

[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Meriden R.D.C.

Contributors

Meriden (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1970

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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

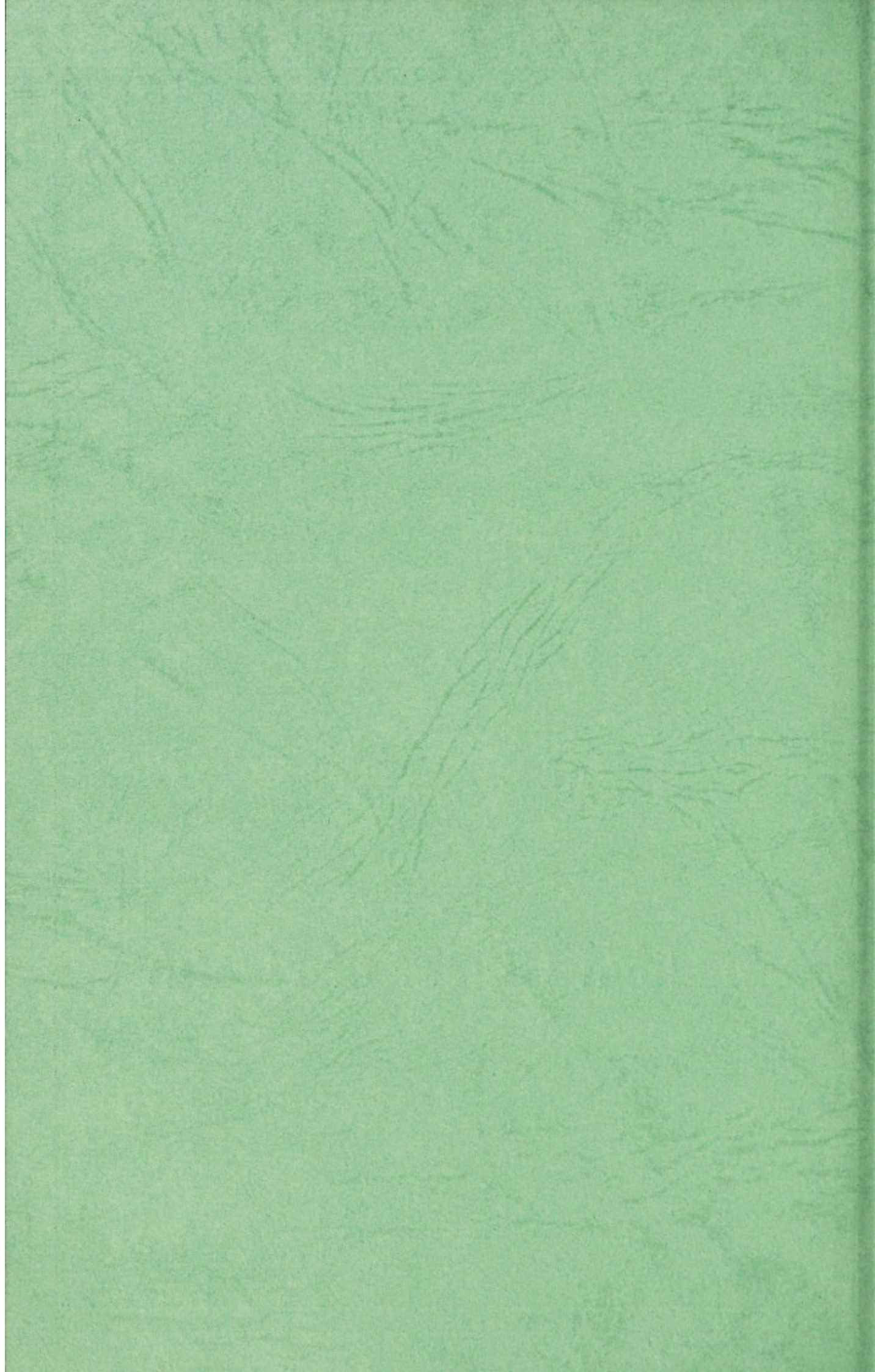
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1970





RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN


ANNUAL REPORT

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1970.

A study of the year's vital statistics shows the continued growth in the population of the District. The Registrar General's mid-year population estimate of 105,000 indicates an increase of 15,160 on the previous year. Of this, the natural increase resulting from the excess in the number of births over the number of deaths accounts for 1,707. The remainder for the most part is due to the re-housing of families from the City of Birmingham into Parishes on the Western side of the District.

The birth rate has continued to climb and has now reached a level of 22·7 per 1,000 population in comparison with 18·6 for the previous year.

The death rate has continued to decline. The level for 1970 was 6·40 per 1,000 population in comparison with 6·60 in the previous year.

Direct comparison may be made with national statistics by the use of factors which make allowance for the age structure in the local population. In so doing, it will now be seen that the adjusted local birth rate of 18·2 per 1,000 population has exceeded the national figure of 16·00. A similar comparison of death rates indicates that the locally adjusted rate of 9·9 per 1,000 population is lower than the national figure which is 11·7. It is manifestly clear from a study of the vital statistics that changes are occurring in the population structure of the District and that the proportion of young to old has increased in recent years.

There was an increase in the number of cases of communicable diseases notified during the year, due chiefly to the large number of Measles notifications received. This has followed a most regrettable reduction in the number of children vaccinated against Measles in 1969. During 1970 however, parents have responded much more readily to the vaccination campaigns and doubtlessly have been influenced by the large number of cases in the community.

For the first time in many years, a case of Typhoid was notified. The patient was isolated in Hospital and this proved to be effective in preventing the spread of the disease. Intensive routine enquiries were immediately instituted to ascertain the source of infection but no connection with any known case could be established.

Throughout the course of the year samples of air were taken in the vicinity of the "Home Fire" Plant operated by the National

Coal Board at Keresley. These were submitted for analysis and determination of the levels of 3:4 benz-pyrene contained in them. The results obtained were re-assuring.

During the year the Department lost two of its senior members. In September Dr. Cusack resigned to take up an appointment with the Hampshire County Council. There has been no response to repeated advertisements and the post still remains vacant. Uncertainty about future career prospects in Public Health has diminished the likelihood of filling the vacancy. Two months later, in November, after a short illness my Senior Administrative Officer, Mr. J. D. Mynard, died in the prime of his life. He had held this post since 1948 and his wealth of local knowledge proved to be of inestimable value in the running of the department. The loss of two senior officers at a time of increasing work load necessarily places extra strain on the staff remaining, and I would like to pay tribute to the way in which they responded most loyally. It is invidious to single out individuals, but my sincere thanks are due to Mr. L. K. Barker who so ably acted as Senior Administrative Officer until an appointment was made.

My sincere thanks are also due to other chief officers and their staffs who at all times have co-operated most willingly. Those sections of the Report appertaining to the work of the Inspectorate have, as is customary, been furnished by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Haines, to whom I am most grateful. I am also indebted to Mr. Stephenson, Engineer and Surveyor, for the information which he has provided regarding sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

J. E. PEARSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.
September, 1971.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1970

Chairman of the Council :

K. BRADLEY MILLER, T.D.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

E. SAKNE

Clerk of the Council :

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

Public Health Committee: 1970-71

Antrobus, W. E.	Elliman, P. T.	Rogers, H. G.
Boakes, G. W. R.	Kelsey, E. J. O.	Samuels, K. J.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Kelsey, H.	Wallace, Mrs. D. V.
Earle, R. J.	Meddings, R. W.	Watts, E. W.
Edwards, N. A.	O'Callaghan, J. J.	

Housing Committee: 1970-71

Aylesford, Earl of	Collins, P. R.	Marklew, R. A.
Bird, E.	Cosgrove, M. J.	Martin, Mrs. L. E.
Boakes, G. W. R.	Davies, W. H.	Ratcliffe, R. H.
Bradley Miller, K.	Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Sakne, E.
Burman, G. C.	Kellie, P. F.	Welborn, Mrs. B.
		Wyldebore-Smith, A. R.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1970

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).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Vacant

Chief Public Health Inspector :

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

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

R. L. TUDGE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

W. W. G. CUTTS, 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.

D. WRIGHTING, M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Administrative Officer:

Vacant

(J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H. Died 14th November 1970)

Council Offices :

Council House,
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 63141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 62331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area

There was no alteration in the area of the district during 1970, and it, therefore, remained at 65,774 acres.

Population

Census 1961	57,250
Estimated Mid 1967	62,930
Estimated Mid 1968	70,360
Estimated Mid 1969	89,840
Estimated Mid 1970	105,000

The estimated mid year population is provided by the Registrar General.

General Statistics

No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec. 1970)	27,923
Rateable Value (1st April, 1970)	£3,423,923
Product of Penny Rate (1969/70)	£13,611

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1,190	1,053	2,243
Illegitimate	73	69	142
Totals	1,263	1,122	2,385

Live birth rate: 22.70 per 1000 population (crude rate), an increase over the rate of 18.60 for 1969.

After using the area comparability factor of 0.80, the local adjusted birth rate becomes 18.2 per 1000 population. This is higher than the comparable figure for England and Wales which is 16.00.

The 142 illegitimate births represented 6 per cent of all live births. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 8 per cent.

Birth Rate

22.70 per 1,000 estimated population

1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
22.70	18.60	17.01	15.64	15.98	17.66	18.65	18.58	19.37	19.60

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	18	12	30
Illegitimate	2	Nil	2
Totals	20	12	32

The number of still births per 1,000 total live and still births was 13.00. This was the same rate as for England and Wales.

Still Birth Rate

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

1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
13.00	9.00	12.38	13.04	9.10	17.94	18.11	18.86	20.08	16.50

Deaths

The crude death rate was 6.4 per 1,000 home population. This figure was slightly lower than the one for 1969 which was 6.6.

After using the area comparability factor of 1.55 the local adjusted death rate per 1,000 population was 9.9. This was lower than the rate for England and Wales which was 11.7.

The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease and cancer predominating. Cancer in various forms caused 139 deaths. Of these 33 were due to lung cancer.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for 14 deaths involving 11 males and 3 females.

The number of deaths caused by suicide and self inflicted injuries was 7, of these 6 were males and 1 female.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	388	289	677

Crude Death Rate

6.40 per 1,000 estimated population

1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
6.40	6.60	7.03	7.36	7.65	7.34	6.81	7.41	7.06	7.11

Deaths under one year of age.

Legitimate	44
Illegitimate	9

All deaths under one year per 1,000 live births were 22. The figure for England and Wales was 18.

Death of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000 legitimate live births were 20. The figure for England and Wales was 17.

Classified Causes of Death.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	—	1
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	3	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	5	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	9	7	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	31	2	33
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	19	19
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	—	3
Leukaemia	2	5	7
Other Malignant Neoplasms	19	18	37
Diabetes Mellitus	—	5	5
Avitaminoses, etc.	—	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	2	3	5
Anaemias	1	2	3
Mental Disorders	—	1	1
Meningitis	1	—	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	5	1	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	8	7	15
Hypertensive Disease	5	7	12
Ischaemic Heart Disease	107	60	167
Other Forms of Heart Disease	18	9	27
Cerebrovascular Disease	27	44	71
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	6	22
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	27	17	44
Bronchitis and Emphysema	25	9	34
Asthma	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	10	2	12
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	3	—	3
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	4	5
Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.	—	1	1
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	—	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2	1	3
Congenital Anomalies	8	8	16
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	7	6	13
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	4	10	14
Symtoms and Ill Defined conditions	—	3	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	11	3	14
All other accidents	4	6	10
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	6	1	7
All other external causes	—	1	1
Total all causes	388	289	677
Total all causes 1969	322	274	596

Deaths of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000 illegitimate live births were 63. The figure for England and Wales was 26.

Deaths under four weeks of age.

Legitimate	33
Illegitimate	6

The number of deaths occurring under 4 weeks, per 1,000 live births was 16. The corresponding number for England and Wales was 12.

Deaths under one week of age.

Legitimate	30
Illegitimate	4

The number of deaths of infants under 1 week of age per 1,000 1,000 total live births was 14, and the number of still births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age combined, per 1,000 total live and still births, was 27. The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 11 and 23 respectively.

Comparative Births, Deaths and Population figures 1965—1970.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Net Increase	*Birth Rate	*Death Rate
1966	61,320	980	469	+ 511	13.7	11.5
1967	62,930	984	463	+ 521	13.4	11.2
1968	70,360	1197	495	+ 702	14.1	10.4
1969	89,840	1671	597	+1074	15.1	10.2
1970	105,000	2385	678	+1707	18.2	9.9

*Birth rate per 1,000 population after local adjustment.

*Death rate per 1,000 population after local adjustment.

Area Comparability Factors.

Births.....0.80

Deaths..... 1.55.

These factors have already been mentioned earlier in the Report. The reason for their introduction is because direct comparisons of crude birth and death rates between one area and another are rendered invalid by the differing population structures. Thus one area may have a predominantly old population and another one may be predominantly young.

The Area Comparability Factor is devised to make allowances for age and sex differences in local populations and permit direct comparability.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1970.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. 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	675	68	397	206	2	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	60	3	4	53	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	16	-	7	6	1	2	-	-	1
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	18	-	7	5	1	5	-	-	3
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	42	-	2	4	13	5	1	17	16
Infective Hepatitis ..	33	-	3	11	7	10	2	-	3
Totals	857	72	420	287	25	29	7	17	25

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Measles	675	206	652	549	588	1,077	379	1,028	93	1,980
Whooping Cough	60	5	56	48	63	31	25	40	11	49
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	16	10	35	11	16	28	25	15	15	36
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	18	86	98	31	72	22	106	90	158	46
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Acute Poliomye- litis : Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis . .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . .	1	6	3	-	3	3	-	43	22	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . .	7	7	2	5	12	18	12	9	19	27
Other forms of Tuberculosis . .	2	5	4	2	4	4	2	4	3	4
Food Poisoning . .	42	35	4	18	3	-	-	8	9	7
Infective Hepatitis	33	38	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	857	398	904	692	781	1,243	571	1,349	433	2,294

General Comment

The total number of cases of Infectious diseases notified during 1970 was 857 as compared with 398 for the previous year. Of these over three quarters were notifications for Measles.

Measles

There was an increase in the number of cases notified during 1970; a total of 675 representing an increase of 469 over the previous year. Some, at least, of the increase is due to the low response to Measles vaccination to which reference was made in the Annual Report for 1969.

The response to Measles vaccination was, however, more encouraging during 1970 and the following table gives totals.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Measles in 1970.

Age	Vaccinations
0-1	532
2-5	1,146
6-15	106
Total	1,784

Whooping Cough

The number of cases reported increased from 5 to 60.

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 1970.

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	364	1,932	99	51	11	2,457
Reinforcing	—	137	52	138	4	331
Totals	364	2,069	151	189	15	2,788

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1970.

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	380	2,060	134	117	82	2,773
Reinforcing	—	158	191	1,380	868	2,597
Totals	380	2,218	325	1,497	950	5,370

Acute Poliomyelitis

Once again no cases were notified and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations completed during 1970.

Oral	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	2,077	52	2,129
2—5	567	985	1,552
6—15	186	371	557
Total	2,830	1,408	4,238

Smallpox

The total number of children vaccinated against Smallpox during 1970 was slightly higher than the figure of 1,232 for 1969. The following table gives the details.

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1970

	Age at date of Vaccination					Totals
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	
Vaccinated	15	449	711	118	3	1,296
Re-Vaccinated ..	—	1	15	161	7	184
Totals	15	450	726	279	10	1,480

Dysentery

Compared with recent years the total number of 18 cases of Dysentery notified during 1970 was low. The cases reported were distributed sporadically throughout the District.

Food Poisoning.

During 1970 the number of cases of Food Poisoning notified was 42. This figure represents an increase of 7 over the previous year. The cases notified were spread throughout the District.

Infective Hepatitis

A total number of 33 cases of Infective Hepatitis were notified during 1970, this represented a small decrease in comparison with 38 in 1969.

Typhoid.

For the first time in many years a confirmed case of Typhoid was notified. The patient had not travelled abroad and despite intensive investigations the source of infection remained a mystery.

There were no secondary cases.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows that there was a slight increase in both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the register at the end of 1970.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1970

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1969	205	136	24	28
2. New Cases	4	3	—	2
3. Inward Transfers	9	9	—	—
4. Removals	6	2	1	—
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1970	212	146	23	30

Both existing and new cases of Tuberculosis are subject to regular supervision. The following table gives details of the age and sex distribution of new cases together with deaths, notified during 1970.

**Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified
during 1970**

Age Groups	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 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
55—65 ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	3	—	2	3	—	—	—

Routine milk samples are taken by the County Health Department in the District and biologically examined for Tuberculosis. During 1970, 8 samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken, and all proved to be satisfactory.

SECTION C.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

National Assistance Act 1948.

In only one instance was statutory action under Section 47 of the Act necessary for compulsory removal to an establishment for chronically sick persons. All other cases were admitted on a voluntary basis.

Sewerage.

A small sewer extension was carried out in Sunnyside Lane, and Barratts Lane, Balsall Common. Storm water overflows have been constructed at Lavender Hall Lane and Church Lane, Middleton.

The public conveniences on both carriageways of the A.45 trunk road at Stonebridge were well frequented with 107,300 pence being fed into the closet compartment coin boxes.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The various refuse collection services operated satisfactorily during the year, except for a period of almost six weeks in the Autumn when the whole of the Councils manual staff were involved in the national strike. During that time a total of over 50,000 plastic or paper sacks were issued through distribution points set up in various parishes. Compounds were set up on suitable sites to serve flats.

Further progress was made in the replacement of pail closets and since 1960 a total of 464 have been replaced and a further 86 approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections and visits made :

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	1,342
Sewers and drains	452
Ditches and water courses	251
Filthy and verminous premises	42
Infestations	220
Infectious diseases	324
Water supplies	298
Moveable dwellings (other than caravans) ..	6

Noise Abatement Act

Noise nuisances	113
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Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Caravans and caravan sites	235
----------------------------------	-----

Housing Act

Houses recorded	29
Other visits	1,899
Overcrowding	3
Improvements	60

Food and Drugs Act

Food premises (including registered premises)	838
Food stalls and vehicles	39
Bakehouses	9
Slaughterhouses (premises)	98
Food complaints (investigations)	91
Food examination (including meat inspection)	1,380

Clean Air Act

Survey visits (smoke control areas)	674
Other inspections and visits	3,527

Factories Act

Factories:	
Non-power	5
Power	124
Others	15

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Offices and shops—recorded inspections ..	105
Re-inspections	225
Other visits	33

Rent Act	14
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

(excluding visits by rodent operator)	120
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National Assistance Act, section 50	12
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	28
Miscellaneous	846
	<hr/>
	13,457
	<hr/>
Complaints investigated	1,611

Nuisances

Nuisances reported and dealt with totalled 562.

The National Coal Board's plant at Keresley, which produces "Homefire" smokeless fuel, continued to cause nuisances of various kinds at intervals throughout the year. Complaints were received from local residents about excessive smoke, fume, noise and dust. The complaints included representations from Coventry officials on behalf of residents in the city. Action was taken in all cases in co-operation with H.M. Alkali Inspector and usually short-term remedies were applied without undue delay. Experience over several years confirms the Council's initial fears that the plant would give rise to nuisances against which no remedy would be likely to be permanently effective. The factory is badly sited in relation to neighbouring properties and its introduction into a partly residential area was, and remains, an imposition on the residents.

The two shafts at Keresley Colliery were both converted to electric winding as from October 1970. The resultant reduction in the demand for steam has made it possible to operate on only two of the eleven Lancashire boilers formerly used. However, the grit-arresting plant installed some years ago has been allowed to fall into disuse and reliance is placed on the economisers for grit arrestment. This is not a satisfactory arrangement and observations are continuing to ascertain whether the emission of grit has been reduced to an acceptable level.

The temporary sewage purification plant installed by the Drainage Authority at Whitacre Heath did not produce the desired improvement in the condition of the outfall ditch. Under pressure from the Parish Council, the ditch was dredged during the summer at the District Council's expense, thus providing some temporary relief. For practical purposes, however, the situation is no better than when the previous report was written and a permanent disposal scheme is long overdue.

Enforcement

Verbal warnings	49
Informal notices	437
Statutory notices	55
Legal proceedings	—

HOUSING

Register of Applications for Council Houses

Number of applications on register at end of year :

General needs	288
Slum clearance	
General	10
Old people	12
Agricultural	14
Old people (other than slum clearance)	96
	<hr/>
	420
	<hr/>
Comparative total at end of 1969.....	336

The increase in the number of applications on the register from 336 to 420 follows a slight relaxation in the rules governing admission and does not indicate a worsening of the housing position generally. Whilst there is a degree of need involved in all the recorded cases, few of the applicants are in real difficulty and tenancies can usually be offered without undue waiting where the need is acute.

Number of houses available for letting :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Building Completions</i>	<i>Casual Vacancies</i>	<i>Total</i>
1970	16	63	79
1969	86	70	156
1968	48	53	101
1967	108	58	166
1966	10	43	53

Allocations

General needs	56
General needs (old people)	14
Slum clearance.....	1
Slum clearance (old people)	4
Agriculture	—
Other priorities, including Council staff	4
	<hr/>
	79
	<hr/>

Exchanges approved

Transfers to other houses	16
Exchanges between Council tenants.....	3
Exchanges between Council tenants and tenants of privately-owned houses	4
	<hr/>
	23
	<hr/>

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Areas

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

Single houses

Number of demolition orders made	16
Number of houses demolished	17
Number of undertakings accepted	3
Number of closing orders made	—

Houses made fit—

by owners, voluntarily	36
by owners, after formal notices	8
by Council, in default of owners	—

Overcrowding

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

Number of private houses known to be overcrowded	2
Number of Council houses known to be overcrowded	2
Number of families involved	4
Number of persons involved	41
Cases relieved during year by Council	—
Cases relieved during year otherwise	5

Houses in Multiple Occupation Nil

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for certificates of disrepair received during year	—
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	—

WATER SUPPLIES

Extent of supplies

The annual report for 1969 included a tabular statement showing the extent to which public piped water supplies were available in each of the parishes. Subsequent alterations in parish boundaries and the creation of two new parishes within the Council's existing area have made it impracticable to give precise figures parish by parish for 1970. There are now 27,923 houses in the Council's

district of which only 35 are known not to have a public water main available. They are in the following parishes.

Allesley	1
Balsall	2
Barston	3
Berkswell	1
Coleshill	2
Curdworth	1
Fillongley	6
Hampton-in-Arden	1
Lea Marston	1
Maxstoke	1
Meriden	12
Packington	3
Nether Whitacre	1

Provision for 13 of them is proposed in the following schemes for extending the mains which were approved during the year:

- (1) Washbrook Lane, Allesley:
350 yards of 4" main to supply 2 houses; estimated cost £1,300.
- (2) Kinwalsey, Meriden:
900 yards of 4" main and 400 yards of 2" main; total estimated cost £4,100 for 8 houses.
- (3) Birmingham Road, Kenilworth (parish of Balsall): 500 yards of 4" main to supply one house; estimated cost £1,800.
- (4) Cornets End Lane, Meriden (parish of Berkswell):
760 yards of 4" main to supply one house at an estimated cost of £2,515.
- (5) Marsh Farm, Ryton End, Barston:
383 yards of 4" and 317 yards of 1½" main; total estimated cost £2,135; one house to be supplied.

None of the work had been started by the 31st December.

Quality of supplies.

Samples taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination were reported on as follows:

Source	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Old wells	10	11
Springs	—	2
Public mains	30	2
Aircraft storage tanks	5	5

Regular sampling of the public mains supplies is carried out by each of the four statutory water undertakings.

Birmingham Water Department
 Coventry Water Department
 North East Warwickshire Water Board
 South Staffs. Waterworks Co.

The checking of water storage tanks in aircraft using Birmingham (Elmdon) Airport was undertaken as a matter of routine. The five unsatisfactory results were referred to the respective aircraft operators, who were asked to clean out and sterilize the tanks and to pay further attention to the various sources of supply, particularly where these were outside the United Kingdom.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND HANDLING

Slaughterhouses and meat inspection

Six privately-owned licensed slaughterhouses continue to be used in the Council's district. Various minor defects were referred to the licensees for attention and the standard of maintenance was generally satisfactory. All meat produced in the slaughterhouses was inspected on the premises. Particulars of the inspections and condemnations are given in the tables which follow.

Licensing of slaughtermen

Thirty-eight slaughtermen are licensed by the Council.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3,929	390	91	24,684	8,972
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	13	66	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	898	169	13	5,873	2,354
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	22.9	44.1	28.6	24.1	26.5

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned.....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	4	—	—	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.15	1.03	—	—	0.26

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.....	—	—	—	—	—

Condemnations of unfit food

		Tuberculosis tons. cwts. lbs.		All other diseases and conditions tons. cwts. lbs.	
Meat					
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Carcase meat	1	46	8	88
	Offals	1	18	3	5 40
Cows	Carcase meat	1	36	18	25
	Offals		66	14	13
Sheep	Carcase meat		—	1	5 103
	Offals		—	4	17 63
Pigs	Carcase meat	1	77	1	15 86
	Offals		—	1	5 20
Calves	Carcase meat		—	4	104
	Offals		—		38
Totals		6	19	14	16 20

Other food (various)

1 6 82

Complaints relating to food

Nineteen cases were investigated, relating to foreign bodies in food (9), insect infestation (2), mould (4) and general unfitness (4). All were dealt with informally.

Poultry inspection

The circumstances described in the report for 1969 are substantially unchanged.

Disposal of condemned food

The arrangement made in 1969 for destruction by incineration, at a plant operated by a neighbouring authority, has been continued satisfactorily.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

The following is a classified list of premises in the district to which these Regulations apply:

Category	Number inspected and recorded	Number complying with Regulation 16*	Number to which Regulation 19† applies	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	74	72	74	74
Grocery and General (not exclusively food) ..	55	55	55	55
Bread and cakes	5	5	5	5
Sweets and confectionery ..	42	42	42	42
Greengrocery	30	29	30	30
Butchery	36	35	36	36
Fish, wet and/or fried ..	9	9	9	9
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. ..	44	44	44	44
Hotels and Licensed Premises	93	93	93	93
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food)	3	3	3	3
Industrial Catering ..	39	39	39	39
Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
School Kitchens	54	53	54	54
	489	484	489	489

* 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.

Registered food premises (Food and Drugs Act, 1955, section 6)

The following premises are registered:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	3
Sale only of ice-cream	152
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	19
Fish frying.....	9

Visits to food premises totalled 984. Contraventions recorded in the course of inspections are summarised in the table below:

Defects of premises and lack of proper maintenance	271
Defective or inadequate equipment	95
Unhygienic practices	182
Contraventions involving food vehicles	13
	<hr/> 561 <hr/>

Informal action was taken in respect of all the contraventions, many of which were of a minor character.

Milk and Dairies

The following are registered as distributors of milk:

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	29
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	72
	<hr/> 101 <hr/>

CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

Smoke control orders

There has been no effective change in the position since the end of 1969, when it was reported that the Council's No. 4 smoke control order would be operative on the 1st October, 1970. During the year under review, order No. 5 was submitted and confirmation was awaited. It will apply to the Bradford Ward of Castle Bromwich and will affect 895 existing privately-owned houses, 44 commercial premises, and 2 industrial premises in an area of 181 acres.

Eight complaints were received about alleged contraventions of smoke control orders by the emission of smoke from domestic chimneys. All were investigated and warnings were issued where appropriate. In one case where the emission of smoke was observed, enquiries revealed that no offence had been committed as only an authorised fuel was being burnt. One retailer of solid fuels was warned about selling coal in a smoke control area.

The Council's initial smoke control programme did not attempt to cover the whole district. It was adopted in 1966 and its scope was limited by the financial and physical resources likely to be available in the period up to the end of 1975. The intention was to

follow it by an extended programme relating to other parts of the Council's area. With the impending changes in the structure of local government, this is no longer feasible. The current programme will cover all the substantially built-up parishes near to Birmingham but action will be needed in the future in respect of the parishes of Arley, Hampton-in-Arden, Keresley and Meriden and the residential parts of Balsall and Berkswell.

Measurement of pollution

The 1969 report referred to preparations then being made for an investigation into the amount of 3:4 benz-pyrene in the air in the vicinity of the National Coal Board's "Homefire" plant at Keresley. Difficulties in obtaining the necessary sampling apparatus and in securing the requisite specialised analytical services were eventually overcome. The results obtained gave no grounds for apprehension: the levels of benz-pyrene detected were lower than those commonly met with in industrial areas.

Measurements of solid matter in the air were continued. The following table gives the amount of insoluble solids, expressed in milligrams per square metre per month, obtained from the deposit gauge at Lea Marston, near to the Hams Hall electricity generating works.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average monthly deposit of insoluble solids</i>
1965	126 Milligrammes/sq. metre/month
1966	148
1967	123
1968	129
1969	135
1970	130

The total rainfall for 1970, measured from the Lea Marston deposit gauge, was 581 m.m.

The amount of sulphur pollution, as shown by the average results from 8 gauges around the Hams Hall electricity works was again slightly reduced. The figures over the past six years as ascertained by the lead peroxide method, are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>empirical units</i>
1965	1.45
1966	1.32
1967	1.33
1968	1.29
1969	1.09
1970	0.93

It is understood that at the end of 1970, work was proceeding on the adaptation of all the boilers at Hams Hall "C" electricity station for burning natural gas, as an alternative to pulverised coal.

CARAVAN SITES

The general position is unchanged. At the end of the year, the following site licenses have been issued:

permanent sites	5 (total 118 caravans)
temporary „	16 („ 94 „)

The improvements required at the largest site, at Eaves Green, Meriden, were completed during the year after much delay, and the site is now generally satisfactory. Its remaining disadvantage is its reliance on cesspool drainage. The very large cesspool is emptied regularly by the Council at the expense of the site operator, but with a substantial subsidy from the rates. Difficulties have already arisen due to land water gaining access to the cesspool, with resultant overflows on to neighbouring land. The site accommodates 52 caravans which are likely to continue in use as homes for the foreseeable future and there are several houses in the vicinity having cesspool drainage. The site is not so remote as to preclude the provision of a public sewer which ought to be provided when circumstances permit.

All the other licensed sites have adequate facilities and are satisfactorily maintained.

Legal proceedings were taken against the occupier of land at Middleton for a contravention of section 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, in respect of the use of land as a site for a caravan without a licence from the local authority. The magistrates imposed a fine of £12.50 with £3 costs.

PEST CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

The following table records the work done in rodent control and other manual services:

Number of visits by rodent operators	2,182
Premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice and subsequently treated—	
Domestic	493
Industrial and commercial	101
Sewage works	4
Drains examined and tested	191
Insect and other infestations dealt with	457
Collection and disposal of unfit food (visits)	194

Reference was made in the 1969 report to a recurrence of bed-bugs in the district after many years of freedom from this pest, a total of 21 cases having been reported and dealt with. It was hoped that the problem had been substantially resolved but in fact it has persisted and continues to do so. Sixty cases were investigated and dealt with during 1970, the incidence again being confined mainly to recently developed parts of the Council's district.

MORTUARY

A scheme for extending and improving the Council's mortuary at Sumner Road, Coleshill, was approved and a tender accepted, with a view to the work being started early in 1971.

National Assistance Act, 1948, section 50

Four bodies were buried by the Council. In two cases there were no relatives or other persons responsible for burial and in the other two the relatives could not pay the cost involved.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and general inspections are summarised in the following table:

Class of premises	Premises Registered during year	Total registered premises at end of year	General Inspections during year
Offices	19	108	69
Retail shops	28	280	156
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	8	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	64	34
Fuel storage depots	—	3	1
Totals	49	463	262

Visits to registered premises for all purposes totalled 363. The total number of contraventions recorded was 451 but it included very many items of a trivial nature. The main requirements of the Act are substantially complied with and conditions in which employees work are generally satisfactory. In no case was any formal action needed to secure compliance. Ten minor accidents to employees were reported and five were investigated: no action was necessary in any of the cases.

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises:

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	772
Retail shops	1,076
Wholesale departments, warehouses	46
Catering establishments open to the public	818
Canteens	22
Fuel storage depots	9
Total	2,743
Total Males	1,225
Total Females	1,518

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (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	11	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	165	124	42	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	15	3	—
Total ..	179	144	45	—

Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	67	62	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences ..	1	1	—	—	—
Total ..	75	70	—	3	—

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)
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assembling electrical components	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	—	—	—	—	—







