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Urban District of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1951**

BY

**IAN M. McLACHLAN
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**



*Printed at
The Dorridge Press
Blue Lake Road, Knowle
Birmingham*



69 New Road,
Solihull.

September, 1952.

Although this introduction is written by me as Medical Officer of Health for Solihull it incorporates aspects seen by me as Area Medical Officer to the Warwickshire County Council.

TO THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be able to say that the year 1951 has been a very healthy one. Apart from cases of the ordinary infectious diseases there have been two cases of Food Poisoning and ten cases of very mild Dysentery. Two cases of Para-Typhoid Fever also occurred in children, ^{AND} after detailed and extensive investigations it was suspected that artificial cream used in cakes contained the infecting organism.

TUBERCULOSIS. It is very gratifying to notice that attention has been paid to my suggestions in a previous annual report that increased clinic facilities should be made available at the Solihull Chest Clinic.

CLINIC PREMISES. Plans for new clinic premises in Solihull and Shirley are progressing favourably.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE. The district is still without the services of School Dental Officer.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE. This service fulfils a very essential need when there is short-term illness in a family, but the main difficulty is in obtaining staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

IAN McLACHLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The improvement in the bacterial quality of the milk distributed in the Urban District is pleasing to record. The progress that has taken place has now reached a point where the amount of unsatisfactory milk, as revealed by samples, is negligible. Because practically all the milk sold in the area is pasteurised the way is now open for the introduction of a "specified area" as defined by recent Act of Parliament. Within this area, which is expected to embrace Wolverhampton and Birmingham and to extend southwards to include Solihull, only designated milks will be permitted to be sold, i.e., Pasteurised, Sterilised, Tuberculin Tested and Accredited (this latter to October 1954 only). Although heat-treated milk has a commercial advantage insofar as it kills the souring germs in milk and so assures reasonable keeping quality, the Public Health Committee will chiefly appreciate the protection given against the bacteria of diseases which emanate from the cow or from persons handling her product.

These considerations apart, there are other contaminants of milk which appear to be of importance if the contents of milk bottles containing foreign substances brought into the department by complainants are to be considered as evidence. Some are discovered to contain dirt, others fragments of glass and in some cases the outside of the bottle is found to be unclean. Whilst it is an offence to leave bottles or cartons containing milk upon a public highway, it is not an uncommon practice to place crates containing empty bottles in such positions. It is appreciated that the bottles are cleansed before re-filling but to allow unnecessary contamination is not only repulsive when dogs are the cause, but will surely tend to make subsequent cleansing more difficult. In short, whilst the milk put into the bottles is good and wholesome the state of the bottles themselves often leaves something to be desired.

Other departmental problems arise from the continued development of the district and the building of new housing estates followed by a certain amount of light industry. The objection of those living in a residential area to what they regard as the encroachment of industry is understandable, but when the objection is supported by confirmed observations of unusual noise arising from the operation of machinery many will hope that the lessons of the past are not forgotten in the future. If in the development of the Lode Lane site for light industry strict enquiry is made into the possibility of noise from factory operations and smoke nuisances it may be that the experience gained will prove to be profitable.

The problems of environment have kept us busy during 1952 and in looking backwards on a year of continued progress one's thanks are tendered to helpful colleagues and to the Council for its continued support.

E. VAUGHAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council : Councillor J. A. EMLYN JONES, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Councillor M. WALKER.

Members of the Public Health Committee : Councillor V. A. RAINIER (Chairman), Councillor Dr. D. E. QUINET (Vice-Chairman), Councillors C. F. BAKER, P. E. L. LIGHTFOOT, P. S. LYONS, M. B. E. MASTERS, V. A. PERRY and H. H. PLESTER.

The CHAIRMAN of the Council is an *ex-officio* Member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health :

IAN M. McLACHLAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ire, L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, e, f. ERNEST VAUGHAN.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, d. JOSEPH S. FORMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

b, c. GEOFFREY N. DEAN.

a, c, d. ERNEST SOUTHERN.

b, c. ROBERT P. CHURCHILL.

b, c. LESLIE J. PEARCE

Rodent Inspector :

E. CALLAGHAN.

Clerks :

GLADYS A. ALCOCK

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

SHEILA M. EMMETT

Public Analysts :

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.

- a. Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b. Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board.
- c. Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d. Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e. Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f. Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population Mid-Year 1951 (Registrar General)	67,980
Birth Rate	14.5
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	22.6
Death Rate	9.9
Deaths from Pregnancy and Child-birth	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	29.2
Legitimate Infants	24.2
Illegitimate Infants	5.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1

Population.—There is a slight increase in the Population, viz., 67,980 as against the figure of 67,640 in 1950.

Birth Rate.—The figure of 14.5 per 1,000 is slightly lower than in 1950, but compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales, viz., 15.5

Death Rate.—The figure 9.9 per 1,000 is lower than the figure for England and Wales, viz., 12.5.

Statistics for the past few years and of England and Wales are shewn in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list of personnel is given at the front of this report. The Inspectorial staff comprises a Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and four additional Sanitary Inspectors. In addition, appropriate clerical staff, and one operative carrying out the work of rodent destruction.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	11	11
Faeces and Urine	7*	141	148
Respiratory Tuberculosis	26	158	184
		Total	343

*—5 Mild Dysentery and 2 Food Poisoning

3. *Hospitals.*—These are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

4. *Ambulance facilities.*—The Ambulance Service continues to be administered by the Warwickshire County Council. The Ambulances are housed at "The Hermitage," Lode Lane, Solihull.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water*

(i) and (ii) The water supply has generally been satisfactory in quantity and the situation remains as outlined in previous reports, that is, the City of Birmingham Water Department supply is adequate and the City of Coventry supply is subject to periods of low pressure. It is understood that this is being overcome by alterations in the distribution system in the Knowle and Dorridge area following the laying of a new trunk main to the south of the district. These alterations are nearing completion and are expected to come into operation during 1952.

Samples were submitted to the Analyst from the supplies of each of the water undertakers for chemical and bacteriological examination. All samples proved satisfactory.

(iii) *The facts as to contamination by lead.*—There is no evidence to show that the mains water supplies serving the Urban District of Solihull are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

(iv) *Action in respect of contamination.*—No complaints were received from the public served by piped supplies in respect of contaminated water. Individual wells which were the subject of complaint were investigated and where unsatisfactory samples were found further investigations were carried out. Advice was given for rectifying these complaints by suggesting structural repairs, alterations or connecting the water supply to the water mains where available.

(v) Number of houses and population served by public water mains.

(a) Direct to the houses.

The number of houses and retail shops, as ascertained from the rate books is 20,360. Of these, approximately 19,534 houses, or 95·9% are connected direct to the mains while 757 or 3·7% are served by 563 wells.

(b) By standpipes.

69 houses or approximately 0·3% are served by mains water from 24 standpipes or taps in out-buildings for the common use of several houses.

Further particulars on the subject of water supplies are shown later in the report.

2.—*Drainage and Sewerage*.—The local sewerage system has been extended by laying 455 yards of foul sewers and 1,955 yards of storm water sewers mainly in connection with the erection of new council house estates.

3.—*Closet Accommodation and Cesspools*. — Two pail and six hand flushed closets were converted to water closets during 1951 with financial assistance by the Council.

The Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the cleansing service states that the number of pail closets still existing is 847 and the number of privy middens 29, whilst 1,119 premises are still served by 665 cesspools.

4.—*Public Cleansing*.—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Urban District area, the ashbin method of storage being general. The system of disposal is that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING

The following are details of new houses completed during the year.

Council Houses	....	....	....	234
Private Houses	....	....	....	40
Additional Flats	....	....	....	2
				<hr/>
				276
				<hr/>

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register.

Processing Dairies	1
Producer-Retailer	9
Retail Dairymen	10
Shopkeepers retailing milk	20
Retail dairymen registered outside Solihull but selling milk in the district	15

Licences issued by this Council in connection with the sale of Designated Milks.

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	14
Sterilised	15
Tuberculin Tested	15

Dealer's Licences.

Pasteurised	22
Sterilised	34
Tuberculin Tested	18

Licences issued to process milk at a Pasteurising Plant 1

MILK SAMPLES.

The following table gives the results of milk samples submitted to biological, bacteriological, phosphatase and turbidity tests.

	Untreated Milk.		Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk.		Pasteurised Milk.		Heat Treated Milk.		Sterilised Milk.		TOTALS.	
No. of Samples....	27		59		142		15		83		326	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test	—	—	58	1	139	1	15	—	—	—	212	2
Phosphatase Test	—	—	59	—	140	—	15	—	—	—	214	—
Turbidity Test ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	—	83	—
T.B. Inoculation	24	3			2						26	3

On looking at this table together with those of recent years it is evident that there has been a considerable improvement, the number of unsatisfactory samples being so small as to be negligible. Disregarding the T.B. Inoculation test which is not primarily concerned with the cleanliness of milk, the two unsatisfactory samples indicate that good samples represent 99.4% of the whole. As the methylene blue test is generally indicative of the cleanliness of the supply and the phosphatase test shows whether heat treatment processes have been carried out satisfactorily, it can generally be said that the processes to which milk are subjected after production have been carried out most satisfactorily during the year.

Tuberculous Milk.—Samples were submitted to the guinea pig inoculation test in order to ascertain the presence or absence of the tubercle bacillus, each sample representing the milk from a herd or group of cows.

The following table shows the number of samples taken in each of seven recent years and the percentage found positive :—

Year	Number of Samples Examined			Number positive to Tubercle Bacillus		Percentage Positive
1945	58	....	....	6	10.3
1946	67	....	....	3	4.5
1947	28	....	....	1	3.6
1948	82	....	....	3	3.7
1949	24	....	....	—	—
1950	22	....	....	—	—
1951	29	....	....	3	10.3

Whilst the percentage of samples positive (10.3%) appears to be serious it will be noted that the number of samples is small, and it is probable that the apparent increase is due to accidental factors connected with the incidence of procuring the samples.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of food were examined and disposed of after inspection had shown that they were unfit for human consumption :—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	—	—	3	2
Sweets—Coconut Bon-Bons	—	8	1	4
Miscellaneous Tinned Food-stuffs	2	3	6	0
	2	11	10	6

Of the above amount 1 cwt. 7 qrs. was destroyed ; the meat was returned to the Meat Distributing Depot, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal food.

The sweets which were disposed of as animal food were part of a wholesaler's stock which had quickly deteriorated during the hot summer weather.

In connection with this work 1,045 "surrenders" of unsound food were made, in respect of which 689 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

During the year the number of items of food surrendered has increased by approximately 40%. Whilst the reason for this is not properly understood it is probably connected with the increased amount of tinned and prepared foods which have been appearing in grocers' shops during 1951, many of them imported into the country from the Continent. Whatever the cause the amount of work carried out on unsound food has increased to the extent indicated.

ICE CREAM.

Manufacturers.

The following table shows the number of manufacturers registered at the close of the year and the action taken in connection with ice cream manufacturers' premises :—

Manufacturers' Premises :

Registered at close of 1951	...	...	...	15
Transfers of registration	...	...	...	2
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	5

Of those registered and still making ice cream, 2 use the hot mix method and 7 the cold mix method of manufacture, whilst 1 uses both methods.

Vendors.

The number of vendors registered was as follows :—

Registered at close of 1951	...	...	...	162
Registered during year	...	...	...	19
Registrations transferred during year	...	...	...	6

The vendors' premises where pre-packed and/or loose ice cream was sold were numerically as follows :—

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	97
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	...	...	42
Selling loose ice cream only	...	...	23

The methylene blue test, as developed by the Ministry of Health was adopted provisionally for estimating the bacteriological quality of ice cream according to a system of four grades. 99 samples were submitted to the test and placed in the following grades by the analyst :—

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples	63	26	5	5		

Grade 1 is the highest grade.

The methylene blue test as applied to ice cream is, generally speaking, an indication of the cleanliness observed in the manufacture, and in many cases, of the distribution, of the product. Whilst a single sample of a given manufacturer does not necessarily indicate poor methods of manufacture, a series of samples may be interpreted reasonably safely. The following table, therefore, is valuable in showing the general trend towards satisfactory methods of manufacture and distribution and the progress that has been made in the past four years. From time to time some effort has been expended in finding the cause in individual cases of unsatisfactory samples and it is satisfactory to note that the lessons which have resulted have apparently been learned.

Year		Number of Samples		Percentage in Grades 3 and 4
1948	....	50	....	70
1949	....	123	....	40
1950	....	120	....	18
1951	....	99	....	10

**Analysis of Ice Cream Samples for Fat Content,
Cane Sugar and Milk Solids**

Test	No. of Samples Submitted	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory i.e. Deficient
Fat Content	73	71	2
Cane Sugar	62	62	—
Milk Solids	62	60	2

The coming into force of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, on the 1st March, for the first time imposed a standard of quality with regard to Ice Cream. Broadly, the effect of the provisions is that manufacturers are required to comply with a standard so that when analysed there must be at least 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids—other than fat, in a sample of ice cream when analysed. Some of the samples shown in the above table were taken before the coming into force of the regulations prior to which an advisory standard of 2½% fat was in operation. The comments below apply to the four samples showing a deficiency.

No.	Remarks
47/51	Manufacturer warned. Manufacture discontinued.
81/51	Recipe submitted to Public Analyst and stated to be satisfactory. Deficiency in sample believed due to incorrect mixing. Manufacturer warned.
171/51	Manufacturer warned.
175/51	Error in labelling sample. Should have been labelled "Strawberry Ice Cream" and as such was satisfactory.

Iced Lollipops.

Iced Lollipops consist of a flavoured and coloured cordial and water mixture into which a stick is inserted and the whole frozen in a mould in a refrigerator. The conditions at premises at which they are made caused the Public Health Committee some concern during the year. The Committee decided after consideration that such premises should be registered under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936. A simple list of requirements was drawn up to which it was considered manufacturers of lollipops should adhere and steps are being taken to ensure that such manufacturers comply with the requirements laid down before registration is agreed to.

A survey showed that there were 25 persons who were not registered to manufacture ice cream but were making iced lollipops although all were registered to sell ice cream. In addition there were found to be three who were not registered to sell ice cream but were found to be selling lollipops.

At the time of writing applications for registration are being dealt with by the Committee and no further difficulty is anticipated in the matter.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The number of registered premises was as follows :

Registered at close of 1951	....	....	13
New premises registered during the year	....		Nil.
Existing premises re-painted and improved			3
Registrations transferred during year	....		Nil.

Other Food Preparation Premises.

There are no licenced slaughter houses in the area; no stores from which foodstuffs are sold; no large scale food factories and few vehicles. Restaurant and hotel kitchens are regularly inspected and at the year's close a survey of licenced public houses was in progress.

Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (which relates to the steps to be taken in any case of infectious disease occurring among persons employed in milk production or treatment) has not been formally invoked. In the case of the three positive samples of tuberculosis found in milk, enquiries were made in each case which showed that the whole of the milk produced was sent to licenced premises for heat treatment which would render it safe to consume.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING.

The work done during the year is detailed below :

				Total number of samples taken	
				Formal	Informal
Milk	....	....	....	122	28
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs				1	149

Of these, 122 formal and 27 informal samples of Milk, and 1 formal and 147 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The following sample of milk was reported unsatisfactory :

No.	Method	Remarks
1317	Informal	Contained added water amounting to 1%. Formal sample taken—Genuine. Producer warned.

The results of unsatisfactory samples of Foods and Drugs other than milk were as follows :

No.	Article	Method	Remarks
1155	Confection of Senna	Informal	Labelling offence. Old stock—withdrawn from sale.
1161	Shredded Beef Suet	Informal	Commodity in short supply. Unable to obtain formal sample.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Incidence of the Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1946.

Year	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1946	—	12	114	—	40	3
1947	—	22	101	—	37	1
1948	—	33	105	1	50	2
1949	—	1	113	—	41	5
1950	—	1	73	—	49	2
1951	—	2	34	—	84	10

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1951.

Diphtheria.—Two females were notified, one aged 16½ years and one aged 24 years.

Scarlet Fever.—34 cases were notified, distributed as follows :—
Sheldon 8 ; Olton 5 ; Solihull 10 ; Shirley 8 ; and Knowle 3.

Poliomyelitis.—Two cases were notified, made up as follows :

	M.	F.	Total
Paralytic	1	—	1
Non-Paralytic	1	—	1
Total	2	—	2

Both cases were treated in hospital. The Paralytic case was discharged from hospital in December and is receiving Out-Patient treatment at the Royal Cripples' Hospital, Birmingham. The Non-Paralytic case was also discharged from hospital in December apparently cured.

(Reference to Table III will give the age distribution.)

Puerperal Pyrexia—The increase in the number of cases notified during the year is due to the instructions laid down in the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, which came into force on the 1st August, 1951, making a case notifiable at an earlier stage than that laid down in the previous Regulations (Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1935).

The increase can be seen in the Quarterly Return figures for 1951 which are given below :

1st Quarter	....	....	....	1 Case
2nd Quarter	....	....	....	1 Case
3rd Quarter	....	....	....	3 Cases
4th Quarter	....	....	....	5 Cases

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of Note.

Notification of Infectious Diseases—I am of the opinion that many cases of Infectious Disease are not notified.

No schools closed.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation continued throughout the year. At the 31st December, 1951, 7,814 children of school age and 3,271 under school age had been Immunised giving a grand total of 11,085.

3. Tuberculosis.

During the year 72 cases were notified, 67 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory. Of these cases 6 were transferred from other authorities.

27 cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and 23 were discharged after treatment (including some admitted during the previous year.)

(Reference to Table III will give the age distribution.)

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register as at the 31st December, 1951 :

Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
261	32	293

4. Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Total number of Outbreaks	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Single Cases	...	...	...	2
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	Nil

Persons Involved	Organisms Isolated	Foods Suspected
1	Salmonella Typhimurium	Fish
1	No pathological organisms isolated	Sausage

G. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The two open air public swimming pools are provided with modern continuous filtering and chlorinating plant and from each, three samples of the pool water were submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Whilst all the bacteriological results were satisfactory, the chemical analysis showed that two samples showed no free chlorine.

Between these visits when samples were collected visits were made to ascertain whether the swimming pool bye-laws were complied with and to informally test for free chlorine in the water.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories in the area during 1951 was:

With mechanical power	...	...	137
Without power	...	...	14
Works of building or engineering construction	...	...	12

The cases where defects were found are listed below:—

			<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	1	1
Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	...	...	9	8
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	18	12
Total	...	...	29	22

180 visits were made to factories during 1951 and
7 written notices were served.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No cases were dealt with by the Council. The Medical Officer of Health is not the Designated Officer.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Complaints were received during the year in respect of two industrial premises. Investigations were carried out and advice given which resulted in a satisfactory reduction of the amount of smoke discharged.

The opening of a new furniture factory co-incided with complaints of sawdust and chippings being deposited near to houses to windward of the factory, accompanied by excessive noise which seemed to be associated with the fans connected to the cyclone dust extractors. The designers of the ventilation plant were called in and the nuisance finally abated after some months of investigation. The factory is now working practically dust free and without nuisance.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The coming into force of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 caused the Council to re-examine the question as to how payment should be made by occupiers of dwelling houses at which treatment for rodents was carried out. Finally it was decided that as from the 21st February, 1951 such premises should be treated free of charge. As a result there has been some increase in the number of complaints received and the number of treatments given, but it is felt that disinfection is being carried out more efficiently.

One of the provisions of the Act is to place the responsibility on Local Authorities for the inspection of farm properties, and the Council considered whether to employ a second Rodent Operative or to purchase a van which would make the existing operative mobile, in view of the additional work involved. The decision was made that a van be purchased and this was delivered in October. The table below gives a summary of the work carried out by the operative during the year.

	Type of Property				
	Private	Business and Industrial	Local Authority	Agricultural	Total
Properties Inspected:					
On Complaint ...	238	33	11	—	282
Otherwise ...	953	97	19	76	1145
Properties Treated	292	36	14	1*	343
Dead rats found ...	993	201	122	—	1316
Dead mice found ...	20	35	—	—	55

* Other infested premises referred to Warwickshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

Sewer Treatments.

Two investigations of the sewerage system were carried out at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the first in March and the second in September. As has been found in previous years infestations were heavier during March.

The method adopted is to deposit bait in inspection chambers along the line of the sewers and where such baits are taken after two or three days to follow with a poisoned bait. Details of the treatments are given below:

Date of Treatment	Poison and Bait used	No. of Inspection Chambers baited	No. of Poisoned Baits Taken	
			<i>Partial</i>	<i>Complete</i>
March	Zinc Phosphide and Rusks	211	43	—
Sept.	Arsenious Oxide & bread mash	179	27	—

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since 1945, the number of existing houses which have been connected to water mains annually are as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Houses Connected to Mains</i>		<i>No. of Wells Redundant</i>	
1945	...	118	...	63
1946	...	84	...	60
1947	...	47	...	38
1948	...	105	...	58
1949	...	69	...	47
1950	...	52	...	31
1951	...	37	...	18

Approximately 757 houses still rely on 563 wells for their water supply. The number of houses served by water mains is now 19,534.

Results of Samples. — Either for the purpose of investigating complaints or for supervisory purposes, a number of samples from individual wells were submitted to the analyst and the results were as follows:—

Number of samples submitted to both chemical and bacteriological tests	...	...	...	...	30
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	9
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	20
Number satisfactory bacteriologically but unsatisfactory chemically	...	...	...	...	1
Number of samples submitted to bacteriological test only	...	...	...	...	27
Number satisfactory	...	...	...	...	6
Number unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	21

In addition to the above, 7 samples of water were submitted to the bacteriologist for the identification of specific food poisoning organisms which proved negative.

The number of unsatisfactory samples appears to be high but it must be remembered that these samples are generally taken upon complaint being made under circumstances in which it is thought that the well water has deteriorated. Where a sudden deterioration is found an investigation is made and suitable recommendations made to the owner of the property. In the majority of cases it follows that either the well is repaired or that the water supply is obtained from a public supply installed in or near the premises.

During the year the water main extension to cottages on the Council's Elmdon estate was completed.

CARAVANS.

The influx of caravans into the area which was experienced during 1950 was reduced to a much smaller movement in the year under review. Although 14 caravans for full time habitation were newly sited in the district 15 were removed. Some of the arrivals were given temporary permission to remain but on the whole it can be said that the pressure to establish caravans in the area has eased.

Caravans used for full time occupation:

No. of caravans established in the District at end of 1950	41
No. of caravans newly sited in the District during 1951	14
No. of caravans removed from sites in the District during 1951	15
No. of caravans established in the District at end of 1951	40
No. of Temporary Permissions given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 and Town Planning Act 1947	9
No. of Permissions refused before caravan sited	4

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only:

No. of caravans established in the District at end of 1950	24
No. of caravans newly sited in the District during 1951	2
No. of caravans removed from the District during 1951	4
No. of caravans sited in the District at end of 1951	22

The following table shows the number and type of vans sited in the area at the close of 1951.

	<i>In full time Occupation</i>	<i>Recreational Use</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Gipsy-type vans ...	8	3	11
Converted motor-buses	6	5	11
Modern trailer vans ...	26	14	40
Total ...	40	22	62

During the year 6 appeals were made to the Minister of Town & Country Planning against the Council's refusal to grant planning permission to site caravans. The inquiries were held locally and in each case the Minister upheld the Council's decision although in the letter conveying his decision to the appellants the Minister expressed the hope that the Council would not cause them undue hardship. The Council undertook to allow the occupiers six months in which to remove their vans.

In addition during the year two owners of land on which caravans were sited and three occupiers of the caravans were fined at the Local Court for not complying with Enforcement Notices issued under Section 24 of the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 and were given six months in which to remove their vans.

During the year the Council again considered the provision of a caravan site in Hay Lane, but deferred action in the matter.

Negotiations were continued with the owner of land at Knowle regarding the establishment of a caravan site and finally plans were approved in respect of a site for 38 caravans. Temporary permissions were granted under the Town & Country Planning Act and the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 for a period of five years. At the end of the year it was understood that the necessary building licence had been obtained which would become operative on the 1st January, 1952. At the time of writing this report the work had not been commenced.

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS.

The Council's policy of seeking the demolition of sub-standard temporary dwellings as they became vacant was continued during the year. In ten cases notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 inviting the owners to appear before the Public Health Committee at the time when a Demolition Order was being considered. Nine Demolition Orders were made during the year and three temporary dwellings were demolished as a result of action taken in 1951, and three in accordance with action taken during 1950. In one case where an offer was not made at the time of the appearance before the Committee an Appeal was lodged in the County Court and an offer submitted there. This offer was accepted by the Judge and costs shared by the party concerned and the Council.

During 1950 undertakings were accepted by the Council in respect of two temporary dwellings to provide water and drainage systems within six months of the date of the meeting, but despite continuous negotiations these undertakings had not been carried out at the close of the year.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

During the year two notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 inviting owners to appear before the Committee in the case of two old permanent dwellings and undertakings were accepted by the Council that the houses would not be used for human habitation.

As the result of a Demolition Order made during 1950 one dwelling was demolished during the year.

SHOPS.

In last year's report a list was given showing the businesses carried on at the shops within the Urban District. Since the close of 1950 two new shops have been opened and one closed so that the total is now 730.

Informal action to ensure that the provisions of the Shops Acts regarding the arrangements for the health and comforts of shop workers, the employment of young persons, statutory half holidays and the closing hours were complied with was undertaken successfully.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

112 installations were licensed for the storage of 159,312 gallons of petroleum spirit and 4,630 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £80 15s. 0d.

A case where paraffin oil was sold accidentally mixed with petrol was brought to notice by an urgent B.B.C. appeal for its return to the retailer. Arrangements were made which would prevent a repetition of the incident and the retailer was warned.

Another case investigated concerned petrol being associated with ground water which flooded a cellar giving rise to what appeared to be an explosive mixture. The clearing of the cellar drain allowed the petrol to flow away with the water and although extensive investigations were made the source of the petrol inflow was not ascertained. Circumstantial evidence suggested that the incident was connected with alterations to the petrol pumping system at a near-by garage and that by some means petrol had flowed into the land drainage system and backed up into the cellar via the cellar drain when this became choked. The premises were kept under observation but a repetition did not occur.

INSECT CONTROL.

The Health Department is often asked to advise on the extermination of wasps, ants, cockroaches and mosquitoes. Owing to the large amount of surface water in the district mosquitoes and midges are at times very troublesome. A survey made with the help of the University of Birmingham and the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island, showed that the common mosquitoes are the *Culex pipiens* and *Aedes Annulipes* Meigen.

TABLE OF WORK DONE—1951.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal Defects remedied :

Defective ceiling construction	2
Defective plaster	66
Defective floors	74
Defective kitchen ranges, washboilers fireplaces and flues	22
Defective windows and cords	25
Defective doors	13
Defective sinks, waste pipes and channelling	48
New sinks and waste pipes provided	8
Gas leakages	5

External Defects remedied :

Defective roofs	98
External walls rebuilt	3
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	28
Defective chimneys	10
Defective rainwater pipes	4
Defective eavesgutters	52
Defective dustbins	43
Defective yard paving and yard walls	8

DEMOLITION.

Houses demolished	7
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DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	14
Defective drains cleansed or repaired	77
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	2
Defective and obstructed W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	29
Flushing cisterns provided to hand flushed closets	6

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains	37
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	7
Defective water supply remedied	16

SHOPS

Heating facilities provided	4
Hot water for washing provided	4
Legal forms exhibited	39
Miscellaneous	5

FOOD KITCHENS

Hot water supply provided	4
Wall surfaces repaired	4

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	21
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	39
New Petroleum installations supervised	5
Miscellaneous defects remedied	24

TOTAL	859
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1951.

	Inspections made	Notices Statutory	Served Informal	Notices complied with
Dwelling Houses and Schools	1743	5	209	191
Drainage	382	—	33	19
Watercourses and Ditches	58	—	—	—
Pail Closets and W.C. Conversions	76	—	3	5
Cesspools	28	—	—	—
Ashbins	239	—	52	30
Offensive Accumulations	11	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	23	—	1	1
Food Premises	408	—	7	3
Dairies and Milkshops	11	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	74	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	37	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	212	—	—	—
Factories (with mechanical power)	119	—	5	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	20	—	—	—
Bakehouses	12	—	—	—
Milk Sampling for bacteriological examination	85	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises	276	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling for chemical examination	101	—	—	—
Water Supplies	163	—	5	2
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	205	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Complaints	218	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	12	—	—	—
Shops	374	—	8	3
Petroleum Installations	76	—	—	—
Court Appearances	7	—	—	—
Interviews	290	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	905	—	—	—
TOTALS	6,165	5	323	256

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1951 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Nett		Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1943	60,670	1,380	22.8	51	37	537	8.8
1944	60,070	1,400	23.4	44	31	532	8.8
1945	58,770	1,143	19.5	34	30	518	8.8
1946	61,720	1,223	19.5	41	33	555	8.9
1947	63,890	1,345	21.1	32	24	546	8.5
1948	66,600	1,169	17.5	21	17.9	545	8.1
1949	66,850	1,052	15.5	33	31.3	589	8.8
1950	67,640	1,035	15.3	29	28.01	587	8.6
1951	67,980	991	14.5	29	29.2	676	9.9
Death Rate—Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—25.0 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—151.5							

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951.
ENGLAND AND WALES.*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1951.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births
England and Wales	15.5	0.36	12.5	29.6
126 Great Towns, including London	17.3	0.45	13.4	33.9
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	0.38	12.5	27.6
London	17.8	0.37	13.1	26.4

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified									Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Age Unknown	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	34	—	10	16	4	4	—	—	—	3
Paratyphoid Fever	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	84	9	4	6	3	22	13	26	1	4
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	10	1	6	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	2	9
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	67	—	5	7	20	26	8	1	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	225	12	26	35	33	62	26	28	3	23

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1951.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	330	346
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory	8	3
2 Tuberculosis, Other	—	2
3 Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	1
5 Whooping Cough	—	1
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases....	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	5
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	17	4
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	14
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4
14 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	26	27
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	—
16 Diabetes	3	4
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	39	58
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	57	34
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	11	10
20 Other Heart Disease	32	70
21 Other Circulatory Disease	9	6
22 Influenza	6	12
23 Pneumonia	20	12
24 Bronchitis	21	22
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	3
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodendum	6	—
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis....	2	2
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1
31 Congenital Malformations	6	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	31	37
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	4
34 All other Accidents	6	7
35 Suicide	3	1
36 Homicide and Operations of War	—	—