B O R O U G H O F S T O U R B R I D G E

REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1954

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Mayor

Councillor W. P. Drew, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Councillor J. A. Gauden, C.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor E.J. Broughton, J.P.,C.C.

Alderman G. A. Cook
Alderman E.A. Heynes,J.P.
Alderman A.S. Leather, B.E.M.
Councillor Miss A. Davies
Councillor D.C. Nutting
(to 15.11.54)

Councillor G.H. Parkes
Councillor B. Skelding,J.P.
Councillor J. Thompson
Councillor E.W.L. Tye
Councillor J.H.Wooldridge,C.C.

...

Medical Officer of Health

R. L. Corlett, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

A. M. Nelson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts

* A.E.K. Kent, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector

* J.W. Billingham, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

* G. H. Stone, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
* E. H. Wakefield, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

..

Clerical Staff

A. Powell (Chief Clerk)
Miss A. J. Tonks
E. N. James (On National Service)
M. A. Cobourne

..

Rodent Operative

G.H. Corbett

..

* Certificated Meat and Food Inspectors.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1954

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of
The Borough of Stourbridge

Mr. Mayor, Cr. Miss Davies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1954.

The general health of the Borough continued satisfactory during the year.

The number of deaths increased from 354 to 420, giving a death rate of 10.9 per thousand, as against 11.3 for England & Wales.

There was an increase in cancer mortality - from 58 cases to 77. Deaths from heart disease also increased - from 122 cases to 128, whilst mortality from the respiratory diseases Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia rose from 39 cases to 44.

The Borough's record of immunity from Diphtheria incidence in recent years was broken when a confirmed case was notified. This related to a person of 58 years of age, who it is believed contracted the infection abroad. The patient made a good recovery.

Although no efforts are spared in the propaganda field to stress the importance of immunisation, parents cannot be too often reminded of the protective value to their children of immunisation. There is an ever-present risk of contracting this disease, with effects which may prove fatal.

Scarlet Fever incidence was almost halved compared with the previous year when there were 104 cases. The infection was of a mild type and no death resulted.

Measles was almost non-existent during the year, there being 4 notifications only, compared with 496. Whooping Cough notifications showed an increase of 60, as against 72 cases in 1953. There was no death from either of these infections.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, compared with one in the previous year. In both cases boys (ages 8 years and 16 months) were affected and each recovered.

Of the 29 cases of Dysentery recorded, 28 occurred about the middle of the year in a residential nursery.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and consideration, and to Dr. Nelson, Mr. Kent and the departmental staff for their willing co-operation.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Cr. Miss Davies and
Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

	Acres
The Area of the Borough is	4,214
viz: Stourbridge	1,920
Lye & Wollescote ..	1,025
Pedmore	1,269

Total Population, estimated at middle of 1954 ..	38,260
Number of Inhabited houses, 1931	8,164
Number of Inhabited houses at end of 1954 ..	11,950
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1954	Not available
Rateable Value	£220,912
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£850.

Statistical Memorandum

Population, estimated mid-year 1954 ..	38,260
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.19
Death Rate per 1,000 " " "	10.97
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births ..	23.7
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	0.156

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are hollow-ware and iron-founding, engineering, manufacture of forgings, spades and shovels, chains, vices, fireclay products, skin rugs, chamois leather and gloves.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

BIRTHS

Live Births

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	266	218	484
Illegitimate	9	12	21
Totals	275	230	505

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	13.19
Birth Rate for England & Wales	15.2

Still Births

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	5	10	15
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	5	10	15

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	13.59

DEATHS

Males	215
Females	205
Total	420

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	10.97
Death Rate for England & Wales ..	11.3

Maternal Deaths

Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. .. One

The Maternal Mortality Rates (per 1,000 total (live and still) Births) for England & Wales were :-

Maternal causes, excluding abortion ..	0.58
Due to Abortion	0.11
Total Maternal Mortality ..	0.69

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ..	4	8	12
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-
Totals	4	8	12

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ..	3	6	9
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-
Totals	3	6	9

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :
All Infants per 1,000 live Births .. 23.7
The Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales was 25.5 per 1,000 Live Births.

Causes of Death

	M.	F.
1. Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	4	2
2. Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections ..	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	8	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	-	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	-	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	21	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	-	1
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	39
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	35	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	5
20. Other heart disease	25	40
21. Other circulatory disease ..	10	6
22. Influenza	2	4
23. Pneumonia	6	10
24. Bronchitis	17	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	6	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	4
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	-	1
31. Congenital malformations ..	3	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	20
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	2
34. All other accidents	5	-
35. Suicide	4	4
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	-	-
Totals	215	205

Deaths from cancer (all ages) .. 77
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. -
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) -

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities

Examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs &c) is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, as are also consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream. Producer samples of milk and water are examined bacteriologically by the County Laboratory, Worcester, in addition to all chemical samples of food, drugs and water.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough as follows :

40, New Road, Stourbridge; St. Michael's Church Hall, Glebe Lane, Norton; Community Centre, Wassell Road, Wollescote; and Orchard Lane, Lye.

Prevention of Diphtheria

Diphtheria Immunisation sessionswere held monthly during the year at the Infant Welfare Centres, as under :

Stourbridge	..	Third Friday in the month (10am - 12 noon)
Lye ..	..	Third Thursday in the month (2pm - 4 pm)
Wollescote	..	First Thursday in the month (2pm - 4 pm)

...

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The water supply to the area of the Borough of Stourbridge is controlled by the Stourbridge & District Water Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1909 and is composed of twelve members nominated by the Borough of Stourbridge and the Urban District Councils of Amblecote and Brierley Hill. It operates three pumping stations, two of which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and the third in Brierley Hill Urban District.

At each of the pumping stations there are two boreholes. These are tube protected for part of their full depth and generally penetrate into the upper Bunter Sandstone, middle Bunter and Pebble Beds of the lower Bunter Sandstone. The whole of the supply is pumped into two well-defined areas of supply, the high level and the low level. The high level area, the consumption of which averages 400,000 gallons per day is normally supplied by the Coalbournbrook Pumping Station, and a Standby is available at Mill Meadow Station. Additional pumping plant is on order for this Station to satisfy the growing demand and development in the High Level areas. Both these Stations are in Amblecote. A balance tank for this area is available at Wychbury Hill and has a capacity of 350,000 gallons.

It is in the Low Level area of supply that the major part of the Borough is situated. The consumption in this area is in the region of 1,700,000 gallons per day averaged throughout the year, and is normally supplied now by the Tack Lane Pumping Station. This Station has been in full operation since January, 1948, and has provided a bountiful supply of water of a much softer quality than has hitherto been available in the area.

A Duplicate pumping plant for the Tack Lane Station has now been completed and is available for operational use.

Water Supplies (Continued)

Standby plant is available at Coalbournbrook Pumping Station and at Mill Meadow for the supply of the Low Level area.

A balance tank of 500,000 gallons capacity is situated at Doctors' Hill.

Drainage and Sewerage

The main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of Stourbridge Main Drainage Board. The sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board.

The seage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

SECTION D.

Housing work is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.
Inspection and Supervision of Food

Details of the inspections carried out during the year will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.
Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

Small Pox

No case was reported during the year.

Typhoid Fever

There was no incidence.

Poliomyelitis

Two cases were notified during the year - one in March and the other in November. Both were boys - ages 16 months and 8 years. Both recovered, but in each case there was some degree of muscular weakness as a result of the illness. They are making satisfactory progress and are able to get about well.

Scarlet Fever

Fifty four cases were notified, as against 104 in the previous year. Generally the incidence was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Food Poisoning

There were six cases notified. Three of these were in one household and the others were single cases.

In none of the cases, however, could the cause of illness be definitely established, despite thorough investigation. Pork sausages were suspected as the causative agent in the three family cases, and warmed-up stew in one other case.

Mass Radiography Survey

In the early part of the year the Mobile X-Ray Unit of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board visited the Borough and during its visit some 5,295 persons were x-rayed.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The record of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year, both primary and secondary, was again satisfactory.

Primary treatments numbered 560, and of these 519 related to children of pre-school age and 41 to school children. Five hundred and forty nine children were given re-inforcing injections.

Diphtheria Immunisation (Continued)

The record of primary immunisation in the Borough since 1935 is as follows:-

Year		Alum Precipitated Toxoid 2 inj.	Toxoid Anti-toxin Mixture 3 inj.	Total
1935	..	-	3	3
1936	..	-	-	-
1937	..	247	46	293
1938	..	201	23	224
1939	..	61	35	96
1940	..	-	112	112
1941	..	65	1397	1462
1942	..	17	1806	1823
1943	..	563	71	634
1944	..	507	-	507
1945	..	671	-	671
1946	..	536	-	536
1947	..	640	-	640
1948	..	580	-	580
1949	..	603	-	603
1950	..	317	-	317
1951	..	597	-	597
1952	..	470	-	470
1953	..	521	-	521
1954	..	560	-	560
	Totals	7156	3493	10,649

Of an estimated child population of 8,300, a total of 7,051 children under 15 years of age had been immunised by the end of the year. Of this total, 1,840 related to children of pre-school age.

It is estimated that approximately 95% of school children and 61% of pre-school age children have been completely immunised.

Table showing the Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria

Year	Total Cases	Deaths	Case Mortality Rate	Immunised Cases	Children Deaths
1935	110	18	16.3	3	-
1936	33	5	15.1	3	-
1937	81	3	3.7	6	-
1938	49	2	4.08	6	-
1939	40	7	17.5	111	-
1940	71	2	2.81	9	-
1941	87	5	5.74	8	-
1942	21	-	-	2	-
1943	18	1	5.5	5	-
1944	25	2	8.0	9	-
1945	47	3	6.38	11	-
1946	21	1	4.76	7	-
1947	30	2	6.66	11	1
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-
1950	1	-	-	1	-
1951	-	-	-	-	-
1952	-	-	-	-	-
1953	-	-	-	-	-
1954	1	-	-	-	-
	635	51		92	1

'CORRECTED' NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) FOR THE YEAR, 1954

DISEASE	AGES										Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	DEATHS
	Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 -	10 -	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and upwards			
Scarlet Fever	-	6	7	30	9	2	-	-	-	-	54	27	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	9	12	3	-	-	24	2	-
Pneumonia	8	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	9	25	8	16
Whooping Cough	14	39	39	38	1	-	1	-	-	-	132	-	-
Measles	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-
Dysentery	4	19	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	29	21	-
Food Poisoning	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	6	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	26	71	50	70	10	16	15	4	9	10	281	60	16

NOTE: 57 of the 60 hospital cases were admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	16	9	2	2	4	2	-	-

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.156 per 1,000 population as compared with 0.263 in the previous year.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1954

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1954	124	73	7	12
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	16	9	2	2
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	1	2	1	-
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	141	84	10	14
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	19	18	3	4
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year	122	66	7	10

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1954

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Stourbridge.

Mr. Mayor, Cr. Miss Davies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a Report on the work of your Public Health Department for 1954.

In July the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, became operative and its provisions placed the responsibility for slaughtering on Local Authorities. Five slaughterhouses were opened, one of which was a small private abattoir which was constructed out of a disused bakehouse, and four being existent ones.

In the following month, the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, came into force.

I would like to record my appreciation of the active interest of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also to express my thanks to Dr. Corlett for his helpful advice at all times, to the Staff of the Department for their loyal support, and to the Town Clerk, Mr. A.P. Drury, M.A., and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Cr. Miss Davies & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

A. E. K. KENT

Sanitary Inspector

COMPLAINTS

A total of 241 complaints, relating principally to housing defects, were received during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following data is given in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

The number and nature of Inspections made during the year:

Inspections of houses	353
Re-inspections and re-visits	1182
Inspections under Housing Regulations	81
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations ..	31
Inspections Town & Country Planning Act - Re-development ..	192
Visits re notifiable diseases	92
Slaughter of pigs on private premises	59
Meat Inspection:	
Cattle	970
Pigs	3134
Sheep	6433
Dairies	28
Factories	20
Smoke &c. nuisances	151
Bakehouses	92
Food Stores & Food Preparation Premises	135
Shops Act	25
Shops (re Unfit Food)	103
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats & Mice) ..	24
Rats & Mice	234
Water Supplies	16
Drainage	189
Tuberculosis After-Care	39
Waste Water Closets	15
Tents, Vans, Sheds &c.	36
Refuse Tips	122
Pigsties	2
Pet Animals Act	8
Rag Flock Act	3
Licensed Premises	11
Miscellaneous	183

Number of Notices served during the year:

Preliminary Notices	172
Statutory Notices	95

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 172. These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs necessary to remedy the defects.

	No. of Notices	No. of Houses or premises affected
General defects of houses	78	107
Defective water closets	11	12
Defective drainage	12	21
Factories - smoke nuisances	4	4
Food & Drugs Act contraventions	52	52
Dirty & untidy houses	3	3
Shops Act, 1950	3	3
Animals - nuisances	1	1
Miscellaneous	8	16
Totals	172	219

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1954

Public Health Act, 1936	No. of Notices	No. of Premises Affected
Abatement of Nuisances (S.93)	11	9
Requisition for Information (S.277)	6	6
Drainage (S.39)	1	2
Defective Closets (S.45) ..	2	2
Defective Closets (S.44) ..	3	3
Sewers (S.24)	4	3
Housing Act, 1936		
Notices to Appear before Council (S.12)	1	1
Notices to Appear before Council (S.11)	25	17
Demolition Orders (S.11)	19	11
Notice to Quit (S.155) ..	1	1
Requisition for Information (S.168)	6	5
Clearance (S.41)	2	1
Closing Orders (S.12)	4	3
Closing Orders (S.10) - Misc.Provisions Act, 1953)	2	1
Undertaking (S.11)	1	4
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954		
Section 6	1	1
Regulation 68 AA. Defence General Regulations, 1939		
Licences	1	1
Food & Drugs Act, 1938		
Slaughterhouses (S.57 (3) ..	3	3
Registration of Premises (S.14) ..	2	2
Totals	95	76

Result of the Service of Notices:

Preliminary Notices complied with .. .. 151 (including 43 Notices brought forward from 1953)

Statutory Notices complied with .. .. 100 (including 13 Notices brought forward from 1953)

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 353

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1182

(ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 .. 8

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 14

Housing (Continued)

(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 11

(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 184

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 71

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .. -

(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: ..

(a) By Owners .. .. -
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 161

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 11

(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. 6

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. -

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. -

One hundred and twenty two houses were rendered fit after action under the provisions of the Public Health or Housing Acts.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Nine applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair and Unfitness.

Five certificates relating to disrepair and two to unfitness were granted.

Two applications were refused.

DEMOLITION ORDERS

Eleven Demolition Orders were made during the year in respect of the following houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair bordering on the dangerous:-

No. 31A, Union Street, Stourbridge
No. 1, Talbot Street, Stourbridge
No. 2, Talbot Street, Stourbridge
No. 1, Heath Street, Stourbridge
No. 9, Lion Street, Stourbridge
No. 11, Lion Street, Stourbridge
No. 6, Short Street, Stourbridge
No. 7, Short Street, Stourbridge
No. 8, Short Street, Stourbridge
No. 35, Enville Street, Stourbridge
No. 37, Enville Street, Stourbridge.

UNDERTAKING

Accepted Undertaking from Owner under Section 11(3) Housing Act, 1936 that he will not use Nos. 9, 10, 11, 11A, Chapel Street, Lye for human habitation.

CLOSING ORDERS

Under the provisions of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 Closing Orders were made on the following properties:-

No. 3, Bell Street, Stourbridge
Rear of No. 26, Hagley Road, Stourbridge
No. 36, Talbot Street, Lye, Stourbridge
No. 20, Bott Lane, Lye, Stourbridge.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One hundred and eighty nine complaints of rats and mice infestation were received, compared with 170 in 1953.

A summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year is set out below.

Type of Property	No. of Premises Infested	No. of Treatments	No. of Inspections	Infested by Rats	Infested by Mice
Local Authority	6	10	35	5	1
Dwelling Houses	198	208	495	132	66
Business & Industrial Premises &c.	30	34	71	16	14
Agricultural Premises	1	1	6	1	-
	235	253	607	154	81

The sewers were also treated twice during the year and a total of 251 manholes dealt with.

It is estimated that approximately 1,540 rats and 1,250 mice were killed.

Premises used for:

(a) Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream

Seven new premises were registered during the year for the sale of Ice Cream in sealed cartons. At the end of the year there were 132 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and four for its manufacture and sale.

Thirty-four samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The fat content varied between 7.3% and 13.4% and in most of the samples the fat content exceeded 10%.

All the 20 bacteriological samples submitted were in provisional grade 1.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods

There were five new registrations during the year for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food. At the end of the year, there were 20 premises on the Register.

All the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Fish Frying

Twenty one premises are registered for fish frying, and one former registration was cancelled.

ADULTERATION

One hundred and eleven informal samples and one formal sample were submitted for chemical analysis as follows:-

	No. of Samples		No. of Samples
Milk (Raw)	9	Tomato Juice	3
Milk (Pasteurised) ..	6	Butter Pats	1
Milk (T.T. Pasteurised)	1	Butter Fingers	1
Milk (Channel Islands)	1	Buttered Rolls	1
Ice Cream	14	Lard	2
Sausages	12	Mustard	1
Sausage Rolls ..	1	Dried Sage	1
Pork Pies	2	Cream	4
Tinned Cherries ..	4	Snofrute	1
Tinned Pears	1	Fish Cakes	1
Iced Lollies	12	Olive Oil	1
Ice Cream Lollies ..	3	Dripping	1
Ground Almonds ..	5	Marzipan	2
Ground Nutmeg ..	1	Margarine	1
Pearl Barley	1	Raspberry Vinegar ..	1
Flaked Rice	1	Saccharine Tablets ..	1
Cheese Spread ..	1	Meringue Powder	1
White Pepper ..	1	Butter Sweets	2
Coconut	2	Acid Tablets	1
Colouring	1	Lime Juice Cordial ..	1
Lemon Juice	1	Shredded Beef Suet ..	1
Herb Beer Extract ..	1		
Piping Jelly	1	Total	112

Four samples of tinned cherries proved to be unsatisfactory due to slightly high iron content resulting from corrosion. The remainder of the consignment was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Two samples of iced lollies were found to contain a small trace of lead. This was ultimately traced to wrappers containing lead pigment. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers and follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

In samples of synthetic cream very high bacterial counts were found. After many long investigations much of the trouble was found to be attributable to the long delay in the consignment of the original article which was sent in one gallon tins from Essex and high counts were obtained from the tins before reconstitution. The M.O.H. of the town where the cream was manufactured was notified and interviews were subsequently held with the M.O.H. and the Chief Chemist of the firm. Improvements in the consignment arrangements were agreed to.

BACTERIAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

84 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination as under:-

Type of Milk	No. of Samples	Tests Applied	Results of Tests: Satisfactory	Results of Tests: Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	13	Methylene Blue	13	-
		Phosphatase	13	-
Pasteurised ..	55	Methylene Blue	55	-
		Phosphatase	55	-
Sterilised ..	9	Turbidity Test	9	-
Tuberculin Tested	2	Methylene Blue	2	-
Jersey Tuberculin Tested	1	Methylene Blue	1	-
		Phosphatase	1	-
Raw Milk	3	Methylene Blue	3	-
Channel Island Past.	1	Methylene Blue	1	-

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954
The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953

The following licences were in operation at the end of 1954:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" (including three bottling establishments) .. 15

Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" 5

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) licence authorising the holder to pasteurise milk 3

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised" 14

Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised" 6

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised" 98

Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised" 7

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The advent of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954 placed the responsibility on Local Authorities for the provision of slaughtering facilities. All the old slaughterhouses were inspected and a detailed list made of the work required to put them in order. Next, what were the requirements for a town of this size and who of the trade were willing to carry out the necessary alterations to the existing buildings? Fortunately certain of the butchers in the town were able to form themselves into a private limited company and provide themselves with a small newly designed abattoir which although not being ideal has proved to be entirely adequate and satisfactory. Five other private butchers in the town also decided to apply to reopen their slaughterhouses. A high standard was insisted on, with adequate separate cooling space, and hot and cold water. Four licences were issued and one was subsequently refused. On the appointed day all were ready to commence killing and then came the headaches. Overtime and Sunday work became the rule and thanks to the unselfish and public spiritedness of the Meat Inspectors one hundred per cent inspection was carried out until the end of the year.

Slaughtering actually started on July 4th, 1954 and up to the end of the year the following animals were killed:-

Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
926	6433	3144	44

In addition 59 private pigs were slaughtered on private premises and all were inspected.

MEAT CONDEMNED

SHEEP

The following is a list of meat condemned during the period:-

Diseases	Carcases	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other parts
Muelleriasis		480			
Pneumonia &c.		6			
Pericarditis			2		
Hydatid Cysts				19	
Fascioliasis				244	
Bacterial Necrosis				2	
Fatty Infiltration			1		
Melanosis		1		1	2 flanks & 1 loin
Oedema &c.					2 forequarters
Abscesses				5	
Bruising					2 hind legs
Died in lairage	1				
Died in transit	2				
TOTALS	3	487	3	271	

MEAT CONDEMNED

PIGS

Diseases	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts
Tuberculosis	3	83	9	3	11	4	5	6	54	1 hindquarter, 2 forequarters, 1 flank
Pneumonia &c.			125							
Pericarditis				17						
Congestion			17				1			
Cirrhosis					41					
Fatty Infiltration					4					
Hepatitis					2					
Ascarides									1	
Enteritis									2	
Peritonitis					11	5	1		8	
Hydronephrosis								19		
Nephritis					1					
Pyaemia		2			1					1 hind leg (35 lbs.)
Pleurisy			9	1						2 forequarters
Fibroma							1			
Arthritis										2 forelegs
Fractures										1 hindleg 1 hindquarter
Dead in lairage	1									
Dead in transit	1									
TOTALS	5	85	160	21	71	9	8	25	65	

MEAT CONDEMNED

CATTLE AND CALVES

Diseases	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts
Actinobacillosis		4								2 tongues
Tuberculosis	4	39	38	5	20	5	4	8	18	1 hindquarter
Pneumonia			14							
Pericarditis				3						
Hydatid cysts			11		12					
Fascioliasis					93					
Bacterial necrosis					34					
Cavernous angioma					6					
Peritonitis					1	1	1		2	
Pyaemia					1					
Nephritis								2		
Hydronephrosis								3		
Abscesses			2		3					
Bruising										1 flank & 1 forequarter
Fat necrosis								6		kidney fat (365 lbs.)
Cysticercus Bovis		5		6						
Johnes Diseases									2	
Totals	4	48	65	14	170	6	5	19	22	

Meat and Other Food Inspection (Continued)

103 visits to shops etc. were made in connection with the inspection of foodstuffs, and the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Canned Foods	No. of Tins
Fish	34
Vegetables	137
Frozen Egg	4 (64 lb.)
Meat	188 (369 lb.)
Corned Beef	4 (24 lb.)
Fruit	657
Milk	68
Soup	9
Fruit Juice	5
Syrup	1
Cream	5

Other Foods	Quantity
Jam	50 jars
Mincemeat	6 jars
Vinegar	13 bottles
Pickles	10 jars
Marmalade	15 "
Coffee	4 bottles
Sauce	3 "
Tomato Ketchup	32 "
Piccalilli	1 jar
Salad Cream	1 jar
Butter and Margarine	3 lb.
Tea	1 lb.
Cooking Fat	¾ lb.
Cheese	31 pkts. (1½ lb.)
Chopped Pork	170 lb.
Kippers	8 stone
Crab Meat	27 lb.
Dressed Crab	3 jars
Chicken Spread	20 "
Fish Paste	1 jar
Prawns	36 lb.
Marmite	1 jar
Sultanas	51 lb.
Dates	27 boxes
Cakes	3 lb.
Figs	17 pkts.
Sugar	8 lb.
Lemon Curd	3 jars
Orange Curd	1 jar
Biscuits	1 lb.
Horlicks	1 jar
Lemon Cordial	2 bottles

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 26 licences were renewed during the year.

WATER SAMPLING

Public Supplies

The reports on the public supplies were again excellent. Bacteriological counts were very low, whilst chemical examinations have been constant.

The supplies were equally satisfactory as to quantity. They are not liable to plumbo solvency but samples are examined periodically for lead contamination.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to houses in the Borough was 11,950. The number of standpipes is gradually being reduced.

The following are results of the chemical examination of representative samples of the Town's Water Supply taken during the year:-

	LOW LEVEL	HIGH LEVEL
	No. 1	No. 2
	23 April, 1954	18 Nov. 1954
Physical Characters	Clear, odourless	Clear, odourless
	Deposit None	Deposit None
	pH 7.2	pH 7.1
Chemical examination (results in parts per 100,000)		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	None	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C.)	32	64
Solids in Solution, after ignition	29	59
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	5.1	10
Hardness - Permanent	8	7
Hardness - Temporary	14	20
Hardness - Total	22	27
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	Trace	0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.72	1.44
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.013	0.013
Toxic Metals	None detected	None detected

Some 104 samples were submitted by this Department for bacteriological analysis, and the following are representative of the results received:-

	Number of Coliform bacilli, MacConkey two days, 37°C. (per 100 ml.)	Faecal Coli (per 100 ml.)
January 23rd ..	Nil	Nil
February 13th ..	Nil	Nil
March 22nd ..	Nil	Nil
April 10th ..	Nil	Nil
May 21st ..	Nil	Nil
June 19th ..	Nil	Nil
July 24th ..	Nil	Nil
August 14th ..	Nil	Nil
September 25th ..	Nil	Nil
October 9th ..	Nil	Nil
November 5th ..	Nil	Nil
December 18th ..	Nil	Nil

MILK SUPPLIES

Four samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination and all were negative except one, which showed the presence of Brucella Abortus. As the infected milk was to be subsequently pasteurised, no further action was necessary.

FOOD PREMISES

The high standard of cleanliness in food premises in the Borough was generally maintained during the year. Food traders have readily co-operated in effecting improvements where these have been desirable, and as a result of the Department's activities the importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene in the handling of food is becoming more appreciated by traders in general.

VERMIN INFESTATION

Effective disinfestations were carried out at 24 premises to eradicate bugs, fleas and other vermin.

In 19 other cases relating to insect pests insecticides were issued and advice given.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

No formal action was necessary under this heading.

Nine persons were granted licences to station and use moveable dwellings for short periods on various sites in the Borough. Where the sites remained satisfactory, the licences were renewed for further periods.

During the year, 36 inspections were made of caravans and sites, all of which were kept in excellent condition.

OUTWORKERS

Twenty four lists were received, containing the names of 29 outworkers, 16 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

PETROLEUM ACTS

During the year 83 licences were issued as follows:-

62 to store petroleum spirit only
10 " " petroleum spirit and cellulose
4 " " petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium
3 " " carbide of calcium only
2 " " cellulose only
2 " " mixture of petroleum spirit.

These licences authorised the storage of 78,460 gallons of petroleum spirit 3,888 lbs. carbide of calcium, 1,017 gallons of cellulose and 12½ gallons of petroleum mixture.

The sum of £54. 5. 0. was received in respect of licence fees.

SWIMMING BATHS

A total of 108 (36 chemical and 72 bacteriological) samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Baths were submitted for examination and the results showed that a high standard was maintained throughout the season. The Baths Superintendent and his staff must be congratulated on the excellent condition of the whole buildings generally and the very high standard of cleanliness maintained.

RIVERS POLLUTION

There was close liaison between the Department and the Rivers Board, to whom the powers under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951, were transferred.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The apparatus for measuring atmospheric pollution is still in operation and records are kept of the recordings.

No major problems were found and with the occasional reminders to certain offenders a fair standard was achieved.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Public Cleansing is under the control of the Borough Surveyor.

There are four tips in the Borough, and refuse disposal is carried out by controlled tipping mainly at Lye, with reserve Tips at Wollaston and Lye in case of emergency. Covering material is readily available and no fires have occurred. Systematic treatment with Gammexane Dust has kept cricket infestation down to practically nil.

Refuse is collected weekly. All vehicles used in the collection are "S.D." freighters, with the addition of a small Scammell used for market and shop collections.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE

I still continue to act as Secretary to this Committee.

During the year under review six families were allocated Council houses. Also help was given to twenty four patients by supplying them with free milk.

The Committee, which met once during the year, has amongst its members representatives from the Borough Council, the County Medical Officer's Department, W.V.S., the Nursing Association and your Public Health Department.

I should again like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Members of this Committee for the help they have given me and to the Members of the Housing Lettings Committee of the Council for their promptness in dealing with cases brought to their notice through Mr. Baylis, the Housing Officer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	42	9	2	-
(2) Factories not included in: (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	234	31	12	-
(b) Other	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises under the Act (Excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	276	40	14	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	14	-	5	-

Public Health Department,
Stourbridge.