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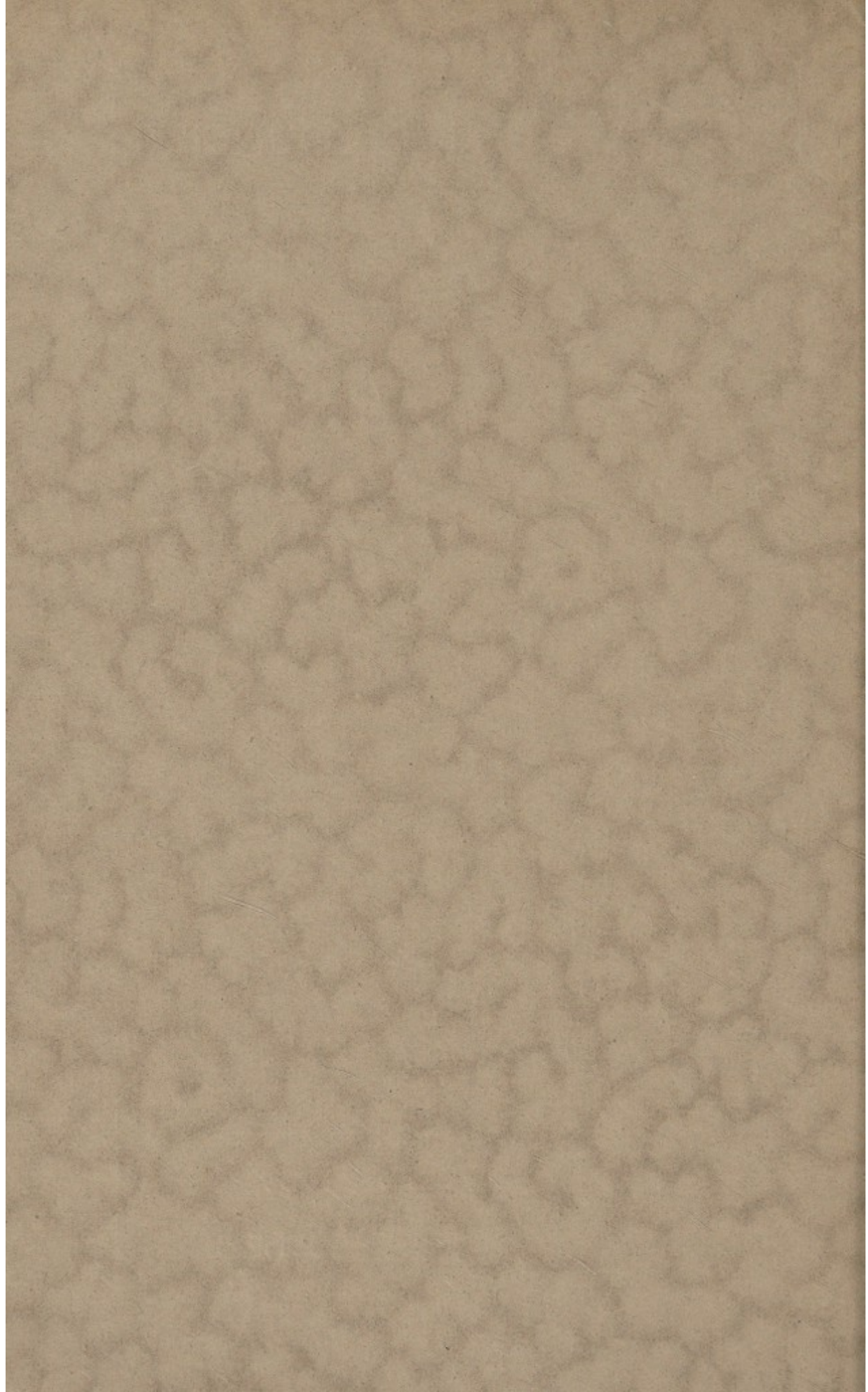


ANNUAL REPORT



of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1959

JUNE, 1960



ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Newport Road,
Stafford.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Stafford Rural District Council*

Tel. Stafford 2397-8-9
June, 1960

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1959. The Report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

In the Stafford Rural District in 1959 the Live Birth Rate was 16.1 (adjusted—15.6) per 1,000 population and the Death Rate 7.5 (adjusted—8.9), compared with respective figures of 16.5 and 11.6 for England and Wales. There were 304 live births in the Rural District in 1959 (156 M., 148 F.) and the total number of deaths was 142, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 162. Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 5, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 16.4 per 1,000 live births compared with 22.0 for England and Wales (the latter being the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales).

One hundred and ten cases of Measles were notified in the Rural District in 1959, compared with 53 in 1958. 1959 was one of the "Biennial Measles' Years." There were 16 cases of Scarlet Fever, two cases of Whooping Cough and one case of Dysentery, compared with respective figures of 23, 3 and 2 for 1958. No cases of Poliomyelitis were recorded. One case of Diphtheria (F., 45 and over group) was notified; this was the first case of Diphtheria occurring in the Rural District since 1947. Malignant Neoplasms caused the deaths of 27 persons (17 M., 10 F.) in the district during the Year, including 6 deaths (5 M., 1 F.) registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus. Deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus rose from 783 to 831 per million population in men and from 119 to 123 per million in women over the 1958 figures (Total deaths from this cause 18,181 males, 2,882 females). Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1959 numbered 3,475 compared with 4,000 in 1958. One death from Respiratory Tuberculosis occurred in the Stafford R.D. in 1959.

The mid-1959 population of the Stafford Rural District was estimated at 18,850 by the Registrar-General (19,040 in Mid-1958). The estimated distribution of this population among the 26 parishes of the Rural District is shewn in the body of the report.

In the body of the report the Chief Public Health Inspector deals comprehensively with the work of the Public Health Inspectorate during 1959.

I have to thank the Staff of the Public Health Department for much help in the preparation of this report. Thanks are also expressed to the Members of the Council for their help and interest in the work of the Department. During the Year the other Departments of the Council have given the fullest co-operation. I have to thank Dr. A. V. Campbell who has acted for me during holiday periods.

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. J. BOURNE

Vice-Chairman Public Health Committee ;

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR MISS G. JOULES, J.P.

Members :

Councillor J. Banks	Councillor S. W. K. Marshall
„ T. W. Brayne	„ H. J. Moulton
„ W. B. Caulcott	„ C. Meredith
„ R. H. Cartmail	„ S. F. Pickstock
„ R. J. Fairbanks	„ D. T. H. Smith
„ F. Heath	

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health :

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. M. LAWTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Cert. Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector :

F. WEEDON, M.R.S.H.
Cert. Food Inspector

Clerk :

MRS. L. E. HOLLOWAY

Clerk and Trainee :

R. A. CHARLWOOD

General Statistics, Social Conditions and Health Services in the Area

Area (in acres)	80,249
Number of inhabited houses	5,303
Rateable Value	£196,825
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£802
Yearly Rate levied in 1959	18/4d.
Mid-1959 Population (as estimated by the Registrar- General): Total Population	18,850
Estimated number of Agricultural Workers	1,200
Estimated number of workers in other occupations	5,500

There were no alterations in the boundaries of the Rural Area in 1959.

Industries

Many residents in the Area are normally mainly engaged in Agriculture, Dairy Farming and Allied occupations, but a substantial number of persons resident in the Rural Area are employed in the County Town of Stafford, where the chief industries are Engineering and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing. Estimated numbers are shewn above.

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres and Hospitals

Bacteriological facilities are made available to Medical Practitioners in the Area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. The facilities include examination of Throat Swabs, Sputum Tests, Blood Tests, etc. Results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Dr. Mackay Scollay, whose helpful advice is available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands. Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical Examinations of samples of water are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst. The results of such analyses are shewn in the body of the Report.

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Isolation hospitals for infectious diseases are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board (Birmingham).

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Stafford R.D. Area. Child Welfare Centres are available at Gnosall, Great Haywood, Hixon and Walton, and the Health Visitors do excellent work in promoting the Welfare of

young children in the district. Your Medical Officer of Health attends the Welfare Centres and Schools in the Area and is thus enabled to assess the health standards of the young life in the district.

There are four General Medical Practitioners resident in the Stafford R.D. and Practitioners from the neighbouring towns of Stafford, Rugeley, Newport, etc., also practise in the Area. The various parishes in the Stafford R.D. are well served by District Nurse-Midwives.

The Staffordshire General Infirmary serves the general hospital needs of the district. The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the provision of Maternity Hospital facilities. There are also several small private Maternity Homes providing for the district.

During the year the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters and use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc., relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene and so on.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1959

Total Deaths	142
Rate per 1,000 Population	7.5
Live Births :	
Number	304
Rate per 1,000 Population	16.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	2.0
Still Birth :	
Number	6
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	19.4
Total Live and Still Births	310
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	5
Infant Mortality Rates :	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	16.4
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	16.8
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births)	6.6
Early Neo-Natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births)	6.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	25.8

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :

Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	Nil

In the Stafford Rural District in 1959 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 16.1 compared with a rate of 16.5 for England and Wales. Comparability Factor, 0.97 (adjusted Birth Rate 15.6).

Year	Stafford R.D. Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population
1959	16.1
1958	14.9
1957	16.0
1956	15.0
1955	15.3
1954	15.6
1953	14.4
1952	14.6
1951	15.2
1950	15.2
1949	20.8
1948	18.0

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Population was 0.32 in 1959, compared with 0.32, 0.47, 0.41, 0.36, in 1958, 1957, 1956, and 1955, respectively.

During 1959, the Rate of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births was 1 to 50 compared with figures of 1 to 27, 1 to 30, 1 to 24 in 1958, 1957 and 1956, respectively.

There were 304 (284) Live Births in the Rural Area in 1959, 156 (146) boys and 148 (138) girls. The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1958. Six of the Live Births in 1959 were illegitimate, giving an Illegitimacy rate of 20 per 1,000 Live Births, compared with a rate of 51 for England and Wales.

The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

In the following table Comparative figures of Live and Still-Births are shewn for England and Wales :—

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales
1959	16.1	16.5	0.32	0.35
1958	14.9	16.4	0.32	0.36
1957	16.0	16.1	0.47	0.37
1956	15.0	15.6	0.41	0.36
1955	15.3	15.0	0.36	0.35
1954	15.6	15.2	0.57	0.36
1953	14.4	15.5	0.20	0.35
1952	14.6	15.3	0.21	0.35
1951	15.2	15.5	0.15	0.36
1950	15.2	15.8	0.16	0.37
1949	20.8	16.7	0.20	0.39
1948	18.0	17.9	0.79	0.42

There were 6 Still-Births in the Rural Area (6m., -f.) in 1959, all being legitimate. This represented a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 Total Live and Still-Births compared with a rate of 20.7 for England and Wales.

Deaths

In 1959 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 7.5 compared with a Rate of 11.6 for England and Wales. Comparability Factor, 1.18. (Stafford R.D. adjusted Death Rate 8.9).

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1959	7.5	11.6
1958	7.9	11.7
1957	7.7	11.5
1956	8.9	11.7
1955	8.4	11.7
1954	7.8	11.3
1953	6.9	11.4
1952	8.7	11.3
1951	9.3	12.5
1950	9.5	11.6
1949	10.1	11.7
1948	9.1	10.8

In the Stafford Rural District in 1959, total deaths numbered 142—84 males and 58 females. The excess of live births over total deaths was 162, compared with 134, 161, 117, 136, 152, in 1958, 1957, 1956, 1955, and 1954, respectively.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 5, all legitimate, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 16.4 compared with 22.2 for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest annual rate ever recorded.

At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	
	Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1959	16.4	22.2
1958	14.1	22.6
1957	32.3	23.1
1956	41.4	23.7
1955	13.4	24.9
1954	23.0	25.4
1953	42	26.8
1952	21	27.6
1951	50	29.6
1950	39	29.8
1949	25	32.4
1948	29	33.9

In England and Wales in 1959 live births registered during the year numbered 750,383, which was 11,046 more than in 1958. There were 16,629 deaths of children under one year of age in 1959, representing a rate of 22.2 per 1,000 live births. This was the lowest annual rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

The total number of deaths in 1959 was 527,648, representing a rate of 11.6 per thousand population, compared with rates of 11.7 in 1958 and 11.5 in 1957. Stillbirths in 1959 numbered 16,076, a rate of 21.0 per thousand total live and still births. In the five years 1889—1893 in England and Wales the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 of the population and the Death Rate was 19.7.

Population—England and Wales

Year	Males	Females	Total
1801	4,254,735	4,637,801	8,892,536
1851	8,781,225	9,146,384	17,927,609
1901	15,728,613	16,799,230	32,527,843
1951	21,049,000	22,751,000	43,800,000
1958	21,744,000	23,365,000	45,109,000
1959	21,885,000	23,501,000	45,386,000

Population, England and Wales, as at 30th June, 1959, by sex and age
(Figures in thousands)

	All Ages	0—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 & over
Male	21,885	1,771	3,548	2,895	2,943	3,095	3,171	2,382	1,401	679
Female	23,501	1,681	3,388	2,886	2,941	3,195	3,295	2,826	2,052	1,237
Totals in%.....	100	7.6	15.3	12.7	13.0	13.9	14.2	11.5	7.6	4.2

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1901. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1959 the proportions were respectively 22.9% and 11.8%.

Expectation of Life, England and Wales

On the basis of the death-rates for the year 1958, the expectation of life of a boy at birth is given as 68 years and that of a girl as 74 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901—1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

Deaths, England and Wales

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1958	1959
Respiratory Tuberculosis	9,335	7,913	7,069	5,837	4,000	3,475
Non. Respiratory Tuberculosis	1,250	989	828	655	488	380
Diphtheria	32	23	9	13	8	—
Whooping Cough	184	243	139	88	27	25
Measles	141	245	50	176	49	98
Malignant Disease of Lung and Bronchus	14,218	15,132	16,331	17,272	19,809	21,063
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,117	4,375	4,589	4,923	5,438	6,026

Stafford R.D. Deaths, 1959 : Causes

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms : all sites	17	10	27
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	9	9	18
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	31	20	51
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	7	3	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis	—	1	1
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	1	—	1
Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
All other Accidents	5	1	6
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide	—	—	—
All Other Causes	5	4	9
TOTALS	84	58	142

DEATHS, 1959 : AGE GROUPS AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL DEATHS Total Deaths—142 (84M., 58F.)

Age Groups and Percentages of Total D'ths	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	30—	40—	50—	60—	70—	80—	90 and Over	Totals
MALES	3	1	—	—	—	1	3	6	11	18	25	15	1	84
% of Total	2.1	0.7	—	—	—	0.7	2.1	4.2	7.8	12.7	17.6	10.6	0.7	59.2%
FEMALES	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	7	12	10	16	4	58
% of Total	1.4	0.7	0.7	—	—	0.7	—	2.8	4.9	8.5	7.0	11.3	2.8	40.8%
Total M.&F.	5	2	1	—	—	2	3	10	18	30	35	31	5	142
% of Total	3.5	1.4	0.7	—	—	1.4	2.1	7.0	12.7	21.2	24.6	21.9	3.5	100%

In England and Wales, diseases of the circulatory system now account for over one-third of total deaths. Second in the hierarchy of destruction but an appreciable way behind are the cancers, accounting for about one-sixth of the total, to be followed by vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system to the extent of one-seventh. Taking vascular lesions together with diseases of the heart we see that they account for over half the total number—thus supporting the truth of the maxim that a man is as old as his arteries.

Cancer Mortality

Malignant neoplasms caused 27 deaths in the rural area in 1959 (17 males, 10 females).

The increase in mortality from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus continues to cause anxiety. There is as yet little sign of any halt in the rising trend shown by this disease over past years. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence—air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking—though other factors, at present unknown, may also be operative. The reduction of atmospheric pollution is a desideratum for community hygiene, which requires the active intervention of the local authority—now more easily invoked than of old. The excessive smoking of cigarettes is a personal addiction in which the individual can and must ‘minister unto himself.’

Mortality from Cancer, all forms, England and Wales

Year	Number of Deaths			Death Rate per Million	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1944	35,887	37,610	73,497	2,217	1,741
1956	48,932	43,769	92,701	2,274	1,891
1957	50,045	43,962	94,007	2,312	1,891
1958	50,732	45,067	95,799	2,333	1,929
1959	51,783	45,333	97,116	2,261	2,063

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus

In the Stafford Rural District in 1959 there were six deaths registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus—Five males (aged 54, 58, 64, 69, 69), one female (aged 60).

Provisional figures for 1959 for England and Wales relating to deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus shew an increase from 783 to 831 per million population in men and from 119 to 123 for women, over the 1958 figures. 21,063 (18,181 M, 2,882 F.) persons died from this cause in 1959.

Of the 97,116 deaths from all forms of Cancer in 1959 the proportion attributed to Cancer of the Lung was 21.7%. In 1958 and 1957 it was 20.5% and 20%, respectively.

Cancer of Lung, Bronchus and Pleura. Death Rates per million

Year	Males	Females
1900	10	7
1920	17	10
1940	187	49
1955	693	105
1956	726	111
1958	783	119
1959	831	123

Cancer (all forms) accounted for 18.4% of the total deaths, and Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 4% of the total deaths in England and Wales in 1959.

One disadvantage of an increased expectation of life at the present time is that a higher proportion of the population reach that stage of life when disorders of growth and degenerative processes begin to be inescapably manifest. The Cancers are essential disorders of growth; of the growth of certain tissues which, evading the complex biological mechanism which decrees what form, size and position they shall normally take, grow uncontrolled at the expense of neighbouring structures which they impair or actually destroy. They also show great ability to disseminate themselves to other regions of the body where they come to rest and initiate the same destructive activity again.

Male deaths from Cancer in England and Wales in 1959 totalled 51,783, of which 18,181, or over 35 per cent, were certified as due to cancer of the lung and bronchus. For women, out of 45,333 deaths from Cancer only 2,882, or about 6 per cent, were due to this cause.

Names of Parishes in Stafford Rural District shewing number of houses (including farm houses), approximate population figures and Incidence of Infectious Diseases in each parish in 1959

Name of Parish	Number of Houses	Approximate Population	Infectious Diseases Notified 1959										
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (excluding) Rubella	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para-typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Adbaston	175	584	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Berkswich	400	1,334	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bradley	90	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brocton	253	844	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Church	235	784	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Eaton	303	1,010	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich	576	2,071	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Creswell	119	397	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ellenhall	52	173	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	140	467	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fradswell	53	177	3	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	49	183	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	771	2,571	3	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Houghton	172	574	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley	221	737	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hopton and Coton	322	1,987	1	—	27	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ingestre	47	157	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	48	242	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	95	317	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranton	71	237	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt and Enson	144	480	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	430	1,434	4	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stowe	329	1,097	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tixall	54	180	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston	105	350	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitgreave	55	183	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5,303	18,850	16	1	110	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4

One case of Diphtheria occurred in the Stafford R.D. in 1959.

The one case of Dysentery was of the mild Sonne type. A great deal of the infection could undoubtedly be prevented if the practice of thoroughly washing the hands after using the lavatory was universal. In fact, this simple act is the most effective of all the preventive measures applicable to this infection, and its general performance would do much to limit the spread of the disease.

According to the Notifications the incidence of bacillary dysentery fall most heavily among children under 15 years of age. Herein lies the difficulty of control of spread. The infection is spread by personal contact, direct or indirect, and infected hands

are the common means of transference from the infected person to the healthy. The difficulty in inducing children, especially those under seven or eight years of age, to keep their hands clean and away from their mouths is notorious and is probably the principal cause of the lack of success in attempts to limit infection when once it begins to move.

Infectious Diseases

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1959 compared with that of previous years is shewn below in tabular form :—

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Scarlet Fever	16	23	8	28	6	19	38	59	27	32	34
Whooping Cough	2	3	103	16	6	23	74	46	201	5	36
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	2	—	1	3	2	1	2	5	5
Measles (excluding Rubella)	110	53	348	10	468	8	326	47	126	314	43
Primary Pneumonia	1	8	3	6	3	4	8	8	7	10	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	2	6	14	10	1	—	—	5	5	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	9	1

It has been stated that Scarlet Fever is a diminishing hazard to the child life of this country ; during the past 30 years it has lost many of its terrors and is now important principally as a cause of interference with the schooling of children. In 1870, 32,543 deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded in England and Wales ; in 1959 there was one death.

Like many virus infections measles is spread directly from person to person and our inability to control it is due to its high infectiousness before the patient shows any sign of its presence. Measles, often negligible as a disease is pre-eminently a " school " disease and when large outbreaks occur it is capable of causing a good deal of disorganisation in the children's curricula. Fortunately, absence from school on account of measles should not exceed 10 days.

Infectious Diseases—England and Wales
SCARLET FEVER

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases	58,047	74,831	70,667	65,889	48,744	67,261	61,180	43,026	32,619	33,103	29,547	38,853
Deaths	42	37	27	33	15	8	4	4	2	1	3	4
Case Fatality (%)	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01

Scarlet Fever continues to be relatively mild, having a fatality ratio of 0.01 deaths per 100 notified cases.

MEASLES

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Notifications	393,787	399,606	385,935	367,725	616,192	389,502	545,050	146,995	693,803	160,556	633,678	259,308
Deaths	644	327	307	221	317	141	242	45	174	28	94	49
Case Fatality (%)	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02

Measles has also become more benign, with a fatality ratio of 0.02. The decline in the ratio has been occurring in the group under five years of age in which measles was formerly apt to be a serious disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Notifications	92,682	146,410	102,816	157,781	169,441	114,869	157,842	105,912	79,133	92,410	85,018	33,404
Deaths	905	748	527	394	453	181	243	139	87	92	87	27
Case Fatality (%)	0.98	0.51	0.51	0.25	0.27	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.08

Whooping Cough is another of the infections which is also losing its malignant features. Over the past 10 years the fatality rate has fallen from 0.51 in 1949 to 0.08 in 1958. The number of cases is also showing a falling trend though past experience shows that figures of incidence bear little relationship to each other from one year to another.

POLIOMYELITIS

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Total Cases	7,776	1,855	5,982	7,760	2,614	3,910	4,547	1,960	6,331	3,200	4,844	1,994
Deaths	707	241	657	755	217	295	338	134	270	137	255	154

The identification of neurotropic viruses other than that of poliomyelitis is throwing doubt upon the validity of much of the clinical diagnosis of non-paralytic poliomyelitis. An aseptic meningitis associated with Coxsackie Virus which occurred during 1958 might well have been diagnosed Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis had not the causal virus been identified. Exactly what proportion of error has been caused in the past on account of the difficulty of differential clinical diagnosis will never now be known, but as the laboratory service extends its cover over the country there should be much less confusion in the future.

Age—Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1959

AGE-GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Whooping Cough		Primary Pneumonia		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Polio-myelitis		Respiratory Tuberculosis		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1—2 years	—	—	—	—	9	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3—4 years	—	—	—	—	15	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5—9 years	3	8	—	—	28	23	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10—14 years	2	1	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15—24 years	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
25—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
45—64 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	7	9	—	1	60	50	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1

Infectious Diseases Notifications, 1959, showing Months of Occurrence
(1958 Figures in Brackets)

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles (exclud- ing Rubella)	Whoop- ing Cough	Pneum'ia (Acute) Primary	Dysen- tery	Food Poison- ing	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para- Typhoid Fever	Ery- sipelas	Poliomyelitis Para- lytic	Poliomyelitis Non- Paralytic
January	1 (—)	— (—)	24 (4)	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
February	5 (2)	— (—)	42 (4)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
March	1 (1)	— (—)	17 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
April	— (7)	— (—)	3 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
May	— (1)	— (—)	4 (—)	— (2)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
June	5 (6)	— (—)	7 (1)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
July	1 (—)	— (—)	11 (4)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
August	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
September	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
October	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (7)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
November	2 (2)	— (—)	1 (5)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
December	1 (3)	1 (—)	— (34)	2 (—)	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
TOTALS	16 (23)	1 (—)	110 (53)	2 (3)	1 (8)	1 (2)	— (8)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1959 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, welfare centres and by private practitioners. One case of Diphtheria occurred in the Stafford Rural District in 1959.

With the fall in the number of cases and of deaths from Diphtheria a feeling of complacency may be engendered in the public mind. The fullest publicity is advocated by the Ministry as essential if parents are to be helped to realize that Diphtheria is still a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised.

Despite the spectacular initial success of the immunisation campaign diphtheria is still with us.

There seems to be a hard core of infection persisting in the country which reveals its presence from time to time and reminds us that immunising procedures cannot be allowed to lapse. The primary immunisation carried out in childhood, though valuable, is not enough. Its effect gradually wanes and necessitates the administration of re-inforcing doses at later dates.

DIPHTHERIA

Year	Annual Average 1916-1925	Annual Average 1933-1942	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Notifications	51,573	55,125	664	376	266	173	155	53	37	80
Deaths	4,214	2,783	30	23	20	8	12	3	4	8
Fatality Ratio (Deaths per 100 Notifications).	8.2	5.0	4.5	6.1	7.5	4.6	7.7	5.7	10.8	10.0

The protection conferred by the primary immunisation wanes with the passage of time and after about five years it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective. Another injection of the immunising substance boosts and restores the protection to its full value, hence the term "booster" dose given to it.

The following table shows the Diphtheria Immunisation figures for the Stafford Rural District in 1959—

Age	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Injections		
	1959	1958	1957	1959	1958	1957
Under 1 year	100	81	99	—	—	—
1—4 years	58	82	77	11	7	7
5—14 years	102	35	62	481	297	394
Totals.....	260	198	238	492	304	401

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In 1959 there were 304 live births in the Stafford Rural District and 140 children under one were vaccinated, giving an infant vaccination acceptance rate of 46.1% (in 1957, 32.4%). 1959 figures for primary vaccination in the rural area were as follows:—

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 & Over	Totals
Vaccinations	140 (92)	19 (10)	11 (2)	4 (2)	174 (106)
Re-Vaccinations	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	24 (15)	24 (16)

(1958 figures shewn in brackets)

It is felt that routine infant vaccination, together with re-vaccination on entering and leaving school (at ages 5 and 15) would greatly reduce the vulnerability of the community to the spread of smallpox. Smallpox has become so rare in this country that its high mortality and legacy of dreadful disfigurement are in danger of being forgotten. Vaccination and re-Vaccination is the answer to this situation. In England and Wales in 1958 the infant vaccination acceptance rate was 44.5%. There are wide variations in the acceptance rate between local health authorities, figures ranging between 5% and 70%.

VACCINATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Towards the end of 1953 vaccination against Whooping Cough facilities were made available by the County Council as Local Health Authority. Vaccination involves three injections at monthly intervals between each injection, commencing when the child is 3-4 months old, but available for older children. The complications and sequelae of Whooping Cough can be very serious in childhood, and parents will wish to take full advantage of the protection which vaccination offers against infection. Immunisations are carried out at the various Welfare Centres and by private practitioners.

During 1959 158 (148) children in Stafford R.D. were vaccinated against Whooping Cough (1958 figures in brackets).

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number</i>
Under 1	114 (114)
Aged 1	43 (26)
Aged 2	1 (8)
Total	158 (148)

In addition four reinforcing injections were given.

In the Stafford Rural District in 1959 no deaths from Whooping Cough were recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS

One of the major phenomena of our time is the way in which tuberculosis has become not only very much less prevalent but also much less fatal. The fall is especially marked in the younger members of the population and gives promise of less tuberculosis among the elderly in the coming decades. This is not to say that we can write off tuberculosis as of negligible importance in its effect on the health of the community ; it remains and will remain for the foreseeable future a specific problem.

The following extract from the Register was taken at the end of December, 1959 (1958 figures in brackets).

1959	Cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis			Cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total of Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
End of December, 1959	20 (23)	14 (14)	34 (37)	4 (6)	3 (5)	7 (11)	41 (48)

One (M) death from Tuberculosis occurred in the Rural Area in 1959. Four cases (2 M.) of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. The table is adjusted re "cured" cases, inward and outward transfers, etc.

The total number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1959 was 3,475, compared with 4,000 in 1958. Since 1948 the death rate from this cause has fallen by nearly 80 per cent. In the 1850's in England and Wales over 50,000 persons died each year from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

During 1956 the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority made arrangements for a start to be made in the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis. The supply of vaccine was limited and vaccination was restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. In the Stafford Rural District 76 children were vaccinated in 1956 ; in 1957, 527 children born between 1947-1954 (inc.) were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis. Primary vaccination involves two injections with an interval of at least three weeks between the first and second injections. 1,528 persons were vaccinated against poliomyelitis in the Stafford R.D. in 1958 (years of birth 1933 to 1958 inclusive). 49 expectant mothers were vaccinated. During 1959 a total of 1,882 persons (years of birth 1933 to 1959 inclusive) received two injections of poliomyelitis vaccine, and 1,117 in the same age-group received a third injection of the Vaccine. 64 expectant mothers were vaccinated.

National Assistance Act, 1948

During 1958 no action under Section 47 of the above Act was taken by the Council.

ROAD SAFETY

Seven persons were killed and 58 were seriously injured in accidents on the roads in the Stafford R.D. in 1959. In his statistical review of road accidents in 1959 the Chief Constable for Staffordshire writes : " with all the talk of road safety and accident reduction, the point still seems to be missed that it is the moral responsibility of the driver of any vehicle to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that he does nothing that will cause an accident. The exercise of normal courtesy, restraint and co-operation on the part of all road users is more than ever necessary in these days of heavy traffic, and the sooner these points are properly appreciated by all concerned the sooner the accidents, most of which are caused by pure selfishness, will be decreased."

In 1959, the total of all road accident casualties in Britain numbered 333,453, an increase of 33,686 on 1958. Of these 6,520 (increase 550) were killed, 80,672 (increase 11,506) seriously injured and 246,261 (increase 21,630) slightly injured. Over the year as a whole casualties increased by 11½% and traffic by 12%. Riders of motor-scooters and motor-cycles suffered the most serious increase in casualties. Altogether 1,592 riders and passengers lost their lives, an increase of 213. The killed and injured together numbered 91,239 an increase of 16,856. The number of two- and three-wheeled motor vehicles in use increased by over 200,000 to 1,733,342. During 1959 in road accidents in Britain 2,520 pedestrians, 738 pedal-cyclists, 88 moped-riders and 1,582 drivers of motor vehicles (other than motor-cyclists) and passengers were killed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Total Number of Dwellings in Rural District	.....	.....	5,303
No. of Farmhouses	.....	.....	661
No. of Dwellings other than Farmhouses	.....	.....	4,642

State of Fitness of Dwellings :

Houses satisfactory in all respects	.....	.....	2,239
Houses with Minor Defects	.....	.....	1,167
Houses requiring reconditioning or repair of major character	.....	.....	965
Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	.....	.....	271
			4,642

(Note.—No Figures are available under this sub-heading for farmhouses).

Sanitary Services :

Water Supply :

Houses on Public Mains	.....	.....	4,008
Houses on Private Mains	.....	.....	90
Houses on Private Borehole	.....	.....	120
Houses on Well Water, Spring or other Supply	.....	.....	1,085
			5,303

Sewerage and Drainage :

No. of Houses :

(a) Connected to Sewer	.....	.....	2,492
(b) Connected to Septic Tank or Ditch	.....	.....	2,731
(c) Without Drainage	.....	.....	80
			5,303

Closet Accommodation, etc. :

Houses with :

Water Closet	.....	.....	3,206
Pail Closet or Fixed Privy	1,997
Waste Water Closet	20
Elsan Closet	80
			5,303

Houses without Bath	1,841
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PARISH STATISTICS AND SERVICES

Parish	Approx. population in Parish	No. of houses in Parish	Amenity	Public Health Services to Parish or part of Parish			Water supplied direct to house		Water supplied by standpipe		Total Dwellings on main	Parish
							No. of houses	Population	No. of houses	Population		
Adbaston	584	175	R	RW	El	RC	124	399	—	—	124	Adbaston
Berkswich	1,334	400	SR	BW	S El	G RC	388	1,288	1	1	389	Berkswich
Bradley	300	90	R	RW	El	RC	28	90	—	—	28	Bradley
Brocton	844	253	SR	BW	El	G RC	246	794	3	9	249	Brocton
Castle Church	784	235	SR	BW	S El	G RC	200	736	—	—	200	Castle Church
Church Eaton	1,010	303	R	RW	S El	RC	186	520	19	70	205	Church Eaton
Colwich	2,071	576	SR	BW	S El	RC	498	1,670	13	50	511	Colwich
Creswell	397	119	SR	BW	S El	G RC	113	360	—	—	113	Creswell
Ellenhall	173	52	R	RW	El	RC	33	101	—	—	33	Ellenhall
Forton	467	140	R	RW	S El	G RC	99	356	—	—	99	Forton
Fradswell	177	53	R		El	RC	—	—	—	—	—	Fradswell
Gayton	163	49	R		El	RC	20	62	—	—	20	Gayton
Gnosall	2,571	771	R	RW	S El	RC	719	2,300	—	—	719	Gnosall
Haughton	574	172	R	RW	S El	RC	60	200	—	—	60	Haughton
High Offley	737	221	R	RW	El	RC	168	520	—	—	168	High Offley
Hopton & Coton	1,987*	322	SR	BW	S El	G RC	241	793	7	28	248	Hopton&Coton
Ingestre	157	47	R	IW	S El	RC	47	137	—	—	47	Ingestre
Marston	242	42	R	CCW	El	RC	31	130	—	—	31	Marston
Norbury	317	95	R	RW	S El	RC	72	239	—	—	72	Norbury
Ranton	237	71	R	RW	El	RC	35	88	—	—	35	Ranton
Salt & Enson	480	144	R	IW & BW	S El	RC	52	170	—	—	52	Salt & Enson
Seighford	1,434	430	R	RW	S El	RC	351	1,032	—	—	351	Seighford
Stowe	1,097	329	R	BW	S El	RC	196	690	—	—	196	Stowe
Tixall	180	54	R	BW	El	G RC	38	186	—	—	38	Tixall
Weston	350	105	R	BW	El	RC	42	140	—	—	42	Weston
Whitgreave	183	55	R	CCW&RW	El	RC	58	263	—	—	58	Whitgreave
TOTALS	18,850	5,303					4,055	13,264	43	158	4,098	

*Includes H.M. Forces.

REFERENCES

R Rural
SR Semi-Rural

RW Stafford R.D.C. Hollies Water Supply
BW Stafford Borough Water Supply
IW Ingestre Private Piped Supply
CCW Staffs. C.C. Yarlet Bank Private Supply

S Sewerage
El Electricity
G Gas
RC Refuse Collection

SANITARY INSPECTION—SUMMARY OF VISITS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	1,636
These Inspections were for the following purposes :—	
(a) Slum Clearance	790
(b) Inspection of Houses for repairs and for Improvement Grants	562
(c) Inspections of Living Vans and Sheds	143
(d) Overcrowding and Housing Applications	112
(e) Verminous and Dirty Dwellings	17
(f) Rent Acts—Certificates of Disrepair	12
	1,636
Inspection of Premises for and re Nuisances	104
Drainage Inspections	142
Visits re Food Supply :	
Meat	216
Ice-Cream	14
Other Foods	15
Cafes	8
Dairies	14
Infectious Diseases	67
Visits re Water Supply	94
Samples of Water taken for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination	32
Refuse Tips—Supervision	263
Refuse and Salvage Collection	162
Factories (including Bakehouses) and Outworkers	22
Slaughter Houses (other than Meat Inspection)	4
Knackers' Yards	12
Petroleum Stores	20
Rat Infestations	1,070
Other Infestations	3
Keeping of Animals	4
Shops Act	41
Accumulation of Refuse	16
Smoke Nuisances	26
Miscellaneous Visits	11
	3,997

NOTICES SERVED DURING YEAR :

	<i>No. Served</i>	<i>No. complied with</i>
Informal Notices and Letters as to general matters	75	60
Statutory Notices served under Housing Act, 1957 (Sec. 9)	—	—
Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act, 1936	—	—

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR :

Total number received	40	
As to Repairs to Dwellings		10
Others		30

WATER SUPPLY

The public mains supplies are solely from this Council's boreholes at The Hollies, Gnosall, and from the Stafford Borough Council's wells and boreholes at Milford. Both these supplies were satisfactory in quality and quantity and are chlorinated.

The Hollies supply is from two boreholes giving, by 14 and 8 day tests a normal yield of 468,965 and 1,200,000 gallons from each. The water is pumped to the Hob Hill (Knightley) storage reservoirs of 500,000 gallons capacity.

During the year under review supply mains were laid a Bradley, Ranton, Whitgreave, Sandon Bank, Salt, Hopton, Stowe and Gayton.

Private mains supplies were given to Ingestre and Salt and Enson (from Ingestre Estate Supply) and to Marston and Whitgreave (from Staffordshire County Council Yarlet Bank Supply).

The supplies to those dwellings dependent on individual wells and springs, are frequently unsatisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Samples of drinking water supply taken during the year, together with results, are as follows :—

	Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Exam. and/or Chemical Analysis	RESULTS		
		Fit	Unfit	Borderline
Wells (Private)	14	6	7	1
Springs (Private)	9	8	1	—
Boreholes (Private)	6	4	1	1
Main Supplies :				
(a) Public	6	5	1	—
(b) Private	3	2	1	—
	38	25	11	2

Examples of examination of the public and private mains supplies are given in the table on page 26. The number of dwellings supplied from mains at December, 1959, (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of stand pipes are shown in the table facing page 22.

SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MAINS SUPPLIES IN THE AREA

	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	<p><i>Hollies Bore</i> <i>Stafford R.D.C.</i> (Taken from Pump House, The Hollies, Gnosall) Sample No. 983</p>	<p><i>Stafford Borough</i> <i>Supply</i> (Taken from Hixon Council Houses) Sample No. 1011</p>	<p><i>Ingestre Estate</i> <i>Supply*</i> (Taken from Pump House, Weston-on-Trent) Sample No. 1012</p>	<p><i>Staffs. County</i> <i>Council</i> (Yarlet Bank) <i>Supply*</i> (Taken from 38 Holding, Yarlet) Sample No. 1014</p>
Date and Hour of Collection	4.11.59—11-40 a.m.	30.12.59—2 p.m.	30.12.59—2-30 p.m.	30.12.59—3-30 p.m.
<i>Bacteriological Examination</i> Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.	Nil	Nil	180 + 100 ml. (non-faecal)	Nil
<i>Chemical Analysis</i> pH Value	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F	Parts per 100,000		Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	42.4	48.	4.5	59.0
Albuminoid	Nil	Nil	0.0008	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.25	0.0008	0.002	0.0004
Chlorine present as Chloride	2.15	0.30	1.0	0.40
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	Nil	9.7	4.6	1.8
Appearance	Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless
Metallic Contamination	Iron .024	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Previous samples taken from these sources have been intermittently satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE

During the year village sewerage schemes were commenced and substantial progress was made at Woodseaves and Hyde Lea.

At the present time about half the houses in the area are drained to cesspools or septic tanks and soakaways in the gardens of the houses.

The number of dwellings sewered and the number of W.C's etc., in the area are shown on page 22

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

The collection of house refuse was carried out by direct labour from all the villages and built-up areas of the Council's district.

Four modern type low-loading refuse collection vehicles—one of 12 cub. yd. capacity (2-man cab), two of 10 cub. yd. capacity (6-man cabs) and one of 25 cub. yd. capacity (6-man cab)—were employed. The purchase dates of the vehicles are 1948, 1951, 1954 and 1958, respectively. Twelve men were engaged in this work in addition to the foreman.

About 4,700 dwellings received the service, approximately half of these being serviced approximately weekly and the remainder fortnightly. The very few dwellings which do not receive the service are in isolated positions as the service cannot embrace such dwellings except at excessive additional cost.

It is contended that the provision of a satisfactory and regular refuse collection service to a district so vast as this—the total mileage covered in the year being approximately 30,000—is no mean achievement. Approximately 3,000 tons of refuse were collected during the year.

With the aid of a mechanical shovel, the several refuse tips were kept in reasonable order and steps were regularly taken to keep them rat-free by poisoning methods during the year.

Costs.—A statement as to the cost of refuse collection and disposal during the financial year ended 31st March, 1960, is given below :—

<i>Refuse Collection—</i>	£	£
Labour		5,707
Vehicles—		
Repairs and Maintenance	692	
Tax and Insurance	256	
Petrol and Oil	832	
Debt Redemption and Interest on three vehicles	763	
	—	2,543
Equipment, etc.		66
		<hr/>
		£8,316

Refuse Disposal—

Labour	326
Tractor—	
Repairs and Maintenance	46
Tax and Insurance	48
Petrol and Oil	36
Debt Redemption and Interest	108
	<hr/>
	238
Rent of Tip	120
Other Expenses	7
	<hr/>
	£691
	<hr/>

Thus the cost of the service per 1,000 population is £478 per annum—a quite reasonable figure.

Salvage Collection.—Due to the decreased value of salvaged paper, none was collected separately.

HOUSING—GENERAL

New Houses erected or provided during 1959 :—

(a) by Local Authority (Permanent Houses)	58
(b) by Private Enterprise	154

Council Dwellings existing in 1959 totalled 666 and the “spread” of these throughout the area is shown in the following table :

Gnosall :	Greenfields	74
	Audmore Road	3
	Heathway	25
	Wharf Road South	75
Church Eaton :	Old Houses	8
	The Oaklands	20
Bromstead :	Common	2
	Heath Road	2
	Church Eaton Road	4
Moreton :	Old Houses	6
	Post Office Lane	4
Forton :	.....	8
Adbaston :	Main Road	6
	Marsh Meadow	24
	Lerridge Lane	6
High Offley	.....	2
Woodseaves :	Willowcroft	30
	High Offley Road	10
Ellenhall	.....	6

Ranton :	Old Houses	.....	.....	.....	2
	Stocking Lane	.....	.....	.....	10
Haughton :	Airey houses	.....	.....	.....	20
	Sharmans Lane	.....	.....	.....	2
Seighford :	The Cumbers	.....	.....	.....	10
	Bramall Close	.....	.....	.....	24
Norbury :	Old houses	.....	.....	.....	1
	New houses	.....	.....	.....	4
	Spring Leasowes	.....	.....	.....	8
Knightley	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Derrington Flats	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Brocton :	Oldacre Lane	.....	.....	.....	6
Tixall :	Hanyards	.....	.....	.....	2
Gt. Haywood :	Abbeyfields	.....	.....	.....	10
	Tolldish Lane	.....	.....	.....	5
	Fishers Estate	.....	.....	.....	118
Hixon :	Lauder Grove	.....	.....	.....	12
	Martins Way	.....	.....	.....	8
	The Croft	.....	.....	.....	24
	Smithy Lane	.....	.....	.....	9
	Church Lane	.....	.....	.....	9
Bishton	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Lea Heath	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Fradswell	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Weston	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

HOUSING—REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT

Much time was devoted by the Public Health Inspectors to existing housing conditions. A number of overcrowded cases and other families living in insanitary conditions were re-housed to better accommodation and a number of dwellings were repaired and improved by the efforts of the department.

Extensive and detailed records of the dwellings in the district are kept in the department.

The owners of a number of unfit dwellings in the district have been encouraged by Improvement Grants to improve and completely repair their dwellings.

The following table gives information as to Improvement Grant applications considered by the Council during 1959 and

during the period such grants have been available (i.e. 1949 to April, 1960):—

Year	No. Granted	Total Value of Work	Total Grants	No. Refused	No. With-drawn	Work Completed
1959	56	£ s. d. 36,894 7 2	£ s. d. 15,149 16 0	2	—	44
Whole Period	240	141,948 10 11	63,962 18 4	11	12	180

Certificates of Disrepair—Rent Act, 1957

During 1959 there were no applications received for Certificates of Disrepair.

In the period since the 6th July, 1957 (i.e. the period of operation of the Rent Act, 1957) only eleven applications have been made for Certificates of Disrepair. In five of these cases was it ultimately necessary to serve Certificates. It is known that hundreds—probably over a thousand—of notices were served under the Act by owners on tenants increasing rents to the maximum allowed.

HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE

A. Programme :

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 55/54 required local authorities to state the action they propose to take in the five years commencing 1st September, 1955, to clear away grossly unfit dwellings.

The Stafford R.D.C. return undertook to deal with all the 474 grossly unfit dwellings in its area within the five years although it is unlikely that this aim will be achieved. The judgment of unfit dwellings has taken much longer than anticipated due largely to the coming into operation of the Rent Act, 1957 and its effect of increasing rents. The future likely rent income of a dwelling and its relation to cost of repair forms the basis for deciding whether the dwelling should or should not be dealt with by demolition order procedure.

B. Achievement :

	<i>Achievement to 31.12.58</i>	<i>Achievement during 1959</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of Dwellings with Demolition Orders Operative	129	48	177
No. with Closing Orders Operative	14	3	17
No. owned by Council and certified for Demolition	5	—	5
No. subject to Undertakings :—			
(a) Not to use till rendered fit	13	2	15
(b) To render fit	23	3	26
No. deferred for later decision	2	—	2
No. Reconditioned without Formal Action	17	—	17
(13 of these were aided by Improvement Grant)			
	203	56	259

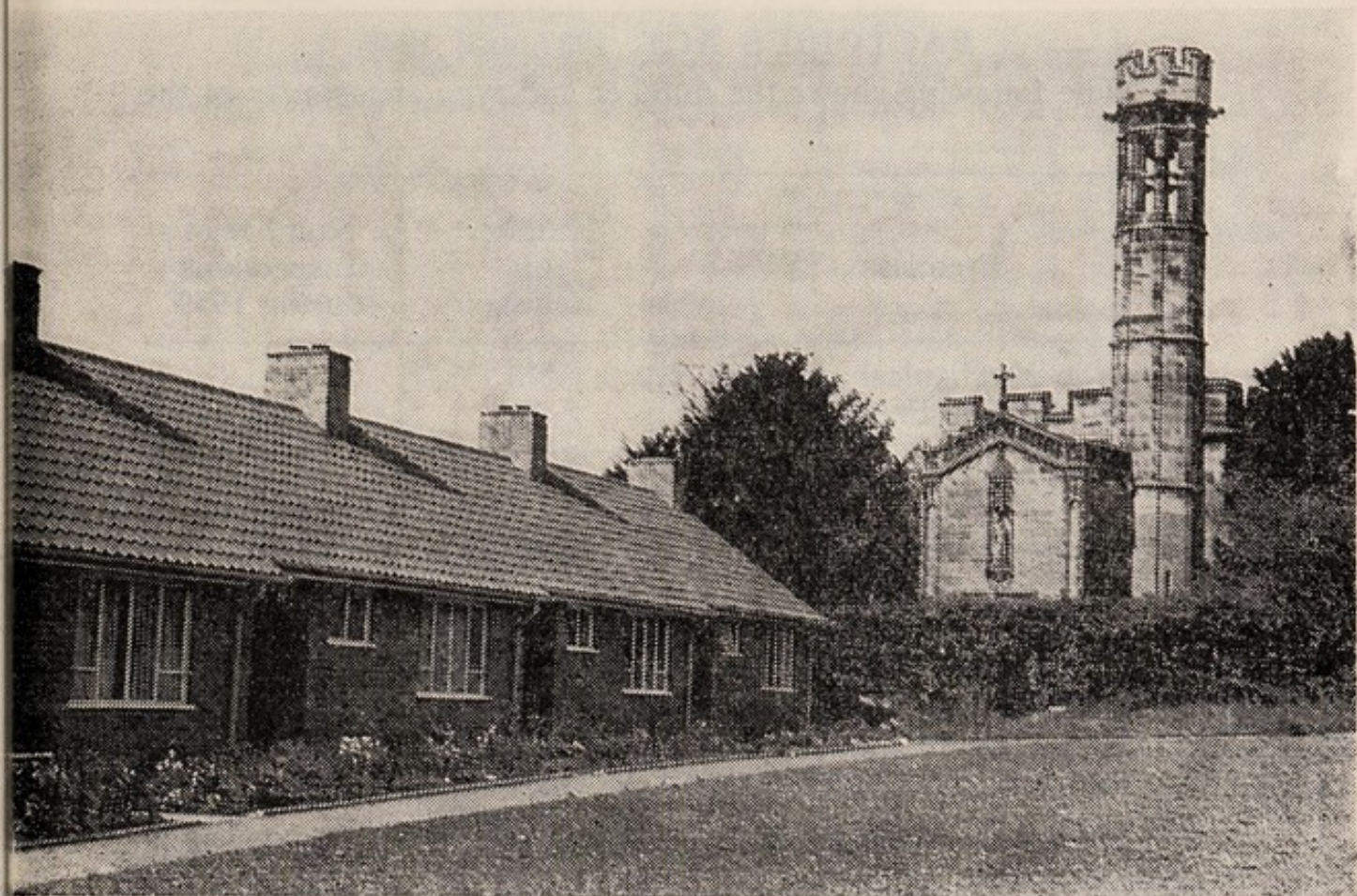
A list of the 203 dwellings previously dealt with were contained in previous Annual Reports, and a list and particulars of the 56 dwellings dealt with during 1959 follows :

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
205	Cottage, Hanfords, Derrington	Demolition Order
206	S.D. Cottage, Bromstead	Ditto
207	S.D. Cottage, Bromstead	Ditto
208	S.D. Cottage, The Hollies, Gnosall	Ditto
209	S.D. Cottage, The Hollies, Gnosall	Ditto
210	Field Cottage, Stone Road	Ditto
211	No. 1 Warehouse Cottage, Wolseley Br.	Ditto
212	No. 2 Warehouse Cottage, Wolseley Br.	Ditto
213	No. 3, Warehouse Cottage, Wolseley Br.	Ditto
214	No. 4 Warehouse Cottage, Wolseley Br.	Ditto
215	No. 1 Marsh Lane, Ellenhall	Closing Order
216	No. 2 Marsh Lane, Ellenhall	Ditto
217	No. 1 Bank House Cottage, Hyde Lea	Demolition Order
218	No. 2 Bank House Cottage, Hyde Lea	Ditto
219	Yew Tree Cottage, Gt. Haywood	Undertaking to Demolish
220	Black and White Cottage, Colwich	Undertaking to Close
221	Bank Farm Cottage, Brocton	Demolition Order
222	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Whitgreave	Ditto
223	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Whitgreave	Ditto
224	"Bankside," Little Tixall	Undertaking to Demolish
225	"Bankside Cottage," Little Tixall	Ditto
226	No. 1 Cottage, Fox & Hounds, Gt. Haywood	Ditto
227	No. 2 Cottage, Fox & Hounds, Gt. Haywood	Ditto
228	No. 1 Bank Cottages, Coley Lane	Ditto
229	No. 2 Bank Cottages, Coley Lane	Ditto
230	No. 3 Bank Cottages, Coley Lane	Ditto
231	No. 4 Bank Cottages, Coley Lane	Ditto
232	Rose Cottage, Knighton	Demolition Order
233	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Bridge Lane, Knighton	Ditto
234	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Bridge Lane, Knighton	Ditto
235	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Doley, Adbaston	Ditto
236	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Doley, Adbaston	Ditto

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
237	Cottage, Bishops Offley	Closing Order
238	Cottage, The Tunstalls, Adbaston	Demolition Order
239	Cottage, New Inn Bank, Adbaston	Ditto
240	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Lelage Lane, Adbaston	Undertaking to Render Fit
241	Cottage, Bishops Offley Cross Roads	Ditto
242	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Lelage Lane	Demolition Order
243	No. 3 S.D. Cottage, Lelage Lane	Ditto
244	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Offley Brook	Ditto
245	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Offley Brook	Ditto
246	Ivy Cottage, Cross St., Gnosall	Undertaking to Demolish
247	Cottage, Goosemoor	Demolition Order
248	Timber Bungalow, Milford Hollow	Ditto
249	No. 1 S.D. Cottage, Stockton Common	Ditto
250	No. 2 S.D. Cottage, Stockton Common	Ditto
251	Cottage, Bradley	Ditto
252	No. 1 Sunnyside, Bradley	Ditto
253	No. 2 Sunnyside, Bradley	Ditto
254	No. 3 Sunnyside, Bradley	Ditto
255	No. 4 Sunnyside, Bradley	Ditto
256	Cottage, Offley Brook	Undertaking to Render Fit
257	Canal Cottage, Sutton	Undertaking to Demolish
258	Loynton Lodge, Woodseaves	Undertaking to Close
259	No. 1 Milford Lodge Cottage	Demolition Order
260	No. 2 Milford Lodge Cottage	Ditto

C. Review :

The housing conditions of the Stafford Rural District Council's area up to some five or six years ago were indeed very poor with rural slums rife throughout most parishes. About that time the Government gave local authorities the "go-ahead" to tackle the slum problem and it is pleasing to record that the Council has now reached a marked stage in its programme insofar as the very worst slum dwellings are either removed or are doomed by operative demolition orders. Moreover—having reached this commendable stage—a final alphabetical parish-by-parish programme was commenced towards the end of 1959 to rid the district of all grossly unfit dwellings.



Aged persons' bungalows provided by the Council in pleasant surroundings at Gt. Haywood.



More aged persons' bungalows in course of erection at Wharf Road, Gnosall

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

The following shows the number and type of factories in the area :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections during 1959
(i) Non-Mechanical	Nil	Nil
(ii) Mechanical Factories	29	22
TOTAL	29	22

Only five of the factories are of any size.

No outworkers were employed in the district of the Council during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Ninety-one Licences were issued during the year for the bulk storage of 96,161 gallons of motor spirit. 58 of the licensed premises had hand-pumps fitted to storage tanks and 33 had electric pumps. In addition one licence was issued for the storage of 10 gallons of petroleum mixture.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provided a free service of rat disinfection to residential property. The treatment of farms and other properties in the area is also carried out by the Council's rodent operative, the cost being re-charged to the occupiers.

Infestations which were treated by the department during 1959 were :—

Farms	36
R.D.C. Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	124
All other properties	126

SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1950

The following table gives an analysis of the total number of shops and the number of inspections made during the year.

	No. of Shops	No. of Assistants				No. of Inspections
		Occupier's Family		Others		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Butchers	7	7	1	2	—	7
Catering Establishments	7	2	6	1	6	10
Electricians & Ironmongers	6	6	—	1	1	—
Fruit and Vegetables	3	2	2	—	2	8
Sweets and Tobacco	7	3	7	—	—	1
General Provisions	54	27	48	10	16	9
Public Houses	47	44	50	5	1	2
Drapers	4	1	5	—	3	—
Garages and Cycles	18	22	2	5	2	2
Hairdresser	4	—	4	—	1	—
Post Offices	14	9	13	—	—	2
Shoe Repairs	1	1	—	—	—	—
	172	124	138	24	32	41

Closing Hours :

(a) *Early Closing Day*

The Council has not made an order fixing an early closing day and the number of shops closed half days (by 1 p.m.) was as follows :—

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
6	23	33	3	—	20

(d) *General Closing Hours*

The General Closing Hours specified in the Shops Act, 1950 (Section 2) have not been varied by an order made by the Council.

No contraventions of note were found during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Of applications received for licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, to station and use vans as dwellings, 72 were granted, these being subject to various conditions as to siting, sanitary facilities, etc., and all were granted for a twelve months' period or less. Thirteen of these vans left the district before the end of the year. One other application was received but refused.

The licensed vans were fairly well scattered over the Council's area. No site licences have been granted.

FOOD INSPECTION

Particulars of food inspected during the year :

MEAT—CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	41	196	5330	Approx. 300	8	Nil
Number inspected	41	196	5330	135	8	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	24	18	4	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	44	—	21	1	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26.8	34.7	0.33	18.5	37.5	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	4	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	22	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	14.6	13.2	.075	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Many of the above cattle were killed and examined at a Casualty Slaughterhouse in the area, which is the reason for the high percentage of meat condemned. Most of the work of meat inspection is performed outside normal office hours.

Weight of Meat condemned due to :—

(a) Tuberculosis	3,677 lbs.
(b) Other Diseases or conditions	14,514 lbs.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned 18,191 lbs.

Five slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard were licensed by this Council during the year. Twenty-two men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Some of the condemned food is disposed of at a Waste Food Boiling Plant in the area and the remainder goes untreated to cat and dog meat shops. Though checks are from time to time made as to the satisfactory disposal of condemned food at the receiving points, it is contended that control is altogether inadequate and that compulsory sterilization or destruction of unfit meat is an essential public health measure.

Food Preparing Premises and Food Shops

Food premises of the various types in the area were as under :

Butchers	7
Catering Establishments	7
Fruit and Vegetables	3
Sweets and Confectioners	7
General Provisions	54
Public Houses	47
	<hr/>
	125
	<hr/>

Routine inspections of food premises for the specific purpose of ensuring compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56, were carried out and informal action was taken in six cases where contraventions were found.

Byelaws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, are in operation in the area of the Council.

There were only two premises in the area manufacturing prepared meats and two premises in which ice-cream was manufactured. They—together with 50 shops from which ice-cream is sold—are registered by the Council in conformity with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Sixteen inspections were made of registered premises which were satisfactory.

Samples of ice-cream were taken during the "season" with results as follows :—

<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
Four samples were taken from the two manufacturers in Rural District	4	—	—	—

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggest that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Food Poisoning.—No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The table following gives particulars of the registrations and licences granted by the Council :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

No. of Distributors of Milk with Dairies in Stafford R.D.C. area	11
No. of Distributors having Dairies outside R.D.C. area	30

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—

No. Licensed to sell (a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	44
(b) Pasteurised Milk	40
(c) Sterilised Milk	33

Quite a number of farmers retail their own Tuberculin Tested milk through their Producers' Licence granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and these are additional to the figures above.

A. THOMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

G. M. LAWTON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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