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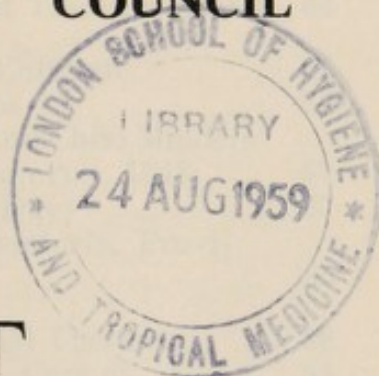
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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. RAMAGE, M.A. (Admin.), M.D.

For the Year 1956

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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

PRELIMINARY NOTE

The vital statistics for the year 1956 again show an increase in the total population of the County, which is due to a higher birth-rate, increased immigration accentuated by the success of the County Overspill Scheme, and, lastly, to a reduction in the death rate. A more commonplace way of putting it is that the population of the County is rising so that more people need the many-sided services provided by the Health Committee, which, in fact, have not sufficiently developed to keep pace with the need.

The number of staff has increased only by the whole-time equivalents of 10 health visitors, 3 midwives and $1\frac{1}{2}$ home nurses. No new clinics have been built, though two additional ones have been established in adapted existing buildings in Wednesfield and Darlaston. Provision of new maternity and child welfare clinics is one of the outstanding needs of the services, and the question is receiving the close attention of the Health Committee, but, unfortunately, progress in this direction has been continuously hampered by the national financial stringencies.

Reference to the table on Page 11 shows that the number of deaths from bronchitis was 637, which is six times as great as the number caused by pulmonary tuberculosis. The fall in the rates from the main causes of death naturally brings into prominence other causes which have remained stationary, or have fallen only to a slight degree, and bronchitis is one of these. The medical and environmental causes are known, though there remains a personal factor which cannot be estimated. It is possible to reduce invalidism from bronchitis by improvement of the atmospheric conditions and, as an immediate individual action, by removing anyone suffering from the condition in its early stages to cleaner atmospheric surroundings. Here, in personal terms, for the number of sufferers from bronchitis greatly exceeds the number dying from that disease, is repeated the case for ridding the country of atmospheric pollution from all causes, including tobacco smoke and road vehicle fumes. These latter agents, and particularly cigarette smoking, have also been shown to be "trigger factors" in the incidence of cancer of the lung.

As for so many years, an increase in the deaths due to cancer is shown in the 1956 figures in the table on Page 56. The ages at which the greatest number of deaths occur are 45 years and upwards, and it cannot now be held that, say, the 45-55 group constitutes old age, but this is the time when lung cancer is most likely to occur. Dr. Posner, the Director of the North Staffordshire Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, remarks in his Annual Report, part of which is quoted on Page 53. "At the general practitioner sessions for men it is not uncommon to find more cases of bronchogenic carcinoma than of active respiratory tuberculosis." In this connection it is interesting to note that in Staffordshire the number of deaths in men is eight times as many as those occurring in women, a fact which is in line with the thought that cancer may be associated with the lack of essential fatty acids in the diet, for it is known that the need for these is much higher in men than women.

It is satisfactory that in 1956 no deaths occurred from diphtheria in the County, though five verified cases did occur. Unfortunately, there were five deaths from whooping cough and one from poliomyelitis, diseases which caused no fatalities in the previous year. Immunisation is available against all three diseases but has not been carried out in the maximum number of children. In the case of poliomyelitis, the reason is the technical difficulty of making available an adequate supply of suitable vaccine, whereas for diphtheria and whooping cough it is a matter of persuading parents that these types of protection are worth the small amount of trouble involved in filling in consent forms and taking their children for the injections.

It will be noted in the report of the County Analyst that a record number of samples was analysed this year, and it is indeed welcome news that, at the time of writing, extensions to the County Laboratory are being put in hand, though this relief will be a short-lived one if the work continues to grow at the same rate as in recent past years. Additional duties and a widening range of examinations to be carried out are constantly appearing, for example, this year the analysis of flour becomes a County responsibility, and further work will result from the widening of the Food and Drugs activities under the Consolidating Food and Drugs Act which came into force in January, 1956.

Although the adulteration rate was slightly increased in 1956, this was not so as regards milk, where the position generally continues to improve in many directions. During the year the Borough and Rural District of Newcastle-under-Lyme were included in the "Specified Areas," which means that 85 per cent of the population of the County is now in areas where only specially designated milks may be sold. An inspection of the table on Page 31 will show that 93.7 per cent of the milks tested were found to be clean, and all pasteurised milks have been properly heat treated, but there is still no ground for complacency in the question of cleanliness of the milk supplies and vigilance is as necessary to-day as ever.

During the year, considerable changes occurred in the administration of the Ambulance Service. Radio control was introduced and the County Transport Department, which had hitherto been responsible for the mechanical maintenance of the fleet, was closed down. As regards wireless control, the transmitters were installed at four main stations, viz., Newcastle, Stafford, Lichfield and Darlaston.

This has necessitated a change in the administrative structure and raised the possibility of closing some of the smaller stations, matters which are now being discussed by the appropriate Committees. In any case, the improved effectiveness in the use of the vehicles has already shown the value of the wireless, and considerable economies are anticipated by the adoption of revised arrangements for vehicle maintenance. The mileage run during the year approximates to that of the previous year and one again hopes that the peak mileage has been reached.

The opening of the new Special Training Centre for Mental Defectives at Regent Road, Tipton, resulted in an enormous improvement which had been awaited for years. The design of the building was the result of considerable experience accumulated from the other Centres maintained by the Health Committee, and the use of the building so far has not revealed any way in which it could have been improved. The provision of a second new Centre to replace the unsatisfactory premises in Stafford has been approved, though this will be a much smaller building, and when this Centre is completed the mental deficiency facilities in the County will be reasonably satisfactory. This is, unfortunately, in direct contrast with the lack of child guidance facilities, which could do so much to enable children to take a full part in the normal life of the community.

It is impossible to comment on all aspects of the work of the Department which is detailed in the full Report, and anyone reading the latter will appreciate that it represents the work of many people, each of whom is giving his or her best towards the improvement of the health of the County. The same remark, of course, applies to the clerical staff and to the other Departments who are concerned. We are grateful also for the enthusiasm and interest of the Health Committee, which greatly encourages us to strive for the best possible Health Service in Staffordshire.

COMMITTEES

The Committee of the County Council concerned with public health is the Health Committee.

The County Medical Officer also acts as medical adviser to all Committees of the County Council including the Education Committee, Welfare Services Committee and Children's Committee.

HEALTH OFFICERS

(A) MEDICAL

County Medical Officer of Health

G. RAMAGE, M.A. (Admin.), M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health

H. BINYSH, M.D., M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P. & S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Barrister at Law.

Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare

KATHLEEN D. ARNSBY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

County Psychiatrist

H. S. COULSTING, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.
(Left, 14/1/56)

CHRISTINA J. McLEAY, M.B., Ch.B. (Commenced 16/2/56)

Medical Officers to Area Health Committees

A. W. M. BATTERSBY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.
J. H. DONNELLY, T.D., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.
C. E. JAMISON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
A. H. KYNASTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Left 22.12.56)
W. D. H. McFARLAND, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
W. A. McLENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
J. TOLLAND, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.
E. H. TOMLIN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
R. WEBSTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

(B) OTHER PROFESSIONAL

County Dental Officer

F. C. WINTER, L.D.S. (U.BRIST)

County Analyst

A. HOULBROOKE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

County Health Inspector

H. PREST, M.I. San. E.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Administrative County	...	...	...	(acres)	685,239
Estimated Home Population of Area, 1956 (primarily for calculation of Death-rates or incidence of Notifiable Diseases)	...	...	...	...	902,200
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1956 (General County Purposes)	...	...	...	...	£8,387,146
Estimated net product of a penny rate, 1956-57 (General County Purposes)	...	...	...	...	£32,708

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births, Legitimate	...	14,234	7,282	6,952	
Illegitimate	...	446	236	210	
	Total	14,680	7,518	7,162	Birth-rate 16.3
Still-births, Legitimate	...	371	194	177	
Illegitimate	...	17	11	6	
	Total	388	205	183	Rate per 1,000 total births 25.7
Deaths	...	9,597	5,114	4,483	Death-rate 10.6

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births</i>
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	16	1.1
Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	28
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	28
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	31
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	1,633
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	5
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under one year of age)	...	8

AREA AND POPULATION

Although there has been no alteration in the total area of the Administrative County this year there was an internal change, as 316.25 acres were taken from the Stone Rural District and added to Stone Urban District.

The estimated populations have been supplied by the Registrar-General and are primarily given for the calculation of death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases. The figures are home populations (i.e., including members of the armed forces stationed in the area).

Until 1940, Area Comparability Factors supplied by the Registrar-General enabled local death-rates to be adjusted for comparison with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted rate of any other local area. From that year, however, and until 1948, the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and during the war years the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure such comparability. The factors to adjust local death rates were, however, re-introduced in the 1949 Report, and are again included to adjust both birth and death rates.

The estimated population and rates for each District are shown in the tables at the end of the Report.

In the following table the final census population of the Administrative County for 1951 and the estimated home population for mid-1956 are set forth :

				<i>Census, 1951 (Final)</i>	<i>Estimated Population, Mid-1956</i>
Urban	...	...	...	640,648	673,600
Rural	...	...	...	214,509	228,600
Totals	...	...	...	855,157	902,200

BIRTHS

The live births registered in the Administrative County for birth-rate purposes numbered 14,680, compared with 13,552 the previous year, the number in the Urban Districts being 11,042 and in the Rural Districts 3,638.

Stillbirths. There were 388 stillbirths registered during the year, of which 291 were in Urban and 97 in Rural Districts. The stillbirth-rate per thousand of the population for the combined Urban and Rural Districts was 0.43. During the same period the rate of England and Wales was 0.37.

LIVE BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION																
DISTRICTS	5 yrs. 1889- 1893	5 yrs. 1894- 1898	5 yrs. 1899- 1903	5 yrs. 1904- 1908	5 yrs. 1909- 1913	5 yrs. 1914- 1918	5 yrs. 1919- 1923	5 yrs. 1924- 1928	5 yrs. 1929- 1933	5 yrs. 1934- 1938	5 yrs. 1939- 1943	5 yrs. 1944- 1948	5 yrs. 1949- 1953	1954	1955	1956
{ Staffordshire Urban .. Rural ..	33.6	33.2	32.5	30.3	27.8	24.0	24.1	20.2	17.6	17.1	18.3	19.9	16.2	15.4	15.2	16.3
	35.5	34.7	33.6	31.5	29.2	25.0	25.0	20.7	18.1	17.5	18.9	20.4	16.4	15.5	15.4	16.4
	30.2	30.5	30.2	27.0	24.4	21.6	22.0	19.0	16.6	15.7	16.7	18.5	15.6	15.1	14.7	15.9
England and Wales ..	30.8	29.7	28.7	26.9	24.5	20.4	21.3	17.8	15.6	14.9	15.2	18.2	15.8	15.2	15.0	15.6
Large Towns in England	31.5	30.7	29.7	27.8	25.2	*20.9	22.0	18.2	15.8	14.9	16.3	21.0	17.5	16.8	14.9	15.6

* 4 years.

DEATHS

The number of deaths in the Administrative County amounted to 9,597, the number in the Urban Districts being 7,184 and in the Rural Districts 2,413.

DISTRICTS		DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION														
		5 yrs. 1889- 1893	5 yrs. 1894- 1898	5 yrs. 1899- 1903	5 yrs. 1904- 1908	5 yrs. 1909- 1913	5 yrs. 1914- 1918	5 yrs. 1919- 1923	5 yrs. 1924- 1928	5 yrs. 1929- 1933	5 yrs. 1934- 1938	5 yrs. 1939- 1943	5 yrs. 1944- 1948	5 yrs. 1949- 1953	1954	1955
Staffordshire	Combined Urban and Rural ..	18.1	16.9	16.1	14.6	14.1	15.0	12.3	11.4	11.6	11.3	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.8	10.6
	Urban ..	18.9	17.5	16.6	15.1	14.7	15.5	12.6	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.2	10.4	10.7	10.9	10.7
	Rural ..	16.8	15.7	15.1	13.4	12.7	13.8	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	10.4	10.0	10.3	10.5
England and Wales ..		19.1	17.4	16.9	15.3	13.9	15.2	12.5	12.0	12.3	11.9	12.6	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.7
Large Towns ..		21.0	19.0	18.2	15.8	14.3	15.5	12.6	12.0	12.3	12.0	14.0	12.9	12.5	11.6	11.6
Smaller Towns ..		17.6	15.9	15.7	14.9	13.6	14.1	11.5	11.0	11.2	11.4	12.4	11.8	11.6	11.3	11.6

In the following table I have shown the *chief* causes of death for 1956. The numbers given are 81.5 per cent. of the total deaths.

TABLE SHOWING CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2,979
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1,633
Vascular lesions of nervous system				...	1,274
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	637
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	348
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	300
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	246
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	96
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	110
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	89
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	104
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	6

(See Table on following page)

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH								TOTAL
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	8	25	50	16	5	104
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	1	6
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	1	2	5	7	2	17
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
6. Meningococcal infections	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	4	3	4	8	2	3	26
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	—	—	—	—	9	107	106	85	307
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	—	—	—	—	17	188	75	16	296
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	—	—	—	—	14	73	32	27	146
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	—	—	—	11	31	20	8	70
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	—	7	8	10	49	287	245	208	814
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	4	9	2	4	28	5	5	57
16. Diabetes	—	—	1	—	—	16	28	21	66
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	1	1	31	252	394	595	1274
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	28	342	404	320	1094
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	4	46	81	101	232
20. Other heart disease	—	1	—	7	30	211	391	1013	1653
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	2	13	56	87	190	348
22. Influenza	3	—	1	—	1	17	12	26	60
23. Pneumonia	58	6	4	2	12	68	59	91	300
24. Bronchitis	3	2	2	2	8	162	228	230	637
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1	—	5	44	35	21	107
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	4	37	13	23	77
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	8	1	1	—	5	12	7	15	49
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	2	5	13	32	13	23	89
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	3	17	40	60
30. Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	2	14	—	—	—	16
31. Congenital malformations	90	7	1	3	7	2	—	—	110
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	223	13	14	11	59	153	160	495	1128
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	5	8	23	23	20	10	6	96
34. All other accidents	16	9	9	10	32	28	38	104	246
35. Suicide	—	—	—	4	23	43	17	9	96
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	7
Totals	412	60	66	96	451	2325	2504	3683	9597

The following table has been prepared covering the last 37 years, in which the percentage of deaths under 45 years of age is worked out in relation to the total deaths of all ages, and in the table the sexes are divided. Speaking generally, in 1956, 11.3 per cent. of all deaths occurred under the age of 45.

**DEATHS UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE — MALE AND FEMALE — SHEWING
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS (ALL AGES)**

YEAR	MALE			FEMALE		
	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total
1920	4,626	2,295	49.61	4,084	1,935	47.38
1921	4,545	2,120	46.64	3,985	1,759	44.14
1922	4,534	1,943	42.58	4,191	1,793	42.78
1923	4,197	1,816	43.27	3,788	1,556	41.08
1924	4,332	1,795	41.43	3,906	1,520	38.91
1925	4,556	1,919	42.12	4,161	1,724	41.43
1926	4,148	1,658	39.97	3,808	1,441	37.84
1927	4,458	1,766	39.61	4,082	1,564	38.31
1928	3,965	1,449	36.54	3,563	1,180	33.12
1929	4,813	1,827	37.96	4,293	1,453	33.84
1930	4,100	1,473	35.92	3,672	1,211	32.98
1931	4,376	1,472	33.64	3,933	1,272	32.34
1932	4,190	1,425	34.01	3,824	1,174	30.70
1933	4,213	1,415	33.59	3,900	1,207	30.95
1934	4,105	1,261	30.72	3,655	1,054	28.84
1935	4,284	1,354	31.61	3,802	1,159	30.48
1936	4,203	1,266	30.12	4,022	1,100	27.35
1937	4,793	1,484	30.96	4,075	1,041	25.55
1938	4,497	1,296	28.82	3,915	1,065	27.20
1939	4,498	1,223	27.19	4,038	973	24.10
1940	4,899	1,315	26.84	4,246	1,069	25.18
1941	4,882	1,436	29.41	4,110	1,086	26.42
1942	4,257	1,150	27.01	3,742	970	25.92
1943	4,403	1,090	24.76	4,112	1,004	24.42
1944	4,136	1,069	25.85	3,800	889	23.39
1945	4,356	1,002	23.00	4,133	921	22.28
1946	4,385	1,006	22.94	3,934	804	20.44
1947	4,657	988	21.22	4,090	786	19.22
1948	4,275	895	20.94	3,717	715	19.24
1949	4,651	861	18.51	4,162	671	16.12
1950	4,805	779	16.21	4,183	631	15.08
1951	5,139	793	15.43	4,480	576	12.86
1952	4,519	647	14.32	3,993	510	12.77
1953	4,705	657	13.96	4,154	506	12.18
1954	4,849	560	11.55	4,337	457	10.54
1955	5,169	669	12.94	4,447	447	10.05
1956	5,114	630	12.32	4,483	455	10.15

CHEMICAL LABORATORY

The following relates to the work undertaken during 1956 :

The Laboratory has continued to provide the analytical service demanded of the County Council in dealing with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926, and related legislation. It has also carried out a great deal of analytical work connected with the determination of the quality of drinking water and other water supplies, sewage and sewage effluents and trade wastes. A further considerable part of the work undertaken

consisted of analyses relating to the estimation of atmospheric pollution occurring in many parts of the County. To a smaller degree the Laboratory's facilities were available to, and used by, other Departments of the County Council and it has, of course, continued to provide the services required by the six other autonomous Food and Drugs Authorities within the County area. The numerical details relating to all the work carried out are given in Table I.

The mid-1956 population of the area served by the Laboratory was 1,176,200. The Staffordshire County Council's administrative area, for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act, had a population of 646,210. Since the total number of food and drugs samples submitted by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures Department and by the Public Health Inspector was 5,380 the sampling rate per 1,000 of population was 8.3.

The long-awaited consolidation of the Acts and Regulations relating to food and drugs was completed in 1955 and the new and comprehensive Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into force on the 1st January, 1956. The new Act gives increased powers of control and has closed some of the loop-holes in the old Act. It has been necessary to issue new Regulations relating to the composition of Butter and Margarine with a consequential amendment of the Labelling of Food Order. Amendments have also been made to the Food Standards Orders relating to Curry Powder and Tomato Ketchup. The regulations dealing with Mineral Oil in Food had to be amended as a result of the inclusion, in the new Act, of Chewing Gum in the definition of Food. Following the removal of control from Bread and Flour, Regulations dealing with the Composition of Flour came into force during the year and their administration became the duty of the Food and Drugs Authorities. New Regulations concerning Channel Island Milk now fix an absolute standard of 4.0% for its fat content. An entirely novel feature of the new Act provides that a vendor of an article which has been sampled under the Act may demand, on payment of a nominal fee, a copy of the Analyst's Certificate relating to that article. During the year six such "Shilling Certificates" were issued. Further new Regulations and Standards are foreshadowed in Reports produced by the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. These deal with various additive to foods—Emulsifying and Stabilising Agents as well as Colouring Matters. They also deal with the contamination of foods with Copper and with suggested standards of composition for Processed Cheese and Cheese Spread, and for Sausages.

Of the food and drugs samples examined for the Staffordshire County Council 3.5% received adverse reports and this slight increase over last year's rate of 3.0% was due entirely to an increase in the number of foods and drugs other than milk which were faulty. Details of these faults are given in Table II and in the body of this Report but some general comment is appropriate here. The fact that 22 out of 98 samples of sausage received adverse reports suggests that this article of food is less reliable than most, but 17 of the 22 faulty samples offended against the Preservative Regulations and only 5 samples committed the more serious offence of being low in meat content.

The labels or descriptions of 26 samples were found to be defective and 12 of these concerned the labelling of pre-packed foods. It is widely believed and, not infrequently, stated that pre-packaging of foods by large and well-equipped manufacturers has so greatly increased the protection of the consumer that it is hardly worth while sampling such products. Such a belief is contrary to the findings of the Laboratory and it is only right to point out that the vigilance and efficiency of Sampling Officers and Analysts has, on occasion, exceeded that of some of the very large producers of foods in this country.

An attempt was made during the year to increase the number of drugs samples, but the 160 samples examined is quite inadequate for the area served. This selective sampling may possibly explain why 18 of these were faulty. They included 64 preparations containing Vitamin A of which 8 were faulty.

It is appropriate, here, to draw attention to the number of samples examined during the year. At 9,878 this number exceeded the previous year's total by nearly 1,000 and was the highest number examined in any year since the Laboratory was established in 1931. It is interesting to note, too, that this work was done in exactly the same amount of laboratory space initially allotted to the County Chemical Laboratory in the 1930's when the average number of samples dealt with was little over 2,000 a year. This degree of compression is, somewhat naturally, tending to produce "explosive" conditions and the extra accommodation promised for the near future will be extremely welcome. It has been possible to deal with such an outstanding increase in work because of an increase in establishment during the previous year and because there were no changes in the staff during 1956. The purchase of up-to-date, though expensive, equipment also helped in this achievement.

TABLE I

The total number of samples analysed was as follows :—

For County Council :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	(a)	Chief Inspector's Samples...	4,263
	(b)	Chief Public Health Inspector's Samples	1,117
	(c)	"Appeal-to-Cow" Samples	142
	(d)	Private Samples	Nil
Milks for Hypochlorite Tests			241
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926			171
Drinking Waters			393
Swimming Bath and Pool Waters			82
River Waters			245
Sewage and Sewage Effluents, Trade Wastes, etc.			291
Atmospheric Pollution			888
Miscellaneous Samples			116
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933			1
			7,950

For City of Stoke-on-Trent :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	894
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926	...	...	7
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	12
			913

For Borough of Rowley Regis :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	298
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	3
			301

For Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	109
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	4
			113

For Urban District Council of Brierley Hill :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	176
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	Nil
			176

For Borough of Stafford :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	232
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	1
			233

For Urban District Council of Cannock :

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	Chief Inspector's Samples	...	182
Miscellaneous Samples	...	...	10
			192

Total	...	...	...	...	...		9,878
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COUNTY COUNCIL SAMPLES.

Table II shows the total number of Food and Drugs samples submitted and the number reported against.

TABLE II.

SAMPLES	Number Examined			Number Adulterated or below standard		
	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total
Almonds	8	2	10	—	—	—
Baking Powder and Golden Raising Powder	3	2	5	—	—	—
Bread	4	3	7	—	1	1
Bun, Cake and Pudding Mixture ...	11	9	20	—	—	—
Butter	63	1	64	—	—	—
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	32	27	59	—	1	1
Cereal Products	14	12	26	3	2	5
Cheese	22	3	25	1	—	1
Cocoa and Chocolate Preparations ...	5	—	5	—	—	—
Coconut	3	1	4	—	—	—
Coffee (Ground)	7	—	7	—	—	—
Coffee Extracts, Coffee and Chicory Extracts	5	9	14	—	—	—
Cream	10	5	15	—	—	—
Curry Powder	2	—	2	—	—	—
Custard Powder and Prepared Starches	2	3	5	—	—	—
Dried Fruit	5	15	20	—	2	2
Drinks, Alcoholic	34	—	34	4	—	4
Drinks, Soft (Liquid and Powder) ...	52	8	60	—	—	—
Drugs (including Vitamin A Products)	64	96	160	5	13	18
Fats	47	2	49	—	—	—
Fish Pastes and Fish Products	22	26	48	—	—	—
Flavourings and Colourings	4	1	5	—	—	—
Flour, Confectionery	27	2	29	3	—	3
„ Self Raising	6	3	9	—	—	—
„ Plain, Various	11	4	15	—	—	—
Fruit Curds	5	6	11	—	—	—
Foods, Baby and Tonic	7	2	9	1	1	2
Gelatine	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gravy Browning and Salt	6	3	9	—	—	—
Herbs, Spices and Condiments	35	13	48	2	1	3
Honey	1	1	2	—	—	—
Ice Cream	43	—	43	1	—	1
Ice Lollies and Lollipops	5	—	5	—	—	—
Jellies (Table)	5	6	11	—	—	—
Margarine	23	—	23	—	—	—
Marzipan	5	1	6	—	—	—
Meat Products (a) Sausage and Sausage Meat	97	1	98	22	—	22
„ (b) Brawn, etc.	14	13	27	—	—	—
Meat Pastes and Meat Products, Canned	53	44	97	1	5	6
Milks	2,852	1,119	3,971	92	13	105
Milk, Condensed	6	8	14	1	1	2
Mincemeat	4	3	7	—	—	—
Oils, Refined and Salad	1	2	3	—	—	—
Pickles, Various	8	4	12	—	—	—
Preserves, Various	21	7	28	—	—	—
Pudding and Pies	15	7	22	—	—	—

TABLE II—*continued*

SAMPLES	Number Examined			Number Adulterated or below standard		
	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total
Potato Products	2	—	2	—	—	—
Salad Cream and Dressing	3	2	5	—	—	—
Sauces, Various	13	11	24	1	1	2
Soups	8	7	15	1	—	1
Sugar	8	7	15	—	—	—
Sugar, Confectionery	68	1	69	4	—	4
Sweet Spreads and Syrups	4	4	8	—	—	—
Tea	48	—	48	—	—	—
Vinegar	24	5	29	1	—	1
Unclassified	14	6	20	2	1	3
Total	3,863	1,517	5,380	145	42	187

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Of the 5,380 samples submitted from the County Area, 5,193 were found to be genuine and 187 adulterated or below standard, the percentage of adulterated samples being 3.5%. The rate of adulteration for the County is a little higher than that of last year, the figures for 1947-55 being 12.2, 7.7, 5.4, 5.1, 2.9, 4.4, 2.5, 2.7 and 3.0 respectively.

(1) MILK.—Three thousand, nine hundred and seventy one samples of milk, of all grades, were submitted for analysis. These comprised 523 samples of "Tuberculin Tested," 431 "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)," 150 Channel Island, 1,430 "Pasteurised," 415 Sterilised and 1,022 undesignated milk. One hundred and five or 2.6 per cent. were found to be adulterated, of which 38 contained added water, nine contained added water and were fat deficient, 45 were fat deficient and 13 were deficient in fat and solids not fat. These figures do NOT include "Appeal to Cow" samples.

Action Taken.—of the 105 unsatisfactory samples taken, 61 were of undesignated milk and 44 were of designated milk.

Thirteen of these were informal samples taken by Sampling Officers of the County Health Inspector's Department, viz.: 2 "Tuberculin Tested," 9 "Pasteurised" and 2 undesignated. They were included in the 1,117 samples collected from School Canteens, Day Nurseries, Hospitals, Institutions and milk supplied under the "Milk in Schools" scheme. Eleven of the samples were deficient in fat, one was deficient in fat and solids-not-fat and one contained added water and was deficient in solids-not-fat. Formal repeat samples taken by Officers of the Chief Inspector's Department from the same sources proved to be genuine except in one case of Tuberculin Tested Milk which proved to be seriously deficient in fat. Action was taken in respect of this sample.

The remaining 92 samples adversely reported upon were taken "formally" under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and comprised 59 samples of undesignated milks and 33 of designated milk.

The samples of undesignated milk were dealt with as follows :—

The deficiencies in the case of 14 samples were small and the vendors cautioned. "Follow up" and/or "Appeal to Cow" samples were taken in the case of 11 samples, all of which were found to be genuine. Thirteen samples were noted down for further sampling. Action was taken in regard to 20 samples. No action was taken in respect of one sample.

Thirty-three samples of Designated milk were found to be adulterated, viz. : Of the Sterilised Milk samples 16 contained added water, 2 samples contained added water and were deficient in fat, 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk was deficient in fat, 5 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were deficient in fat and 5 samples were deficient in fat and solids-not-fat, 4 samples of Channel Islands Milk were deficient in fat. With regard to 8 samples of Designated Milk, repeat samples taken from the same source were found to be genuine. Two samples were noted down for further sampling. Vendors were cautioned with regard to 5 samples. From 18 samples taken from 3 vendors action was taken upon 4 of the samples.

Two hundred and fifty samples were below the presumptive standard. Of these, 172 were in respect of samples which were found by the Freezing Point (Hortvet) test not to be adulterated with added water although below standard in solids-not-fat. Six hundred and thirty samples which were low in fat and 15 samples deficient in both fat and solids-not-fat were found to be due to natural causes.

PROCEEDINGS.

During the year proceedings have been instituted in respect of 20 samples of Milk, 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 samples of Sterilised Milk adulterated with added water and 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk deficient in fat. Fines amounting to £152 0s. 0d. were imposed, together with £142 10s. 9d. special costs.

"*Appeal to Cow*" Samples.—Of the 142 "Appeal to Cow" samples taken, 16 were found to be naturally poor in solids-not-fat, 30 naturally poor in fat and 10 naturally poor in both fat and solids-not-fat.

The average composition of the milks of all grades, including "Appeal to Cow" samples, was :—

Fat	...	...	...	3.65%	} Total Solids—12.34%
Solids-not-fat	...	...	...	8.69%	

Of the 3,866 samples of milk of all grades, passed as genuine, 172 (4.5 per cent.) were naturally poor in solids-not-fat, their Freezing Point (Hortvet) showing that they were genuine. Sixty-three samples (1.6%) were naturally poor in fat and 15 (0.4%) were naturally poor in both fat and solids-not-fat, the Freezing Point (Hortvet) and "Appeal to Cow" samples proving them to be genuine.

The poor quality of the 250 samples which failed to reach the low minimum standard of 3.0% fat or 8.5% solids-not-fat, but were passed as genuine, is further emphasised when the average quality of all samples is noted, namely, 3.65% of fat and 8.69% of solids-not-fat.

(2) GENERAL ARTICLES OF FOOD.—One thousand, four hundred and nine samples were examined and 82 samples (53 formal and 29 informal) were found to be adulterated.

Proceedings were taken in respect of 1 sample of Pork Sausage deficient in meat content, 2 samples of Whisky containing added water, 1 sample of Wine Cocktail underproof in spirit and 1 sample of Salmon Sandwiches not containing salmon. Fines of £102, together with special costs amounting to £18, were imposed.

Informal samples of Garden Mint in Vinegar, Cascara Sagrada Tablets, Unsweetened Condensed Milk, Creamed Rice, Health Bread, Irish Stew, Glycerine Lemon and Ipecac Mixture, Onion Sauce, Mixed Fruit, Cod Liver Oil, Dried Peas, Head and Stomach Pills, Iron Jelloids, Capsules of Halibut Liver Oil, Glucose with Calcium Phosphate, French Beans, Malt Extract and Cod Liver Oil, Cough Balsam and Cod Liver Oil Compound were found to be adulterated. The fullest investigations were made and the manufacturers and packers contacted resulting in the necessary steps being taken to prevent recurrence.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

The 171 samples for analysis comprised 79 Fertilisers and 92 Feeding Stuffs.

Fertilisers.

Of the 79 fertilisers, 64 were satisfactory. The results of analysis of the remaining samples are given in the following table :—

TABLE III

<i>Number of Officers per sample</i>	<i>Nature of Offence</i>	<i>Number of samples</i>
1	Excess of potash	2
	Excess of insoluble phosphoric acid	1
	Deficient of soluble phosphoric acid	1
	Excess of nitrogen	3
	No statutory statement	1
2	Excess of both insoluble phosphoric acid and potash	2
3	Deficiency of phosphoric acid, an excess of nitrogen and incorrectly named	2
	Excess of soluble phosphoric acid and of potash and failed to declare the presence of insoluble phosphoric acid	2
	Deficient of insoluble phosphoric acid and of potash and carried no statement of phosphoric acid content	1
	Total number of unsatisfactory samples	15

Feeding Stuffs.

Of the 92 feeding stuffs, 77 were satisfactory. The results of analysis of the remaining samples are given in the following table :—

TABLE IV

<i>Number of Offences per sample</i>	<i>Nature of Offence</i>	<i>Number of samples</i>
1	Deficient of oil	4
	Deficient of protein	3
	Excess of oil	2
	Incorrect statutory statement	1
	No statutory statement	1
2	Deficient of oil and contained excess of protein ...	3
	Deficient of fibre and contained an excess of protein	1
	Total number of unsatisfactory samples	15

DRINKING WATERS.

Three hundred and ninety three samples of drinking water were submitted in the course of the year ; 30 for full analysis ; 303 for partial analysis ; 35 for fluorine content only ; 4 for full analysis and fluorine content ; 3 for chlorine only ; one for hardness and metals ; 4 for metals only ; 3 for partial analysis and metals ; one for hardness only ; 2 for mineral analysis ; one for partial analysis and plumbo solvency and 6 for special analysis.

Of the 393 samples for analysis :—

267 samples were of satisfactory quality.

17 samples contained sewage pollution.

61 samples contained organic pollution.

10 samples contained metallic contamination.

2 samples contained both sewage and metallic contamination.

6 samples contained both sewage and organic contamination.

1 sample contained sewage, organic and metallic contamination.

3 samples contained organic and metallic contamination.

2 samples were unsatisfactory in quality.

6 samples were of doubtful quality.

18 samples were for special analysis.

SWIMMING BATH AND POOL WATERS.

55 samples were submitted for full analysis.

27 samples were submitted for chlorine content only.

RIVER WATERS.

215 samples were submitted for ordinary analysis.

30 samples were submitted for fluorine estimation only.

SEWAGE, SEWAGE EFFLUENTS AND TRADE WASTES, ETC.

275 samples were submitted for ordinary analysis.

16 samples were submitted for special analysis.

THE FLUORINE CONTENT OF WATER.

It is now well established that fluorides in water to the extent of one part per million expressed as fluorine reduce the occurrence of dental caries in children. A number of water authorities in the United States of America have, for some time, increased the fluoride content of their water supplies to this extent in order to obtain a reduction in the incidence of dental caries. A United Kingdom Mission of experts visited the U.S.A. in 1952 to study the effects of this fluoridation of domestic water supplies and their Report to the various Ministries concerned was published in 1953. In this Report it was recommended that, after certain preliminary investigations have been made, fluoride should be added to the water supplies of some selected communities under very strictly controlled conditions. Subsequent study of the effects—both medical and dental—on people of all ages would enable a decision to be made as to whether or not general fluoridation of water supplies is wholly desirable.

During the year thirty samples of water, taken on seven occasions, from various points on a river known to be liable to fluoride pollution and from the large reservoir which this supplies were examined for fluorine content. It has been found that, although the rate of pollution varies considerably, the amount of fluorine in the water of the reservoir remains reasonably near to one part per million.

Thirty five samples of drinking water supplies from different parts of the County were also examined for fluorine content and the following results were obtained :—

<i>Number of Samples</i>			<i>Fluoride expressed as Fluorine</i>			
21	...	...	Nil	to 0.09	parts per million	
8	...	...	0.10	„ 0.19	„ „ „	
2	...	...	0.20	„ 0.49	„ „ „	
4	...	...	0.50	„ 0.70	„ „ „	

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Report of the Government Committee on Air Pollution which was published in 1954 has been followed by the passing of the Clean Air Act this year. A definite step forward has been made in this matter and powers now exist whereby it will be possible, in due course, to control and even eliminate the more obvious forms of air pollution.

Measurement of the amount of air pollution is a necessary preliminary to its prevention and the Fuel Research Section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has studied methods of making such measurements for many years. These approved methods are used in the County Chemical Laboratory.

Samples relating to atmospheric pollution were examined for ten Local Authorities in the County area during the year. The 888 samples examined show a further increase over the 849 samples examined last year. It is of interest to note that when this branch of analysis was first undertaken by the laboratory in 1948 thirty two samples were submitted by one Local Authority.

The results of the measurements made during the year are given in the following Tables which also give the corresponding figures for 1955 :

TABLE V

LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS.

<i>District</i>							<i>Average Sulphur Pollution</i> (mgm. SO_3 /100 sq. cm/day)	
							1955	1956
A	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.48	1.38
				2	...	...	2.30	2.90
				3	...	...	2.13	2.78
B	...	...	...	1	...	...	2.15	2.37
				2	...	...	1.50	1.80
				3	...	...	1.78	1.80
				4	...	...	2.34	1.72
				5	...	...	1.95	2.11
				6	...	...	2.80	2.61
C	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.65	1.84
				2	...	...	2.33	2.52
				3	...	...	1.47	1.61
D	...	...	...	1	...	...	3.27	2.74
				2	...	...	4.60	4.47
E	...	...	...	1	...	...	2.10	2.59
				2	...	...	2.21	2.08
				3	...	...	2.07	2.10
				4	...	...	2.30	3.09
				5	...	...	2.40	2.52
				6	...	...	2.93	3.30
				7	...	...	2.64	2.67
F	...	...	...	1	...	...	2.05	2.37
				2	...	...	2.26	2.39
G	...	...	...	A	...	...	1.59	1.61
				B	...	...	0.96	1.42
				C	...	...	2.29	2.67
				D	...	...	1.95	2.14
				E	...	...	1.91	1.82
				F	...	...	1.86	1.74
				G	...	...	1.18	1.67
				H	...	...	1.04	1.15
				I	...	...	1.72	1.70
				J	...	...	1.36	1.61
				K	...	...	1.27	1.45
				L	...	...	2.21	2.61
				N	...	...	1.23	1.83
				O	...	...	0.87	1.50

TABLE V—continued

Area	Site			Average Sulphur Pollution (mgm. SO ₂ /100 sq. cm/day)	
				1955	1956
H	...	...	1	1.99	2.38
			2	1.55	1.67
			3	2.05	2.16
I	...	...	1	0.72	0.80
			2	1.30	0.95

TABLE VI
RAINWATER DEPOSIT GAUGES.

Area	Gauge No.	Annual Rainfall (inches)		Annual Solid Deposit (tons/sq. mile)	
		1955	1956	1955	1956
A	D1445	22.83	24.61	156.9	165.6
	D1034	17.78	21.80	121.5	150.4
	D311	24.76	23.93	130.9	134.4
B	D150	22.27	20.47	155.0	169.3
	D312	26.05	20.41	227.0	190.3
C	D131	26.77	33.18	222.4	225.5
	D895	24.68	28.29	186.4	204.5
	D234	25.87	30.43	127.3	143.8
D	D353	23.87	20.81	215.8	194.7
	D354	23.81	21.63	172.6	173.9
E	D243	24.37	21.74	217.7	200.3
	D244	24.17	22.61	323.0	324.2
	D245	26.71	18.25	247.3	279.5
	D246	23.93	23.14	244.5	237.1
	D2033	—	18.81	—	374.8
F	D374	23.92	22.24	151.9	168.0
	D376	24.10	23.44	162.9	184.8
G	D349	20.09	18.62	102.3	175.9
	D350	18.96	20.73	159.7	141.9
	D351	17.72	22.96	87.0	110.3
	D352	22.86	24.70	124.5	160.8
	D1650	—	23.53	—	200.0
	D1881	—	24.66	—	149.8
H	D690	19.77	22.06	158.7	151.4
	D691	22.71	21.68	199.9	221.7
	D1330	21.19	21.45	464.8	546.7
I	D1387	27.33	26.34	114.7	107.6

N.B.—All results corrected to period of 12 months.

MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES.

The 116 samples in this Section are grouped as follows :—

(a) *Official Samples.*

Sixty samples are included in this group of which 31 consist of foods submitted, usually, on complaint. Nine samples of *Apples* were examined for toxic metals as a result of complaints that they were contaminated with spray residues. The amount of arsenic found varied from 0.5 to 1.1 parts per million while the lead present varied from 2.0 to 3.5 parts per million. Eight samples of various *Cooked Foods* were submitted from school kitchens for examination for metallic contamination. The analytical results did not suggest that the foods were contaminated to a harmful degree. One sample of *Bottled Milk*, one *Milk Bottle* and one of bottled *Orange Juice* were submitted with the complaint that the bottles were dirty. The milk bottle was quite clean except for a deposit of bird-droppings at the bottom of it. The filled milk bottle looked a little dirty when full but appeared reasonably clean after removal of the milk and a gentle rinsing. Such bottles develop scratched surfaces after much use and then look dirty, when full, against the background of milk although dirt, if any, is present in minute amounts only. The orange juice bottle was definitely dirty and the contents of the bottle contained suspended dirt. Four samples of *Bread* were examined for the presence of foreign matter. In one case the foreign matter consisted of a little charred flour while in another case it consisted of charred flour mixed with traces of rust, grease and a few cotton fibres. The third loaf included a fragment of what was almost certainly malt bread. The fourth loaf, by far the worst, contained in one part a mass of printed paper and, in another part, a piece of cotton fabric. Two samples of *Dried Milk* were found to contain particles of charred milk powder and a sample of *Weetabix* was also found to contain charred matter. Two samples of *Pickling Brine* were found to be free from suspected metallic contamination and a sample of *Chocolate* was also found to be free from such contamination though it had deteriorated slightly. Finally a sample of *High Ratio Flour* was submitted to a complete analysis and estimation of calorific value.

Twenty-one samples were examined for the County Health Department. Eight samples of *Herbage* had their fluoride content estimated in order to check the degree of contamination from a nearby factory. The amount of fluoride found varied from 15.3 to 111.8 parts per million of dry matter expressed as fluorine. Seven samples of *Liquid Detergents* were examined in order to ascertain their comparative value for washing-up purposes and proved something of a novelty since a method of testing had to be devised which raised the domestic process of washing-up to a reasonably sound scientific level. Six samples of *Hard Soap* were also examined in order to ascertain their comparative value and, for this product, well proved analytical methods are available.

Four samples were received from the County Surveyor's Department including three samples of *Anti-Freeze* for checking against specification and a sample of *Concrete* which had deteriorated.

The remaining four samples included two *Kettles* for identification of the deposits they contained, a sample of *Tartaric Acid* for confirmation of its identity and a sample of *Sewage Sludge* also submitted for identification.

(b) *Private Samples.*

Fifty-six samples comprise this group and include nineteen foods, eighteen waters and effluents and nineteen other samples of various kinds.

The *Foods* include 13 Sterilised Milks and one Bulk Milk from a factory where trouble was experienced in working a new type of sterilising plant. Two Ice Cream samples and one sample each of Beef Sausage and Pork Sausage were submitted by their makers for an analytical check on their manufacturing process. A loaf of Bread was sent in by a wholesaler for the identification of foreign matter present. This proved to be charred flour and not, as suspected, rodent excreta.

The fifteen Drinking Waters were of no particular interest, but the three Effluents in this group were suspected of containing cyanide and analysis proved that cyanide was present in toxic amounts.

Eleven of the remaining nineteen samples consisted of specimens connected with cases of animal poisoning. A Horse's Stomach was found to contain no poisons and the organs from a Fox were devoid of the strychnine suspected to be present. On the other hand the organs from a Dog did contain strychnine and specimens from four Heifers all contained cyanide.

Four samples of Paint were submitted by a local manufacturer to be tested for lead and two specimens of Urine were submitted for the estimation of alcohol content. The remaining samples were an animal Feeding Stuff and a piece of Copper Piping connected with one of the water samples examined.

MILK SUPPLY

During the year, the Department continued its work of endeavouring to ensure that all milk supplied in the administrative area reached the consumer in a clean and wholesome condition and free from disease-producing organisms.

Tables are given which show the number of samples of retail ("street") milk of the various grades which have been collected, while figures of samples taken during the year at schools, hospitals, institutions etc., in the County are given in separate paragraphs. The number of undesignated milk samples collected has further decreased as compared with the figure for 1955, showing the continued trend towards the elimination of undesignated milk from retail sale.

SPECIFIED AREAS.

One further area of the County was scheduled as a "Specified Area" during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956, which operated from 10th April, 1956. Under this Order the Rural District of Newcastle-under-Lyme was included as an area where only "specially-designated" milks may be sold. As the result of this Order, approximately 85% of the population of the Administrative County are now living in areas where only pasteurised, sterilised and tuberculin tested milks may be sold. Indeed only the central rural belt and the north-east corner of the County comprising the urban and rural districts of Stone and Uttoxeter, Stafford, Cheadle and Leek rural

districts, and the urban district of Leek, are now exempt from the provisions of these Orders. It is interesting to note that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated that as from 10th April, 1956, 81% of the population of England and Wales were residing in areas where only "specially designated" milk may be retailed. The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, are responsible for the enforcement of these Orders, except of course in the areas of those Authorities which are themselves Food and Drugs Authorities. Legal proceedings were instituted during the year in one case in which a retailer was found to be selling undesignated milk in a specified area where the particular Order had been in operation since 1st November, 1953. A fine of £5 was imposed and the defendant also had to find costs amounting to £2 7s. 9d. Thirteen other retailers and/or producers received warning notices of contraventions. In each case immediate steps were taken by the retailers or producers to remedy matters.

MILK PASTEURISING AND STERILISING PLANTS.

The County Council is responsible for the licensing and supervision of these plants within its "Foods and Drugs" area, and the plants and dairies are closely supervised and regular routine visits of inspection made for the purpose by the County Health Inspectors. At the end of the year four pasteurising and three sterilising licences were in operation and another dairy was preparing for the installation of milk pasteurising plant. The milk from these licensed dairies is, of course, subject to very frequent sampling in the course of the routine milk sampling which is described below. An additional control, as well as being very useful to the dairymen concerned, is the routine examination of washed bottles which is carried out by the Department. These tests are performed each month in order to show whether the bottle washing plant is working efficiently and producing bottles of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. When unsatisfactory results are obtained, steps are taken to ascertain the causes, and in some cases it is necessary to have plant overhauled, or even, in extreme cases, replaced.

MILK SAMPLING.

Samples of retail milk ("street milks") are taken by the Department throughout the administrative area, except in the areas of Authorities who are themselves Food and Drugs Authorities. The exception is the Municipal Borough of Rowley Regis, where the County Council staff, by arrangement, undertake milk sampling on their behalf and report the results to the Rowley Regis Health Department. The results of these samples are included in the figures given in the tables.

The samples of retail milk are subjected to appropriate tests. "Raw" milks are examined for cleanliness (the methylene blue test) and for the presence of the organisms of tuberculosis. Processed milks are also examined for cleanliness and in addition are tested for the efficiency of the pasteurising or sterilising process. For some time it has been the practice to submit a proportion of the samples of pasteurised milk to the test for the presence of tubercle bacilli, for check purposes. This was continued during the first quarter of 1956 and 25 samples were examined in this time and all proved negative. It was then decided that the guinea pigs used for this purpose could be used to better advantage in other ways and such examinations were therefore discontinued from the end of March.

The work of milk sampling is carried out throughout the administrative "Food and Drugs" area by two sampling officers, apart from occasional special samples which may be collected by the County Health Inspectors in the course of their duties.

Action taken upon the results of the samples is as follows :—

The results of all the retail samples are notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the districts where the milk was sampled. In the case of "raw" milks the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the County where the milk was produced is notified of unsatisfactory samples, since the responsibility for clean milk production rests upon these officers. Unfortunately no information is received in the Department as to action taken by them as a result of the notification of unsatisfactory samples. Unsatisfactory samples of heat-processed milks are dealt with by this Department if from pasteurising or sterilising plants licensed by the County Council. Otherwise, they are referred for action to the Medical Officer of Health of the Food and Drugs Authority concerned. All tubercular positive milk samples are reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and to the Medical Officers of Health of the Districts where the milk was produced and retailed. The Ministry's officers take steps to find the cow or cows which are secreting tubercle bacilli in their milk, and to have them slaughtered, while the Medical Officer of Health has powers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, to place restrictions upon the sale of such milk for human consumption.

The tables which follow show details of the samples collected, together with the results of the various tests applied thereto. The first table is a summary of all street milk samples collected. Those taken from schools and various institutions are dealt with separately in later paragraphs. So far as the cleanliness (methylene blue) test is concerned, some improvement is shown by all the grades of milk, and the overall figure of 93.7% satisfactory can be regarded as reasonably good. The continuing reduction in the proportion of ungraded milk samples contributes to the improvement in this overall figure. The results of the phosphatase test on pasteurised milk were again very good. The public has a right to expect a high degree of protection in the case of pasteurised milk, and it is therefore gratifying that only 15 phosphatase failures occurred out of 2,457 samples examined, i.e., in 99.4% of the samples the milk was shown to be adequately heat treated. It is further of some interest to note that none of the unsatisfactory samples was from a dairy licensed by the County Council.

UNDESIGNATED MILK SAMPLES.

The second table shows the number of undesignated milk samples collected in each of the sanitary districts of the Administrative Area, together with the results of the examinations. This table also shows how the districts are affected by the Specified Areas Orders.

BIOLOGICAL TESTING.

The total number of retail milk samples submitted to the biological test (i.e., for the detection of the organisms of tuberculosis) was 824. This shows a considerable reduction from the previous year (1,364), partly due to the decrease in the number of undesignated samples collected and partly due to the guinea pig supply position necessitating a reduction in the number of tuberculin-tested and pasteurised samples examined, compensated for by increased sampling at the farms (details of this work are given below). Of the 824 samples examined, 15 were found to be tubercular positive, as against 21 in 1955. From the 15 positive samples, 11 cows were found by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to be affected with tuberculosis and were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

Apart from the above biological examinations, 853 bulk samples of milk were taken at undesignated farms in the County and submitted to biological examination only, in accordance with the duty expressly laid upon County Councils by Section 31 and the Sixth Schedule of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Sixty-three of the samples were found to be positive and, as a result of the investigations which followed, 56 cows were found to be affected with tuberculosis and were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

During the year, 26 cases occurred where milk produced in Staffordshire had been sampled by outside Authorities, usually at large dairies where the milk was about to be processed, and had been reported as tubercular positive. These cases are handled by this Department and reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and also to the Medical Officer of Health of the District where the milk is produced. As a result of the investigations which followed 20 tubercular cows were found and slaughtered.

It will be seen that as a result of the various activities for the detection of Tuberculosis in milk, a total of 87 tubercular cows were detected and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. In other words these 87 animals which otherwise would probably not have been detected were eliminated as sources of tubercular milk and infectors of other animals.

INFORMAL FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

Not included in the tables of milk samples collected is a total of 1,117 samples collected by the sampling officers while visiting schools, school canteens, hospitals, etc., for informal examination under the Food and Drugs Act, i.e., for fat and non-fatty solids content. This work is carried out as an administrative convenience and the results are notified to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures. Thirteen samples were reported as unsatisfactory, as follows :—

<i>Undesignated Milk.</i>	1 sample deficient in fat and solids-not-fat.
	1 „ „ „ fat.
<i>Tuberculin-tested.</i>	2 samples deficient in fat.
<i>Pasteurised.</i>	8 samples deficient in fat.
	1 sample containing added water.

PRESENCE OF HYPOCHLORITES IN MILK.

Examinations for the presence of hypochlorite residuals in milk were continued during the year under review. A total of 241 samples was examined, as follows, but in no case was any positive evidence found :—

Tuberculin-tested milks	...	...	...	106
„ „ (Channel Island) milks	...	...	...	42
„ „ (Pasteurised) milks	...	...	...	18
Pasteurised milks	...	...	...	58
Sterilised „	...	...	...	17
Total	...	...	...	241

This is a considerable increase on the previous year's total (127) and a special effort was made to cover all farm-bottled milks, but the results indicate that care is being taken generally to ensure that traces of hypochlorite do not remain in milk bottles after washing.

The following is a summary of all the samples of milk collected by the Department during the year :—

Retail (" Street ") Milks	...	...	...	4,458
Schools...	...	...	...	951
Institutions, School Canteens, etc.	...	...	...	556
Sampling at farms (for biological test only)	...	...	...	853
" Food and Drugs " samples	...	...	...	1,117
" Hypochlorite " samples	...	...	...	241
Total	...	...	...	8,176

The number of street milks collected is tending to fall year by year as the operation of Specified Areas Orders has the effect of reducing the number of different milk supplies being sold. During 1956, however, considerably more work was done on sampling at the farms for the detection of tuberculosis in cows.

**SUMMARY OF "STREET" MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED (i.e. EXCLUDING SAMPLES FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS)
1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1956**

Grade of Milk	Total samples taken	Methylene Blue Test (for Cleanliness)		Phosphatase Test (for correct pasteurisation)		Turbidity Test (for Sterilised milk)		Biological Test (for presence of Tuberculosis)	
		Submitted	Result	% 1956	% 1955	Submitted	Result	Submitted	Positive
Undesignated ..	*428	427	Passed 328 Failed 99	76.8	71.3	—	—	414	15
" Tuberculin-tested "	874	874	Passed 789 Failed 85	90.3	89.4	—	—	385	Nil
" Tuberculin-tested (Pasteurised) " ..	1,198	†1,197	Passed 1167 Failed 30	97.5	97.4	2457	Passed 2442 Failed 15	—	—
" Pasteurised " ..	1,259	†1,258	Passed 1234 Failed 24	98.1	97.7	—	—	25	Nil
" Sterilised " ..	691	—	—	—	—	691	Satisfactory	—	—
" T.T. Sterilised " ...	8	—	—	—	—	8%	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	4,458	3,756	Passed 3518 Failed 238	93.7	90.8	699	Satisfactory	824	15

NOTE.—Of the 414 samples of undesignated milk submitted to the biological test, 26 were from Urban Districts, of which all were Negative, and 388 were from Rural Districts, of which 15, or 3.9% were Positive.

*One sample of undesignated milk was submitted to the biological test only.

†One sample of " T.T. Pasteurised " and one sample of " Pasteurised " milk were declared void on the methylene blue test owing to high atmospheric shade temperature on the date sampled.

UNDESIGNATED MILK SAMPLES
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1956

Sanitary District	No. of Samples Submitted	RESULT OF EXAMINATION			T.B.		
		CLEANLINESS			Sub- mitted	Posi- tive	% Positive
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	% Unsatis- factory			
URBAN :							
*Aldridge ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Amblecote ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Biddulph ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Bilston ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Brownhills ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Coseley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Darlaston ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Kidsgrove ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leek ..	19	13	6	31.6	17	—	—
*Lichfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Rowley Regis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Rugeley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Sedgley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stone ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
*Tamworth ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Tettenhall ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Tipton ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ..	9	6	3	33.3	9	—	—
*Wednesbury ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Wednesfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Willenhall ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL :							
*Cannock ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheadle ..	154	127	27	17.5	152	6	3.9
Leek ..	115	84	31	27.0	112	3	2.7
*Lichfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
§Newcastle ..	8	7	1	12.5	6	—	—
*Seisdon ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Stafford ..	22	15	7	31.8	22	—	—
Stone ..	57	46	11	19.3	55	3	5.5
*Tutbury ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ..	42	29	13	31.0	41	3	7.3
Totals ..	427	328	99	23.2	414	15	3.6

* Specified Area during whole of year under review.

§ Specified Area as from 10/4/56.

† One parish only included within a Specified Area.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

At 31st December, 1956, the position regarding the supply of milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme to the various schools in the Administrative Area (excluding Newcastle Excepted District) was as follows :—

Type of Milk	Schools sampled by Staffs. C.C.		Schools sampled by Food & Drugs Authorities (Brierley Hill U.D., Cannock U.D., Stafford M.B.)	No. of children supplied (figures from the Education Dept.)	
	No. of suppliers	No. of schools supplied		Total	As % of total
Pasteurised ...	40	522	90	101,176	99.63
Tuberculin-tested ...	13	14	Nil	323	0.32
Undesignated ...	3	3	Nil	55	0.05
Totals ...	56	539	90	101,554	—

Only one school was without a supply of liquid milk at the end of the year, probably the lowest number since the inception of the scheme.

During the last quarter of the year the milk supplied to non-maintained schools was brought under the sampling scheme. A total of 40 such schools was involved. Of these, 39 received pasteurised milk from 23 different suppliers and one school received tuberculin tested milk. Figures supplied by the Education Department show that at the end of the year 2,900 children in these schools were receiving pasteurised milk and 71 tuberculin-tested milk. None received undesignated milk.

All the supplies are subject to the approval of the County Medical Officer and normally a supply of pasteurised milk is insisted upon if it can be obtained. Failing this, a supply of Tuberculin-tested milk is obtained whenever possible. It will be seen from the above table that the number of children not receiving pasteurised milk is a very small percentage of the total.

School milk supplies are sampled as a routine twice a term after delivery to the schools. Raw milks (i.e., Tuberculin-tested and undesignated) are examined bacteriologically (for cleanliness) and biologically (for the presence of disease organisms). Pasteurised milks are subjected to the phosphatase test (for efficient pasteurisation) and the methylene blue test (for cleanliness). The number of samples collected at schools during 1956 was 951. Of these, 23 failed to conform with the required standard of cleanliness. This is again an improvement on the figures for 1955, when 32 failed out of a total of 1,029 samples. In the case of unsatisfactory samples of raw milks, the supplier and/or producer are notified, also the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and repeat samples are taken. When considered necessary the producer's premises are also visited by the County Sanitary Staff. If no improvement is then forthcoming it is recommended to the Director of Education that the supply of milk from such source is stopped, and attempts are made to obtain a supply from a source which can be approved.

During the year, 854 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test, and all the samples passed the test, an excellent result which beats all previous records. Unsatisfactory samples of pasteurised milk processed in the Administrative County (excluding areas of Food and Drugs Authorities) are investigated by the County Health Inspectors whether the test failed is the phosphatase test or the methylene blue test. In other cases the sample failures are reported to the Medical Officer of Health of the licensing authority concerned for appropriate action.

Of the school milk samples, 49 were submitted to the biological test, but no positives were found. These figures reflect the continued trend towards the elimination of "raw" school milk supplies, and it is pleasing to note that no sample has been found to contain pathogenic organisms since 1953. The number of positives in recent years has been as follows :—

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
5	3	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

GENERAL.

Apart from milk sampling undertaken under the foregoing heads, sampling was also carried out during the year at certain private schools, hospitals, sanatoria, institutions and school canteens.

Of 556 samples collected, 22 were unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint. Five hundred samples were submitted to the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation and 4 of these were found to be unsatisfactory. These figures are an improvement on last year, when there were 37 failures on the methylene blue test out of 505 samples collected, and 13 failures on the phosphatase test out of 439 samples examined.

The samples which failed were dealt with appropriately.

Thirty-eight samples were submitted to the biological test and all were reported negative.

HOUSING.

In order to get an overall picture of the housing position in the County during the year, a questionnaire was addressed to all District Medical Officers of Health. Tables 1, 2 and 3 are drawn up showing the position in the districts of those who replied.

It should be noted that the tables show the work done in 1956 and therefore are not truly indicative of the work done over a period; nevertheless, they do show that some districts are more active than others in this respect.

Table 1. Improvement Grants. The table shows the number of houses which have been dealt with is comparatively small, particularly so in the industrial areas. It is also noticeable that houses which have been improved are, in the main, owner-occupied; tenanted houses have received much less attention. (Some difference in the figures of applications received and those given grants is accounted for by a number of applications being still under consideration.)

Table 2. Also shows a marked difference in the work done by the various districts and the reluctance to have work done under the Housing Act. Incidentally, work done under the Public Health Act is mainly for very minor repairs and cannot be regarded as any real contribution towards solving the problem of unfit houses.

Table 3. Gives an indication of the problems facing each local authority and what progress has been made towards overcoming the same.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, AS AMENDED BY HOUSING RENTS AND REPAIRS ACT, 1954

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

TABLE I.

District	No. of Applications			Number granted		Total value of work involved	Total value of Grants
	Dealt with	No. of houses involved	Refused	Withdrawn	Owner-Occupiers	Others	
<i>Boroughs:</i>							£ s. d.
Bilston	4	4	—	—	4	—	510 0 0
Lichfield	10	13	1	3	4	2	862 0 0
Newcastle	101	101	14	—	39	24	Not recorded
Rowley Regis	44	66	7	2	36	8	15,020 0 0
Stafford	35	35	2	1	29	3	8,780 0 0
Tamworth	8	8	2	—	6	—	412 0 0
Tipton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wedgebury	{ Received 16 Passed 11 Pending 4	17 12 4	1	1	9	2	{ 2,316 0 0 Applications Approved Actual Grants made
<i>Urban Districts:</i>							
Aldridge	13	13	1	2	4	—	668 0 0
Ambecote	2	2	—	1	1	—	180 0 0
Biddulph	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brierley Hill	29	29	1	1	23	4	9,584 0 0
Brownhills	17	17	2	—	14	1	4,041 0 0
Cannock	34	41	—	—	30	11	8,046 0 0
Coseley	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
Darlaston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidsgrove	22	22	2	1	20	2	2,712 0 0
Leek	33	34	1	1	29	2	21,856 0 0

TABLE I—continued.

District	No. of Applications				Number granted		Total value of work involved £ s. d.	Total value of Grants £ s. d.
	Dealt with	No. of houses involved	Refused	Withdrawn	Owner-Occupiers	Others		
Urban Districts (Continued) :								
Rugeley ...	5	10	1	—	3	6	2,699 0 0	1,187 0 0
Sedgley ...	9	9	—	—	4	5	2,556 0 0	1,278 0 0
Stone ...	21	21	—	—	11	10	5,995 0 0	2,951 0 0
Tettenhall ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	12	11	1	—	10	1	2,886 0 9	1,325 7 1
Wednesfield ...	13	14	—	5	8	—	3,162 0 0	793 0 0
Willenhall ...	9	9	1	1	7	—	2,049 0 0	1,024 0 0
Rural Districts :								
Cannock ...	43	54	1	—	21	32	24,257 0 0	11,377 0 0
Cheadle ...	32	32	6	1	25	—	21,666 0 0	6,719 0 0
Leek ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lichfield ...	18	22	—	—	9	9	12,385 0 0	5,388 0 0
Newcastle ...	27	29	2	1	20	4	14,505 0 0	5,079 0 0
Seisdon ...	32	45	2	—	8	22	25,189 0 0	11,045 0 0
Stafford ...	30	49	2	2	35	7	30,582 0 0	12,356 0 0
Stone ...	26	31	1	1	12	17	17,942 0 0	7,576 0 0
Tutbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	58	58	2	—	28	24	24,249 1 3	9,291 14 4

TABLE II.

[illegible]

TABLE III.
HOUSING—POSITION AT 31.12.56

District	Popn. (Mid 1955 est.)	Houses in dis- trict	Fit for habit- ation	In need of minor repairs	In need of recon- ditioning	Requir- ing de- moli- tion	To replace those re- quiring demoli- tion and relieve over- crowding	De- molished during year	Con- verted into flats	Houses erected during year		Houses under con- struction at end of year		Houses constructed since 1945		Applicants on Housing List at end of year
										Council	Private	Council	Private	Council	Private	
<i>Boroughs:</i> Bilston ...	33,830	14,044	approx. 1,185	approx. 11,000	approx. 350	1,509	2,741	94	Nil	200	14	183	Nil	2,057	271	1,815
Lichfield ...	10,930	3,289 excl. combined business premises	2,650	150 approx.	180	160	160	None	None	17	25	54	20	671	211	490
Newcastle ...	71,220	23,701	21,250 (including houses in Col. 6)	Unknown	7,500 estimated	1,291	1,320 estimated	93	<i>Council</i> Nil <i>Private</i> Unknown	361	135	352	114	4,060	1,286 incl. 544 Nat. Coal Board	1,568
Rowley Regis ...	49,180	14,694	—	Not Known	—	705	778	31	—	150	95	240	75	147 prefabs 1,763	847	2,000 approx.
Stafford ...	41,220	12,254	11,639 approx.	—	at least 269	346	615	72	Nil	144	210	311	Not known	2,366	847	1,188
Tamworth ...	13,350	4,180	3,719	—	—	461	461	15	4	37	9	11	7	874	92	442 Borough Residents 394 Outside Borough Residents
Tipton ...	} Returns not yet received	not yet	received	—	52 (Per Secs. 11 & 25 Housing Act)	203 ††	204	22	3	244	747	204	556	1,335	1,982	1,025
Wednesbury ...																
<i>Urban Districts:</i> Aldridge ...	33,100	10,264	—	—	—	203 ††	204	22	3	244	747	204	556	1,335	1,982	1,025
Amblecote ...	3,150	973	903 (includes houses in Col. 6)	—	450 (Estimated)	70	70	One	Nil	Nil	Nil	One	One	128	15	85

HOUSING—TABLE III (continued)

District	Popn. (Mid 1955 est.)	Houses in dis- trict	Fit for habit- ation	In need of minor repairs	In need of recon- ditioning	Requir- ing de- moli- tion	To replace those re- quiring demoli- tion and relieve over- crowding	De- molished during year	Con- verted into flats	Houses erected during year		Houses under con- struction at end of year		Houses constructed since 1945		Applicants on Housing List at end of year
										Council	Private	Council	Private	Council	Private	
Biddulph	12,640	4,074	3,965	No estimate	74	35	30 approx.	5	Nil	60	35	16	15	722	620	230
Brierley Hill	49,740	15,038	—	—	—	839 Housing Survey 269 orders operative	1,150 estimated	22	—	172	323	180	202	2,566	1,075	2,430
Brownhills	21,880	6,290	—Not	Known	—	689	—	45	—	218	134	287	172	984 Traditional 134 Prefabs	—	550
Cannock	41,730	11,498 + 418 houses & shops	?	?	?	674	689	41	—	68	31	85	48	1,131 1,495	342 287	1,981
Coseley	33,420	9,912	7,589	No estimates available	—	323	2,000 approx.	37	—	182	174	102	285	1,793	668	1,525
Darlaston	Return	not yet received	2,500	1,000	500	1,500 (Estimated in 1953)	1,900	33	Nil	88	90	50	6	1,194 + N.C.B. + English Electric 50	289 450	250 estimated
Kids Grove	17,790	5,500	—Estimated	—	—	60	(D) 60 (O) 50	6	Nil	17	18	22	12	391	831	268
Leek	Return	not yet received	2,707	330	310	—	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rugeley	11,120	3,407	2,707	330	310	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING—TABLE III (continued)

District	Popn. (Mid 1955 est.)	Houses in dis- trict	Fit for habit- ation	In need of minor repairs	In need of recon- ditioning	Requir- ing de- moli- tion	To replace those re- quiring demoli- tion and relieve over- crowding	De- molished during year	Con- verted into flats	Houses erected during year		Houses under con- struction at end of year		Houses constructed since 1945		Applicants on Housing List at end
										Council	Private	Council	Private	Council	Private	
Sedgley ...	24,130	7,305	Not known		Nil	52	52	20	Nil	261	142	58	188	1,379	492	938
Stone ...	8,710	2,764	200	200	250 + 100 ex- cess bath- rooms	70	78	26 + 14 closed	Nil	71	2	35	6	439	57	325
Tettenhall...	Return	not yet	Received						Nil	72	4	34	4	424	59	183
Uttoxeter ...	7,580	2,500	459	40	600	91	91	6	—	522	113	486	60	3,001	630	486
Wednesfield ...	21,500	6,000	Estimated	Estimated	129	466	500	69	—	{ By Wolverhampton Corporation overspill 100		176		620		
Willenhall ...	31,100	9,064 approx.	No information	No information		1,000	1,500	24	Nil	224	112	268	150	1,369	382	1,475
Rural Districts : Cannock ...	25,110	7,159	1,140 Estimated	5,923	6 Est.	110	110 accurate fig. for over-crowding not available	9	—	69	100	86	67	849	Not available	1,002
Cheadle ...	34,420	11,037	—	—	—	265	—	11	—	50	162	27	111	1,083	1,057	819
Leek ...	17,613	4,959	3,008	3,008	177	496	—	Nil	Nil	58 + 78 N.C.B.	161	—	92	238 + 380 N.C.B.	492	114 + applicants living outside district
Lichfield ...	42,580	11,000 approx.	7,600	1,500 Estimated	1,600	262 per Councils 5 year programme	262 No fig. for over-crowding	9	2	97	75	60	131	1,682	402	707

HOUSING—TABLE III (continued)

District	Popn. (Mid 1955 est.)	Houses in dis- trict	Fit for habit- ation	In need of minor repairs	In need of recon- ditioning	Requir- ing de- moli- tion	To replace these re- quiring demoli- tion and relieve over- crowding	De- molished during year	Con- verted into flats	Houses erected during year		Houses under con- struction at end of year		Houses constructed since 1945		Applicants on Housing List at end
										Council	Private	Council	Private	Council	Private	
<i>Rural Districts—cont.</i>																
Newcastle ...	17,650	5,520	2,489	1,241	1,464	326	376	5	Nil	10	38	38	17	564 (100 N.C.B.)	212	442
Seisdon ...	26,220	9,248	8,555	450 Esti- mated	16	227	143	9	Nil	312	357	164	618	2,006	1,553	760
Stafford ...	19,510	4,914 (Includes 661 farm houses which are not classified)	1,528	1,090	334 Major repair 842	459*	360 approx.	5	Nil	45	44	41	26	475	250	263
Stone ...	16,730	4,563	3,714	438	275	136	185	10	Nil	60	40	78	34	622	246	438
Tutbury ...	Return not yet received															
Uttoxeter ...	11,150	2,870	1,200	614	864	192	192	Nil	Nil	Nil	8	Nil	3	394	94	199

* Some may be saved at unreasonable cost.

†† Under confirmed clearance orders operative demolition orders awaiting confirmation of Ministry.

WATER SUPPLIES, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

For the financial year 1956/57 a sum of £59,654 was contributed by the County Council to District Councils towards the cost of water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

Details of schemes considered by the Health Department during 1956 for grants or loans under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944 and 1951, or the Public Health Act, 1936, are listed below.

In all, during the year, schemes of water supply estimated to cost £137,906 and schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal estimated to cost £435,294 were submitted to the Department for consideration.

WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Cheadle Rural District.

Bottom Houses—Winkhill—Ipstones Edge area.

The scheme, estimated to cost £44,200, to supply water in a sparsely populated area where properties were also widely scattered was very costly from the point of view of cost per dwelling.

Nevertheless, since there is a need for water and if the need is to be met at all, the cost will inevitably be high. The scheme was recommended for approval in principle.

Blore with Swinscoe—Mains extension.

This scheme was an amended scheme of one approved by the County Council in November, 1953. The estimated cost was £23,000; as in the previous scheme the cost per property was high, nevertheless it was recommended for approval for similar reasons.

Seisdon Rural District.

Lutley Lane, Enville.

The scheme, estimated to cost £5,797, was for a mains extension to supply four farms and one farm cottage, but was not recommended for approval.

Four Ashes, Enville.

A scheme to provide a mains extension at a cost of £11,793 was approved in principle.

Six Ashes, Bobbington.

A scheme to provide an extension costing £3,290 was recommended for approval in principle.

Patshull Estate.

A scheme, estimated to cost £6,200, was reviewed, but no recommendation was made by the end of the year.

Stone Rural District—Water mains extension to Summerhill, Coton Hayes and Milwich areas.

This scheme, estimated to cost £34,626, was later withdrawn by the Rural District Council.

Uttoxeter Rural District—Alders Brook.

A small mains extension, estimated to cost £900, was recommended for approval.

SCHEMES OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Aldridge Urban District.

A new sewer to relieve flooding in the Leighswood Road area at Aldridge was recommended for approval at an estimated cost of £983. The existing sewer was of insufficient capacity and the scheme was the first stage of a scheme to improve the surface water drainage in the area.

Bilston M.B.—Ettingshall Resewerage Scheme.

This scheme, the capital cost of which was £62,719, was to replace old sewers of insufficient capacity, to relieve flooding and to enable housing development to proceed and was recommended for approval.

Rowley Regis M.B.

A scheme, estimated to cost £8,311, to provide a foul and surface water sewer in Darbys Hill Road and Oakham Road was recommended for approval. The provision of the foul sewer enabled a number of existing dumb wells and cesspools to be abolished and land was opened up for development.

Another scheme to lay a surface water sewer and a foul sewer to relieve flooding and to save the need for sewage pumping in the Codsall area was recommended for approval. The estimated cost was £28,900.

Stone Urban District.

A scheme to provide extra sludge drying beds was recommended for approval after suggestions from this Department to improve the efficiency of the proposed beds had been agreed by the Stone Urban District Council. The estimated cost was £3,737.

Tettenhall Urban District.

A scheme, estimated to cost £137,000, to provide a new sewage disposal works was recommended for approval. This scheme amended an earlier scheme considered by the Health Committee in 1951. The earlier scheme envisaged the new works to be built on the site of the existing works. Since then the flow has increased so much that it would be difficult to deal with it while building work was going on. Furthermore, since a new outfall sewer will also be required to supplement the existing overloaded sewer a site much nearer Tettenhall has been chosen thereby decreasing the length of new sewer required.

Cannock Rural District.

Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley sewer extensions.

The scheme to provide sewer extensions to serve existing properties and future development at New House Road, Cheslyn Hay, Norton Lane and Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, at an estimated cost of £3,395 was recommended for approval.

Shareshill and Little Saredon.

The scheme was to provide sewerage facilities for the villages of Shareshill and Little Saredon at an estimated cost of £16,765. Sewage was to be disposed of by pumping it to the Wolverhampton sewage disposal works at Coven.

The scheme was recommended for approval, but with the observation that the Little Saredon section could be classed as desirable rather than necessary.

Cheadle Rural District—Sewer connections to the Blythe Valley trunk sewer in the Upper Tean, Lower Tean and Checkley areas.

This scheme, estimated to cost £45,250, provided for various connections to the Blythe Valley trunk sewer from a number of villages and hamlets not at present sewered. The scheme was in the main recommended for approval, but one or two sections which were not considered urgent or were very costly were classed as desirable rather than necessary.

Newcastle Rural District—Loggerheads.

A scheme providing for the sewerage of the Loggerheads area and the replacement of the existing disposal works which were badly overloaded and only dealt with a small section of the area was recommended for approval. The estimated cost was £36,450.

Seisdon Rural District—Wombourne sewage disposal works extensions, Trysull and Seisdon sewerage.

The scheme amended an earlier scheme considered by the Health Committee in 1954.

The amended scheme, estimated to cost £98,000 for the sewage disposal works extensions and £55,500 for the sewers, was to deal with a larger population than that provided for in the original scheme (12,750 population as against 10,520) and was the result of consultation between the Seisdon Rural District Council officials, their consulting engineers and the County Health and Planning Departments.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

Stafford Rural District.

Hyde Lea.

This scheme amended an earlier scheme due to the re-aligning of the sewer to avoid gas and water pipes in the road and also to open up more land. The estimated cost was £8,236 and the scheme was recommended for approval in principle. The scheme was to provide sewerage facilities in the Hyde Lea area by the provision of sewers linking up to the Stafford Borough sewer.

Woodseaves.

The scheme, estimated to cost £11,505, was to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for the village, the bulk of which—apart from Council houses—was unsewered. The two small Council houses disposal works would be abandoned and the whole of the sewage would be dealt with at one works. The scheme was recommended for approval.

Stone Rural District.

Yarnfield.

A scheme to provide sewers and a small sewage disposal plant for the village at an estimated cost of £3,883 was recommended for approval.

Meir Heath and Stallington.

This was an amended scheme from one considered in 1952. The amended scheme, estimated to cost £26,180, was the result of suggestions by this Department that some economies might be made on the original scheme which was estimated to cost £30,300.

The scheme was recommended for approval with the suggestion that a small extra length of sewer should be included to deal with a small group of houses for which provision had not been made.

Tutbury Rural District—Barton-under-Needwood sewage disposal.

This was again an amended scheme to deal with a population of 2,496 in lieu of an earlier scheme dealing with a population of 1,950. The present scheme provided for the sewage works to be built on a different site from the 1951 scheme. Included in the scheme were certain lengths of new sewer and the estimated cost of the whole was £37,960 ; it was recommended for approval.

MINISTRY INQUIRIES AND VISITS OF INSPECTION REGARDING SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES OR SCHEMES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Eight such visits were made during the year, at all of which the Department was represented :—

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>8th February.</i> | <i>Newcastle R.D.</i> Visit of Inspection by Ministry of Housing and Local Government Engineering Inspector regarding the Audley and Madeley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. |
| <i>16th May.</i> | <i>Aldridge U.D.</i> Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inquiry regarding the Aldridge and Lichfield R.D. joint Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. |
| <i>31st May.</i> | <i>Cannock R.D.</i> Inquiry into the Wheaton Aston Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. |
| <i>2nd June.</i> | <i>Stafford R.D.</i> Visit of Inspection—Great Bridgeford Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. |
| <i>26th July.</i> | <i>Tettenhall U.D.</i> Ministry Inquiry regarding proposed new disposal works. |
| <i>10th August.</i> | <i>Cheadle R.D.</i> Ministry Inquiry regarding the Blore-with-Swinscoe Water Scheme. |
| <i>6th November.</i> | <i>Tutbury R.D.</i> Ministry Inquiry regarding Barton-under-Needwood Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. |
| <i>8th November.</i> | <i>Leek R.D.</i> Visit of Inspection regarding Light Oaks and Brown Edge Sewerage Schemes. |

All sewage disposal works in respect of which the County Council are paying grants towards the cost continue to be visited and samples of effluent taken by the County Health Inspectors in order to ensure the works are being properly maintained.

Other sewage disposal works are also visited from time to time.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following statistics relate to the notifiable infectious diseases amongst the home population during the calendar year 1956. On reference to the tables at the end of the Report the numbers and death-rates for each Sanitary District will be found.

SMALLPOX.—No case of Smallpox was notified in 1956. The last cases recorded were in 1947, when an outbreak occurred in the south of the County, mainly in Bilston.

SCARLET FEVER.—There was again a decrease in the incidence of this disease, 551 cases having been notified, compared with 627 in 1955 and 895 in 1954. In the Urban Districts there were 432 cases and in the Rural Districts 119, as against 467 and 160 respectively in the previous year. The case-rates per thousand of the population were :—Urban Districts 0.64, Rural Districts 0.52, with a total County Rate of 0.61, whilst that for England and Wales was 0.74. The corresponding rates for 1955 were 0.70, 0.71, 0.70 and 0.73 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA.—There was a decrease in the incidence of this disease, for 5 notifications were made, compared with 29 in the previous year. In the Urban Districts there were 3 cases, as against 10, and in the Rural Districts 2 as against 19. The total case-rate was 0.01, whilst that for England and Wales was 0.00, as against 0.03, and 0.00 respectively in the previous year.

No deaths occurred.

In 1955 there were two deaths from this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Four notifications of enteric fever were made during the year as against six in 1955. All cases were of paratyphoid and occurred in Urban Districts.

Of the six cases notified in 1955 (two of typhoid and four of paratyphoid) four (including the two cases of typhoid) occurred in Urban Districts.

The 1956 case-rates for the country as a whole, for typhoid and paratyphoid, were 0.00 and 0.01 per thousand of the population respectively, the Staffordshire rates being nil and 0.00.

MEASLES.—During the period, 1,969 notifications were made, which indicates an appreciable decrease, for the corresponding figure for 1955 was 13,610. One thousand two hundred and ninety-six cases occurred in Urban and 673 in Rural Districts, compared with 10,623 and 2,987 in the previous year. The 1956 case-rates for the County and England and Wales were 2.18 and 3.59 as against 15.29 and 15.61 in 1955.

No deaths occurred. There were seven deaths in 1955.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There was an increase in the number of notifications, 2,310 being made in 1956, as compared with 1,057 in 1955. In the Urban Districts there were 1,814 as against 848, whilst the corresponding figures for the Rural Districts were 496 and 209. The case-rate for the County was 2.56 and for England and Wales, 2.07.

There were five deaths during the year. In 1955 there were no deaths due to this cause.

DYSENTERY.—Seven hundred and twenty-six notifications were made in 1956 as compared with 374 in 1955, 879 in 1954 and 54 in 1953. Twenty-eight of the 35 Sanitary Districts were affected, but in four instances, viz., Sedgley U.D., Tamworth M.B., Tettenhall U.D. and Willenhall U.D., single cases only were notified.

Cases notified in other districts were as follows :—Aldridge U.D. 24, Amblecote U.D. 2, Bilston M.B. 19, Brierley Hill U.D. 3, Brownhills U.D. 182, Cannock U.D. 19, Darlaston U.D. 3, Kidsgrove U.D. 10, Leek U.D. 5, Lichfield M.B. 20, Newcastle M.B. 120, Rowley Regis M.B. 4, Rugeley U.D. 7, Stafford M.B. 91, Tipton M.B. 32, Uttoxeter U.D. 40, Wednesbury M.B. 21, Cheadle R.D. 19, Lichfield R.D. 26, Newcastle R.D. 20, Seisdon R.D. 4, Stafford R.D. 14, Stone R.D. 12 and Uttoxeter R.D. 25.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS, ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS, MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.—New regulations designed to replace former legislation were brought into operation on the 1st January, 1950. They introduced nomenclature consistent with the international standard classification of diseases and slightly extended the scope of clinical conditions notifiable under the head of acute encephalitis.

Thirty-two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, compared with 45 in 1955, 22 occurring in Urban and 10 in Rural Districts. Five cases of Acute Encephalitis were notified as against two in the previous year. One death occurred in an Urban District. There was no death in 1955.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.—The response of the public has been encouraging, 27,716 consents having been received for the vaccination of children born between the years 1947-54 (the years laid down by the Ministry).

Sufficient vaccine was provided by the Ministry for the vaccinations of some 2,600 children born in the months of November, 1947-54 and March, 1951-54 with August, 1947-54, as a reserve month.

Fifteen notifications of Meningococcal Infection (10 in 8 Urban areas and 5 in 3 Rural Districts) were made during 1956, compared with 19 in 1955. Three deaths occurred (two in Urban Districts). In the previous year there were four deaths.

The deaths from non-notifiable infectious diseases were as follows :

GASTRITIS, ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA.—Five deaths occurred in Urban Districts and three in Rural Districts in children under one year of age, the death-rates being 0.45 and 0.82 respectively, per thousand live births. The figures for 1955 were 13, 1, 1.27 and 0.30 respectively.

INFLUENZA.—In 1956 there were 45 deaths in Urban and 15 in Rural Districts, as compared with 66 and 19 respectively, in 1955.

The number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases, with the deaths, in the Administrative County during 1956 are as follows :—

Diseases	Notifications		Deaths	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Smallpox	—	—	*	*
Scarlet Fever	432	119	*	*
Diphtheria	3	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	4	—	*	*
Measles	1296	673	—	—
Whooping Cough	1814	496	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	32	6	*	*
Erysipelas	40	30	*	*
Meningococcal Infection	10	5	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	10	5	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	12	5		
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	2	—		
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	2	1	227	73
Pneumonia	297	84		
Dysentery	606	120	*	*

* Not classified in Registrar-General's Return

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows new cases of tuberculosis, including primary notifications and cases which came to notice, otherwise than by formal notification, and deaths from the disease, classified according to age and sex :—

1956				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
AGE PERIODS				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	..	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	..	..	..	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
2—	..	..	..	12	11	2	5	—	—	—	—
5—	..	..	..	8	8	4	3	—	—	—	—
10—	..	..	..	9	7	3	1	—	—	—	—
15—	..	..	..	28	49	6	4	4	4	—	—
20—	..	..	..	27	43	6	3	—	—	—	—
25—	..	..	..	58	59	4	4	13	12	2	—
35—	..	..	..	42	36	3	3	—	—	—	—
45—	..	..	..	68	18	—	1	41	9	2	—
55—	..	..	..	56	11	1	1	—	—	—	—
65—	..	..	..	21	2	1	1	15	1	—	—
75 and upwards	..	..	..	4	4	—	—	2	3	1	—
Totals	..	..	..	336	251	31	26	75	29	6	—

During 1956, 104 deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 from other forms of this disease, the death-rates being 0.12 and 0.01 respectively. The corresponding rates for 1955 were 0.09 and 0.01.

The table which follows shows the death-rates in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County from 1914 :—

YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION			
	Phthisis		Other forms of Tuberculosis	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1914	0.89	0.54	0.31	0.20
1915	0.94	0.67	0.34	0.29
1916	1.01	0.80	0.40	0.29
1917	1.01	0.74	0.34	0.31
1918	1.03	0.88	0.31	0.28
1919	0.83	0.61	0.22	0.30
1920	0.75	0.56	0.30	0.21
1921	0.80	0.53	0.23	0.21
1922	0.80	0.55	0.24	0.17
1923	0.75	0.58	0.25	0.22
1924	0.73	0.58	0.22	0.20
1925	0.83	0.49	0.22	0.14
1926	0.74	0.50	0.22	0.11
1927	0.73	0.44	0.21	0.22
1928	0.64	0.48	0.14	0.13
1929	0.76	0.54	0.15	0.12
1930	0.72	0.54	0.15	0.13
1931	0.78	0.52	0.17	0.13
1932	0.64	0.42	0.16	0.14
1933	0.72	0.50	0.14	0.08
1934	0.67	0.43	0.11	0.16
1935	0.67	0.35	0.13	0.08
1936	0.53	0.34	0.11	0.08
1937	0.60	0.41	0.13	0.11
1938	0.56	0.29	0.13	0.11
1939	0.52	0.35	0.09	0.11
1940	0.51	0.29	0.11	0.06
1941	0.57	0.33	0.16	0.14
1942	0.52	0.34	0.13	0.10
1943	0.55	0.29	0.11	0.07
1944	0.52	0.25	0.10	0.07
1945	0.56	0.22	0.11	0.09
1946	0.49	0.28	0.08	0.06
1947	0.47	0.28	0.09	0.07
1948	0.51	0.33	0.07	0.05
1949	0.45	0.22	0.06	0.03
1950	0.39	0.20	0.06	0.06
1951	0.37	0.12	0.05	0.04
1952	0.27	0.07	0.04	0.04
1953	0.19	0.10	0.04	0.00
1954	0.18	0.13	0.04	0.03
1955	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.01
1956	0.13	0.07	0.01	0.00

NOTIFICATION.

The following are particulars of the primary notifications made from 1918 :—

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
856	699	642	929	971	1029	974	1232	1400	1106	1194	1017	1021	1129
1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1074	1011	929	825	831	858	789	726	669	788	830	841	798	769
1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956			
775	813	852	837	807	901	805	958	808	696	623			

The following table gives particulars of primary notifications of tuberculosis notified in the Administrative County each year since 1918, together with the case rates per 1,000 of the estimated population. Only from 1946 is it possible to divide these figures to show numbers of respiratory and non-respiratory notifications, and the appropriate case rates are given :—

Year	PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS			CASE RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION		
	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis (all forms)	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis (all forms)
1918			856			1.37
1919			699			1.04
1920			642			0.92
1921			929			1.29
1922			971			1.37
1923			1,029			1.45
1924			974			1.36
1925			1,232			1.71
1926			1,400			1.93
1927			1,106			1.55
1928			1,194			1.68
1929			1,017			1.43
1930			1,021			1.44
1931			1,129			1.59
1932			1,074			1.50
1933			1,011			1.41
1934			929			1.29
1935			825			1.14
1936			831			1.14
1937			858			1.16
1938			789			1.05
1939			726			0.95
1940			669			0.88
1941			788			1.01
1942			830			1.07
1943			841			1.09
1944			798			1.03
1945			769			1.00
1946	636	139	775	0.80	0.17	0.97
1947	681	132	813	0.84	0.16	1.00
1948	728	124	852	0.88	0.15	1.03
1949	713	124	837	0.85	0.15	1.00
1950	706	101	807	0.83	0.12	0.95
1951	778	123	901	0.91	0.14	1.05
1952	712	93	805	0.83	0.11	0.94
1953	864	94	958	1.00	0.11	1.10
1954	709	99	808	0.81	0.11	0.92
1955	620	76	696	0.70	0.09	0.78
1956	568	55	623	0.63	0.06	0.69

The following is a summary of cases, other than primary notifications, coming to notice from other sources during the year :—

	1956
Number of cases other than primary notifications coming to knowledge within the year	21
Number of un-notified cases which died	4
Number of other cases which died, notification being made after death	17

Ratio of un-notified cases which died to total deaths 1 : 5.2

In 1956, roughly 9 out of 11 deaths were of cases notified under the regulations before decease.

The total notifications are classified in a preceding table.

REGISTERS OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

At the end of the year the following cases were included in these registers :—

TOTAL CASES	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
8,935	3,895	3,360	7,255	819	861	1,680

The figures given above indicate that in 1956 there was one case of tuberculosis in every 101 persons, or 9.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The table also shows that in 1956 there was one death in approximately every 81 cases.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Particulars were given in the 1952 Report regarding the arrangements for mass radiography within the area. Four units are concerned and surveys have been conducted at which wherever possible appropriate categories of officers employed by the County Council have attended, i.e., those whose employment is in any way connected with the care of children—staffs of Children's Homes, teachers, etc.

During the year some 279 persons were examined in this way in connection with their appointments to the staff of the County Council.

In addition, 111 members of the staff of the Children's Department engaged in the work of Children's Homes received an annual X-ray.

The following are short reports of work done by Units operating in the Administrative County during 1956 :—

STOKE-ON-TRENT M.R. UNIT.

During the year, the Unit carried out 67,000 miniature X-ray examinations, an increase of 13,000 against 1955.

The number of General Practitioners' cases and of self-referred persons who attend the Unit's headquarters, is increasing from year to year. Chest X-rays are offered to all expectant mothers in Stoke, Newcastle and in the area of the Newcastle Rural District Council. The number of 1,400 Ante-Natal Chest X-rays in 1956 compares unfavourably with the average annual number of births in Stoke and Newcastle (5,000) and it is obvious that full use of the service for this important group is not yet being made.

A scheme to X-ray all adult family contacts of children who were Mantoux positive at the age of 5, was started in Newcastle at the end of the year and will be fully developed in 1957.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total prevalence rate of active tuberculosis—3.1 per thousand—was similar to that in the three previous years. Of the 221 active cases, 32 had been previously known at chest clinics, but a considerable proportion of these persons had failed to attend the clinics regularly or otherwise defaulted against the advice of the chest physicians. By renewing their supervision and in some cases treatment, they became practically though not statistically "new cases."

It is most encouraging that the tuberculosis rates in the Pottery industry have significantly fallen since the first round of surveys. However, in view of the close relation between silicosis and tuberculosis, surveys in the industry will be fully continued.

WOLVERHAMPTON M.R. UNIT.

There was no change in the type of work undertaken by the Unit during 1956, and the regular sessions at Base for general practitioner referrals, ante-natal cases, etc., continued. These various groups examined at New Cross Hospital provided about one-third of all persons X-rayed during the year.

SURVEYS AT BASE.

Nearly seventeen thousand persons were X-rayed at the New Cross Hospital Base and of these, 6,845 were from the three groups known to yield the highest incidence of tuberculosis.

Each Monday morning the Unit was available for the examination, without appointment, of patients referred by general practitioners, contacts of notified and other cases, ante-natal cases, School Medical Department referrals, teachers, hospital staff, etc.

General practitioners in the Wolverhampton, Bilston and Willenhall areas regularly referred patients, and others came from Seisdon, Shifnal, Coseley, etc.: over 100 attended each week. Where the miniature film was normal a report was received by the general practitioner within 48 hours. Still greater use should be made of this service which provides a speedy and economical way of X-raying large numbers of patients with no loss of abnormality detection. Almost all of those recalled for further investigation were seen at the Chest (Medical) Out Patient Clinic at New Cross Hospital on the following Thursday morning, the large films being taken at the Hospital X-ray Department. Others were seen on the following Monday at the Mass Radiography Unit.

Examination of contacts of notified cases was arranged by the Health Visitors during their home visits and 1,181 attended during the year, slightly more than in 1955. Tuberculin testing, by means of the Heaf Gun, was offered to children and young adults under the age of 21 years, when they attended the Monday morning sessions, and this was carried out by a Health Visitor immediately after the miniature film had been taken. Negative reactors were vaccinated with B.C.G. at the Thursday morning Chest (Medical) Out Patient Clinic.

The School Medical Department arranged for all children with positive tuberculin tests and many of their family contacts to be examined. Children being tuberculin tested prior to B.C.G. vaccination were also sent for X-ray.

There was an increase in the number of ante-natal cases referred by the clinics and by general practitioners. It must be stressed how important it is for these patients to be sent along for X-ray as early in pregnancy as possible. In this way, most of those with active tuberculosis can have their hospital treatment nearly completed by the time the baby is due. The period of separation of baby from mother is then greatly shortened.

The arrival of Hungarian Refugees at Hednesford resulted in the Unit visiting the R.A.F. Camp once before the end of the year and several cases of active tuberculosis were discovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

154 cases of tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment and 23 requiring close clinic supervision were found, a total of 177 and identical with the figure for 1955.

The rate for general practitioner referrals, contacts and those referred by the School Medical Department, was 13 per thousand, representing 89 active cases of whom 48 had a positive sputum. Excluding these three groups, the rate among all other groups was 1.8 per thousand, representing 88 active cases of whom 35 had a positive sputum.

DUDLEY MOBILE M.R. UNIT.

In 1956 the work of the Dudley Unit increased at Base, particularly in the number of Doctors' cases referred, thus the overall picture for the year is one of less routine miniature film work in the area, but an increase in special group work, with a relevant rise in the rate of tuberculosis found, although there has been a fall in the number of examinations.

The total number of miniature films taken has dropped by 17,877 compared with 1955, but the prevalence rate of tuberculosis is now 2.3 per thousand, against 1.9 in 1955; these facts are accounted for by the regular return of the Unit to Base and to the other centres for special group examinations which involve considerable travelling time for comparatively few films at each session.

The sessions at Base continue on the first and third Fridays of each month and are becoming increasingly widely known as evidenced, not only by the increase in the number of cases referred by General Practitioners, but by the number of self referred people who are only examined if willing for a report to be sent to their Practitioner.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

All the industrial areas of South Staffordshire covered by this Unit were visited. Brierley Hill in March, Sedgley in the Autumn and Tipton as usual, had its annual visit commencing in December and continuing into January, 1957.

In Brierley Hill the Unit was removed from the Van for siting centrally in the Town Hall for three weeks, but this did not yield as good results as when the Unit was fully mobile, visiting factories before undertaking public sessions.

These three towns gave, as expected, a relatively high rate of abnormal findings, and forty-one new cases of pneumoconiosis were discovered and referred to the Panel for assessment. More tuberculosis was found in Tipton this year than twelve months ago.

TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITING

As stated in previous reports there are three whole-time Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the total number of visits made by the Visitors to Tuberculous households was 4,918.

TUBERCULOSIS—1956, CIRCULAR 1/54.

As will be seen in a previous table there were 568 notified cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Figures are available from 7 of the 8 clinics dealing with contacts residing in the Administrative County and in total 2,170 contacts were examined at the Clinics or Mass Radiography Units during 1956, of which 50 were found to be Tuberculous.

There has been little change in procedure as mentioned in last year's report at the Newcastle Clinic. On a case being notified the home circumstances are investigated by the Health Visitor and also by the Welfare Officer, and all contacts are asked to attend the Clinic for examination. The children of notified cases are Mantoux tested, or in the case of the very young, Tuberculin Jelly tested and negative cases are offered B.C.G. inoculation. The response is satisfactory.

The employment in this area of known cases of tuberculosis has always been rather a problem because of the types of industry available in this district, but with the co-operation of the Social Welfare Officer and the D.R.O., it was possible to get most of the patients into suitable jobs according to their clinical condition. A few of the older age group with chronic disease and persistently positive sputum, sometimes complicated by pneumoconiosis, form a residue of unemployables and are also a potential source of infection, but these cases are examined regularly and the General Practitioners refer any member of the family who develop symptoms which suggest the need for examination at the Clinic.

The Stafford Clinic reports a most satisfactory position regarding the examination of "contacts" of newly notified cases—99% of contacts were seen which means that with the exception of one family all were examined. Similarly all those who were offered B.C.G. Vaccination in the same group have accepted it and have been done. This is a definite improvement on previous years and shows that the Public is certainly

more ready to accept the facilities offered to them. The "contacts" of people who are notified as dying from Tuberculosis after death are examined and followed up the same way as the "contacts" of other notified cases. Early cases, whether among adults or children, are followed up routinely at the Clinic, as in previous years.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

During the year a total of 705 cases were vaccinated at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

In 1953 the Ministry of Health issued a circular allowing Local Health Authorities to extend this type of vaccination to school children in the 13 to 14 year age group, but as the medical evidence was not clear and trials were being undertaken by the Medical Research Council the Health Committee, who considered the matter in 1953 and 1954, decided to await the results of the trials before implementing the scheme. This year the results have been ascertained and as it appears certain that B.C.G. can contribute substantially to the preventive aspects of the tuberculosis problem the County Council have agreed that a scheme of vaccination shall be initiated in the County as soon as possible and the necessary arrangements for the appointment of vaccination teams, etc., were being made at the end of the year.

CANCER

In the following table the deaths from Cancer during 1956, in age and sex groups, in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County, are shown :—

Age Groups	URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	4	1	5	1	1	2	7
5—	3	3	6	1	1	2	8
15—	4	2	6	1	3	4	10
25—	42	44	86	5	9	14	100
45—	310	235	545	78	63	141	686
65—	205	165	370	62	46	108	478
75—	120	125	245	45	54	99	344
Totals	688	575	1,263	193	177	370	1,633

As will be seen from the preceding table, this year there were 1,633 deaths from Cancer. In 1955 there were 1,523 preceded by 1,568 in 1954. This year's total is the highest number so far recorded in the Administrative County, the second highest being in 1954. In each year since 1937 the figure has exceeded 1,000. During the period under review this group of deaths accounted for 17.0 per cent. of the total civilian deaths, as compared with 15.8 per cent. last year, when the total number of deaths from all causes was larger by 19. As stated in previous Reports, there is little variation from year to year in the group

of deaths from this cause which occur in persons under the age of 45 years, the current number being 125, the same as last year. In 1954 the figure was 128.

In considering the mortality from Cancer, one must bear in mind that the general mortality from all causes under the age of 45 has, over a long period, become steadily less. This means, therefore, that in every population there exists an increasing number of persons of an age more susceptible to cancer than are younger persons, the statement being supported by the fact that whilst in 1920 48.6 per cent of the deaths from all causes were of persons under 45, the figure has gradually decreased in the subsequent years to 11.3 per cent. in 1956.

VENEREAL DISEASES

During the year, 694 Staffordshire patients attended for diagnosis and treatment for the first time, compared with 706 in 1955, and the following detailed table indicates where it was obtained. It will be seen that in 1956, 531 of the persons who attended were found not to be infected, and the corresponding figure in the previous year was 562. The actual cases in 1955 and 1956 were 144 and 163 respectively.

TREATMENT CENTRE	Syphilis	Gonorrhœa	Other Conditions	Total New Cases
Birmingham General Hospital	2	11	65	78
Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary	—	1	4	5
Dudley Guest Hospital	7	35	111	153
Stafford (Staffordshire General Infirmary) ..	11	6	56	73
Stoke-on-Trent (North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary)	14	12	67	93
Stoke-on-Trent (Wellesley Street)	5	10	49	64
Walsall (Manor Hospital)	3	6	40	49
Wolverhampton Royal Hospital	4	36	139	179
Totals	46	117	531	694

For comparative purposes the totals of the cases included in the foregoing table for the last twenty-two years have been extracted and are given below :—

Year	Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhœa	Total Cases	Non-Venereal
1935 ..	166	4	322	492	295
1936 ..	137	6	294	437	341
1937 ..	116	5	320	441	326
1938 ..	133	3	302	438	344
1939 ..	116	5	283	404	310
1940 ..	126	1	244	371	348
1941 ..	111	1	267	379	359
1942 ..	134	2	266	402	512
1943 ..	163	2	271	436	783
1944 ..	171	2	273	446	791
1945 ..	186	—	355	541	867
1946 ..	275	2	451	728	1,180
1947 ..	147	2	254	403	682
1948 ..	177	4	219	400	904
1949 ..	148	—	234	382	842
1950 ..	85	—	178	263	824
1951 ..	67	—	163	230	760
1952 ..	54	—	136	190	666
1953 ..	64	—	158	222	698
1954 ..	51	—	109	160	707
1955 ...	39	—	105	144	562
1956 ...	46	—	117	163	531

BLIND PERSONS

The following table gives particulars of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons registered during 1956. Of the 250 cases registered, 136 were recommended for treatment of one sort or another, and 90 of these actually received such treatment, the difference being accounted for mainly owing to refusals to have treatment due to their age.

	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—				
(a) No treatment	22	6	—	86
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	65	19	—	52
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	41	14	—	35

The Home Teacher visits each case to see what help can be given and to ensure they obtain all assistance to which they are entitled under the Act.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

The number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year was 17. In 12 instances the confinements were domiciliary. Of these 10 were nursed at home, and two were admitted to hospital.

The remaining five cases were born in hospital. In every instance the condition occurred subsequent to discharge. Two children were admitted to hospital, one was treated at hospital as an out-patient and two were treated at home.

Of the 17 cases, 3 were moderately severe and 14 slight. Vision was unimpaired in every instance.

GENERAL HEALTH PROPAGANDA

During the year the facilities for the provision of general health and sex education lectures continued and talks were given to Youth Clubs, Parent/Teacher Associations and Women's Institutes, etc.

In 1956, as formerly, the County Council made a grant to the Central Council for Health Education and during the year the latter again provided speakers to give "in-service" training to various sections of the staff to enable them better to understand and use the techniques of health education. In addition, exhibition stands and a succession of interchangeable topic material were supplied by the Central Council for use at Clinics.

The topics on health subjects were in use at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics in each Area. Posters and leaflets on a wide range of health educational subjects were again distributed and displayed throughout the Administrative County.

Increasing attention is being given to the use of visual aids, and a "library" of flannelgraphs has been established in order to assist in the work of health education. Film strips dealing with the promotion of better health are also being used as part of the educational programme and the subjects include Social Services, Home Safety, Home Nursing, Midwifery, Child development and the care of children's teeth, eyes, ears, etc., and the audiences have expressed their interest and appreciation.

Display cards giving details of services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Scheme were supplied to all Welfare Centres and to those family doctors with practices in the Administrative County.

Three projectors were purchased for showing of film strips and have been allocated to various Areas of the County.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES

The responsibility for the medical examination and certification of the physical fitness or otherwise of persons for appointment to the staff of this Authority rests with the County Medical Officer, and during the year 658 medical examinations were undertaken, 341 by medical staff of the Department at County Council Clinics and 317 by General Practitioners and other Authorities. The figures for the previous year were 627, 342 and 285 respectively.

AREA ADMINISTRATION

In the Report for 1948 particulars of the Area Committees and of their districts and population were given, and in the Report for 1951 mention was made of the revised scheme of administration which came into operation on the 1st July, 1951. No major change has taken place since that time until this year when a revision took place of the Ambulance Service arrangements. Details of this revision will be found under the appropriate section of this Report.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

During 1956, two new Centres were opened at Guest Avenue, Wednesfield and Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Darlaston.

During the year the Centre at Bolehall was closed.

At the end of the year there were 109 Welfare Centres in operation, of which 59 were combined (i.e., Minor Ailment Clinics and Welfare Centres) and 50 were Welfare Centres only.

The following are particulars of the number of sessions and attendances made during the year :—

No. of sessions	...	...	...	...	5,294
No. of children who attended during the year and who were born in :					
1956	...	...	...	...	8,169
1955	...	...	...	...	4,428
1954—1951	...	...	...	...	4,219
Total	...	...	...	...	16,816
No. of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :					
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	133,721
1 but under 2	...	...	...	...	32,928
2 but under 5	...	...	...	...	31,883
Total	...	...	...	...	198,532

PROVISION OF NEW INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

In July a deputation consisting of the Chairman of the Health Committee, Vice-Chairman of the County Council and certain County Councillors visited the Ministry of Health regarding the urgency for provision of new Welfare Centres at Stafford (Rising Brook), Willenhall (Short Heath) and Tipton (Birch Street), but the Minister was unable to recommend the necessary loan sanction at that time. He stated, however, that when building was again possible and consideration could be given to the various schemes now awaiting loan sanction those mentioned would receive sympathetic consideration. New clinic schemes will continue to be forwarded to the Ministry for approval in principle and when this is received and the site is secured the preparation of working drawings, etc., will be proceeded with, to go out to tender without delay when loan sanction is eventually received.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

At 31st December, 1956, there were 46 Ante-Natal Clinics (special sessions being held at 34 of them) and 3 Post-Natal Clinics (1 special and 2 held in conjunction with Welfare Centre sessions).

The following are the numbers of expectant mothers and attendances made by them during the year at the Ante-Natal Clinics :—

Number of expectant mothers attending	...	5,987
Total number of attendances	...	17,004

One hundred and forty-two women attended the Post-Natal Clinics during the year, 170 attendances being made.

Where treatment is required, the patient is referred to her own doctor, through the medium of the midwife, except for unsatisfactory dental conditions. Treatment of the latter can be given under the County Council scheme and the patients are offered the facilities provided.

RURAL ANTE-NATAL SCHEME.

During the year no cases were dealt with under the scheme.

MATERNITY OUTFITS.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, maternity outfits are required to be provided by Local Health Authorities for appropriate cases free of cost. The number issued during the year was 7,662 as against 6,709 for 1952, 7,263 for 1953, 6,970 for 1954 and 6,721 for 1955.

PAYMENT OF MIDWIVES' FEES.

The compensation fee of 10/- was not claimed by any independent midwives during the period covered by this Report in respect of any cases which had been booked by them and which they had lost as a result of County Council activities.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

In 1956, 38 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified in the County area.

Of the cases dealt with during the period under review, 7 were sent to hospital and 16 were cases in which confinement had taken place in hospital.

HEARING TESTING OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

On the 15th January, 1955, the Health Committee approved a scheme for screening tests of the hearing of young children, in order to ascertain deafness and defective hearing at the earliest possible age. The procedure is extremely valuable in the interests of the children because they can be given appropriate training before they reach school age and the disability combatted earlier in life.

Thirty selected Health Visitors and three Assistant County Medical Officers from all parts of the County have received the necessary training. Each of the Health Visitors concerned has been provided with the necessary equipment and it is intended that all children on reaching the age of nine months, or as soon as possible thereafter, will be tested as a routine. Younger children in whom there is a suspicion of deafness or any child who does not appear to be making satisfactory progress with speech are also tested.

Any child who fails the tests is referred for examination by a Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre most convenient for the mother, in order to exclude as the cause of deafness conditions which require immediate treatment. The records of the results of the screening tests by the Health Visitors are made available to the Medical Officers for this examination. The Medical Officer at the Centre then refers the names of children considered to be deaf together with the results of the screening tests, to the Central Department for arrangements to be made for examination at a diagnostic clinic, one of which is in Stafford and the other at Newcastle. For the time being children in the South of the County are attending a diagnostic clinic in Birmingham.

As far as the diagnostic clinics at Newcastle and Stafford are concerned, two Medical Officers and two Health Visitors received special instruction at the Department of Education of the Deaf, Manchester University, in September, 1955.

Sessions of the diagnostic clinics are held as and when a sufficient number of children have been referred for testing, and children whose deafness is confirmed are referred to an Aural Surgeon at a Centre most convenient to the mother.

The Scheme came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, and the following table gives details of the number of children tested :—

No. of children receiving a screening test at—					
Clinic	...	...	...	...	110
at home	...	...	...	...	129
Total					239
No. of children who failed the test					8

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

During the year 142 children were referred from the Infant Welfare Centres for ophthalmic examination.

Glasses were prescribed for 94 of these children who are mostly cases of squint and are kept under supervision.

These cases, with others seen in previous years, made 269 visits to the Clinics.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

During the year 328 cases were referred for artificial light treatment.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following table shows the number of cases provided with dental care :—

		Examined	Needing Treatment	Treatment	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and nursing mothers	...	517	517	515	255
Children under five	...	804	804	804	804

The form of treatment provided is shown in the table below :—

	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Fillings	Sealings or Sealings and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radiographs	Dentures provided	
								Com- plete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	2,377	302	335	150	—	502	35	190	112
Children under five ..	1,308	336	113	—	30	—	—	—	—

Dentures supplied were constructed in the County Dental Laboratory. X-ray units are available at Stafford, Bilston, Sedgley, Cannock, Lichfield and Newcastle Clinics, and the radiographs were taken at these centres. In all other areas arrangements have been made with private practitioners to undertake X-ray examinations on behalf of this Authority.

DENTAL LABORATORY.

The summary of work completed during the year at the County Dental Laboratory is shown in the following tables :—

DENTURE WORK					
<i>Nature of Denture</i>					<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Full upper dentures	...	...	...	...	109
Full lower dentures	...	...	...	...	83
Partial upper dentures	...	...	...	...	284
Partial lower dentures	...	...	...	...	47
Remakes	...	...	...	...	12
Repairs to dentures	...	...	...	...	24
Total	...	...	...	...	559

ORTHODONTICS					
<i>Appliances</i>					<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Regulation appliances	...	...	...	...	315
Repairs to appliances	...	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	...	324

SUNDRIES.					
<i>Nature of</i>					<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Obturators	...	...	...	...	—
Crowns	...	...	...	...	—
Inlays	...	...	...	...	—
Splints	...	...	...	...	—
Special trays	...	...	...	...	83
Ear plugs	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	84

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

The County Council in their capacity as Local Health Authority are now responsible for the distribution of Welfare Foods, i.e., National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A and D Tablets.

Several of the Voluntary Centres, i.e., at shops or private houses, in the rural parts of the County ceased to exist during the year, but little difficulty was experienced in finding other volunteers to undertake the work.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

During the financial year 1956-57 the sales and free issues amounted to £25,182 as compared with £20,200 during the previous financial year. Of this figure, the amount apportionable to free issues was very small, in fact almost negligible.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The following are particulars of the live and stillbirths notified during 1956 :—

Number of live births	...	...	...	14,751
Number of stillbirths...	...	...	...	381
Notified by midwives	...	...	...	14,470
Notified by parents and doctors	...	...	...	662

The births registered during the period cannot strictly be compared with those notified because of the period allowed by law for each purpose.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Full information has been given in previous Reports of the arrangements in being with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, and the following are the particulars of the children dealt with during 1956 :—

Children with mothers at home	...	...	...	91
„ with parents married	...	...	...	10
„ with mothers in situations	...	...	...	2
„ with mothers in Homes	...	...	...	1
„ with parents co-habiting	...	...	...	4
„ in Local Authority Homes	...	...	...	7
„ in Voluntary Children's Homes	...	...	...	4
„ with adopters	...	...	...	47
Child transferred	...	...	...	4
Children died	...	...	...	3
„ stillborn	...	...	...	3
Miscarriage	...	...	...	3
				179

Forty-five girls were sent to Diocesan Homes and Homes of other religious denominations during the year.

Forty-eight of the cases concerned married women ; 7 of these were widows, 10 divorced and 7 legally separated. These cases have frequently involved finding temporary accommodation for the children of the marriage and interviewing the husband with a view to reconciliation and/or obtaining his consent to the making of an Adoption Order.

The ages of the mothers ranged between 13 and 43, there being 21 under the age of 17 years.

BROADFIELD HOUSE, KINGSWINFORD.

As mentioned in previous reports the County Council has a Mothercraft Training Hostel at Kingswinford with accommodation for 18 cases.

In 1956, 54 cases were admitted, 15 still being in residence at the end of the year.

PREMATURITY.

The following table gives particulars of the number of premature infants who were born during 1956 :—

(1) *Number of Premature Live Births Notified.*

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	633
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	362
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	10
Total						1,005

(2) *Number of Premature Stillbirths Notified.*

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	126
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	51
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	4
Total						181

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS															PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS		
	Born in hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
													Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days			
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days									
3 lb. 4 oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	93	43	28	9	7	1	26	10	10	—	—	—	—	61	25	—	—	
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. (1,500–2,000 gms.) . .	93	16	68	19	2	17	35	5	22	1	—	1	—	34	11	3	—	
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. (2,000–2,250 gms.) . .	127	7	116	36	—	34	14	—	9	3	—	2	—	14	3	—	—	
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. (2,250–2,500 gms.) . .	320	4	309	196	3	191	27	2	20	5	1	4	1	17	12	1	—	
TOTALS	633	70	521	260	12	243	102	17	61	9	1	7	1	126	51	4	—	

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATION ACT, 1948.

During 1956 two applications for registration were received under the above-mentioned Act, one for the registration of premises and the other as a child minder, so that at the end of the year premises were registered in two instances and two persons remained registered as child minders.

DAY NURSERIES.

The following table gives particulars of the Day Nurseries in operation in the Administrative County during 1956 :—

	No. of Approved Places		No. of Children on Register at end of the year		Average Daily Attendance	
	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
NEWCASTLE (Liverpool Road, Cross Heath) ..	15	25	14	21	7.3	13.5
STAFFORD (Riverside, South Walls)	25	25	9	36	11.0	16.0
TIPTON (Toll End Road)	12	38	7	21	6.0	16.0
BILSTON (Prouds Lane)	10	30	9	25	7.6	15.0
WEDNESFIELD (Lichfield Road)	20	30	9	21	5.5	13.7
WILLENHALL (Pinson Park)	25	25	10	24	13.1	16.1

As has been stated in previous Reports, the County Council also accepts financial responsibility for 20 of the places provided in a Nursery owned by Messrs. Rubery Owen & Co. Ltd., of Darlaston. The total number of places provided in this Nursery is 42, 10 being approved for children up to two years of age, the remaining 32 being for children aged 2—5 years.

The following are the details of the average daily attendance of children at this Nursery during the year :—

0 - 2 years	...	...	...	3.1
2 - 5 years	...	...	...	10.7

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The County Council are responsible for the registration and inspection of these Homes in the Administrative County.

The following are particulars of the premises registered during the year :—

Number of premises registered at end of year	...	10
Number of applications for registration granted	—	—
Number of Homes given up	...	—
Number of Homes with more than two beds	...	5
Number of Homes solely for midwifery and maternity cases	...	8
Number of Homes exempted from registration	...	2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Until the 1950 Report it has been possible to include a table showing the mortality rate for the Administrative County giving deaths per thousand (live and still) births over a period of years. Figures, however, are not now given by the Registrar-General to coincide with the information previously shown, and the only information relative to the above heading received shows that there were 16 deaths during the year arising from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion. Fifteen of these occurred in hospital.

In 1955 the number of maternal deaths occurring in the Administrative County was 7.

Of the number of cases attended by midwives or maternity nurses two deaths were reported in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

As a result of routine enquiry into each of these maternal deaths 8 were considered to have been unavoidable, 2 to be due to the mothers' own action or neglect and in the remaining 6 there appeared to be some contributory factors which might possibly have been avoided.

The series of meetings held during the latter half of the year in various parts of Staffordshire between professional representatives of the hospital, general practitioner and local authority health services to discuss what part each should play in the care of the expectant mother, especially in relation to toxæmia of pregnancy, should result in a much greater degree of co-operation between them and in earlier diagnosis and treatment of conditions which if untreated might lead to death of the mother.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Here again, until the Report for 1950 it was possible to include a table showing statistics over previous years relating to deaths from premature birth, congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases. The Registrar-General, however, has only defined one of the above-mentioned categories in his statistics, i.e., congenital malformations, and the number given under this heading is 90. The remaining causes mentioned above have not been classified.

During 1956, 50 deaths were reported by the midwives, having occurred whilst they were in attendance. Twelve of these were due to feebleness and prematurity.

FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Planning Association maintains four clinics in the Administrative County, at Bilston, Cannock, Leek and Stafford. At Bilston the sessions are held at the Centre Health Clinic on Tuesday afternoons weekly, at Stafford each Thursday afternoon, at North Walls Clinic, and at Church Street, Cannock on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and 4.30-6.30 p.m. respectively. The Leek Clinic at Salisbury Street is held on Wednesdays fortnightly from 7.0 p.m. to 9.0 p.m. A family planning clinic is held each Monday evening from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m. at the Infant Welfare Centre, Cross Street, in the County Borough of Burton-on-Trent.

CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

Full particulars have been given in a previous Report of the joint circular dated 31st July, 1950, of the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, which is concerned with the action to be taken on the discovery of neglect or ill-treatment of children in their own homes. The Medical Officers to the Area Health Committees act as co-ordinating officers on behalf of the County Medical Officer, and periodical meetings are held between them and the interested Authorities, Societies, etc., in their respective Areas. During the year some 127 cases were considered and the necessary action taken wherever possible. Good results were obtained in many cases.

PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES

Mention was made in the 1955 Report of Ministry of Health Circular 27/54, dated 30th November, 1954, which stressed, *inter alia*, the importance of the health of children in relation to the break-up of families and which suggested that the duties of maintaining the families by preventive action should be undertaken under Section 28 (Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care) of the National Health Service Act by the health visiting staff and that certain Local Authorities might find a need to employ a trained Social Case Worker.

As stated previously, the Health Committee approved the scheme, which included the appointment of a Social Worker to serve the Rowley Regis/Wednesbury Areas, and the person appointed commenced duty in February, 1957.

The Ministry in addition, stated that an essential feature of the care of these problem families is that *one* particular visitor only should visit—these homes are liable to be visited by a plethora of visitors from various Departments and Organisations, and the Health Committee agreed that the views of the other Departments, District Councils, Societies, etc., should be ascertained, with the suggestion that when an impending or actual problem family is to be visited, visits other than those of the Health Visitor concerned should be suspended. This investigation has been carried out and it is very satisfactory to know that most of those approached in this way have agreed to co-operate, and this scheme of visitation began towards the end of the year. It is, of course, too early to assess the results of the work carried out by the Health Visitors concerned or Social Worker as yet.

A third aspect of the scheme for the prevention of break-up of families, i.e., where eviction is likely through arrears of rent, complaints from neighbours, damage to houses, etc., has also been considered by the Health Committee, and the District Councils have been approached with regard to the provision in their districts of "half-way houses" as temporary accommodation for families evicted from their homes for such reasons as those given above.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

At the 31st December, 1956, there were 83 whole-time general nurses, together with 79 part-time general nurses, 47 being also domiciliary midwives and 32 district nurse-midwives with part-time health visiting duties.

The principle of employment of male nurses in certain thickly populated districts, for the nursing of patients suffering from diseases which could be more appropriately nursed by a male nurse, and heavy nursing cases, was agreed in 1950, and at the end of 1956 five male nurses were in the employ of the County Council, being centred in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Willenhall, Tipton, Wednesbury and Cannock. These are included in the figure of 83 whole-time general nurses mentioned above.

As previously stated, the combined appointments of District Nurse and Midwife or Health Visitor are made in those rural districts where the scattered population makes it impossible to separate general from midwifery work without creating districts too large to be practicable for either service.

Of the foregoing staff, 139 were car users, one had an autocycle, the remainder using ordinary cycles for their work.

During the year 342,670 home visits were made by the nurses, the number of cases attended being 13,889.

The supervisory duties are undertaken by four Supervisors who are also Supervisors of Midwives and Health Visitors.

HOME NURSING—CIRCULAR 17/55.

Since the 5th July, 1948, there has been a considerable increase in the number of nursing staff employed in the Home Nursing Service and whereas at that time 61 whole-time nurses and 71 who combined general with other nursing duties were employed, on the 31st December, 1956, the establishment figures were 84 and 79 respectively. Of the 84 whole-time nurses the establishment provides for 6 male nurses.

The nursing of sick children is undertaken by each nurse in her own district and based on statistics for 1956, children in the 0-5 age group formed only 4.8% of the total patients attended.

The greatest proportion of the Home Nurse's time continues to be taken up with the care of the chronic sick and aged infirm, but helped by the nurses many of these patients who otherwise would become bedfast are encouraged to get up and, so far as possible, take part in their family life. As a result fewer patients in these categories now develop bed sores and there is less deterioration of their mental powers.

More cases of tuberculosis are now nursed at home, particularly in the early stages of the disease, but terminal cases are fewer. There is also an increase in the home nursing of diseases which respond to treatment by antibiotics, such as pneumonia and septic conditions, and more patients receive preparatory enemata from the Home Nurses prior to special investigations at hospital.

It is possible this year to give a full analysis of the types of work which Home Nurses were called upon to do during the whole of 1956, and the figures are given in the table below. As will be seen the trends follow a similar pattern to those for the single month of December given in the 1955 Report.

	Age 0-5	Age 5-15	Age 15-65	Age over 65	Total
Accidental wounds	73	189	333	120	715
Burns and Scalds	108	52	131	66	357
Sepsis	47	39	338	148	572
Tuberculosis	2	11	484	57	554
Other Respiratory disease	132	51	496	534	1,213
Ear, nose and throat	67	87	165	41	360
Dental conditions	3	11	15	11	40
Eye conditions	26	20	19	86	151
Gynaecological conditions	1	—	503	399	903
Other genito-urinary	28	2	231	288	549
Bones and joints	7	27	166	256	456
Rheumatic diseases	2	11	239	281	533
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	1	—	287	975	1,263
Veins and other circulatory	6	5	408	1,056	1,475
Heart	2	—	620	1,483	2,105
Diabetes	1	1	319	535	856
Enemas	70	73	794	717	1,654
Gastro-intestinal diseases	42	13	216	223	494
Helminth infections	8	7	15	6	36
Infectious diseases	34	11	10	12	67
Injections (for asthma)	3	6	36	39	84
Injections (for relief of pain)	—	5	111	115	231
Injections (antibiotics)	74	135	1,052	370	1,631
Mental	1	5	138	104	248
New growths	2	5	350	356	713
Post-operative	111	47	705	350	1,212
Senility	—	—	54	1,155	1,210
Skin	55	28	86	132	301
Other diseases	101	21	438	580	1,140
Total	1,007	864	8,759	10,493	21,123

MIDWIVES' SERVICE

The following are particulars of the midwives practising at the end of 1956 :—

Number of midwives employed by the Authority 166
(including 3
relief midwives)
(S.R.N., S.C.M.
89, S.C.M. 77)

Number of midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in Nursing Homes) :
Domiciliary 10*
In Institutions 5

Number of midwives employed by Hospital
Management Committees 72

*In addition, six out-of-area midwives notified, but of these only two took any cases.

The following table shows the number of cases dealt with by the midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority during the year :—

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR						
	Domiciliary Cases					
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	106	1,804	1,202	4,163	7,275	20
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :— (i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act	—	—	—	—	—	2,900
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	2	75	23	2	102	108
TOTALS	108	1,879	1,225	4,165	7,377	3,028

Of the midwives employed by the Authority, 143 were car users, three had autocycles and one used a Bond Minicar, the remainder using ordinary cycles for their work.

(These figures include the details of the transport of district nurse-midwives which are also included in those relating to the Home Nursing Service).

As mentioned in the section of this Report relating to Home Nursing, the Supervisors' duties also include supervision of that staff and, in addition inspection of health visitors, school nurses and general nurses. During the year 1,312 visits and interviews were undertaken for midwifery matters.

Since the Act came into operation the names of 115 midwives have been removed from the roll in consequence of action taken by the Local Supervising Authority. In the year under review no such action was taken.

No applications were received during the year from independent midwives for compensation for loss of practice consequent upon suspension from duty they themselves not being in default, after contact with infection.

Particulars of the notifications by midwives for the last seventeen years are given in the following table :—

Year	*No. of Births attended by Midwives	Medical Aid Notices	Still-births	Death of Mother	Death of Child	Contact with Infection	Laying out the Dead	Artificial Feeding
1940	8,714	3,822	206	8	176	157	31	253
1941	9,101	3,966	220	8	187	151	38	280
1942	9,325	3,811	214	7	161	118	28	331
1943	9,190	3,546	172	3	159	125	17	374
1944	9,136	3,482	143	8	181	108	21	484
1945	8,159	3,259	133	8	119	113	14	460
1946	8,526	3,248	164	5	151	94	22	474
1947	9,375	3,358	167	4	127	125	18	568
1948	8,071	3,375	199	5	130	87	20	728
1949	6,520	1,767	146	5	81	82	21	616
1950	6,586	1,376	172	2	89	85	16	655
1951	5,909	1,467	161	1	67	85	20	709
1952	5,252	1,375	160	4	69	86	19	728
1953	5,895	1,290	148	5	48	60	21	764
1954	5,722	1,225	146	1	50	51	17	744
1955	5,693	1,188	168	1	43	67	14	815
1956	6,044	1,162	159	2	50	38	13	743

*Including midwifery cases in private maternity homes.

The percentage of doctors' calls to the number of births attended by midwives was 19.2.

The following figures show the causes which occasioned the sending for medical assistance :—

PREGNANCY :

Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	8
Blood Pressure Abnormal	...	...	...	...	8
Hæmorrhage Ante-partum	...	...	...	...	17
Loss of Blood	...	...	...	...	1
Threatened Abortion	...	...	...	...	13
Unsatisfactory condition and general health	...	...	...	...	27
Total	...	...	...	...	74

LABOUR :

Abnormal Presentation	...	...	...	...	43
Abortion	...	...	...	...	22
Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	2
Delayed or Difficult Labour	...	...	...	...	103
Hæmorrhage Ante-partum	...	...	...	...	25
Hæmorrhage Intra-partum	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhage Post-partum	...	...	...	...	47
Inertia	...	...	...	...	20
Lacerated Perineum	...	...	...	...	386
Placenta Prævia	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Labour	...	...	...	...	28
Prolapse of Cord	...	...	...	...	6
Retained Placenta and Membranes	...	...	...	...	32
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	54
Total	...	...	...	...	770

LYING-IN :

High Temperature	...	...	...	...	72
Inflamed and Painful Leg	...	...	...	...	16
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	49
Total	...	...	...	...	137

CHILD :

Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	10
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	2
Deformities	...	...	...	...	4
Feebleness and Prematurity	...	...	...	...	33
Hæmorrhage (Bowel)	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhage (Mouth)	...	...	...	...	1
Hare Lip and Cleft Pa'ate	...	...	...	...	5
Inflamed and Discharging Eyes	...	...	...	...	44
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	7
Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	1
Rash	...	...	...	...	4
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	62
Watery Blisters	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	181
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1,162

Details of the number of notifications of sending for medical help during the financial year 1956-57 are given below :—

Number of notifications of sending for medical aid	1,161
Number of claims received	87
Percentage of claims received to notifications ...	7.5
Total amount paid to doctors during the year ...	£245 16s. 0d.

WATERY, INFLAMED AND DISCHARGING EYES.

The number of cases notified during the year was 44. With two exceptions all were treated at home. Vision was unimpaired in each instance. Of the 44 cases, 39 were not severe. They include medical aid calls for all unsatisfactory eye conditions and not only notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

STILLBIRTHS.

Number of Stillbirths registered	388
Reported by midwives	159

Causes of those reported by midwives :—

Anencephalic	4
Ante-partum Hæmorrhage	6
Asphyxia	2
Atelectasis	2
Cord Prolapse	5
Cord round Neck	2
Deformities	28
Difficult Labour	7
Fall and Shock	2
Hydrocephalic	2
Knot in Cord	1
Maceration	26
Malpresentation	10
Post Mature	4
Premature	27
Toxæmia	8
Unsatisfactory Condition of Mother	3
Uterine Inertia	1
Cause not known	19

GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA

At the end of 1956, 147 midwives employed by the County Council¹ had received approved training in the administration of gas and air analgesia and all existing midwives at present untrained will be trained as quickly as vacancies become available at recognised training schools and staffing difficulties permit.

At the 31st December, 1956, 144 midwives were equipped with the necessary apparatus; the number of cases which were dealt with was 2,820, when nurses were acting as midwives, and 698 in their capacity as maternity nurses.

In addition midwives administered Pethidine in a further 3,352 cases when acting as midwives and in 979 cases when acting as maternity nurses. Six midwives also used Trilene analgesia in 135 cases when acting as midwives and in 212 cases when acting as maternity nurses.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS

Puerperal Pyrexia is defined as any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after child-birth or miscarriage.

Regulations amending the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, came into operation on the 1st March, 1955.

Cited as the Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954, a new form of certificate was prescribed for the notification of cases of puerperal pyrexia by medical practitioners and required the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated.

The total notifications from the Administrative County were 38 ; Urban Districts 32, Rural Districts 6.

The case-rate for Puerperal Pyrexia per thousand total births (live and still) for Staffordshire was 2.52, as compared with 16.3 for England and Wales.

The figure for Staffordshire is extraordinarily low and it is possible that there may have been incomplete notification of all cases of puerperal pyrexia, the definition of which term was revised and defined under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951.

As will have been observed from a previous table, the midwives summoned medical assistance for rises of temperature on 72 occasions. These were specially investigated and it was found that in 33 instances the unsatisfactory conditions were due to abnormalities which could be said to arise directly from childbirth.

HEALTH VISITING

At the 31st December, 1956, the number of Health Visitors was 102 whole-time and one Health Visitor Lecturer and 32 part-time Health Visitors.

The arrangements mentioned in the Annual Report for 1945 concerning the training of Health Visitors were continued, and four nurses received such training during the year.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by this staff during 1956 to expectant mothers and young children :—

To Expectant Mothers

First visits	...	...	...	...	3,426
Total visits	...	...	...	...	7,350

To Infants under one year

First visits	...	...	...	...	15,789
Total visits	...	...	...	...	72,468

Total visits to children aged 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	39,347
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Total visits to children aged 2 years but under 5 years	...	...	...	...	74,315
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Two hundred and fifty seven instances of insanitary conditions were reported by the Health Visitors to Local Medical Officers of Health during the period.

LECTURES ON MOTHERCRAFT.

As in previous years lectures on mothercraft continued at Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Talks were given at 380 sessions of 41 Centres in various parts of the Administrative County, the total attendance being 5,286.

The Lecturer has been provided with a film projector and film strips which have made the talks more instructive and added greatly to the interest.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

In a previous Annual Report particulars were given of the arrangements made for this service from the 5th July, 1948, as required under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

VACCINATION.

Every effort has continued to be made, through the medium of the midwife, health visitor and family practitioner during visits to the homes, Welfare Centres, etc., to encourage parents to have their babies vaccinated and the following are the particulars of the cases vaccinated or re-vaccinated during 1956. The figures for 1955 are given in brackets.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated ..	2,314 * (1,823)†	287 (340)	161 (152)	160 (142)	256 (254)	3,178 (2,711)
Number Re-Vaccinated ..	2 (1)	1 (—)	17 (9)	70 (58)	561 (403)	651 (441)

* 15.8% of the births for 1956.

† 13.5% of the births for 1955

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Here again, every endeavour has been made during the year, through the medium of the Health Visitors, Welfare Centres, School Clinics, Teachers, etc., to ensure that the immunisation of children is carried out, and during 1956 the number immunised against diphtheria was as follows :—

Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	8,256
5 - 14 years	...	...	...	...	...	3,958

Reinforcing doses were given in 14,368 cases.

During 1955 the numbers were 7,869, 2,669 and 10,175 respectively.

The following table gives particulars of immunisation in relation to child population at the 31st December, 1956 :—

Number of children at the 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e., at any time since the 1st January, 1942).

Age at 31.12.56 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1956	1 to 4 1952-1955	5 to 9 1947-1951	10 to 14 1942-1946	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1952-1956 ..	1,051	29,888	53,655	28,213	112,807
B. 1951 or earlier ..	—	—	14,032	37,212	51,244
C. Estimated mid-year child population ..	14,000	52,900	149,600		216,500
Immunity Index 100 A/C	7.51	56.50	54.72		52.10

During 1956 there were 21 original notifications concerning suspected cases of diphtheria or of being carriers of the disease. Of these, five were confirmed cases of diphtheria and three were termed carriers. All positive nose and throat swabs were of type "gravis."

Of the five confirmed cases (as compared with 29 in 1955 and 16 in 1954) three were in the 0-4 age group and of these only one had a record of immunisation, this being done exactly three years before the date of onset.

The other two cases were aged 8 and 9 years, there being a record of immunisation in one instance. There was no record of the three carriers having been immunised.

The three carriers and three of the five cases had association with cases and carriers at the Special School in which an outbreak of diphtheria occurred late in 1955, as mentioned in the 1955 Annual Report. There were, therefore, only two which could justifiably be considered for comparison with confirmed cases in previous years, the numbers of which will be seen in the following table giving particulars of the incidence of, and mortality from, diphtheria amongst the child population of the Administrative County between 1952 and 1956. This is by far the lowest number ever recorded in the County, the previous lowest being in 1954, when as stated above there were 16 confirmed cases. In 1944 and 1945 there were 639 and 553 confirmed cases respectively, and even in 1951 118 were recorded of which 104 were under 15 years of age.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

INCIDENCE OF, AND MORTALITY FROM, DIPHTHERIA AMONGST THE CHILD POPULATION

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY 1952—1956

	Percentage of Total Population in Age Group					No. of Cases of Diphtheria					Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population in Age Group					No. of Deaths from Diphtheria					Case Fatality Rate per cent.				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Children under 5 years of age :																									
Immunised ..	42.1	42.5	45.5	46.8	46.2	2	6	—	4	1	0.07	0.20	Nil	0.13	0.03	—	1	—	—	—	Nil	16.67	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	57.9	57.5	54.5	53.2	53.8	10	17	3	3	2	0.24	0.43	0.08	0.09	0.06	2	3	—	—	—	20.00	17.65	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	12	23	3	7	3	0.17	0.33	0.04	0.11	0.04	2	4	—	—	—	16.66	17.39	Nil	Nil	Nil
Children aged 5 to 14 years :																									
Immunised ..	84.2	81.8	84.7	86.7	89.0	7	12	6	11	1	0.06	0.11	0.05	0.09	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	15.8	18.2	15.3	13.3	11.9	13	20	2	11	1	0.60	0.79	0.09	0.57	0.06	—	2	—	2	—	Nil	10.00	Nil	18.18	Nil
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	20	32	8	22	2	0.15	0.23	0.06	0.15	0.01	—	2	—	2	—	Nil	6.25	Nil	9.09	Nil
All children under 15 years of age :																									
Immunised ..	69.7	68.8	72.1	74.3	75.8	9	18	6	15	2	0.06	0.13	0.04	0.09	0.01	—	1	—	—	—	Nil	5.56	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	30.3	31.2	27.9	25.7	24.2	23	37	5	14	3	0.37	0.57	0.09	0.26	0.06	2	5	—	2	—	8.70	13.51	Nil	14.29	Nil
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	32	55	11	29	5	0.15	0.26	0.05	0.14	0.02	2	6	—	2	—	6.25	10.91	Nil	6.90	Nil

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

A scheme of immunisation against whooping cough was commenced throughout the County Area in September, 1953, operated both by general practitioners and also by the County medical staff at the Infant Welfare Centres.

The scheme continued to work satisfactorily during 1956 and 3,538 children were immunised initially, and reinforcing doses given in 127 cases, by staff at Infant Welfare Centres. A further 2,447 were immunised initially, and 185 reinforcing doses were given, by general practitioners.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

STATIONS.

During the year Radio Control of the Service was introduced and four of the 24-hour Stations marked thus * became Radio Control points. The Stations, however, continued to operate as follows :—

24-hour Stations

Brierley Hill
Cannock
Coseley
Darlaston *
Leek
Lichfield *
Newcastle *
Stafford *
Uttoxeter

Sub-Stations

Aldridge
Biddulph
Brownhills
Cheadle
Kidsgrove
Rowley Regis
Rugeley
Stone
Tamworth
Tettenhall
Willenhall

A new Station at Aldridge was opened in August by Alderman A. G. B. Owen, C.B.E., replacing unsatisfactory premises, and at Tamworth a new Station was taken over in July replacing use of Fire Brigade premises which had been in joint use since 1953. The building of new premises proceeded at Leek and Stone.

VEHICLES.

The repair and maintenance of the ambulance vehicles became the responsibility of the Health Department on the closing of the Transport Department on 31st July, involving the following numbers and types of vehicles :—

32 Daimler Ambulances
36 Bedford Sitting Case Cars
19 Commer Ambulances
2 Karrier Sitting Case Cars
1 Morris Ambulance
1 Austin Ambulance
1 Landrover Ambulance

92

Servicing and Repairs.

Vehicles at 13 of the Stations were serviced by local garages under terms and arrangements made by, and taken over from, the Transport Department.

Vehicles at the remaining 7 Stations were serviced by three mechanics, one being based at each of the following Stations :—

Brierley Hill
Cannock
Newcastle

These mechanics were appointed initially by the Transport Department.

Radio Control.

During the year approval was given for the installation of a scheme of radio control of the Service from four controls at Stafford, Lichfield, Newcastle and Darlaston, and following the appointment of a Superintendent at each of these Stations the scheme of radio control came into operation on the 1st October.

Arising therefrom it was necessary to revise the schedule of delegated powers to Area Health Committees and from the 1st October, 1956, certain duties, including the appointment of supervisory and administrative staff at the Stations, the investigation of disciplinary matters arising from operational control, the responsibility for training and standards of proficiency, and the investigation of complaints of accidents were transferred from Area to Central administration.

On account of the impending changes within the Ambulance Service it was decided to appoint a County Ambulance Officer and a Technical Assistant and the persons appointed took up duty in June and August respectively.

MILEAGE, PATIENTS CARRIED, VEHICLES, ETC.

The table below shows the mileage and number of patients carried by each Station during the year, together with the number of personnel and vehicles at the 31st December, 1956.

STATION	Hours Open	PERSONNEL	VEHICLES		AMBULANCES		SITTING CARS	
			Amb.	S. Cars	Mileage	Patients	Mileage	Patients
Aldridge ...	16	8	2	1	26,822	3,700	24,947	2,790
Biddulph ...	8	4	1	1	31,665	6,170	—	—
Brierley Hill ...	24	22	4	3	74,912	9,856	70,058	8,689
Brownhills ...	16	12	2	2	40,671	6,021	29,747	3,782
Cannock ...	24	21	4	3	79,424	9,747	78,898	11,986
Coseley ...	24	22	4	3	66,900	10,197	70,665	15,683
Cheadle ...	16	12	4	1	60,293	7,032	17,793	4,352
Darlaston ...	24	24	4	3	76,344	14,426	48,090	9,422
Kidsgrove ...	8	4	1	1	11,404	2,317	15,088	3,745
Leek ...	24	19	4	3	70,954	5,659	63,387	10,330
Lichfield ...	24	19	4	3	59,153	4,728	46,334	4,764
Newcastle ...	24	24	4	3	78,042	14,494	50,524	9,265
Rowley Regis ...	12	6	2	1	36,748	8,140	17,533	3,426
Rugeley ...	8	4	1	1	23,588	2,667	17,893	3,666
Stafford ...	24	24	5	2	56,181	7,071	68,498	8,044
Stone ...	8	4	1	1	21,927	3,011	22,458	2,799
Tamworth ...	8	4	1	1	11,989	1,903	22,724	3,806
Tettenhall ...	8	2	1	1	11,193	2,262	15,005	2,693
Uttoxeter ...	24	17	3	3	45,161	2,807	46,478	3,456
Willenhall ...	8	6	2	1	18,001	6,225	20,136	6,095
Totals ...	—	258	54	38	901,372	128,433	746,256	118,793

An analysis of the types of patients carried is given below :—

Maternity	...	...	...	4,351
Illness	...	...	...	235,450
Accidents...	...	...	...	4,873
Infectious	...	...	...	1,756
Mental	...	...	...	796
				247,226

The following is a comparison of the number of Stations, personnel, vehicles, patients carried and mileage at the 31st December, 1956, with the number at 31st December, 1955 :—

			31.12.55	31.12.56
24-hour Stations	...	...	9	9
Sub-Stations	...	...	11	11
Ambulances	...	...	57	54
Sitting Cars	...	...	35	38
Personnel	...	...	250	258
Patients carried	...	...	233,196	247,226
Mileage	...	...	1,626,971	1,647,628
Average miles per patient				
carried	...	...	6.97	6.66

AGENCY SERVICE.

The following shows the number of volunteers, mileage run and patients carried by the Hospital Car Service in the Stafford Area :—

<i>Month</i>			<i>No. of Cars</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Patients Carried</i>
January	...	...	5	799	13
February	...	...	5	427	8
March	...	...	5	723	13
April...	...	...	6	389	9
May ...	...	...	6	554	12
June	...	...	4	876	18
July ...	...	...	4	963	22
August	...	...	4	935	17
September	...	...	4	804	11
October	...	...	4	568	28
November	...	...	4	576	16
December	...	...	4	227	7
				7,841	174

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.

The County Councils' Association recommended an inter-County rate of 2/6d. per mile for ambulances and large dual purpose vehicles and 1/6d. per mile for small dual purpose vehicles, and these rates were accepted by the Health Committee subject to any charges made in excess of these amounts. Similar charges would be made on the Council concerned should transport be provided on that Council's behalf by the Staffordshire County Council. This procedure is adopted in respect of the standard charge of 2/9d. per mile for ambulances and 1/3d. for sitting cars made by County Borough Councils.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The following are particulars of the work undertaken during 1956 by the four Welfare Officers :—

	<i>Free</i>	<i>Partial payment by patient</i>	<i>Paid in full by patient</i>	<i>Total</i>
(1) Number of patients supplied with extra nourishment† ...	644	10	—	654
(2) Number of patients supplied with clothing†	416	16	—	432
(3) Number of patients supplied with bedding†	259	15	—	274
(4) Number of patients supplied with convalescent home treatment	70	108	11	‡189
(5) Number of patients supplied with appliances*	229	—	—	229
(6) Number of visits and interviews with patients	—	—	—	4,641
(7) Number of patients seen at Office or Clinic	—	—	—	2,086
(8) Housing				
(a) No. of cases recommended	—	—	—	163
(b) No. of cases re-housed ...	—	—	—	74
(9) No. of shelters supplied to T.B. patients	—	—	—	—

* Includes invalid chairs, air beds, rubber rings, hot water bottles, articles for occupational therapy, bed rests, etc. The majority of such appliances were provided on loan.

† Includes cases where assistance was given through Welfare Officers by bodies other than the Staffordshire County Council, e.g., British Red Cross Society and other voluntary associations, National Assistance Board.

‡ This total includes 4 cases of problem families sent to Centres for the Guidance of Mothers in Home Management and Child Care.

(3 were sent to Crowley House, Birmingham.

1 was sent to the Brentwood Recuperative Centre, Marple, Cheshire.)

The provisions of this Section of the Act empower the Local Health Authority to recover reasonable charges from persons availing themselves of the services provided, subject to consideration of their means. The foregoing table indicates to what extent there was recovery or partial recovery of charges during the year.

In addition to the foregoing, the Welfare Officers are concerned with the provision of travelling warrants to relatives to enable them to visit patients in hospital in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 85/49, particulars of which were given in the Annual Report for that year. During the year 35 applications for the facility were received. In 30 instances full travelling expenses were allowed and four were granted partial assistance. In the remaining one instance it was found the financial circumstances were such that the case could not be considered to be a necessitous one, so that the County Council could not pay the travelling expenses involved.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

In the Report for 1953 particulars were given of the scheme inaugurated by the Health Committee for the visitation of old people and here again the Welfare Officers visit the old people and advise and assist wherever necessary. As mentioned previously, the latter have been classified in five categories as follows :—

- (1) Appropriately provided for as regards accommodation, money and domestic assistance or care from relatives ; needing no, or only slight, help from public sources ; not lacking such social contacts as are appropriate ; adequately nursed and treated at home if infirm, i.e., those about whom no anxiety need be felt.
- (2) In reasonable health and not without material necessities (e.g., food, shelter, clothing, ability to pay for household help), but lonely and lacking social contacts and relatives or friends able and willing to take an interest in them ; i.e., those whose main need is sympathetic visiting and observation, old people's clubs, holidays and other outside interests.
- (3) Needing substantial assistance from public and/or voluntary services (e.g., domestic helps, home nursing, social workers, someone to shop and collect pensions, etc.), but who with such assistance could be adequately cared for at home.
- (4) " Chronic sick " or seriously demented requiring more nursing care, supervision and treatment than could be provided in their homes and whose real need is a hospital bed, though the domiciliary services may be required while a bed is awaited.
- (5) Those (whether sick or not) living in grossly insanitary conditions such as to require initial action by the District Medical Officer of Health to secure cleansing or removal.

Cases are brought to the notice of the Welfare Officers in various ways, i.e., Health Visitors, General Nurses, General Practitioners, Medical Officers of Health, Housing Welfare Officers, National Assistance Board, etc.

One of the Welfare Officers has commented as follows :—

" I find that being able to send old people to Convalescent Homes where medically recommended is very much appreciated and is of great value in retaining their independence. I have had several cases over the year of old people living by themselves, who were getting to the stage where they found it difficult to manage, but after two weeks at a Home such as Gable House they have been able to carry on and the difference is most noticeable."

During the period under review some 677 homes were visited—120 to cases falling in Category 1, 55 in Category 2, 431 in Category 3, 54 in Category 4 and 17 in Category 5.

Seven hundred and ninety-seven visits to these homes were paid—446 of these were of a social nature, 153 to cases referred to County Council agencies, i.e., for domestic assistance, extra nourishment, nursing equipment, to the County Welfare Officer, etc., and 198 referred to outside bodies—National Assistance Board, Voluntary Associations, Red Cross, W.V.S., etc.

NURSING COMFORTS

The arrangements entered into with the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade with regard to the Nursing Comforts Scheme, as described in the Annual Report for 1952, continued to work satisfactorily. At the end of 1956, 74 Nursing Comforts Depots were in operation as compared with 69 at the beginning of the year.

ADMISSION OF CHRONIC SICK TO HOSPITAL

In a previous Report particulars were given of the scheme in operation in the area of the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee whereby, in an endeavour to achieve the best means of using the beds available for the treatment of the chronic sick, the General Practitioners wishing to remove to hospital a chronic sick case resident in the County Area first applies to the local Area Medical Officer so that the latter might overcome, if possible, the home difficulties by arranging the requisite facilities to enable the patient to remain at home or otherwise to refer the case to the Secretary of the Hospital Management Committee, confirming that such efforts had been unsuccessful and indicating the degree of urgency in each case.

During the year the number of cases referred to Area Medical Officers was 596.

Of the total number referred, 423 were admitted to chronic sick hospital accommodation, five to Mental Hospitals, one to Part III Accommodation and fourteen to General Hospitals. In 185 of these cases one or more of the County Council's Services were of help to the patients pending admission.

In 153 cases, therefore, the patients were cared for at home, the County Council's Services being of assistance in 79 instances, viz. :—

Nursing	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Domestic Help	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nursing and Domestic Help...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nursing and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Domestic Help and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nursing, Domestic Help and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

PREVENTION OF HOME ACCIDENTS

The County Council have approved the recommendation of the Health Committee that the functions relating to home safety should be delegated to Area Health Committees and that the latter be advised to set up Advisory Sub-Committees with power to co-opt members to serve thereon from any Voluntary Home Safety Organisations in their respective Areas. The advantage of this course is that the Area Committees are responsible for the day to day control of the Nursing and Domestic Help Staff, who are the personnel intimately concerned with home conditions.

In addition to displaying posters, supplying leaflets, etc., in several of the Areas exhibitions, which have proved to be very popular, have been held illustrating the prevention of home accidents, and it is hoped that as the result of the measures taken this type of accident will be prevented, to some extent at least, in future years.

The co-operation of the Regional Hospital Board was also sought to provide that notification might be made to the Health Department of cases of severe home accidents requiring hospital treatment to enable visits to be made to the homes of the patients concerned in an endeavour to remove the source of danger and accident.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

There was again unfortunately further curtailment of this scheme during 1956, because as explained in the 1955 Report the remaining Occupational Therapist who was obliged to cease duty for domestic reasons did not return until June. However, during the remainder of the year 291 visits were made to patients in their homes—the number of patients on the register being 147.

The numbers of cases who attended the classes at Wolverhampton and Wednesbury during the same period (June to December) were 64 at Wolverhampton and 58 at Wednesbury.

The vacancy on the establishment for a second Occupational Therapist was not filled during the year.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Full particulars of the above-mentioned Service have been given in a previous Report.

The Service continued to expand further during the year and at the 31st December, 621 Domestic Helps were employed compared with 497 at the end of the previous year.

During the year 2,825 cases were attended compared with 2,344 in 1955.

NIGHT HELPS

The Ministry of Health have agreed to the provision by the County Council of a scheme of night helps (or night sitters or watchers). This scheme is intended to assist in cases of serious, chronic and terminal illnesses to relieve the heavy strain on relatives by enabling them to have periods of undisturbed sleep during certain nights of the week, where a wife is ill in bed, the husband has to work during the night and the presence of children may be involved, etc. The scheme also gives families opportunities of taking annual holidays in cases where there are aged parents who cannot temporarily be removed to a Home, etc.

At the end of the year four Night Helps were being employed.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(1) ADMINISTRATION.

A Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee is appointed to deal with the functions of the County Council relating to the Mental Health Service, the recommendations of this Sub-Committee being subject to the approval of the Health Committee.

The medical direction of the Mental Health Section is undertaken by the County Psychiatrist subject to the general direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. The post is filled at present by a Medical Officer with the following qualifications : M.B., Ch.B. She is employed part-time by the Health Committee, the remainder of her time being spent in duties undertaken for the School Health Service.

A Mental Welfare Officer is employed, her qualifications being a B.A. degree with a Secondary Teachers' Diploma. She is authorised to present petitions under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and makes the necessary arrangements for the majority of the certifications under this Act.

No Psychiatric Social Workers are employed.

The four Mental Welfare Workers are qualified as under :—

- (i) Social Science Diploma.
- (ii) Social Science Diploma.
- (iii) R.M.P.A. Certificate, with five years' experience in industrial social work prior to appointment in 1948.
- (iv) Uncertificated teacher with 20 years' experience in mental health social work.

Seven Duly Authorised Officers are employed in a full-time capacity. In addition, one of the Mental Welfare Workers undertakes relief duties at weekends and during annual leave periods of one of the regular officers.

The Special Training Centre staffs are as follows :—

Supervisors. Two with the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, two who hold the Recognition Certificate issued by the National Joint Council for Mental Health and three with no qualifications.

Assistant Supervisors. One with the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, one uncertificated teacher and nineteen who are unqualified, including one who is attending the course organised by the National Association for Mental Health for their Diploma. In addition a temporary assistant supervisor is employed in place of the assistant absent on this course.

One trainee assistant supervisor is at present under training.

The staff of the Practical Training Centre for adult mental defectives is as shown below :—

Supervisor—Male, Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health.

Deputy Supervisor—Male, unqualified.

Woodwork Instructor—Male, cabinet-maker.

Boot and Shoe Repairer Instructor—Male, craftsman.

General Handicrafts Instructors—Female, unqualified (2).

An unqualified Home Teacher is employed in the sparsely populated districts in the north of the County where it is not feasible to provide Special Training Centres.

The number of certified mental defectives from the Administrative County at the 31st December, 1956, was as follows :—

St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	...	...	440
Stallington Hall	...	...	109
Other Institutions (including State Institutions)			213
Total	...	...	762

Supervision of mentally defective patients on licence was carried out on behalf of Hospital Management Committees of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board as requested by Medical Superintendents. During the year 92 patients were thus supervised, 58 from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr Park, 7 from Stallington Hall, one from Burton Road Hospital, one from Andressey Hospital, 8 from Monyhull Hall, 3 from Chelmsley Hospital and 14 from out-County authorities. Forty-four patients on licence were discharged from their orders during the year and four were returned to hospital. Approximately 210 reports on the home conditions of defectives who were seen by Visiting Justices for renewal of their Order were submitted after investigation of the circumstances in each case. On 31.12.56 there were 26 defectives on licence under supervision from Staffordshire Hospitals and 12 on licence from other counties.

It has been arranged with the Medical Superintendents of two of the Mental Hospitals in the County (St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood, and St. George's Hospital, Stafford,) for those Officers of the County who undertake the after-care of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals to attend at those hospitals on the case conferences on the patients for whom they will be responsible on discharge. This is of great advantage not only to the patient, for whom it ensures continuity of treatment and care, but also to the Officers concerned, as it enables them to be briefed in the specific problems regarding each patient.

No duties have been delegated to Voluntary Associations although the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare is responsible for the financial aspects of the annual holiday provided for the defectives attending Special Training Centres towards the cost of which the County Council makes a grant. This Association has Sub-Committees attached to six of the Centres which raise funds locally towards the cost of such holidays and other social amenities.

Whenever possible one member of the County Special Training Centre staffs is seconded each year to attend the course for the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, and an assistant supervisor who was engaged in the first instance as a trainee was selected as the candidate for the 1956-57 course. Approval has also been obtained to participation in the two year "In-Service" Diploma Course for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped organised by the City of Birmingham Education Department during 1956-58. One member of the staffs of the Special Training Centres and one member of the Practical Training Centre Staff commenced this Course in September. The trainee scheme mentioned in the 1952 report has been in operation since 1953. Two of the trainees were appointed to the posts of Assistant Supervisor during the year, and the vacancies thus created were not filled by the end of the year.

The usual four-day residential refresher course for Special Training Centre staffs was held in April this year at Walton Hall Special School and 31 members of the County staff attended, together with 2 students from outside the Administrative County. One member of the Centres' staffs attended the residential refresher course organised by the National Association for Mental Health in July.

Although authorisation has been given for the attendance of Mental Welfare Workers and Duly Authorised Officers on Refresher Courses it has for some time been impossible to arrange for this due to there being no suitable courses available.

(2) ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

(a) *Under Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946. Prevention, Care and After-Care.*

During the year 686 new cases were referred for preventive care and after-care to the Social Workers in Mental Health. In all, 1,677 visits of after-care were made by these Duly Authorised Officers and at the end of the year 310 cases remained on the registers. An increase is again shown in the number of new cases referred.

It is appreciated that considerable scope exists for increased attention to the preventative aspects of mental health.

(b) *Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, by Duly Authorised Officers.*

One thousand, seven hundred and seventy-one cases were referred to the Duly Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. They were dealt with as follows :—

Voluntary cases under Section 1 of the Mental Treatment Act	...	...	...	...	492
Temporary cases under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act	...	...	...	...	4
Three-day Orders under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act	...	...	...	...	374

Urgency Order, Section 11, Lunacy Act ...	1
Summary Reception Orders, Secs. 14-16 of the Lunacy Act	317
Fourteen-day Orders Section 21(1) of the Lunacy Act	181
Referred to Neurosis Centres	18
Admitted to chronic sick hospitals	5
Other disposals	8
Cases seen in which no action was taken ...	371
	1,771

Again it is noted that the proportion of cases dealt with on Summary Reception Orders remains low and there is no significant change in the percentage admitted as voluntary patients. The figure shown under Section 1 of the Mental Treatment Act refers only to cases in which the Duly Authorised Officers were concerned and not to the total admissions under this Section.

(c) *Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38. Ascertainment.*
Particulars of cases reported during the year 1956 :—

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
(a) Cases at 31st December, 1956, ascertained to be defectives subject to be dealt with under the Act.					
(i) Reported by Local Education Authorities :					
Children at school or liable to attend school	17	19	—	—	36
On leaving special schools ..	1	1	14	8	24
On leaving ordinary schools ..	12	6	—	—	18
(ii) Reported by Police or Courts	—	—	1	—	1
(iii) Other Sources	4	†	3	1	12
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	5	5	6	7	23
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b) ..	—	—	1	1	2
Total number of cases reported during the year	39	35	25	17	116

The number of cases in the community awaiting removal to institutions on 31.12.56 was :—

Under 16		16 and over		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
29	23	23	25	100

Guardianship.

On the 31st December, 1956, there were four defectives under statutory guardianship—all four were males. All attend Special Training Centres and are regularly visited. In addition supervision is carried out on behalf of other Local Health Authorities in respect of two of their cases under guardianship at present residing in Staffordshire. Grants from the National Assistance Board have relieved the financial stringency, which formerly necessitated a number of guardianship orders to secure adequate maintenance for the defectives at home.

Supervision.

On the 31st December, 1956, the following mental defectives were under supervision :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Statutory Supervision :			
(i) Under 16 years of age ...	185	178	363
(ii) Aged 16 years and over ...	362	291	653
Voluntary Supervision :			
(i) Under 16 years of age ...	3	3	6
(ii) Aged 16 years and over ...	281	248	529
	831	720	1,551

Out of a total of 1,551 cases 34.4% are under voluntary supervision.

Six thousand, four hundred and ninety domiciliary visits and interviews by the four Mental Welfare Workers took place during the year. In addition, 4 visits were paid to the homes of educationally sub-normal children at the request of the County Education Authority. Eight defectives appeared before Courts of Law during the year ; of these six were admitted to institutions, four under Section 8 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. Petitions for orders under the Mental Deficiency Acts were presented in the case of 36 alleged defectives in the County and thirteen on behalf of other Authorities.

Two defectives were admitted to institutions under Section 3 of the Mental Deficiency Act as " placed " cases without an order, and two were sent to a Voluntary Home, making a total of 44 vacancies offered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board for County cases in the year.

At the close of the year there were 100 defectives awaiting beds in institutions and, in addition, 10 who had been admitted to Mental Hospitals pending transfer to Mental Deficiency Institutions.

Again this year the pressure on beds in Mental Deficiency Hospitals provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has been so acute that some of the most urgent cases cannot be placed. The distress this causes to the defective concerned and to the relatives is very great.

For the majority of defectives regular domiciliary visiting by Social Workers experienced in mental health work who can advise wisely when difficulties arise meets their need, linked as this is in the County with facilities for admission to the Day Special Training Centres in suitable cases. The opening of a Practical Training Centre for trainees over the age of 16 years at Shepwell Green in December, 1955, was an important development of the County Council's Scheme for community care.

Training to which they can respond and a "school life" of their own brings happiness and inspiration into the lives of many of these young people, and makes it possible for them in spite of their handicaps to continue to live at home.

For those able to work ready co-operation over their placement has been given to the Mental Welfare Workers by the Officers of the Ministry of Labour, and by the National Assistance Board with those who are unemployable.

Under the provisions of the Ministry of Health's Circular 5/52 most valuable help has again been afforded to individual defectives under supervision during the year. Seventeen defectives under 16 years and 16 over 16 years old were admitted under these provisions for temporary residential care to Mental Deficiency Hospitals for varying periods up to eight weeks. This has given much needed relief to responsible relatives when difficulties have arisen in their homes.

Training.

The number of Special Training Centres in the County Area is unchanged (7) and the Home Teacher continues to operate over a wide area around Leek in North Staffordshire. The particulars are as follows :—

<i>Centre</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>		<i>Staff at 31.12.56</i>
		<i>31.12.56</i>	
Stafford ...	...	15	Supervisor and one assistant
Cannock ...	...	22*	Supervisor and one assistant
Bilston ...	...	51	Supervisor and four assistants
Kingswinford ...	...	43	Supervisor and four assistants
Rowley Regis ...	...	30	Supervisor and two assistants, Male Caretaker/Gardener/Instructor
Newcastle ...	...	63†	Supervisor and five assistants, Male Caretaker/Gardener/Instructor
Lichfield ...	...	42‡	Supervisor, four assistants and one trainee
		266	

Home Teacher centred on Leek ... 25

* Includes one boy maintained by Burton-on-Trent.

† Includes six children from City of Stoke-on-Trent.

‡ Includes one boy from Warwickshire.

In addition, the County Council have arranged with Wolverhampton County Borough Council, with Burton-on-Trent County Borough Council and with Stoke-on-Trent City Council for cases living near to those Authorities' Occupation Centres who cannot reach a County Centre from where they live to be admitted to the Out-County Centre. At the end of the year two cases were maintained in Wolverhampton Centre, two in Burton-on-Trent and two in Fenton Centre.

The new Special Training Centre at Rowley Regis mentioned in the last Report was completed this year and commenced operation on the 12th September. The use of the hired premises at Ocker Hill, Tipton, was therefore, discontinued at the end of the Summer Term and the children and staff transferred to the new building. This was designed as a 60-place Centre to serve the district, including Tipton, Rowley Regis, Old Hill, Blackheath, Brierley Hill, Quarry Bank, but until the end of the year only the 30 children who attended the Tipton Centre were admitted to the new Centre. Additional coach transport was planned so that in the New Year, some 25 defectives attending the Kingswinford Centre, one of the three Centres housed in rented accommodation, could be admitted to the Rowley Regis Centre, the staff of which will be increased to the full establishment for the 60 places provided. The final plans of the new Special Training Centre to be built in Stafford to replace the rented accommodation (the owners of which having requested that the building be vacated in June, 1957) were drawn up early in the year and in the autumn approval was obtained to the acceptance of a tender for the erection of the new Centre, the building of which will commence early in 1957. It is anticipated that this Centre, designed for 30 places, will be ready for occupation during the autumn of 1957.

As previously stated, the general policy of separate provision for adult defectives has been accepted in so far as this is practicable, but at present numbers are sufficient only to warrant the establishment of an Adult Centre to serve the south of the County. Adaptations were completed at the former Day Nursery at Shepwell Green, Willenhall, and the premises were opened for use as a Practical Training Centre for adult mental defectives on the 5th December, 1955. The Centre is designed to accommodate sixty trainees, but in the first instance admissions were limited to those defectives over the age of 16 years who were attending the Bilston, Tipton and Kingswinford Special Training Centres. New admissions have, however, been effected throughout the year and the number on the register at 31.12.56 was 52. The staff were as shown earlier, an additional female general handicrafts instructor having been appointed during the year.

In order to provide suitable training for the adult defectives living in the north of the County, the Stoke-on-Trent City Council were approached with a view to places being offered at their Adult Training Centre in Hanley. Reciprocal arrangements were made in 1954 whereby children from the City are admitted to Newcastle Special Training Centre and older defectives from the Administrative County are admitted to the City Adult Training Centre. In 1955 the City Council agreed to our request that a further five places should be placed at the disposal of the County Council and this year another place was made available. At the end of the year the full agreed number of County cases, 26, were attending.

Summer holidays of one week's duration were arranged for 160 pupils attending Special Training Centres. There were altogether nine parties and the arrangements were made by the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare. The cost of the holidays was met from contributions by the parents, donations from the Centre Committees of the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare and from the Health Committee.

The day-to-day administration of the Centres and appointment of their staffs is the responsibility of the Area Health Committee of the Area in which the Centre is situated. The majority of the Area Health Committees have appointed a representative to serve on the local Centre Committee of the Voluntary Association. The Parents' Associations at Newcastle and Bilston Centres continue to do good work. All Centres have been inspected by the Board of Control.

The Home Teacher has continued to give weekly or fortnightly lessons to the 25 defectives on her register during the school terms, travelling by car 5,595 miles during the year. Seven hundred and fourteen visits were made by the Home Teacher during the year.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

The following are particulars of the known cases of epilepsy and cerebral palsy from the Administrative County at the 31st December, 1956 :—

EPILEPSY.

Adults.

No. in Part III Accommodation	...	12	
No. in own homes	...	54	
No. chargeable to the Authority in colonies outside the County	...	25	
			91

Children between the ages of 2 and 16 years.

Epileptics.

At Special Schools	...	3 (2 boys 1 girl)	
Awaiting admission to Special Schools		2 (boys)	
At ordinary schools	...	209 (93 boys 116 girls)	
Home Tuition	...	5 (2 boys 3 girls)	
At Home without Tuition (i.e., Pre-School Age)	...	8 (6 boys 2 girls)	
			227 (105 boys 122 girls)

Epilepsy with other major defects.

At Special Schools	...	15 (11 boys 4 girls)	
At ordinary schools	...	21 (17 boys 4 girls)	
Having Home Tuition	...	12 (6 boys 6 girls)	
Pre-School Age	...	2 (boys)	
? Mentally Deficient (Pending reference to L.H.A.)	...	4 (3 boys 1 girl)	
			54 (39 boys 15 girls)
			281

Children under 2 years of age.

No. treated in hospital	2	
No. treated by general practitioners ...	1	
	3 (2 boys 1 girl)	3

Mental defectives under statutory and voluntary supervision with the additional handicap of epilepsy.

No. under 16 years	37 (13 male 24 female)	
No. 16 years and over	72 (38 male 34 female)	
	109 (51 male 58 female)	109
		484

CEREBRAL PALSY.

Adults.

No. in own homes	31	
No. in Voluntary Home but chargeable to the Authority	4	
		35

Children 2—16.

At Residential Special Schools on account of Cerebral Palsy ...	35 (20 boys 15 girls)	
At Day Special Schools for Physically Handicapped	5 (2 boys 3 girls)	
At Special Schools for other causes ...	9 (5 boys 4 girls)	
Under Investigation (re Educability) ...	10 (8 boys 2 girls)	
Waiting List for Special Schools (Physically Handicapped) ...	15 (7 boys 8 girls)	
Attending ordinary schools	79 (43 boys 36 girls)	
*Having tuition at home	12 (4 boys 8 girls)	

At home without tuition—

(a) of average intelligence	...	...	4 (girls)	
(b) ? intelligence	...	...	14 (5 boys 9 girls)	
			183 (94 boys 89 girls)	183

* In addition to the 12 children for whom home tuition is the best possible provision, six boys and six girls on waiting lists for special schools and three boys whose educability is in doubt were having home tuition as an interim measure.

Children under 2.

No. treated in hospital	...	...	5	
No. treated by general practitioners	...	...	3	
			8 (5 boys 3 girls)	8

Mental defectives under statutory and voluntary supervision with the additional handicap of cerebral palsy.

No. under 16 years	...	...	49 (24 male 25 female)	
No. 16 years and over	...	...	74 (38 male 36 female)	
			123 (62 male 61 female)	123
				349

Of the 109 persons suffering from epilepsy in addition to mental defect, 35 attend Special Training Centres and one has Home Teaching.

Of the 123 defectives suffering from spastic conditions 38 attend Special Training Centres and two have Home Teaching. Thirty persons in these two totals suffer from both epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

With regard to adults, the figures given relate to those registered by the County Welfare Department under the scheme relating to permanently handicapped made under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and those chargeable in Part III Accommodation.

As mentioned in a previous Report, the fullest co-operation is maintained between the Welfare Services Department, the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Youth Employment Officers of the Education Committee, Voluntary Organisations, etc.

Each application for Registration under the Authority's scheme is considered from the widest aspects of welfare, and where spectacles, artificial limbs, wheeled chairs, etc., are found to be needed application is made to the appropriate Department or body for what is required. Where further particulars are needed as to the extent of disability of any handicapped person these are obtained, with the person's consent, from the General Practitioner through this Department and intimation is given to the County Welfare Officer where there is any doubt as to suitability of any particular applicant for inclusion in the Register of Handicapped Persons.

With regard to spastics, the Midland Spastic Association, whose area includes Staffordshire, provides home tuition in handicrafts, visits, advice, etc. A contribution is made by the Authority to the Association in accordance with the decision of the Authority to utilise, as far as is considered practicable or desirable, the services available from Voluntary Organisations for all classes of handicapped.

With regard to the children between the ages of 2 and 16 years, such cases are ascertained from Health Visitors, routine medical inspections, Head Teachers, School Welfare Officers, parents, hospitals, etc. No medical treatment is undertaken by the School Health Service and it is usually ascertained when a case is brought to notice that it is already in the care of a General Practitioner and/or Consultant. Admission to Special Schools is arranged when required by the Education Committee.

School Medical Officers have supplies of enrolment forms for the register maintained by the Welfare Services Department for distribution when children are examined in the "leaver group."

TABLES

Table showing Population, Number of Persons per acre, Birth and Death-rates at all ages and among Children under 1 year, and the Death-rates from Zymotic Diseases, Tuberculosis, Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, &c.

URBAN

District	Population at all ages		Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth-rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality Per 1,000 of Population			Per 1,000 of Population							
	Census 1951 (Final)	Estimated 1956									Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasms	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Congenital Malformations
Aldridge ...	29,171	35,930	3.9	18.1	16.1	0.47	8.0	12.9	28	34	—	—	—	0.08	0.03	1.28	0.42	0.31	0.14	0.06	0.08
Amblecote ...	3,165	3,000	4.5	12.7	11.9	—	8.7	8.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.33	—	0.67	0.33	—	—
Biddulph ...	10,896	12,970	2.0	19.8	18.6	0.46	8.6	12.0	16	19	—	—	—	0.08	—	1.08	0.31	0.08	0.23	0.23	0.08
Bilston ...	33,458	33,960	18.2	17.6	16.6	0.50	9.0	13.0	28	40	—	—	—	0.09	—	1.71	0.91	0.44	0.09	—	0.18
Brierley Hill ...	48,966	50,280	8.6	14.1	13.5	0.36	9.5	11.9	15	21	—	—	—	0.08	0.02	1.77	1.01	0.18	—	0.08	0.04
Brownhills ...	21,489	21,880	3.5	17.2	16.5	0.59	10.2	13.8	24	37	—	—	—	0.23	—	1.60	0.46	0.46	0.37	0.14	0.18
Cannock ...	40,917	41,950	5.1	16.8	16.1	0.36	10.5	12.9	18	21	—	—	—	0.12	0.02	2.10	0.86	0.21	0.05	0.02	0.10
Coseley ...	34,397	33,420	10.6	16.2	14.9	0.30	9.5	14.3	19	35	—	0.03	—	0.09	—	1.17	1.05	0.54	0.09	0.09	0.12
Darlaston ...	22,012	22,140	14.5	14.2	12.9	0.50	10.4	15.2	13	25	—	—	—	0.23	—	2.30	0.90	0.27	0.09	—	0.09
Kidsgrove ...	16,229	18,270	4.5	21.1	18.8	0.82	8.9	12.5	23	29	—	—	—	0.11	—	1.53	0.38	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.27
Leek ...	19,356	18,970	4.4	13.2	13.7	0.47	11.7	11.9	28	36	—	—	—	—	—	2.27	0.58	0.37	0.05	0.16	0.05
Lichfield ...	10,619	11,050	3.1	19.5	18.7	0.45	12.2	11.8	9	19	—	—	—	0.09	—	2.35	0.45	0.54	0.09	—	—
Newcastle ...	70,036	73,160	8.2	16.6	16.4	0.49	11.3	14.1	21	27	—	—	—	0.16	—	2.32	0.53	0.41	0.22	0.04	0.15

Deaths occurring during the year 1956 classified according to Diseases and Localities,
together with Births occurring during the year.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Live Births		Deaths from all causes		Deaths under 1 year		Deaths under 4 weeks		Tuberculosis, Respiratory		Tuberculosis, other		Syphilitic Disease	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases		Malignant Neoplasm				Leukaemia, Aleukaemia		Diabetes	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		Coronary Disease, Angina	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Other Heart Disease	Other Circulatory Disease	Influenza	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Other Diseases of Respiratory System		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Congenital Malformations	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	All other Accidents	Suicide	Homicide and Operations of War																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							

URBAN—continued

DISTRICT	Population at all ages		Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth-rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality of Population			Per 1,000 of Population							
	Census 1951 (Final)	Estimated 1956									Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasm	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Congenital Malformations
Rowley Regis ...	49,402	49,180	13.0	12.0	11.4	0.26	9.2	12.8	14	17	—	—	—	0.14	—	1.81	0.65	0.37	0.08	0.16	0.06
Rugeley ...	8,525	11,270	3.9	25.1	22.8	0.80	9.5	13.1	32	49	—	0.18	—	0.18	—	1.51	0.53	0.09	0.09	—	0.44
Sedgley ...	23,114	24,130	6.3	14.3	13.6	0.29	26.6	10.9	14	29	—	—	—	0.21	—	2.90	1.82	0.37	0.12	0.08	0.17
Stafford ...	40,263	41,420	8.1	16.1	15.8	0.36	12.2	11.8	21	33	—	—	—	0.14	0.02	2.22	0.89	0.29	0.05	0.12	0.14
Stone ...	8,299	8,860	4.5	13.1	12.8	0.45	18.5	9.6	17	43	—	—	—	—	—	2.37	1.69	0.23	0.23	—	0.34
Tamworth ...	12,889	13,350	4.9	15.9	15.6	0.37	15.7	12.4	19	19	—	—	—	0.07	—	2.85	1.20	0.52	0.07	0.07	0.15
Tettenhall ...	7,743	11,410	4.6	19.1	17.2	0.26	10.0	11.7	18	23	—	—	—	—	—	2.02	0.53	0.44	0.18	—	0.09
Tipton ...	39,382	39,540	18.2	17.5	15.6	0.35	7.7	11.5	20	26	—	0.03	—	0.20	—	1.54	0.76	0.35	0.05	0.18	0.10
Uttoxeter ...	7,447	7,820	2.3	15.6	15.8	0.51	10.7	11.6	16	16	—	—	—	0.13	—	1.28	0.38	—	—	0.13	—
Wednesbury ...	34,759	34,710	17.1	16.7	15.4	0.55	10.7	14.8	19	26	—	—	—	0.23	—	1.93	1.12	0.35	0.14	0.20	0.20
Wednesfield ...	17,418	23,700	9.4	20.2	17.8	0.55	6.9	11.9	15	25	—	0.04	—	0.08	0.04	1.10	0.55	0.30	0.08	0.04	0.04
Willenhall ...	30,696	31,230	11.0	15.5	14.6	0.42	9.7	14.1	16	29	—	—	—	0.13	—	1.86	0.61	0.45	0.19	0.03	0.13
Totals and Averages ...	640,648	673,600	6.7	16.4	15.4	0.43	10.7	13.1	20	28	—	0.01	—	0.13	0.01	1.88	0.78	0.34	0.11	0.08	0.12
160 large towns in England ...	—	—	—	15.6	—	0.37	11.6	—	—	24	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.57	—	—	—
160 smaller towns, resident Population 25,000—50,000 ...	—	—	—	15.6	—	0.36	11.6	—	—	24	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.45	—	—	—

URBAN—continued

District	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths from all causes	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 4 weeks	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Syphilitic Disease	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Malignant Neoplasm						Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	Diabetes	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	Coronary Disease, Angina	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Other Heart Disease	Other Circulatory Disease	Influenza	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Congenital Malformations	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	All other Accidents	Suicide	Homicide and operations of War	
															Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic	Neoplasms																							
Rowley Regis...	588	13	452	10	8	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	20	10	4	32	2	2	45	56	23	86	10	6	18	32	4	5	3	5	1	3	30	5	5	6	—		
Rugeley ...	283	9	107	14	9	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	10	2	1	10	9	3	16	5	—	1	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	1	10	1	—
Sedgley ...	345	7	642	10	5	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	18	8	7	29	2	10	93	34	7	151	24	1	9	44	3	2	3	2	3	1	4	153	3	11	5	—	
Stafford ...	668	15	505	22	14	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	17	16	11	2	46	4	3	55	78	6	107	18	4	12	37	2	1	6	5	4	1	6	41	3	6	2	—	
Stone ...	116	4	164	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	13	1	2	31	18	1	30	5	1	2	15	2	1	2	—	—	1	3	25	2	1	—	—	
Tamworth ...	212	5	209	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	4	2	2	22	1	1	37	16	6	31	9	2	7	16	1	3	—	1	2	—	2	25	—	8	1	—	
Tettenhall ...	218	3	114	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	15	1	2	20	19	1	8	4	1	5	6	2	1	2	—	—	1	13	2	1	2	—	—	
Tipton ...	693	14	304	18	14	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	8	17	5	5	26	1	1	25	28	7	65	1	—	14	30	2	1	2	7	3	—	4	33	2	3	4	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	122	4	84	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	5	1	1	17	10	2	15	7	1	—	3	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	9	1	1	—	—	
Wednesbury ...	580	19	372	15	11	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	11	18	3	3	32	1	1	44	38	16	62	5	4	12	39	5	2	—	7	4	—	7	28	3	10	7	1	
Wednesfield ...	479	13	164	12	7	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	—	1	10	3	—	14	17	5	19	7	—	7	13	2	3	—	1	2	—	1	27	1	8	4	—	
Willenhall ...	485	13	303	14	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	17	14	4	—	23	7	5	39	29	3	44	13	1	14	19	6	2	2	1	—	4	33	1	12	4	1	—	
Totals ...	11042	291	7184	310	217	88	5	9	—	5	2	1	—	21	240	244	112	53	614	47	49	946	802	177	1195	247	45	227	524	76	55	32	56	45	11	83	844	66	182	77	4		

RURAL

DISTRICT	Population at all ages		Mean area per person in acres	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth-rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality Per 1,000 of Population			Per 1,000 of Population							
	Census 1951 (Final)	Estimated 1956									Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasms	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Congenital Malformations
Cannock ...	24,166	25,380	2.2	19.6	18.8	0.55	8.9	10.8	16	18	—	—	—	1.73	0.75	0.32	0.04	0.08	0.04		
Cheadle ...	32,844	35,110	1.7	16.0	16.6	0.57	14.8	11.8	25	32	—	—	0.23	—	1.71	0.46	0.60	0.14	0.37	0.11	
Leek ...	16,863	18,380	4.0	17.1	17.4	0.16	10.1	11.9	32	38	—	—	—	0.05	1.14	0.33	0.22	0.11	0.11	0.11	
Lichfield ...	41,084	41,250	2.0	14.3	16.0	0.34	10.9	11.1	22	27	—	—	—	—	1.58	0.68	0.34	0.24	0.17	0.05	
Newcastle ...	17,126	17,630	2.3	12.3	12.3	0.51	11.2	11.6	5	14	—	—	0.17	—	1.93	0.40	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.06	
Seisdon ...	22,322	28,070	1.5	18.2	17.1	0.25	9.5	12.4	29	35	—	—	0.14	—	1.78	0.43	0.25	0.14	0.11	0.29	
Stafford ...	18,614	19,340	4.1	15.0	16.4	0.41	8.9	11.5	21	41	—	—	—	—	1.76	0.36	0.10	0.10	—	0.05	
Stone ...	16,789	16,690	3.7	14.6	13.9	0.54	9.0	10.5	16	29	—	—	0.06	—	1.32	0.30	0.54	0.12	0.18	0.24	
Tutbury ...	14,839	15,490	2.0	15.8	16.6	0.65	9.0	9.6	12	16	—	—	—	—	1.29	0.45	0.26	0.13	—	0.13	
Uttoxeter ...	9,862	11,260	5.0	15.0	17.0	0.27	9.2	10.1	12	18	—	—	—	—	1.78	0.62	0.09	—	—	0.18	
Totals and Averages ...	214,509	228,600	2.6	15.9	16.4	0.42	10.6	11.6	21	28	—	—	0.07	0.00	1.62	0.49	0.32	0.14	0.14	0.12	

RURAL

District	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths from all causes		Deaths under 1 year		Deaths under 4 weeks		Tuberculosis, Respiratory		Tuberculosis, other		Syphilitic Disease		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Meningococcal Infections		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases		Malignant Neoplasm					Leukaemia, Aleukaemia		Diabetes		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		Coronary Disease, Angina		Hypertension with Heart Disease		Other Heart Disease		Other Circulatory Disease		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchitis		Other Diseases of Respiratory System		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea		Nephritis and Nephrosis		Hyperplasia of Prostate		Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion		Congenital Malformations		Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases		Motor Vehicle Accidents		All other Accidents		Suicide		Homicide and Operations of War																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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Table showing the number of cases of certain Infectious Diseases notified in each sanitary area during the year ended 31st December, 1956, and the Attack-Rates per 1,000 of the population.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Estimated Population 1956 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio- myelitis Cases
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Aldridge ...	35,930	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	0.70	47	1.31	1	0.03	2	0.06	24	0.67	18	0.50	1	0.03	—
Amblecote ...	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.33	5	1.67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biddulph ...	12,970	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	2.24	19	1.46	—	—	2	0.15	99	7.63	10	0.77	—	—	1
Bilston ...	33,960	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.24	182	5.36	—	—	1	0.03	2	0.06	13	0.38	2	0.06	1
Brierley Hill ...	50,280	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	9	0.18	134	2.67	—	—	1	0.02	1	0.02	6	0.12	—	—	—
Brownhills ...	21,880	—	—	—	—	2	0.09	17	0.78	90	4.11	1	0.05	1	0.05	5	0.23	23	1.05	—	—	—
Cannock ...	41,950	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	0.64	154	3.67	—	—	15	0.36	6	0.14	22	0.52	7	0.17	—
Coseley ...	33,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	0.78	214	6.40	1	0.03	4	0.12	20	0.60	66	1.97	1	0.03	2
Darlaston ...	22,140	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.14	15	0.68	—	—	—	—	3	0.14	14	0.63	—	—	—
Kidsgrove ...	18,270	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.11	17	0.93	—	—	—	—	16	0.88	6	0.33	—	—	—
Leek ...	18,970	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	1.05	16	0.84	—	—	3	0.16	335	17.66	4	0.21	—	—	1
Lichfield ...	11,050	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.36	7	0.63	—	—	—	—	2	0.18	1	0.09	6	0.54	—
Newcastle ...	73,160	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	0.45	163	2.23	—	—	1	0.01	624	8.53	24	0.33	5	0.07	6

URBAN—continued

District	Estimated Population 1956 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio- myelitis Cases
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Rowley Regis...	49,180	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	0.98	103	2.09	—	—	—	—	15	0.31	6	0.12	1	0.02	2
Rugeley ...	11,270	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.27	57	5.06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sedgley ...	24,130	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.21	104	4.31	—	—	—	—	4	0.17	8	0.33	—	—	—
Stafford ...	41,420	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	39	0.94	50	1.21	—	—	3	0.07	39	0.94	10	0.24	4	0.10	2
Stone ...	8,860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.34	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.23	—	—	—
Tamworth ...	13,350	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.15	12	0.90	—	—	1	0.07	—	—	12	0.90	1	0.07	—
Tettenhall ...	11,410	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.70	10	0.88	—	—	—	—	12	1.05	13	1.14	—	—	1
Tipton ...	39,540	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	1.42	92	2.33	—	—	1	0.03	7	0.18	11	0.28	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	7,820	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.13	43	5.50	—	—	3	0.38	39	4.99	—	—	1	0.13	1
Wednesbury ...	34,710	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	0.81	76	2.19	—	—	1	0.03	2	0.06	13	0.37	1	0.03	2
Wednesfield ...	23,700	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	1.27	100	4.22	—	—	—	—	33	1.39	4	0.17	—	—	—
Willenhall ...	31,230	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.26	101	3.23	—	—	1	0.03	8	0.26	11	0.35	2	0.06	2

RURAL

DISTRICT	Estimated Population 1956 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Cases Polio- myelitis
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Cannock ...	25,380	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	0.35	70	2.76	—	—	6	0.24	44	1.73	8	0.32	—	—	3
Cheadle ...	35,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	0.46	152	4.33	—	—	5	0.14	124	3.53	17	0.48	4	0.11	3
Leek ...	18,380	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	0.65	33	1.80	2	0.11	1	0.05	174	9.47	2	0.11	—	—	—
Lichfield ...	41,250	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	0.48	62	1.50	—	—	11	0.27	23	0.56	20	0.48	—	—	—
Newcastle ...	17,630	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	0.57	45	2.55	—	—	2	0.11	175	9.93	1	0.06	—	—	—
Seisdon ...	28,070	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	0.43	21	0.75	—	—	1	0.04	21	0.75	16	0.57	—	—	1
Stafford ...	19,340	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	1.45	16	0.83	—	—	—	—	10	0.52	6	0.31	—	—	2
Stone ...	16,690	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.24	38	2.28	—	—	—	—	8	0.48	5	0.30	—	—	1
Tutbury ...	15,490	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.52	30	1.94	—	—	2	0.13	79	5.10	6	0.39	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	11,260	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	2.58	—	—	2	0.18	15	1.33	3	0.27	2	0.18	—