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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

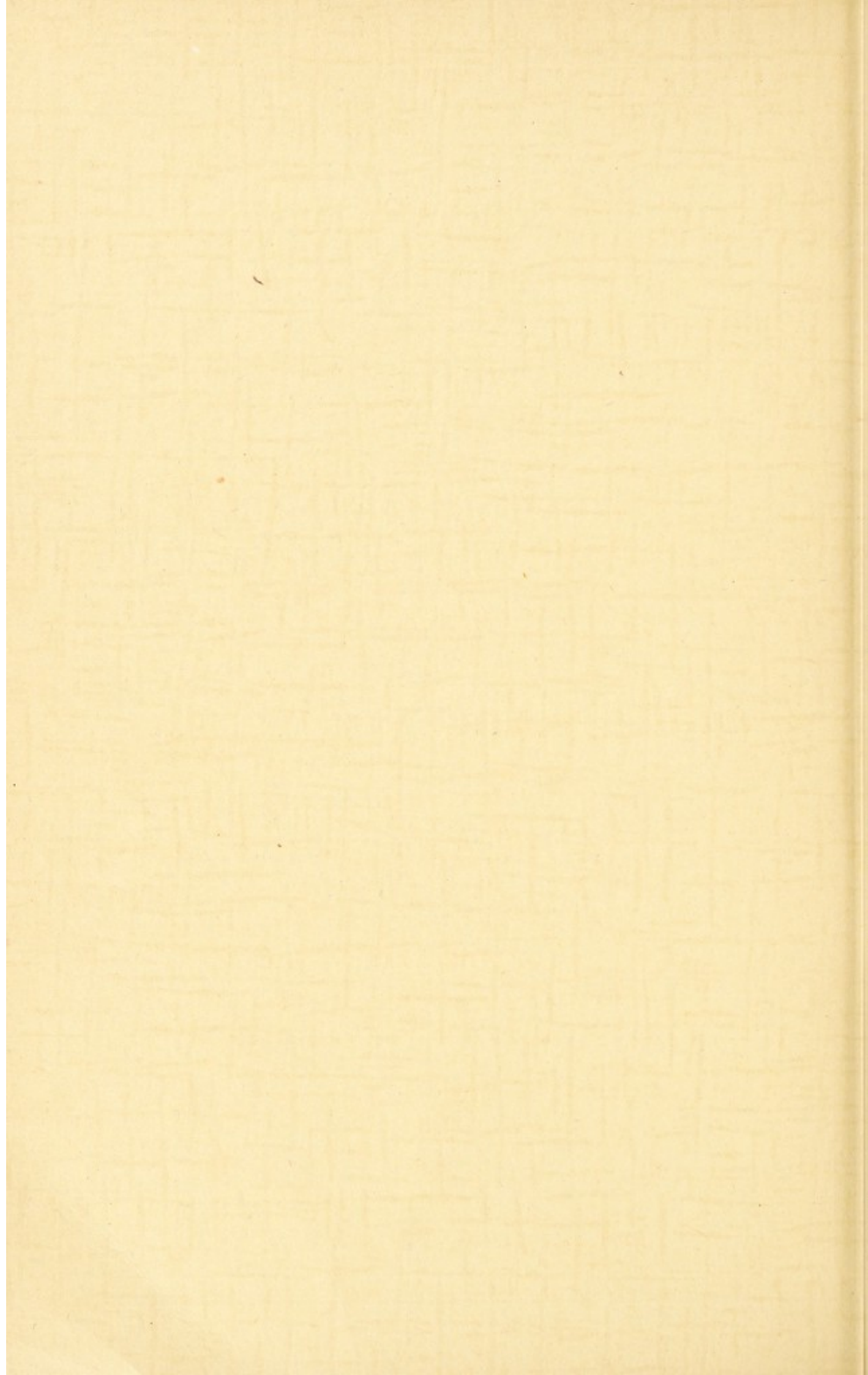
of the

Medical Officer of Health



FOR THE YEAR

1958



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN


ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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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 1958. As is customary, in so doing, the social services provided under the auspices of the Warwickshire County Council, well known to all of you, are not specifically mentioned as details of them are readily available in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

The population of the District further increased to 52,200 and, in this connection, it is interesting to record that during the 10 year period 1949-58 the overall expansion has amounted to 44%.

Generally speaking, the health of the community was satisfactory and the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases sharply declined, especially measles and whooping cough.

While no cases of diphtheria occurred, scarlet fever was more prevalent, although in the present day mild form.

There was a slight fall in the number of cases of pneumonia still mainly a malady of young children and old persons and still, unfortunately, attended by a high mortality rate of 64%.

Compared with 1957 when 8 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic cases occurred, no cases of poliomyelitis were notified. The vaccination campaign commenced in 1956 made spectacular progress and some 12,379 children between the ages of 0 and 15 years in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts were given two injections without any untoward results. Booster doses were also given to children and other eligible persons protected in the opening campaign of 1956.

Contrary to experience in recent years, notifications of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis sharply increased particularly in the 25-45 years age group.

Similarly, deaths from lung cancer were more numerous, chiefly in males. Only two cases of food poisoning were reported.

Although not a notifiable infectious disease, so that no accurate estimate of the number of persons affected can be given, there is little doubt that many cases of Asian Influenza occurred in the first quarter of the year, as a second wave of the countrywide epidemic prevalent in the last quarter and autumn of the previous year. It has been stated that at least 10 million persons contracted the disease which, usually of a mild nature, nevertheless, indirectly caused the deaths of many old people from complications such as pneumonia.

The general volume and scope of the work of the inspectorate continued at a high level although in some instances e.g. nuisances, the number of inspections necessary showed a gratifying decrease. As in 1957, examination of foodstuffs, mostly meat inspection, called for the greater proportion of the visits made, with rodent control, nuisances and housing following in the order given.

Regarding housing, the number of applicants was further reduced to 549 from 621 the previous year.

The adverse effects of the era of financial stringency continued to be reflected in the small number of new dwellings erected by the Council. This only amounted to 42 houses at Coleshill and Shustoke all of which were absorbed in one way or another by slum clearance needs. On the other hand the number of homes erected by private enterprise was 541.

In connection with slum clearance measures substantial progress was made in that 43 unfit premises were demolished in Clearance Areas and 21 individual houses were also removed. On the other hand, it is noteworthy that out of 71 houses rendered fit for human habitation, 65 were so made voluntarily by their owners.

The position arising from over crowding was relatively satisfactory involving only 12 families.

The volume of work arising from the Rent Act, 1957 remained at a low level and, as in 1957, the actual number of Certificates of Disrepair issued was small thereby showing good co-operation between landlords and tenants.

Water supplies were ample and, except for sources from some wells, were pure and wholesome. The extension of pipe-borne supplies again increased and 94.4% of the 14,426 dwellings of this predominantly rural community are now so supplied. Two small mains—extensions involving 15 houses and 2 dairy farms in two localities were carried out—while a scheme to supply 3 houses elsewhere was approved.

Meat inspection at the 10 out of 16 private slaughterhouses in regular use was maintained on 100% basis and the relatively small proportion condemned was gratifying to all concerned.

Inspection of food premises entailed 365 visits and the 48 defects arising therefrom were rectified on an informal basis thus demonstrating the willingness of traders to co-operate in implementing the provision of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

As expected in a "designated" area, conditions regarding milk supplies and premises were satisfactory.

The position relating to moveable dwellings was largely unchanged giving rise to no special problems.

Rodent control work covered 364 premises, mostly domestic—and, out of 283 in need of treatment, 278 were rendered free from vermin, the great majority after only one visit. The twice-yearly treatment of sewers yielded few rats—a very satisfactory state of affairs.

Following the full application of the Clean Air Act on 1st June, 1958 (over half the sections of the Act came into force on 31st December, 1957) the scope for an extension of the activities of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, of which all local authorities in the County are now members, became feasible and the coverage of the whole of the area with measuring instruments came about.

An order made by the Minister for Housing and Local Government under the Alkali and Works Regulation Act, 1906 brought 11 additional classes of work under the Act necessitating a large expansion of the Alkali Inspectorate.

The extension of the classes includes power stations, gas and coke works, certain types of oil and coal fired kilns for manufacturing pottery, bricks and tiles and ceramics and, as it was felt that the number of alkali inspectors was inadequate to deal with the volume of work already accruing to them, many local authorities including Meriden Rural District Council protested against the change and the curtailment of their powers. However, the increased number of alkali inspectors which the Minister had, unfortunately, not mentioned earlier, satisfactorily resolved the difficulties otherwise envisaged.

This is a composite report for the presentation of which I am responsible. The Sections concerned with the sanitary circumstances of the area—general inspections, nuisances, housing, water supply, inspection of meat and other foods and air pollution statistics have been compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector.

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 zealous work of the inspectorate and other members 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.

June, 1959.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 9 5 8

Chairman of the Council :

J. S. BREEDEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Mrs. C. M. WHEATLEY

Clerk of the Council :

S. F. WOODHAMS

Public Health Committee : 1958-59

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Chater, R. H.	Jackson, B. H.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Dugmore, A. P.	Kelsey, H.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Earle, R. J.	Neal, W. B.
Gurden, Mrs. M. E.	Edwards, N. A.	Shaw, E.
Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.	Fish, E. G.	Spencer, R. J.
Antrobus, W.	Gee, Capt. D.	Sperryn, J. G.
Butler, F. S.	Greensmith, H.	Stewart, J. D.

Housing Committee : 1958-59

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Breeden, J. S.	Sakne, E.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Hales, A. F.	Salisbury, F.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Hamar, J.	Spencer, R. G.
Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Harvey, W.	Sperryn, J. G.
Lynall, Mrs. G. M.	Kelsey, E. J.	Stewart, J. D.
Parry, Mrs. E. I.	Lowe, G. H.	Victor-Halford, C. A.
Aylesford, Earl of	Prosser, D. W.	Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958

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 :

J. W. BOLTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(Resigned June, 1958)

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.

T. P. BERESFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed November, 1958)

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. 1958).....	52,260
Area in acres	61,775
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1958)	14,733
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1958).....	£561,148
Product of a penny rate	£2,148

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	552	473	1,025
Illegitimate	9	13	22
Totals	561	486	1,047

Birth Rate.

20.03 per 1,000 estimated population.

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
20.03	18.55	17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82	15.50	15.54	17.5	18.2

Still Births.

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	10	9	19
Illegitimate	3	—	3
Totals	13	9	22

Still Birth Rate.

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

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
20.58	18.18	21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81	28.1	32.2	18.2	19.5

Deaths.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	208	177	385

Crude Death Rate.

7.36 per 1,000 estimated population.

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
7.36	6.91	7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8	8.3	10.3	9.2	8.7

Classified Causes of Death

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	2	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	5	16
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	16	2	18
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	18	35
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	—	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	20	27	47
18.	Coronary disease, angina	32	24	56
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	7	7	14
20.	Other heart disease	16	24	40
21.	Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
22.	Influenza	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	19	8	27
24.	Bronchitis	13	4	17
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	4	—	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	3	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	4	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	18	20	38
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	3	8
34.	All other accidents	7	1	8
35.	Suicide	6	1	7
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1
37.	All causes	208	177	385

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
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
1957 ..	49,490	918	342	+ 576
1958 ..	52,260	1,047	385	+ 662

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	8	15
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals	8	9	17

Infant Mortality Rate.

16.2 per 1,000 births.

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7	32.4	34	46	26

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	8	13
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals	6	9	15

Neonatal Death Rate .. 14.3 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births		
Live Births ..	*18.42	16.4
Still Births ..	20.58(a)	21.6(a)
Deaths		
All causes	*10.52	11.7
Infant Mortality ..	16.2(b)	22.5(b)
Neonatal mortality	14.3(b)	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.92 and Deaths 1.43).

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

(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	44	36	80

Cancer Death Rate = 1.53 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 52,260 an increase by 2,770 over the 1957 total of 49,490. As was the case during the previous three years this increase occurred mostly in the Parish of Kingshurst where the large scale housing development by the Birmingham Housing Department continued.

Births

As would be expected from the large influx of married couples of the younger age groups, the standardised Birth Rate at 18.42 per 1,000 estimated population was higher than in 1957 and exceeded the corresponding figure of 16.4 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The comparative Death Rate of 10.52 per 1,000 population of the District continued lower than the provisional figure of 11.7 for England and Wales. The Crude Death Rate of 7.36 per 1,000 population was the lowest for 16 years in keeping with the country-wide trend of increased longevity and numbers of the older age groups. For the housing of such persons provision is now being made on an increasing scale in the District. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease ; cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system predominating in the order given.

Cancer in various forms caused 80 deaths and, of these, 18 were due to new growths of the lung affecting 16 males and 2 females.

For the seventh successive year no maternal deaths were recorded.

Among notifiable infectious diseases, pneumonia caused 27 deaths—a mortality rate of 64% chiefly affecting the younger and older age groups and, as yet, not readily yielding to the modern medicaments.

National Assistance Act, 1948

The number of cases requiring assessment for admission to hospital or residential accommodation decreased but the shortage of accommodation continued to be a matter of great concern. It is pleasing to be able to report that, in no instance, was statutory action for compulsory removal necessary.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1958.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1957 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.		
Measles	619 (1,006)	21	299	288	4	7	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	20 (112)	4	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5 (3)	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	46 (15)	—	8	34	2	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	42 (48)	—	11	3	4	3	9	12	4	27
Malaria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	41 (36)	—	11	23	4	3	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	111 (118)	—	—	—	71	40	—	—	111	—
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	— (8)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	— (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	24 (34)	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33 (18)	—	1	2	2	16	9	3	5	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2 (3)	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2 (—)	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	945 (1,405)	49	340	360	90	71	18	17	144	31

General Comment

Compared with 1957, notifications of infectious diseases decreased from 1,405 to 945 this being chiefly due to a much lower incidence of measles and whooping cough. No cases of poliomyelitis were reported but persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis nearly doubled. There were no cases of smallpox or diphtheria.

Measles

In keeping with its biennial periodicity cases notified decreased by 60% to 619. In view of the undoubted ill effects on the unborn infant of an attack of measles during pregnancy, quarantine for children suffering from the malady and contacts has come to be regarded as inadvisable in respect of female children on whom an attack usually confers a life-long immunity. Of course, exceptions would be made in special circumstances such as poor physique or chronic disability.

Whooping Cough

Unlike measles, whooping cough displays no regular periodicity in its annual incidence but, nevertheless, the number of cases notified fell to 20. Immunisation against the disease (usually combined with diphtheria) has continued to be popular and 706 out of 901 primary injections were given to infants under 1 year. The following table gives details of the inoculations.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1958

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	706	172	17	5	1	901
Reinforcing	—	2	41	216	7	266
Totals	706	174	58	221	8	1,167

Diphtheria

No cases have been notified for nine successive years, but it must again be emphasized that a high level of immunisation is the only real safeguard against what has continued to be a very serious and frequently fatal malady especially singling out those not pre-immunized.

The Schedule sub-pended gives details of immunisations in the year under review (including reinforcement or "booster" doses) by the County Council and family doctors. From this it will be seen that while the number of primary injections increased by almost 50%, reinforcing doses diminished by 25% compared with the 1957 figures.

Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1958.

(Comparative figures for 1957 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	761 (460)	157 (112)	17 (25)	7 (39)	2 (1)	944 (637)
Re-inforcing	— (—)	2 (—)	67 (77)	347 (471)	154 (209)	570 (757)
Totals	761 (460)	159 (112)	84 (102)	354 (510)	156 (210)	1,514 (1,394)

Smallpox

No cases occurred nor was it necessary to keep under surveillance any contacts of patients elsewhere. Details of vaccinations are given in the following table from which it will be noted that the number of primary inoculations increased by 50% while revaccinations—mostly in adults emigrating or travelling overseas—varied little compared with the previous year. When related to the 1,047 live births during the year the 757 primary vaccinations under the age of 1 year represent an acceptance rate of 72.3% comparing very favourably with that of 47.5% for 1957 in England and Wales. Health Visitors invariably advise parents of the value of this vaccination in the course of their routine home visits and further emphasis is given by them and the Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Clinics where the majority are protected in series with the other prophylactic measures. Of course, the general practitioners also play their part in all work of this nature and their ready co-operation is much appreciated.

Table showing Number of Persons Vaccinated against Smallpox in 1958.

(Comparative figures for 1957 are given in parenthesis).

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	658 (436)	24 (21)	21 (24)	18 (34)	36 (37)	757 (452)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (—)	— (—)	4 (3)	13 (12)	57 (62)	74 (77)
Totals	658 (436)	24 (21)	25 (27)	31 (46)	93 (99)	831 (529)

Scarlet Fever

Notifications (46) were trebled, the majority occurring in school-children, all of a mild nature treated at home. In recent years the causative organisms of this disease usually spread by symptomless carriers harbouring it in their throats has apparently

become less potent and this factor combined with its ready response to modern drugs has rendered it a hardly worthwhile notification were it not for the enhanced danger of further spread of the disease by handlers of milk which is a good nutrient medium for its growth.

Pneumonia

The incidence (42) was slightly lower than in 1957 (48) mostly affecting the younger and older age-groups. The mortality rate at 70% continues to challenge medical research workers. Many fatalities arose from an initial attack of influenza complicated by a secondary coccal infection.

Dysentery

Reports increased from 36 to 41 all of a mild nature not requiring hospitalization. For the most part, school children were affected.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Notifications totalled 111 compared with 118 in the previous year—all from the busy Marston Green Maternity Hospital where deliveries were 3,110 for the year, so that the incidence is relatively low.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Whereas in 1957 8 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic cases occurred, none came to light. Further good progress was made with the vaccination campaign and some 9,950 persons received two injections in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts comprising the North Western Area of the County.

In addition 925 persons were given a third or "booster" dose.

Tuberculosis

During the year 34 new cases of the pulmonary and 2 cases of the non-pulmonary type of the disease were reported. Five of the former type were admitted to hospital whereas in 1957 3 out of 18 cases of this nature were hospitalized. In recent years, with the improved drugs, it has been found possible to arrange treatment at home of many patients who previously had to become in-patients.

Taking into account 34 new cases occurring in the District and 24 inward transfers and allowing for 36 removals, the number of cases of the pulmonary type of the disease remaining on the Register at the end of the year increased by 22 to 291, non-pulmonary cases were unchanged at 48.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1958.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1957	143	126	25	23
2. New Cases	20	14	1	1
3. Inward Transfers	11	13	—	1
4. Removals	18	18	1	2
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1958	156	135	25	23

The Chest Clinic, opened at Coleshill in 1954, continued in charge of Dr. W. E. Zundel, the Chest Physician with the radiographer from St. Gerard's Hospital, Coleshill still in attendance. The Clinic is open on Tuesday morning and alternate Wednesday mornings.

Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1958.

	Men	Women	Children	Totals
Pulmonary	85	71	10	166
Non-Pulmonary	10	9	8	27
Totals	95	80	18	193

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic opened in February, 1955 and from the Table sub-pended it will be seen that 31 children were inoculated.

No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1958.

Men	Women	Children	Total
1	4	26	31

As in 1957, rehousing 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 4 fatal cases giving a figure of 0.07 per 1,000 population.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1958.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 ..	8	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 ..	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 ..	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	20	14	1	1	2	2	—	—

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 1957.

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised	2	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	2	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	5	Nil
Non-designated	165	6

Results of Investigations of Tubercle Infected Milk Supplies during the year 1958.

No. of :—	Cases found on routine sampling in the County	Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities
1. Investigations	6	—
2. Cows examined	98	—
3. Milk samples for diagnostic purposes	22	—
4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis order	3	—
5. Cows removed from herds during investigations and which may have been infected	6	—

Food Poisoning

Two cases were reported.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections and visits made are summarized in the following table :—

Housing	1,091
Overcrowding	10
Rent Act	71
Nuisances	1,231
Air pollution	368
Food examination	2,019
Slaughterhouses (premises)	22
Food premises generally	195
Food stalls and vehicles	32
Bakehouses	18
Dairies	17
Water supplies	169
Camping sites and moveable dwellings	257
Factories	31
Shops (other than food shops).....	8
Infectious diseases	184
Rodent control	1,286
Closet conversions	104
National Assistant Act (section 50)	9
Miscellaneous	401
	<hr/>
	7,523
	<hr/>

Complaints received and investigated totalled 622.

NUISANCES.

The following nuisances were reported and dealt with :

Accumulations of refuse	19
Animals so kept	2
Cesspools overflowing	31
Closets defective and insanitary	29
Drains choked and defective	62
Dustbins defective or absent	19
Foul ditches and water-courses.....	31
Smoke, dust and effluvia	32
Housing defects :	
Dampness	25
Defective walls	13
,, roofs	19
,, chimneys.....	7
,, windows and doors	20
,, rainwater conductors	12
,, wall and ceiling plaster	29
,, floors	19
,, firegrates.....	3
,, paving	2
,, washing boilers	1
Unsatisfactory water supplies	2
Dirty houses	1
	378

This table does not include defects at houses recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, for action under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957.

A further incident involving the accidental burning of a very large dump of sewage sludge occurred at Water Orton during May, on property belonging to the Drainage Board. Considerable nuisance was caused and there was some risk to the stability of the Board's installations. Prompt and energetic measures by the Board's Engineer succeeded in extinguishing the fires, after several days' continuous pumping.

Other nuisances dealt with included effluvia arising from the tipping of industrial wastes, pig-keeping, the cooking of pig-food, and effluvia from a paint-spraying plant at a wood-working factory.

The provision of dustbins where necessary was again secured, as in previous years, mainly by informal approaches to owners or occupiers. Three formal notices were served, two on occupiers and one on an owner.

Closet conversions to the water carriage system were carried out in 66 cases, of which 32 were the subject of formal notices under section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. One half of the cost was paid by the Council in all cases, the total cost to the Council being £1,350.

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	1
44	Insufficient closet accommodation.....	1
47	Replacement of earth closets etc.	32
50	Overflowing cesspools	6
75	Dustbins defective or absent	3
92 and 93	Nuisances	4

HOUSING

A further review of applications for Council houses, carried out during the year, gave a total of 549 applications remaining on the register, compared with 621 the previous year. Forty-two new houses were let for the first time, and there were 56 casual vacancies in existing houses. The difference between the net reduction (72) and the number of new tenancies created (98) represents additional applications received.

The new houses completed comprised 8 maisonettes, 8 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom houses in Coleshill (which concluded the two current building contracts in the parish) and 5 two-bedroom and 9 three-bedroom type houses at Shustoke. A further 2 houses and 6 maisonettes on the Shustoke site were uncompleted at the end of the year, as were the 8 houses and 6 bungalows at Corley, mentioned in the previous report.

All the new houses were used, directly or indirectly, for slum clearance cases, and the 56 casual vacancies in existing ~~homes~~ ^{houses} were allotted as follows :—

General needs	25
Slum clearance cases	5
Old people	9
Agricultural workers	4
Industrial workers (special scheme)	5
Nurse (by virtue of employment)	1
Council employees (by virtue of employment)	6
Medical priority	1
	<hr/> 56 <hr/>

Slum Clearance

Action taken during the year is summarized in the following table :—

Clearance areas

Number of orders made during the year.....	1
Number of houses affected	4
Number of orders confirmed	3
Number of houses demolished	43

Individual houses

Demolition orders made	35
Houses demolished.....	21
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation	6
Closing orders determined	1
Houses made fit—	
Voluntarily, by owners	65
By owners, after formal notices	5
By Council, in default of owners	1

Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year was as follows :—

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	4
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	6
No. of families involved	12
No. of persons involved	80

This represents a slight improvement compared with the previous year, and reflects the relatively high standard of housing in the district generally. Cases relieved during the year were—

by the Council	1
otherwise	1

Rent Act, 1957

Action taken during the year is given in the table below :—

Applications for certificates of disrepair received (form I)	21
Notices to landlords of intention to issue certificates of disrepair (form J)	23
Undertakings to do repairs received from landlords (form K)	15
Certificates of disrepair issued (form L)	8
Certificates of disrepair cancelled on application, after repairs had been completed	5

WATER SUPPLIES

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

	Satisfactory	Unfit	Total
Old wells	13	27	40
Springs	2	3	5
Mains	9	—	9
	24	30	54

Twelve samples of well water were submitted for chemical analysis, 4 being reported satisfactory and 8 unfit.

No major scheme for the provision of additional mains was considered during the year, but the following small extensions were made :—

- (1) about 450 yards of 4in. main at Arbour Tree Lane, Chadwick End, to supply ten houses and a dairy farm ; and
- (2) a 4in. branch from Coventry Corporation's Severn Aqueduct at Fen End, affording supplies to five houses and a dairy farm.

A proposal to lay about 330 yards of 4in. main at Hob Lane, Burton Green, to supply three houses, was approved in principle.

Piped Water Supplies

The position regarding piped water supplies is generally satisfactory, the percentage of houses having piped mains water being 94.4.

The figures for individual parishes are given in the table below :—

Parish	Houses	Birmingham Water Dept.	Coventry Water Dept.	Nuneaton Water Dept.	Others
Allesley	847	—	805	—	—
Arley	937	—	—	928	—
Astley	66	—	—	36	—
Balsall	871	—	791	—	—
Barston	136	—	121	—	—
Berkswell	622	—	546	—	—
Bickenhill	848	819	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich	2,556	2,551	—	—	—
Coleshill	1,196	1,127	—	—	—
Corley	226	—	222	—	—
Curdworth	152	133	—	—	—
Fillongley	424	286	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	418	—	393	—	—
Keresley	1,001	—	997	—	—
Kingshurst	2,053	2,045	—	—	—
Lea Marston	86	71	—	—	—
Maxstoke	86	34	—	—	—
Meriden	513	—	474	—	—
Packington (Great and Little)	63	—	5	—	—
Shustoke	169	146	—	—	—
Water Orton	717	711	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre	266	261	—	—	—
Over Whitacre	110	91	—	—	—
Wishaw	63	—	—	—	26
	14,426	8,275	4,354	968	26

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Ten private slaughterhouses are still in regular use. Six others, although licensed, are used only occasionally or not at all. One hundred per cent. meat inspection was maintained throughout the year.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected and the condemnations, the total amount condemned being again a relatively small proportion of the quantity inspected.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	2,714	476	208	12,775	5,477
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	20	7	27	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	209	100	4	740	410
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	7.8	25.2	5.3	6.0	7.9
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	10	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	132	65	—	17	89
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.1	15.8	—	0.1	1.7
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	14	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	10	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	1

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

Whole Carcasses

Animals No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Cattle (Excluding cows)	7	Tuberculosis, generalized	3,286
	1	Pyelo Nephritis	470
	1	Fever and Oedema	404
	1	Black quarter	500
	10		4,660
Cows	10	Tuberculosis, generalized	4,650
	8	Fever	4,180
	3	Septicaemia	1,240
	4	Emaciation, pathological	1,100
	2	Oedema	950
	1	Tuberculosis with Oedema	350
	1	Injury, Bruising and Oedema	520
	1	Pyæmia	450
	30		13,440
Pigs	2	Tuberculosis, generalized	140
	7	Emaciation, pathological	291
	2	Lymphatic Leukaemia	119
	2	Pneumonia, septic	143
	2	Fever	153
	1	Septicaemia	320
	2	Erysipelas, acute	140
	2	Moribund	520
	2	Oedema	125
	1	Cysticercus Cellulosæ	100
	23		2,051
Sheep	10	Emaciation, pathological	300
	5	Oedema	161
	3	Moribund	146
	2	Pneumonia, septic	88
	2	Septicaemia	133
	3	Fever	160
	1	Injuries	80
	1	Decomposition	53
	27		1,121

Calves	2	Pyæmia, umbilical	110
	1	Oedema	48
	1	Moribund	45
	2	Immaturity	92
	1	Decomposition	40
	—		
	7		335
	—		

Part Carcasses :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Heads	49	1,390	12	341
	Trimblings	—	317	—	32
Cows :	Heads	18	506	5	141
	Trimblings	—	780	—	967
Pigs :	Heads	92	1,222	6	85
	Trimblings	—	38	—	186
Sheep :	Heads	1	3	2	6
	Trimblings	—	13	—	294
			4,269		2,052

Offal :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Lungs	77	500	24	155
	Livers	33	491	97	1,503
	Part Livers	—	—	135	878
	Hearts	5	15	7	22
	Spleens	7	10	4	6
	Kidneys	2	2	—	—
	Mesenteries	12	43	1	3
	Skirt	1	1	—	—
	Udders	1	4	—	—
Cows :					
	Lungs	46	296	8	53
	Livers	10	137	57	838
	Part Livers	—	—	74	481
	Hearts	—	—	1	3
	Spleens	1	2	2	3
	Kidneys	2	2	4	4
	Mesenteries	—	—	2	7
Pigs :					
	Lungs	17	8	8	170
	Livers	14	36	99	246
	Part Livers	—	—	35	33
	Hearts	9	5	60	33
	Spleens	3	1	3	1
	Kidneys	—	—	5	1
	Mesenteries	7	3	—	—
Sheep :					
	Lungs	—	—	400	199
	Livers	—	—	359	705
	Part Livers	—	—	350	259
	Hearts	—	—	10	5
	Kidneys	—	—	3	1
Calves :					
	Lungs	—	—	3	2
			1,556		5,611

The examination at a slaughter house of fifteen pig carcasses, sent in for emergency slaughter from a farm outside the district, gave rise to a suspicion of swine fever. The case was reported to the veterinary officer under the Diseases of Animals Act, who did not confirm the diagnosis but indicated that the suspicion was justified. Four of the carcasses were condemned.

A case of tuberculosis in a sheep was discovered in the course of routine meat inspection. The infection was localized and it was necessary to condemn only certain organs.

Inspection of other food

The following were condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners :—

244 lbs. miscellaneous tinned foods (rusted and blown tins)	
32 lbs. tinned meat	(decomposition)

Advice was received from a neighbouring health authority that a consignment of Lebanese apples was known to be contaminated with arsenic. Three cases of apples were traced to shop-keepers in this district, and the traders concerned were asked to suspend sales, pending analysis. An analyst's report confirmed surface contamination by an arsenical compound, and advised thorough washing before sale, which was done.

A resident from another area complained that some Cornish pasties, obtained from a bakery in this district, were unfit. Samples submitted for analysis did not confirm unfitness, but investigations at the bakery revealed certain unsatisfactory conditions which were quickly remedied.

The sale by a local shopkeeper of an apple tart containing a piece of fine steel wire was the subject of a complaint. Enquiries revealed that the tart had been manufactured outside the district, and the matter was therefore referred to the inspector for the area concerned. He reported that the premises were of a very high standard and suggested that the wire was probably from a wire brush, used in cleaning a machine. The Public Health Committee issued a formal warning to the manufacturers.

Another complaint by a local resident, relating to the alleged sale of some unsound cake by a shopkeeper in a neighbouring area, was referred to the inspector for that district. A similar incident, involving the alleged sale of mouldy cake by a shopkeeper within the rural district, was investigated and dealt with informally.

Food premises generally

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery.....	68
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	59
Bread and cakes.....	6
Sweets and confectionery.....	20
Greengrocery	21
Butchery	34
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	10
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	30
Hotels and licensed premises.....	67
Ice-cream (incidentally to trades other than food)	6
Industrial catering	13
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district	22
Bakehouses	9
	<hr/>
	365

The classification is approximate only, since many of the shopkeepers deal in several trades. In such cases, the principal commodity sold has determined the classification.

Registered food premises

The following premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	11
Sale only of ice-cream	122
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	14
Fish frying	12

Few of the ice-cream vendors make their own product. Those who do, use the “cold mix” method and have no heat-treatment plant.

Food Hygiene Regulations

The following contraventions, discovered in the course of routine visits, were dealt with informally :—

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	8
Sink and/or wash-hand basin defective or absent	7
Dirty walls and ceilings	7
Inadequate lighting	1
Inadequate equipment	6
Drains defective or absent	3
No separate space for storage of clothing	2
Structural defects	5
Closets defective or absent	2
Mobile shops without name and address	4
Lack of attention to personal hygiene	3
	<hr/> 48

Milk and Dairies

The following distributors of milk are registered :—

Retail dairymen resident in the district...	32
Retail dairymen from other areas	16
Shopkeepers selling milk in bottles only	9
	<hr/> 57

Seven premises are registered as dairies other than dairy farms. Routine inspections were made during the year and conditions were generally satisfactory.

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

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers (within the district)	22	24	21
Supplementary (enabling traders from other areas to sell designated milk within the district)....	10	10	9

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences have been issued to 35 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases, and in two cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

AIR POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric grit and sulphur was continued by the use of 4 grit gauges and 9 sulphur-dioxide instruments, grouped around the Hams Hall electricity generating stations. As from August 1958, ownership of the instruments and responsibility for the analytical work was transferred to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council: There has been no change, however, in the system of reporting results and the public health inspectors continue to be responsible for the local field work:

The results of analysis of the deposits are given below, for each year since observations began in 1948. Each annual figure is an average of twelve monthly observations:

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
1957	12.8	9.56	12.62	9.16
1958	14.88	9.72	9.18	8.45

Sulphur gases (empirical units).

The figures for Lea Marston are the average of seven gauges up to 1954 and of eight gauges from 1955 onwards, each annual figure being itself an average of twelve monthly readings.

	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
1957	1.06	1.11
1958	1.17	1.23

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 „
1957	24.03 „
1958	34.07 „

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No special problem arose, the position having changed very little since 1957. The use of one small site was discontinued, and additional caravans were allowed on another existing site. The number of licensed sites at the end of the year was 22, permitting the stationing of 185 caravans, 5 huts and 90 tents. Fifty licenses, including renewals, were issued in respect of individual dwellings.

Many of the caravans seen in the district are only stored, and are not regularly occupied.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table summarizes the work done during the year :—

Premises inspected	364
Premises founded to be infested and subsequently treated—	
(a) domestic	243 ^{10/16}
(b) business	40 ^{7/8} 283
Second treatments	25
Third treatments	5
Premises cleared	278
Premises not completely cleared	5
Number of dead rats found	416
Treatments of sewage works	22
Treatments of refuse tips	8
Sewer manholes baited and poisoned	183

Treatment of sewers is carried out twice yearly as a matter of routine. Sewage works and refuse tips are kept under observation and treated when required. Rats are now rarely found in any of the Council's sewers and infestations in other premises are relatively small.

It was not necessary to serve formal notices under section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Visits to farms confirmed that most farmers are taking satisfactory action for rat destruction on agricultural premises.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The bodies of two persons were buried by the Council under section 50 of the Act.

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SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewer extensions were completed in Chester Road, Castle Bromwich and in School Lane, Lea Marston. A design for another sewer extension in Cooks Lane, Kingshurst was commenced.

The village scheme for Berkswell was commenced and good progress made by the end of the year. A village scheme for Bickenhill was submitted for Ministry consideration and technical approval was obtained. A small scheme including a sewer and disposal works for a group of houses in Breach Oak Lane, Astley, was designed and approvals obtained.

Heavy storms on the 10th June and 22nd August caused limited overflowing of some sewers over gardens, in a portion of Castle Bromwich, but fortunately not to any comparable extent with many parts of the country which were affected by the same storms. However, the council deemed it advisable to call for an investigation and report on the adequacy of the existing system, much of which dates from the early part of the century. A firm of consulting engineers are engaged on this work, leaving the council's technical staff dealing with the agreed programme of other works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The regular collection of all waste materials was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year.

