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**RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN**

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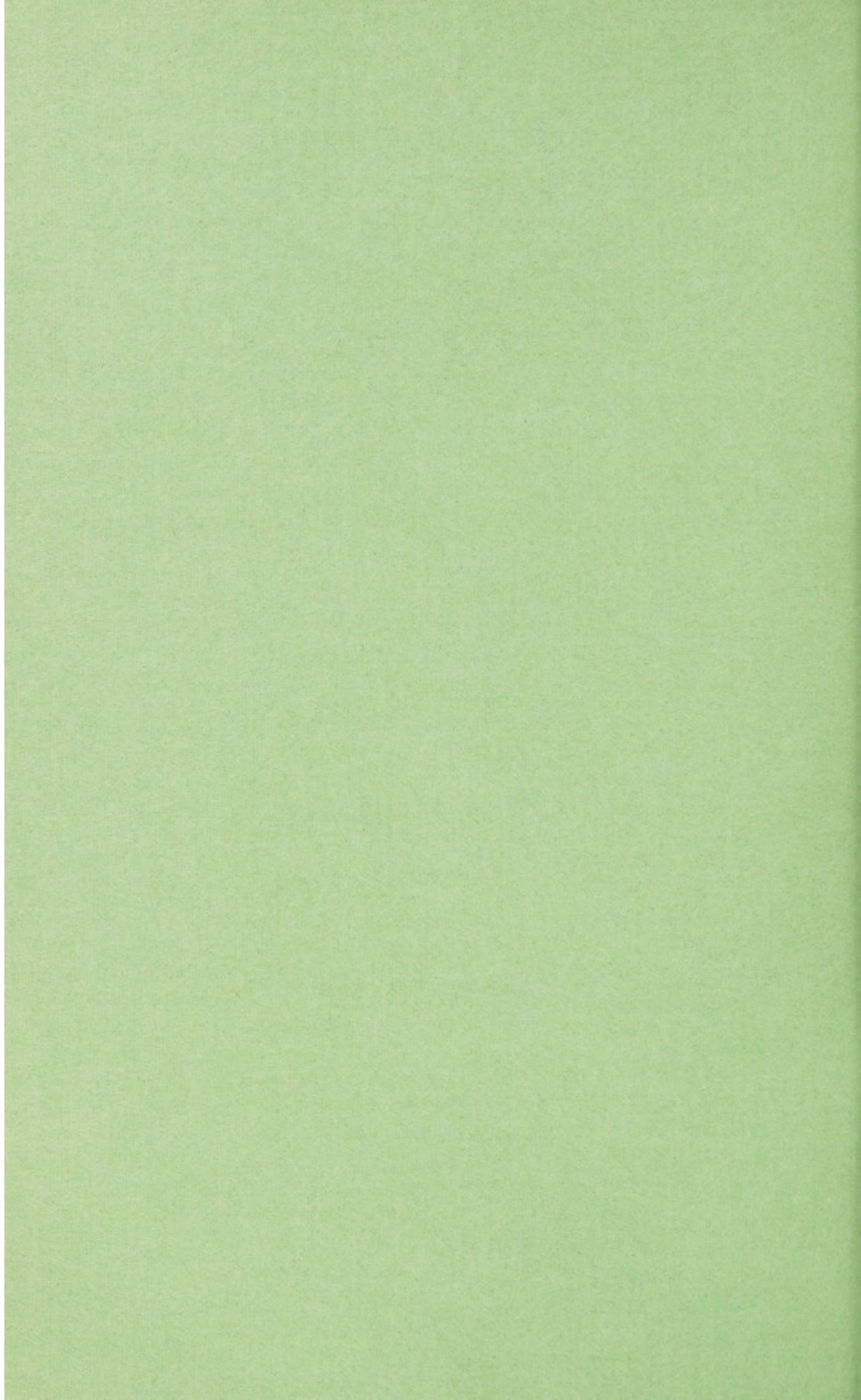
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1961**





**RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959 I beg to submit the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1961. These Regulations define the scope of the Annual Report and "enable the Medical Officer of Health to comment on any matter which he thinks desirable in relation to the public health of his area" and it is regarded as an essential and valuable appraisal of the state of the public health in the area. As customary, in so doing, the many social services also administered by me in my capacity as Area Medical Officer on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council are not specially mentioned because full details of these are readily available in the Annual Reports of the County Medical and Principal School Medical Officer.

The population of the District further increased by 890 to 57,750—an increase much smaller than the 1960 increase of 2,370 and again mostly in the Parish of Kingshurst where the large-scale overspill re-housing by Birmingham Corporation continued but at a slower rate.

On the whole, the general health of the community was satisfactory despite a seven-fold increase in notifications of infectious diseases, chiefly due to a small measles epidemic.

Once again no cases of diphtheria occurred and it is well worthwhile recording the absence of this erstwhile frequently fatal illness for 12 successive years and a striking tribute to the benefits of preventive medicine—in this instance by inoculation.

The incidence of scarlet fever continued at the low level of the previous year and in its mild, present-day form.

Cases of pneumonia increased by half with the majority occurring in the older age groups and particularly affecting persons aged 65 and over and still, unfortunately, with a very high mortality rate.

The incidence of dysentery was low compared with the over-all increase in England and Wales of a disease of the Sonnei variety which now appears to have become endemic, particularly during the colder months and contrary to what used to be experienced with other outbreaks of the malady mostly occurring in the warmer months.

For the fourth successive year, poliomyelitis was not reported and details of the vaccination campaign are given later in this Report. While the absence of cases is gratifying, a higher acceptance rate among the 25-40-year age group for the high degree of protection available is much to be desired and reflects adversely on the expected common-sense of a section of the community which ought to know better and set an example to the "teenagers" they not infrequently condemn.



Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased by half occurring chiefly in persons over 25 years of age with 4 deaths among 27 cases part of the 2,998 fatalities for the year in England and Wales and, therefore, a disease still to be conquered despite the good progress being made towards this end.

Food poisoning reports declined by more than half to a low level associated with a localized outbreak on which fuller comment will be found elsewhere under this heading.

The general volume and scope of the work of a busy inspectorate continued at a high level and the number of individual visits and inspections increased by nearly 500 to 8,919. In addition, 500 nuisances were investigated ranging from fouled ditches and watercourses to noise as well as overflowing cess-pools and unsatisfactory water supplies.

Routine examinations of meat, mostly at slaughterhouses, entailed over 2,300 journeys while inspections of 477 actual food premises, stalls and vehicles were made on nearly 500 occasions thereby ensuring that the highest possible standards of food hygiene were maintained. At the same time, attention was given not only to the sampling of water supplies, but also to the preparation of schemes for extending pipe-borne undertakings chiefly for small, circumscribed communities.

During the year nearly 600 inspections or visits were made to moveable dwellings, usually termed caravans, emphasizing the increasing volume of work connected with homes of this category for the extended control of which the coming into force of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 has not been as beneficial as might be expected.

Despite the large number of 500 nuisances investigated it is pleasing to be able to record that only in three instances did it become necessary to issue formal abatement notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, the great majority having been resolved by informal, mutual arrangements. This satisfactory state of affairs reflects in no small measure the tactful approach of the staff and also the co-operation of the public when acquainted with its shortcomings.

Regarding housing, whereas, as stated in my Annual Report for 1960, no Council houses were actually completed in that year, good progress in schemes then in hand resulted in 54 units of accommodation being occupied—12 at Chadwick End and 42 at Coleshill. The former included four one-bedroomed type bungalows and the latter thirty one-bedroom type bungalows and flats for old people. In addition, at Coleshill, one Warden's house was occupied and good progress made with the building of one of the two projected communal centres for the elderly. This same site embraces a total of 106 units of accommodation including a further 14 old people's dwellings, a second Warden's house and the whole is due for completion in 1962. This welcome provision of special accommodation for the older age-groups is proof of the recognition of the increasing needs of this section of the community.

At the end of the year the Council owned 1,752 houses comprising 10 per cent. of the total inhabited dwellings in the District.

It will be remembered that the number of applications for Council houses increased from 503 to 619 during the year 1960, and the rehousing of 104 families only served to reduce this latter figure to a little below the former. Thus, while the waiting list has been considerably reduced, the urgency and magnitude of the task still outstanding cannot be too strongly reiterated especially when the majority of the applicants are living in lodgings. While private enterprise is making a valuable, sizeable contribution to the overall housing needs, additional impetus might be given to those-in-need through the agency of housing societies or the construction by your Council of "houses-for-sale" the type and quality of which should be more acceptable to a section of the community than many built otherwise.

Slum clearance continued to make satisfactory progress and the orderly manner in which this work has been carried out since the inception of the main first stage in 1955 speaks for itself. Three clearance areas affecting 18 houses and 28 demolition orders in respect of single houses were made. While 17 abodes were pulled-down, 47 were rendered fit for further human habitation by their owners without compulsion—evidence of the forbearance and foresight on the part of those closely concerned with this aspect of their duties—sifting the "wheat from the chaff" and least desirous of wholesale obliteration of the "living past." Nevertheless, the bulging walls, the perished brickwork, the sagging, leaking roofs, the crumbling plaster and the constantly peeling paint and wall-paper are only too often the outward signs of an all-pervading rising dampness and of dark, dank ill-ventilated and lighted interiors the occupants of which have never subsequent to rehousing expressed any real regrets at their elevation to better living conditions. These vestiges of an unsavoury part of our rural heritage are rightly being swept away.

Work connected with water supplies entailed some 336 visits—a decrease compared with the 1960 total of 400 and some indication that the overall-coverage of the District by pipe-borne supplies is reaching near-finality. Ample supplies were generally available and, as should be expected, apart from a decreasing number of wells and springs, were pure and wholesome. Heretofore, served only by Birmingham and Coventry Water Departments, a third statutory undertaking—the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company joined them by providing a supply to Wishaw, the sole remaining member of the twenty-four Parishes in the District not so served. The steady gradual increase in the overall ratio of house to pipe-borne supplies rose from 95.2% to 95.7%. This seemingly modest increase represents the completion of 7 out of 13 schemes approved during 1960 and also three prior projects. As a result, 65 houses including 4 farms and several smallholdings, together with a hotel and a village hall were given the benefits of a commonplace commodity. Ample evidence of an enlightened approach

to one of the chief functions of a local authority was the placing of orders for four other schemes sanctioned in 1960 but owing to the pressure of other work not commenced by the close of the year under review and involving 29 houses including 3 farms. Further mains-extensions to connect 20 more houses in three widely separated areas were also discussed. It is to be hoped that this record of good progress will be further enhanced by the overdue provision of a pipe borne water supply for the two dozen houses in the Parish of Fillongley discussed at some length in last year's Report and the cost of which would not appear to be so high as first reckoned.

Despite increased slaughtering, it is satisfactory to report the inspection of all animals intended for human consumption and the fact that a large local "export" trade in this valuable foodstuff exists is strengthened by an increase in the amount of Government Grant accruing on this account. The proportion of meat or other organs condemned continued at a relatively low level, particularly with regard to tuberculosis in cattle, excluding cows, where the percentage rejected of the number inspected (4,144) fell to less than half that for 1960 and in the case of cows (504) to less than one quarter for the same year. In the last mentioned instance it is to be hoped that the figure will fall still lower thereby reflecting the improvement in animal health expected as a result of the successful attested herds campaign completed two years ago. Although appreciably higher than in bovines, the amount of tuberculosis found in 6,242 pigs examined, declined slightly during the year. It is of no little interest to note that almost 1% of cattle (excluding cows (nil)) were found infected with the cystic stage of the human tapeworm (cysticercosis or "measles") a figure almost similar to that for 1960 when three cows as well as thirty-six other beasts were found. However, there is no cause for alarm because eradication of this unwelcome human parasite is nowadays comparatively simple using modern drugs.

Safeguarding the health of the public in relation to food is not confined to inspection of meat and nearly 500 visits to food premises is an indication of another important aspect of the routine work carried out. The presence of close on 60 mobile shops (including 3 wholly or partly engaged in the sale of fresh meat) reveals a feature of modern trading which has come-to-stay despite its many undesirable aspects.

Implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations was invoked informally in 95 instances for one or more of 14 kinds of defects but, on the whole, high standards prevailed.

Maintaining its interest in problems arising from atmospheric pollution your Authority continued its membership of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council of which quarterly meetings were held at Atherstone, Sutton Coldfield, Leamington and Rugby respectively. By so doing, local interest in the work of the Council is enhanced and, although by its very nature and constitution, the Council has no statutory powers, the continuous collection and

correlation of the information received from the numerous recording instruments throughout the County is of great value as a long-term project.

Progress towards implementation of the Clean Air Act, 1956, is disappointing over the country as a whole, especially in the listed "Black Areas" specifically singled out for action to this end. Eight years after the publication of the Beaver Report, instead of approaching the half-way stage, only 7.8% of target acreage had been reached at the end of 1961. A further Command Paper dealing with this adverse state of affairs is expected shortly. Perhaps, it is not expecting too much to hope that steps towards the making of Smoke Control areas in this District will be taken in the near future especially now that the great majority of contiguous local authorities have already done or are about to do so? The importance of the preparatory stage of instituting a smoke control area cannot be over-stressed and, as in most public health measures, personal approach to the citizen is an essential step. Nevertheless, much valuable time can be saved in such a complex matter by circulating information in advance. However, despite the magnitude of the task, nobody can deny the ultimate gain to the general health of a community and the appearance of its buildings by smoke riddance for all-time.

In the compilation of this composite Report many sections have been contributed by your Chief Public Health Inspector to whom I am especially grateful. Also, I am much indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for information regarding sewerage/sewage disposal as well as refuse collection.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation of the zealous work of the inspectorate and other members of the staff and the ready co-operation and assistance from the members of the other departments and to express my thanks for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. McELROY

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Park Road,  
COLESHILL.  
July, 1962.

# MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1961

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## Chairman of the Council :

Mrs. C. M. WHEATLEY, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman of the Council :

R. J. EARLE

## Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE, F.C.C.S.

## Public Health Committee : 1961-62

Adams, H. W.	Edwards, N. A.	Lynall, Mrs. G. M.
Antrobus, W.	Harland, Mrs. J. M.	Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Barnes, Mrs. D.	Gee, Capt. D.	Smith, K.
Butler, F. S.	Greensmith, H.	Stewart, J. D.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Gregg, Mrs. M.	Victor-Halford, C. A.
Day, A. R.	Guest, G. B.	Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.
Earle, R. J.	Kelsey, H.	Williams, R.

## Housing Committee : 1961-62

Aylesford, Earl of	Harland, Mrs. J. M.	North, Mrs. E. M.
Barnes, Mrs. D.	Harvey, W.	Page, J.
Bradley Miller, K.	Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Day, A. R.	Kelsey, E. J. O.	Prosser, D. W.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Knowles, T.	Sakne, E.
Hales, A. F.	Lowe, G. H.	Stewart, J. D.
Hamar, J.	Lynall, Mrs. G.	Williams, R.
		Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF  
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1961**

---

**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 :**

**W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.**  
**R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.**  
**B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I.**  
**E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I.**

**Chief Clerk :**

**J. D. MYNARD, A.R.S.H.**

**Council Offices :**

Council House,  
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. 1961) .....	57,750
Population (Census 1951) .....	38,075
"    (    "    1961) .....	57,520
Area in acres .....	61,775
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1961) .....	17,150
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1961) .....	£952,298
Product of a penny rate .....	£3,898

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	563	529	1,092
Illegitimate .....	21	19	40
Totals .....	584	548	1,132

#### Birth Rate

19.60 per 1,000 estimated population

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
19.60	20.20	19.08	20.03	18.55	17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82	15.50

#### Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	11	8	19
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	11	8	19

#### Still Birth Rate

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

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
16.5	14.52	16.05	20.58	18.18	21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81	28.1

#### Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	222	189	411

#### Crude Death Rate

7.11 per 1,000 estimated population.

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
7.11	7.33	7.03	7.36	6.91	7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8	8.3

### Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	3	1	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 ..	2	1	3
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	7	3	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	15	2	17
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	8	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	6	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	24	46
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	2	2
16.	Diabetes .....	2	3	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	31	34	65
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	39	26	65
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	5	6	11
20.	Other heart disease .....	18	16	34
21.	Other circulatory disease .....	2	10	12
22.	Influenza .....	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia .....	11	9	20
24.	Bronchitis .....	21	9	30
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	3	4
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 .....	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations .....	2	5	7
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	18	10	28
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	9	2	11
34.	All other accidents .....	7	2	9
35.	Suicide .....	3	5	8
36.	Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
37.	All causes .....	222	189	411



## Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
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
1959 ..	54,590	1,042	384	+658
1960 ..	56,960	1,153	418	+735
1961 ..	57,750	1,132	411	+721

**Maternal Deaths** .. Nil.

### Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	11	6	17
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	11	6	17

### Infant Mortality Rate.

15.01 per 1,000 births.

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
15.01	17.34	14.39	16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7	32.4

### Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	7	4	11
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	7	4	11

Neonatal Death Rate .. 9.71 per 1,000 live births.  
(first four weeks)

## Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
<b>Births</b>		
Live Births ..	*17.83	17.4
Still Births ..	16.5(a)	18.7(a)
<b>Deaths</b>		
All causes .. ..	*10.59	12.0
Infant Mortality ..	15.01(b)	21.4(b)
Neonatal mortality	9.71(b)	

\* Using comparability factors (Births 0.91 and Deaths 1.49).

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

(b) per 1,000 live births.

### Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms .. ..	44	45	89

Cancer Death Rate = 1.54 per 1,000 estimated population.

### Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 57,750—an increase of 790 over the 1960 total of 56,960. As was the case in the previous years, this expansion mostly occurred in the Parish of Kingshurst where the large-scale development by the Birmingham Corporation Housing Department continued to provide for its over-spill which is estimated to reach 12,000 head of population by 1965.

### Births

As would be expected, owing to the large proportion of married couples of the younger age groups, especially in the Kingshurst and Castle Bromwich Parishes, the standardised Birth Rate of 17.83 per 1,000 estimated population exceeded the corresponding figure of 17.4 for England and Wales but was slightly lower than that of 18.38 for the District in 1960.

### Deaths

Evidence of the good health and longevity of the inhabitants is apparent in the comparative Death Rate of 10.59 for 1,000 population which, once more, was lower than the provisional figure of 12.0 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart, cancer and vascular

lesions of the nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 89 deaths—18 more than in 1960. Of these, 17 were due to lung cancer—8 more than the previous year—affecting 15 males and 2 females.

For the tenth year in succession no mothers died in child-birth.

Among notifiable diseases, pneumonia caused 20 deaths out of 35 cases—a very high mortality rate and a continuous cause for grave concern.

#### **National Assistance Act, 1948**

The number of cases requiring assessment for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation further decreased indicating that a larger proportion of the aged and infirm are enabled to remain in their own homes which is desirable from every point of view, especially on financial grounds. Here, mention must be made of the Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services which contribute so much to this satisfactory state of affairs. It is also pleasing to be able to report that, in no instance was statutory action necessary on my part for compulsory removal to an institution under Section 47 of the Act.

## SECTION B.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1961.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1960 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 .....	1,980 (21)	43	917	1,008	6	6	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ....	49 (71)	2	16	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .....	2 (4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Enteric Fever .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .....	36 (35)	-	11	24	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	35 (23)	-	1	-	6	8	5	15	9	20
Malaria .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	46 (48)	1	26	8	6	5	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	98 (67)	-	-	-	61	37	-	-	98	-
Meningococcal Infection .....	1 (1)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis ....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....	8 (-)	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	27 (19)	-	1	2	5	9	7	3	15	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	4 (4)	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-
Food Poisoning ....	7 (17)	-	2	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
Totals .....	2,293 (310)	54	975	1,075	86	68	15	20	131	24

**Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.**

Notifiable Disease	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Measles . . . . .	1,980	21	344	619	1,006	7	705	155	467	599
Whooping Cough	49	71	72	20	112	118	57	173	266	111
Diphtheria . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	4	2	5	3	5	3	3	1	4
Enteric Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever....	36	35	54	46	15	92	28	20	30	52
Pneumonia . . . .	35	23	63	42	48	25	40	22	30	63
Malaria . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery . . . . .	46	48	96	41	36	122	60	8	21	37
Puerperal Pyrexia	98	67	98	111	118	100	73	97	95	28
Meningococcal Infection . . . .	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
Acute Poliomye- litis :										
Paralytic . . . .	-	-	-	-	8	1	6	-	3	2
Non-paralytic..	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia . . . .										
Neonatorum ..	8	3	8	24	34	23	7	14	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	27	19	15	33	18	26	31	34	23	32
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	4	4	4	2	3	2	5	11	9	10
Food Poisoning..	7	17	11	2	-	2	11	19	8	15
Totals . . . . .	2,293	313	769	945	1,405	525	1,030	557	958	957

## General Comment

Compared with 1960, notifications of infectious diseases increased sevenfold from 313 to 2,293, largely due to a marked rise in the incidence of measles in keeping with a country-wide epidemic.

## Measles

As mentioned in the preceding paragraph, a widespread outbreak of this childhood malady restored the biennial periodicity pattern previously apparent but latterly which had become less pronounced. Nearly 1,000 children under five years of age and more than this number of schoolchildren were affected as well as six teenagers and six adults in whom an attack of this nature is often no light matter. Nevertheless, it is reassuring that hospitalization was nowhere necessary. Recent reports indicate the likelihood of a prophylactic vaccine becoming available so that prospects of eliminating this scourge are encouraging.

## Whooping Cough

Cases notified totalled 49 whereas 71 came to light last year, the majority in the 5-15 age group.

Protection against this distressing illness is now conveniently combined with that given for diphtheria and tetanus and punch-recorded on a cellophane card easily carried by parents. These combined "3 in 1" injections are now almost routine for infants of whom 1,028 received primary doses in the first four years of life out of a total of 1,071. On the other hand, reinforcing doses (135) fell to one fifth of the 1960 figure and due notice has already been taken of this with increased pressure towards a better level.

**Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1961.**

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary .....	852	129	47	26	17	1071
Reinforcing ....	—	52	31	43	9	135
Totals .....	852	181	78	69	26	1206

It may not be generally known that copies of all notifications of births received from local Registrars by the County Medical Officer are distributed by the latter to the respective Area Medical Officers within 48 hours of the birth. This procedure, inter alia, results in a call on the parents from a Health Visitor when information regarding immunisations is given and the advisability of this stressed during the regular visits to the household until the child is five years old and thenceforth is covered by the School Health Service. This means that with the exception of parents who decline to utilize this service, every parent is made aware of the benefits of prophylaxis.

## Diphtheria

The spectacular fall in the incidence and mortality of this dreaded affliction since 1951 is striking evidence of the value of preventive inoculation. Although no cases have been recorded in your District for twelve successive years the need for maintaining a high level of immunity by inoculation cannot be over emphasized.

The table sub-pended summarises the work undertaken by general practitioners and County Council staff and reveals a moderate increase both in primary and reinforcing doses.

### Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1961

(Comparative figures for 1960 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary .....	897 (903)	141 (114)	90 (30)	57 (39)	36 (2)	1221 (1088)
Re-inforcing ....	— (—)	72 (7)	179 (208)	662 (690)	478 (286)	1371 (1191)
Totals .....	897 (903)	213 (121)	269 (238)	719 (729)	514 (288)	2592 (2279)

## Smallpox

No cases occurred nor was it necessary to keep under surveillance any contacts of patients elsewhere.

### Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1961

(Comparative figures for 1960 are given in parenthesis).

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated .....	335 (503)	169 (29)	45 (45)	51 (16)	34 (29)	634 (622)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (—)	— (—)	1 (7)	8 (8)	88 (86)	97 (101)
Totals .....	335 (503)	169 (29)	46 (52)	59 (24)	112 (115)	731 (723)

## Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 36 cases was almost level with the 1960 figure (35) with only one patient over the age of 14 years and none under one year. All were of the prevalent, mild nature.

## Pneumonia

Reports rose by nearly one half to 35 with 15 persons over 65 years of age affected. Nine patients were removed to hospital and, unfortunately, there were 20 deaths.

## Dysentery

Out of 46 notifications, 26 occurred in infants and young children in the 1-5 years age group. Most of the cases arose in a Children's Home administered by Coventry Corporation and situated in the south-east corner of the district close to its boundary with Coventry. The inmates consisted of 15 administrative/nursing members with 8 domestic staff, and at the outset, there were 30 children in residence including 6 infants under 1 year old. Fortunately, these infants were normally kept separate from the other children and prompt evacuation elsewhere prevented their being infected with the causative organism of the Sonnei group. The outbreak commenced in October, 1961 and final clearance of all infection was not given until January, 1962. In all, 20 children were involved of whom 15 showed clinical signs of the disease and 5 were found to be "symptomless excretors" or "carriers" during "screening" laboratory tests. In addition, out of 9 members of the nursing staff, 5 became ill and 4 were found to be "carriers." One of the last-mentioned nurses was non-resident and examination of her household revealed further infection. All the carriers rapidly responded to treatment but some of the actual cases did not do so. Nevertheless, close co-operation with all concerned facilitated ready control of the outbreak.

## Puerperal Pyrexia

Notifications increased from 67 to 98 and the great majority were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where deliveries for the year were 3,798 so that the incidence was relatively low.

## Acute Poliomyelitis

For the fourth successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarizes the vaccination campaign in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts comprising the North Western Area of the County.

### Completed Poliomyelitis Injections as at 31st December, 1961

Age	Primary	Booster	Fourth	Totals
0-15 years . . . .	19,462	16,037	6,379	41,878
15-25 years . . . .	4,822	3,598	—	8,420
25-40 years . . . .	3,621	3,402	—	7,023
Expectant Mothers . . . .	1,170	1,073	—	2,243
Others . . . . .	1,090	633	—	1,723
Totals . . . . .	30,165	24,743	6,379	61,287



## Tuberculosis

During the year 27 new cases of the pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 19 and 4 cases respectively in 1960. Fifteen "chest" cases were admitted to hospital. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 36-and 4 respectively for the most part arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but still subject to regular review up to five years before removal from the Register.

### Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1961

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1960 .....	167	141	22	25
2. New Cases .....	20	7	1	3
3. Inward Transfers .....	16	20	1	3
4. Removals .....	31	34	5	2
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1961 .....	172	134	19	29

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 in attendance on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the Clinic operates.

### Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1961

	Men	Women	Children	Total Patients	Total attendances
Pulmonary ....	104	89	11	204	—
Non-Pulmonary	5	12	8	25	—
Other Cases ....	—	—	—	310	—
Totals .....	109	101	19	539	1,325

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic opened in February, 1955 continued in charge of Dr. Zundel and from the table below it will be seen that 58 children were vaccinated.

No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1961

Men	Women	Children	Total
1	8	58	67

The sex incidence and age groups of the new pulmonary cases is shown in the following table a feature of which is the large proportion of males (16) in the 15-55 age groups compared with females (3) affected demonstrating the greater degree of exposure to infection by men as would be expected. It is also noteworthy that two males and one female over the age of 65 were diagnosed among the "chest" cases with two male deaths—proof of the increasing importance of screening elderly persons thought to be suffering from chronic bronchitis but, in reality, from, or, also, with a superimposed tubercular infection. Cases of this kind constitute a reservoir of infection for the spread of a disease which, although, nowadays, under control is far from complete eradication in the community.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1961

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45 ..	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 ..	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ..	20	7	1	1	5	2	—	—

## Mass Radiography Survey

During September and October, 1961, Dr. A. Gordon Evans, Medical Director, Coventry Mass Radiography Unit, kindly arranged for the parishes of Kingshurst, Castle Bromwich and Coleshill to be visited and as a result 2,234 persons were examined. Inasmuch as many of the residents had already been examined in Birmingham, the attendance represents only a small proportion of the population of these parishes. It is significant to record that whereas only one suspected case of active pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered two suspected lung cancers came to light.

Suspected 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 Examinations during the year 1961

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested . . . . .	13	Nil

## Food Poisoning

Seventeen cases of infection with organisms of the Salmonella group were discovered. There were three particular incidents involving the staff and in-patients of an orthopaedic hospital for children and two households in Coleshill during December, 1960-January 1961 related to Salmonella paratyphi B. This causes an illness called paratyphoid fever—usually a mild form of typhoid or enteric fever also due to a member organism of this large group of bacteria. Three young patients in adjoining beds displayed signs of diarrhoea with no rise of temperature or constitutional disturbance and were transferred to another hospital. Screening by laboratory methods of all remaining ward inmates and nurses concerned revealed two carriers or symptomless excretors among the former and two among the latter who were isolated and treated locally—a total of seven persons infected. In view of this it was decided to screen all persons connected with the hospital as well as the remaining patients in other wards with the result that only one other patient was found to be a carrier of another organism of this group (Salm. typhimurium) more commonly associated with outbreaks of food-poisoning. Histories were taken and specimens examined (Public Health Laboratory, Coventry) from some 107 persons connected with this one incident.

During the first week of December, 1960 the same medical practitioner in-charge at the above mentioned institution reported a case of gastro-enteritis in one of two young children in a household in Coleshill both attending a local parochial school. Here, also, the

causative organism proved to be *Salm. paratyphoid B* and screening incriminated the mother as a "carrier." Inasmuch as these children usually partook of the school dinners it was decided to examine all the kitchen staff (5) one of whom proved to be a carrier of another uncommon member of the same group *Salm. mellagridis* on which comment will be made later.

Once again this practitioner drew attention to the occurrence of a case of 'dysentery' in one of two young children also resident in Coleshill from whom *Salm. paratyphi B* was recovered and whose sister was found to be similarly infected three weeks later following two previous negative tests. As the head of this household was employed as a foreman baker he was excluded from work until the family was cleared.

These three outbreaks of illness or infection caused by one particular organism at about the same time might well have had a common origin—a contaminated foodstuff—but none could be linked with any other. However, it so happened that work at the Public Health Laboratory necessitated the referral to the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, Colindale, of organisms recovered from the two families for further investigation. As a result, the cultures proved to be of a "phage type Beccles var. 4" and the report commented that heretofore cultures of that phage type received had been isolated from dessicated coconut. Acting on this possible clue, enquiries at the hospital failed to establish any connection with this article of food and, besides, the first patient there had been transferred from another Children's Hospital only the day previous to the onset of his illness. Examinations of the hospital stock of coconut were negative and the bringing into hospital by visitors of cakes and sweets containing coconut was discouraged.

Discussions with the mothers of the two families revealed that while no raw dessicated coconut had been used for many months for cooking purposes, both had purchased packaged biscuits coated with coconut during November and December, 1960 most of which had been eaten by their children.

The reason for investigating the particular kind of biscuit was because of reports from two neighbouring Medical Officers of Health that a sample of coconut cream biscuits consumed by a patient in their districts was found to contain the organism in question. Although samples of these biscuits purchased from several shops in Coleshill proved negative, nevertheless, all the shopkeepers agreed to withdraw them from public sale and the manufacturers called in all stocks from retailers and wholesalers.

Correspondence with a Medical Officer of Health of a Thames riverside borough revealed that dessicated coconut is imported from a number of tropical countries including Ceylon which is the main source of supply and where the conditions for its production are not altogether satisfactory. As a sequel to the increasing number of infected samples found at the ports of entry and the occurrence of

cases of disease caused thereby representations have recently been made by H.M. Government (on the advice of the Minister of Health) to the Government of Ceylon and which have resulted in higher standards of hygiene during the preparation of the commodity. Heat treatment by toasting completely sterilizes the article but with regard to its use in the raw state to sprinkle marsh-mallow biscuits or other confectionery at least one firm imports a special quality from the Philippines at much greater cost to avoid even the very small percentage of infected product occasionally coming from Ceylon.

As mentioned earlier, one of the food handlers at a school kitchen in Coleshill was found to be a carrier of an organism called *Salm. mellagridis* and, here again, information was received from the Research Laboratory, Colindale, that this pathogen is sometimes found in gelatine and had been isolated from 12 persons mostly in the north of England between the end of November, 1960 and January, 1961. It had been recovered from ground gelatine in Manchester during this period and at the same time had been found in coconut covered marsh-mallow biscuits manufactured by a well-known firm in that area. The gelatine would probably be used as an adhesive for the coconut but, of course, it is also widely used in the making of other sweetmeats, meat-pies and cooked meats and also jams and jellies. Investigations in this respect proved negative although a sweet prepared at the School Meals Service Central Kitchen six weeks prior to the isolation of the bacteria from the food handler contained gelatine from a container sampling of the remaining contents of which was fruitless.

# Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following inspections and visits were made :—

Houses : Inspected and recorded .....	56
Other visits .....	1,434
Overcrowding .....	8
Rent Act .....	17
Nuisances .....	884
Clean Air Act .....	530
Food examination .....	2,318
Slaughterhouses .....	68
Food Premises .....	407
Food stalls and vehicles .....	72
Bakehouses .....	8
Dairies .....	14
Water Supplies .....	336
Moveable dwellings .....	596
Factories : Non-power .....	—
Power .....	29
Other premises .....	15
Noise Abatement Act .....	52
Shops Act, section 38 .....	36
National Assistance Act, section 50 .....	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act .....	1,294
Sewers and drains .....	224
Closet conversions .....	18
Infectious diseases .....	433
Pet Animals Act .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	49
	<hr/>
	8,919
	<hr/>

Complaints received and investigated—866.

## NUISANCES

Nuisances were reported and dealt with as follows :—

Accumulations of refuse .....	36
Animals so kept .....	19
Cesspools overflowing .....	30
Closets defective and insanitary .....	18
Obstructed drains or sewers .....	67
Dustbins defective or absent .....	14
Foul ditches and watercourses .....	59
Smoke, dust and effluvia .....	25
Dirty houses (occupiers' neglect) .....	23
Housing defects :	
Dampness .....	16
Defective walls.....	18
„    roofs .....	20
„    chimneys .....	12
„    windows and doors .....	26
„    rainwater conductors .....	22
„    wall and ceiling plaster .....	17
„    floors .....	12
„    firegrates .....	8
„    washing boilers .....	3
„    stairs.....	1
„    water supply pipes .....	2
„    drains and waste pipes .....	12
„    water cistern .....	1
„    sanitary conveniences .....	2
Unsatisfactory water supplies .....	31
Noise .....	6
	500

Among the nuisances complained of affecting groups of people were two relating to sewage disposal, in respect of which only long-term remedies were thought to be practicable. One case involved a ditch at Nether Whitacre, which has so little fall as to be almost stagnant and which receives effluent from the Council's sewage tanks at Whitacre Heath. The disposal system is rudimentary and of some age, and even with constant maintenance it is impossible to avoid pollution of the ditch. There is consequent nuisance to nearby householders, who incidentally contribute to it themselves with discharges of private drainage. Various palliative measures were ruled out after consideration, it being thought best to concentrate on a new sewerage scheme when circumstances permit. It is realised that heavy costs will be involved owing to lack of falls and difficult working conditions.

The second case involved a privately-owned sewage disposal works at Keresley, where a firm of pre-war developers had built and sold 22 houses, retaining the sewage disposal plant with an obligation to maintain it. A request by the owners for the Council to adopt the works had to be refused because of the absence of an out-fall stream to receive the effluent. Although the subject of persistent complaint by residents the works are favourably situated in relation to the houses and the Council took the view that the matter should wait until a comprehensive scheme for sewerage the area could be prepared. Meanwhile the owners were asked to carry out minimum works of maintenance which had not been done by the end of the year.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The public were quick to take advantage of the new powers by which excessive noise becomes a statutory nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936. Complaints were received about a variety of noises including loudspeakers, barking dogs and noisy machinery. It was soon evident that there were practical difficulties of enforcement, one of them being the need for night-time observations in some cases. Nevertheless some success was achieved by informal action and in particular a case involving excessive noise from the use of amplifiers at a dance hall was satisfactorily resolved without recourse to statutory action.

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	Requirement	No. of cases
50	Prevention of overflow from cesspool	1
92-3	Abatement of nuisances .....	2
138	Provision of piped water supplies .....	4



## HOUSING

The following new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year :—

At Chadwick End (Balsall Parish)	4 bungalows for old people (1-bedroom type)
	2 2-bedroom houses
	6 3-bedroom houses
At Coleshill (Stonebridge Road No. 3 site)	12 bungalows for old people (1-bedroom type)
	18 flats for old people (1-bedroom type)
	9 flats for general needs (1-bedroom type)
	3 2-bedroom houses
	—
	54
	—

There were also 50 casual vacancies in existing houses. The allocations were as follows :—

Slum clearance .....	40
General needs .....	50
Old people (not in slum clearance schemes) .....	5
Agricultural (priority) .....	2
Council staff (priority) .....	5
Nurses (priority) .....	2
	—
	104
	—

The Council now own 1,752 houses of all types. Work is still in progress on the Coleshill scheme at Stonebridge Road, where a further 52 dwellings are expected to be completed during 1962.

The latest review of housing applications completed in December, 1961, showed a reduction from 619 to 495 cases, after allowing for the 104 families re-housed during the year. The degree of need is not uniform throughout the district, and the movement of applicants to other parishes is practicable to only a limited extent. The demand for houses at Arley is relatively small apart from the special needs of a nationalised industry. Pressure is maintained, however, in the group of parishes near the Birmingham boundary comprising Kingshurst, Castle Bromwich, Water Orton and Coleshill. Despite the apparently generous provision at Coleshill, a total of 169 applications remains to be dealt with in these four parishes, which will leave over 100 unsatisfied applicants after completion of the current Coleshill scheme.

The reduction of the general list by 20 cases, in addition to those re-housed by the Council, may be an indication that the housing

position is now easing sufficiently to allow a few people to find their own accommodation without recourse to the local authority. It does however seem likely that a substantial need will continue for several years, having regard to the probable rate of Council building. According to statistics published by the Warwickshire County Council, the proportion of Council houses to private houses in the Meriden Rural District is still one of the lowest in the county.

### Slum Clearance

The following Table summarizes the progress made during the year :—

<b>Clearance areas</b>	
Number of orders made.....	3
Number of houses affected .....	18
Number of orders confirmed .....	nil
Number of houses demolished .....	nil
<b>Single houses</b>	
Demolition orders made .....	28
Houses demolished.....	17
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation .....	8
Closing orders revoked .....	nil
Demolition orders revoked .....	nil
Undertakings to repair accepted.....	1
Houses made fit—	
Voluntarily, by owners .....	47
By owners, after formal notices .....	1
By Council, in default of owners .....	nil

Since the start of the Council's planned slum clearance programme in 1955, 177 houses have been demolished and 72 others closed. The rate of demolition is still controlled to some extent by the availability of new houses for the people who will be displaced.

An application for an order under section 24 of the Housing Act, 1961, revoking a pre-war clearance order in respect of two houses, was received a fortnight before the Act came into force in November. The matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

### Overcrowding

The extent of known overcrowding in the district, assessed by reference to section 76 of the Housing Act, 1957, is as follows :—

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	5
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	6
No. of families involved .....	15
No. of persons involved .....	115

No case of "permitted number" overcrowding was relieved by the Council during the year, overcrowding being only one of the factors taken into account in assessing claims to re-housing.

## Rent Act, 1957

The following table summarizes the action taken during the year :—

Applications for certificates of disrepair (form I)....	2
Notices to landlords of intention to issue certificates of disrepair (form J) .....	2
Undertakings to do repairs received from landlords (form K) .....	1
Certificates of disrepair issued (form L) .....	1
Applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair	nil
Certificates of disrepair cancelled on application, after repairs had been completed .....	nil

## WATER SUPPLIES

### Piped Supplies

There has been a further small improvement since last year in the proportion of houses having piped supplies from mains, the percentage being 95.7 at the end of 1961, compared with 95.2 the previous year. The only parish not previously covered by a statutory water undertaking—Wishaw—was included in the area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company by an Order which came into operation on the 30th June, 1961.

The following table gives the position in individual parishes :—

Parish	Total Houses	Houses having piped supplies			
		Birmingham Water Dept.	Coventry Water Dept.	N.E. Warwicks. Water Bd.	S. Staffs. Waterworks Co.
Allesley .....	1,046	—	1,003	—	—
Arley .....	944	—	—	935	—
Astley .....	66	—	—	38	—
Balsall .....	1,048	—	952	—	—
Barston .....	137	—	124	—	—
Berkswell .....	665	—	593	—	—
Bickenhill .....	924	899	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich ....	2,730	2,726	—	—	—
Coleshill .....	1,676	1,643	—	—	—
Corley .....	245	—	241	—	—
Curdworth .....	166	156	—	—	—
Fillongley .....	432	297	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	433	—	410	—	—
Keresley .....	1,023	—	1,019	—	—
Kingshurst .....	2,731	2,728	—	—	—
Lea Marston .....	88	73	—	—	—
Maxstoke .....	87	41	—	—	—
Meriden .....	553	—	531	—	—
Packington (Great and Little) .....	65	—	15	—	—
Shustoke .....	179	156	—	—	—
Water Orton .....	815	812	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre ....	267	264	—	—	—
Over Whitacre .....	110	93	—	—	—
Wishaw .....	64	—	—	—	34
	<u>16,494</u>	<u>9,888</u>	<u>4,888</u>	<u>977</u>	<u>34</u>

Standpipes are very uncommon in the district : most of the piped supplies are taken into the houses, or at least to individual taps in outbuildings.

No complaint was received regarding the quality of supplies from public sources. Complaints of low pressures and consequent poor supplies at Marston Green, in the parish of Bickenhill, were referred to the Birmingham Water Department and an improvement secured.

Of the schemes for providing new water mains which were recorded in the 1960 report as having been approved in principle, the following were carried out during 1961 :—

Locality	Length of main	Estimated cost	Number of Properties to be served
1 Birmingham Road, Water Orton .....	240 yards	£725	3 houses and smallholdings
2 Hawkeswell Lane, Coleshill .....	816 yards	£2,000	6 houses including one farm and 2 smallholdings
3 Middle Bickenhill Lane, Bickenhill. ....	454 yards	£1,925	7 houses
4 Newhall Green, Fillongley. ....	590 yards	£1,625	5 houses
5 Coventry Road, Bickenhill .....	42 yards	£170	1 house
6 Highfield Lane, Corley Ash .....	305 yards	£750	2 houses
7 Church Lane, Corley .....	700 yards	£1,500	6 houses including 1 farm

The following schemes which had received earlier approval were also carried out :—

Locality	Length of main	Estimated cost	Number of Properties to be served
Dunton Wharf, Lichfield Road, Curdworth .....	1,110 yards	£3,350	7 houses
Lichfield Road, Church Lane, Ryefields Lane and The Gravel, Wishaw .....	3,020 yards	£7,300	16 houses (including 2 farms) 1 hotel and 1 village hall
Eaves Green, Meriden .....	1,056 yards	£2,485	12 houses

Orders were placed for the following schemes which had been approved in principle during 1960, but the work had not been started by the end of 1961 :—

	Locality	Length of main	Estimated cost	Number of Properties to be served
1	Fivefield Road, Keresley .....	300 yards	£1,070	5 houses
2	Marsh Lane, Bradnocks Marsh, Berkswell .....	590 yards	£1,250	7 houses including 1 farm
3	Coventry Road, Berkswell .....	1,110 yards	£2,540	9 houses
4	Bickenhill Lane, Hampton-in-Arden ....	1,750 yards	£4,580	8 houses including 2 farms

Proposals for the following additional new mains were also considered :—

	Locality	Length of main	Estimated cost	Number of Properties to be served
1	Wishaw Lane, Curdworth .....	300 yards	£900	2 houses
2	Fen End Road, and Frogmore Lane, Fen End .....	2,076 yards	£5,460	15 houses
3	Birmingham Road, Coleshill .....	1,047 yards	£4,400	4 houses

The difficulty which arose in December, 1960 regarding the high cost of providing a main for the group of 24 houses at Broad Lane, Fillongley, referred to at page 29 of the 1960 report, remained at the end of 1961, as did the urgent need of piped water. Similar difficulties were encountered in respect of schemes involving four houses at Coleshill and two at Curdworth.

The majority of houses to which mains could be taken at what has normally been regarded as a reasonable cost now have piped water available. The Council have declared their long-term policy of providing a piped supply to every house, but they can achieve this objective only by meeting very high costs in the few remaining cases. This is not as difficult as it might appear. They do not have to raise capital for water mains, their liability being limited to 12½% per annum of the capital cost for 12 years. Income from water sales is credited to them. In addition, they can normally expect substantial grants from Ministry and County Council sources. Thus the net

rate fund burden is often slight, even for abnormally expensive schemes. It is likely that little further progress can be made unless an increase in the capital cost per house can be accepted. Experience confirms the impracticability of insisting on contributions from private sources when other comparable services—sewers, refuse collection and street lighting—are provided free.

### Sampling

Samples of water submitted for chemical analysis or bacteriological examination were reported on as follows :—

<i>Nature of Source</i>	<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Satis.</i>	<i>Unsatis.</i>	<i>Satis.</i>	<i>Unsatis.</i>	
Old Wells	6	2	19	37	64
Springs	1	—	5	4	10
Mains	2	—	14	—	16
	9	2	38	41	90

### Connections to houses

Notices were served under section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 as amended, requiring the connection to the mains of two houses in the parish of Meriden. The work was subsequently done by the Council in default, at a cost of £172 13s. 0d. The sum of £40 was claimed from the owner, this being the maximum amount recoverable before the limit was raised by the Public Health Act, 1961 in October. The procedure avoided the necessity of carrying out a more costly extension of the mains.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat inspection

It was again possible to maintain 100% inspection of meat killed in the district, although the amount of slaughtering continued to increase. The Council were able to claim the usual grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for meat inspection carried out in excess of the district's normal requirements, indicating that more meat goes from local slaughterhouses to other areas than is received in local shops from slaughterhouses elsewhere.

The following table gives the number of carcasses inspected, and the condemnations :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected . . . .	4,144	504	454	21,716	6,681
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	4	8	7	31	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	471	141	15	904	887
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci . . . . .	11.47	29.56	4.85	4.30	13.53
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	11	3	—	—	88
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis . . . . .	0.29	0.60	—	—	1.32
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	40	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—

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)	1	Anaemia, advanced .....	500
	2	Oedema, generalised .....	639
	1	Septicaemia .....	460
	1	Tuberculosis, generalised .....	490
	—	5	—
Cows	1	Bruising, extensive .....	425
	2	Congestion .....	1,075
	1	Fever .....	450
	1	Mastitis, acute septic .....	483
	1	Pleurisy, septic .....	600
	1	Pyæmia .....	375
	1	Septicaemia .....	350
	—	8	—
Pigs	5	Congestion .....	790
	1	Erysipelas, acute .....	70
	2	Emaciation, pathological .....	277
	3	Fever .....	245
	5	Oedema, generalised .....	319
	2	Pneumonia, acute septic .....	96
	1	Uraemia .....	97
	—	19	—



Whole Carcasses continued :—

Animals	No.	Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Sheep	6	Bruising, extensive .....	120
	13	Congestion .....	450
	3	Emaciation, pathological .....	70
	2	Injuries .....	80
	4	Oedema, generalised .....	184
	1	Pneumonia, acute septic .....	31
	2	Septicaemia .....	89
	—	—	—
	31		1,024
	—		—
Calves	2	Congestion .....	70
	3	Fever .....	105
	1	Oedema, generalised .....	30
	1	Septicaemia .....	30
	—	—	—
	7		235
	—		—

Part Carcasses :

	Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
	No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)				
Heads	11	310	53	1,515
Trimmings	—	30	—	547
Cows :				
Heads	1	28	3	83
Trimmings	—	185	—	643
Pigs :				
Heads	98	1,297	11	126
Trimmings	—	44	—	439
Sheep :				
Heads	—	—	17	51
Trimmings	—	—	—	134
Calves :				
Heads	—	—	—	—
Trimmings	—	—	—	36
		1,894		3,574

Offal :

	Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
	No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)				
Lungs	7	54	112	742
Livers	1	15	261	3,918
Part Livers	—	—	240	1,414
Hearts	6	18	39	114
Spleens	—	—	13	22
Kidneys	—	—	8	8
Mesenteries	—	—	2	8
Skirts	4	6	12	20
Cows :				
Lungs	1	9	58	396
Livers	1	15	122	1,833
Part Livers	—	—	39	253
Hearts	—	—	2	6
Spleens	1	2	1	2
Kidneys	—	—	2	2
Pigs :				
Lungs	3	2	974	489
Livers	2	5	239	578
Part Livers	—	—	93	90
Hearts	2	1	127	68
Spleens	—	—	6	3
Mesenteries	1	1	—	—
Kidneys	—	—	6	2
Leaf fat	—	—	1	3
Sheep :				
Lungs	—	—	660	338
Livers	—	—	250	495
Part Livers	—	—	280	210
Hearts	—	—	31	16
Spleens	—	—	14	9
Calves :				
Lungs	—	—	3	1
Livers	—	—	2	2
Hearts	—	—	1	1
Spleens	—	—	1	1
		128		11,044

## **Disposal of condemned meat**

The scheme introduced during 1960 under the Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations of that year, for the regular collection by the Council of condemned meat from slaughterhouses, came under criticism early in 1961 on the ground that the Regulations gave no power to incur the cost. This opinion was confirmed by Counsel. The problem however was to find a satisfactory alternative. The scheme was working well ; the trade, after some initial misgivings, had accepted it with good grace, and the benefits set out in the 1960 report (at page 33) were undeniable. No-one had suggested an alternative which would provide the requisite safeguards, and it therefore became necessary to look elsewhere for the authority to continue. Recourse was had to section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which empowers the Council to undertake the removal of 'trade refuse.' It was not denied that slaughterhouse waste products must be included in that definition, and the only remaining difficulty was the obligation on the Council to charge for the service. The Council's standard charges are however modest, and proved to be little more than a minor irritation to the trade, which has accepted the position. Legal and accounting honour having thus been satisfied the scheme continues quite successfully, with the Council's approval.

## **Other food**

A total weight of 265lbs. of miscellaneous foods mainly tinned, was condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners.

## **Slaughterhouses (Reports) Direction, 1959**

The Council's report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the slaughtering facilities of the district was accepted without modification, and the new Regulations as they affected existing slaughterhouses were brought into operation on the 1st January, 1962. In the event, eight slaughterhouses remained in use at the end of the year ; one other, which had been expected to comply by the prescribed date, did not do so and its use then ceased. In no case were the new Regulations fully complied with at the operative date, although substantial improvements were in hand and were well advanced. The issue of short-term licences was therefore recommended, pending completion of the outstanding works.

The case of the largest slaughterhouse in the district, engaged principally in the wholesale trade, presented an unusually difficult drainage problem, which although capable of solution, involved extensive and costly capital works. The owners were advised to consult industrial sewage specialists regarding the design of plant, and did so. Their proposals had not been formally approved at the end of the year, and a licence was recommended for a year in this case, subject to the drainage works being substantially completed by the date of the next renewal application.

## Food premises

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery.....	76
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	63
Bread and cakes .....	8
Sweets and confectionery .....	33
Greengrocery .....	34
Butchery .....	43
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	19
Restaurants, cafes, etc. ....	33
Hotels and licensed premises .....	70
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food) .....	18
Industrial catering .....	13
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district .....	59
Bakehouses .....	8

477

The number of mobile shops (59) comprises all those which are known to be operating in the district irrespective of origin. The 1960 report included only those which were based on premises within the Rural District and not those coming in from other areas.

### 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 .....	146
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat .....	18
Fish frying .....	12

### Food Hygiene Regulations

The general standard of hygiene in food premises continues to be good but the following contraventions were discovered in the course of routine inspections. Informal action was sufficient in all cases.

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	14
Sink and/or wash-hand basin defective or absent .....	13
Inadequate lighting .....	2
Closets defective or absent .....	6
Structural defects .....	7
Drains defective or absent .....	1
Dirty equipment .....	5
Ventilation .....	3
Dirty premises.....	10
Decoration unsatisfactory .....	10
No separate space for storage of clothing	5
Mobile shops without name and address	6
Lack of attention to personal hygiene .....	9
Inadequate premises .....	4

95

## Complaints relating to food

Complaints received and investigated alleging unfit food included the following. In most cases a specimen was submitted to the public analyst whose conclusions are given.

1. Foreign body in steak and kidney pie—contained protein, fat and starchy matter.
2. Cereal beetles in semolina—contained 46 dead beetles, 61 dead larvae and 3 live larvae.
3. Two small flies in a bottle of milk.
4. Mineral matter in a bottle of pasteurised milk—contained sand and other siliceous matter, also iron.
5. Particles of grit inside a bottle of pasteurised milk.
6. Sweet (made in France) discoloured—discoloration not due to any foreign matter. Trace of sandy matter.
7. Foreign matter inside a bottle of orangeade—film of a mass of mould hyphae and spores.
8. Half-inch piece of wire inside a malt loaf.

A similar list appeared in the report for 1960. Until the last few years such complaints in this district were uncommon, but it is improbable that standards in the food trade have now deteriorated. A more likely explanation is that the public are increasingly aware of the need for clean and wholesome food and tend to appeal more to official authority, rather than complain directly to the traders concerned. Although mechanical handling of food is continually being developed, the human element remains, and it is still fallible. So too are the machines. Only rarely do these incidents arise from neglect or indifference. Many are pure accidents, and whilst the trader's obligations are absolute in law, it does not necessarily follow that punishment by the courts secures the greatest improvement. Indeed more progress can often be made by informal approaches, thus retaining the goodwill without which enforcement might well become impracticable.

After careful consideration of the circumstances, none of these cases was taken before the justices, but warnings were given where appropriate.

## Milk and Dairies

The following distributors of milk are registered :—

Retail dairymen resident in the district...	21
Shopkeepers selling milk in bottles only	73

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences were issued to 47 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases, and in six cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

### AIR POLLUTION

Grit gauges for measuring total solid deposits in the air, and lead peroxide candles for determining the sulphur content, were continued in operation on behalf of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, with the following results :—

(a) Grit deposits, in tons per square mile per month :—

Situation of gauge	1961	Average 1951-1960	Average 1955-1960
Lea Marston .. .. .	16.04	17.01	—
Bacons End, Kingshurst .. .. .	11.36	11.71	—
Nether Whitacre .. .. .	13.96	—	12.17
Coleshill .. .. .	15.59	—	10.41
Bennetts Road, Keresley .. .. .	12.53	—	—

The first four gauges are used in relation to pollution from the Hams Hall generating stations of the Central Electricity Generating Board. The Keresley gauge is near to the Coventry Colliery, where grit from a chimney serving a series of hand-fired boilers has been a problem.

(b) Sulphur, expressed in empirical units :—

Situation of instrument	1961	Average 1951-1960
Lea Marston (average of 8 instruments) .. .. .	0.97	1.00
Bacons End, Kingshurst .. .. .	1.10	1.07
Keresley .. .. .	0.54	—

Annual rainfall at Lea Marston was 23.27 inches, compared with an average of 26.82 inches for the years 1951-1960.

In view of the erection of a new Lurgi complete gasification plant on a site at Gorsey Lane, Coleshill (work on which is proceeding) arrangements were put in hand for the provision of additional grit gauges in the locality. It is hoped to have them operating early enough to provide comparative figures of air pollution before and after the start of production at the new plant.

## **Propaganda**

A "clean air" exhibition, based on a display stand lent by the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, was staged at Kingshurst High School during May. The school was selected because senior scholars there were co-operating with the Warwickshire Clean Air Council in operating daily smoke filter instruments for the assessment of domestic smoke in the air.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The complex procedure under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, for dealing with applications in respect of existing sites, was operated and became effective during the year in a number of cases. The Council's model conditions, adopted during 1960, were framed on the basis of relatively long-term planning permissions and site licences. However, the County Council as planning authority granted only short-term planning consents in several cases, and it became unreasonable to impose the full licensing conditions, which had to be modified accordingly. In other cases, where the 'run-down' procedure was operated, similar relaxations of conditions were made, particularly with regard to the provision of access roads and drainage facilities.

The overall effect of the new Act so far has been the clearance of one site for 12 caravans where the owner would not meet the cost of making the improvements required, the 'running down' of several other sites with a view to their ultimate closing and improved amenities on those sites which will continue in operation. It seems also to have virtually stopped the flow of new applications, other than for single caravans, by removing the former attraction of substantial rents with only nominal capital outlay.

Two objections to the licensing conditions imposed were due for hearing by the justices, but were adjourned at the Council's request, pending decisions on planning appeals which had been made in respect of the same sites.

At the end of the year, eleven site licences had been issued, permitting a total of 170 caravans.

## **Legal proceedings**

A case against a Berkswell farmer for permitting unlicensed land in his occupation to be used as a caravan site in excess of the permitted period was heard by the Solihull justices, after an adjournment, on the 11th January, 1962, and a fine of £5 imposed with £6 10s. 0d. costs. This defendant had previously been fined by the same court for a similar offence under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The caravans were removed by the date of the adjourned hearing.

Similar proceedings were taken before the Solihull court in respect of the use of land at Balsall Common as a caravan site without a licence. The owner of the land, who pleaded mitigating circumstances, was given an absolute discharge on payment of costs. The single caravan involved ceased to be occupied a few days later.

### RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of work done during the year :—

Premises inspected .....	405
Premises found to be infested and subsequently treated—	
(a) domestic .....	320
(b) business .....	54.....
Second treatments .....	30
Third treatments .....	3
Premises cleared .....	374
Premises not completely cleared .....	—
Number of dead rats found .....	157
Treatments of sewage works .....	15
Treatments of refuse tips .....	7
Sewer manholes baited and poisoned .....	73

Only one rodent operator is employed and he also has other duties. It is not therefore practicable for the Council to contract for the treatment of agricultural premises, although some visits are made and advice offered. In any event the Council, being the authority under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, do not regard it as compatible with their duties to accept for a fee the responsibility imposed by statute on people against whom they have enforcement powers.

### AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of the Act enable the Council to require the provision and maintenance at agricultural holdings of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences for the use of employees. It will be noted that the power is permissive and that the Council are not compelled to seek out contraventions and take enforcement action. However from correspondence with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the year it became evident that the Council were expected to carry out a survey of all the agricultural holdings in the area.



Whilst the right of agricultural workers to proper sanitary provision is not questioned, the process of investigation and enforcement in a scattered rural area is unduly burdensome. The number of agricultural holdings is estimated to be well in excess of 500. General inspections of the district over several years have indicated little need for vigorous action in the matter, most of the holdings being relatively small, and the employees few.

A previous attempt at making a survey two years earlier had failed due to loss of staff, but arrangements were made towards the end of 1961 for a fresh start to be made, combining the visits where possible with enquiries about water supplies, rodent infestations and other matters.

The fact that the provision of washing facilities is enforced by the Ministry and not by the Council must lead to a wasteful duplication of visits.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Registration of a pet shop at Water Orton was effected during the year, this being the first case in the district since the Act came into operation.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

#### Inspections

Premises  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	138	29	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	35	15	—	—
Total ..	176	44	—	—

## Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)   By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	5	5	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	2	2	—	—	—
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

## Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing	6	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons etc. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	9	—	—	—	—	—

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The village scheme for Hampton-in-Arden was completed apart from reinstatement of the fields previously used for land irrigation, and a village scheme for Bickenhill was commenced and completed, during the year.

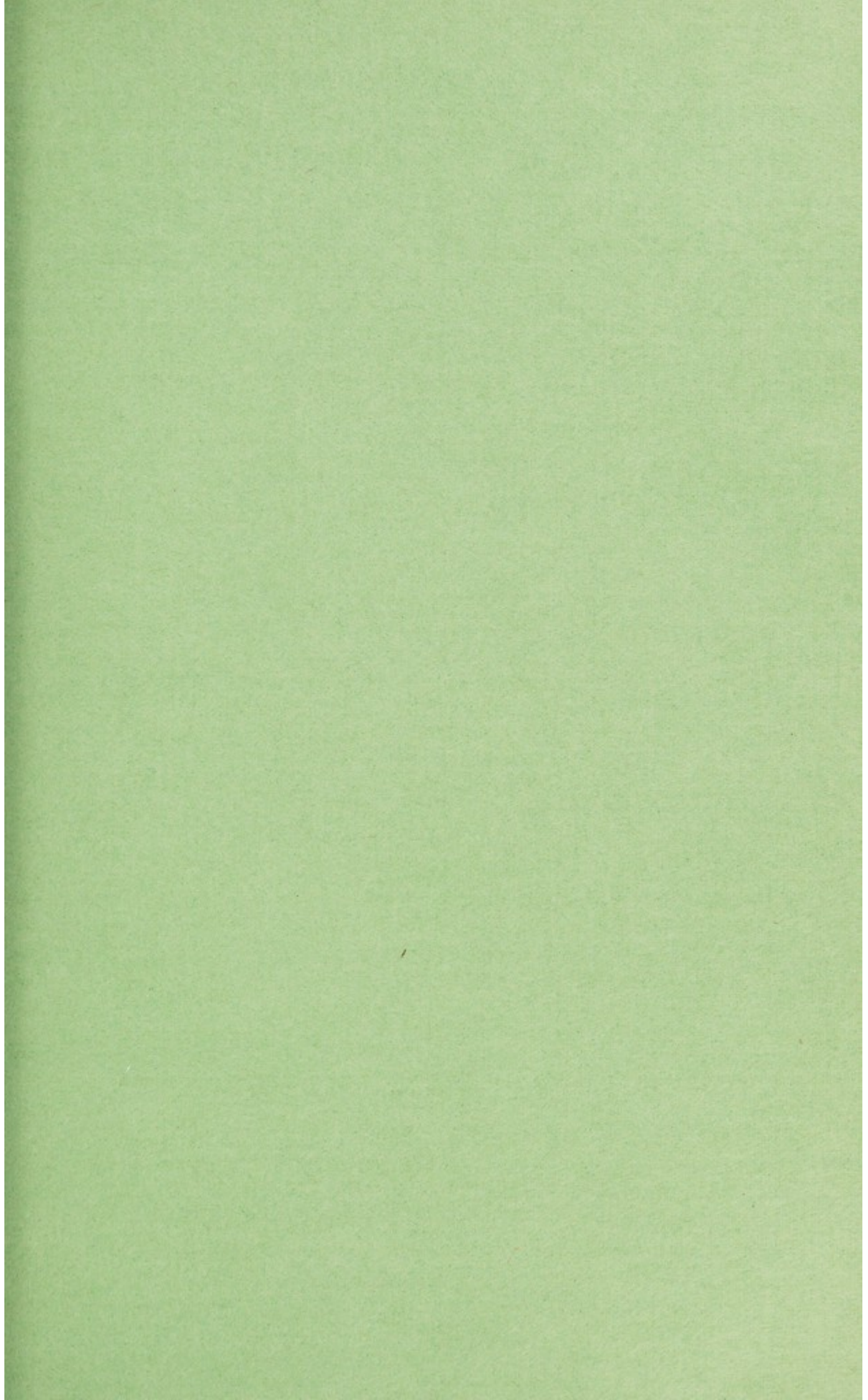
Sewer extensions were carried out in Meriden Village and Shustoke Village. A scheme for sewerage at Burton Green prepared by Warwick Rural District Council which affords facilities for a number of houses in Meriden Rural District to be drained was approved by the Ministry.

A scheme of improved sewerage arrangements for the Parish of Castle Bromwich to meet the requirements of rapid expansion was submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Consultants were also instructed to prepare a scheme of improved sewage disposal arrangements for the parish of Arley.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection services have operated satisfactorily during the year. Further progress has been made towards the replacement of pail closets and since the approach to owners of properties in 1960, 133 pail closets have been replaced and proposals have been approved in respect of a further 70 pail closets.



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