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BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1961.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, 1961.

Medical Officer of Health

Margaret H. F. Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

J. L. McFall, N.R.S.H., N.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector D. L. Williams, M.P.H.I.A. (until 31st October, 1961).

J. T. Cope, M.P.H.I.A. (from 1st December, 1961).

CONTENTS OF REPORT.

Section A - Statistics.

Section B - General Provision of Health Services.

Section C - Environmental Hygiene, Housing, Food, Factories.

Section D - Infectious Diseases.

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BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Wenlock Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1961.

This follows the same general lines as in previous years, and contains all the data required by the Ministry of Health.

For their valuable contributions towards the preparation of the Report, my very grateful thanks are due to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. J. L. McFall and Mr. J. T. Cope, who provided all the information contained in Section C. The assistance given by our clerical assistant, Miss Griffiths, is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,
Margaret H. F. Turnbull,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in acres	-	22,657
Estimated Population (mid-1961)	-	14,950
Number of Inhabited Houses	-	4,736
Rateable Value of District (at 1.4.62.)	-	£128,950
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate	-	£ 491

VITAL STATISTICS:

1. POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district at mid-1961 was 14,950 - a decrease of 110 on the corresponding estimate for 1960. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates for the area.

The natural increase in population for the year was 6 (i.e. the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths).

2. BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

There were 217 live births in the Borough during 1961 - 14 less than in the previous year. Of this total, 7 were illegitimate (3.2%).

The "Crude" Birth Rate for 1961 was 14.5 per 1,000 of the population, and the Standardised Birth Rate (comparable with the corresponding Standardised Rate for other areas) was 14.6. This is somewhat lower than the average Birth Rate for the whole country for 1961 which was 17.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Live Births, 1961.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	119	6	125
Female	91	1	92
Total	210	7	217
Rate per 1000 of population	14.0	0.5	14.5

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 14.5 Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 14.6 Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1961 - 17.4

(b) Still Births.

There were 6 Still-Births notified during 1961, two more than in 1960.

The Still Birth Rate was thus 26.9 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and still births combined). This represents an increase on our Still Birth Rate for 1960 which was 17.0 per 1,000 total births, and is also above the national average for 1961 of 18.7.

Still Births, 1961.

Nale - 3 Female - 3 Total - 6

Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births - 26.9 Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births (England and Wales, 1961). - 18.7

DEATHS.

211 inhabitants of the Borough died during 1961, 16 more than in 1960.

The various causes of death are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar-General which appears overleaf. Conditions affecting the Heart and Circulatory System again accounted for the greatest number of the deaths (49.8% of the total) and Malignant Disease was responsible for 14.2%. Of the 30 deaths from Malignant conditions, 10 were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus.

The Standardised Death-Rate for the year was 12.5 per 1,000 of the population, which approximates very closely to the average for the country as a whole (12.0).

Deaths, 1961.

Crude Death-Rate per 1,000 of population - 14.1 Standardised Death-Rate per 1,000 of population - 12.5 Death Rate for England and Wales, 1961 - 12.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1961.

		l'ale	Female	Total
1.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.23.456.78.90.10.20.10.20.10.20.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10	Tuberculosis, other forms Syphilitic disease Diphtleria Whooping-cough Mening-coccai infection Acute Poliomyelitis Neasles Other infective and parasitic diseases Nalignant neoplasm, somach Nalignant neoplasm, lung or bronchus Nalignant neoplasm, breast Nalignant neoplasm, uterus Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukaemia Diabetes Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart disease Other circulatory disease Influenza Pneumonia Bronchitis Other diseases of respiratory system Ulcer of stomach and duodenum Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea Nephritis and nephrosis Hyperplasis of prostrate Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion Congenital malformations Other defined and ill-defined diseases Motor-vehicle accidents All other accidents Suicide Homicide and operations of war	14 126 21 1221	1	21
	All Causes	106	105	211

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

5 infants under the age of twelve months died during 1961 - 1 less than in 1960. Of these, 2 succumbed during the first month of life, both during their first week.

The Infant Hortality Rate for the year was therefore 23.0 per 1,000 live births (26.0 in 1960). This is slightly above the average figure for England and Wales which was 21.4.

The Neonatal Fortality Rate mentioned in the table below refers to those infants dying in the first month of life. It shows a pleasing drop compared with the corresponding figure for 1960 which was 21.6, and is well below the national average for 1961 of 15.5.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1961.

to Letter and	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	1	Log Marie Harden	1
Female	4	ones pro doto	24
Total	5		5
Rate per 1,000 related live births	23.8	anogne – yd luon	23.0

Infant Nortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	-	23.0
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births		
(England and Wales, 1961)	-	21.4
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	-	9.2
Neonatal Nortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales, 1961)	-	15.5

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth occurred in the Borough during the year under review.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IN THE AREA.

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The Hospital and Specialist Services are provided and administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and its Hospital Management Committees.

The District is well served, being within easy reach of various general hospitals in the neighbourhood. Consultants from the larger centres hold regular outpatient clinics at the two small general hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Since the closure of Shirlett Sanatorium in March, 1961, Tuberculosis cases have been treated in Copthorne Hospital.

Other infectious disease cases requiring isolation and hospital care are admitted to Copthorne Hospital or Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge, takes the elderly and chronic sick, and also has accommodation for mental defectives.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for these services is the Salop Executive Council, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Salop County Council as Local Health Authority is responsible for the following "Personal" Health Services:

Care of mothers and young children.
Domiciliary Midwifery.
Health Visiting.
Vaccination and Immunisation.
Ambulance Services.
Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
Domestic Healp Services.

(a) Muternal and Child Welfare.

There are four Child Welfare Centres in the District where afternoon sessions are held as follows:

Victoria Institute, Broseley - 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. Severn Bank House, Ironbridge - Each Friday. Welfare Centre, Church Street,

British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

(b) Welfare Foods.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during clinic hours, and at various conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting, Home Nursing.

Details of these services may be obtained from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's scheme, vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Whooping-cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre by appointment.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

At the commencement of 1961, all those up to the age of 40 years were eligible for vaccination against Poliomyelitis by three injections of Salk vaccine. Regular day vaccination sessions for infants and toddlers, and evening sessions for adults continued to be held at clinics for this purpose. Vaccination was also undertaken by family doctors.

In April, the Ministry of Health recommended that a 4th, reinforcing, injection should be made available to children between the ages of 5 and 12 years, if possible before the summer season. Arrangements were accordingly made for school Medical Officers in the County to visit all their schools for this purpose during the summer term.

In October, the Ministry adopted the recommendations of the Cohen Committee, and announced that the oral (Sabin) vaccine would shortly be made available to Local Health Authorities for the routine Vaccination of those up to the age of 40 years.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11 - 13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(e) Ambulance Services.

There were no changes in the Ambulance arrangements during the year. The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331) and all calls for ambulances are dealt with centrally.

One ambulance is stationed in Much Wenlock for use on local journeys.

(f) Domestic Help Services.

The service of a Home Help is available in the words of the Act for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age".

There are no Domestic Help Offices in the Borough of Wenlock. The nearest are at Bridgmorth Welfare Centre (open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons), and at Wellington (42 Tan Bank).

SECTION C.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEAUTH, HOUSING, FOOD. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The information contained in this section has been contributed by the Fublic Health Inspectors, whose assistance in this respect is gratefully acknowledged.

1. ENVIRON ENTAL HEALTH.

(a) Water Supplies:

The main piped supplies in the Borough are under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board. Copies of the reports on all samples taken are sent to the Board for information.

84 water samples were taken in 1961 and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Shrewsbury. The results were as follows:

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Main Supplies	20	10
Private Supplies	6	48

The reason why the number of unsatisfactory samples is high is due to the fact that when an unsatisfactory result is received, further samples are immediately taken to check the contamination, and as a check on the steps taken to improve the standard of purity.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Callaughton Village.

Further improvements were carried out to this supply during the year and a standpipe supplied by a storage reservoir, was provided. The last samples taken from this supply were highly satisfactory.

Willey Estate.

The efforts made by the Estate Agents to improve the standard of purity of this supply resulted in satisfactory samples finally being obtained. With this kind of source, a shallow spring, surface contamination is always a possibility to be watched for.

Farley, Much Wenlock.

Following renewed complaints from residents in this area and further samples showing badly polluted private wells, every effort was made to persuade the East Shropshire Water Board to extend the recent extension to the mains, to supply the remaining properties in the area. A guarantee under section 36 of the Water Act, 1945, was given to the Water Board by the Wenlock Committee in June and at the end of the year it was understood that the work on the extension would be started at an early date.

(b) Sewage Disposal.

Night soil is collected weekly in the Madeley Ward by emptying pails into a removable container placed on one of the Council's vehicles. The provision of a cesspool emptier with a pail emptying attachment would be more hygienic, and would enable a service for cesspool emptying to be provided for those ratepayers who are not so fortunate as to have main drainage available. At present Dawley U.D.C. empty cesspools in the Borough on request, but the charge is necessarily high.

The Aqueduct Sowerage Scheme was completed at the end of the year. Circular letters had previously been sent to the owners inviting them to submit estimates for connecting their premises to the sewer and converting earth closets to water closets in respect of which grants would be made of half the approved cost.

A survey in 1958 had shown that the proposed scheme would serve 159 existing properties apart from the proposed and expected development in the area. There are 91 earth closets and 32 cesspools which can now be eliminated.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly throughout the Borough except in the outlying parts where the collection is fortnightly.

Three refuse tips are in use in the Borough; disposal is by tipping and surface dressing.

(d) Rodent Control.

One Rodent Operator is employed, spending two weeks of his time with the Borough of Wenlock and every third week with Bridgnorth Borough. This arrangement means that the Public Health Inspectors must deal with infestations needing urgent attention during this week.

Contracts for Rodent Control this year decreased by one to thirty-two in respect of forty-one premises.

Refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected for the presence of rats and any infestation promptly dealt with. Sewers were test baited twice during 1961, in February and August, and the small infestations found were treated.

2. HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.61.	-	4,736
Number of Council-owned houses	-	1,233
Council houses completed in 1961	-	10
Council houses under construction at 31.12.61.		72
Number of applications for Improvement Grants in 196	1-	49
Number of applications approved for Grants	-	49

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The necessity for a systematic survey of houses in the whole of the Borough remains, as the list of properties drawn up in 1955 as a schedule of the properties to be dealt with for Slum Clearance is incomplete.

Since October, 1957, four Clearance Areas have been made which included 109 houses, some of which are not mentioned on this list. The property dealt with by Clearance Orders was obviously unfit and in every case the Order was confirmed by the Ministry.

More property will be recommended to be dealt with as Clearance Areas during 1962, and where possible, in the case of individual unfit houses, the owners will be encouraged to improve and repair the property. A more positive approach to improve houses with Improvement Grants could be made if this matter was dealt with by the Public Health Department.

Having dealt with the Clearance of some of the obviously unfit blocks of property, a systematic survey of houses in the Borough will be made as time allows and the results of the survey placed before the appropriate Committee with recommendations for future action. It is proposed to report first on areas of property where it is considered there is a preponderance of unfit property. A start has been made with a survey of property in the Jackfield area and the area between Waterloo Street and Madeley Road. It is hoped that reports on these areas will be ready during 1962 for consideration by the responsible Committees.

The transfer to the Public Health Department of the responsibility for dealing with tenancies of Council Houses has assisted to some extent in the rehousing of families from unfit houses. The main problems connected with rehousing arise from the relatively high rents which must be charged for Council Houses. In genuine cases of hardship every endeavour is made to find the family accommodation suited to their income.

Some progress was made during the year in respect of the following Clearance Areas:

Broseley Ward.

Church Street (4 houses). Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.12.58. The houses were demolished at the beginning of 1961.

Birch Row (7 houses). Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 14.10.58.

The last original family in this Clearance Area was rehoused in August of this year, leaving a family of squatters still in occupation of one of the houses and preventing demolition of the buildings.

Hockley Bank (12 Houses). The Compulsory Purchase Order which was submitted to the Ministry on 21.1.59. was confirmed without modification on 6.1.60. The twelve houses comprising this Clearance Area were demolished in April, 1961.

Legges Alley (3 Houses). Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 13.10.58.

Two houses are vacant and one family remains.

Madeley Ward.

Wellington Road, Coalbrookdale (10 houses). Clearance Order was confirmed by the Ministry on 6.5.59. The remaining families were rehoused, and the property demolished in October, 1961.

High Street, Coalport (10 houses). Confirmation of the Glearance Order was received from the Ministry on 23.2.60. One house is unoccupied. The other nine families are to be rehoused in houses nearing completion at Coalport.

High Street, Coalport (No.2 Area) (2 houses). Clearance Order was made in respect of these two houses on 30.5.60. and was confirmed by the Ministry without modification on 8.12.60. The two families are to be rehoused in houses which are nearing completion at Coalport.

The Lloyds, Coalport (4 houses). A Clearance Order was made by the Council on 30.5.60. and was confirmed by the Ministry without modification on 22.12.60. One house is unoccupied, the remaining three families to be displaced are to be rehoused in houses at Coalport.

Park Lane, Madeley (9 houses). A Clearance Order was submitted to the Ministry in March, 1961, and confirmed without modification on 19.7.61.

Aqueduct Bank, Hadeley (9 houses). A Clearance Order was submitted to the Hinistry in March, 1961, and confirmed without modification on 12.9.61.
A private hearing was held to hear objections to the Order by one of the tenants.

Blests Hill, Coalport (12 houses). A Clearance Order was submitted to the Ministry in March, 1961, and confirmed without modification on 23.8.61.

A private hearing was held to hear objections to the Order by two of the tenants on 21.6.61.

Lincoln Hill, Ironbridge (9 houses). A Clearance Order was submitted to the Ministry in March, 1961, and confirmed without modification on 10th August, 1961.

Wenlock Ward.

Presthope (Much Wenlock) (6 houses). A Clearance Order in respect of this property was made by the Council on 27.1.60, and confirmed by the Ministry on 21.3.61. Two houses are unoccupied and the remaining three families are to be rehoused at Much Wenlock. The fourth family the Committee are not obliged to rehouse as the house is not their permanent house and is only used for holidays and week-ends.

Barrow Ward.

No action was taken regarding Slum Clearance under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, during 1961.

Individual Unfit Houses.

Action taken in respec; of Individual Unfit Houses in the Borough during 1961 was as follows:

Houses demolished		3
Unfit Houses Closed	-	24
Undertakings from landlords		
to make fit accepted	-	7

RENT ACT, 1957:

No.	of	applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-	2
No.	of	applications approved		2
No.	of	proposals to Issue a Certificate of Disrepair	-	2
No.	of	Undertakings received	-	1
No.	of	Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	1
No.	of	Repairs completed	-	0
No.	of	Applications by Landlord for cancellation	-	0
No.	of	Certificates cancelled	-	0

25 Applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received between July, 1957, when the Rent Act came into force, and December, 1958. The number was much reduced for the following years and in 1960 and 1961 only two applications were received each year.

The purpose of the Act was to encourage owners to carry out repairs to tenanted property, but in this respect it has failed. There are few tenants who are now aware of their

rights under the provisions of this Act.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On 31st December, 1961. there were seventy-nine caravans in the Borough on forty-five sites. Each was licensed under the provisions of the Public Health Act and the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. There was one site licensed for twelve moveable dwellings in the Broseley Ward.

Planning approval was refused in respect of a site for sixty-two caravans at Coalport Road, Broseley.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection:

The table below gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough during 1960:

	Cattle excluding cows and heifers.	Cows and heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Inspected	85	13	0	442	171
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis. Whole carcases					
condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ condemned	4	A on To had	-	-	1
Percentage affected	4.7	no omplife	olf-is	102	0.6
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	a beauteri	-	Trope 1	102	-
Some part or organ condemned	- backbog	-	10-10-2	-	1
Percentage affected	100 - 11 m	-	- 10	-	0.6
Cysticercosis	No carcases were found to be affected.				

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouses was approximately sixty-four lbs.

All meat is inspected at each of the three slaughterhouses in the district.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

It is an effence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for a retailer to have on his premises food which is unfit for human consumption. It is the usual practice for retailers to report the existence of doubtful food to the Inspector who, if he condemns this, issues a Surrender Certificate enabling the retailer to claim compensation for his loss.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1961:

18 lbs. tinned meat products - decomposition or blown tins.

12 ozs. coffee (3 tins) - affected by damp.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and 1960.

Routine inspections of food premises continued to be made during the year and contrarentions pointed out to the occupier of the premises. In every instance the occupier has attended to the matter requiring attention without any formal notice being necessary.

PACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Council is responsible, by the provisions of Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of samitary conveniences in all factories in the district, and in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

A total of 27 inspections of factories were made during the year, when two defects were found.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which ary persons are employed as out-workers are not injurious or dangerous to health.

The prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Vactories Act, 1937, are set out separately at the end of the report.

SECTION D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1961:

Measles	285
Pneumonia	19
Whooping-cough	11
Scarlet Fever	5 3
Dysentery	3
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	1
	327
	-

As was expected, Measles, following its usual biennial cycle, was again prevalent among the child population during 1961. It accounted for 87% of the total 327 notifications, and its main incidence was during the second and third quarters of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS,

Three cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The following numbers of cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1961:

	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.
Male	70	13
Female	54	16
Total	124	29

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937. PART I OF THE ACT.

 INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1 - 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	1		
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	21	-	
(c) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises	.'9	5	_	_
Total	69	27	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases
Particulars	Found Ranadica		Referred		in which prosecu-
	(0)	(2)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	tions were instituted (6)
(1)	(5)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(0)
Want of cleanli- ness (S.1)	-	1	-	1	-
Overerowding (8,2)	0.70	1 vote 20	10070000	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (8.3)	-		a reorder	-	-
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (8.6)	-	***************************************		-	~
Sanitary Conveniences (8,7)					
(a) Insufficient	-			-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	TO THE CO
(c) Not asparate	1_	8	_00132	-	- 1 12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work).	-	- 98	-		iner (d
Tetal	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

Nature of work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises		Prose- cutions
Stuffed Toys	1	-	-	-	-	-



