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Urban District of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1953

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



*Printed at
The Dorridge Press
Blue Lake Road, Knowle
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 COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

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 1/54. This Report is in respect of the final year of the Solihull Urban District, as in March, 1954, the District was granted Borough Status. My Report is, therefore, addressed to the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Solihull.

The year under review has been a very healthy one and free from major epidemics, but there have been increases in the number of deaths from Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum, Cancer of the Lung and Road Accidents. This is the second year there has not been a case of Diphtheria.

In Knowle, the installation of a new Coventry Branch Water Main has increased the water pressure so that the numerous complaints of low pressure, which have been received in the past, should not now occur in that district.

Since the beginning of 1953, the district has been fortunate in having the use of a Mobile Dental Surgery which has enabled dental inspection and treatment to be given in ideal conditions to all children attending schools in the rural parts of the district. The acceptance rate for this treatment has been nearly 100 per cent.

Looking around the district one is struck by the remarkable progress made by the Housing Committee in providing houses

for the people, and during the year under review, a further 1,032 houses were completed.

The voluntary associations throughout the district have again done excellent work, particularly in the field of old people, although there are still many aged persons who should be admitted to residential accommodation and be under supervision.

Steady all round progress has been made in the district, and I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their advice and assistance.

I also wish to thank the Public Health Staff for their excellent work and co-operation during 1953.

IAN McLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

The twin necessities of food and shelter have since the war occupied so much of one's time for thought that they must be uppermost in a Sanitary Inspector's mind when he is considering a review of his multifarious duties and activities.

To discuss housing first. Although the Council have been active in dealing with individual houses as opportunity occurred, 1953 saw the first Clearance Area made in 14 years, 18 sub-standard houses being dealt with by this method. With regard to their ultimate fate the Ministry's decision is awaited. The Minister of Housing and Local Government himself has announced a new national policy of accelerated clearance of houses which could not be made fit at reasonable cost or which, because of their general insanitary condition or bad arrangement, were unfit for human habitation, and has urged local authorities to carry out this policy. The principal task of the year was to prepare a tentative programme of demolition to be carried out during the next five years, and which it was hoped would clear away those houses which are sub-standard at the present time, and the Council having accepted the statement that 400 houses needed to be demolished, agreed to provide 340 new houses which it is anticipated will prove to be sufficient to replace the families displaced. Many of the houses will need to be dealt with individually, but there will be at least one big Clearance Order which will aim to remove the biggest collection of dwellings of temporary construction in the Shirley area—the heritage of the housing scarcity following the 1914-18 war.

With regard to food, the Ministry of Food's action to speed up derationing has raised its own problems at Local Authority level. For instance, whilst the policy of the Government is to develop towards the centralisation of slaughtering, it is clear that the intricate preparation and planning necessary cannot be carried out before the derationing of meat takes place.

In order to ensure that sufficient meat is available to the public it will be necessary to license private slaughterhouses for some time to come. Most of those in this area are of poor construction and after 15 years of neglect are in a poor state of repair, and whilst in all cases repairs are necessary, in many cases substantial alterations are required. Meat carefully killed and conditioned under the eye of the proprietor is superior in tenderness and saleability to that which is mass produced and delivered in bulk, and it may be that by licensing private slaughterhouses the Council are making an amenity available which will be enjoyed by the public at large.

On another aspect of food production several cases have been brought to our notice of foreign material in food, of which a nail in a half-pound of packed butter, string or a piece of rag in a loaf of bread, and insect larvae on the inside of a milk bottle are examples. Investigation seems to point to the careless overseeing of personnel engaged in packing food, although the scarcity of certain kinds of labour due to the period of relative prosperity through which we are passing may be a subscribing cause, as manufacturers will only be too pleased to accept recruits to their industries even if not entirely suitable.

These, then, were our principal problems during 1953, and for the continued support of the Council whilst appreciating one's difficulties and the continued help of one's colleagues, the writer is extremely grateful.

E. VAUGHAN,

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council : Councillor DOUGLAS COOPER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Councillor Rev. J. A. EMLYN JONES.

*Members of the Public Health Committee** : Councillor J. A. EMLYN JONES (Chairman), Councillor C. F. BAKER (Vice-Chairman), Councillors BEEVERS, LYONS, Mrs. MATTHEWS, PERRY, Dr. QUINET and WALL.

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

*—This Committee is concerned with matters of Public Health.

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 Operative :

E. CALLAGHAN.

Clerks :

GLADYS A. ALCOCK

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

JANET M. LEWIS

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 (estimated Mid 1953) Registrar General 69,570

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	450	483	933
Illegitimate	16	13	29
	466	496	962

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population 13.8

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	14	18
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	4	14	18

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population25

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 18.3

Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	293	272	565

Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population 8.1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	13	9	22
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	15	10	25

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births 25.9

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.5

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 103.4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Throughout the year, full advantage was taken of the facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, for the examination of milk and specimens taken in relation to the control of infectious diseases.

2. *Local Health Authority Services.*—The County Council are the responsible authority for midwifery, home nursing, health visiting, domestic help, ambulance and mental health services under the terms of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The day to day administration of all these services except the ambulance and mental health services, is, however, carried out in this Health Office.

School Health Services and Child Welfare Centres are staffed by medical officers, specialists and nurses employed by the County Council. In addition local voluntary workers assist at the Child Welfare Centres.

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

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. The problem of low pressure in the Knowle and Dorridge area has been remedied by the City of Coventry providing a new trunk main but the water is sometimes harder (a condition which has caused some complaint) than that supplied prior to the alteration.

Four samples from each of the water undertakers were submitted to the Analyst and after chemical and bacteriological examination one from the Coventry mains was found to contain some evidence of contamination. The Coventry water undertakers were informed of the position and samples taken later were found to be 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 Solihull rate books is 21,970. Of these, approximately 21,180 houses, or 96·4% are connected direct to the mains, while 713 houses or 3·2% are served by 531 wells.

(b) By standpipes.

77 houses or approximately 0·3% are served by mains water from 26 standpipes or taps in out-buildings for the common use of several houses.

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

2.—*Drainage and Sewerage*.—The local sewerage system has been extended by laying 5,153 yards of foul sewers and 6,005 yards of storm water sewers mainly in connection with the erection of new housing estates.

3.—*Closet Accommodation and Cesspools*.—Altogether 30 pail closets and 7 hand-flushed closets were converted to water closets during the year, these improvements concerning 37 properties. Four cesspools were dispensed with. One privy-midden was replaced by a chemical closet and a dustbin at an outlying farm-house.

The total amount of grants paid to private owners of properties where conversions were executed totalled £313-10-0.

Most of the conversions of pail closets have now been carried out but the continuance of this work on any scale must await sewer construction or extensions.

The Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the cleansing service, states that the number of pail closets still existing is 774 and the number of privy middens 27, whilst 1,141 premises are served by 756 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	....	....	....	147
Private Houses	....	....	....	885
				<hr/>
				1032
				<hr/>

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings over-
crowded at the end of the
year
- (ii) Number of Families dwelling
therein
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling
therein
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding
reported during the year
- (c) (i) Number of cases of over-
crowding relieved during
the year
- (ii) Number of persons concerned
in such cases
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which
dwelling-houses have again become
overcrowded after the Local
Authority have taken steps for
the abatement of overcrowding ...

* Left Country within one month of
complaint.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register.

Processing Dairies	1
Retail Dairymen	13
Shopkeepers retailing milk	19
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	19
Sterilised	31
Tuberculin Tested	17

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....	21		63		148		76		338	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test	—	—	63	—	143	5	—	—	206	5
Phosphatase Test	—	—	63	—	147	1	—	—	210	1
Turbidity Test	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	—	76	—
T.B. Inoculation Test	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—

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.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, Solihull is the most southerly district of the Birmingham area where the sale of raw, ungraded milk is prohibited. However, Accredited Milk and Tuberculin-Tested Milk can be sold raw, but the other milks such as Sterilised, Pasteurised and Pasteurised Tuberculin-Tested have received heat treatment. Very small quantities of the raw milks, that is, Accredited and Tuberculin-Tested Milks, are sold in this district because most of the Dairies pasteurise even the Tuberculin-Tested Milk.

Tuberculous Milk.

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

Year	Number of Samples Examined			Number containing Tubercle Bacilli		Percentage Positive
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	....	....	—	—
1953	21	....	....	—	—

ICE CREAM.

Manufacturers.

Manufacturers' Premises :

Registered at close of 1953	...	...	...	15
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	11

Of those still making ice cream, 2 use the hot mix method and 2 the cold mix method.

One large commercial manufacturer has opened a depot for the storage and distribution of ice cream in the Shirley area.

The manufacture of ice cream by large concerns is now widely established and the gradual elimination of the smaller manufacturer/retailer continues.

Vendors.

The number of vendors registered was as follows :—

Registered at close of 1953	...	...	...	185
Registered during year	...	...	...	8
Registrations transferred	...	...	...	11
Discontinued selling ice cream during 1953	...	...	...	4

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

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	111
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	...	...	47
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. The results of all these tests are sub-divided into four grades. 74 samples were submitted to the test and placed in the following grades by the analysts :—

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples	53	13	3	5		

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

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
1953	74	11

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

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20	20	—

During the year the Ministry of Food announced that as from the 1st June, 1953, the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, would come into operation, which restored from that date the standard of ice cream in force before the 7th July, 1952, i.e., 5 per cent. fat, 10 per cent. sugar and 7½ per cent. milk solids other than fat.

Iced Lollipops

Although there are now thirty persons registered to manufacture iced lollipops, only 19 were known to be making these. There is one manufacturer of lollipops in the district who resells on a wholesale basis.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The number of registered premises was as follows :

Registered at close of 1953	...	14
New premises registered during the year	...	1
Existing premises improved	...	2
Registrations transferred during year	...	1

Other Food Preparation Premises.

At the close of the year there was one licensed slaughterhouse in the area. These premises were licensed in order to help the Ministry of Food in the event of an outbreak of contagious disease and to increase the Ministry's slaughtering capacity.

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

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

The following information is in the form requested by the Ministry of Health :

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business:

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Confectioners (bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates and sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	120

- (ii) Number of registered food premises ... 223

- (iii) Inspections of registered food premises ... 286

- (iv) Educational Activity :

As every opportunity of delivering food hygiene lectures to local organisations is taken, a series of lectures were given at three separate centres in Solihull during the month of January. These lectures were attended by persons of all classes engaged in the trade, and were supported whole-heartedly by employers in the retail and distributive trades.

A series of seven lectures were attended by 300 persons mostly in their employers' time. One of these lectures was given to licensed victuallers and their staffs (a total of 52 persons) in a local hotel by kind permission of the directors and with the full support of the management.

A film "Another Case of Food Poisoning" was used to demonstrate the lectures and small exhibitions were staged at the same time.

One believes from the way the lectures were attended, and from the keen questioning and later comment, that they were well received.

Cards headed "Clean Food" were later distributed to retail shops for exhibition to the public requesting that dogs be not brought into the premises.

On the whole one feels that much has been achieved during the year but that repetition of lectures will be necessary as personnel in the shops and other food premises change.

- (v) The method of disposal of condemned food :

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

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat		1	0	6
Sausages		1	3	7
Dried Fruit			2	25
Frozen Skinned Rabbits		5	1	12
Tinned Ham		1	1	22
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs			2	23
Miscellaneous Tinned Foodstuffs ...	1	9	1	20
	2	0	2	3

Of the above amount 1 ton 2 cwt. 2 qrs. was destroyed, the majority of the meat was returned to the Meat Distributing Depot, whilst the remainder of the food was diverted for use as animal food.

In connection with this work 1,142 "surrenders" of unsound food were made in respect of which 623 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

(vi) Special Examination :

Ten cases each containing 60 lbs. of skinned rabbits were imported from Ireland and due to decomposition, the whole of the consignment was condemned. The cause of the decomposition was stated to be that the animals had been frozen before the natural body heat had left their bodies, and later whilst awaiting shipment they had thawed out, thus starting decomposition.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The work done during 1953 :

	Total number of samples taken	
	Formal	Informal
Milk	135	10
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs	4	147

Of these, 134 formal and 10 informal samples of milk, and 3 formal and 138 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The following sample of milk was reported unsatisfactory :

No.	Method	Remarks
1660	Raw Milk (Tuberculin Tested — Jersey).	Formal. Deficient of 13% fat. The sample conformed to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, and the facts were reported to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food for action.

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>
1707	Indian Brandee.	Informal.	Deficient of 59% w/w Sp. Aether Nit. Old stock—unable to obtain formal sample.
1713	Lemon Squash.	Informal.	Contained a mould growth. Old stock—voluntarily surrendered for disposal.
1743	Pork Pie.	Informal.	Contained small maggots. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Retailer and Manufacturer notified. After inspection of factory — situated outside this District — the manufacturer agreed to instal an air-conditioned cooling cabinet. Retailer provided protective covering along the counter.
1747	Vitorange Tablets.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label — no sucrose declared. Formal sample taken—Genuine.
1748	Decolourized Tincture of Iodine.	Informal.	Deficient of at least 17% Strong Solution of Ammonia. Formal sample taken—see No. 1804.
1722	Pork Sausages.	Informal.	No preservative statement. (Contained 248 p.p.m. Sulphur Dioxide). Manufacturer warned.
1776	Anti-Grippe.	Informal.	Deficient of approx. 17% Liq. Ammon. Fort. Formal sample taken—Genuine.
1779	Spirit of Camphor.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label—not now a B.P. product. Manufacturer allowed a period of 3 months for disposal of old stocks.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1804	Decolourized Tincture of Iodine.	Formal.	Deficient of at least 14% Strong Solution of Ammonia. Manufacturer (large multiple firm) carried out investigations which showed that the loss of ammonia was unavoidable by the method of manufacture prescribed. The Public Analyst agreed that although the B.P.C. specified the proportions of the ingredients to be taken to make the preparation, it did not in this case prescribe any standards for the finished product.
1805	Pork Sausages (Preserved).	Informal.	Deficient of 3% total meat. Formal sample taken — Genuine.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases Since 1948

Year	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia
1948	33	105	50	2
1949	1	113	41	5
1950	1	73	49	2
1951	2	34	84	10
1952	Nil	83	73	19
1953	Nil	87	75	8

Diphtheria

It is pleasing to report that once again no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Scarlet Fever

The distribution of the cases notified were as follows : Sheldon 16 ; Olton 8 ; Solihull 41 ; Shirley 14 ; and Knowle 8.

Poliomyelitis

Four cases were notified—three paralytic (males) and one non-paralytic (female). They are now in good health, apart from the three paralytic cases who have slight residual paralysis.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of note. No Schools closed.

2. Immunisations Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

From records held in this office the following table shows the Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation state of children under school age and of school age, as at the 31st December, 1953.

Date of Birth	Diphtheria Only	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined	Total	Births	Percentage
1938	649		649	1011	64.1
1939	715		715	1133	63.1
1940	699		699	1047	66.7
1941	724		724	1106	65.4
1942	715	2	717	1204	59.5
1943	810	1	811	1380	58.7
1944	1065	12	1077	1400	76.9
1945	846	13	859	1143	75.1
1946	909	32	941	1223	76.9
1947	1037	51	1088	1345	80.8
1948	918	80	998	1169	85.3
1949	814	107	921	1052	87.5
1950	813	134	947	1035	91.4
1951	666	196	862	991	86.9
1952*	209	393	602	897	67.1
1953*	8	29	37	962	—

* It is anticipated that many more records will be received in 1954 for these age groups.

3. Tuberculosis.

41 cases were notified during the year; 36 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory. 15 of these cases were transferred from other authorities.

51 cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and 54 were discharged after treatment (including some admitted during the previous year.)

The number of notified cases on the Office Tuberculosis Register as at the 31st December, 1953, was as follows :

Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
245	24	269

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, 4 samples of the pool water were submitted for chemical analysis and 7 for bacteriological examination.

In addition the Sanitary Inspectors made their own informal tests to estimate free chlorine present in the water and to calculate the pH value. As a result of these tests which showed that the pH value was becoming low in each pool, samples were taken in August and submitted to the Public Analyst, the results of which confirmed the Sanitary Inspectors' observations. The proprietors of the pools were advised and the condition remedied in each case.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948. —Part I of the Act.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
With mechanical power	164	133	5	—
Without mechanical power	15	7	—	—
Works of Building or engineering construction ...	29	16	1	—
TOTAL	208	156	6	—

	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(a) Insufficient	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	21	15
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—
TOTAL	23	17

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork—Nil.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The siting of the deposit gauge, from which is calculated the monthly rainfall and solid matter falling in the district and the two lead peroxide instruments from which is calculated the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, remain as in the previous year.

Calculations show that 112.73 tons of soluble and insoluble matter per square mile were deposited in the vicinity of the Council House during the year. The monthly calculations vary, the lowest being 3.27 tons per square mile and the highest 13.48 tons per square mile.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One firm is registered under this Act for the purpose of upholstering new furniture.

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

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three applications to license premises under the above Act have been approved after inspection by suitably qualified officers of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

For a number of years, zinc phosphide and arsenious oxide were the poisons recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to be mixed with the bait and used in the killing of rats. Recently Warfarin has been added to the list of recommended poisons.

Of the poisons used by the Council's Rodent Operative Warfarin is the one now preferred. This poison is slow-acting, but more certain. The rats continue to eat the poisoned bait over a period of days until death ensues. The preparation appears to be harmless to domestic animals and poultry but is apparently fatal to most rats that eat it. The rats do not appear to develop a prejudice against this poison, and it has been found that after using Warfarin for heavily infested property reinfestation takes a very much longer period to develop than when one of the other poisons is used.

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 ...	279	37	19	10	345
Otherwise ...	839	98	53	4	994
Properties Treated	323	44	15	15	397
Dead rats found ...	988	255	71	96	1410
Dead mice found ...	36	12	18	—	66

Sewer Treatments.

As in previous years, and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewer manholes in the district were pre-baited in accordance with the formulae laid down by them, and poisoned bait laid where pre-bait "takes" were observed.

In March, the maintenance treatment of manholes found to be infested during the previous treatment was carried out and in addition, test baiting of approximately one sewer manhole in every ten was carried out over the whole sewerage system. The maintenance treatment involves the pre-baiting of the manhole where a "take" was observed during the previous treatment and the three manholes on either side of it. Poisoned bait is then laid where "takes" are noted.

In September, 10% of the manholes were tested in accordance with recognised practice.

Details of the treatments and the results are shown in the table 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	209	10	1
Sept.	Arsenious Oxide & bread mash	50	7	1

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
1952 ...	20	15
1953 ...	24	17

Approximately 713 houses still rely on 531 wells for their water supply. The number of houses served by water mains is now 21,257.

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	...	...	...	...	11
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	3
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	4
Number satisfactory chemically but unsatisfactory bacteriologically	...	...	...	...	4

In addition to the above, one sample of well water was submitted for bacteriological examination only and was found to be satisfactory.

CARAVANS.

The number of caravans which have settled in the area has increased from 56 to 66, 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. These applications are either refused or short term permission 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 1952	...	...	...	...	56
No. newly sited during 1953	...	...	...	...	22
No. removed from sites during 1953	...	...	...	...	12
No. established at end of 1953	...	...	...	...	66
No. of Temporary Permissions given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 and Town Planning Act 1947	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Permissions refused before caravan sited	...	...	...	...	2

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only:

No. established at end of 1952	...	...	...	...	15
No. newly sited during 1953	...	...	...	...	1
No. removed during 1953	...	...	...	...	2
No. sited at end of 1953	...	...	...	...	14

The work at the Greswolde Caravan Site, Knowle, which now houses thirty-two caravans, was completed during the year.

Number of caravans on Greswolde site at December, 1952	...	20
Number of caravans on Greswolde site at December, 1953	...	32

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

During the year, 13 notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, inviting owners to appear before the Council when demolition of their properties was being considered. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 6 houses and undertakings were accepted by the Council in respect of 5 houses that they would not be used for human habitation and in the case of 2 other houses decision regarding the acceptance of undertakings was deferred.

In 1953 ten houses were demolished following Demolition Orders made in 1952 and although some of the six houses on which Demolition Orders were made in 1953 were empty at the end of the year, demolition had not been carried out.

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS.

In two cases notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, inviting owners to appear before the Council at the time when Demolition Orders were being considered. Five Demolition Orders were made during the year and one temporary dwelling was demolished as a result of action taken in 1952, and one in accordance with action taken in 1953.

During the year a Clearance Area was made by the Council regarding an area comprising 18 temporary bungalows.

SHOPS.

The number of shops separated into their respective categories was as follows :

Bicycles and Accessories	...	...	...	...	...	8
Footwear and Boot and Shoe Repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	23
Car, etc., Accessories, Petrol and Oil	...	...	...	...	...	27
Chemists ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
China and Glassware	...	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners (bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates and sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	44
Corn and Seed Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drapers and Haberdashers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	47
Furniture Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	120
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	43
Hardware and Ironmongery	...	...	...	...	...	25
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	18
Off-Licences	...	...	...	...	...	20
Opticians	...	...	...	...	...	5
Outfitters (men, women and children)	...	...	...	...	...	65
Radio and Television	...	...	...	...	...	17
Stationers and Newsagents	...	...	...	...	...	42
Wallpaper, Paints, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	60
TOTAL						748

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

115 premises were licensed for the storage of 161,102 gallons of petroleum spirit and 11,793 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £84 0s. 0d.

During the year the Conditions Scheduled to Petroleum Licences were completely re-drafted. These have not been brought into use owing to the fact that a Working Party is now sitting and one of their terms of reference is the preparation of a Model Code.

TABLE OF WORK DONE—1953.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal Defects remedied :

Defective staircases	5
Defective plaster	55
Defective floors	51
Defective kitchen ranges, washboilers, fireplaces and flues	18
Defective windows and cords	28
Defective doors	11
Defective sinks, waste pipes and channelling	21
Damp walls	12

External Defects remedied :

Defective roofs	66
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	34
Defective chimneys	31
Defective rainwater pipes and gully channels	39
Defective eavesgutters	47
Defective dustbins	58
Defective yard paving and fencing	6

DEMOLITION.

Houses demolished	10
Temporary Dwellings demolished	2

DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	9
Defective drains and soilpipes cleansed or repaired	102
Cesspools built, repaired, discontinued	4
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	30
Defective and obstructed W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	44
Flushing cisterns provided to hand flushed closets	7

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains and well supplies discontinued	20
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	39
Defective water supply remedied	7

SHOPS

Heating facilities provided	1
Hot water for washing provided	1
Legal forms exhibited on request	5
Miscellaneous	2

FOOD KITCHENS

Hot water supply provided	3
Wall and ceiling surfaces repaired	7
Miscellaneous	9

PETROLEUM STORAGE

New petroleum installations supervised	4
Air pressure tests on underground storage tanks supervised	11
Alterations to existing installations supervised	7

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	19
Smoke nuisances abated	5
Offensive accumulations removed	6
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	92
Insect disinfestations	18
Miscellaneous defects remedied	21

TOTAL	967
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1953.

	Visits made	Notices Statutory	Served Informal	Notices complied with
Dwelling Houses and Schools	2300	3	189	153
Drainage	327	—	10	9
Watercourses and Ditches	37	—	—	—
Pail Closets and W.C. Conversions	85	—	3	2
Sanitary Conveniences	18	—	—	—
Cesspools	47	—	—	—
Ashbins	227	16	49	49
Refuse Disposal	32	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	20	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	12	—	—	—
Food Premises	310	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	14	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	95	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	28	—	—	—
Smoke Observations and visits	77	—	—	—
Caravans	185	—	—	—
Factories (with mechanical power)	133	—	6	—
Factories (without mechanical power) etc.	23	—	—	—
Drainage of Trade Premises	9	—	—	—
Outworkers Premises	8	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	3	—	—	—
Bakehouses	5	—	—	—
Milk Sampling for bacteriological examination	70	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises	133	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling for chemical examination	69	—	—	—
Water Supplies	105	—	4	6
Infectious Diseases and Disinfec- tions	264	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Complaints	29	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	21	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	63	—	—	—
Shops	503	—	—	—
Petroleum Installations	246	—	—	—
Interviews	278	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	706	—	—	—
TOTALS	6,482	19	261	219

TABLE II.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1953 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
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
1953	69,570	962	13.8	25	25.9	565	8.1

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1953.
(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	15.5	0.35	11.4	26.8
Great Towns, including London	17.0	0.43	12.2	30.8
Smaller Towns	15.7	0.34	11.3	24.3
London	17.5	0.38	12.5	24.8

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953.

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	6	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—
Scarlet Fever	87	—	22	59	3	2	1	—	—	4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	75	3	9	6	1	14	26	16	—	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	—	—	9	1	1	—	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	4
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	4	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	36	—	—	2	10	16	6	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Totals	241	7	34	79	21	44	35	21	—	20

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	293	272
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	2
2 Tuberculosis, Other	—	1
3 Syphilitic Disease	2	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	1	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	1	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases....	1	1
0 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	4
1 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	23	—
2 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	10
3 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4
4 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	39	21
5 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1
6 Diabetes	—	1
7 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	30	56
3 Coronary Disease, Angina	57	26
9 Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	3
0 Other Heart Disease	38	52
Other Circulatory Disease	9	7
2 Influenza	4	6
Pneumonia	6	9
Bronchitis	7	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodendum	12	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis....	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
Congenital Malformations	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	21	42
Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	1
All other Accidents	5	6
Suicide	2	4
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF DATA
FOR THE YEAR 1964

Category	Sub-category	Value
A	1	100
	2	200
	3	300
	4	400
B	1	500
	2	600
	3	700
	4	800
C	1	900
	2	1000
	3	1100
	4	1200
D	1	1300
	2	1400
	3	1500
	4	1600
E	1	1700
	2	1800
	3	1900
	4	2000
F	1	2100
	2	2200
	3	2300
	4	2400
G	1	2500
	2	2600
	3	2700
	4	2800
H	1	2900
	2	3000
	3	3100
	4	3200
I	1	3300
	2	3400
	3	3500
	4	3600
J	1	3700
	2	3800
	3	3900
	4	4000
K	1	4100
	2	4200
	3	4300
	4	4400
L	1	4500
	2	4600
	3	4700
	4	4800
M	1	4900
	2	5000
	3	5100
	4	5200
N	1	5300
	2	5400
	3	5500
	4	5600
O	1	5700
	2	5800
	3	5900
	4	6000
P	1	6100
	2	6200
	3	6300
	4	6400
Q	1	6500
	2	6600
	3	6700
	4	6800
R	1	6900
	2	7000
	3	7100
	4	7200
S	1	7300
	2	7400
	3	7500
	4	7600
T	1	7700
	2	7800
	3	7900
	4	8000
U	1	8100
	2	8200
	3	8300
	4	8400
V	1	8500
	2	8600
	3	8700
	4	8800
W	1	8900
	2	9000
	3	9100
	4	9200
X	1	9300
	2	9400
	3	9500
	4	9600
Y	1	9700
	2	9800
	3	9900
	4	10000