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ANNUAL REPORT

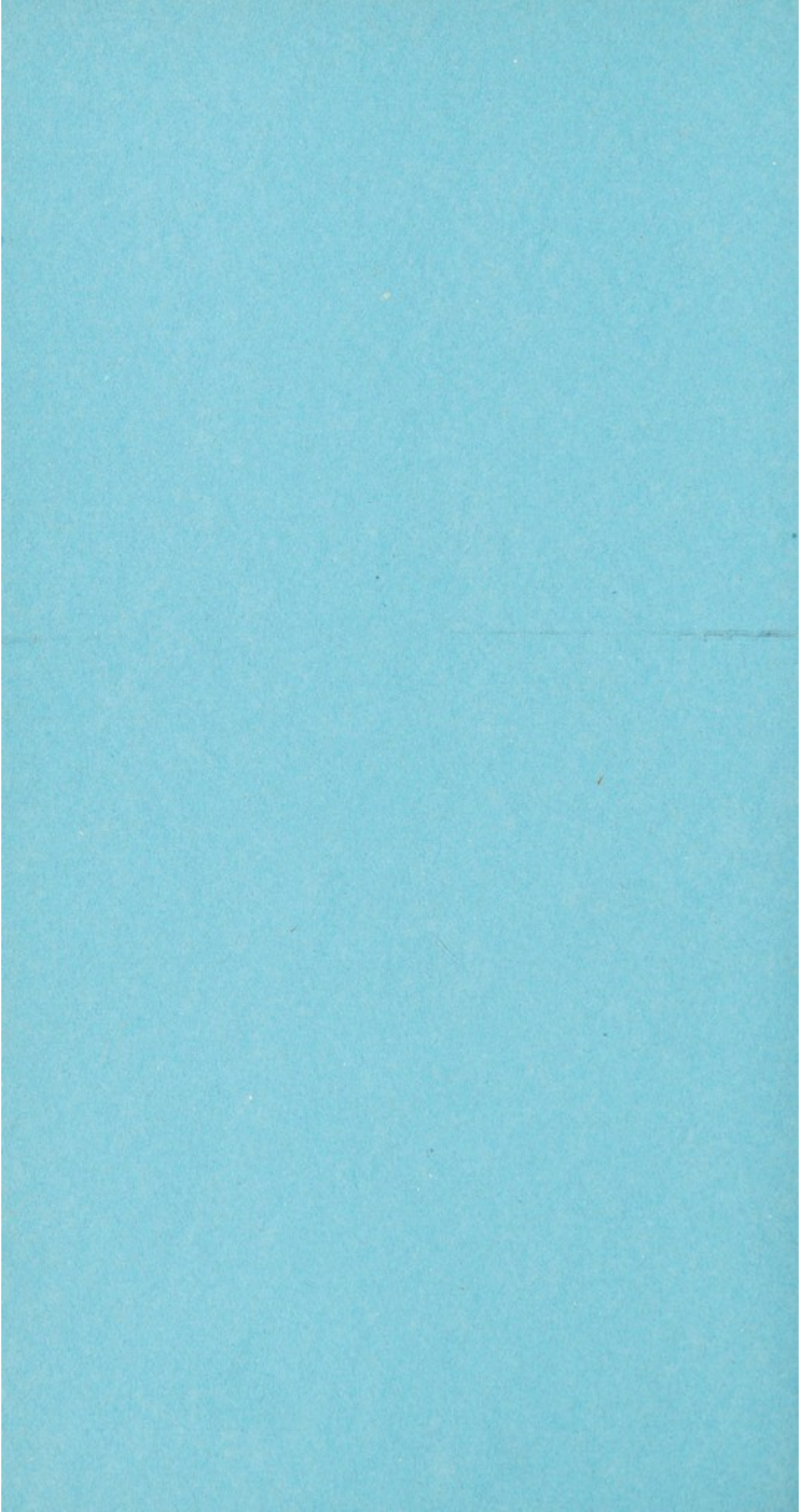
OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1952

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



*Printed at
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Birmingham*



69 New Road,
Solihull,

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 beg to present my Annual Report as required under The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and under headings as laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circular 2/53. Many matters have been dealt with and much achieved by the Health Department during the past year and I mention those I consider of most importance.

DIPHTHERIA. For the first time in the history of the District there has not been a single case of Diphtheria. This is a most gratifying achievement by the medical profession and emphasises the immense value of diphtheria immunisation. Whilst diphtheria is no longer front-page news the work of immunising children is still going on steadily and perhaps because of its unspectacular nature enough kudos has not been given to this remarkable achievement of the general medical practitioners and the public health department. A warning, however, is necessary for although diphtheria has disappeared from Solihull in the meantime this must not lead to any relaxation of the campaign against the disease by immunisation for if enough children are not immunised the disease will break out again.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. Conveniences in this district are well maintained and cleansed daily by staff employed by the local authority yet it is appalling to see the disgusting state the conveniences can be left in by the public, both male

and female. Whilst this district is not as bad as some I have come across I consider that no really high standard of cleanliness can be maintained in conveniences (without full time attendants) until squatter type toilets are installed in tamper-proof, well-lit cubicles. It has been my experience abroad whilst travelling as a Ship's Surgeon that this type of toilet in unattended conveniences is more hygienic and less unpleasant to deal with for the person who has to clean it.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION. I have always taken a keen interest in, and attached tremendous importance to, the question of atmospheric pollution and was ably backed by the Health Committee that analyses should be made to ascertain the amount of atmospheric pollution in Solihull (practically all domestic). Therefore, I was both chagrined and dismayed to find that in some circles in Solihull atmospheric pollution investigation was looked upon as a waste of money and ought to be discontinued in the interests of economy and thus save £40 spent yearly by the Health Committee in maintaining three sampling stations (one deposit gauge for the estimation of solid deposits and two gauges for the estimation of sulphur dioxide which is one of the principal gasses produced by burning coal.

I cannot speak for all of us, of course, but I think that most people would consider the outlay of a few pounds small sacrifice compared with the inestimable value of the data received from atmospheric pollution investigations and, in time, the eventual purifying of the air in which we live and breath. Solihull is considered one of the cleaner areas in the Midlands but it may occasion some surprise to know that in certain parts of the district it is a common occurrence to bring washing in dirtier than when it was put out. It is disconcerting to note, therefore, that most of the new houses erected in Solihull have been fitted with open type fires or, the more modern version, the continuous burning all-night fire—an even greater menace. This will eventually result in an even dirtier atmosphere being produced unless smokeless fuel is easily obtainable at a cheap rate.

RATS. I have noticed the way rats and flies are attracted to the scraps of food left behind in the above-ground kitchen drain. Why could not the discharge pipe from the kitchen sink empty direct into the drain pipe underground like the W.C. instead of as required by the Bye-Laws into an open drain above ground? The same could also apply to the wash-hand basin.

NOISE. This can be dealt with under two headings. (1) Persistent recurring noise and (2) Temporary noise. Firstly,

the persistent recurring noise such as radio, television, machinery and the barking of dogs. My attention has been drawn to these whilst visiting houses in the district. These noises can result in loss of sleep and mental ill-health. With regard to temporary noise "Fancy Fairs" can be one of the main offenders, but it is strange how some people object to these remnants of English mediaeval life which remain in the district for a couple of days and which give much pleasure to thousands. Yet on holiday the same complainants would probably flock to a Fancy Fair for a night's entertainment. I consider that if a programme of tunes were played one at a time throughout the fair instead of a different tune at each stall, complaints would be considerably reduced.

MILK. For several years the Health Committee has favoured the sale of pasteurised milk in the district and more recently under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, the sale of raw, ungraded milk was prohibited in Solihull. This, however, leads to a problem or the "menace of the annual holiday." Some parents who for years have fed their children on pasteurised milk apparently take it for granted that the milk obtainable, when they go for camping or caravan holidays in the country or at small seaside resorts, is pasteurised. Unfortunately, this is not always so, and bovine tuberculosis can result from drinking this raw milk. Persons interviewed by me have also stated that they like the "rich, thick, creamy milk" obtainable in the country in preference to the more or less tasteless pure product obtainable in the big cities.

ZOONoses (infections spread by animals to man). It is a common sight in the shops of the district to see cooked foods which are eaten without further cooking, served by the same person who also handles raw meat, raw fish and raw poultry. This can result in animal diseases being transmitted to man. Another example of this contamination is seen in the green-grocers' shops where raw fish, rabbits and poultry are served along with tomatoes, grapes, apples, lettuce, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS. I should like to see a more unified service dealing with this disease, especially as the new drugs used in treatment are so improving the patient's health that he is no longer confined to bed but yet may be still infectious and capable of spreading the disease.

OLD PEOPLE. Many difficulties are still being encountered in the care of the aged, although much valuable, un-

obtrusive work is done by the voluntary associations, such as the W.V.S., the Red Cross and similar bodies.

An indication of the excellent work done by the Sanitary Inspectors is the fact that during the year only one prosecution was made and that was for a dirty milk bottle.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their criticism, advice and encouragement.

I also wish to thank the staff of the Health Department, particularly Mr. Henstone, Chief Clerk of the Area Health Office, for their co-operation and help and Mr. Vaughan for his report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

IAN McLACHLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The topic of food as an encouragement to polite English conversation appears now, owing to the influences of the late war and the rationing schemes which accompanied it, rivalling the weather as a stimulant of social intercourse. The call of the inner man disregards possibilities of conveyed infection, and urged by appetite seeks the satisfying and attractive rather than the hygienically pure, and so the path of bacterial contamination is open. Statistically, outbreaks of food illness appear to be increasing, but this may be partly due to improved diagnosis, but when outbreaks do occur the result is alarming from the point of view of the public health worker and distressing from that of the individual patient. If the illness be of a mild type it serves to demonstrate that the path of infection is open to more serious infections which may have fatal results, and so it is imperative for public health workers to watch those smaller points which may, and generally do, form the path which the infection follows whether it be mild or serious. That more people are dining away from home is an accepted fact and it is equally agreed that the greater the number of people eating together the greater is the risk of mass infection. When dealing with an outbreak of a mild but widespread type one often wonders what might have been the result had the germ causing the outbreak been of a more virulent kind, and this is often followed by the thought that most outbreaks of illness caused by food have originated in some innocent action by a kitchen worker who did not know he was doing wrong. Educational efforts and publicity seem to be called for and much has been done by the Council to inform workers in canteens and retail shops of their responsibilities and of hygienic methods of preparing meals and prepared meat products. This, however, cannot be the end, for staffs of shops and kitchens change and recruits enter the service so that it seems that the process of spreading information on a subject which has become a minor national problem must go on in the interests of the community until an improved level of hygiene becomes standard practice.

Food and shelter being twin necessities of life and the Public Health Department being concerned as it is with the essentials of healthy living, it is natural that the problem of sub-standard housing should rank high in the continual investigation into questions of human environment. Whilst in the recent past we have been concerned with the conditions at individual houses which because of lack of repair over the war years and since have become unfit for habitation the recent spurt in the rate of house building has directed our attention to those less fortunately situated who are forced to live in houses that are damp and lacking in the many amenities which modern standards of housing require. The recent improvement in the nation's general circumstances seems to suggest that the time is approaching when we can accelerate our progress so that instead of dealing only with those houses which are dilapidated and near the point of collapse we can deal with groups of houses which because of their bad arrangement and generally insanitary condition are unfit for human habitation. The first step in this direction has been taken by the Council by the allocation of a number of houses to rehouse persons displaced under a proposed clearance area and it

may be that this action will prove to be in anticipation of part of a national policy aimed at the remedying of conditions caused by rising building costs associated with fixed rentals.

In this review of the work of 1952 it is necessary, in order to secure completion, to thank the Council for its continued encouragement of our efforts and to thank one's colleagues in this and other departments for their loyalty and co-operation at all times.

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, W. BEEVERS, P. S. LYONS, Mrs. M. MATTEWS, F. L. NOCK and V. A. PERRY.

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 (Resigned October, 1952)

JANET M. LEWIS (Commenced November, 1952)

Public Analysts :

BSTOCK 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 (estimated Mid 1952) Registrar General 68,420

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	460	413	873
Illegitimate	16	8	24
	476	421	897

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population 13.1

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	8	5	13

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population19

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 14.2

Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	287	313	600
Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population			8.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	14	11	25
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	14	12	26

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births 28.9

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.6

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 41.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) —

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

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

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

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	5	5
Faeces and Urine	13*	132	145
Respiratory Tuberculosis	34	183	217
			<hr/>
	Total		367
			<hr/>

*—Mild Dysentery and Food Poisoning

3. *Ambulance facilities*.—The Ambulance Service continues to be administered by the Warwickshire County Council.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water*.

(i) and (ii) The water undertakers, the City of Birmingham and the City of Coventry, have supplied piped water to the area which has generally been satisfactory in quantity. During the year the extension of a new trunk main in the Knowle and Dorridge area was completed and put into operation which remedied the conditions of low pressure in that area.

Three samples from the mains of each of the water undertakers were submitted to the Analyst, and upon chemical and bacteriological examination all 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. It is the practice with regard to individual wells which are the subject of complaint, to carry out routine investigations and where unsatisfactory samples are found, to explore the structural and other conditions in the vicinity of the well. The subsequent advice given may include the desirability of structural repairs, alteration, or where possible, the provision of a piped water supply from the nearest main.

(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 21,012. Of these, approximately 20,200 houses, or 96·2% are connected direct to the mains while 737 houses or 3·5% are served by 548 wells.

(b) By standpipes.

75 houses or approximately 0·3% are served by mains water from 25 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 1,806 yards of foul sewers and 4,371 yards of storm water sewers mainly in connection with the erection of new council house estates.

3.—*Closet Accommodation and Cesspools*. — One privy-midden, 17 pail closets and 26 hand flushed closets were converted to water closets during the year, these improvements affecting 47 properties. Three cesspools were also dispensed with. The total amount of grants paid to owners by the Council in connection with the above conversions totalled £780-10-0.

The Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the cleansing service states that the number of pail closets still existing is 825 and the number of privy middens 28, whilst 1,078 premises are served by 667 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 and the system of disposal that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING

The following are details of new units of housing accommodation completed during the year.

Council Houses	....	....	....	327
Private Houses	....	....	....	280
				<hr/>
				607
				<hr/>

The figures for Council Houses includes 22 aged persons dwellings and 7 flats, and that of Private Houses 6 flats.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register.

Processing Dairies	1
Producer-Retailer	9
Retail Dairymen	14
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	15
Sterilised	15
Tuberculin Tested	15
Accredited	1

Dealer's Licences.

Pasteurised	20
Sterilised	33
Tuberculin Tested	20

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.		Sterilised Milk.		TOTALS.	
No. of Samples	27		93		180		85		385	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test	6	—	86	—	163	4	—	—	255	4
Phosphatase Test	—	—	92	1	177	3	—	—	269	4
Turbidity Test	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	—	85	—
T.B. Inoculation Test	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—

Normally samples submitted to the Phosphatase Test are also submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. This latter test can only be completed when the atmospheric shade temperature does not exceed 65 degrees F. during the 24 hour test period. In 20 cases this temperature was exceeded, the test declared void and the results were not included in the above table.

It is satisfactory to note from the perusal of the table that the number of unsatisfactory samples continues to be very small, approximately 98 per cent. proving satisfactory.

Only milk which is sold under a special designation, i.e., Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised may now legally be sold in the Solihull area, for by the coming into force on the 1st November, 1952, of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, the sale of raw ungraded milk was prohibited. The Order had this effect throughout a large area comprising 23 authorities including Wolverhampton and Walsall in the north, Stourbridge in the west, Sutton Coldfield in the east, whilst Solihull was the only area to the south of Birmingham which was affected. The effect of the Order will be that farmers who produced and retailed their own milk will now be prevented from doing so unless they have been successful in obtaining the appropriate licence. If they have not been successful then they must send their milk to a pasteurising plant for treatment before resale. There is one unsatisfactory feature and that is that farm employees can obtain milk before it is pasteurised.

Tuberculous Milk.

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

Year	Number of Samples Examined			Number containing Tubercle Bacilli		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
1952	21	....	....	—	—

It will be noted that the number of samples submitted to this test is rather smaller than in previous years but the reason is that in order to prevent duplication of the work by other authorities an agreed basis of sampling has now been agreed with the neighbouring districts and the Warwickshire County Council. Thus, milk coming into Solihull is sampled by an authority outside the area unless it is being delivered for the purpose of heat treatment to a processing plant in this area.

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	...	...	...	—	2	0	7
Sausages	...	...	...	—	1	0	12
Fish	...	...	...	—	1	0	14
Biscuits	...	...	...	—	1	1	4
Prunes	...	...	...	—	1	0	16
Cheese	...	...	...	—	—	—	20
Miscellaneous Tinned Food-stuffs	...	...	...	1	15	2	5
				2	2	1	22

Of the above amount 2 cwts. 1 qr. 4 lbs. was destroyed ; the meat was returned to the Meat Distributing Depot, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal food.

In connection with this work, 1,227 “surrenders” of unsound food were made in respect of which 779 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

Last year it was reported that the number of items of food surrendered had increased by approximately 40 per cent. and this year a further 17 per cent. increase is recorded, the number of certificates increasing by 13 per cent. This is partly due, no doubt, to the fact that importers and retail stores are relying more and more on the certificate of unsound food as a document by which they can secure recovery of tinned goods which were found to be in poor condition when received. It is known that the certificate is also used by importers as a means of recovering customs dues which have already been paid. In any event it is clear that the amount of clerical work in connection with the issue of certificates has increased over the past two years and is to be expected as a greater variety of foods become available in the shops.

ICE CREAM.

Manufacturers.

Manufacturers' Premises :

Registered at close of 1952	...	...	...	15
Transfers of registration	...	...	...	1
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	10

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

Ten manufacturers have discontinued the production of ice cream at their premises which shows there is a trend away from the manufacture of ice cream on a small scale as it is now easier to obtain supplies wholesale from large manufacturers for resale.

Vendors.

The number of vendors registered was as follows :—

Registered at close of 1952	...	...	...	181
Registered during year	...	...	...	20
Registrations transferred	...	...	...	11
Discontinued selling ice cream during 1952	...	...	...	1

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

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	108
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	...	...	46
Selling loose ice cream only	...	...	27

The methylene blue test, as developed by the Ministry of Health was used for estimating the bacteriological quality of ice cream according to a system of four grades. 58 samples were submitted to the test and placed in the following grades by the analysts :—

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples	27	18	10	3		

Grade 1 is the highest grade and ice creams placed into grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory.

With the decline in the number of small manufacturers there is not the need to take samples in order to check on methods and this accounts for the decline in the number of samples taken.

Year		Number of Samples		Percentage in Grades 3 and 4
1948	....	50	....	70
1949	....	123	....	40
1950	....	120	....	18
1951	....	99	....	10
1952	....	58	....	22

Analysis of Ice Cream Samples for Fat Content, Sucrose and Milk Solids

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
15	15	—

During the year the Ministry of Food announced that in order to avoid a reduction in the supply of ice cream due to the shortage of milk powder and fats the standards prescribed in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1951 would be amended. The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Amendment Order 1952 reduced the fat content of ice cream from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent. and the minimum non-fat milk-solids content from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent. with effect from the 7th July, 1952.

Iced Lollipops

The registration of premises used for the making of iced lollipops has continued in accordance with the Council's policy outlined in last year's report. Twenty-nine persons are now registered to manufacture at registered premises and all comply with the simple list of requirements laid down by the Council. All persons who are known to be making these articles are now registered and adequate control appears to be exercised.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The number of registered premises was as follows :

Registered at close of 1952	....	13
New premises registered during the year	....	Nil.
Existing premises improved	....	3
Registrations transferred during year	....	Nil.

Other Food Preparation Premises.

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the area; no open stalls from which foodstuffs are sold; no large scale food factories and few vehicles. Restaurant and hotel kitchens are regularly inspected.

A survey of all the licensed public houses has been completed and all of them have a constant supply of hot water over sinks in which the glasses are washed. Many of these premises, due to careful control by the licensing justices are of modern construction and well equipped.

Routine inspections of commercial kitchens, work canteens and of vehicles from which food is sold were made during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING.

The work done during 1952 :

	Total number of samples taken	
	Formal	Informal
Milk	129	16
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs	7	140

Of these, 126 formal and 14 informal samples of Milk, and 3 formal and 130 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The following samples of milk were reported unsatisfactory :

<i>No.</i>		<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1422	Sterilised Milk.	Formal.	Contained 1% added water. Sample repeated—See No. 1424.
1424	Sterilised Milk.	Formal.	Contained 1% added water. The sample was purchased from a retailer having a Processing Dairy within the City of Birmingham, and the M.O.H. of the City was requested to investigate. He later reported that a defect had been found in the bottle washing plant at the dairy, which allowed a small quantity of water to be left in each bottle.
1431	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.	Informal.	Contained 22 parts per 100,000 moist extraneous dirt. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £5 (with £1 ls. costs) was imposed.
1440	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.	Informal.	Contained 3 parts per 100,000 moist extraneous dirt. Processing Dairy warned.
1512	Raw Milk.	Formal.	Contained 1% added water. Sample repeated — Genuine. Producer-Retailer warned.

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

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1377	Malt Extract with Cod Liver Oil.	Formal.	Unsatisfactory label. Manufacturer agreed to overprint the existing label.
1454	Blood Purifier.	Informal.	Deficient of 50% Liq. Pot. Hydrox. Formal sample taken—Genuine. Manufacturer warned.
1470	Sauce.	Informal.	Contained 17.6 p.p.m. Copper. Formal sample taken.—See No. 1553.
1477	Gelatine.	Informal.	Contained 29 p.p.m. Copper in excess of that recommended in the Edible Gelatine Order 1951, No. 1196. Formal sample taken.—See No. 1554.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1490	Pork Sausages.	Informal.	Deficient of 7.2% of required amount of meat. Formal sample taken—Genuine. Manufacturer warned.
1493	Rectal Ointment.	Informal.	Deficient of 88% phenol. Formal sample taken—Genuine. Manufacturer warned.
1496	Lung Tonic.	Informal.	(a) Contained an excess of 18% Oxymel Scillae w/w. (b) Percentages indicated on label should be clarified w/v. or w/w. Formal sample taken.—See No. 1551.
1551	Lung Tonic.	Formal.	(a) Deficient of 19 — 39% Oxymel Scillae. (b) Label unsatisfactory. Manufacturers agreed to changes in manufacture and labelling suggested by Public Analyst.
1553	Sauce.	Formal.	Contained 115 p.p.m. Copper. Sauce imported from Eire. Withdrawn from sale by retailer after representation.
1554	Gelatine.	Formal.	Contained 60 p.p.m. Copper. Withdrawn from sale by retailer.
1557	Steak and Kidney Pie.	Informal.	No kidney visible. Manufacturer warned.
1573	Condensed Milk.	Informal.	Deficient of the equivalent of $\frac{1}{8}$ pint of milk. Imported from Denmark. Unable to obtain formal sample. Reported to Ministry of Food.
1600	Bronchial Mixture.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. Manufacturer agreed to make alterations to label.
1643	Chlorodyne.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. Old stock.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Incidence of the Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1947.

Year	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
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
1952	—	—	83	—	73	19

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1952.

Diphtheria.—It will be noted that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—83 cases were notified, distributed as follows :—Sheldon 12 ; Olton 4 ; Solihull 26 ; Shirley 38 ; and Knowle 3.

Poliomyelitis.—Three paralytic cases were notified, one male, two females—they are now in good health, apart from slight residual paralysis. Reference to Table III will give the age distribution.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of Note.
No schools closed.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation continued throughout the year. At the 31st December, 1952, 7,703 children of school age and 4,110 under school age had been Immunised giving a grand total of 11,813.

3. Tuberculosis.

During the year 49 cases were notified, 48 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory. Of these cases 11 were transferred from other authorities.

44 cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and 38 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 Office Tuberculosis Register as at the 31st December, 1952 :

Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
238	22	260

4. Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Total number of Outbreaks	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Single Cases	...	...	...	7
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	Nil

Persons Involved	Organisms Isolated	Foods Suspected
3	Salmonella Typhimurium	Ice cream, Lettuce, Hen eggs, Tomatoe Cheese, Pork pie.
1	Salmonella Septicaemia	Meringue
3	No pathological organisms isolated	Cod-fish, Hen eggs

G. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No cases were dealt with by the Council.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Modern continuous chlorinating plant is provided at each of the two open-air public swimming pools, and from each, three samples of the pool water were submitted for chemical analysis and six for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspectors are now testing water at the swimming pools using a Lovibond comparator to estimate the free chlorine.

The advantage of using this instrument is that a shortage of chlorine can be demonstrated on the spot to the operator of the plant and conditions improved at once instead of needing to await the result of the Analyst's examination.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories in the area during 1952 was:

With mechanical power	...	...	158
Without power	...	...	9
Works of building or engineering construction	...	...	7

The cases where defects were found are listed below:—

			<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	...	...	6	4
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	16	15
Other Offences	...	...	1	2
Total	...		24	22

171 visits were made to factories during 1952 and 4 written notices were served.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

A deposit gauge has been fixed on the roof of the Council House and two lead-peroxide instruments sited in the grounds of the Surveyor's and Public Health Departments respectively ; all sites being in Solihull and approved by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

At monthly intervals, the bottle of the deposit gauge into which passes the rainwater and solid matter which falls into a glass bowl, is examined by the Public Analyst who calculates the amount of rainfall and the soluble and insoluble deposits during the period of exposure. From the lead-peroxide instruments which are dealt with by the Public Analyst at the same time is calculated the amount of sulphur dioxide acting upon a chemically treated fabric. These results are collected by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research who draw up tables shewing the extent of atmospheric pollution throughout the country at monthly intervals.

The accumulated annual figures for 1952 show that in the vicinity of the Solihull Council House 127 tons of insoluble material (total solids) was deposited per square mile, an average of 10.6 tons per month. Comparable monthly figures for nearby stations are Bacon's End, Meriden, 11.1 tons ; West Heath, Birmingham, 11.96 tons and Great Charles Street, Birmingham, 34.2 tons. The value of the Solihull station in the national survey is that it forms a control, a standard by which less fortunately situated areas can be compared.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Under this Act, which came into force on the 1st November, 1951, only one firm manufactures new furniture and in this connection, only clean rag flock must be used. This firm has been registered in accordance with the Act. The reconditioning of upholstery can be done on un-registered premises.

There are no premises licensed for the manufacture of rag flock or its storage for distribution to registered premises.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which came into force on the 1st April, 1952, suggests the conditions in relation to the accommodation for pet animals, their feeding and general welfare which a local authority should consider in connection with the issue of a licence to any person who wishes to keep a pets' shop. The fee for such a licence is not to exceed ten shillings.

The co-operation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been accepted by the Council and during the year two applications to license premises have been approved after inspection by suitably qualified officers of the Society.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The rural and residential urban character of this district are favourable to pig and poultry keeping. Food remnants resulting from these operations left lying in the open are responsible for the attraction of rats, many infestations being found near piggeries and poultry runs. Further encouragement to the growth of the rat population is afforded by those kind-hearted residents who leave scraps of food in their gardens intended for birds, although many such gardens, in fact, form feeding grounds for rodents. Rockeries and spaces beneath the floors of garages provide the necessary cover for nesting, and rats are often seen to emerge to feed upon the food scraps which have been left or put out for a different purpose.

One rodent operative, using a small motor van, is employed full time on rodent destruction. The following table gives details of work done by him during the year :

	Type of Property				
	Private	Business and Industrial	Local Authority	Agri-cultural	Total
Properties Inspect- ed:					
On Complaint ...	273	34	9	4	320
Otherwise ...	913	89	22	88	1112
Properties Treated	342	43	13	13*	411
Dead rats found ...	1418	245	93	441	2197
Dead mice found ...	28	12	30	—	70

* Other infested premises referred to Warwickshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

Sewer Treatments.

The customary two treatments for rats in sewers were carried out at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the first in March and the second in September.

In March, maintenance treatment was carried out of manholes found to be infested at the previous treatment and in addition, test baiting of approximately one manhole in every ten was carried out over the remainder of the district.

The manholes where bait had been eaten were noted and poisoned bait was laid in inspection chambers on each side of these manholes.

In September, further maintenance treatment was carried out.

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 & Sausage Rusks	208	18	2
Sept.	Arsenious Oxide & bread mash	84	10	—

WATER SUPPLIES.

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

Year	No. of Houses Connected to Mains	No. of Wells Redundant
1945	118	63
1946	84	60
1947	47	38
1948	105	58
1949	69	47
1950	52	31
1951	37	18
1952	20	15

Approximately 737 houses still rely on 548 wells for their water supply. The number of houses served by water mains is now 20,275.

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	...	...	...	...	10
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	19
Number satisfactory bacteriologically but unsatisfactory chemically	...	...	...	...	1

In addition to the above, 4 samples of water were submitted to the bacteriologist with a request to search for specific organisms. All proved negative.

CARAVANS.

The number of caravans which have settled in the area has increased from 40 to 56, but it should not be inferred that there was an unusual settlement of caravans on unlicensed sites during the year. All new arrivals are carefully watched and in practically all cases application is made to the Council for permission to stay on a given site and these are either refused or short term permissions given under the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. The movement of caravans for permanent habitation into and out of the district is shown in detail in the table below :

Caravans used for full time occupation:

No. established at end of 1951	...	...	...	...	40
No. newly sited during 1952	...	...	...	...	26
No. removed from sites during 1952	...	...	...	...	10
No. established at end of 1952	...	...	...	...	56
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	...	...	...	...	1

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only:

No. established at end of 1951	...	...	...	...	22
No. newly sited during 1952	...	...	...	...	1
No. removed during 1952	...	...	...	...	8
No. sited at end of 1952	...	...	...	...	15

The work at the Greswolde Caravan Site, Knowle, proceeded but slowly during the year. It is not yet completed, although at the close of the year such matters as standings, drainage, lavatory blocks and the necessary roads were under construction.

Number of caravans on Greswolde site at December, 1951	...	11
Number of caravans on Greswolde site at December, 1952	...	20

The following table shows the number and type of vans sited in the area at the close of 1952.

	<i>Full time Occupation</i>	<i>Recreational Use</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Gipsy-type vans	8	2	10
Converted motor-buses	5	3	8
Modern trailer vans	43	10	53
Total	56	15	71

During the year four occupiers of caravans were fined at the Local Court for not complying with Enforcement Notices issued under Section 24 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. In two cases the occupiers later removed their vans from the district.

Of the two owners of land and three occupiers of caravans who were fined during 1951 for not complying with Enforcement Notices under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, only one had moved his caravan at the close of the year.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

During the year 14 notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 inviting owners to appear before the Council where demolition of their properties was being considered. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 10 houses ; an undertaking was accepted by the Council in respect of one house that it would not be used for human habitation, and in the case of the other three houses, the owners had not appeared before the Committee at the end of the year.

Although some of these houses were empty at the end of the year demolition had not started.

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 eight 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. Four Demolition Orders were made during the year and six temporary dwellings were demolished as a result of action taken in 1951 and one in accordance with action taken during 1952. In one case an offer made by the owner at the time of his appearance before the Committee was not accepted and the Demolition Order was made. An appeal against the Council's decision was lodged in the County Court but at the hearing the Judge dismissed the appeal with costs.

Of the two undertakings to carry out work acceptable to the Council (mentioned in last year's report) the owners have now provided water supply and drainage systems.

SHOPS.

In the Annual Report for 1950 a list was given showing the businesses carried on at the shops within the Urban District. Since the close of 1951 five new shops have been opened and one closed so that the total is now 734.

Informal action was undertaken successfully 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.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

114 installations were licensed for the storage of 162,022 gallons of petroleum spirit and 11,720 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £83 10s. 0d.

During the year, two complaints were received from the Telephone Manager's Department, Birmingham Area, of petrol gaining access to G.P.O. manholes.

In the first case—which occurred on a main road in open country—investigation failed to reveal the source of the petrol, but after repeated pumping out of the ground water from the manhole, the petrol was cleared. It can only be assumed that petrol had been spilled on the road and had gained access to the G.P.O. system by way of an adjacent street gully. There has been no recurrence of the trouble reported.

The second case occurred on a main road in a built-up area adjacent to the City of Birmingham, and had more serious consequences in that in addition to the risk attendant upon the presence of fumes in the manhole, the bitumen protection of the cables in the telephone ducts was dissolved for an approximate distance of 50 yards from the manhole. In spite of testing all underground petrol tanks in the vicinity with air under pressure, rigorous investigation at surrounding properties about the illicit storage of petrol, and extensive sewer and drainage tests, neither the source of the petrol nor the means of access to the G.P.O. system had been traced at the end of the year.

TABLE OF WORK DONE—1952.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal Defects remedied :

Defective staircases	2
Defective plaster	82
Defective floors	76
Defective kitchen ranges, washboilers fireplaces and flues	24
Defective windows and cords	49
Defective doors	18
Defective sinks, waste pipes and channelling	6
New sinks and waste pipes provided	9
Damp walls	19

External Defects remedied :

Defective roofs	80
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	24
Defective chimneys	7
Defective rainwater pipes and gully channels	28
Defective eavesgutters	39
Defective dustbins	67
Defective yard paving and fencing	10

DEMOLITION.

Houses demolished	7
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DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	8
Defective drains and soilpipes cleansed or repaired	103
Cesspools built, repaired, discontinued	9
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	20
Defective and obstructed W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	39
Flushing cisterns provided to hand flushed closets	26
Pail closets	7
Inspection chamber covers provided	5

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains and well supplies discontinued	12
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	20
Defective water supply remedied	7

SHOPS

Heating facilities provided	4
Hot water for washing provided	3
Legal forms exhibited on request	26
Miscellaneous	4

FOOD KITCHENS

Hot water supply provided	8
Wall and ceiling surfaces repaired	10
Miscellaneous	9

PETROLEUM STORAGE

New petroleum installations supervised	10
Air pressure tests on underground storage tanks supervised	19
Miscellaneous	7

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	20
Smoke nuisances abated	7
Offensive accumulations removed	14
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	49
Insect disinfestations	17
Miscellaneous defects remedied	12

TOTAL	1022
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1952.

	Inspections made	Notices Served Statutory	Informal	Notices complied with
Dwelling Houses and Schools	1817	3	199	142
Drainage	453	—	17	12
Watercourses and Ditches	39	—	—	—
Pail Closets and W.C. Conversions	142	—	8	5
Cesspools	56	—	—	—
Ashbins	295	—	43	36
Offensive Accumulations	52	—	1	1
Keeping of Animals	17	—	—	—
Food Premises	516	—	6	5
Dairies and Milkshops	16	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	111	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	69	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	216	—	—	—
Factories (with mechanical power)	100	—	4	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	71	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	8	—	—	—
Bakehouses	9	—	—	—
Milk Sampling for bacteriological examination	91	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises	118	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling for chemical examination	101	—	—	—
Water Supplies	166	—	14	6
Infectious Diseases and Disinfect- ions	246	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Complaints	52	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	37	—	1	1
Swimming Pools	41	—	—	—
Shops	357	—	2	—
Petroleum Installations	183	—	—	—
Law Court Appearances	5	—	—	—
Interviews	341	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	772	—	1	1
TOTALS	6,497	3	296	211

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1952 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 Live Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	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
1952	68,420	897	13.1	26	28.9	600	8.7

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1952.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths	Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6
^{6/10} Great Towns, including London	16.9	0.43	12.1	31.2
^{6/10} Smaller Towns	15.5	0.36	11.2	25.8
London	17.6	0.34	12.6	23.8

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1952.

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)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—
Scarlet Fever	83	—	13	64	5	—	—	1	—	3
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	73	4	16	8	1	13	15	15	1	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	—	—	—	10	9	—	—	—	18
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	48	—	—	7	12	19	8	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	7	—	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	1
Totals	248	7	32	86	28	42	30	22	1	28

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1952.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	287	313
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory	7	1
2 Tuberculosis, Other	—	1
3 Syphilitic Disease	1	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases....	—	3
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	7
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	1
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	19
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	9
14 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	28	30
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	3
16 Diabetes	—	2
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	43	53
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	46	46
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	8	9
20 Other Heart Disease	38	55
21 Other Circulatory Disease	6	6
22 Influenza	1	1
23 Pneumonia	15	15
24 Bronchitis	14	4
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	2
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodendum	4	4
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	2
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis....	3	—
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	—
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations	6	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	21	26
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
34 All other Accidents	4	6
35 Suicide	2	3
36 Homicide and Operations of War	—	—