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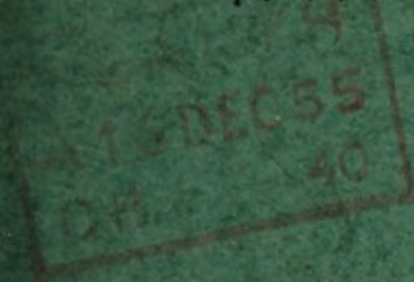
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# ANNUAL REPORT

on the  
HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH  
FOR THE YEAR 1954

by

IAN M. McLACHLAN  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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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 MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS 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 Circulars 1/54 and 28/54.

The year under review has, with the exception of a localised outbreak of influenza, been another healthy one, and the good work of the Health Committee continues.

With the erection of large numbers of houses the character of the district is slowly changing. Notwithstanding this change, one is struck by the foresight of the Council in preserving, wherever possible, some of the beautiful trees which abound in the district. It is a pity, however, that more attention could not be paid in new houses to installing fireplaces capable of burning smokeless fuels. In this way the problem of atmospheric pollution in the future would be partially solved. Moreover, with the continued rise in price of heating fuel too few houses are being insulated against heat losses. A further problem is created by the absence of the kitchen fire, in that, the accumulation of household and kitchen refuse can no longer be burnt but is now put out in the ashbin. In summer this results in foul-smelling, maggot infested bins, and our Department has to deal frequently with such complaints.

Upon receipt of Diphtheria Prophylaxis : Publicity Campaign literature from the Ministry of Health, I was anxious to see how the Solihull figures compared with the national average figure of 31 per cent. The object of the campaign was to secure immunisation of not less than 75 per cent. of babies before their first birthday. A card was made out for every child born in Solihull during the selected year and to these were added a card

for each child who moved into the area during the year and a card removed if a child left the area during the year. The records of the children for whom completed immunisation cards were available were noted and lists of those who had no completed immunisation card were drawn up and the parents visited. It was found that quite a number of children had been immunised by their own General Practitioners. Each General Practitioner was then written to and asked to complete the immunisation card from his private records. Thanks to their help, the final figure arrived at was that 91.8 per cent. of the children had been immunised against diphtheria. Truly a record of which to be proud. I wish to thank the clerical staff for their interest and the extra work involved.

It is just as well that we have little acute infectious disease in the Borough for during the year I was made aware of just how powerless the Medical Officer of Health is in controlling the possible spread of infectious disease by a potential excreter. A contact of a notified case of dysentery who refused to be investigated insisted upon mingling freely in the dining room with distinguished guests at a celebrated luncheon.

Tuberculosis, although no longer, thanks to modern treatment, the dread disease that it used to be, is still very much with us as persual of the figures in the pages following will show. A stigma still exists, however, when ex-patients and relatives are taking out insurances, undergoing medical examinations or undertaking service with the Armed Forces. It is a well-known fact in medical circles that after the age of 30 practically every member of the community has, at some time or other, suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis. For this reason I consider that only active cases of the disease should be notified and not healed cases found by X-ray.

With the shortage of labour and the ease in changing jobs it is not difficult for an ambulant tuberculosis patient to obtain employment where he may transmit the disease to fellow workers. Although I have brought this to the notice of industrial managers and others and have suggested that all new labour be questioned on engagement as to whether or not they are suffering or have suffered from tuberculosis, there has been practically no co-operation. When several new cases of tuberculosis occur in an area it would be an advantage if all contacts could be visited by a portable and easily mobilised X-ray apparatus rather than have the contacts trail in individually to the X-ray centre.

In May, 1954, there was a sharp isolated epidemic of influenza affecting patients and staff of Middlefield Hall. This was

reported to the Ministry of Health and we were privileged to receive visits from Virologists working in conjunction with the Medical Research Council. I placed my services at their disposal and assisted in the collection of blood samples from each patient.

It is interesting to note that during the course of my duties I came across about 50 cases of an ailment I was unable to trace in the medical text books. The symptoms consist of a sensation as if small stones are present in the shoe. After a day this gives place to a tenderness in the heel portion of the sole of the foot, which later becomes so painful that the patient walks on the tip of the toes to obtain relief. The whole sequence of symptoms lasts about four days. The onset in all cases is ushered in by a sore throat several days before the foot symptoms commence. The origin of the illness could not be established. The incapacity was apparently so slight that very few of the patients sought medical advice or treatment.

On the whole it has been a year free from major complaints, but one does come to mind ; a complaint was received during the year that whisky sold at a local public house was suspected of being watered. The matter was investigated and the Public Analyst reported that the whisky contained 3.7 per cent. water in excess of that contained in whisky of 35 deg. U.P. On the advice of the Legal Department it was eventually decided to take no legal action in this matter. I must say that in the administration of the Foods and Drugs Act the moral courage of the Sanitary Inspectors is beyond all praise. At times they are surrounded by every possible adversity and every disheartening circumstance that can be imagined, but they always carry out their work with courtesy, efficiency and good humour.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cooperation and assistance.

IAN McLACHLAN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## FROM THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The year 1954 will be remembered for a further step taken in the transition from wartime to peacetime conditions by the derationing of meat, implying that the nation's current and prospective meat stocks were so improved that the control of retail supplies could be dispensed with.

If meat were to be sold on an open market it was clear that the slaughtering system of the rationing era which involved the concentration of gangs of experienced men in a few slaughterhouses would need amendment, and the duty of ensuring that adequate slaughtering accommodation was available was placed squarely upon the shoulders of local authorities. In this area consultations with the trade interests concerned convinced the Council that the licensing of some private slaughterhouses was desirable, and this policy was carried out on the understanding that buildings previously used for this purpose were brought up to a standard that would comply with existing legal provisions. On the whole, the transition was effected smoothly and from the 7th July some of the meat which had hitherto been prepared in the abattoir of our large neighbour was provided from private slaughterhouses in this area. The inspecting staff was reinforced and day-by-day meat inspection has now become a standard feature of our work to the extent that is indicated in the table contained in the body of the report.

The manufacture of articles of food and refreshment is constantly under review by the Sanitary Inspectors and the dangers attendant upon the consumption of such small items as iced lollipops when prepared with unsuitable equipment were demonstrated by the results of the investigation into the methods of one small manufacturer whose products were found to be contaminated with lead. A storage tank made of tin-washed sheet steel with soldered joints was believed to be the source of most of the contamination, it being ascertained that diluted fruit juice of an acid nature was held in the vessel for a period of several hours as a normal part of the manufacturing process and it was presumed that within that time sufficient lead had been dissolved to be demonstrated in the subsequent analysis.

In the protection of the citizens' environment the provision of satisfactory housing must play a significant part and the demolition of older houses which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost has proceeded at the pace dictated by the erection of new houses in which to accommodate the persons displaced. New houses can only be erected after the complicated processes of negotiating for land, obtaining Ministerial approval and all the procedure which is necessary before the building contract can be allocated has taken place and it is therefore only to be expected that the completion of Council houses will not occur in a steady flow. As far as possible the clearance of old houses is being timed to coincide with the rate of erection of new houses so that minimum inconvenience is caused to tenants and landlords alike.

Exercise being necessary to healthy living, the acquisition of the Solihull open air swimming pool during the year from a private owner, appears to have been welcomed by the public. Certainly its supervision, being in the hands of the Council themselves, should prove to be adequate.

Above are the outstanding impressions of 1954 and whilst many details need to be added, it is hoped that the enquirer will find the answer to his questions in the pages that follow. The Council's generous support, together with that of one's immediate colleagues and those in other departments, is thankfully appreciated and acknowledged.

E. VAUGHAN.

## BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

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*Mayor* : Alderman DOUGLAS COOPER, J.P.

*Deputy Mayor* : Alderman H. W. MILLER, J.P.

*Members of the Public Health Committee* : Alderman J. A. EMLYN JONES (Chairman), Councillor W. E. WRIGHT (Vice-Chairman), Councillors BAKER, FORBES, LYONS, PERRY, PLENDERLEITH and Mrs. STOTT.

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

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

*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

b, c. RONALD L. TUDGE

(commenced December, 1954)

*Rodent Operative* :

E. CALLAGHAN.

*Clerks* :

GLADYS A. ALCOCK

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

JANET M. LEWIS

(resigned July, 1954)

MARGARET J. GRIFFITHS

(commenced July, 1954)

ANN M. BIRCH

(commenced August, 1954)

*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.



# BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

## A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated Mid 1954) Registrar General .... 72,470

### Live Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	535	476	1011
Illegitimate	....	11	11	22
		546	487	1033

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population .... 14.25

### Still Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	9	9	18
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
		9	9	18

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population .... .24  
 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .... 17.1

### Deaths

		Male	Female	Total
All Causes	....	332	266	598
				Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population .... 8.25

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	15	6	21
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
		15	6	21

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births 20.3  
 Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 20.7  
 Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births —  
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) .... —  
 „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .... —

## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. *Hospitals.*—The following is a list of the hospitals and associated clinics in the district :

- (a) Solihull Hospital (includes a Post-Natal Recovery Unit at Catherine-de-Barnes, Maternity Units at Netherwood and Brook House and a Chest Clinic in Lode Lane)—administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board Group 25 Selly Oak Birmingham Management Committee.
- (b) Middlefield Hall—administered by Monyhull Hospital Management Committee Group 14.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*—The examination of specimens taken in relation to the control of infectious diseases and the examination of milk, water and ice-cream samples is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry.

3. *Local Health Authority Services.*—Warwickshire County Council is responsible for midwifery, health-visiting, home nursing, 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 with the exception of the ambulance and mental health service is carried out in the Solihull Divisional Health Office. The School Health Service and Child Welfare Centres are staffed by medical officers, specialists and nurses employed by the County Council. The specialist services include the following clinics : dental, ophthalmic, speech defects and child guidance. In addition, local voluntary workers assist and do excellent work at the Child Welfare Centres.

## 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 been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Two samples from the Birmingham mains and three from the Coventry mains were submitted to the Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examinations and all proved satisfactory. In addition, two samples from the Coventry supply were submitted for bacteriological examination at the request of a householder, but no evidence was found that the quality of the water supply from the mains was unsatisfactory.

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

(iv) *Action in respect of contamination.*—Individual wells which are the subject of complaint are investigated and where unsatisfactory samples are found the structural and other conditions in the vicinity of the well are explored. Subsequently, advice is given regarding 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 23,525. Of these, approximately 22,765 houses, or 96.8% are connected direct to the mains, while 683 houses or 2.9% are served by 516 wells.

#### (b) By standpipes.

77 houses or approximately the remaining 0.3% are served by mains water from 26 standpipes or taps in out-buildings for the common use of several houses.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage.*—The local sewerage system has been extended by laying 3,040 yards of foul sewers and 6,121 yards of storm water sewers mainly in connection with the erection of new housing estates.

3.—*Closet Accommodation and Cesspools.*—During the year 11 pail closets and 6 hand-flushed closets were converted to mechanically-flushed water closets, involving 23 properties. Three cesspools were dispensed with.

At 5 of these properties, sink waste drains which had discharged into ditches were connected to the sewer at the owners' expense at the same time as the other conversions were carried out. The Council contributed £340 towards the cost of these conversions.

To enable mechanical flushing cisterns to be operated, water services were laid from the public mains to 10 of these properties to replace well water supplies.

Since the war, the following closet conversions have been carried out :—

1947	...	...	10
1948	...	...	4
1949	...	...	30
1950	...	...	47
1951	...	...	8
1952	...	...	44
1953	...	...	37
1954	...	...	17

The Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the cleansing service, states that the number of pail closets still existing is 775 and the number of privy middens 23, whilst 1,145 premises are served by 765 cesspools.

4. *Public Cleansing*.—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Borough, 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	...	...	266
Private Houses	...	...	1003
Self-Help Housing Associations	...	...	131
			<hr/>
			1400
			<hr/>

The following information is given at the request of the Ministry of Health in accordance with Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	524
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	1247
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	112
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	209
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	84
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	137

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	244
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
		(a) by owners	...	Nil
		(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :			
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	14
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
		(a) by owners	...	11
		(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil

(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	40
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	12
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	7
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	12
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	37
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	7
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	11
(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 ... ..	1
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	Nil

## E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

*Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register.*

Processing Dairies .....	1
Retail Dairymen .....	10
Shopkeepers retailing milk .....	22
Retail dairymen registered outside Solihull but selling milk in the district .....	14

*Licences issued by Solihull Corporation in connection with the sale of Designated Milks.*

*Supplementary Licences.*

Pasteurised .....	14
Sterilised .....	14
Tuberculin Tested .....	14
Accredited .....	1

*Dealers' Licences.*

Pasteurised .....	20
Sterilised .....	30
Tuberculin Tested .....	16

*Licences issued to process milk at a Pasteurising Plant* .....

1

### MILK SAMPLES.

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

	Untreated Milk.		Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk.		Pasteurised Milk.		Sterilised Milk.		TOTALS.	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
No. of Samples .....	6		84		138		51		279	
Methylene Blue Test	—	—	77	2	120	7	—	—	197	9
Phosphatase Test	—	—	84	—	138	—	—	—	222	—
Turbidity Test	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	—	51	—
T.B. Inoculation Test	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

To detect if tubercle bacilli are present in untreated milk a sample of the milk is inoculated into a guinea pig. Six weeks later the animal is killed and its body examined for the presence of tuberculous lesions. Of the six animals inoculated four died as a result of other infections and the results were therefore inconclusive.

In the case of 5 Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk Samples and 11 Pasteurised Milk Samples the methylene blue test was void owing to the Atmospheric Shade Temperature exceeding 65 deg. F. on the day of sampling.

Milk sold retail within the Borough is subject to the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952; the provisions of which require that milk retailed within the area must be either sold as tuberculin-tested milk or Pasteurised milk. Legally, tuberculin tested milk may be sold without any heat-treatment, but in this district for commercial reasons, all tuberculin tested milk is pasteurised, which probably accounts for the absence of Undulant (abortus) fever in Solihull.

#### *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
1947	28	1	3.6
1948	82	3	3.7
1949	24	—	—
1950	22	—	—
1951	29	3	10.3
1952	21	—	—
1953	21	—	—
1954	6	—	—

Sampling for T.B. Inoculation Tests was restricted because the Public Health Laboratory was prevented from carrying them out due, it is understood, to the shortage of guinea-pigs.

## **ICE CREAM**

### **Manufacturers**

#### *Manufacturers' Premises :*

Registered at close of 1954	...	...	...	14
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	10

There are four manufacturers of ice cream within the Borough, two of them using the hot mix and two the cold mix methods.

Whereas a few years ago the tendency was for small manufacturers to make and sell their own ice cream it is clear that the majority of retailers now prefer to purchase the commodity from large manufacturer-wholesalers.

One such manufacturer has opened a large wholesale distributor's depot for the storage and distribution of ice cream to serve an area extending far beyond the Borough boundaries.

### **Vendors**

Registered and retailing ice cream at close of 1954	168
New registrations during the year	5
Registrations transferred	11
Discontinued selling ice cream during 1954	7



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

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	131
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	...	...	32
Selling loose ice cream only	...	...	4

The methylene blue test was used for estimating the bacteriological quality of ice cream. The results of these tests are divided into four grades. Thirty samples were submitted to the test and graded as follows :

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples			27	2	1	—

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
1954	...	30	...	3

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

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
4	4	—

By the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, ice cream is required to contain 5% fat, 10% sugar, and 7½% milk solids other than fat.

### Iced Lollipops

There are 137 vendors of iced lollipops in the area, of which 6 are registered also as manufacturers. Those who manufacture do so only for sale in their own shops. As is the case with ice cream supplies, the tendency is for retailers to purchase their wares from the larger manufacturer.

During the year a report from a neighbouring Authority started an investigation into the contamination of iced lollipops by lead, which is known to be a cumulative poison. In the case under review, it was found that the amount of lead present varied between 2 and 10 parts per million, whereas the Food Standards Committee recommended a standard of 1 part per million. The method of manufacture was carefully examined and suspicion centred upon a large container made of tin-washed thin iron sheets which had soldered joints. The investigator was informed that approximately 40 gallons of diluted fruit juice were stored in this container during manufacture for periods of 4 hours or more. The manufacturer, who was supplying 16 retailers, was informed that lead had been found in the soldered joints and, probably because new plant would be required involving financial expenditure, he ceased production.

## MEAT

On the 5th July, 1954, meat supplies to the public became free from the rationing restrictions which had been in operation for the previous 15 years. During the period of rationing, practically all meat sold in the Solihull area had been distributed through the Birmingham Abattoir and Meat Market under the control of the Ministry of Food, and doubts arose as to whether sufficient meat could be provided from this source, under the new conditions, to supply the needs of the public. Simultaneously, local butchers began to press for the return to pre-war conditions which meant the reopening of private slaughterhouses. The Ministry of Food, pursuing its long term policy of moderate concentration of slaughterhouses, suggested at the end of February that local authorities might start consultations with organisations representing farmers and meat traders in their district in order to ascertain what slaughtering facilities would be required to enable distribution of home-killed meat to proceed smoothly after the removal of control.

A meeting was accordingly arranged and it appeared from expressions of opinion at this meeting that the Farmers' Associations desired to sell their animals after slaughter "on the hook" and were arranging to set up a co-operative wholesale organisation to this end, while the butchers wished to revert to the pre-war practice of purchasing live animals "on the hoof" direct from the farmers.

After looking carefully at the broad picture presented by the needs of the district and the diverging views of the trade interests concerned, the Council decided to licence a limited number of private slaughterhouses for limited periods. As 14 years had elapsed since the slaughterhouses were last used, some of them were found to be in a poor state of repair, others required alteration in order to meet the legal requirements which had come into force during this period, and others were in danger of causing nuisance because they were situated in populous areas in a rapidly-growing district.

In the light of all these circumstances the Council decided to issue short-term licences of three months' duration in respect of 7 slaughterhouses, subject to certain essential works being carried out. At the close of the year the following slaughterhouse licences were in operation :

1 for a period of 4 years 10 months expiring	31. 7.59.
1 for a period of twelve months expiring	30. 6.55.
6 for a period of three months expiring	31.12.54.

Prior to rationing restrictions being introduced at the outbreak of the last war 13 slaughterhouses were licensed.

Each of the Sanitary Inspectors employed by the Council possesses the qualification in meat inspection, and with an adequate staff of Inspectors it is believed that a high standard of meat inspection is assured. Every effort is made to see that an inspection of all meat is carried out.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected from July to the end of the year in licensed slaughterhouses

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	429	10	124	4692	1142
Number inspected ... ..	429	10	124	4692	1142
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned... ..	88	1	-	143	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	20.74	10	-	3.11	4.55
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned... ..	21	1	-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	5.13	10	-	-	.96

### THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS

The number of registered premises was as follows :

Registered at close of 1953 ... ..	15
New premises registered during the year ...	1
Existing premises improved ... ..	1
Registered premises redundant during the year ... ..	1

Only nine of the fifteen registered premises are manufacturing meat products at present.

#### Other Food Preparation Premises

Routine inspections of commercial kitchens, works canteens and of vehicles from which food is sold were made during the year, there being no stalls where food is prepared in the area. A few mobile vans operate selling snacks to workers on factory and building sites and these vehicles are made the subject of regular inspection.

## 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	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Confectioners (Bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates & sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiters and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	122

(ii) Number of registered food premises by type under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936

Ice Cream (Vendors: 168, Manufacturers: 4 Wholesale Distributors: 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Manufacturers of Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

(iii) Inspections of registered food premises ... .. 199

It is pointed out that 131 of the 168 vendors of ice cream sell wrapped ice cream only. Most inspections are of premises selling ice cream not pre-packed. Similar remarks apply to dairies as all the dairies in this area distribute bottled milk only, and there is only one heat processing dairy in the area which is the subject of frequent visitation.

(iv) Educational Activity:

During the year lectures were given (a) on two occasions at schools to school leavers, and (b) three to local organisations,

Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their normal duties are instructed to watch carefully for instances where contamination of foodstuffs might arise due to bad habits, poor methods of handling and, to lose no opportunity of stressing the importance of hygiene in the preparation and distribution of food. This constant surveillance combined with instruction appears to be having a marked effect upon shop managers and others engaged in the trade and it is believed that in the matter of clean distribution of food considerable progress has been made in the last few years.

(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 (other than at registered slaughterhouses)		2	1	17
Prunes		1	2	24
Kippers			3	14
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	18		0	15
Other foods				13
	1	3	0	27

Of the above amount 1 ton 2 qrs. 1 lb. was destroyed and and the remainder diverted for use as animal food. In connection with this work 765 "surrenders" of unsound food were made in respect of which 411 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

(vi) Special Examinations: NIL

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The work done during 1954 :

				Total number of samples taken	
				Formal	Informal
Milk	...	...	...	141	4
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs				7	149

Of these, 140 formal and 1 informal samples of milk, and 5 formal and 120 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The following samples of milk were reported unsatisfactory :

No.	Article	Method	Remarks
1967	Pasteurised Milk (Jersey).	Informal	Contained a large number of pupae of one of the species of <i>Drosophila</i> , the fruit or vinegar fly. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Insufficient evidence for action to be taken.
1986	Sterilised Milk.	Informal.	Contained 65% extraneous water. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Extraneous water due to faulty cap. Processing Dairy warned.
2054	Pasteurised Milk.	Formal.	Deficient of 3% Fat. Sample repeated—genuine. Retailer-Bottler warned.
2068	Pasteurised Milk.	Informal.	Milk had a pink colour due to presence of a basic oil-soluble aniline dye stuff. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Processing Dairy warned.

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

No.	Article	Method	Remarks
1932	Pork Sausages.	Informal.	No preservative statement. Retailer warned.
1935	Sponge Mixture and Cakes.	Informal.	Carton contained grub of moth. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Insufficient evidence for action to be taken.
2004	Potted Crab.	Informal.	Contained a white deposit of crystalline Magnesium Phosphate. Of natural occurrence and harmless.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2012	Sliced Loaf	Informal.	Contained foreign material consisting of a mixture of a soft mineral grease with an appreciable quantity of Oxide of Iron and a certain amount of starchy matter. Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Manufacturer warned.
2015	Anestan Ointment.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. Old Stock. Recalled by Manufacturer for destruction.
2917) 2023)	Adrenaline Cream.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. — No name and address of Seller. Retailer warned.
2020	D.D.D. Prescription for Eczema.	Informal.	Methylated Spirit present not Alcohol. Formal sample taken. — Genuine.
2026	Ephedrine Nasal Drops.	Informal.	Deficient of 30% Chlorbutol. Formal Sample taken — See No. 2035.
2031	Skim Spray Milk Powder.	Informal.)	Samples taken after complaint of objectional odour of custard at School Canteen. Odour believed due to external contamination in the process of preparation, accentuated by excess acidity of Milk Powder. Reported to responsible authority for action.
2032	Custard (mixed).	Informal.)	
2033	Whisky.	Informal.	Sample taken after the receipt of a complaint by a Solihull ratepayer that he suspected that water was being added to the whisky sold at ——— public house. Contained at least 4.5% of extraneous water. Formal sample taken— See No. 2034.
2034	Whisky.	Formal.	Contained 3.7% of extraneous water. Council resolved : (i) That the Town Clerk be authorised to issue a strong warning to the Licensee concerned informing him that proceedings will be taken in any future case of a similar nature, and (ii) That the Chief Sanitary Inspector be authorised to pay particular attention to the premises for the next few months.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2035	Ephedrine Nasal Drops.	Formal.	Deficient of 80% Chlorbutol. After representation, stock recalled by Manufacturer for adjustment of strength of ingredient.
2047	Vinegar.	Informal.	Sample of "loose" vinegar—submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Sediment consisted of organic matter deposited from the vinegar together with numerous insect larvae. Presence of larvae indicated that the container had not been properly protected against access of insects. Retailer warned.
2208	Gin.	Informal.	Contained 9.7% extraneous water. Sample repeated on several occasions—Genuine.
2093	Yoghourt Cream.	Informal.	Contained mat of mould Mycelium on surface. Processing Dairy warned.
2202	Ruby Wine.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. Manufacturer agreed to alter label.
2204	Orange Wine.	Informal.	Deficient of 1.3% proof spirit.
2165	Beef Sausages.	Informal.	} No preservative statements. Retailers warned.
2159	Pork Sausages.	Informal.	
2161	"		
2162	"		
2163	"		
2164	"		
2196	"		
2216	"		
2217	"		
2218	"		
2244	"		
2245	"		
2181	Ham Cheese Spread.	Informal.	Unsatisfactory label. Contained only 5% Ham.

## 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	—	83	73	19
1953	—	87	75	8
1954	—	136	54	7

#### *Diphtheria*

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

#### *Scarlet Fever*

The distribution of the cases notified was as follows: Sheldon 50; Olton 16; Solihull 34; Shirley 18; and Knowle 18.

#### *Poliomyelitis*

Two cases were notified—one paralytic (male) and one non-paralytic (male). Apart from the one paralytic case who has slight residual paralysis, they are now in good health.

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

### 2. Immunisation 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, 1954.

Date of Birth	Diphtheria Only	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined	Total	Births	Percentage
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	809	1	810	1380	58.7
1944	1065	12	1077	1400	76.9
1945	846	13	859	1143	75.1
1946	912	32	944	1223	77.1
1947	1041	56	1097	1345	81.5
1948	928	91	1019	1169	87.1
1949	894	131	1025	1052	97.4
1950	852	141	993	1035	95.9
1951	719	221	940	991	94.8
1952	359	465	824	897	91.8
*1953	191	488	679	962	—
*1954	11	41	52	1033	—

\*All records for these years have not yet been received.



## TUBERCULOSIS

Eighty-four cases were notified during the year ; 77 respiratory and seven non-respiratory. Thirty-eight of these cases were transferred from other authorities.

Thirty-nine cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and 37 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, 1954, was as follows :—

Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
276	28	304

## FOOD POISONING

Two cases were notified during the year. In case (1) no organisms were discovered in the faeces nor any foodstuffs found which were responsible for the condition. In case (2) *Salmonella typhi* were discovered in the faeces but no foodstuffs found which were responsible for the condition.

## G. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with by the Council.

#### SWIMMING POOLS

The Council purchased the open-air swimming pool in Park Avenue, Solihull, at the beginning of the year. No major alterations were carried out at either this swimming pool or the privately-owned one at Knowle, both being provided with continuous chlorinating plants.

The inclement weather was responsible for poor attendances at the pools ; but three samples were submitted from each pool for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, with an additional one for bacteriological examination.

In addition to these samples, the Sanitary Inspectors carried out informal tests to estimate the amount of free chlorine present in the water and to calculate the pH value. Although the public analysts' reported that each sample showed the water to be in a safe condition for use in a public swimming pool, the pH value was slightly below that desired. In addition, the amount of free chlorine did not always reach the 0.2 parts per million required by the Byelaws with respect to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools in the District, but the condition was remedied by the owners when advised.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
With mechanical power ... ..	159	61	2	—
Without mechanical power ... ..	15	18	—	—
Works of Building or engineering construction ...	30	10	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	205	89	2	—

	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	10	9
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	1
Other Offences ... ..	1	1
TOTAL ... ..	14	13

## Part VIII of the Act

Outwork—Nil.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

A deposit gauge from which is calculated the monthly rainfall and the amount of solid matter falling in the vicinity is sited on the roof of the Council House.

Lead peroxide instruments used for estimating the amount of sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere are sited one at the Health Department, New Road, and the other at the Borough Surveyor's Department, Station Road.

The purpose of these investigations is to estimate and, if possible, to correct the ill effects which the presence of both solid and gaseous impurities in the atmospheric air may have upon the safety, comfort, or health of man or upon the use and enjoyment of his property and garden.

The annual rainfall was 26.38 inches.

The total amount of soluble and insoluble matter deposited on the Council House site was 133.68 tons per square mile, giving a monthly average of 11.15 tons. The lightest deposit took place in December, when the fall was 2.80 tons per square mile and the heaviest in March, when the fall was 21.88 tons per square mile.

In view of the suggested connection between Atmospheric Pollution and Lung Cancer, the following figures showing the number of deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus for the past five years may be of interest.

Year		Male	Female	Total
1950	...	13	3	16
1951	...	17	4	21
1952	...	14	1	15
1953	...	23	—	23
1954	...	21	3	24

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Only one firm is registered under this Act to upholster 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

As in the previous year, three applications were received from proprietors of pet shops for their premises to be licensed. The Act sets out the conditions under which pet animals for sale should be kept.

Suitably qualified officers of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were asked by the Council for a report upon the applicants' premises. A satisfactory report was received in each case and the necessary licence issued.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The success experienced in the destruction of rats through using the poison "Warfarin" introduced in 1953 was maintained during 1954. Excellent results in clearing premises of rats and mice were obtained and, comparing "Warfarin" with other poisons, it was found that where reinfestations did occur, a very much longer period elapsed between infestations.

One Rodent Operative, using a small motor van, is employed full-time on rodent destruction. The Borough of Solihull is a large area (20,365 acres or approximately 32 square miles) and the Operative covers a daily distance of approximately 25 miles.

The following table gives details of the work done by him during the year :

	Type of Property				Total
	Private	Business and Industrial	Local Authority	Agri-cultural	
Properties Inspected :					
On Complaint ...	515	51	8	15	589
Routine... ..	597	38	8	18	661
Properties Treated	761	49	12	16	838
Dead rats round ...	1417	243	18	177	1855
Dead mice found...	62	77	10	—	149

### Sewer Treatments

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the customary baiting of sewers was carried out during March and September, although few "takes" were recorded.

In March, any manhole found to be infested during the previous treatment, in September, was pre-baited with sausage rusks as were three manholes on each side of it, and where "takes" were noted, poisoned baits were laid. In addition, test baiting of approximately 10% of the remaining manholes in the sewerage systems was carried out.

Poisoned bait was laid in any suspected manhole and the three manholes on each side of it.

In September, test-baiting was carried out but using a different bait and poison.

Details of the treatments and the results obtained are detailed below.

Date of Treatment	Bait and Poison used	No. of Manholes baited	No. of Poisoned Baits Taken	
			<i>Partial</i>	<i>Complete</i>
March	Sausage Rusks & Zinc Phosphide	248	10	—
Sept.	Bread Mash and Arsenious Oxide	38	5	—

## WATER SUPPLIES

Approximately 683 houses still rely on 516 wells for their water supply. The number of houses served by water mains is now 22,842.

Each year since 1945, more older type houses have been connected to the water mains. Table is 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
1953 ...	24	17
1954 ...	30	15

*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	...	...	...	...	18
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	2
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	16

In addition to the above, 21 samples of well water were submitted for bacteriological examination only. Of these, 4 were satisfactory, 8 doubtful and 9 unsatisfactory.

## CARAVANS

Caravans which have been sited in the area have increased in number from 66 to 78. All new arrivals are carefully watched and in practically all cases application is made to the Council for permission to remain 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 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 1953	...	...	...	...	66
No. newly sited during 1954	...	...	...	...	24
No. removed from sites during 1954	...	...	...	...	11
No. established at end of 1954	...	...	...	...	78
No. of Temporary Permissions given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 and Town Planning Act 1947 (including 6 renewals)	...	...	...	...	23
No. of Permissions refused before caravan sited	...	...	...	...	1

### *Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only :*

No. established at end of 1953	...	...	...	...	14
No. newly sited during 1954	...	...	...	...	1
No. removed during 1954	...	...	...	...	5
No. sited at end of 1954	...	...	...	...	10
Number of caravans on only licensed site in the Borough at December, 1954	...	...	...	...	32

Seventeen persons were granted permission to use their caravans for a temporary period. Of these, 5 were owners who wished to live in the caravans pending completion of houses in course of construction.

## **DEMOLITION OF HOUSES**

### **(a) Permanent Dwellings**

During the year, 33 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 33 houses and undertakings were accepted by the Council in respect of 2 houses that they would not be used for human habitation. In the case of 1 other house decision regarding the acceptance of undertaking to carry out repairs was deferred.

In 1954 8 houses were demolished following Demolition Orders made in 1953, and although some of the 33 houses on which Demolition Orders were made in 1954 were empty at the end of the year, demolition had not been carried out. Tenants were awaiting re-housing by the Council in 30 cases.

### **(b) Temporary Dwellings**

In 28 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.

Seven Demolition Orders were made during the year and undertakings were accepted by the Council in respect of 4 dwellings that they would not be used for human habitation. Two temporary dwellings were demolished as a result of action taken in 1953 and two in accordance with action taken in 1954.

A Public Inquiry was held by the Minister of Housing and Local Government regarding the Clearance Area made by the Council the previous year on an area comprising 18 temporary bungalows. The Minister decided not to confirm the Order and towards the end of the year the Council recommended action to be taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, on the bungalows on this site.

## **DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES**

During the year a full investigation of the trade effluent (a mixture of plating and acid wastes) was carried out at a large engineering works in Solihull entailing hourly sampling. As a result of this investigation, plant is to be installed to neutralise the effluent more efficiently before it is discharged into the sewer.

Discussions also took place with a second firm on the provision of "effluent treatment works" for plating vats, but the plant had not been installed at the close of 1954.

On representations being made by this Department, one firm installed an oil trap to exclude machine oil from the sewer.

Advice was also sought from this Department during the year with regard to the neutralization of a used nickel-plating vat solution and the work was carried out under supervision.

## SHOPS

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

Bicycle and Accessories	...	...	...	...	...	11
Boot and Shoe Repairs and Footwear	...	...	...	...	...	36
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	50
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	38
Car, etc., Accessories, Petrol and Oil	...	...	...	...	...	40
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	23
China and Glassware	...	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners (bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates and sweets)...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Corn and Seed Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drapers and Haberdashers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	51
Furniture Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	122
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	42
Hardware and Ironmongery	...	...	...	...	...	30
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	32
Off-Licences	...	...	...	...	...	20
Opticians...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Outfitters (men, women and children)	...	...	...	...	...	70
Radio and Television	...	...	...	...	...	15
Stationers and Newsagents	...	...	...	...	...	44
Wallpapers, Paints, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	17
						<hr/>
						TOTAL
						...
						...
						...
						774
						<hr/>

## STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

116 premises were licensed for the storage of 14,443 gallons of petroleum spirit and 164,554 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £84 17s. 6d.

During the year a complaint was received from a Publican that petrol was gaining access to the beer cellar of his public house. Investigations were started immediately at the adjoining garage, the two underground petrol tanks on the site were emptied of petrol, and air tests carried out on the tanks, and pipelines. The tests proved negative, but during the course of the investigation it was found that a petrol pump meter was faulty and that every time the pump was used, a small quantity of petrol found its way into the subsoil underneath the pump. The petrol in the beer cellar was attributed to this cause, and after advice had been given to the Publican with regard to ventilation of the cellar, the smell of petrol gradually cleared.

Some three months later there was a repetition of the incident, and this time considerable staining appeared on the cellar walls and an objectionable smell of petrol was present in all the public rooms of the house. Immediate action was again taken at the adjoining garage and extensive testing was carried out which finally indicated that one of the underground tanks was now failing to hold air under pressure. The

tank was raised and inspected and it was found that it had been sited directly into the earth, and that the bottom weld had split, due to the steel dipstick hitting the bottom of the tank. The records of the Department show that this tank was installed in 1932. The raising of the tank also revealed that a disused well existed alongside the tanks and steps were taken to pump out the petrol which had found its way into it. On the instructions of the Brewery Building Department the well was filled in and the leaking tank replaced by a new one properly installed in a brick chamber to the Department's specification.

On this occasion the seriousness of the leakage into the cellar was aggravated by the fact that the weather was cold and wet and that the cellar contained a coke fire central heating stove and an electric pump motor, which was not flame proof, for pumping out seepage from the cellar. Steps were taken to secure the adequate ventilation of the cellar and an external pump was erected for temporary routine pumping.

Approximately one month later, the smell again returned to the public house, and the petrol tanks were once more air tested, particular attention being paid to the old tank. As it was felt that this was no new leak, but probably a lodgment of petrol in a land drain or other underground service, the tests were carried out in the presence of the Pump and Tank Engineer of the Petrol Company concerned and also representatives of the Brewery. The brewery officials expressed themselves satisfied with the tests, and agreed that the rising subsoil water was probably forcing out the petrol from a land drain into the cellar. Accordingly, the brewery gave instructions for a hole to be excavated in the Car Park of the public house to a depth below the cellar level, in the hope that such a well would not only drain off the petrol, but also help to mitigate the flooding of the cellar, which was a constant problem. During the excavation a land drain was, in fact, fractured, and a mixture of water and petrol poured out into the hole. Pumping was carried out for several days, and the hole has since been brick lined, covered, and fitted with an electric pump. At the end of the year no further complaints had been received.



## TABLE OF WORK DONE—1954.

### DWELLING HOUSES.

#### *Internal Defects remedied :*

Defective floors	63
Defective ranges, fireplaces and flues	15
Defective windows and doors	51
Defective sinks and waste pipes	7
Damp walls	2
Defective staircases	1
Defective plaster	45
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	35

#### *External Defects remedied :*

Defective roofs	45
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	20
Defective chimneys	15
Defective rainwater pipes and gully channels	31
Defective eavesgutters	33
Defective dustbins	54
Defective yard paving and fencing	9

### DEMOLITION.

Houses demolished	8
Temporary Dwellings demolished	4

### DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	11
Defective drains and soilpipes cleansed or repaired	83
Inspection Chamber Covers provided	6
Cesspools built and repaired	3
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s and Cesspools discontinued	11
Defective W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	47
Flushing cisterns provided to hand flushed closets	6

### WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains and well supplies discontinued	11
Defective water supply pipes	12

### SHOPS

Legal forms exhibited on request	3
----------------------------------	---

### FOOD KITCHENS

Hot water supply provided	1
Wall and ceiling surfaces repaired	3
Miscellaneous	2

### PETROLEUM STORAGE

New petroleum installations supervised	3
Air pressure tests on underground storage tanks supervised	17
Alterations and renewals to existing installations supervised	6

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	13
Smoke nuisances abated	7
Offensive accumulations removed	9
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	83
Insect disinfestations	4
Miscellaneous defects remedied	14

TOTAL	793
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TABLE I.

## BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY  
INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1954.

	Visits made	Notices Statutory	Served Informal	Notices complied with
Dwelling Houses and Schools	2234	14	198	168
Drainage	370	—	6	4
Watercourses and Ditches	18	—	—	—
Cesspools	16	—	—	—
Pail Closets and W.C. Conversions	51	—	—	1
Ashbins	71	—	45	42
Refuse Disposal	23	—	—	—
Food Premises	175	—	3	1
Milk supplies	11	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	95	—	—	—
Meat Inspection	673	—	—	—
Piggeries	108	—	—	—
Smoke Observations and visits	66	—	—	—
Atmospheric Pollution Apparatus	38	—	—	—
Caravans	121	—	—	—
Factories	89	—	2	1
Drainage of Trade Premises	14	—	—	—
Outworkers Premises	31	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	1	—	—	—
Bakehouses	13	—	—	—
Milk Sampling for bacteriological examination	64	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises	167	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling for chemical examination	151	—	—	—
Water Supplies	117	—	5	6
Infectious Diseases and Disinfect- ions	393	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Complaints	30	—	—	—
Insect Infestations	31	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	30	—	—	—
Shops	556	—	3	—
Petroleum Installations	211	—	—	—
Interviews	359	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	874	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>223</b>

TABLE II.  
BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE BOROUGH			
		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
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
1954	72,470	1,033	14.2	21	20.3	598	8.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.  
ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1954.  
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.			
Live Births per 1,000 Population	.....	.....	15.2
Deaths per 1,000 Population	.....	.....	11.3
Still Births per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	.....	.....	24.0
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	.....	.....	25.5

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954.

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 Group) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	15	1	—	1	—	5	6	2	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever .....	136	—	33	100	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever .....	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	54	—	5	6	2	15	12	12	2	—	1
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	6	—	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	7	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	6
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Polio-Encephalitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	43	—	—	1	11	20	10	1	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	4	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning .....	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals .....	288	15	45	113	23	44	30	16	2	—	23

**TABLE IV.**  
**BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL.**

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes ....	332	266
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory ....	6	2
2 Tuberculosis, Other ....	—	—
3 Syphilitic Disease ....	1	—
4 Diphtheria ....	—	—
5 Whooping Cough ....	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections ....	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ....	—	—
8 Measles ....	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases....	—	1
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ....	6	11
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ....	21	3
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ....	—	17
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ....	—	5
14 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	30	30
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ....	1	1
16 Diabetes ....	2	1
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ....	52	41
18 Coronary Disease, Angina ....	59	24
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ....	8	6
20 Other Heart Disease ....	36	44
21 Other Circulatory Disease ....	12	11
22 Influenza ....	5	1
23 Pneumonia ....	11	9
24 Bronchitis ....	11	9
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ....	7	1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ....	1	6
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis....	—	2
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate ....	9	—
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ....	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations ....	2	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	27	25
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents ....	9	2
34 All other Accidents ....	11	4
35 Suicide ....	4	6
36 Homicide and Operations of War ....	—	—

**STATION ROAD, SOLIHULL**  
**STATION AT 90, STATION ROAD, SOLIHULL**  
 Kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. C. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.

Barometer Set at 442 feet above Sea Level.

MONTH	THERMOMETERS AT 4FT. SHADED (Fahrenheit Scale)			RAINFALL		SUNSHINE	
	Maximum Air Varied Between	Minimum Air Varied Between	Minimum Ground Varied Between	Monthly Total Inches	Average for the month over 7 yrs.	Monthly Total Hours	Average for the month over 7 yrs.
January ...	29.0 to 55.5	19.5 to 44.8	17.0 to 45.0	0.95	2.19	43.2	41.6
February ...	30.2 to 51.5	16.2 to 44.5	15.5 to 43.0	2.97	1.79	70.7	60.5
March ...	37.2 to 55.8	19.8 to 45.5	21.8 to 45.5	2.64	2.40	72.2	85.5
April ...	47.2 to 60.2	29.2 to 46.8	26.2 to 49.0	0.60	2.25	132.0	148.7
May ...	46.0 to 78.8	31.5 to 55.5	29.8 to 51.8	2.45	2.71	127.2	181.4
June ...	53.6 to 72.2	40.2 to 57.2	31.8 to 50.8	2.63	1.89	144.7	182.4
July ...	58.5 to 72.2	41.8 to 57.8	35.5 to 57.2	2.66	1.95	133.5	185.6
August ...	56.2 to 78.0	43.8 to 56.1	39.0 to 57.2	4.30	3.02	124.5	179.7
September ...	53.1 to 82.2	33.8 to 58.5	29.0 to 55.5	1.60	2.18	171.4	113.6
October ...	49.2 to 68.7	28.0 to 57.8	24.5 to 54.5	3.79	2.49	77.1	91.4
November ...	44.4 to 56.8	26.9 to 53.5	24.8 to 46.9	5.91	3.10	35.8	59.3
December ...	40.4 to 56.2	29.2 to 53.5	24.5 to 48.2	2.18	2.18	48.0	41.0

No.	Date	Particulars	Debit	Credit	Balance
1	1912	...	...	...	...
2	1912	...	...	...	...
3	1912	...	...	...	...
4	1912	...	...	...	...
5	1912	...	...	...	...
6	1912	...	...	...	...
7	1912	...	...	...	...
8	1912	...	...	...	...
9	1912	...	...	...	...
10	1912	...	...	...	...
11	1912	...	...	...	...
12	1912	...	...	...	...
13	1912	...	...	...	...
14	1912	...	...	...	...
15	1912	...	...	...	...
16	1912	...	...	...	...
17	1912	...	...	...	...
18	1912	...	...	...	...
19	1912	...	...	...	...
20	1912	...	...	...	...
21	1912	...	...	...	...
22	1912	...	...	...	...
23	1912	...	...	...	...
24	1912	...	...	...	...
25	1912	...	...	...	...
26	1912	...	...	...	...
27	1912	...	...	...	...
28	1912	...	...	...	...
29	1912	...	...	...	...
30	1912	...	...	...	...
31	1912	...	...	...	...
32	1912	...	...	...	...
33	1912	...	...	...	...
34	1912	...	...	...	...
35	1912	...	...	...	...
36	1912	...	...	...	...
37	1912	...	...	...	...
38	1912	...	...	...	...
39	1912	...	...	...	...
40	1912	...	...	...	...
41	1912	...	...	...	...
42	1912	...	...	...	...
43	1912	...	...	...	...
44	1912	...	...	...	...
45	1912	...	...	...	...
46	1912	...	...	...	...
47	1912	...	...	...	...
48	1912	...	...	...	...
49	1912	...	...	...	...
50	1912	...	...	...	...
51	1912	...	...	...	...
52	1912	...	...	...	...
53	1912	...	...	...	...
54	1912	...	...	...	...
55	1912	...	...	...	...
56	1912	...	...	...	...
57	1912	...	...	...	...
58	1912	...	...	...	...
59	1912	...	...	...	...
60	1912	...	...	...	...
61	1912	...	...	...	...
62	1912	...	...	...	...
63	1912	...	...	...	...
64	1912	...	...	...	...
65	1912	...	...	...	...
66	1912	...	...	...	...
67	1912	...	...	...	...
68	1912	...	...	...	...
69	1912	...	...	...	...
70	1912	...	...	...	...
71	1912	...	...	...	...
72	1912	...	...	...	...
73	1912	...	...	...	...
74	1912	...	...	...	...
75	1912	...	...	...	...
76	1912	...	...	...	...
77	1912	...	...	...	...
78	1912	...	...	...	...
79	1912	...	...	...	...
80	1912	...	...	...	...
81	1912	...	...	...	...
82	1912	...	...	...	...
83	1912	...	...	...	...
84	1912	...	...	...	...
85	1912	...	...	...	...
86	1912	...	...	...	...
87	1912	...	...	...	...
88	1912	...	...	...	...
89	1912	...	...	...	...
90	1912	...	...	...	...
91	1912	...	...	...	...
92	1912	...	...	...	...
93	1912	...	...	...	...
94	1912	...	...	...	...
95	1912	...	...	...	...
96	1912	...	...	...	...
97	1912	...	...	...	...
98	1912	...	...	...	...
99	1912	...	...	...	...
100	1912	...	...	...	...