control	1422
Miscellaneous	297
	—
	8756
	—

NUISANCES.

The following nuisances were reported and dealt with :

Accumulations of refuse	14
Animals so kept	9
Cesspools overflowing	41
Closets defective and insanitary	32
Drains choked and defective	95
Dustbins defective or absent	73
Foul ditches and water-courses.....	64
Smoke, dust and effluvia	16
Housing defects :	
Dampness	40
Defective walls	15
,, roofs	20
,, chimneys.....	18
,, windows and doors	24
,, rainwater gutters and pipes	34
,, wall and ceiling plaster	51
,, floors	10
,, firegrates.....	13
,, stairs	2
,, washing boilers	3
,, paving	1
Unsatisfactory water supplies	20
	595

The housing defects were mainly dealt with as nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936. Formal abatement notices had to be served in sixteen cases. There were no legal proceedings.

Reference was made in the 1955 report to the gross pollution of the River Cole from the Birmingham Area, resulting in a serious nuisance at a water-mill where the sewage solids in the river were held up at the wheelhouse screens. At the beginning of 1956 Birmingham Corporation, implementing an earlier promise, carried out extensive dredging operations at the mill-pool and in the quiescent stretch of the river above it, and removed some thousands of cubic yards of deposited material. This somewhat costly process unfortunately achieved very little, except to provide additional storage capacity for fresh polluting matter, which in the warm weather of June was again coming downstream in considerable quantity, much of it already floating, and repeating the nuisance. The problem was very fully considered by the Public Health Committee, but action was deferred as no solution was apparent. Meanwhile, experiments were conducted with an improvised floating boom at the entrance to the mill-pool. This had the effect of intercepting the greater part of the floating material which was diverted

over a weir in the main river and broken up, so reducing the nuisance that it was considered inexpedient to pursue the matter. The condition of the river however remains most unsatisfactory.

For some time, the Council had experienced difficulty with a private sewage disposal works serving an estate of private houses at Allesley. By arrangement with the owners, an engineering concern occupying a nearby factory are permitted to discharge their drainage to the works, and this discharge from time to time has contained large concentrations of toxic chemicals. Complaint was received early in the year of the extremely foul condition of the outfall stream, itself little more than a running ditch, and the matter was taken up both with the appropriate River Board and with the engineering company. There has since been a progressive improvement and the company, by installing new plant at considerable cost, have reduced their normal discharge of toxic chemicals to within reasonable limits. A request by the River Board that the Council should adopt and maintain the works was however declined, on the ground that the works are still liable to sudden discharges of high concentrations of poisonous chemicals. These works are now kept under regular observation, and any abnormal conditions are immediately brought to the notice of the owners and other interested parties.

Another unusual nuisance dealt with during the year occurred at Water Orton. A company engaged in the manufacture of fertilizers from sewage sludge had some years ago deposited many tons of the crude material in three banks each several hundred yards long, forming three sides of a rectangle, for use as flood defences, the land being low-lying and adjoining the River Tame. Grass growing on the banks became ignited during the summer and the fire was allowed to get quite out of control, with the result that the banks themselves were burning. The smell, which was comparable with that of a burning colliery spoil bank, was carried over Water Orton village and gave rise to strong complaints. Following representations from the department, the company obtained a fire pump and, by flooding the banks systematically and continuously for several days, completely extinguished the fires.

A length of private sewer serving a number of houses on a private estate at Castle Bromwich was found to be defective and was re-laid voluntarily by the owners, following an approach by the department.

Complaints about defective dustbins were dealt with as time permitted and in most cases replacements were secured by informal action. Five statutory notices were served under section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, two of them on owners and three on occupiers, after consideration of the circumstances by the Council's Public Health Committee.

Nine pail closets were converted to W.C.'s during the year, all by voluntary action of the owners. Grants totalling approximately £184 towards the costs to be incurred by private owners were approved in principle in respect of 15 cases.

The following is a summary of formal notices served during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of nuisances and similar matters :

Section	Subject	No. of cases
39	Defective drainage	2
50	Overflowing cesspool	1
92 and 93	Nuisances	16
138	Absence of piped water supplies.....	2

HOUSING.

The number of applications for tenancies on the Council's register at the end of 1956 was 724. The register however was then due to be reviewed, and whilst the nominal total showed an increase of 107 over the comparable figure at the end of 1955, it can be assumed that some at least of these applicants will have made their own arrangements without notifying the department. No new houses were built during the year, but preparations for further building schemes were continued and a start was made in December on twelve maisonettes at Coleshill, intended primarily for re-housing older people from houses about to be condemned. There were 48 casual vacancies during the year, and they were let to applicants in the following groups :

General needs (including 2 priority T.B. cases, 1 case of statutory overcrowding and 1 slum clearance case)	19
Old persons (including 1 slum clearance case)	4
Agricultural workers	7
Dustmen in the Council's employ ..	11
Council officer	1
Priority industrial workers (special scheme)	6
	—
	48
	—

The Council's slum clearance programme, approved by the Minister under section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, proposed the demolition of 55 houses which were already condemned, and the condemnation and demolition of a further 205 houses, over a period of six years.

Eighteen houses were demolished in 1955 and twenty-three in 1956. Further progress was impracticable owing to the difficulty of providing replacement houses, but preparations were made for the condemnation of further houses. Two clearance orders, involving a total of 16 houses, were made and submitted for confirmation, which however had not been received by the end of the year. There was no opposition from the owners. Action was also taken in respect of individual unfit houses as follows :

Demolition Orders made (Housing Act, 1936, section 11)	9
Closing Orders made (section 12)	3
Closing Orders determined after house had been made fit	1
Houses made fit : voluntarily by owners	94
after service of formal notices	14

The last of the hutted camps in the district was vacated in 1955.

There is still little significant overcrowding in the district, measured by the standard laid down in section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936, although the accommodation occupied by many waiting applicants is less than the re-housing standard in section 136 (6) of the Act. The following table gives the position, in relation to the section 58 standard, at the 31st December 1956.

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	3
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	10
No. of families involved	15
No. of persons involved	99

Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.

(a) by the Council	2				
(b) otherwise	3				5

A certain amount of difficulty is occasionally met with in re-housing larger families within the section 136 standard. Experience has shown that houses with more than three bedrooms are too expensive for the majority of applicants with large families, and consequently only a few of the larger types have been built.

All the overcrowding cases in Council houses have arisen by natural increase in the size of families, and no lodgers are involved. Periodical enquiries are made as a matter of routine, and transfers are arranged whenever possible so as to make the best use of available accommodation and avoid overcrowding.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following table gives the results of bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year :—

	Satisfactory	Doubtful	Unfit	Total
Old wells	22	5	24	51
New wells	2	—	1	3
Springs	3	1	5	9
Mains	3	—	—	3
	30	6	30	66

Eight water samples were taken for chemical analysis, four being reported satisfactory and four unfit.

Mains supplies continued to be satisfactory generally, though there were again local temporary shortages at Arley, due mainly to faults in the distribution system. Vigorous complaints by residents

of Furnace End in the early months of the year, about the hardness of the water supply, received a good deal of publicity. Samples confirmed that the degree of hardness was very high, but that the water was perfectly wholesome. The Birmingham Water Department were unable then to change the supply, but they did so at a later stage and there was no further complaint.

The laying of approximately 3,860 yards of 4in. main in the Kenilworth Road and Bradnocks Marsh area of Berkswell parish was completed in July, at an estimated cost of £6,333. Many connections were made during the progress of the work, largely because of the co-operative attitude of the Coventry Water Department, who were able to offer attractive terms.

The laying of approximately 1,210 yards of 4in. main in Benton Green Lane, Berkswell, at an estimated cost of £2,390 was started in November.

There was a disappointing sequel to the completion in 1955 of a 4in. main to the Green End area of Fillongley, at a cost of over £3,000. This scheme had been under consideration since 1944. There were several unusual circumstances, one of the difficulties being that of taking the main near enough to the farms to enable connections to be made at reasonable cost. It was known at the outset that some of the farmers would have to obtain easements to cross land not belonging to them, and the Birmingham Water Department had forecast that the pressures were likely to be low. When one of the farmers subsequently applied for a supply, he is understood to have been warned by the Water Department that he could only expect to receive water during the night, and that it was unlikely to reach him in daytime. He therefore sought professional advice, and after giving the requisite notices, bored for water on his own farm to a depth of 300 ft. and obtained an excellent supply. The work cost several hundred pounds and qualified for a Ministry of Agriculture grant, thus placing a further burden on public funds.

A new 4in. main some 1,030 yards long was laid in Square Lane, Corley to supply 17 houses, at an estimated cost of £1,820.

The provision of mains water to the Tippers Hill area of Fillongley proved to be a very expensive undertaking, and a Ministry grant towards it was refused. However, in view of the acute need the Council decided to proceed with the scheme at an estimated cost of £3,400, to supply 8 houses and 2 dairy farms. The County Council agreed to pay a grant in accordance with their usual formula, and certain small contributions were promised from owners who would benefit by the scheme. The work has been ordered but at the time of reporting has not been started.

Another scheme which was approved during the year, also without financial help from the Ministry but with the usual grant from the County Council, was the laying of approximately 290 yards of 4in. main from the Coventry Corporation's Severn Aqueduct to Gate Farm, Fen End, in the parish of Balsall. This is intended to supply 4 houses and 2 farms, and the owners of the farms have each promised a small capital contribution towards the cost of the main, estimated at £900. The work has still to be done.

A short branch from the 4in. main at Wood End, Fillongley, was laid to supply 2 farms at an estimated cost of £384. The scheme was calculated to be self-supporting and no financial help was asked for, although the Council have had to enter into the usual guarantee agreement with the Water Department concerned.

A survey of the Lodge Green area of Meriden, carried out in June, revealed that 5 houses had been completely without water for many months, owing to the failure of their private wells. One other house and a cafe each had a well which still yielded water, but the one serving the private house was grossly polluted. Some 660 yards of 4in. main was required to supply the area, the cost being estimated at £1,410. Towards this, contributions totalling approximately £300 were promised from the owners who would benefit. The County Council promised a grant on their usual formula, and although a Ministry grant was refused, the Council decided to carry out the scheme. It had not however been started by the end of the year.

Subsequent complaints from the nearby Eaves Green area of Meriden necessitated a further survey, which revealed little actual shortage, and the private supplies on analysis were mainly found to be reasonably good. The cost of laying the necessary 1,056 yards of main for 12 houses was estimated at £2,380 and the Council decided not to proceed with the scheme at present.

The following table gives the position as regards piped water supplies at the end of the year. The percentage of houses provided with mains water supplies is now 92.7.

Piped Water Supplies.

Parish	Houses	Birmingham Water Dept.	Coventry Water Dept.	Others
Allesley	647	—	626	—
Arley	925	—	—	913
Astley	65	—	—	23
Balsall	802	—	727	—
Barston	135	—	121	—
Berkswell	605	—	573	—
Bickenhill	716	682	—	—
Castle Bromwich	2,353	2,341	—	—
Coleshill	1,079	1,041	—	—
Corley	214	—	209	—
Curdworth	155	121	—	—
Fillongley	410	250	—	14
Hampton-in-Arden	404	—	381	—
Keresley	970	—	927	—
Kingshurst	1,509	1,448	—	—
Lea Marston	79	46	—	—
Maxstoke	87	34	—	—
Meriden	496	—	478	—
Packingtons	63	—	6	—
(Great & Little)				
Shustoke	146	112	—	—
Water Orton	635	570	—	—
Nether Whitacre	245	228	—	—
Over Whitacre	110	75	—	—
Wishaw	62	—	—	26
Total	12,912	6,948	4,048	976

These figures are based on information supplied by the respective water departments.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Licences were renewed in respect of sixteen private slaughterhouses, all of which provide reasonable standards of hygiene. Application for renewal was not made in one case, and two other slaughterhouses, although re-licensed, were used only occasionally. The volume of slaughtering showed a small increase over 1955, the total number of animals killed being 19,737, against 16,890 in 1955. Sunday killing was continued throughout the year at two slaughterhouses, necessitating Sunday meat inspection, which is done on a rota. This has been a regular feature since private slaughtering returned in July 1954, and one of the reasons for appointing an extra inspector was to enable the staff to have a little free time in

place of the Sunday work. With the departure of Mr. Gittins in July, this again became impracticable until the new inspector, Mr. Cutts, took up his duties in December. In spite of all the difficulties, 100 per cent. inspection was again maintained, the butchers giving their customary co-operation to this end. They too received the co-operation of the department, and to meet the special requirements of one butcher whose premises are ten miles from the office, regular inspections at 8-00 a.m. are now undertaken several days a week.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected and the condemnations.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	2,176	348	429	11,043	5,741	19,737
Number inspected	2,176	348	429	11,043	5,741	19,737
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	4	23	7	15	11	60
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	464	106	3	368	290	1,231
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	21.5	37.07	4.29	3.47	5.24	6.54
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	4	7	1	1	2	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	145	68	0	0	133	346
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.85	21.55	.23	.01	2.35	1.83
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	9	0	0	0	0	9
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	1	1	0	0	0	2
Generalised and totally condemned.....	0	0	0	0	0	0

Details of carcasses and offals condemned are given in the table below.

Whole Carcasses.

Animals. No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight lbs.
Cattle	4	Tuberculosis, Generalized	2,020
(exclud-	1	Moribund	350
ing cows)	1	Anthrax	550
	1	Septicaemia	600
	1	Emaciation	350
	—		
	8		3,870 lbs.
	—		

Cows	7	Tuberculosis, Generalized	5,190
	7	Emaciation	2,695
	3	Fever	1,500
	2	Dropsy	1,000
	2	Johnnes Disease	750
	4	Moribund	2,100
	1	Oedema	450
	1	Tuberculosis and Oedema	600
	1	Pyæmia	420
	1	Abnormal Odour	500
	1	Anaemia	450
	—		
	30		15,655 lbs.
	—		

Pigs	3	Fever	260
	2	Tuberculosis, Generalized	360
	2	Moribund	220
	1	Emaciation	65
	1	Oedema	35
	1	Peritonitis, Gangrenous	100
	2	Pneumonia, Gangrenous	210
	1	Decomposition	70
	—		
	13		1,320 lbs.
	—		

Sheep	1	Tuberculosis, Generalized	37
	7	Emaciation	235
	3	Oedema	110
	1	Dropsy	30
	1	Bad Bleeding	50
	2	Fever	123
	1	Moribund	40
	16		625 lbs.
Calves	1	Tuberculosis, Congenital	120
	2	Pyæmia, Umbilical	110
	1	Fever	45
	1	Congestion	40
	1	Oedema	70
	1	Moribund	40
	1	Pneumonia, Septic	50
	8		475 lbs.

Part Carcases :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Heads	79	2,235	15	426
	Trimmings	—	800	—	379
Cows :	Heads	27	768	3	85
	Trimmings	—	697	—	450
Pigs :	Heads	127	1,666	9	118
	Trimmings	—	10	—	135
Sheep :	Trimmings	—	—	—	91½
Calves :	Trimmings	—	—	—	8
			6,176 lbs.		1,692½ lbs.

Offal :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Lungs	97	629	32	208
	Livers	31	466	162	2,420
	Part Livers	—	—	321	2,097
	Hearts	4	12	4	11
	Spleens	2	3	1	1½
	Kidneys	5	5½	2	2
	Mesenteries	31	109	2	7
Cows :					
	Lungs	44	287	14	93
	Livers	20	302	39	586
	Part Livers	—	—	53	345
	Hearts	—	—	2	6
	Spleens	1	1½	2	3
	Kidneys	—	—	2	2
	Mesenteries	13	46	4	14
	Udders	1	4	1	4
Pigs :					
	Lungs	57	29	330	164½
	Livers	39	91½	164	400
	Part Livers	—	—	16	15½
	Hearts	4	2	51	27
	Spleens	—	—	2	1
	Kidneys	2	½	10	2½
	Mesenteries	31	16	5	2½
Sheep :					
	Lungs	—	—	35	18
	Livers	—	—	340	671½
	Part Livers	—	—	71	55½
	Hearts	—	—	7	3½
	Spleens	—	—	1	½
	Kidneys	—	—	5	1½
Calves :					
	Part Livers	—	—	1	1
			2,004 lbs.		7,164 lbs.

The total weight of meat condemned amounted to approximately 17 tons 8 cwt., a relatively small proportion of the total quantity inspected. It is interesting to recall a report made by the former Chief Inspector in 1938, when seeking the appointment of additional staff to undertake meat inspection, then only partly covered. He produced figures to show that the condemnations were in regular proportion to the numbers inspected, and inferred that in the absence of inspection a large part of the unfit meat would be sold for human consumption. There is no reason to think that the position would be very different to-day, since the discovery of diseased conditions is usually a matter of expert judgment, for which the trained inspector is specially qualified.

The emergency slaughter of a bullock on a local farm, by slaughtermen from outside the area, was notified for inspection of

the carcass prior to removal for sale for human food. It was found to be fevered and anthrax was suspected, the disease being subsequently confirmed by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture. The carcass was destroyed and extensive disinfection was carried out under supervision. The source of infection could not be traced but fortunately the disease did not spread, to the relief of the farmer, inspector and slaughtermen who had all been at risk.

The carcass and organs of a sheep, condemned for generalized tuberculosis, was of unusual interest, the infection having become widespread throughout the organs. The diagnosis was confirmed by laboratory tests, and a description and photograph were published in the technical press.

Inspections of other food.

The following articles of food were condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners :

230 lbs. miscellaneous tinned food.....	blown, rusted and damaged tins.
192 lbs. beef and round of beef.....	bone taint.
4 lbs. boiling fowl	tuberculosis.
36 lbs. cauliflower (imported)	decomposition.
28 lbs. cheese	excessive mould.
<hr/>	
490 lbs.	

The item of meat recorded under this heading was dealt with otherwise than in the course of meat inspection at slaughterhouses.

Items of unusual interest occurring during the year included the following :

(1) A packet of crumpets bought by a local householder was found on examination to be mouldy. It was seized as unfit and was submitted to a magistrate and condemned. The vendor shopkeeper contended that the crumpets were sold, with only a day's delay, exactly as received from the manufacturers, a large firm operating in another area. They in turn denied liability and insisted that the food was sound on leaving their factory. The facts were reported to the Public Health Committee who issued formal warnings.

(2) Another complaint related to the presence of pieces of "glass" in a tin of tuna fish. The particles on examination appeared similar to glass, but not quite so sharp and more crystalline in form. Analysis disclosed that the material was a compound of magnesium, ammonium and phosphorus, known mineralogically as "struvite," occurring in the musculature of the fish as a natural phenomenon and having no sinister significance.

(3) A resident complained of finding a rusty screw in a loaf of bread delivered by a local baker. Enquiries at the bakery revealed a likely explanation, in that the proving-troughs had wooden covers of slot-battened construction, the battens and screws being turned downwards to present a smooth working upper surface. Some of the screws were found to be loose and others missing. The baker concerned had a long record of reputable trading and the Public Health Committee decided to deal with the matter by a formal warning.

Food premises generally.

The 321 food premises in the district are classified under the following main groups :

Grocery.....	60
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	46
Bread and cakes.....	13
Sweets and confectionery.....	21
Greengrocery	25
Butchery	31
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	13
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	33
Hotels and licensed premises.....	56
Ice-cream (incidentally to trades other than food)	12
Industrial catering	11
	<hr/>
	321
	<hr/>
Mobile shops, not involving premises, known to be trading in the district	18

The practice of selling several different commodities from the same premises makes accurate classification difficult. Some grocers, for example, also sell greengrocery ; greengrocery and wet fish are sold from the same shop in several instances ; toys, sweets and confectionery form a happy combination in one case, and sweets, vegetables and fish, rather less happily, are sold from another shop. Mixed trading of this kind often grows from a trader's desire to oblige his customers, especially in country districts, and without it the usefulness of the village shop would be seriously reduced. A few cases do, however, give rise to some concern ; a hairdresser and several newsagents, for instance, also sell sweets. Although arrangements of this kind may appear undesirable the Council have to consider whether in fact they materially conflict with the principles of hygiene. The question arose particularly in connection with registration of garages and newsagents' shops for the sale of ice-cream. After careful consideration and consultation with other local authorities, it was felt that little harm could be done so long as the ice-cream was sold wrapped as received from the makers, and registrations were made subject to these conditions.

In preparing the foregoing list, the principal commodity sold has determined the grouping where there is mixed trading.

The eleven industrial catering establishments include several quite large factory canteens, and for statistical convenience the County Council's cooking centre for the school meals service has also been included in this group. The schools themselves have not been listed, although in many cases they too can properly be regarded as premises in which food is sold.

Registered food premises.

Premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 at the end of the year were as follows :

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	12
Sale only of ice-cream	114
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	13
Fish-frying	13

Few of the ice-cream vendors still make ice-cream themselves, even where the premises are registered for the purpose. Those who do, use the " cold mix " method and have no heat-treatment plant.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1956.

The coming into full operation of the new Regulations in July 1956 coincided with the resignation of Mr. Gittins, but in spite of the reduced staff for the remainder of the year, efforts were made to inspect as many as practicable of the food premises in the district. Visits for this purpose totalled 236, and there were 42 additional inspections of food stalls and vehicles. Contraventions of various kinds, most of them relating to inadequate facilities, were discovered at 49 separate premises. The following table gives the number of contraventions recorded under the various headings :

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply....	21
Sink and/or wash-hand basin defective or absent	31
Inadequate lighting	6
„ ventilation	11
Closets defective or absent.....	8
Structural defects.....	8
Drains defective or absent	5
Inadequate equipment	30
Dirty equipment	7
Dirty walls and ceilings	13
No separate space for storage of clothing....	13
	<hr/> 153

Informal approaches to the persons responsible were made in all cases. In most of them the trader's co-operation was readily secured, and the necessary improvements had either been effected or were in hand at the end of the year.

Game Act, 1831 (section 18).

One game-dealer's licence was again issued on application, but the item is of no public health significance.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Licences have been issued to 43 persons permitting in all cases the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and pigs by means of a captive-bolt pistol, and in 5 cases the slaughtering of pigs by electrical stunning apparatus. The Public Health Committee call for a full report on the experience and fitness of every new applicant before granting a licence.

Milk and Dairies.

The following distributors of milk were registered at the end of the year :

Retail dairymen resident in the district	29
" " from outside the area	17
Shopkeepers selling milk in bottles only	8
	—
	54
	—

Eight premises are registered as dairies other than dairy farms. The remaining 21 retailers buy bottled milk from wholesale dairies in other areas and sell it direct from motor vehicles, storing no milk on their own premises and using no utensils which would render their premises liable to registration. There were 24 visits to dairy premises and conditions on the whole were satisfactory.

Licences granted or renewed under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations were as follows :

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers (within the district)	22	25	17
Supplementary (enabling traders from other areas to sell designated milk within the district)....	10	13	11

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Council are responsible for enforcing section 10 (1) and (2) which relate to the provision of sanitary conveniences and the maintenance of ventilation and temperature. They also have delegated powers from the County Council to enforce section 38 (3) (4) and (5), with respect of lighting, washing facilities and facilities for taking meals.

There were 22 inspections in connection with these requirements, which are also kept in mind when visits to shops are made for other purposes. Many of the shops in the district are small and a fair proportion are family businesses utilizing combined dwelling and shop accommodation, and the problems envisaged by these sections of the Act arise to only a limited degree.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no known activities in the district which would necessitate licensing or registration of premises. The few premises on which re-upholstery is carried on are outside the scope of the Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no licensed premises in the district.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 50).

The only case dealt with during the year was the burial of the body of an unknown stillborn child at a cost of £2 10s. 0d., representing mainly cemetery fees.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There was little change in the general position compared with the previous year. The number of licensed sites under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, remained the same at 23, permitting the occupation of 183 caravans, 6 huts and 97 tents. Vacancies for caravans on licensed sites are still quickly filled, but site operators can usually be persuaded to get rid of huts when opportunities occur, provided the licences are varied to permit additional caravans as replacements. Tents are not often seen, except during a few weeks in summer. Most of the caravans are occupied more or less permanently, but many of the occupiers openly admit that caravans do not make satisfactory homes, especially where there are children, and some caravan dwellers apply for Council houses. A few of them have in fact been re-housed, but their places are immediately taken by newcomers to the district who in turn expect to get Council tenancies. There appears to be no real answer to this permanent drain on the Council's housing resources, except that no applicant is normally re-housed until he has lived five years in the district.

Most of the licensed sites are well conducted although some of the older ones are still deficient in amenities.

The number of caravans in respect of which individual licences were granted was 39, compared with 47 in 1955. These licences are subject to annual renewal, which enables the Council to ensure that all the caravans, and not only the more recent ones, are provided with a reasonable standard of sanitary amenities. There were probably a few caravans in isolated positions which escaped notice, but generally the position is thought to be well under control, and many of the caravans visited were found to be unoccupied, or used in conjunction with private households and so exempt from licensing. Considering the very heavy demand for accommodation in the district, which occurred during the war years and still exists, the Council can be well satisfied with their efforts to keep the occupation of caravans and huts within reasonable bounds. Their chief means of control is under the Town and Country Planning Act, supplemented by the Public Health Act procedure which ensures that, where there must be caravans, proper sanitary standards are maintained. Both these controls, for administrative convenience, are still operated through the Plans and Town Planning Committee.

The occupation of two caravans on an unlicensed site at Coles-hill, in defiance of several warnings, necessitated daily observations being made with a view to legal proceedings under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Proceedings were in fact authorized after the permitted 42 consecutive days had been exceeded, but the caravans were removed shortly afterwards and the legal action was therefore withdrawn, the Council's purpose having been achieved.

RODENT CONTROL.

No special problem arose, the work being continued as a matter of routine. The total number of visits was 1,422, most of which were made by the ratcatcher, although the figure includes some

supervisory visits by the inspectors. The work done is summarized in the following table :

Premises inspected	323
Premises found to be infested and subsequently treated—	
(a) domestic	268
(b) business	38
Second treatments	15
Third treatments	2
Premises cleared	286
Premises not completely cleared	20
No. of dead rats found	518
Treatments of refuse tips	16
Treatments of sewage works	3
Sewer manholes baited and poisoned (two separate treatments)	480

No formal notice was served under section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the co-operation of the occupiers of premises having been readily secured in most cases. The Council's refuse tips and sewage works were found generally to be reasonably free from rats.

Under considerable pressure from the Ministry of Agriculture officials, who were presumably carrying out a set policy, efforts were made towards the end of the year to increase the number of inspections of agricultural premises. It will be evident from the volume of work described in this report that the inspectors have no time to devote to routine inspections for rat infestations. The one ratcatcher, whose duties include certain other work, such as drain testing and disinfections, has to cover the whole district of 96 square miles. It is therefore a physical impossibility to inspect the farm premises in the district (estimated at 500) with the frequency which the Ministry wish, although the best is being and will be done with the resources available. Inspections so far carried out have not revealed any substantial infestations, many of the farmers having made their own arrangements for treatment, mainly by the use of 'warfarin.' Advice on the correct application of this poison is usually all that is called for.

AIR POLLUTION.

The measurement of atmospheric grit and sulphur was continued. Since the removal of the Berkswell gauges at the beginning of 1955 (they having served their purpose in assessing the general level of pollution in the cleaner parts of the district), all the four grit gauges and nine sulphur-dioxide instruments have been grouped around the Hams Hall generating stations of the C.E.A. The results of analysis are given below in respect of each year since observations were started in 1948.

Total solid deposit (expressed in tons per sq. mile per month).

	Lea Marston	Bacons End	Nether Whitacre	Coleshill
1948 (4 months only)	30.3	10.04	—	—
1949	22.99	14.23	—	—
1950	24.05	9.22	—	—
1951	26.12	11.03	—	—
1952	15.63	11.10	—	—
1953	17.14	10.89	—	—
1954	22.55	18.13	—	—
1955	13.92	13.61	12.93	12.63
1956	13.35	11.98	12.46	9.39

Sulphur gases (empirical units).

The figures for Lea Marston are the average of seven gauges up to 1954 and the average of eight gauges from 1955 onwards.

	Lea Marston	Bacons End
1948 (4 months only)	0.91	0.79
1949	1.04	0.91
1950	1.02	0.99
1951	0.93	0.83
1952	0.94	1.11
1953	0.94	1.17
1954	0.84	0.92
1955	0.98	1.03
1956	1.11	1.18

Annual rainfall (at Lea Marston).

1949	23.57 inches
1950	25.21 „
1951	32.59 „
1952	25.87 „
1953	22.60 „
1954	31.12 „
1955	22.30 „
1956	23.39 „

The sulphur figures, which are fairly constant, are relatively low by comparison with many areas, probably due very largely to the dispersing effect of the tall chimneys of the generating stations. It is still too early to assume a general reduction of atmosphere grit in the neighbourhood although both 1956 and 1955 figures were below the average. It is understood that generating at the new "C" station began on a limited scale towards the end of the year and that there has been progressively less use of the oldest station, "A."

The conversion of Arley Colliery to electric winding is now complete and the second of the two brick chimneys was demolished during the year. Two new shell boilers, with automatic stokers, have been installed for the pit-head baths. These boilers have new tubular chimneys, which unfortunately are by no means innocent of

smoke emission. However, the greater part of the smoke nuisance from the colliery has now been abated, with considerable benefit to the village.

A certain amount of burning of the spoil bank at Arley Colliery was again observed during the year, but efforts are being made to keep the nuisance under control.

Complaints were received from Keresley about excessive grit deposit from the Coventry Colliery's chimney stack, which is just within the rural district. Investigations showed that the nuisance had arisen since the installation of mechanical stoking and forced draught, without the necessary grit-arresting apparatus. Representations to the National Coal Board resulted in an undertaking to install grit arresters as soon as practicable, with an indication that it was hoped to have them working by mid-1958.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the new sewage disposal works at Fillongley was completed, and sewer laying was in progress. With the co-operation of the Parish Council it was possible to achieve a high degree of success in getting private owners of property to connect to the new sewers, and thereby securing the eradication of a concentration of cesspools and pail closets.

The construction of a new sewage disposal works at Shustoke and the laying of sewers in the village was commenced, and at the end of the year the work was substantially completed.

A sewer extension in Needlers End Lane, Balsall, was completed, and another extension in Upper Eastern Green Lane, Allesley, was designed.

Official visits were made by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Engineering Inspector with regard to the schemes for provision of sewerage in the villages of Bickenhill and Berkswell during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The council took steps to attract much needed labour into this service, which had been working with an undermanned establishment for several years, and their efforts were successful. Since the middle of the year it was possible to provide a regular service at approximately weekly intervals throughout the district, and this has been greatly appreciated by the residents. The district is still expanding rapidly and the regular removal of all waste materials is most essential.

Printed by A. Tones Ltd., Bedford Street, Leamington Spa.



