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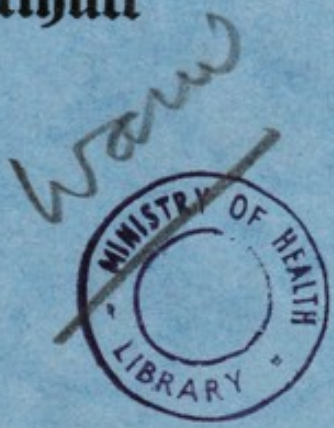


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Borough of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1956

BY
IAN M. McLACHLAN
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Herewith the report for 1956 which I regret is very late owing to the greatly increased pressure of work due to the growing population and the highly successful poliomyelitis vaccination scheme. (80% acceptance).

IAN McLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

FROM THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The passing of the Clean Air Act, 1956, is unlikely to have a marked effect on this residential district, although, in common with other new legislation, it will raise questions and problems which will need solution.

The deposit of atmospheric impurities as measured by the one deposit gauge situated on the roof of the Council House shows, as is to be expected, that the air of Solihull is relatively pure when compared with the records of neighbouring authorities situated in industrial areas. Nevertheless, any action which tends to reduce sooty deposits in the area is to be welcomed. Into this category comes the new amendment to The Model Byelaws relating to Buildings, which provides that when new buildings are constructed only such appliances for heating or cooking as are designed for burning gas, electricity, gas coke or anthracite shall be installed. Although these provisions sound far reaching they are in fact, unlikely to prove either difficult or expensive so far as domestic appliances are concerned, and the installation of such apparatus should go some way towards reducing the tar in the atmosphere which is known to seriously damage buildings and vegetation. If the Byelaw were adopted the effect would be that any solid fuel could be used in any domestic fireplace so that the occupier would have a wide choice of solid fuels and would often take the opportunity of burning those that are smokeless. Original installation costs would be negligible and the advantages to the community would appear to compensate such costs adequately.

Distinct from the use of this Byelaw is the question of whether and where smoke controlled areas should be made with in which the emission of smoke from chimneys may be prohibited or limited to certain classes of buildings and it may be that the proposed development of the Central Area of Solihull will present an opportunity to implement these principles.

Another item of legislation which came into effect at the end of the year was the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. These provided by legal control a code of practice applying to premises where food is handled or sold, and some effort has been expended to secure the provision of wash basins and sinks among other matters so that employees could wash their hands whenever necessary and cleanse equipment used for the business in a sink with hot and cold water provided specially for the purpose.

As this entailed the expenditure of capital, careful consideration had to be given in most cases to the positions in which the appliances were to be fixed. Generally speaking, traders have co-operated willingly but, as always, there were a few, particularly the owners of small businesses, where financial considerations have to be taken into account and handled carefully.

Larger concerns are not concerned seriously with the expenditure of small amounts of capital, and it is a notable feature that certain types of businesses with which the Department has to deal, are passing into the hands of companies with many branches. These firms, it has been found, are willing to carry out essential alterations and to seek the Department's co-operation where-ever necessary. Requests for guidance in these, as in other cases, are welcome and we look forward to many years of co-operation in this spirit.

In the past few years it has been noticed that large distributors of milk, ice-cream and groceries in particular are taking over small businesses or wholesaling to them, and whilst many will regret the passing of the smaller manufacturer or trader, it can be seen that the change is not without its advantages.

Sampling of milk and ice cream has shown that the products dealt in are generally of high quality and in the case of ice cream, of much higher food value than at any other time within our memory. Most of the larger distributors of both

milk and ice cream have their own laboratory facilities and are satisfactorily controlling the product at the place of manufacture.

Publication of the Rent Bill has proved a controversial matter, yet from the Department's point of view, it is likely to prove beneficial. There are many rented houses let for such small sums that the owners cannot afford to carry out essential repairs because of the low rent income, and in those cases, the result of increased rent should provide sufficient working surplus to enable the carrying out of essential work and the provision of some amenities.

Thanks are due to all those who have assisted in the Department's work during the year. Firstly to the members of the Council for their kindly sympathetic consideration and support, secondly to one's colleagues in this and other Departments who have co-operated so well and thirdly, and by no means least, to the general public, without whose support difficult and sometimes controversial improvements could not be achieved.

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mayor: Councillor H. Moren-Brown, J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Alderman J.W. Davy, J.P.

Members of the Public Health Committee: Alderman J.A. Emlyn Jones (Chairman), Councillor V.E. Perry (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Allman, Carter, Lanyon, Lyons, Rivers and Mrs. Stott.

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

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 Public Health Inspector:

a, c, e, f, ERNEST VAUGHAN

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

a, c, d, JOSEPH S. FORMAN

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

b, c, GEOFFREY N. DEAN

b, c, d, ERNEST SOUTHERN

b, c, ROBERT P. CHURCHILL

b, c, LESLIE J. PEARCE

b, c, RONALD L. TUDGE

Rodent Operative:

E. CALLAGHAN

Clerks:

GLADYS A. ALCOCK

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS

MARGARET J. GRIFFITHS

ANN M. BIRCH

Public Analysts:

BOSTOCK, HILL AND RIGBY

Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and

Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board,

Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated Mid.1956) Registrar General 78,860

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	620	596	1,216
Illegitimate	26	22	48
	<u>646</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>1,264</u>

Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population 16.03

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11	15	26
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>27</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population 34

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ... 20.9

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	327	309	636
Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population ...			8.1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births....11.1

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births....10.7

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 20.8

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Deaths from 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.

The Borough is supplied with mains water by the water undertakings of the cities of Birmingham and Coventry. The number of houses served by them respectively is approximately as follows:-

<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>Coventry</i>
24,470	1,349

There is no evidence that these supplies are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

The following samples of mains water were taken during the year:-

	<i>Birmingham</i>		<i>Coventry</i>	
	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>
No. of Samples submitted	2	1	9	7
No. satisfactory	2	1	9	6
No. doubtful in bacteriological test	-	-	-	1

Complaints were received during the Spring and early Summer that the Coventry supply had an unusual taste and some odour and during investigation the samples of Coventry water mains mentioned above were taken. One of the bacteriological results showed a poor result and the matter was raised by the Council with the Coventry Corporation. As a result a satisfactory improvement was effected.

Each year more of the older type houses have been connected to the water mains, the number connected in 1956 being as follows:-

No of Houses
Connected to Mains
18

No. of Wells
Redundant
15

Of 878, wells existing in 1944, 393, have now become redundant. This progress has been made by the extension of water mains wherever reasonable. The older houses without mains supply are situated in the rural part of the area, and whilst it is the Council's policy to connect as many houses as possible to the main, in many cases the cost of doing so is prohibitive.

Results of samples of rural water supplies. - Many samples have been taken for supervisory purposes or following complaint and the number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst or bacteriologist was as follows:-

	Chemical and and Bacteriol- ogical	Bacter- iological only
No. of samples submitted	15	65
No. Satisfactory in both tests ...	2	-
No. unsatisfactory in both tests ...	11	-
No. satisfactory in chemical tests only	2	-
No. satisfactory in bacteriological test only	-	26
No. unsatisfactory in bacteriological test only	2	23
No. doubtful in bacteriological test only	-	16

*Number of houses and population served by public water
ins.*

(a) Direct to the Houses.

The number of houses and retail shops as ascertained from the rate books is 25,819. Of these, approximately 25,001 or 97.2% are connected direct to the mains, while 641 or 2.5% are served by 485 wells.

(b) *By Standpipes.*

77 houses 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 7,051 yards of foul sewers and 9,954 yards of storm water sewers mainly in connection with the erection of new housing estates. The laying of the new sewer in the Chessetts Wood to Hockley Heath areas, however, accounted for 438 yards of 12" and 1,872 yards of 9" new sewer.

3. *Closet Accommodation and Cesspools* - During the past 10 years, a total of 210 closet conversions has been carried out, including 6 during the current year which affected 6 houses. Three of these houses had pail closets and the other three, hand-flushed closets which were replaced by conveniences with mechanical flushing apparatus. One cesspool was dispensed with.

The Council's grant towards these conversions was £160.

The installation of the new sewer in the Hockley Heath/Packwood area provides opportunities for the abolition of pail-closets. Some conversions are already in hand and cesspools are being rendered redundant. During 1956, ten cesspools were rendered unnecessary, nine of them as a result of the sewer extensions mentioned.

The Borough Surveyor's Department which is responsible for the cleansing service, states that the number of pail closets still existing is 679 and the number of privy middens 7, whilst 1,148 premises are served by 775 cesspools.

4. *Public Cleansing* - The Council undertakes the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Borough, the ash-bin 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	208
Private Houses (including flats and Police Houses)	<u>1,044</u>
	<u>1,252</u>

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year

The following statistics are not now required for Ministerial purposes, but have been included for the information of Members of the Council.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	364
Number of dwelling houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	118
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	91
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	27

Houses demolished or closed

Number of houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	13
Number of persons displaced as a result of above	35

Repairs

Number of houses made fit after informal action	131
Number of houses made fit after formal notice	7

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register

Processing Dairies	1
Retail Dairymen	11
Shopkeepers retailing milk	22
Retail Dairymen registered outside the Borough of Solihull but selling milk in the District	13

Licences issued in connection with the sale of Designated Milks

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	13
Sterilised	13
Tuberculin Tested	13

Dealers' Licences

Pasteurised	22
Sterilised	32
Tuberculin Tested	17

Licences issued to process milk at a Pasteurising Plant

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 Tested		Sterilised Milk		Totals	
No. of Samples	2		97		175		84		358	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue Test	-	-	90	-	167	1	-	-	257	1
Phosphatase Test	-	-	97	-	174	1	-	-	271	1
Turbidity Test	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	1	83	1
F.B. Inoculation Test	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

In the case of 7 Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk Samples and 7 Pasteurised Milk Samples the Methylene Blue Test was void owing to the Atmospheric Shade Temperature exceeding 65°F on the day of sampling.

ICE CREAM

Manufactures

Manufacturers' Premises:

Registered at close of 1956	14
Discontinued manufacture	13

Only one manufacturer of ice cream now exists within the Borough and he uses the cold mix method.

Vendors

Registered and retailing ice cream at close of 1956	177
New registrations during the year	7
Registrations transferred	10
Discontinued	2

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

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	141
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	33
Selling loose ice cream only	3

The methylene blue test was used for estimating bacteriological quality. The results of tests are divided into four grades. 23 samples were submitted to the test and graded as follows:

<i>Grades</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Number of samples	21	1	1	-

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

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

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>
17	17

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

Of 170 vendors of iced lollipops in the area 5 are manufacturing the product they sell by retail; only one of these supplies other retailers.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

At the close of the year seven slaughterhouses were operating, one of them under long term, five under annual licences and one under a three-monthly licence.

SLAUGHTERMAN

Twenty-one slaughtermen's licences were in operation at the end of 1956, 19 of them in respect of cattle, sheep and pigs and 2 in respect of those animals and horses. These latter were granted to the staff of a Knackers Yard situated outside the Solihull area and were intended to enable them to deal with any emergency that might occur at farms within the area.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle exclgd Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	639	13	74	5962	1111	-
Number inspected	639	13	74	5962	1111	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	187	3	-	133	185	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.3	23.1	-	2.3	16.6	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52	1	-	-	10	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.1	7.7	-	-	.9	-
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS

The number of registered premises at the close of 1956 was 16.

Only 6 of the 16 registered premises are in use for the manufacture of meat products.

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.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

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	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cafes and Snack Bars, etc	...	...	...	...	...	39
Confectioners (Bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates and sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	54
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	51
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	122
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

- (ii) *Number of registered food premises under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936.*

Ice Cream Vendors: 177, Manufacturers: 1,	
Wholesale Distributors: 1	179
Manufacturers of Meat Products	6

- (iii) *Inspections of registered food premises*
 (It is pointed out that 141 of the 177 vendors of ice cream sell wrapped ice cream only).

(iv) *Educational Activity*

The most successful educational propaganda is undoubtedly carried on by sanitary inspectors visiting food premises and talking or demonstrating to the workers on the spot. No opportunity is lost of stressing the importance of hygiene in the preparation and distribution of food and the high standard of food handling in shops in the area has been maintained.

In addition to these day-to-day activities the opportunity is taken, whenever offered, of addressing meetings on the subject of clean food. During the year four such talks were given, two to industrial canteen workers and two to members of the school meals service. The attendances were good, some 300 workers attending the lectures.

(v) The amount and method of disposal of condemned food.

The following food was examined and disposed of by burial after inspection had shown that it was unfit for human consumption:

	<i>Tons Cwts Qrs lbs</i>			
Meat (other than at registered slaughterhouses)	4	0	4	
Frozen Offal		3	24	
Bacon	1	0	11	
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	1	3	3	
Other Foods		3	1	11
	1	13	0	25

In connection with this work 874 "surrenders" of unsound food were made, in respect of which 603 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

i) *Special Examinations*

Nil

(vii) *Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations*
1947-52.

See previous paragraph on Ice Cream.

(viii) *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.*

These regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Generally speaking there has been ready compliance with the requirements of the Regulations, and as a result of requests made by the Department the following work was carried out:

Wash Hand Basins Provided	...	...	37
Hot Water provided	...	...	18
Sinks Provided	...	...	10
Decorations carried out	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	30

No exceptional difficulties were experienced.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The work done during 1956:

	<i>Total number of samples taken</i>	
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Milk	72	1
Miscellaneous Foods & Drugs	2	149

Of these, 72 Formal samples of milk, and 2 Formal and 134 Informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The position with regard to the sampling of milk has changed in recent years owing to the gradual decline of the number of smaller retailers who formerly bottled milk on their premises. This process was accelerated when the district became part of a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, and the position is now that almost the whole of the milk supply for the Borough is processed and bottled at large dairies in the City of Birmingham. Consequently milk from many sources is bulked at the processing dairy. The dairies themselves have labor-

atories whose staff investigate the quality of the incoming milk so that milk tested from samples taken in this Borough is invariably of satisfactory quality. Advantage has been taken of this fact to reduce the number of milk samples.

The following sample of milk was reported unsatisfactory.

No.	Method	Remarks
2633 Pasteurised Milk (Jersey)	Informal	Contained a piece of aluminium foil which, when flattened, measured approximately 4" x 4". Sample submitted to Public Analyst after complaint. Proceedings were instituted and the Processing Dairy Company was fined £5.0.0d. with £2.2.0d. costs at Solihull Magistrates Court.

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

No.	Article	Method	Remarks
2586	Pork Luncheon Meat	Informal	Deficient of 15.53% meat. Manufacturer stated that the product was produced with a meat content of 75% instead of 90% to meet foreign competition in the cheaper varieties. As there was no legal standard, no further action was taken.
2605	Processed Cheese Spread	Informal	Submitted to Public Analyst after complaint of glass fragments. Contained crystals of sodium phosphate a harmless substance used as an emulsifier.
2639	Pilewort and Witch Hazel Suppositories	Informal	Deficient of 12% Bismuth Oxide. Unable to obtain formal sample.
2640	Blood Pressure Pills	Informal	Contained an excessively high amount of French Chalk in the pill coating. Manufacturer agreed to carry out experiments with a view to reducing the amount of French Chalk.
2652	Pile Ointment	Informal	Incorrect label. Manufacturer agreed to alter label.

No.	Article	Method	
2618)	Milk Powder	Informal	Submitted to Public Analyst after complaint of blue colour. Contained a trace of abnormal blue-grey colouring matter, probably accidentally introduced but otherwise wholesome and free from contamination. No further action taken.
2619)			
2620	Pork Sausage	Informal	Contained preservative not declared. Retailer warned.
2680	Cream Slices	Informal	No butter fat present. Retailer required to exhibit notice.
2703	Corned Beef	Informal	Submitted to Public Analyst after complaint of rodent excreta in sample. No evidence found. No further action taken.
2712	Cream Baskets	Informal	No butter fat present. Retailer required to exhibit notice.
2729	White Wine	Informal	Deficient of 28% of the stated amount of proof spirit. Formal sample taken - Genuine.
2730	Empty Milk Bottle	Informal	Contained a sediment consisting of coagulated milk solids, a prolific growth of mould and a strip of glazed paper. Dairy Company warned.
2744	Gin	Informal	Deficient of 0.57% proof spirit. Formal sample taken - Genuine.
2775	Hot Milk	Informal	Contained approximately 11% added water. Formal sample taken - Genuine.
2779	Gin	Informal	Contained 13.8% extraneous water. Sample repeated on several occasions - Genuine.

F. PREVALENCE OF - AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1949

Year	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>
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
1955	-	47	52	9
1956	-	25	51	15

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 8; Olton 2; Solihull 2; Shirley 7; and Knowle 6.

Poliomyelitis

One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

2. Poliomyelitis Vaccinations.

A scheme for vaccinations against Poliomyelitis of children born in the years 1947 to 1954 was started in the Borough in May, 1956. I am pleased to say that an excellent response - a 60% acceptance rate - was received from parents for this new public health service.

At the 31st December, 1956, 577 children had received two injections and 13 children had received one injection, making a grand total of 590 children fully or partially vaccinated. (Vaccinations were not given during the months July - September, 1956).

Diphtheria and Diphtheria/Whooping Cough Immunisation

Immunisation continued throughout the year and at 31st December, 1956, 10,346 children of school age, and 3,644 under

school age had been treated, giving a grand total of 13,990 immunised up to the end of 1956.

Tuberculosis

Forty-one Respiratory and three non-respiratory cases were notified during the year, these together with the 33 respiratory and the 4 non-respiratory transferred from other authorities gave a total of 74 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory.

Nineteen cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and eighteen 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, 1956, was as follows:

<i>Respiratory</i>	<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
328	18	346

Food Poisoning

Thirty one notifications were received during the year in respect of Food Poisoning. In no case was the cause of the illness discovered.

G. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

No cases were dealt with by the Council.

Section 50

In circumstances where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the dead are made by private persons, Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, places the obligation to do so on the local authority.

During the year, the Department made arrangements for the cremation of an elderly lady who died in this district and had resided with her married daughter and son-in-law. The latter was in receipt of assistance from the National Assistance Board and could not meet the expenses of cremation.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are two open-air swimming pools, one owned by the Corporation and the other owned privately, in the area.

Although the weather during the summer of 1956 was generally cold and wet, the attendance at the pools reached a peak during a few days in August. During peak periods, daily "spot tests" are made at the baths by the Public Health Inspectors for free chlorine content of the water. This should be 0.2 parts per million to comply with the local bye-Law. In addition to these tests, 8 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and 6 to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination only. On occasions when the free chlorine was less than that required by the Bye-laws there was willing co-operation by the Managements to rectify the condition.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948 - PART I OF THE ACT.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
With mechanical power	147	111	-	-
Without mechanical power	13	6	-	-
Works of Building or engineering construction	10	7	-	-
<i>Total</i>	170	124	-	-

	<i>Number of Cases in which Defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences:		
(a) Insufficient	3	3
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	7
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
(d) Other offences	-	-
<i>Total</i>	15	10

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There have been no changes in the number or siting of the apparatus used locally for estimating the extent of atmospheric pollution. The one deposit gauge is located on the roof of the Council House and enables the monthly rainfall and the amount of solid matter deposited from the atmosphere to be calculated.

The lead peroxide instruments - one in the grounds of the Borough Surveyor's Department, Station Road, and the other

in the grounds of the Public Health Department, New Road, are used to calculate the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, during December, the tube connecting the grit bowl of the deposit gauge to the collecting bottle was disconnected by high winds and the record obtained for that month was unsatisfactory.

The total amount of soluble and insoluble matter deposited in the gauge for 11 months was 91.92 tons per square mile, a monthly average of 8.36 tons. The lightest deposit was in April, when the fall was the equivalent of 3.99 tons per square mile, and the heaviest in May, when the fall was 12.35 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.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1952	14	1	15
1953	23	-	23
1954	21	3	24
1955	23	4	27
1956	17	5	22

UAG 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 bag flock or its storage for distribution to registered premises.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five applications were received from proprietors of pet shops for their premises to be licensed. The Act sets out the conditions under which pet animals should be kept for sale.

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

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Excellent results continue from the use of the poison, Warfarin, mixed with oatmeal. The cumulative action of the poison and, so far as rats are concerned its apparent palatability, seems to lead to the entire elimination of the rats and mice at premises treated.

The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year. One Rodent Operative with a small van is fully employed on this work.

	Type of Property				Total
	Private	Business & Industrial	Local Authority	Agricultural	
Properties Inspected:					
On Complaint	594	52	26	10	682
Routine ...	371	-	-	1	372
Properties Treated ...	925	51	26	11	1,013
Dead Rats found	1,134	169	52	53	1,408
Dead Mice found	62	34	25	6	127

SEWER TREATMENTS

Due to the illness of the Rodent Operative, only one disinfestation of the sewers was carried out during the year in April. The poisoned bait used was the recommended mixture of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide.

Details of the treatment and results obtained were:

Date of Treatment.	Bait & Poison used	No. of Manholes baited	No. of Poisoned Baits Taken	
			Partial	Complete
April	Sausage Rusks and Zinc Phosphide	235	16	-

CARAVANS

Caravans sited in the area have decreased in number from 63 to 53. 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 granted for short terms or refused under the provisions of 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 1955	...	...	...	63
No. newly sited during 1956	...	...	...	12
No. removed from sites during 1956	...	...	...	22
No. established at end of 1956	...	...	...	53
No. of Temporary "Permissions" given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, (including 3 renewals)	...	...	...	22
No. of "Permissions" refused before Caravan sited	...	...	...	2

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only:

No. established at end of 1955	...	...	...	14
No. newly sited during 1956	...	...	...	-
No. changed from full-time to recreational	...	...	...	1
No. sited at end of 1956	...	...	...	15

Number of Caravans on only licensed site in the
Borough at December, 1956 32

Town Planning permission to operate this site was renewed during the year for a period of five years.

Nine 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 and 2 were employees working temporarily on constructional sites.

In one case where there was a refusal to grant permission to site a van for living purposes and as the van was sited contrary to this decision action was taken at the Local Court and a fine of £1.0.0d. imposed.

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 2 houses. In the case of 14 other houses in one group the owner undertook voluntarily to demolish the properties after the tenants had been rehoused by the Council.

In 1956 one house was demolished following a Demolition Order made in 1954. At the end of the year the tenant of one house was awaiting re-housing by the Council and 17 other cases were outstanding from the previous years.

(b) Temporary Dwellings:

In 12 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.

One Demolition Order was made during the year and in

one other case the owner voluntarily undertook to demolish. Two temporary dwellings were demolished as a result of action taken in 1954 and ten in accordance with action taken in 1955.

At the end of the year the tenants of 4 dwellings were awaiting rehousing by the Council.

During the year tenants from 18 ex-Army hutments administered by the Council were re-housed and the hutments subsequently demolished.

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

During the year complaints were received from the Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board of large quantities of oil which were being discharged at the sewage works of the Board serving this Borough. A sample of the oil was obtained, and through the courtesy of the laboratory of a large oil company, it was ascertained that the oil was mainly "crankcase oil" that is oil of a type used in motor car engines. A number of visits were made to garages, etc. in the Borough but the perpetrator of the offence could not be ascertained. The visits, however, appeared to have some effect in that the oil pollution ceased.

A second complaint was received from a large factory after a stoppage had occurred in the main sewer which runs through the factory area. When the material causing the stoppage had been removed, it was found to be heavily contaminated with a tarry substance. Investigations were immediately commenced at other factories draining into the sewer higher up than the stoppage, but again the offender could not be traced. Finally it was concluded that the tarry substance had most likely gained access from a building site.

Close liaison was again maintained with Technical Officers of the Drainage Board and a number of joint visits were made to factories.

SHOPS

The number of shops separated into their various categories at the close of the year was as follows:

1. Bicycles and Accessories	13
2. Boot & Shoe Repairs - Footwear	36
3. Butchers	52
4. Cafes, Snack Bars & Hotels serving Meals	39
5. Car etc. accessories, Petrol and Oil	42
6. Chemists and Opticians	23
7. China and Glassware	3
8. Confectioners	54
9. Corn and Seed Merchants	3
10. Drapers and Haberdashers	17
11. Dyers and Cleaners	14
12. Fishmongers, Game and Poultry	7
13. Fried Fish and Chips	6
14. Fruiterers and Greengrocers	51
15. Furniture Dealers	15
16. Groceries and Provisions	122
17. Hairdressers	45
18. Hardware and Ironmongery	32
19. Licensed Premises	34
20. Off Licences	22
21. Opticians only	3
22. Outfitters	75
23. Radio and Television	22
24. Stationers and Newsagents	47
25. Wallpaper, paint, etc.	2
26. Miscellaneous	21
TOTAL	<u>811</u>

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

121 premises were licensed for the storage of a total 173,164 gallons of petroleum spirit and 14,443 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £96.15.0d.

During the year the Conditions Scheduled to Petroleum Licences by the Council were completely revised in the light of experience gained since the original Conditions were prepared in 1948, and copies of the Conditions were attached to all Licences issued with effect from the 1st July.

Two complaints were received from householders during the year of the smell of petrol inside the houses. Both were immediately investigated and both were found to be in residential areas, thus excluding the possibility of underground tank leakage.

The first householder complained of petrol fumes in a bedroom over the garage, and investigation revealed that he had let his garage to a neighbour and that the fumes were only present at night time when the bedroom window was open. The fumes were consistent with those from a hot car engine, and it was obvious that the tenant of the garage was garaging the car whilst hot, and that the fumes were gaining access to the bedroom (via the garage roof) through the open window.

The second complaint was rather more serious in that the fumes were in the downstairs rooms of the house, particularly the living room. As petrol rationing had now commenced, a search was carried out for illegal storage of petrol, but none could be found. Finally a next door neighbour confessed that he had siphoned petrol from the tank of his car and had inadvertently spilled some, which he thought might be the cause. The house was kept under observation, and the fumes rapidly cleared.

TABLE OF WORK DONE, 1956

DWELLING HOUSES

Internal Defects remedied:

Defective floors	39
Defective ranges, fireplaces and flues	12
Defective windows and doors	46
Defective sinks and waste pipes	17
Defective walls	3
Defective staircases	4
Defective plaster	38
Defective hot water apparatus	32

External Defects remedied:

Defective roofs	40
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	32
Defective chimneys	11
Defective rainwater pipes and gully channels	41
Defective eaves gutters	48
Defective dustbins	28
Defective yard paving and fencing	5

DEMOLITION

Houses demolished	1
Temporary Dwellings demolished	12
Council controlled huts demolished... ..	18

DRAINAGE

Defective drains reconstructed	18
Defective drains and soilpipes or repaired	63
Cesspools repaired	3
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	2
Defective W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	47
Flushing cisterns provided to hand flushed closets	3
New pail closets	3
Cesspools put out of use	10
Houses connected to sewer	10

Carried forward 586

WATER SUPPLY	Brought forward	586
Houses connected to mains and well supplies discontinued	...	10
Defective water supply remedied	...	20
SHOPS		
Miscellaneous contraventions remedied	...	7
FOOD PREMISES		
Sinks and wash hand basins provided	...	35
Wall and ceiling surfaces repaired	...	6
Hot water provided	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	29
SLAUGHTERHOUSES		
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	3
PETROLEUM STORAGE		
Petroleum installations supervised	...	7
Air pressure tests on underground storage tanks carried out	...	24
Alterations and additions to existing installations supervised	...	5
MISCELLANEOUS		
Defects at factories remedied	...	10
Smoke nuisances abated	...	3
Offensive accumulations removed	...	4
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease	...	23
Insect disinfestations	...	32
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	20
	TOTAL	<u>838</u>

TABLE I

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Summary of Visits and Notices Served in the Public Health
Inspectors' Department during the Year 1956

	Visits Made	Stat- utory	Informal	Notices Served Complied With
Housing - Public Health Acts	1,395	10	99	72
Housing - Housing Acts ...	401	-	34	25
Housing - Caravans... ..	230	-	-	-
Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences	338	3	51	38
Cesspools	25	-	-	-
Pail Closet Conversions ...	144	-	-	-
Dustbins	22	-	22	18
Refuse Disposal	17	-	-	-
Piggeries	48	-	-	-
Food Premises	1,379	-	78	23
Shops	265	-	1	1
Milk Supply	22	-	-	-
Bakehouses	8	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	61	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	23	-	-	-
Sampling - Milk	131	-	-	-
Sampling - Food and Drugs Act	96	-	-	-
Sampling - Water	89	-	-	-
Swimming Pools	48	-	-	-
Smoke Observations and other Smoke Visits	93	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	1,049	-	-	-
Factories and Workshops ...	142	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	6	-	-	-
Water Supplies	123	-	6	7
Water Courses and Ditches	38	-	-	-
Outworkers Premises ...	34	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	249	-	-	-
Rats and Mice Complaints...	525	-	-	-
Insect Infestations... ..	88	-	-	-
Petroleum Installations ...	416	-	9	2
Drainage of Trade Premises.	23	-	-	-
Interviews	370	-	-	-
Miscellaneous... ..	723	-	-	-
TOTALS	<u>8,621</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>186</u>

TABLE II

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Vital Statistics of Whole District During 1956 and Previous Years

1 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 3	Rate 4	Number 5	Rate per 1,000 Live Births 6	Number 7	Rate 8
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
1955	75,740	1,181	15.6	22	18.6	660	8.7
1956	78,860	1,264	16.0	14	11.1	636	8.1

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956

England and Wales

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the
year 1956. (Provisional Figures)

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

Live Births per 1,000 Population	15.7
Deaths per 1,000 Population... ..	11.7
Still Births per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	23.0
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ...	23.8

TABLE III

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year 1956

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified								
	At all Ages	At Ages - Years							Total cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	8	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	-
Scarlet Fever	25	-	6	19	-	-	-	-	2
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	51	1	3	5	2	5	8	19	8
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	15	-	4	7	-	4	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	-	-	-	2	12	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	42	-	-	2	13	13	11	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	31	-	3	14	3	8	3	-	-
TOTALS	197	8	16	47	21	46	27	22	10
									21

TABLE IV

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Causes of Deaths During the Year 1956

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
ALL CAUSES	327	309
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, Other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough... ..	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	3
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach... ..	4	13
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	17	5
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast... ..	-	17
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus... ..	-	4
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms... ..	34	36
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2
16. Diabetes... ..	2	5
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	43	51
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	74	37
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	7
20. Other Heart Disease	44	35
21. Other Circulatory Disease	7	12
22. Influenza	6	1
23. Pneumonia	14	20
24. Bronchitis	13	10
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	4	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	22	22
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	4
34. All other Accidents	6	7
35. Suicide	3	6
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	-	-

TABLE V

ANNUAL REPORT - 1956

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDINGS FROM THE 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 4'0" Shaded (Fahrenheit Scale)		Minimum Ground Varied Between	Rainfall		Sunshine	
	Maximum Air Varied Between	Minimum Air Varied Between		Monthly Total Inches	Average for the month over 9 years	Monthly total Hours	Average for the month over 9 years
January	32.9 to 52.3	11.5 to 39.4	1.5 to 36.5	4.00	2.06	51.1	40.5
February	25.3 to 54.2	12.0 to 41.9	4.5 to 36.8	.54	1.97	65.6	62.59
March	37.2 to 62.3	22.2 to 44.5	14.9 to 40.7	.97	2.52	113.4	87.2
April	28.9 to 44.0	41.0 to 60.7	19.7 to 43.1	.97	1.94	107.02	144.
May	54.7 to 73.9	29.2 to 53.3	23.2 to 49.6	.795	2.77	210.6	170.1
June	51.8 to 75.4	37.2 to 55.0	30.4 to 51.8	2.16	2.97	132.2	171.04
July	56.5 to 80.4	41.9 to 60.0	35.0 to 56.5	2.33	1.91	156.2	187.66
August	54.5 to 71.3	40.9 to 58.1	37.8 to 56.0	4.82	2.88	121.4	169.5
September	56.8 to 78.3	42.6 to 56.9	36.5 to 54.0	2.50	2.06	82.7	122.2
October	46.0 to 65.1	32.0 to 51.8	23.2 to 49.0	1.90	2.52	96.62	91.4
November	31.5 to 56.3	21.7 to 56.3	14.1 to 43.2	0.54	3.37	41.0	54.9
December	30.8 to 55.7	24.3 to 49.3	21.2 to 42.8	3.66	2.19	21.1	42.2