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BOROUGH OF NUNEATON

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
For the Year  
**1956**

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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BOROUGH OF NUNEATON

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956



## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

(as on 31st December, 1956)

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The Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor H. J. Deeming)

The Deputy Mayor (Alderman R. Hadden)

Chairman (Councillor F. B. J. Warr)

Deputy Chairman (Councillor R. Wilkinson)

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### Members

Alderman C. H. Cartwright

„ W. R. Chamberlain

„ P. Woodward

Councillor A. Cox

„ L. Ford

„ J. W. Lee

„ R. A. Moore

„ H. Rowston

„ F. Thomas

„ G. C. Thomas

„ L. Whetstone

„ H. J. Wood

## STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(as on 31st December, 1956)

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Medical Officer of Health	{ J. H. Briscoe-Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	{ G. Hird, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	{ K. P. Llewellyn, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspectors and Meat Inspectors	{ E. C. Herold, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector. A. J. Collett, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector. R. D. Davies, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
Pupil Public Health Inspector	M. Jones (commenced 2-1-56)
Rodent Control Operatives	{ P. B. Jackson. C. Oakey.
Clerical Staff	{ G. F. Baume (Chief Clerk). Mrs. B. Glass.

## BOROUGH OF NUNEATON

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Health Department,  
Council House,  
Nuneaton.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year 1956.

Looking back in this Jubilee year on the development of the Health Services in the Borough since the granting of the Charter 50 years ago, it is difficult to pin-point particular events which have marked the forward progress. It is only when one compares the conditions which existed then with those obtaining to-day that the truly remarkable improvement becomes apparent.

In 1907 the Borough was emerging from a recent smallpox epidemic, typhoid fever was endemic in the town, and only a few years earlier it had swept through the population in a serious epidemic. Diphtheria was prevalent and accounted for the deaths of a number of children each year. In 1957 all these diseases are comparatively rare, and in the case of diphtheria the advent of immunisation has virtually eradicated the disease. Other infectious diseases such as measles and scarlet fever are still with us, and one cannot say that there has been any real reduction in the number of cases occurring from year to year. There has, however, been a very great change in the number of children dying from these diseases. For example, 50 years ago ten or twelve children dying from measles in a year was not considered uncommon. In 1955 we had the heaviest epidemic of measles recorded in the town, but there was not a single death. This change has been due in some measure to the use of the sulpha-drugs and antibiotics such as penicillin to treat any complications which may arise, but improved living conditions have also played their part.

One other disease must be mentioned. Tuberculosis, "The Great White Scourge," as the Medical Officer of Health at the time called it in one of his reports, claimed 35 to 40 victims a year in Nuneaton during the early part of the century. Nowadays, even with a population that has almost doubled, we normally expect less than a dozen deaths in a year.

Leaving infectious diseases and looking at deaths in general, once again we see a very great change indeed. Fifty years ago more than half the deaths occurring each year were of children



under the age of 15, and about two thirds of these occurred in children under one year. Only one fifth of all those dying had survived to more than 65 years of age. To-day the usual pattern is that two thirds of all deaths occur in men and women over 65 years. Only one twentieth of the deaths occur under the age of 15 and four out of five of these are deaths of children under the age of one, mainly from causes which cannot as yet be prevented. Even allowing for changes in the birth rate this means that for every infant who dies to-day at least four would have died 50 years ago. Among older children the change is even more striking because, having survived the first year, a child living to-day is ten times less likely to die before the age of 15 years than his counterpart of 50 years ago.

At the other end of the scale an equally dramatic change has taken place. At least four times as many people are now surviving beyond the age of 65. This factor must be set against the increases in the so-called diseases of civilisation, for example coronary thrombosis, gastric ulcer and also cancer, since many who previously would have died in infancy are now surviving to an age when these diseases take their toll.

Among other indications of the general raising of standards which has occurred may be cited the improvement in the health of school children. In 1907 the Education Administrative Provisions Act laid on Local Authorities the duty to medically inspect all children attending school. The very early records are unfortunately missing, but medical inspections were well under way by 1912, and in 1913 the committee decided to establish a school clinic. The problems at this time were very considerable. Roughly one in every five children had some physical defect, at least one in ten of the children had verminous heads, and even as late as 1920 in some girls' schools three-quarters of the pupils were verminous. Now only one in every ten children examined is found to have any defect and many of these, although requiring treatment, are of such a minor character that they would probably have been ignored fifty years ago. Verminous heads are unfortunately still found, but to-day concern is felt even if only one in a hundred children is found to be infested.

Reference is made to the County Council Health Visitor even before 1907, and no doubt this lady did a vast amount of good advising mothers, mainly with regard to the feeding of their babies. This was very necessary at a time when about half the babies dying each year did so as a result of bowel infections and various wasting diseases. Even so, with 1,200 births each year she must have been grossly overworked. In 1956 only one infant died of a bowel infection, and none from any condition due to inadequate feeding. The Health Visitors' primary duties are still with young children and their mothers, but the problems they have to tackle are more complex. In addition, they have been faced with a new set of problems connected with the increasing proportion of aged people in the population. The emphasis is, in fact, moving from the young to the old.

I have drawn attention to only a few examples of the



advantages we have gained during the past 50 years, and which are only apparent, by comparison, when we look back. We accept to-day as normal standards of health and living conditions far beyond the dreams of our grandparents and, although it would be wrong to claim that the Health Services have been responsible for all the improvements I have mentioned, it is fair to say that they have played a substantial part in bringing them about.

I should like to record my appreciation of the loyal support given me by all the staff of the department and by my colleagues in other departments.

I also desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the committee for your continued interest in our work, and for the sympathetic consideration which you have given to all matters affecting the welfare and health of the town.

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 22nd, 1957.

Table I

## VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of District ... ..	11,767 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) Mid. 1956	56,060
Rateable Value ... ..	£598,010
General Rate Levied ... ..	18/6
Product of Penny Rate ... ..	£2,325

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

Population (estimated) Mid. year 1956 ... ..	56,060
Birth Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population ... ..	15.62
Birth Rate (Corrected) per 1,000 population ... ..	15.15
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..	32.04
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..	0.52
Death Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population ... ..	8.99
Death Rate (Corrected) per 1,000 population ... ..	11.51
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:	
All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	23.97
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	23.70
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	31.25
*Perinatal Mortality Rate ... ..	48.63
Sex Ratio at Birth ... ..	1,137 males per 1,000 females
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Nil
*Stillbirths plus deaths in first week of life per 1,000 related total births (live and still).	

Table II

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1901-1956 (Crude Rates)

Ten year Average	Population	No. of Deaths	No. of Births	No. of Infant Deaths	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1901-10	30,822	382	1,034	129	12.5	33.6	126
1911-20	38,697	472	1,076	109	12.2	26.8	100
1921-30	44,152	444	939	63	9.9	20.9	66.9
1931-40	47,971	497	807	48	10.3	16.8	59.4
1941-50	51,262	540	1,063	48	10.6	20.7	44.7
Yearly							
1951	54,120	611	917	22	11.2	16.9	23.9
1952	54,340	541	857	37	9.9	15.7	43.1
1953	54,970	526	943	22	9.6	17.2	23.3
1954	55,650	482	879	19	8.7	15.8	21.6
1955	55,830	545	890	22	9.8	15.9	24.7
1956	56,060	504	876	21	9.0	15.6	24.0

**Table III**  
**BIRTHS AND DEATHS BY SEXES—1956**

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ... ..	448	396	844
Illegitimate ... ..	18	14	32
Total ... ..	466	410	876
Stillbirths			
Legitimate ... ..	13	15	28
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Total ... ..	14	15	29
Total (live and still)	480	425	905
Deaths	Males	Females	Total
All ages ... ..	276	228	504
Under one year ... ..	10	11	21

**Table IV**  
**INFANT MORTALITY**  
**ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS, 1956**

Causes of Death	1st. week	2nd. wk.	3rd. wk.	4th. wk.	Total und'r 4 wks	1-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-12 mths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Respiratory infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Inhalation of vomit	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Birth Injuries	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Haemorrhagic Disease of new born	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Staphylococcal septicaemia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	15	1	—	—	16	4	1	—	—	21



**Table V**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956**

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total 1956	Total 1955
All Causes .. .. .	276	228	504	545
Tuberculosis—Respiratory .. ..	3	1	4	7
Tuberculosis—Other Forms .. ..	—	—	—	2
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infections .. ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—	1
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. .. .	1	—	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	10	4	14	14
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bron- chus .. .. .	14	3	17	22
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .. ..	—	13	13	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .. ..	—	2	2	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. .. .	29	15	44	40
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .. .. .	—	—	—	1
Diabetes .. .. .	1	2	3	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	31	45	76	76
Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	36	29	65	83
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	6	11	14
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	40	39	79	70
Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	16	13	29	22
Influenza .. .. .	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	10	2	12	47
Bronchitis .. .. .	22	7	29	29
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	3	8	13
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	1	10	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	—	4	4	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	2	5	7	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	7	—	7	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations .. ..	1	1	2	8
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .. .. .	25	19	44	46
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	5	2	7	7
All Other Accidents .. .. .	3	9	12	8
Suicide .. .. .	1	2	3	1
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—

**Table VI**  
**GENERAL CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH**

	Males	Females	Total
Cardiac .. .. .	81	74	155
Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	47	58	105
Cancer .. .. .	53	37	90
Tuberculosis .. .. .	3	1	4
Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	37	13	50
Other Causes .. .. .	55	45	100

**Table VII**  
**AGE ANALYSIS OF DEATHS, 1956**

Under 1 year	...	...	...	21
1—2 years	...	...	...	2
3—4 years	...	...	...	2
5—9 years	...	...	...	—
10—14 years	...	...	...	5
15—24 years	...	...	...	2
25—44 years	...	...	...	24
45—64 years	...	...	...	123
65 years and over	...	...	...	325
Total	...	...	...	504

**Table VIII**  
**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**  
(Totals after any cancellations)

Disease	Age at Notification									Totals	Deaths
	Under 1 yr	1—2 yrs	3—4 yrs	5—9 yrs	10—14 yrs	15—24 yrs	25—44 yrs	45—64 yrs	65 yrs and over		
Scarlet Fever	—	2	7	38	6	—	2	—	—	55	—
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	7	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	12	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	2	1	—	1	6	15	3	28	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary	—	—	1	2	1	7	14	17	—	42	4
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	6	—

**Table IX**  
**NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMONER INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1952-1956**

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	273	85	55	62	55
Measles	442	423	160	1,183	—
Whooping Cough	70	62	60	69	7
Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	1	9	1	4	1
Non-Paralytic	—	6	—	5	2

**Table X**

**TUBERCULOSIS**

FIRST NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS  
ANALYSED IN AGE GROUPS

Age Group	New Notified Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 4 years ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 " ....	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-24 " ....	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 " ....	4	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
35-44 " ....	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 " ....	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 " ....	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 years & over .	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals ....	24	18	4	2	3	1	—	—

**Table XI**

**STAGE OF DISEASE AT TIME OF NOTIFICATION**

Through the helpful co-operation of the Chest Physicians and General Practitioners I have been successful in obtaining the classification of the stage of disease at diagnosis for all but 3 of the 42 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified. The results were as follows:

	No positive sputum	Positive sputum
Stage 1 (Early) ... ..	21	4
Stage 2 (Intermediate) ... ..	8	4
Stage 3 (Late) ... ..	—	2
Totals ... ..	29	10



**Table XII**

**ADDITIONS AND REMOVALS FROM THE TUBERCULOSIS  
REGISTER DURING 1956**

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cases on register at 1st January, 1956 ..	255	232	25	38	280	270
Cases notified during the year .. .. .	24	18	4	2	28	20
Cases which came to notice, e.g., removals, etc. .. .	6	6	—	1	7	6
Cases removed from the register, e.g., cured, deaths, removals, etc.	37	52	5	5	42	57
Cases remaining on the register at the 31st December, 1956 ..	248	204	24	36	272	240

**Table XIII**

**THE STATE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER DURING THE  
TEN YEARS 1947-1956**

Year	New Cases Notified		Deaths		Cases Remaining on Register on 31st December	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary
1947	84	13	23	3	423	146
1948	108	15	20	2	360	84
1949	96	10	28	6	416	79
1950	60	14	23	7	436	84
1951	69	8	12	3	470	87
1952	91	12	8	3	494	79
1953	71	8	15	1	517	75
1954	67	8	8	1	495	60
1955	58	9	9	2	487	63
1956	42	6	4	—	452	60

**Table XIV**  
**MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY**  
**CAMP HILL ESTATE, NUNEATON**

	Male	Female	Total
Miniature X-ray Examinations ..	244	365	609
Recalled for Large Film Examinations .. .. .	27	25	52
<b>Results of Large Film Examinations:</b>			
No abnormality .. .. .	11	16	27
Abnormalities requiring no further investigation .. ..	7	1	8
Abnormalities investigated clinically .. .. .	9	6	15
Failed to attend for large film ..	—	2	2
	27	25	52
<b>Analysis of Clinical Examinations:</b>			
1. Referred to Chest Clinic for further investigation			
(a) Suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	2	4	6
(b) Other Chest Conditions ..	2	—	2
	4	4	8
2. Referred to Own Doctor			
(a) Pneumoconiosis .. .. .	4	—	4
(b) Pleural Thickening—non-tuberculous .. .. .	—	1	1
	4	1	5
3. No Further Action Considered Necessary			
(a) Acquired Abnormality of Heart .. .. .	—	1	1
(b) Abnormality not confirmed by Clinical Examination .. ..	1	—	1
	1	1	2
Total Clinical Examinations	9	6	15

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The establishment of the Public Health Inspector's Department is five, and the staff normally consists of the Chief Public Health Inspector, one senior assistant, three additional inspectors, two rodent operators and one student inspector. The department was at full strength until October, when one inspector left to take up another appointment.

The following is a tabular summary of the work undertaken during the year.

### NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

#### *Public Health*

Dwelling-houses (number of nuisances inspected) ...	918
Dwelling-houses (re-inspections) ... ..	1,653
Dwelling-houses (inspections re water supply) ... ..	140
Inspections:	
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	32
Offensive Trades ... ..	2
Smoke Observations ... ..	90
Drains tested or inspected ... ..	95
Visits to cases of infectious disease ... ..	362
Disinfections (infectious disease) ... ..	20
Disinfestations (vermin) ... ..	39
Number of Miscellaneous Visits (P.H. Acts) ... ..	1,459

#### *Housing*

Dwelling-houses inspected for possible action under the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	105
Dwelling-houses (re-inspections) ... ..	102
Number of Survey Visits ... ..	7

#### *Food and Drugs*

Number of days at Abattoir (Meat inspection) ... ..	314
Inspections:	
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	23
Butchers Shops ... ..	80
Bakehouses ... ..	20
Other Food Premises ... ..	466
Private Pigs Inspected ... ..	2
Visits to premises for food inspection ... ..	223
Visits to premises for food sampling ... ..	140
Proceedings taken re unsatisfactory Food Premises ...	1

#### *Miscellaneous*

Inspections under the Pet Animals Act, 1952 ... ..	1
Inspections under the Shops Act, 1950 ... ..	395
Inspections of Knackers' Yards ... ..	9
Premises inspected under Rag Flock Act, 1951 ... ..	1

### NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

#### *Public Health Act, 1936*

Informal ... ..	319
Statutory ... ..	95



## RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE

### *General Repairs*

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof ... ..	80
Spoutings repaired or renewed ... ..	100
Windows repaired or renewed ... ..	122
Staircases repaired or renewed ... ..	3
Floors repaired or renewed ... ..	54
Doors repaired or renewed ... ..	114
Walls and ceilings re-plastered ... ..	206
Cooking facilities provided or improved ... ..	38
Fireplaces repaired or replaced ... ..	25
Walls re-pointed ... ..	74
New sinks provided ... ..	19
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	29
Washing coppers repaired or renewed ... ..	19
Chimneys repaired ... ..	25
Hot water supply provided ... ..	2
Ventilation of rooms improved ... ..	2
Wash-houses repaired or rebuilt ... ..	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved ... ..	2
Walls rendered ... ..	77

### *Drainage*

Drains cleared from obstruction ... ..	202
New drains provided ... ..	8
Defective drains repaired or relaid ... ..	25
Drainage inspection chambers provided or renewed ... ..	23
Yard pavement relaid or repaired ... ..	44

### *Sanitary Accommodation*

W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ... ..	67
New W.C. pedestals provided ... ..	47
W.C. buildings re-built or repaired ... ..	13
W.C.s repaired ... ..	37

### *Domestic Refuse*

New dustbins provided (a) by the Council ... ..	193
(b) by owner or occupier ... ..	11

### *Water Supply*

Domestic water services renewed ... ..	19
Domestic water services repaired ... ..	31

## HOUSING

A considerable amount of work was carried out during the year in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme which was commenced in 1955.

Unfit dwellings were dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, in two ways, by being included in clearance

areas, or as individual houses. Four clearance areas were declared during the year by resolutions of the Council. These included 63 houses and involved 200 persons in 63 families. A total of 35 houses were demolished during the year and 214 persons in 73 families were rehoused from dwellings unfit for human habitation.

Two hundred and one houses have now been dealt with since slum clearance was restarted, leaving approximately 600 on the present programme for future action.

### STATISTICS—1956

#### *Clearance Areas*

Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of persons rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number of families rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	16
Areas declared during year	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bond Street (11 houses, 10 families consisting of 26 persons)						
Bond Street/						
Regent St. (28 houses, 29 families consisting of 96 persons)						
Hall End (6 houses, 6 families consisting of 21 persons)						
Hall End/						
Brook St. (18 houses, 18 families consisting of 57 persons)						

#### *Individual Unfit Houses*

Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of persons rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	156
Number of families rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	57
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	20
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	3
Undertakings accepted "that house will cease to be used for human habitation"						
	...	...	...	...	...	4



## WATER SUPPLY (Sources of Supply, consumption, etc.)

The main sources of supply of water to the district are as follows:

- (1) A bulk supply from the City of Leicester Water Undertaking, pumped from the Desford Pumping Station, and providing approx. 1,580,000 gallons per day.
- (2) A bulk supply from the City of Birmingham Water Undertaking, pumped from the Whitacre Works, and providing approx. 1,000,000 gallons per day.
- (3) The Deep Well at the Whittleford Works, providing approx. 313,000 gallons per day, a Bore Hole in Newtown Road and a Well at the White Stone, Lutterworth Road.

The last two mentioned sources are used only intermittently, as and when required.

With the exception of the White Stone Well all supplies are subject to treatment before consumption. The water from Whitacre, Desford and the Whittleford Well is filtered and chlorinated, and that from Newtown Road is chlorinated.

There are now approximately 117 miles of mains supplying water to the district. The extensions to mains during the year totalled 1,655 yards of 6in. pipes, 213 yards of 4in. pipes, and 522 yards of 3in. pipes, details of such extensions being as follows:

Tunnel Road	...	...	...	...	1,655 yards of 6 inch
					13    "    "    4    "
Camp Hill Estate	...	...	...	...	52    "    "    4    "
					28    "    "    3    "
Newtown Road	...	...	...	...	24    "    "    4    "
Shanklin Drive	...	...	...	...	80    "    "    4    "
Oakdene Crescent	...	...	...	...	44    "    "    4    "
					16    "    "    3    "
Meadow Street	...	...	...	...	117    "    "    3    "
Pool Bank Street	...	...	...	...	18    "    "    3    "
Whitestone Road	...	...	...	...	12    "    "    3    "
Coventry Road	...	...	...	...	251    "    "    3    "

## CONSUMPTION

Average daily consumption	(Total)	...	...	2,059,254 gallons	
"	"	"	(Domestic)	...	1,538,915 gallons
"	"	"	(Municipal and		
			Trade Purposes)		520,339 gallons
"	"	"	per head		
			(Domestic)	...	27,559 gallons
"	"	"	per head		
			(Municipal and		
			Trade Purposes)		9,319 gallons



## SAMPLING

Regular sampling from each source of supply has been carried out as follows:

Place of Sampling	No. of samples taken		Chemical		Bacteriological	
	Chemical	Bacteriological	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Birmingham Supply:						
Oldbury Reservoir	2	113	2	—	113	—
Monwoode Lea	—	17	—	—	17	—
Tuttle Hill Booster Station (Desford Supply)	—	3	—	—	3	—
Whittleford Pumping Station	—	27	—	—	27	—
Newtown Road, Borehole	—	1	—	—	1	—
White Stone Well	—	1	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	1	15	2	1	13	2
Totals	3	177	2	1	175	2

## SWIMMING BATHS

The Public Swimming Baths at St. Mary's Road were open to the public from the 21st April to the 6th October. During this period the number of persons using the baths was as follows:

Individuals	...	...	...	...	83,920
School children in organised parties					
Boys	...	...	...	...	13,669
Girls	...	...	...	...	9,848
Total					107,437

Sixteen Bacteriological samples of the water were taken at regular intervals during the season, all of which were satisfactory. In addition, daily testing for chlorine content was carried out.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewerage extensions during the year have been as follows:

Myatt's Farm, Old People's Bungalows Site:

Storm Water Sewer ... .. 25 yards of 6 inch

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Since the advent of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the Department has been concerned with the assessment of the problem of atmospheric pollution in the area. For this purpose the following recording apparatus has been set up in selected positions:

Three deposit gauges for the measurement of the amount of deposited matter in the atmosphere.

One lead peroxide cylinder for the estimation of sulphur content of the atmosphere.

One daily smoke filter and volumetric  $\text{SO}_2$  apparatus, for determining the concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

A summary of the recorded results for the period during which each instrument was in operation is given below:

### *Deposit Gauge No. 1 (Council House)*

Estimated average solid deposits for the period 1st August to 31st December.

Soluble 7.22 tons per sq. mile.

Insoluble 7.56 tons per sq. mile.

### *Deposit Gauge No. 2 (Manor Park School)*

Period 1st September to 31st December.

Soluble 5.9.

Insoluble 5.64.

### *Deposit Gauge No. 3 (Tuttle Hill School)*

Period 1st October to 31st December.

Soluble 5.97.

Insoluble 9.69.

### *Lead Peroxide Cylinder (Council House)*

Estimated average daily weight of sulphur collected per 100 sq. cm. during the period 1st August—31st December—2.28 milligrams.

### *Smoke Filter and Volumetric $\text{SO}_2$ Apparatus (Council House)*

Estimated concentration of smoke in the atmosphere during the period 1st August to 31st December.

Average daily mean

concentration ... 0.2561 m.gs. per cu. meter

Highest mean concentration 2.8900 m.gs. per cu. meter

Lowest mean concentration . 0.0438 m.gs. per cu. meter

Estimated concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere during the period 1st August to 31st December.

Average daily mean concentration 0.0649 parts per million.

Highest mean concentration ... 0.2945 parts per million.

Lowest mean concentration Nil.



## RODENT CONTROL

The following is a tabulated statement of rodent control work carried out during the year:

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling houses inc. Council Houses	(3) All other including Business Premises	(4) Total of Columns 1, 2, 3	(5)
Number of properties in the Borough .. .. .	30	16,427	1,718	18,175	96
Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) notification	1	271	39	311	—
(b) Survey under the Act	9	16	28	53	2
(c) otherwise	—	7	3	10	—
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats—Major	7	52	30	89	2
Minor	1	211	13	225	—
(b) Mice—Major	—	13	9	22	—
Minor	1	25	9	35	—
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	9	290	57	356	—
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	22	—	22	—

NOTE: The figures above relate to the *number of properties* inspected and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.

## SEWER TREATMENT

The treatment of sewers for rat infestation was carried out as follows:

<i>Test baiting</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>October</i>
Period of test baiting	None	10th—19th
No. of manholes tested	—	149
No. of manholes tested showing bait take	—	40
<i>Treatment</i>		
Period of treatment	30th April—4th July	22nd Oct.—9th Nov.
Bait Base and Poison used	Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide	Bread Mash and Arsenic
No. of manholes baited	628	268



## FACTORIES

As will be observed from the tabular statement below, practically all the factories in the area are operated by mechanical power, and inspections were concerned principally with the provision and maintenance of the sanitary accommodation. Conditions in general were found to be satisfactory, and in the few cases where contraventions of the Act were encountered these were chiefly of a minor character and no difficulty was experienced in bringing the premises up to the required standard.

### 1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	6	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies			
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 .. .. .	190	109	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). .. .. .	—	—	—
Total	196	110	3

### 2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	8	7
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	1
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—
Total	10	9

## LIST OF FACTORIES ON REGISTER

Animal By-products ... ..	1	Metal foundry ... ..	1
Agricultural machine re-		Metal polishing ... ..	1
pairing ... ..	1	Mineral waters ... ..	2
Art silk winding ... ..	1	Motor repairs ... ..	27
Bakers ... ..	15	Photography ... ..	4
Beer bottlers ... ..	2	Plumbing ... ..	2
Boot and shoe making ...	3	Potato crisp making ...	1
Boot repairers ... ..	5	Printing ... ..	8
Box making ... ..	5	Rag Dealer ... ..	1
Brick making ... ..	5	Ribbon Weaving and	
Chamois leathers making .	1	Regalia ... ..	2
Coach painting ... ..	1	Sausage making ... ..	3
Cycle repairs ... ..	2	Sawyers ... ..	4
Dairies ... ..	1	Scales repairing ... ..	1
Dressmaking ... ..	2	Sheep skin dressers ...	1
Elastic web making ... ..	1	Sheet metals ... ..	3
Electrical repairs ... ..	5	Shopping bags ... ..	1
Electric undertaking ...	1	Silk weaving ... ..	1
Engineering ... ..	23	Soft furnishings ... ..	1
Felt hat making ... ..	1	Spice mixing ... ..	1
Flour milling ... ..	2	Spring seat centres ...	1
Gas undertaking ... ..	1	Stone Masons ... ..	2
General Merchants ... ..	1	Tailors ... ..	6
Gown alterations ... ..	1	Tarmacadam ... ..	1
Gut scraping ... ..	1	Tennis ball making ...	1
Hosiery ... ..	10	Toolmaking ... ..	1
Hosiery repairs ... ..	1	Tyre assembly ... ..	1
Ice Cream Manufacture ...	1	Undertakers ... ..	1
Ironfounders ... ..	1	Upholsterers ... ..	2
Joinery ... ..	7	Vehicle and wagon repairs	3
Knitwear ... ..	2	Watch repairs ... ..	1
Laundries ... ..	2	Welding ... ..	1
Leather Goods making ...	1	Wire work ... ..	1
Lighting fittings ... ..	1	Worsted spinning ... ..	1



## FOOD

### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

An extensive survey of the food premises has been undertaken during the year.

Comprehensive inspections were made to ascertain the condition of food premises in relation to the standards laid down by the new regulations. Nearly all food premises were visited. Five hundred and eighty-nine actual inspections were carried out and a record of each individual premises compiled.

Comparatively few premises were found to comply fully with the new requirements. In general it was found that the majority were in good repair, maintained in a clean and hygienic condition, and contraventions being of a minor technical nature. In some cases, however, extensive improvement in conditions was found to be necessary.

Re-inspection of the unsatisfactory premises has been commenced to secure the fulfilment of the requirements of the regulations.

Proceedings were instituted in one case only. This concerned a tray used for the delivery of cakes which was in a dirty condition, and contained mouse excreta and a cockroach—the offender was fined £40.

Number of food premises, by type, in the area:

Shops							
Grocery and General	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Departmental Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Licensed Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
School Meals Service							
Central Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Hospital Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Manufacturing Premises, etc.							
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Beer Bottlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mineral Waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Municipal Abattoir	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Potato Crisps	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous (including market stalls, mobile vans, kiosks, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Total							599



## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

One hundred and three samples of food and drugs were obtained under the above Act, as follows:

Butter	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	56
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	7
Table Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glucose	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sulphur Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lobster	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Energy Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dates	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						103

Of these samples 65 were informal and 38 formal. Analyses showed the following results:

Satisfactory 97

Unsatisfactory 6

The unsatisfactory samples were:

No. 1575 (Informal) Milk—Contained 7 per cent. added water.

No. 1579 (Informal) Milk—Deficient of 13 per cent. fat.

No. 1580 (Informal) Milk—Deficient of 5 per cent. fat.

No's 1583, 1584 and 1586 (Formal) Milk—Contained 5.5 per cent., 10.2 per cent. and 9.8 per cent. added water respectively.

These were all follow-up samples to No. 1575 from the same vendor—on whose behalf "appeal to cow" samples (Nos. 1605—1620) were subsequently taken and found to be satisfactory. The vendor was prosecuted and fined £15 with £10 costs.

Sample No. 1579 was followed by formal samples Nos. 1593—1604 which proved genuine.

Sample No. 1580 was followed by formal samples Nos. 1588—1592 which proved genuine.

## MILK SUPPLY

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-1954

Number of dairies registered in the Borough under the regulations ... .. 3

Number of persons registered as distributors within the Borough under the regulations ... .. 25

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk within the Borough ... .. 13

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of persons licensed to sell Sterilised Milk ... 36

Number of persons licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk ... 21

Number of persons licensed to Pasteurise Milk ... .. 1

## SAMPLING

In addition to the sampling of milk for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act, previously referred to, regular sampling of pasteurised milk produced at the one licensed pasteurising plant in the area was carried out during the year with the following results:

	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Phosphatase Test .....	25	23	2
Methylene Blue .....	25	23	2

### NUMBER OF PREMISES BY TYPE, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of Sausages, Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Food ... ..	23
Manufacture or sale, etc., of Ice-Cream ... ..	195

One hundred and thirty-one inspections of registered food premises were made, of these 18 were premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, as an ancillary to a butcher's business.

The remaining 113 inspections were of shops registered for the sale of ice-cream (in the majority of cases pre-packed).

## ICE-CREAM

Of the 195 premises registered only two are engaged in the manufacture of ice-cream, one of these being the reconstitution of a cold mix.

The remaining premises are engaged in the sale only, principally of branded pre-packed products.

Sampling and testing of ice-cream has been carried out during the year, and the following is a summary of the results:

### METHYLENE BLUE TEST

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
98	71	16	10	1

Only one make of ice-cream sampled was found to consistently fall below the recommended minimum standard.

The firm concerned were notified of the results of the tests which proved unsatisfactory and the local authority in whose district the manufacturer's premises are situated were informed for the purpose of effecting the necessary improvement in standard.



# MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1956

Details	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	1,780	91	137	5,996	3,248
Number inspected .. .. .	1,780	91	137	5,996	3,248
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	4	1	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	236	17	—	—	139
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .	% 13.48	% 19.67	% 0.73	—	% 4.40
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	1	7	6
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned .. .. .	729	41	—	42	236
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci .. .. .	% 40.95	% 46.15	% 2.92	% 0.82	% 7.45
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some parts or organ was condemned .. .. .	4	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refri- geration .. .. .	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	Nil	—	—	—	—



# MEAT—QUANTITY CONDEMNED, 1956

DETAILS	Weight			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
<b>Tuberculosis:</b>				
1 carcase and all organs of cow .. .. .		4	3	22
Portions of carcasses of cows .. .. .			1	14
Organs of cows .. .. .		5	—	21
4 carcasses and all organs of cattle other than cows .. .. .	1	4	3	9
Organs of cattle other than cows .. .. .	2	17	2	18
4 carcasses and all organs of pigs .. .. .		9	3	—
Portions of carcasses of pigs .. .. .		10	1	14
Organs of pigs .. .. .		10	1	23
<b>Diseases other than tuberculosis:</b>				
1 carcase and all organs of cows .. .. .		7	—	14
Organs of cows .. .. .		3	3	18
Organs of cattle other than cows .. .. .	2	16	3	3
1 carcase and all organs of calf .. .. .			1	23
6 carcasses and all organs of pigs .. .. .		6	—	14
Portions of carcasses of pigs .. .. .		2	2	9
Organs of pigs .. .. .		11	3	4
7 carcasses and all organs of sheep .. .. .		2	—	7
Organs of sheep .. .. .		2	—	11
Portions of carcasses of sheep .. .. .				3
Total Weight .. .. .	10	15	—	3

# OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED (including Tinned Meat), 1956

DETAILS	Weight			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
686 tins of meat .. .. .	1	0	2	4
263 tins of fish .. .. .		2	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
2,281 tins of fruit .. .. .	1	8	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
677 tins of vegetables .. .. .		5	0	22 $\frac{3}{4}$
122 tins of milk .. .. .		1	1	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sausage .. .. .		1	2	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jam and marmalade .. .. .			1	14
Cheese .. .. .		2	3	24
Soups .. .. .			1	16
Poultry .. .. .				8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cereal .. .. .				7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Frozen egg .. .. .			3	14
Sweets and chocolates .. .. .				0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dried fruit .. .. .				27
Bacon .. .. .			1	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Rice .. .. .				1
Total Weight .. .. .	3	4	1	16 $\frac{1}{4}$

## DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All meat condemned at the Municipal Abattoir is transported to adjacent Council premises for manufacture into animal by-products, at a privately-owned processing plant.

All other condemned foods are disposed of by burial at Corporation refuse tips.