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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1967





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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the state of the health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1967.

An examination of the vital statistics for the year under review shows a mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, of 62,930 which is an increase of 1,610 on the previous year. The natural increase in population—represented by the excess of live births over deaths—was 521, and thus the nett increase due to inward movement into the District in excess of outward movement was an estimated 1,089. This cannot, of course, give a complete picture since it is based on a mid-year population estimate and during the second half of the year the number of families rehoused in Chelmsley Wood by the City of Birmingham was gathering momentum.

The birth rate of 15.64 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.98 in 1966 indicates a continuance of the downward trend albeit less steeply than in previous years. The death rate, too, has shown a slight decrease from 7.65 to 7.36 per 1,000 population. In comparison with the national statistics, the birth rate of 13.45 per 1,000 population, after standardisation, is much lower than the national figure of 17.2 and gives a ratio of 0.78. The standardised death rate of 11.22 per 1,000 population is equal to the national figure.

On the whole, the health of the community has remained satisfactory, with a slight reduction in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. As usual measles has accounted for the greater part of the notifications, and one looks forward with anticipation to the effect which the measles vaccination campaign programmed for 1968 will have on the incidence of measles in subsequent years. Although death from measles is not common (there was one death in the district attributed to measles during 1967) the long-term consequences of its complications are sufficiently serious to warrant the introduction of yet one more vaccination in the programme of immunisation for young children.

The total number of tuberculous persons remaining on the Register at the end of the year shows little change. In contrast with the acute infections, tuberculosis is a chronic infection with long periods of treatment and supervision. It is during the prolonged period of observation following therapy that some patients feeling perfectly well in themselves, fail to attend the Chest Clinic for periodic checks. A visit to the patient's home and personal persuasion usually serves to ensure re-attendance at the clinic, but it is incredible how such patients fail to realise that it is in the interest of themselves, their families, and indeed of the community in which they live, to continue attendance until discharged.

The control of communicable disease is but one way in which the health of the community may be safeguarded. In this context, the elderly form a vulnerable group where malnutrition arising from insufficient and often inappropriate diets is not uncommon and frequently prejudicial to the maintenance of good health. For a variety of reasons including shortage of money, ignorance and apathy, particularly when living alone, they are prone to make do with the simplest type of meals which are far from adequate. Meat and fruit are conspicuously absent from many diets and in consequence old persons may develop anaemia and become debilitated. To such persons the Meals on Wheels service is especially welcome, and it is gratifying to record that at the end of the year approximately 209 meals were being delivered into the homes of those in need in the district each week. This rapidly expanding service is financed jointly by the Rural District and County Councils with a contribution from the recipients themselves. The meals are distributed by the members of the W.R.V.S. under the able guidance of their Centre Organiser, Mrs. V. Bowater, and we are greatly indebted to these ladies for their unstinting efforts in the service of the elderly.

It remains for me to express my thanks to the Chief Public Health Inspector for those sections which he has contributed to the report and to the Engineer and Surveyor for providing information regarding sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

I wish also to record my appreciation of zealous work of the staff and the ready co-operation of the members of other department.

J. E. PEARSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.

August, 1968.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1967

Chairman of the Council :

C. W. MANN

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

M. J. COSGROVE

Clerk of the Council :

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

Public Health Committee: 1967-68

Antrobus, W.	Mann, C. W.	Smith, N. W.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Meddings, R. W.	Wallace, Mrs. D. V.
Edwards, N. A.	Mitchell, P. J.	Wills, H. C.
Elliman, P. T.	Mold, B. A.	
Kelsey, H.	Rees, D. W.	

Housing Committee: 1967-68

Allen, F. C.	Kelsey, E. J. O.	Nicholas, R. N.
Bradley Miller, K.	Kellie, P. F.	Rees, D. W.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Lowe, G. H.	Sakne, E.
Edwards, N. A.	Mann, C. W.	Truman, Mrs. M. J.
Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Martin, Mrs. L. E.	Wyldebore-Smith, A.R.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967

Medical Officer of Health :

J. E. PEARSON, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Also 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.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
S. C. GOULD, M.A.P.H.I.
M. JOHNS, 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

Area in acres	65,774
Population (estimated Mid. 1967)	62,930
Population (Census 1951)	38,075
Population (Census 1961)	57,520
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec. 1967)	18,760
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1967)	£2,748,485
Product of a penny rate	£11,029

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	460	461	921
Illegitimate	30	33	63
Totals	490	494	984

Birth Rate

15.64 per 1,000 estimated population

1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
15.64	15.98	17.66	18.65	18.58	19.37	19.60	20.20	19.08	20.03

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent. of total Live Births) = 6.40

Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	9	4	13

Still Birth Rate

13.04 per 1,000 total (live and still) births

1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
13.04	9.10	17.94	18.11	18.86	20.08	16.5	14.52	16.05	20.58

Total live and Still births = 997

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	254	209	463

Crude Death Rate

7.36 per 1,000 estimated population

1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
7.36	7.65	7.34	6.81	7.41	7.06	7.11	7.33	7.03	7.36

Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	1	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	—	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	7	14
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	17	3	20
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	19	40
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	2	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	29	41	70
18.	Coronary disease, angina	63	38	101
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20.	Other heart disease	20	17	37
21.	Other circulatory disease	13	7	20
22.	Influenza	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	11	8	19
24.	Bronchitis	16	4	20
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	5	6
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	4	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	16	21	37
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	13	4	17
34.	All other accidents	9	2	11
35.	Suicide	3	2	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
37.	All causes	254	209	463

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year		Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
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
1963	..	62,430	1,160	463	+697
1964	..	64,240	1,261	446	+815
1965	..	61,890	1,093	454	+639
1966	..	61,320	980	469	+511
1967	..	62,930	984	463	+521

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	6	11
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals	6	7	13

Infant Mortality Rate.

13.21 per 1,000 births.

1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
13.21	17.35	12.72	15.20	12.93	18.78	15.01	17.34	14.39	16.2

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Totals	5	4	9

Neonatal Death Rate 9.15 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births
11.94

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)
7.11

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Totals	5	2	7

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one
week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)
20.06

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)	Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate
Births			
Live Births ..	*13.45	17.2	0.78
Still Births	13.04 (a)	14.8	
DEATHS			
All causes	*11.22	11.2	1.00
Infant Mortality (under 1 year) ..	13.21 (b)	18.3	
Neo-natal Mortality (under 4 weeks)	9.15 (b)	12.5	
Early Neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week) ..	7.11 (b)	10.8	
Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)	20.06 (a)	25.4	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.86 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	45	41	86

Cancer Death Rate = 1.37 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 62,930—an increase of 1,610 from the 1966 total of 61,320.

Births

The standardised Birth Rate of 13.45 per 1,000 estimated population was lower than the figure of 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The standardised Death Rate of 11.22 per 1,000 population was the same as that of 11.22 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 86 deaths. Of these, 20 were due to lung cancer—two fewer than last year—affecting 17 males and 3 females.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for thirteen male and four female deaths.

For the sixteenth year in succession no mother died in childbirth.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Those cases during the year which were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation were admitted appropriately on a voluntary basis, and in no instance was statutory action on my part necessary 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 1966.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1966 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases re- moved to Hospital
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.	
Measles	549 (588)	14	314	217	1	3	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	48 (63)	5	24	17	-	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3 (1)	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Enteric Fever	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	11 (16)	-	6	5	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1 (12)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malaria	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	31 (72)	-	5	7	3	16	-	-	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	24 (7)	-	-	-	17	7	-	-	24
Meningococcal Infection	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	- (3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5 (12)	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2 (4)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	18 (3)	-	3	5	2	5	3	-	2
Totals	692 (781)	19	352	251	24	35	9	2	38

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Measles	549	588	1,077	379	1,028	93	980	21	344	619
Whooping Cough	48	63	31	25	40	11	49	71	72	20
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	1	2	-	4	6	2	4	2	5
Enteric Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever....	11	16	28	25	15	15	36	35	54	46
Pneumonia	1	12	13	13	16	17	35	23	63	42
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	31	72	22	106	90	158	46	48	96	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	24	7	45	9	91	79	98	67	98	111
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	3	3	-	43	22	9	3	8	24
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	5	12	18	12	9	19	27	19	15	33
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	2	4	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	2
Food Poisoning..	18	3	-	-	8	9	7	17	11	2
Totals	692	781	1,243	571	1,349	433	2,294	313	769	945

General Comment

In comparison with the notification of infectious diseases received during the year 1966, there has been a decrease from 781 to 692, the anticipated bi-ennial increase in the incidence of measles not having materialised.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases reported decreased from 63 to 48.

The following table gives details of the number of children who have received protection against whooping cough. Since combined antigens are used almost exclusively, they will also have received protection against diphtheria and tetanus.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1967.

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	333	597	69	14	4	1,017
Reinforcing	—	438	146	76	8	668
Totals	333	1,035	215	90	12	1,685

Diphtheria

For the eighteenth 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.

The table sub-pended summarises the work undertaken by General Practitioners and County Council Staff.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1967.

(Comparative figures for 1966 are given in parentheses)

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	333 (262)	602 (545)	80 (21)	82 (45)	34 (21)	1,131 (894)
Re-inforcing	— (—)	443 (474)	198 (75)	952 (835)	463 (479)	2,056 (1,867)
Totals	333 (262)	1,045 (1,023)	278 (96)	1,034 (880)	497 (500)	3,187 (2,761)

Smallpox

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1967

(Comparative figures for 1966 are given in parentheses)

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	6 (17)	268 (216)	374 (246)	45 (60)	— (7)	693 (546)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (—)	— (—)	6 (6)	38 (63)	4 (13)	48 (82)
Totals	6 (17)	268 (216)	380 (252)	83 (123)	4 (20)	741 (628)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 11 cases decreased by 5 compared with 1966, the majority in the 1-15 year age group and all of a mild nature

Pneumonia

The one case of pneumonia reported was in the age group 45-65. In addition, 19 deaths were notified where pneumonia was regarded as a contributory cause.

Dysentery

31 cases of dysentery were notified in comparison with 72 in 1966. The majority of these were from Coleshill Hall Hospital. All praise is due to the nursing staff whose efforts brought about a rapid containment of the outbreak. With limited staff and patients whose incapacities prevented them from co-operating fully in the necessary hygienic measures, this is no mean achievement.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There was an increase from 7 to 24 in the number of reported cases, all of which were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital. Comparisons with the number of cases in previous years shows that the trend is still downwards.

Acute Poliomyelitis

For the tenth successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations completed during 1967

Oral	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	726	—	726
2—5	259	545	804
6—15	138	539	677
Total	1,123	1,084	2,207

Tuberculosis

During the year 5 new cases of pulmonary and 2 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 12 and 4 cases respectively in 1966. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 19, and these for the most part were arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but, of course, still subject to regular supervision.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1967

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1966	178	115	16	23
2. New Cases	1	4	1	1
3. Inward Transfers	13	6	—	—
4. Removals	6	7	—	—
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1967	186	118	17	24

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified during 1967

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

Milk supplies in the District are submitted by the County Health Department for testing, and the results of their investigations are given below:

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1966

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples.	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	15	Nil

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewer extension scheme at Keresley End was completed during the year, and a contract for the completion of the unfinished portion of the sewer extension in Meeting House Lane, Berkswell, remaining at the termination of the original contract for this work was arranged and by the end of the year was substantially completed. The Chadwick End scheme carried out by Warwick Rural District on a joint basis for the two authorities was completed.

The scheme of provision of public conveniences on both carriageways of the A.45 trunk road at Stonebridge was completed and they were made available for use at the end of July. By the end, of the year 65,236 pennies had been fed into the coin locks to the closet compartments or an average of 426 per day. This support from the travelling public using our main roads contributes in some degree to keeping the countryside tidy and clean; and also indicates the necessity for such facilities.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The various collection services have operated satisfactorily during the year. Further progress was made with the replacement of pail closets, and since 1960, 380 pail closets have been replaced and proposals in respect of a further 77 have been approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections and visits made :

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	1,300
Sewers and drains	500
Ditches and water courses	103
Filthy and verminous premises	15
Infestations	90
Infectious diseases	250
Water supplies	266
Moveable dwellings (other than caravans) ..	4

Noise Abatement Act

Noise nuisances	85
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Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Caravans and caravan sites	620
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Housing Act

Houses recorded	46
Other visits	1,391
Overcrowding	5

Food and Drugs Act

Food premises (including registered premises)	785
Food stalls and vehicles	143
Bakehouses	16
Slaughterhouses (premises)	110
Food complaints (investigations)	55
Food examination (including meat inspection)	1,505

Clean Air Act

Survey visits (smoke control areas)	1,022
Other inspections and visits	2,047

Factories Act

Factories:	
Non-power	—
Power	119
Others	8

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Offices and shops—recorded inspections ..	64
Re-inspections	248
Other visits	39

Rent Act	12
----------------	----

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

(excluding visits by rodent operator)	75
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National Assistance Act, section 50	9
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	27
Miscellaneous	219
	<hr/>
	10,178
	<hr/>

Complaints investigated	1,186
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Nuisances

Among the 542 nuisances of all kinds reported and dealt with, special mention must again be made of the "Homefire" plant of the National Coal Board at Keresley. At these works, smokeless briquettes for domestic use are made from locally produced coal. The plant, which is large, still gives rise to nuisances from smoke, fumes, noise and dust, though fortunately the nuisances are not continuous. The process is registered under the Alkali Act, and H.M. District Inspector of Alkali Works in his dealings with the plant maintains close contact with the public health inspectorate. The principal feature of direct concern to the local authority was wind-borne dust from a large stock of char held in an open yard for sale to industrial users. Complaints about dust in their houses came from local residents both in the rural district and in the city of Coventry. Representations to the Board's officials resulted in some improvement, but the residents have had to rely mainly on favourable weather conditions to prevent a repetition of the nuisance, the risk of which remains.

An intermittent smell nuisance, arising from the disposal of poultry manure from commercial egg producing premises, gave rise to many complaints. The smell was particularly objectionable and affected houses over a wide area, but fortunately it occurred only infrequently. The proprietors of the business were prepared to install a manure drying plant which would avoid the need for transporting manure slurry to a disposal site. At their request, several types of apparatus were investigated under working conditions, but none was capable of operation without giving rise to a more or less continuous smell. Planning permission for the proposed plant was subsequently refused and the matter remains unresolved. It seemed better to tolerate the intermittent nuisance than to approve the installation of a plant which in removing one source of nuisance would only create another.

Enforcement

Verbal warnings	169
Informal notices	364
Statutory notices	12
Legal proceedings	—

HOUSING

Register of Applications for Council Houses

Number of applications on register at end of year :		
General needs		268
Slum clearance		
General	13	
Old people	6	19
Agricultural		17
Old people (other than slum clearance)		109
		<hr/>
		413
		<hr/>
Comparative total at end of 1966.....		511
Number of dwellings available for letting during year:		
New houses		108
Casual vacancies	86	
less transfers to new houses	28	58
		<hr/>
		166
		<hr/>

Allocations

General needs	73
General needs (old people)	32
Slum clearance.....	39
Slum clearance (old people)	16
Agriculture	—
Other priorities, including Council staff	6
	<hr/>
	166
	<hr/>

As forecast in the previous report, the number of new houses completed during the year was well in excess of the average of previous years (53). There was also a significant increase in casual vacancies, the average for the previous seven years having been 49. The total number of transfers and exchanges between tenants, including exchanges with tenants of private landlords and other authorities, was 59, compared with 26 the previous year.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Areas

Number of orders made	—
Number of houses affected	—
Number of orders confirmed	—
Number of houses demolished	5

Single houses

Number of demolition orders made	13
Number of houses demolished	49
Number of undertakings accepted	—
Number of closing orders made	3
Houses made fit—	
by owners, voluntarily	25
by owners, after formal notices	11
by Council, in default of owners	—

The foregoing figures reflect the relatively high standard of housing throughout the district. Over the past ten years or more, continuous progress has been made with the clearance of grossly unfit houses and many other sub-standard houses have been repaired and improved, mainly without recourse to compulsion and in some cases with the aid of improvement grants. The district now has virtually no slum clearance problem, though a few individual houses remain to be dealt with. Future progress in the improvement of housing conditions must depend largely on the introduction of a revised legal standard of fitness, so as to make the provision of bathrooms obligatory. The absence of a bathroom cannot at present be taken into account in assessing the fitness of a house for habitation, and a number of older houses in the district are deficient in this respect.

Overcrowding

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

Number of private houses known to be overcrowded	3
Number of Council houses known to be overcrowded	5
Number of families involved	8
Number of persons involved	81
Cases relieved during year by Council	—
Cases relieved during year otherwise	—

Houses in multiple occupation

Only two houses in the rural district are known to have been used in this manner during the year. One of these, formerly occupied by four families, has now been converted to separate self-contained flats. Conditions at the other are tolerable.

Rent Act, 1957

Applications received during year	—
Certificates of disrepair issued	—

WATER SUPPLIES

Extent of supplies

Each parish in the rural district is provided with piped supplies by one or other of four statutory water undertakings, as shown in

the table on page 26. The percentage of houses which do not have water mains available has been further reduced, from 1.12 in 1966 to 1.01 at present. Supplies are piped direct into individual houses. There was no complaint of shortage, and apart from a few temporary interruptions during repairs, adequate supplies were maintained.

The following additional mains were laid during the year:

Locality	Length of main (yards)	Estimated cost £	No. of properties to be served
(a) <i>Schemes approved in 1966</i>			
Tamworth Road, Middleton	1,500	3,650	5
Chapel Green, Fillongley	1,320	6,560	8
(b) <i>Schemes approved in 1965</i>			
Chadwick Lane, Balsall	1,950	7,450	8
Birmingham Road, Coleshill	1,047	5,450	5
<i>The following schemes were approved during the year:</i>			
Cornets End Lane, Berkswell	770	2,750	3
Brickhill Lane, Allesley	470	740	2
Chapel Green (extension), Fillongley	660	2,770	2

A proposal to construct a motorway through the Green End area of Fillongley led to a minor exchange of territory between two water undertakings. The Coventry authority, to which the Green End properties were transferred, had an adequate source of supply available and was able to proceed expeditiously with the Council's main-laying requirements. The eight houses involved were previously dependent on unreliable shallow wells.

Work was begun at Fillongley on main-laying for the Fillongley and Maxstoke scheme, approved in 1966. This quite extensive scheme includes a proposed booster pumping station and a service reservoir. Fortunately the water authority now has available a somewhat improved source of supply, and is able to make limited provision without waiting for the additional installations.

Quality of supplies

The following table gives the result of bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year.

<i>Nature of Source</i>	<i>Results</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Old wells	14	31
Springs	5	11
Mains	63	11
Totals	82	53

There is no problem of plumbo-solvency.

Supplies from the public mains have been generally satisfactory in quality, as confirmed by the samples taken by the public health inspectors and by the results of other routine sampling by the water undertakers. The eleven unsatisfactory mains samples recorded above related to a single incident, resulting from emergency repairs made to a trunk main. Negotiations with the water authority led to a revision of the established procedure for local chlorination following disturbance of mains, and more frequent routine sampling by the authority's own staff.

The extent to which piped water supplies are available is shown by the table which follows. The use of standpipes is not customary anywhere in the Council's district, supplies being direct to the houses in all known cases.

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 ..	248	3	—	245	—	—
Arley ..	967	2	—	—	965	—
Astley ..	65	5	—	—	60	—
Balsall ..	1,246	6	—	1,240	—	—
Barston ..	165	7	—	158	—	—
Berkswell ..	785	5	—	780	—	—
Bickenhill ..	1,173	3	—	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich ..	2,847	—	1,170	—	—	—
Coleshill ..	2,035	4	2,847	—	—	—
Corley ..	253	—	2,031	253	—	—
Curdworth ..	175	—	—	—	—	—
Fillongley ..	552	88	175	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	477	5	460	—	—	—
Keresley ..	235	—	—	472	—	—
Kingshurst ..	3,844	—	—	235	—	—
Lea Marston ..	91	1	3,844	—	—	—
Maxstoke ..	81	30	90	—	—	—
Meriden ..	765	14	51	—	—	—
Middleton ..	232	—	—	751	—	—
Packington ..	64	9	—	—	—	232
Shustoke ..	193	—	50	5	—	—
Water Orton ..	1,220	—	193	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre ..	286	1	1,220	—	—	—
Over Whitacre ..	110	—	285	—	—	—
Wishaw and Moxhull ..	65	—	110	—	—	65
Totals	18,174	183	12,526	4,139	1,029	297

Percentage of houses without water mains available is 1.01 compared with 1.12 in 1966.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND HANDLING

Inspection of all food animals killed in slaughterhouses has been maintained. The following table shows the inspections and condemnations in summary form.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3,536	172	223	23,490	8,315
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	10	60	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	777	72	2	4,034	2,275
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	22.3	41.9	5.4	17.4	27.5
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	3	4	—	—	47
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.08	2.33	—	—	0.56
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Food Condemnations

Meat

		Tuberculosis		All other diseases and conditions	
		tons. cwts. lbs.		tons. cwts. lbs.	
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Carcase meat		98	1	0 10
	Offals		13	3	9 17
Cows	Carcase meat		6		91
	Offals		12		6 88
Sheep	Carcase meat			1	3 0
	Offals			3	0 58
Pigs	Carcase meat	3	47	1	1 65
	Offals		13		19 32
Calves	Carcase meat				3 12
Totals		4	77	11	4 37

Eight slaughterhouses are licensed of which seven are in regular use. Slaughtering hours are not restricted: there is some voluntary limitation by the butchers, with, however, a tendency in some cases to prolong unduly the hours during which inspections are required.

The number of licensed slaughtermen (52 the previous year) is now 40.

Poultry Inspection

The production of table poultry is mainly limited to casual processing at farm premises for direct retail sale. This small-scale slaughtering is done at irregular intervals and without notice, consequently full inspection is impracticable. Occasional inspections are made. There is regular once-weekly slaughtering at one small commercial establishment, amounting to a total of about 8,000 birds a year, mainly chickens. Rejection of poor quality birds is done voluntarily by the proprietor who, by arrangement, notifies doubtful cases for inspection. Altogether some seventy birds were rejected during the year. The conditions under which dressed poultry is prepared for sale gives no reason for concern, and as the value of single birds is relatively low, there is little risk of unfit ones being passed on to the public.

Inspection of other food

A total weight of $20\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. of miscellaneous food was condemned and voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

The Liquid Egg (Pastuerization) Regulations, 1963

There is no egg pasteurization plant in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

A classified list of premises in the district to which the Regulations apply is given below.

Category	Number inspected and recorded	Number complying with Regulation 16*	Number to which Regulation 19 applies†	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	77	75	77	77
Grocery and General (not exclusively food) ..	46	39	44	44
Bread and cakes	8	8	8	8
Sweets and confectionery ..	41	40	40	40
Greengrocery	42	40	41	41
Butchery	37	36	37	37
Fish, wet and/or fried ..	14	13	13	13
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. ..	31	31	30	30
Hotels and Licensed Premises	92	90	91	91
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food)	5	5	3	3
Industrial Catering ..	39	38	38	38
Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
School Kitchens	29	29	29	29
	466	449	456	456

* Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins for the use of food personnel.

† Regulation 19 requires the provision of sinks for washing food and equipment where open food is handled.

Visits to food premises of all kinds (but not including slaughter-houses) totalled 909 and the following defects and contraventions were recorded.

Defects of premises and lack of proper maintenance	94
Defective or inadequate equipment	121
Unhygienic practices	125
Contraventions involving food vehicles	110
	<hr/> 450 <hr/>

Informal approaches were sufficient in most cases to secure the required improvements and there was no need for legal proceedings. Included in the visits were investigations into 20 complaints of alleged sale of unsatisfactory food.

Registered food premises

Premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4
Sale only of ice-cream	151
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	20
Fish frying.....	13

Ice-cream sampling

Samples taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination gave the following results.

	Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
Soft ice-cream	3	—	—	—
Other ice-cream	14	2	4	—

(Grades I and II are regarded as satisfactory)

Milk and Dairies

Registered distributors of milk:

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	27
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	47
	<hr/> 74 <hr/>

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Smoke Control Programme

The Council's No. 1 Smoke Control Order, confirmed in January after a public local inquiry, came into operation on the 1st October, 1967. It affects the new Chelmsley Wood development by Birmingham Corporation and some 729 properties which adjoin it at Marston Green, Kingshurst and Castle Bromwich. Conversions of fireplaces proceeded smoothly and most of the necessary work had been done by the operative date, although not all the grants had been claimed. The fact that some householders who have had their applications for grants approved do not claim them, or are very late in doing so, is well known to Councils with longer experience of domestic smoke control. Until all the approved grants

have been claimed, the final cost of applying a smoke control order to a particular area cannot be ascertained. It is, therefore, proposed to recommend, in respect of each order, the fixing of a date beyond which no grants will be paid, even if previously approved. This date would be notified in advance to householders whose claims for payment of approved grants are much delayed. Present indications are that the final cost of grants in respect of the No. 1 order will be only about two-thirds of the original estimate, the discrepancy being due mainly to the fact that many householders preferred to use portable apparatus (e.g. electric heaters) rather than convert existing non-conforming fixed appliances.

Included in the No. 1 area are the Chelmsley Hospital and the Marston Green Maternity Hospital of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. Excessive smoke emissions from the steam-raising plant at both hospitals was commented on by local residents during the initial surveys, and the Board's attention was drawn to the problem at an early stage. Certain promised improvements were carried out during 1967: the mechanical stokers fitted to the boilers at the Maternity Hospital were removed and the height of the two steel chimneys increased, and at Chelmsley Hospital the old hand-fired boilers were converted to mechanical stoking. In both cases the resultant emissions, although reduced, are still more than is desirable in a smoke control area, and negotiations with the Board are continuing in the hope of securing further improvement.

A second smoke control order in respect of the Kingshurst area was made in July and confirmed without modification in December, 1967, there having been no objection. It will operate from the 1st October, 1968. It affects 2,526 houses of which 2,046 are owned by the Birmingham Corporation and 310 by the Meriden Rural District Council. Estimates of the cost were prepared on the assumption, confirmed by the Birmingham Authority, that only minimal conversions would be required to their houses. However, subsequently some of their tenants have applied for grants for providing other forms of heating because the existing firegrates are unsuitable for burning hard coke. It seems likely that these applications will have to be approved, in which event the total cost to public funds will be materially increased.

Owing to the absence of gas mains in some of the Kingshurst streets, an exemption was included in the order so as to permit the use of kindling sticks and paper for firelighting. In the discussions on the point, it was clear that most Councillors favoured a general exemption, regardless of whether or not gas mains are available. This has the automatic effect of denying financial help to those residents in smoke control areas who are prepared to provide means of smokeless ignition.

Experience with the first two orders has shown that domestic smoke control work, even on this modest scale, imposes a considerable burden on a small department. No additional staff is employed for the purpose. The mass of clerical work in particular is

difficult to absorb as an addition to previous duties and to some extent the inspectors have had to concern themselves with it. Whilst the benefits of clean air to the community are now generally accepted, the means of achieving it are administratively cumbersome, slow and costly in relation to the limited progress that can be made.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The total insoluble deposited matter measured from the Lea Marston gauge averaged 10.10 tons per square mile per month, compared with 12.15 in 1966 and 10.44 in 1965. Sulphur gases, evaluated by the lead peroxide process and expressed in empirical units, averaged 1.33, against 1.32 and 1.45 for the two preceding years. These are mean figures obtained from a series of eight instruments around the Hams Hall electricity generating stations.

CARAVAN DWELLINGS

Licensed caravan sites

There are now 22 licensed sites in the district with a total of 173 caravans. Five of the sites have permanent planning permission. Conditions are generally satisfactory, but no further progress has been made towards improving the facilities at the site at Eaves Green, Meriden, pending the outcome of a planning appeal due to be heard in mid-1968. The appeal relates to a proposal to relinquish the existing user rights and to transfer all the caravans to other land in the same parish where main drainage can be provided.

Tinkers

The district had its share of this problem in 1967, beginning in January, when a group of caravans appeared on a roadside lay-by at Berkswell. Another group was later encountered at Eastcote Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, and on several occasions large groups of caravans were found in other places, particularly along the main Chester Road. All were on highway land and therefore outside the control of the local authority, since under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the occupier of the land and not the caravanner is held responsible. In every case the familiar squalid conditions were created almost overnight, and gave rise to strong complaints by local residents. Ultimately the tinkers were persuaded to leave by the combined efforts of the local authority officers (both district and county) and the police, particularly the latter, whose co-operation was much appreciated. It is not known where the tinkers went but no doubt they could be found in the area of some other local authority, in all probability living in the same conditions of squalor. Unless and until councils are prepared to provide sites for such people, where there can be a degree of supervision without the constant threat of eviction, there appears to be no solution to the problem. In this connection, county boroughs ought to have the same obligations as district councils, experience

having shown that tinkers often cannot make a living in the country areas and are attracted mainly by the larger towns which provide scope for their business enterprises.

Other unauthorized caravans

In addition to the tinkers, other groups of caravan-dwellers settled on various privately owned sites. Whatever else they lacked, these people obviously were not short of money, and they offered inducements which in some cases the occupiers of land could not resist. So much trouble was experienced with the use of unlicensed land in this manner that a decision in principle was taken at Committee level to prosecute in respect of all contraventions. Proceedings were taken in six cases with the following results:

Case No. 1.	Fined	£10	10s.	0d.	plus	£5	5s.	0d.	costs
„ „ 2.	„	£15	15s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„ „ 3.	„	£15	15s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„ „ 4.	„	£12	12s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„ „ 5.	„	£10	0s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„ „ 6.	„	£15	0s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„

Other cases were reported and proceedings authorized and they were due for hearing in 1968.

There are many more occupied caravans in the district than the total number permitted by licensing, mainly because of the exemptions allowed by law. Some caravans are occupied incidentally to the use of dwellinghouses, and others by workmen employed on building and civil engineering sites. Whilst those in the latter groups are often deficient in amenities, the use in individual cases is generally short-term and there is no problem of any consequence. Many other caravans that can be seen in the district are used for recreational purposes only, or are stored.

PEST CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Number of visits by rodent operator	1,687
Premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice and subsequently treated:—	
Domestic	417
Industrial and commercial	82
Sewer manholes baited	81
Insect and other infestations dealt with	126
Drains examined and tested	157
Collection and disposal of condemned food (visits):	
Meat	213
Other food	4

With the limited labour available it is still not possible to carry out a full treatment of the Council's sewers, but no bait was taken from any of the 81 manholes treated in six parishes, and there is no evidence of infestation in the sewerage system generally.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 50)

The bodies of three persons were buried by the local authority.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of registered premises increased by 32 since the last report. The position at the end of the year is given in the following table:

Class of premises	Premises Registered during year	Total registered premises at end of year	General Inspections during year
Offices	11	95	46
Retail shops	17	237	149
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	9	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	3	59	26
Fuel storage depots	—	4	1
Totals	32	404	225

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises, including general inspections 351

Number of contraventions discovered and dealt with 148

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises:

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	676
Retail shops	934
Wholesale departments, warehouses	62
Catering establishments open to the public	776
Canteens	17
Fuel storage depots	11
Total	2,476
Total Males	1,120
Total Females	1,356

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

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	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	170	119	31	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	8	—	—
Total ..	180	127	31	—

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)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	8	8	—	—	—
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 ..	42	35	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	50	43	—	2	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(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.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	2	—	—	—	—	—



