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**RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1962**







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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Regulation 5(3) and 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 1962. 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 them will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer.

The population of the District further increased by 2,580 to 60,430—more than three-fold compared with the 1961 increase and some 200 more than that for 1960, and, as expected, mostly in the Parish of Kingshurst where the large-scale overspill re-housing by Birmingham Corporation continued but at a slower rate as the scheme approached completion due in 1964.

On the whole, the general health of the community was good with no major outbreaks of infectious or communicable disease.

For the thirteenth successive year no cases of diphtheria occurred and the ready co-operation of parents regarding preventive inoculation of their children is a welcome contribution to this satisfactory state of affairs.

The incidence of dysentery almost quadrupled but only in keeping with the over-all increase in England and Wales and causing no deaths.

For the fifth successive year, poliomyelitis was not reported and details of the vaccination campaign will be found in the body of this Report. As mentioned in my Report for 1961 the response from the "grown-ups" continued to fall and in this connection it would appear to be a case of absence engendering apathy.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis fell by almost one third to 19 cases, the majority in persons over 25 years of age and with 5 deaths of which 4 occurred in persons over 55.

Food poisoning was notified in 9 persons all under 15 years without serious complications.

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 slightly to 9,070.

Nuisances reported by affected persons decreased from 500 to almost 400 compared with the previous year and included over-

flowing cesspools, obstructed drains and sewers—nearly one third of the total—and a similar proportion of housing defects.

Regarding housing, the completion of the Council's scheme for 104 dwellings at the No. 3 site, Stonebridge Road, Coleshill provided a much needed 63 additional houses which included 8 bungalows and 18 flats for the older age-groups. Since the end of the year under review a second community centre and warden's house have been occupied and both centres were declared "open" by The Lord Balniel, M.P., at a pleasant ceremony on the 17th May, 1963.

The necessity for the re-housing of slum clearance cases continued to absorb almost all new units of accommodation and again exceeded those available for general needs. In fact, with 574 names on the "waiting-list" at the end of the year the position had deteriorated by 16 per cent. Gross overcrowding hardly occurs and the absence of tenements now termed "houses in multiple occupation" is noteworthy.

The slum clearance programme continued in orderly fashion, one new clearance order affecting 8 houses being made and 27 demolition orders in respect of single dwellings.

While 35 houses were pulled down it is pleasing to record that a like number were rendered "fit" by their owners.

At the end of the year the Council owned 1,816 dwellings comprising 10.2 per cent. of the total inhabited dwellings in the District.

The Birmingham and Coventry Water Departments supplied the bulk of the "mains" water with contributions by the N.E. Warwickshire Water Board (Parishes of Arley and Astley) and the S. Staffs Waterworks Co., (Parish of Wishaw and Moxhull). The overall ratio of house/pipe-borne supplies rose from 95.7 per cent. to 98.14 per cent. covering 16,878 of the 17,198 homesteads in the District. This increased reticulation came about by the completion of 10 small schemes approved in 1960-62 serving 62 properties. Four further small schemes embracing 14 houses were approved but not commenced during the year. Thus, steady progress towards 100 per cent. provision by water-mains is being made and in order to assess the over-all needs of the District the survey commenced in 1961 was completed and makes interesting reading. This revealed some 320 dwellings not connected to a proper mains supply. The majority are situated in Fillongley Parish (95 out of 433 houses), followed by Maxstoke (34 : 85) and Packington (30 : 65) with the remaining parishes to a lesser degree. The provision of supplies in these areas is likely to be more costly than hitherto experienced and is still under discussion.

Despite increased slaughtering at the eight licensed houses inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption

by sale was carried out. Compared with the previous year, the total number of carcasses examined increased by 5,584 to the large total of 39,083. With the exception of calves which increased by only 50, the bovine group swelled by some 700, sheep and lambs by almost 3,000 and pigs by 1,700 units. This large amount of meat was much in excess of local needs, and therefore, enabled advantage to be taken of the Ministry's balancing grant. The proportion of meat or other organs condemned continued at a relatively low level although, contrary to expectations, the incidence of tuberculosis increased slightly. Less than 1 per cent. of cattle (excluding cows) were found infected with the cystic stage of the human tapeworm (cysticercosis or "measles") including three whole carcasses condemned on this account.

Another important part of the routine work of the department in connection with the safeguarding of food is the inspection of premises where such is prepared and/or sold. In all, some 518 were visited including 80 mobile shops and 100 places where food is consumed.

Although the number of vendors increased by only 41 compared with the 1961 figure the number of defects recorded (190) doubled—chiefly dirty premises, bad personal hygiene and dirty equipment in the order given and revealing an unsatisfactory state of affairs for which there is no valid excuse at the present time.

Maintaining its interest in problems arising from atmospheric pollution your Authority continued with its membership of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council of which quarterly meetings were held at Leamington Spa and Coventry.

Measurement of grit and sulphur dioxide revealed a substantial fall in the former and a decided increase in the latter since 1948 when recording began. As stated in previous reports, emissions from modern, tall industrial chimneys are largely permanently dispersed at high levels thereby contributing a decreasing amount to ground level. Therefore, it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the chief offender remains the ordinary "man-in-the-street" with his domestic fireplace fouling the air he must perforce breathe.

During the year an unusual but valuable survey begun in 1961 was completed. This was an examination of farm holdings under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 in respect of "toilet" accommodation for employed workers. This time-consuming operation entailed 657 visits to 498 farms of which only 15 were found unsatisfactory on the 233 holdings where paid labour was present—almost four out of five of all the farms have "flush toilets", the majority of which are connected to cesspits.

In the compilation of this composite and necessarily brief Report many sections have been contributed by my Chief Public Health Inspector to whom I am especially grateful. Again, I am

much indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for information regarding sewerage and sewage disposal as well as refuse collection.

In conclusion, I hasten to record my appreciation of the zealous work of a keen, eager inspectorate and other members of the staff and the ready co-operation and help from the members of the other departments. In so doing I wish to express my thanks for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. McELROY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,  
COLESHILL.  
September, 1963.

# MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962

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## Chairman of the Council :

R. J. EARLE

## Vice-Chairman of the Council :

J. D. STEWART, J.P.

## Clerk of the Council :

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

## Public Health Committee : 1962-63

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

## Housing Committee : 1962-63

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1962**

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**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.**

**J. R. M. WALKER, M.A.P.H.I.**

**Chief Clerk :**

**J. D. MYNARD, L.M.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. 1962) .....	60,430
Population (Census 1951) .....	38,075
„ ( „ 1961) .....	57,520
Area in acres .....	61,775
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1962) .....	17,740
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1962) .....	£988,808
Product of a penny rate .....	£4,161

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	567	563	1,130
Illegitimate .....	26	15	41
Totals .....	593	578	1,171

### Birth Rate

19.37 per 1,000 estimated population

1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
19.37	19.60	20.20	19.08	20.03	18.55	17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent of total Live Births) = ~~3.50~~ 3.50

### Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	9	15	24
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	9	15	24

### Still Birth Rate

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

1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
20.08	16.5	14.52	16.05	20.58	18.18	21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81

Total Live and Stillbirths = 1,195

### Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	233	194	427

### Crude Death Rate

7.06 per 1,000 estimated population.

1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
7.06	7.11	7.33	7.03	7.36	6.91	7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8

# Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	3	1	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other .....	—	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease .....	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8.	Measles .....	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	2	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	9	5	14
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	10	2	12
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	9	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	18	46
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	2	1	3
16.	Diabetes .....	2	4	6
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	24	25	49
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	44	23	67
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	4	4	8
20.	Other heart disease .....	13	19	32
21.	Other circulatory disease .....	7	8	15
22.	Influenza .....	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia .....	16	17	33
24.	Bronchitis .....	12	9	21
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	2	3	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	3	2	5
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis .....	3	2	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations .....	6	3	9
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	17	22	39
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	11	3	14
34.	All other accidents .....	6	8	14
35.	Suicide .....	5	—	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
37.	All causes .....	233	194	427

## Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
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
1962 ..	60,430	1,171	427	+744

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

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

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	13	9	22
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	13	9	22

### Infant Mortality Rate.

18.78 per 1,000 births.

1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
18.78	15.01	17.34	14.39	16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7

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

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	8	7	15
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	8	7	15

Neonatal Death Rate .. 12.8 per 1,000 live births.  
(first four weeks)

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births  
19.46

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate live births  
Nil

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per  
1,000 total live births)  
11.95

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	7	7	14
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	7	7	14

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one  
week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)  
31.79

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

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
<b>Births</b>		
Live Births ..	*17.04	18.0
Still Births ..	20.08(a)	18.1(a)
<b>Deaths</b>		
All causes .. ..	*10.73	11.9
Infant Mortality ..	18.78(b)	21.4(b)
Neonatal mortality	12.8 (b)	

\* Using comparability factors (Births 0.88 and Deaths 1.52).

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

(b) per 1,000 live births.

#### Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms .. ..	49	38	87

Cancer Death Rate = 1.43 per 1,000 estimated population.

## **Population**

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 60,430—an increase of 2,680 over the 1961 total of 57,750, still mostly in the Parish of Kingshurst.

## **Births**

The standardised Birth Rate of 17.04 per 1,000 estimated population was slightly lower than the figure for England and Wales (18.0). For the past few years the reverse was the case and the decline appears to indicate a levelling out of the production of children by newly married couples in the recently developed areas such as Kingshurst and Balsall.

## **Deaths**

The comparative Death Rate of 10.73 per 1,000 population was again less than the countrywide amount of 11.9 for England and Wales which, in turn, was smaller than the previous year. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart, cancer and vascular lesions of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. As in 1961, cancer in various forms caused 89 deaths. Of these, 12 were due to lung cancer—six less than last year affecting 10 males and two females.

For the eleventh year in succession no mothers died in childbirth.

## **National Assistance Act, 1948**

Although many cases were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation it is pleasing to report that in no instance was statutory action necessary on my part for compulsory removal 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 1962.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1961 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 .....	93 (1,980)	2	42	45	2	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	11 (49)	2	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	6 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	15 (36)	—	2	11	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	17 (35)	—	1	3	—	5	1	7	7	33
Malaria .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	158 (46)	4	36	66	10	42	—	—	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	79 (98)	—	—	—	52	27	—	—	79	—
Meningococcal Infection .....	1 (1)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	22 (8)	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	19 (27)	—	—	3	2	8	5	1	—	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	3 (4)	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning .....	9 (7)	—	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	433 (2,293)	30	86	138	73	86	11	9	114	38

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

Notifiable Disease	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
Measles .....	93	1,980	21	344	619	1,006	7	705	155	467
Whooping Cough	11	49	71	72	20	112	118	57	173	266
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	6	2	4	2	5	3	5	3	3	1
Enteric Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever....	15	36	35	54	46	15	92	28	20	30
Pneumonia ....	17	35	23	63	42	48	25	40	22	30
Malaria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	158	46	48	96	41	36	122	60	8	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	79	98	67	98	111	118	100	73	97	95
Meningococcal Infection ....	1	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomye- litis : Paralytic ....	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	6	-	3
Non-paralytic..	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	3
Acute Infective Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia .... Neonatorum ..	22	8	3	8	24	34	23	7	14	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	19	27	19	15	33	18	26	31	34	23
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	3	4	4	4	2	3	2	5	11	9
Food Poisoning..	9	7	17	11	2	-	2	11	19	8
Totals .....	433	2,293	313	769	945	1,405	525	1,030	557	958

## General Comment

Compared with 1961, notifications of infectious diseases declined sharply from 2,293 to 433 mostly due to a fall in the incidence of measles in keeping with the bi-ennial periodicity of the disease.

## Measles

As mentioned above the incidence fell from nearly 2,000 cases to 93 and included two adults. Reports on the production of a vaccine indicate that difficulties arising from untoward side-effects have yet to be overcome.

## Whooping Cough

Cases reported fell from 49 to 11—the lowest for eleven years and it is reasonable to conclude that this satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to vaccination.

The following table gives details of the immunisation campaign where, for the most part, the injection against whooping cough is combined with those against diphtheria and tetanus. It is pleasing to record that the total number of children inoculated increased from 1,071 to 1,621.

**Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1962.**

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary .....	657	291	27	17	3	995
Reinforcing ....	11	496	59	52	8	626
Totals .....	668	787	86	69	11	1621

## Diphtheria

For the thirteenth successive year no cases have been notified but this satisfactory state of affairs gives no ground for complacency because the disease still does occur in this country and 19 cases with 2 deaths were recorded in 1962.

The Table sub-pended summarises the work undertaken by general practitioners and County Council Staff.

**Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1962**

(Comparative figures for 1961 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary .....	666 (897)	295 (141)	34 (90)	30 (57)	11 (36)	1,036 (1,221)
Re-inforcing ....	11 (—)	515 (72)	281 (179)	457 (662)	261 (478)	1,525 (1,371)
Totals .....	677 (897)	810 (213)	315 (269)	487 (719)	272 (514)	2,561 (2,592)

**Smallpox**

The repercussions of the outbreak of smallpox in the Home Counties, the Midlands and South Wales are reflected in the great increase in vaccination shown in the accompanying Table which makes interesting reading. In all, 13,784 persons were protected—6,799 for the first time and ample evidence of apathy on the part of parents who, hitherto, had turned a deaf ear to constant appeals for this life-saving procedure.

**Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1962**

(Comparative figures for 1961 are given in parenthesis).

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated .....	678 (335)	370 (169)	442 (45)	2,137 (51)	3,172 (34)	6,799 (634)
Re-Vaccinated ..	7 (—)	7 (—)	97 (1)	1,477 (8)	5,397 (88)	6,985 (97)
Totals .....	685 (335)	377 (169)	539 (46)	3,614 (59)	8,569 (112)	13,784 (731)

In my capacity as one of the Minister of Health's advisers I was called out on 8 occasions in suspected cases, none of which were deemed or eventually proved to be smallpox.

**Scarlet Fever**

The incidence of 15 cases was less than half that of the 1961 figure (36) with two-thirds of the patients in the 5-15 year age group, i.e. in school children. All were of the prevalent, mild nature.

## Pneumonia

Despite the very severe winter only 17 notifications came to hand including 7 persons over 65 years of age and 7 cases removed to hospital. In all, 33 deaths were recorded the excess of 16 relating to fatalities where pneumonia was only a secondary cause of mortality.

## Dysentery

Reports rose sharply to 146 compared with 46 for 1961 and 48 for 1960—the last previous highest figure being 122 in 1956. This increase was part of a general rise throughout England and Wales and for the most part infection occurred in the 5-15 years age group. One residential institution for children was affected and some difficulty was experienced in eradicating the infective organism of the Sonnei Group common to all the cases and likely to be present in many healthy persons who are unaware they are symptomless excretors of the causative germs, otherwise known as “carriers”. Hence the need for strict attention to personal hygiene such as hand-washing cannot be too strongly emphasised.

## Puerperal Pyrexia

Notifications decreased from 98 to 79 with the great majority from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where admissions for the year were 3,921 so that the incidence was relatively low.

## Acute Poliomyelitis

For the fifth successive year no cases came to light and the following Table summarises 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, 1962

Age	Primary		Booster		Fourths		Totals		Grand Totals
	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	
0-15 years	238	19,960	876	17,703	405	7,530	1,519	44,220	46,739
15-25 years	44	4,883	202	3,956	5	—	251	8,839	9,090
25-40 years	275	3,824	104	4,563	4	—	383	8,387	8,770
Expectant Mothers	5	1,201	27	1,184	1	—	33	2,385	2,418
Others ..	30	1,109	138	948	2	—	170	2,057	2,227
Totals ..	592	30,977	1,347	28,381	417	7,530	2,356	66,888	69,244

## Tuberculosis

During the year 20 new cases of pulmonary and 3 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 27 and 4 cases respectively in 1961. Eight "chest" cases were admitted to hospital. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 29 and 1 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, 1962

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1961 .....	172	134	19	29
2. New Cases .....	15	5	—	3
3. Inward Transfers .....	16	13	—	1
4. Removals .....	14	9	2	2
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1962 .....	189	143	17	31

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, 1962

	Men	Women	Children	Total Patients	Total attendances
Pulmonary ....	117	105	16	238	—
Non-Pulmonary	5	14	9	28	—
Other Cases ....	—	—	—	304	—
Totals .....	122	119	25	670	1,346

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 66 children were vaccinated.

# No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1962

Men	Women	Children	Total
—	4	66	70

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 (15) in the 15-55 age groups compared with females (5) affected demonstrating the greater degree of exposure to infection by men as would be expected. It is also noteworthy that one male and one female over the age of 65 were diagnosed among the "chest" cases with one male death—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 1962

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

### Mass Radiography Survey

During the year 1,241 males and 294 females—a total of 1,535 persons were examined by the Coventry Unit administered by Dr. A. Gordon Evans who notes in his Annual Report a “decrease in response to Public Surveys” and “feels that the public should be educated to the fact that pulmonary tuberculosis is by no means conquered.”

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 Examination during the year 1962

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested . . . . .	11	Nil

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of Burton Green in accordance with the scheme prepared by Warwick Rural District Council was commenced and had made good progress by the end of the year. It was decided to participate in a similar joint scheme with that Council in respect of the Chadwick End area of Balsall. A scheme of sewer extensions in Balsall Street was prepared and tenders received with a view to approval by the Ministry. It was also decided that a scheme for the sewerage of Nether Whitacre should be prepared, and the design was commenced.

During the year a public convenience was erected in Castle Bromwich, and several other parishes expressed a wish for similar provision to be made in their main villages.

### 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, 182 pail closets have been replaced and proposals have been approved in respect of a further 72 pail closets.

During the year extensions to the council depot including better sanitation provision, shower baths and messroom facilities, were provided for the outdoor staff.

# Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following inspections and visits were made :—

Houses : Inspected and recorded .....	72
Other visits .....	1,084
Overcrowding .....	26
Rent Act .....	15
Nuisances .....	644
Clean Air Act .....	366
Food examination .....	1,959
Slaughterhouses .....	80
Food Premises .....	404
Food stalls and vehicles .....	100
Bakehouses .....	9
Dairies .....	9
Water Supplies .....	580
Moveable dwellings .....	483
Factories : Non-power .....	—
Power .....	17
Other premises .....	10
Noise Abatement Act .....	63
Shops Act, section 38 .....	26
National Assistance Act, section 50 .....	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act .....	1,432
Sewers and drains .....	247
Closet conversions .....	20
Infectious diseases .....	815
Pet Animals Act .....	8
Agriculture, (Safety, Health, and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 (survey) .....	535
Miscellaneous .....	59
	<hr/>
	9,070
	<hr/>

Complaints received and investigated—791.

## NUISANCES

Nuisances were reported and dealt with as follows :—

Accumulations of refuse .....	19
Animals so kept .....	15
Cesspools overflowing .....	26
Closets defective and insanitary .....	15
Obstructed drains and sewers .....	123
Dustbins defective or absent .....	3
Foul ditches and watercourses .....	38
Smoke, dust and effluvia .....	18
Dirty houses (occupiers' neglect) .....	4
Housing defects :	
Dampness .....	12
Defective walls.....	9
„    roofs .....	16
„    chimneys .....	5
„    windows and doors .....	19
„    rainwater conductors .....	16
„    wall and ceiling plaster .....	12
„    floors .....	3
„    firegrates .....	5
„    sanitary conveniences .....	13
Unsatisfactory water supplies .....	23
<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
394	
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The problem of wind-borne dust from the ash dumps at the Hams Hall electricity generating stations recurred in June, 1962, when further complaints were received from the Whitacre Heath area. Informal requests to the engineer-in-charge resulted in prompt measures to abate the nuisance, which has not since recurred on any scale. The provision of a private bridge across the River Tame has avoided the need for using public roads for the transport of ash slurry to the gravel workings at Birmingham Road, Nether Whitacre. A substantial quantity of ash is now being transported by road to a disposal site at Coventry Road, Coleshill, but no complaint of nuisance has arisen.

## HOUSING

The Council's housing scheme at Stonebridge Road, Coleshill (No. 3 site), on which work was proceeding at the end of 1961, was completed during the year, providing an additional 63 dwellings as follows :—

	8 bungalows for old people
	18 flats for old people
	9 1-bedroom flats
	27 3-bedroom houses
	1 2-bedroom house (for warden)
<hr/>	
Total ..	63
<hr/>	

The scheme, comprising altogether 104 dwellings, includes welfare facilities for elderly tenants on a more advanced scale than anything previously undertaken by the Council. A special annual grant towards the cost of the welfare facilities is paid by the County Council, and the old people's dwellings are proving so popular that objections to moving from familiar surroundings have almost disappeared. The demand for accommodation of this type continues to grow, and proposals are in hand for a similar communal centre at Meriden.

In addition to the 63 new houses, 49 existing houses became vacant and were re-let. The 112 families re-housed during the year were classified as follows :—

Slum clearance .....	54
General needs .....	35
Old people (other than slum clearance) .....	13
Special cases (all "tied" tenancies) :—	
Agriculture .....	1
Police .....	2
Teacher .....	1
Nurse .....	1
Clergy .....	1
Warden .....	1
Council staff .....	1
Council caretaker .....	1
County Council, for firemen .....	1
<hr/>	
Total .. .. .	112
<hr/>	

## Housing Applications

The list of applications, reviewed at frequent intervals to keep it as up-to-date as practicable, stood at 574 cases at the end of the year, compared with 495 in December, 1961. Thus it appears that progress made in reducing the waiting list during 1961 has again been lost, despite the provision of 104 houses at Coleshill.

This is mainly due to the rapid increase in the population of the district. The slum clearance programme, too, has affected the position. From 1956 to 1961, when housing subsidies were available only for slum clearance and for old people's dwellings, no provision at all was made for general needs. Applicants not in priority groups were thus dependent on the few casual vacancies, some of which also went to slum clearance cases. Of the Council houses built since 1955, all but eight have been let, directly or indirectly, to slum clearance cases, or to old people. A few other 'general needs' cases have been dealt with incidentally under one or other of these priority groups.

While the impetus of slum clearance is likely to lessen somewhat in the future, there are houses already condemned for which no replacement provision has yet been possible.

An unwelcome feature which became evident towards the end of the year was an increase in the number of eviction cases. Efforts are made wherever possible to accommodate people made homeless through no fault of their own. However, eviction cases cannot always be given preference over other applicants, many of whom have been obliged to endure difficult living conditions for a good many years. The result is that some evicted families must be left to fend for themselves, causing hardship and, in some cases, further overcrowding of existing houses.

The Council's only case of slum clearance in reverse was concluded at the end of the year. Two cottages at Barston, the subject of a pre-war clearance order, had been converted to one house and improved in stages by successive owners, each with the knowledge that the law did not then permit the order to be withdrawn. The present owner-occupier, taking advantage of the new power contained in the Housing Act, 1961, applied for a revocation order. The property was still unfit in certain material respects, but he was given an opportunity to make the requisite improvements, and when he had done so the Council made a revocation order which was subsequently confirmed by the Minister.

A clearance order made in respect of a group of eight houses at Meriden was the subject of a local hearing by a Ministry inspector following objections by third parties and not by the owner. The Minister subsequently confirmed the order without modification and, somewhat surprisingly, charged the Council with the cost of the hearing.

## Slum Clearance

Steady progress with the slum clearance programme was made during the year, the main limiting factor being the rate of

provision of alternative accommodation. The following table summarizes the action taken during 1962 :—

#### Clearance Areas

Number of orders made .....	1
Number of houses affected.....	8
Number of orders confirmed .....	4
Number of houses demolished .....	10

#### Single Houses

Demolition orders made .....	27
Houses demolished .....	25
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for human habitation.....	4
Closing orders made .....	16
Demolition orders revoked.....	1

#### Houses made fit :—

Voluntarily by owners .....	33
by owners, after formal notices .....	2
By Council, in default of owners .....	—

#### Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year is given in the following table, and shows little change from 1961. Whilst due account is taken of overcrowding when assessing claims to Council tenancies, other factors must also be considered, and it seems inevitable that a few cases will remain whilst the shortage of houses continues.

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded .....	3
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded .....	6
No. of families involved .....	12
No. of persons involved .....	97
Cases relieved during year by Council .....	nil
Cases relieved during year otherwise .....	2

The problem of houses occupied by several families sharing the basic facilities, now popularly called 'houses in multiple occupation', has not arisen in the Council's area.

#### Rent Act, 1957

There was very little activity during the year. Action taken is summarized in the following table :—

Applications for certificates of disrepair (form I)....	4
Notices to landlords of intention to issue certificates of disrepair (form J) .....	4
Undertakings to do repairs received from landlords (form K) .....	4
Certificates of disrepair issued (form L) .....	nil
Applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair .....	nil
Certificates of disrepair cancelled on application, after repairs had been completed .....	nil

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following additional water mains were laid during the year :—

Locality	Length of main (yards)	Estimated cost £	Number of Properties to be served
(a) <i>Scheme approved during 1962</i>			
Lichfield Road, Curdworth	220	675	4
(b) <i>Schemes approved during 1961</i>			
Highfield Lane, Corley	305	750	2
Church Lane, Corley	700	1500	6
Plank Lane, Water Orton	70	240	1
Newhall Green, Fillongley	590	1925	5
Fen End Road, Balsall	2076	5460	15
(c) <i>Schemes approved during 1960</i>			
Coventry Road, Berkswell	1110	2540	9
Fivefield Road, Keresley	300	1070	5
Bickenhill Lane, Hampton-in-Arden	1750	4580	8
Bradnock's Marsh, Berkswell	590	1250	7

In addition, the following schemes were approved and ordered, although the work had not been started by the end of the year :—

Locality	Length of main (yards)	Estimated cost £	Number of Properties to be served
Lichfield Road, Water Orton	130	710	3
Shawberry Lane, Fillongley	900	3600	8
Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	165	750	2
Fivefield Road, Keresley	117	390	1

Further consideration was also given to a scheme, referred to in the 1961 report, for laying a main to serve five properties at Birmingham Road, Coleshill. Owing to the high cost (£3,400), means were sought of providing a long private service pipe from a shorter extension of the main. This was agreed by the water undertaking and by the owner concerned, but the latter asked for deferment in view of similar heavy commitments with other local property, and no further progress was made.

A proposal to lay 650 yards of main to four houses at Maxstoke, at an estimated cost of £2,100 was withdrawn on the owner agreeing to provide a private service pipe, with the consent of the water authority. The work has not yet been done.

### Survey of houses without public piped supplies

A survey, started in 1961, was completed during the year, to ascertain the extent to which public piped supplies were still needed. For this purpose, houses were regarded as having a water main available if there was one within a reasonable distance, whether or not a connection had in fact been made. The results, therefore, are not directly comparable with the figures published in previous reports, which were based on returns made by the respective water authorities of houses actually connected to the mains. The results of the survey are summarized in the following table :—

Parish	Total Houses	Houses without mains water available	Houses having water mains available			
			Birmingham Water Department	Coventry Water Department	N.E. W'shire Water Board	S. Staffs Waterworks Co.
Allesley .. .. .	1,204	2	—	1,202	—	—
Arley .. .. .	944	3	—	—	941	—
Astley .. .. .	65	10	—	—	55	—
Balsall .. .. .	1,030	19	—	1,011	—	—
Barston .. .. .	135	5	—	130	—	—
Berkswell .. .. .	670	12	—	658	—	—
Bickenhill .. .. .	932	11	921	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich .. .. .	2,844	—	2,844	—	—	—
Coleshill .. .. .	1,790	19	1,771	—	—	—
Corley .. .. .	244	4	—	240	—	—
Curdworth .. .. .	168	7	161	—	—	—
Fillongley .. .. .	433	95	334	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden .. .. .	445	11	—	434	—	—
Keresley .. .. .	1,086	1	—	1,085	—	—
Kingshurst .. .. .	2,890	3	2,887	—	—	—
Lea Marston .. .. .	87	11	76	—	—	—
Maxstoke .. .. .	85	34	51	—	—	—
Meriden .. .. .	556	16	—	540	—	—
Packington (Great and Little) .. .. .	65	30	—	35	—	—
Shustoke .. .. .	189	—	189	—	—	—
Water Orton .. .. .	885	1	884	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre .. .. .	277	3	274	—	—	—
Over Whitacre .. .. .	109	11	98	—	—	—
Wishaw and Moxhull .. .. .	65	12	—	—	—	53
	17,198	320	10,490	5,335	1,000	53

The resultant 320 houses without water mains represents only 1.86% of the houses in the district. The rest (98.14%) nearly all have mains supplies laid on. The few that are still unconnected have mains available within a reasonable distance, although not near enough in most cases for a connection to be compelled.

The preponderance of houses without satisfactory supplies at Fillongley and Packington will be noted. Packington in particular represents an intractable problem owing to the relative isolation of the houses from existing mains. A scheme for the Little Packington area was in fact prepared, but was deferred because of the high average cost per house, estimated to exceed £1,200.

### Sampling

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

<i>Nature of Source</i>	<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>	
	<i>Satis.</i>	<i>Unsatis.</i>	<i>Satis.</i>	<i>Unsatis.</i>
Old Wells	5	5	21	34
Springs	—	2	5	5
Mains	6	—	29	—
	11	7	55	39

### Connections to water mains

Two houses at Wood End Lane, Fillongley, were connected to the main by the owner, following the service of formal notices.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat inspection

The inspection of all meat killed in the district was continued throughout the year, and the Council again qualified for the Ministry grant for inspection carried out in excess of the standard requirements of the district.

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

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected . . . .	4,696	712	403	24,689	8,583
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	—	2	11	20	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	666	242	10	932	1,284
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci . . . . .	14.18	34.27	5.21	3.86	15.13
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	1	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	15	30	—	—	105
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis . . . . .	0.34	4.63	—	—	1.22
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	57	4	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion . . . . .	6	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—

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)	3	Cysticercus bovis .....	1,500
	1	Tuberculosis .....	205
	—		
	4		1,705
Cows	1	Congestion .....	590
	2	Tuberculosis, generalised .....	1,130
	1	Tuberculosis with emaciation .....	474
	1	Oedema, generalised .....	457
	—		
	5		2,651
Pigs	4	Emaciation, pathological .....	145
	2	Pneumonia, acute septic .....	295
	5	Fever .....	421
	1	Swine erysipelas, acute .....	390
	2	Oedema, generalised .....	256
	1	Immaturity .....	35
	—		
	15		1,542

# Whole Carcases continued :—

Animals	No.	Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Sheep	12	Oedema, generalised .....	365
	1	Fever .....	65
	1	Moribund .....	65
	1	Pneumonia, acute septic .....	60
	1	Tumours .....	40
	1	Metritis, acute septic .....	80
	3	Injuries .....	180
	—		
	20		855
	—		
Calves	1	Septicaemia .....	30
	3	Immaturity .....	100
	1	Oedema, generalised .....	50
	2	Pneumonia, acute septic .....	80
	1	Emaciation, pathological .....	32
	1	Jaundice .....	36
	2	Fever .....	68
	1	Pyæmia .....	40
	—		
	12		436
	—		

# Part Carcases :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Heads	4	129	49	1,490
	Trimblings	—	—	—	574
Cows :	Heads	6	185	12	350
	Trimblings	—	83	—	115
Pigs :	Heads	117	1,683	10	146
	Trimblings	—	30	—	139
Sheep :	Heads	—	—	17	50
	Trimblings	—	—	—	112
Calves :	Heads	—	—	—	—
	Trimblings	—	—	—	32
			2,110		3,008

Offal :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Lungs	13	75	189	1,034
	Livers	1	14	332	4,965
	Part Livers	—	—	213	1,280
	Hearts	3	10	37	114
	Spleens	—	—	32	48
	Kidneys	—	—	1	1
	Mesenteries	1	3	—	—
	Skirts	2	3	12	22
	Tongues	—	—	1	3
Cows :					
	Lungs	19	114	47	283
	Livers	4	58	172	2,722
	Part Livers	—	—	37	227
	Hearts	2	5	7	20
	Spleens	1	2	6	10
	Mesenteries	1	3	—	—
	Skirts	2	2	—	—
Pigs :					
	Lungs	2	1	1094	539
	Livers	—	—	287	719
	Part Livers	—	—	88	84
	Hearts	1	1	154	73
	Spleens	—	—	3	2
	Kidneys	—	—	4	2
Sheep :					
	Lungs	—	—	704	347
	Livers	—	—	359	709
	Part Livers	—	—	278	213
	Hearts	—	—	31	14
	Spleens	—	—	18	8
Calves :					
	Lungs	—	—	1	1
	Livers	—	—	1	2
	Spleens	—	—	1	1
			291		13,443

All condemned meat is collected by the Council and delivered to a firm of fertilizer manufacturers, the process being under the supervision of a neighbouring local authority.

### Other food

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

886lbs. miscellaneous tinned foods.  
417 lbs. meat.

### Slaughterhouses

Eight licensed slaughterhouses remained in use at the end of the year, compared with 22 in 1939. Some minor items of non-compliance with the Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations were not thought to justify withholding the licenses, as the requisite works were in hand. The drainage problem at the largest slaughterhouse, referred to in the 1961 report, was resolved by unorthodox means. The occupier had submitted proposals for a costly conventional purification plant. There were delays in obtaining the necessary approvals, mostly outside his control, and fearing the effect on his next licensing renewal application, he installed instead a system of irrigation of the crude drainage directly on to farm land. In the absence of complaint about nuisance the method has had to be accepted, although it is primitive and a potential source of nuisance. The farm also supports an attested herd, but the possible effect on animal health is outside the Council's province.

### Food premises

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery.....	78
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	64
Bread and cakes .....	10
Sweets and confectionery .....	34
Greengrocery .....	36
Butchery .....	39
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	26
Restaurants, cafes, etc. ....	30
Hotels and licensed premises .....	72
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food) .....	22
Industrial catering .....	20
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district (irrespective of place of origin)	80
Bakehouses .....	7
	<hr/> 518

The increase over the previous year's figures is accounted for partly by new premises resulting from the continued expanding population of the district, and partly by more active inspection revealing premises not previously recorded.

## 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 .....	17
Fish frying.....	12

## Food Hygiene Regulations

The following defects and contraventions were discovered and dealt with in the course of routine inspections :—

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	16
Sink and/or washhand basin defective or absent .....	17
Dirty walls and/or ceilings .....	19
Inadequate lighting .....	8
Inadequate equipment.....	10
Dirty equipment .....	16
No separate space for clothing .....	9
Closets and drains effective .....	8
Lack of attention to personal hygiene ....	19
Smoking whilst handling open food .....	13
Mobile shops without name and address	5
Absence of first aid equipment .....	4
Structural defects .....	12
Accumulations of refuse .....	3
Prevention of food from contamination....	2
Inadequate ventilation.....	4
Dirty premises .....	24
Inadequate premises .....	1
	<hr/>
	190

Legal proceedings were necessary in respect of a series of contraventions at premises and a mobile shop used for a green-grocery business. The two partners in the business were convicted on two counts relating to two food stores, but charges in respect of a third store were dismissed. Charges that the name and address of the owner did not appear on the food vehicle were admitted. A charge against one of the partners alleging lack of personal hygiene was dismissed, but he was found guilty of smoking whilst handling food. Each partner was fined a total of £10, and there was a fine of £3 for the smoking offence. Costs of £10 10s. were awarded against each defendant. These cases were only taken after several warnings, all of which had been ignored. All the other contraventions listed above were dealt with informally, co-operation between the trade and the inspectorate being generally good.

## Complaints relating to food

The custom of complaining first to the health authority about food containing some foreign material is now firmly established. Seventeen such complaints were received during 1962, compared with eight the previous year. Five related to dirt in bottled milk, and it is clear that the dairy industry has not yet found a completely reliable method of bottle cleansing, or of detecting residual dirt in bottles after the washing process. Much of the trouble comes from the misuse of bottles. One of the bottles examined was reported by the public analyst to contain carbon, sulphur and traces of iron, and had almost certainly been used for the discharge of a firework. Another contained a note written on cardboard: "2 pints today, please" and one wonders how it escaped detection. However, the number of such cases is commendably small when compared with the probable total milk sales in the district.

Mineral water manufacturers, too, have the problem of misused bottles: analysis of a bottle of mineral water alleged to have an abnormal taste revealed traces of phenolic compounds, indicating that the bottle had probably been used for disinfectant. The complaints investigated included two relating to bread, one loaf containing dust and grease from machinery, and the other some small pieces of wood, baked into the bottom crust. Other matters complained of included pea pods and a flowering weed head in tinned peas, a newly hatched small bird in frozen peas, abnormal odour of tinned meat, pig hairs and skin in a stuffed pork roll, a piece of rush grass (used between the staves of pulp storage barrels) in a large tin of plum jam, and an alleged piece of fine wire in a faggot. The latter came to light as the result of the removal of the wire in hospital from the throat of the consumer, but there was insufficient proof to justify proceedings in court.

Very full and careful investigations were made into all the complaints. None appeared to warrant court proceedings and all were dealt with by informal warnings.

## Milk and Dairies

The following distributors of milk are registered :--

Retail dairymen having premises in the district.....	21
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk .....	72
	—
	93
	—

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licenses were issued to 46 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases, and in 7 cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

## AIR POLLUTION

Grit gauges and sulphur candles for assessing the degree of air pollution are operated on behalf of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council. Some alterations in the disposition of the instruments were made during the year. A grit gauge and sulphur candle at Station Road, Coleshill were removed, because the erection of buildings nearby had affected their reliability. They were transferred to a new site on the Drainage Board's Coleshill works (No. 20 in the table below). All the instruments are sited in relation to localized sources of pollution, particularly the Hams Hall electricity generating stations. Sites Nos. 43 and 44 are additional. The instruments there were brought into use early in 1962 to assess the level of pollution in the vicinity of the new Lurgi gas works which is not yet in production. The Keresley gauge, operated by Bedworth U.D.C. on a site in the rural district, indicates the degree of air pollution from the chimney of the Coventry Colliery, which is just within the Meriden area.

The following table gives the results obtained from the grit gauges, expressed in tons per square mile per month. The average figures in the fourth column are included for purposes of comparison, and it will be noted that the addition of the Hams Hall "C" station has not increased the overall amount of solid pollution in the locality. There has in fact been an appreciable reduction since observations began in 1948, the average monthly deposit per square mile for the years 1948 to 1951 being 25.86 tons.

Gauge No.	Situation of instrument	1962	Grit deposits	
			Average 1955-61	Average 1960-61
18	Lea Marston .. ..	14.68	14.96	—
19	Nether Whitacre .. ..	13.03	12.43	—
20	Coleshill (Drainage Board east) .. ..	15.30	—	—
43	Coleshill (Drainage Board west) .. ..	14.71	—	—
44	Coleshill (Chattle Hill) .. ..	12.26	—	—
21	Kingshurst (Bacons End) .. ..	9.58	11.05	—
	Keresley (Bennetts Road) .. ..	12.37	—	15.22

Results obtained from the analysis of material from the sulphur candle instruments are given below, expressed in empirical units to indicate the levels of sulphur dioxide pollution.

Situation of instrument	1962	Average 1955-61	Average 1960-61
Lea Marston area (average of 8 sites) .. .. .	1.90	1.05	—
Kingshurst (Bacons End) ..	1.74	1.11	—
Keresley (Bennetts Road) ..	0.59	—	0.60

Whilst the grit figures remain fairly constant, it will be observed that there is a significant increase in the level of sulphur pollution. This confirms that improvement in grit-arresting efficiency does little to lessen the emission of sulphur, the elimination of which, it appears, is still not economically practicable. Fortunately, however, the dispersing effect of the very tall chimneys of the generating stations keeps the sulphur concentration at ground level within acceptable limits.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The licensing procedure under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 is not now used, as the only moveable dwellings in the district are caravans, which are subject to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Three more established caravan sites were licensed during the year, subject to conditions which were negotiated with and accepted by the licensees. One of the sites is for 20 caravans at Berkswell, another in the same parish is for 8 caravans, and the third site, for 3 caravans, is at Meriden. The larger Berkswell site has permanent planning permission and the licence required the provision of quite a high standard of amenities, although not all the work had been done by the end of the year. Modified conditions were imposed in the other two cases, which are subject to short-term planning consents.

Eight other site licences were issued for single caravans, for short periods varying from one to three years, according to the duration of the planning consents. Modified conditions were imposed in these cases. Licensing conditions were still being negotiated at the end of the year in respect of an established site at Meriden, for which planning permission had been granted to December, 1971. The sites on the whole were well conducted and there were few complaints.

At the end of 1962 there were altogether 19 licensed caravan sites in the district, permitting a total of 189 caravans. Many

caravans to be seen are merely stored and not in use as dwellings. Others fall into various exempted groups, particularly those occupied by building and civil engineering workers engaged on construction sites such as new schools and roads.

The Council raised no objection when approached by the Caravan Tourists' Association regarding the proposed granting of an exemption certificate under paragraph 5 of Schedule I of the Act, in respect of a site for five caravans at Balsall. The site has been little used.

## RODENT CONTROL

Action taken during the year is summarized below :—

Number of premises inspected .....	1,800
Number of premises found to be infected and subsequently treated :—	
(a) domestic .....	278
(b) business .....	59
Second treatments .....	337
Third treatments .....	30
Premises cleared .....	1
Premises not completely cleared .....	337
Premises not completely cleared .....	—
Number of dead rats found .....	157
Sewage works treated .....	11
Refuse tips treated .....	5
Sewer manholes inspected and treated....	161

The total number of 1,800 inspections includes those made in the course of the special survey of farm premises, referred to under the item relating to the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956. Only minor infestations were discovered, and the control measures taken appear to have been effective. Treatments of domestic premises are still done free of cost. A nominal charge is made for business premises, including farms. Many farmers carry out their own rat destruction and some employ specialist firms for the purpose. The Council's resources are insufficient to enable full-scale farm treatments to be undertaken, but advice on methods is often sought, and is readily given. Routine inspections indicated that the Council's sewers, sewage works and refuse tips were relatively free from rats.

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

The survey of farm holdings, which had been started towards the end of 1961 under pressure from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was completed during the year and the results notified to the Ministry. As expected, the survey disclosed little that was not already known, and confirmed that the position regarding sanitary accommodation for workers was generally satisfactory. Most of the farms in the area are small and highly mechanized, and the employees relatively few. Nearly all have some sort of sanitary conveniences, and informal action is being taken to secure the necessary provision or improvement in the few cases where deficiencies have been recorded. Seasonal farm work is only on a small scale and does not constitute a problem.

The following is a summary of the information obtained :—

1. Total number of visits made for purposes of the survey .....	657
2. Number of farms visited.....	498
3. Number of farms at which labour is employed = 46.79% of total farms.....	233
4. Number of farms without satisfactory sanitary accommodation = 3.01% of total farms = 6.44% of farms where labour is employed	15

Of the total of 498 farms, 379 have water closets but only a few are connected to mains sewers, most of the farms having drainage to cesspools or equivalent.

Opportunity was also taken during the survey of enquiry into other matters such as rodent infestation and water supplies.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The licence in respect of the one licensed pet shop was renewed for the year, the premises being satisfactorily maintained.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

### Section 50

Two bodies were buried by the Council during the year, a woman who died as a result of a fire at her home, and a man employed at a local hotel whose death was due to natural causes. No relatives could be traced in either case.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1957 to 1959

Information regarding action taken and defects recorded is given below in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health :—

### Inspections

Premises  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (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 .....	152	17	—	—
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	42	10	—	—
Total ..	197	27	—	—

## Defects found

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanli- less (S.1) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conven- iences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	3	3	—	—	—
Total ..	6	6	—	2	—

## 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	7	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles (jewellery) ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	—	—	—	—	—

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