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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

WORCESTERSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1968

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURBRIDGE

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1968

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Mayor

Alderman J.S.P. Poyner

Deputy Mayor

Alderman G.C.P. Lycett V.R.D.,J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor K.R. Ison

Deputy Chairman

Councillor A.J. Taylor

Alderman C.J. Aston
Alderman E.W.L. Tye C.C.
Councillor J.W. Densley
Councillor W. Bowen
Councillor W. Evans
Councillor W.T. Hollis
Councillor R.S. Millsum
Councillor J. Rees
Councillor Mrs. O. Simpson
Councillor H.R. Stephens

Medical Officer of Health

J. Twomey, M.B.,B.Ch.,B.A.O.,D.P.H.,D.T.S.&. H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Vacant

Chief Public Health Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts

**T.H. Meredith M.A.P.H.I., Cert. of S.I.B.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

*J.W. Billingham, M.A.P.H.I., Cert of S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

*G.H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. of S.I.B.
*W.J. Hemmings, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. of S.I.B.
**G.S. Perks, Cert. of P.H.I.E.B.
**R.L. Noons, M.A.P.H.I.,M.R.S.H., Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

Pupil Public Health Inspector

K.W. Rock

Clerical Staff

Mrs. Y.J. Marshall
Miss J.L. Ellett
Miss E.R. Foxall

Rodent Officer

G.H. Corbett

*****

** Smoke Inspectors Certificate
* Certified Meat and Food Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1968

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

Vital Statistics

The estimated population of the Borough at mid-year showed an increase of 670 over that of the previous year and stood at 51,970. The increase this year is less than that of other recent twelve-month periods.

Once again we have had a year free of maternal deaths in child-birth or abortion and all connected with the maternity services deserve our gratitude and congratulations on this achievement.

The infant mortality rate (the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live births) is 11.39 which compares favourably with the corresponding national figure of 18.0. This rate is regarded as having considerable significance as an index of living standards and hygiene and it is gratifying that Stourbridge has such a low death-rate of infants.

The crude death rate for all ages in the Borough in 1968 was 10.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population. When adjusted to take into account the age range of the population, the death rate is 11.2, slightly less than the corresponding figure for England and Wales which is 11.9.

Causes of Death

The trends are very similar to those of previous years. It is of interest that no death is reported in a child between the ages of one year and fifteen years.

Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels account for no less than 54.7 per cent of all deaths. Most of the victims are men and some are relatively young men who may well be family bread-winners. As far as is known to medical science we can best protect ourselves against these diseases by what may be termed the rule of three: keep active, keep weight down, keep off cigarettes.

Twenty-two men and five women died of lung cancer, the total being somewhat less than the previous year's all-time high of thirty-two. For heavy cigarette smokers the risk of dying of this condition is one in eight as against one in three hundred for non-smokers. Each individual must make his or her own decisions on personal habits but it is the duty of those of us who are concerned with health education to "shout the odds" so that such decisions are taken with full knowledge of what is involved.

Infectious diseases

Apart from measles there were no major outbreaks during the year.

Case of typhoid fever

A young woman who had been on holiday in Tunis developed typhoid fever and was treated in Moxley Hospital, Wednesbury. She made a good recovery and tests later showed that she had not become a typhoid carrier. The patient's daughter who accompanied her on the holiday and a retired gentleman, also from the Borough, who had stayed in the same hotel, did not develop the disease. There was no spread of typhoid fever to other persons.

Education in Home Safety

Every year there are over 8,500 fatal home accidents in Great Britain and it is estimated that something like 100,000 home accident cases are admitted to hospital.

In order to make children aware of domestic hazards, the head teachers of all primary schools in the Borough were approached during the year with the suggestion that they hold competitions based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accident's picture-puzzle "Spot the Good Turns in this Picture", a prize of £1. per school being offered by the Stourbridge Public Health Department. Without exception this offer was accepted by the head teachers. Booklets, pamphlets and posters were distributed to the schools for the use of teaching staff who were organising the competitions.

In due course the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and I attended some of the prize-giving ceremonies. There was all-round enthusiasm for the project and we felt that it had been very well worth while.

Accidental Poisoning of Children

This is one of the commonest type of domestic accident and the most unlikely substances are often consumed. Aspirin tablets head the list in frequency followed by other medicines and household substances.

In a two month period recently no fewer than thirty-nine children under five years of age were treated at the Casualty Department of the Corbett Hospital after accidents of this kind. Ten had taken excessive amounts of aspirin and four "the Pill". As well as many other types of tablets, medicines, and ointments the list included bleaching fluids, detergent, lavatory cleansing fluid, paint cleaner, and sherry.

Small children often go to extraordinary lengths and perform amazing climbing feats to reach something which may well be dangerous. In some cases they are misled by having tablets described as sweets in order to encourage their acceptance.

These are points which should be kept in mind by all who are in charge of young children.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

This post was not filled during the year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I have received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Drury, Mr. Meredith, the other chief officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medidal Officer of Health, Kidderminster Borough, Dr. R.W. Markham Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Rural District and Dr. C.H. Phillips, Medical Officer of Health, Bromsgrove, for having made themselves available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. Twomey,

Medical Officer of Health

Education in Home Safety

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J. Tenney,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

The town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are galvanised hollow-ware and iron-founding, engineering, manufacture of forgings, spades and shovels, chains, fireclay and electrical products, wire goods, kitchen-ware, skin rugs and gloves, scholastic equipment. With the incorporation of Amblecote in the Borough the term 'Stourbridge glass' becomes a truer description of the beautiful and renowned glassware produced in the Amblecote factories.

The Area of the Borough is	4,631	Acres
Viz: Stourbridge	1,920	"
Lye and Wollescote	1,025	"
Pedmore	1,269	"
Amblecote	417	"
Number of domestic properties at 1st April, 1968 ...	17,522	
Rateable value at 1st April, 1968	£2,152,963	
Sum represented by a penny rate 1968/69	£8,450	

General Statistics for the Year

Population, estimated mid-year 1968	51,970
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	16.9
Adjusted Birth Rate " " " ...	16.05
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 " " ...	10.3
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 " " ...	11.23
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births ...	11.39

Vital Statistics - Mothers and Infants

Live Births	878
Rate per 1,000 population	16.9
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	3.8
Stillbirths	13
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	14.26
Total live and stillbirths	891
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	10
Infant Mortality Rate	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	11.39
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10.65
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	91
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	7.9
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	7.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.57
Figures for England and Wales (Provisional)	
Infant Mortality	18.0
Neo-natal Mortality	12.3
Perinatal Mortality	25.0
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	NIL

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	5	5	10

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age

Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	5	3	8

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of Age

Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	5	3	8

POPULATION - STOURBRIDGE

Table 1

	Birth Rate	Population	Population increase over previous year
1968	16.9	51,970	670
1967	17.6	51,300	1,550
1966	17.1	49,750 *	3,190
1965	17.3	46,560	650
1964	17.0	45,910	1,050
1963	16.8	44,860	850
1962	17.8	44,010	1,150
1961	17.2	42,860	1,850
1960	16.3	41,010	750
1959	15.2	40,260	600
1958	14.2	39,660	530
1957	15.5	39,130	580

* This includes increase in population due to Local Government reorganisation, and inclusion of part of the Urban District of Amblecote within the Borough.

INFANT DEATHS - 1968

Table II

Primary Cause		No. of Cases
I	Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	1
II	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1
III	Congenital Anomalies	2
IV	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	3
V	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3

STILL-BIRTHS CAUSES OF DEATH

Table III		No. of Cases
I	Placental defects	2
II	Ante Partum Haemorrhage	4
III	Asphyxia	2
IV	Congenital Malformation	1
V	Macerated Foetus	1
VI	Cause Unknown	3

POPULATION - 1970 CENSUS

Year	Birth Rate	Population	Population Increase over previous year
1965	16.9	51,970	670
1966	17.6	51,300	1,970
1967	17.1	50,750*	3,190
1968	17.3	46,560	890
1969	17.0	45,910	1,090
1970	16.8	44,820	890
1971	17.8	44,010	1,190
1972	17.2	42,820	1,850
1973	16.3	41,010	790
1974	15.2	40,220	690
1975	14.2	39,660	390
1976	13.5	39,390	590

* This decline represents a population due to local Government reorganization, and declining of part of the Tiron District of Ashlevoke within the Borough.

PRIMARY DEATHS - 1968

Table II	No. of Cases
Cardiac Cases	
Intrathoral Obstruction & Hernia	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1
Congenital Anomalies	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	3
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3

STILL-BORN CAUSES OF DEATH

Table III	No. of Cases
Placental defects	2
Anic Foetus Asscortbage	4
Asphyxia	2
Congenital Malformation	1
Haemorrhage Foetus	1
Cause Unknown	3

DEATHS

Males	...	273
Females	...	263
		536

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	10.3
Adjusted Death Rate " " " "	...	11.25
Death Rate for England and Wales (provisional)	...	11.9

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
B5 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B18 Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	M	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	13	4
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	4
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	9	7	6
	F	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	9
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
B22 Avitaminoses, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	7
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	16	18	17
	F	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	21	38

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	9
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	14
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	13	25
	F	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	25
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10
B32 Pneumonia	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	6
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	11	10
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	4
B33(2) Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
B46(6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B46(10) Diseases of Muscule-Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
B44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45 Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
BF48 All Other Accidents	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	273	5	-	-	-	2	1	9	27	54	83	92
	F	263	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	7	24	84	141

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Year	Male	Female	Total
1950	8	3	11
1951	9	1	10
1952	10	1	11
1953	9	3	12
1954	13	2	15
1955	17	3	20
1956	10	2	12
1957	15	2	17
1958	20	1	21
1959	14	3	17
1960	15	8	23
1961	21	3	24
1962	20	2	22
1963	15	5	20
1964	26	1	27
1965	20	2	22
1966	20	1	21
1967	29	3	32
1968	22	5	27

STOURBRIDGE INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFANT MORTALITY FIGURES 1958-1968

DISEASE	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Scarlet Fever	3	4	15	9	36	21	20	8	33	68	57
Whooping Cough	3	2	10	7	15	3	4	3	40	33	24
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) New Cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	493	272	346	482	228	864	6	988	2	659	110
Meningococcal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	9	-	7	9	14	-	9	17	30
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	12	11	10	10	7	9	8	13	14	15
Food Poisoning	7	-	3	2	1	1	2	5	18	-	6
Pneumonia	2	-	-	5	3	8	7	5	24	44	23
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (New Cases)	12	10	6	4	8	11	19	14	24	21	18
Infant Mortality Rate	11.39	17.0	18.8	9.8	25.5	14.6	22.8	16.2	22.4	39.0	12.2
Neonatal Mortality Rate	7.9	11.0	15.3	3.7	21.6	10.6	12.7	10.8	22.4	29.2	
Perinatal Mortality Rate	23.57	25.0	30.0	20.6	41.1	20.9	26.2	26.4	46.5	44.5	

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	AGES										Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
	under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and upwards		
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	2	-	7	-
Measles	14	130	148	199	1	1	-	-	-	-	493	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
TOTALS	15	130	150	205	2	3	3	-	5	-	513	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1968

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ...	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 ...	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	8	-	3	-	6	-	-	-

Summary of Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1968

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of Cases on Register, 1st January, 1968	67	42	5	8
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations	8	-	3	-
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification	-	1	-	-
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	76	43	8	8
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	14	5	-	-
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year	62	38	8	8

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. This applies also to 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 eight centres in the Borough as follows:- 40 New Road, Stourbridge; St. Michael's Church Hall, Westwood Ave, Norton; Assembly Rooms, Meriden Avenue, Wollaston; Community Centre, Wassell Road, Wollescote; Orchard Lane, Lye; Hagley Road Clinic, Hagley Road, Stourbridge; and Pedmore Lane Clinic, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge; Methodist Rooms, High Street, Amblecote.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The water supply to the Stourbridge area is controlled by the North West Worcestershire Water Board by an Order which came into being on the 1st October, 1962, under the North West Worcestershire Water Boards' Order, 1962, No: 1561. The Board is composed of 13 members of the constituent authorities namely, the County Borough of Dudley, Boroughs of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge. Urban District of Stourport and the Rural Districts of Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Martley and Tenbury and the Worcestershire County Council.

The water supply in the Borough has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the area and there has been no contamination. No fluoride is added to the water supply. The natural fluoride content of the water is approximately 0.2 p.p.m. There has been regular bacteriological and chemical examination of the water supply in the Borough both by the Water Undertaking and by the Borough Council. All samples have been satisfactory and a typical chemical analysis is given in the report. The water supplies in the Borough are not subject to plumbo solvent action.

I should like to thank Mr. J. Septimus-Brown, C.Eng.,M.Inst.,Mun.E, M. Inst.W.E., Engineer and Principal Officer of the Board for the above report.

Drainage and Sewerage

I should like to thank Mr. B. Hartley, B.Sc.(Eng), A.M.I.C.E.,A.M.I. Mun.E., Manager of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority for the following report on the drainage and sewerage of the district:-

'The responsibility for main drainage, sewage treatment and trade waste control was transferred to the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority in April, 1966.

Sewerage

There were no new trunk sewers constructed in the Stourbridge area during 1968, but arrangements had been made to divert a part of the Eastern Main Sewer through land on the south bank of the River Stour at Clatterbatch.

Sewerage cont ....

There had been a case of flooding in Brook Road at the head of the Authority's sewer due to excess of storm water and the Corporation had taken action to construct a suitable storm water overflow to the adjoining culvert. In view of the impending further residential development in this drainage area, the Authority are preparing plans for a duplicate sewer from Brook Road to the existing trunk sewer at the Council's Refuse Tip.

The Northern Main Sewer from Wollaston High Street to Enville Street Pumping Station is approaching its maximum capacity and with further impending development in this drainage area, it will soon become overloaded. It is possible that substantial residential areas in the adjoining part of Dudley might have to be drained into this general sewerage system and when planning decisions have been made regarding this development, the Authority will take action to design a duplicate Northern Main Sewer, together with any consequent alterations to the Enville Street Pumping Station which might be necessary.

Trade Waste Control

The Authority have now set up a trade waste inspection and control organisation with laboratories at Dibdale House, Dudley. A number of trade waste surveys of industrial premises have already been made and several consents have been issued within the Borough of Stourbridge. These prescribe the standards and conditions on which trade wastes may be discharged to the sewerage system.

Sewage Treatment Works

Sewage and trade waste from the Borough of Stourbridge is dealt with at three main points:-

1. A small part of the Lye district discharges to the Caledonia Sewage Treatment Works
2. The remaining portion of Lye and Wollescote discharges to the High Level Outfall Sewer for treatment at the Whittington Hall and House Sewage Farms.
3. The remainder of the Borough discharges through the Enville Street Pumping Station to the Whittington Sewage Farm.

During 1967 a new modern treatment works was constructed at the Freehold site in Lye and this deals with a maximum of nine million gallons per day which formerly discharged on to the Whittington Hall and House Sewage Farms.

A further sewage treatment works has been designed at the Roundhill Sewage Farm and whilst this will principally deal with flows from Kingswinford, Wordsley, Brierley Hill and other parts of Dudley, it will be available to deal with part of the Stourbridge flow which at present discharges on to the Whittington Sewage Farm. It is anticipated that construction of this new treatment works will be commenced in 1969.

Apart from the several schemes described above, there are no other urgent sewerage or sewage treatment schemes outstanding."

SECTION D

Housing work is referred to in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

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

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for

1968

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

Mr. Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Perrins & Gentlemen,

To a large extent the more effective the work of a Health Department, the less spectacular the results. The work is basically preventive, and as such its impact is upon the individual although its effect is on the community. The shopkeeper, factory owner or landlord who finds himself spending large amounts of money on improvements for the benefit of others would not subscribe to the idea that nothing happens in the Health Department.

A recent unsolicited and unintentional compliment paid to the Department was contained in a letter from the proprietor of a business, which stated "may we point out that in view of the number of visits made by your inspector to various properties in the town it is becoming very difficult to obtain builders ..." The letter was not intended as a compliment!

As will be seen from the tables and text, many visits have been made, many houses repaired, improved or condemned, many notices served, and in addition there has been a constant attempt to impress upon the various types of person with whom we deal the importance of improving the environment. That this is not always successful is shown by the number of notices served and proceedings instituted, but these are low in proportion to the number of premises involved. In terms of the efficiency expert, fewer visits and more prosecutions would save time, but in terms of eventual benefit to the public, which is the basic function of local government, the reverse is probably true. Public health should always be measured in terms of ecology rather than efficiency in its narrowest sense.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and co-operation I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Town Clerk and other Chief Officers. I should also like to thank the staff of the department for their help and willing support.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant,

T.H. MEREDITH

Chief Public Health Inspector

COMPLAINTS

975 complaints were received during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following data on inspections is given in accordance with Article 25(20) of the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections of houses under Public Health Acts	...	119
Re-inspections " " " " "	...	168
Inspections of Houses under Housing Regulations	...	867
Re-inspections " " " "	...	248
Houses in multiple occupation (visits and re-visits)	...	42
Housing improvements	...	539
Drainage	...	560
Bakehouses	...	19
Food premises (retail)	...	567
Food preparation premises	...	37
Food vehicles		25
Factories	...	175
Clean Air Act - industrial	...	76
domestic	...	686
measurement	...	262
Licensed premises and clubs	...	63
Mortuary	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	480
Slaughterhouse	...	1005
Petroleum	...	156
Rats and Mice	...	1751
Refuse tips	...	52
Sampling (food, drugs and water)	...	296
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	363
Shops re. unfit food	...	43
Scrap metal dealers	...	3
Tents, vans and sheds	...	2
Filthy and verminous premises	...	73
Notifiable diseases	...	67
Water supplies	...	81
Noise abatement	...	51
Swimming Baths	...	35

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

A total of 456 Preliminary Notices were served during the year. These took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and recommendations as to the repairs etc. necessary to remedy the defects.

	No. of Premises
General defects of houses	88
Factories Act	9
Food Hygiene Reg. contraventions	75
Clean Air Act - contraventions	18
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	250
Markets, Stalls and vehicles	16
	456

STATUTORY NOTICES 1968

The following Statutory Notices were served during the year:-

Public Health Act 1936	No. of Notices	No. of Premises Affected
Abatement of Nuisances (S.93)	31	31
Proposed Work of Maintenance on Sewer (S.24)	7	7
Public Health Act 1961		
Persons undertaking Demolition (S.29)	53	53
Clearance of untidy sites (S.27)	1	1
Derelict Petrol Tanks (S.73)	2	2
Housing Act 1957		
Notices to Quit (S.22)	25	25
Time and Place (S.16)	62	62
Clean Air Act 1956		
Section 12	2	2

RENT ACT 1957

There were no applications in connection with certificates of disrepair.

HOUSING ACT 1957

1. Action in Respect of Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made

		No. of Houses
Birmingham Street	Nos. 115,117,119	3
Bridgnorth Road	195,197,199	3
Cherry Street	28,30,32	3
Dudley Road	80,80a,82	3
Firmstone Street	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,	8
Giles Hill	6,8,10,12,14	5
Hagley Road	191	1
King William Street	91,92,93,94,95	5
Norton Road	158,160,162,164,166	5
Park Street, Lye	80,81	2
Pedmore Road	85,86,87	3
Platts Road	1,2,3	3
Queens Road	20	1
Stourbridge Road	102,104	2
Yardley Street	43,49	2
		49

(b) Undertaking not to re-let (Section 16(4))

Stourbridge Road	90	1

(c) Substitution of Demolition Order for Closing Order

Queens Road	18	1
Yardley Street	45,47	2
		3

Housing Act 1957 cont ....

(d) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made

		No. of Houses
Badger Street	Nos. 2,18	2
Birmingham Street	113	1
Enville Street	115,117,119	3
Farlands Drive	4	1
High Street, Amblecote	93,94,138	3
Park Street, Lye	2	1
Stourbridge Road	84,86,88,92,94	5
		16

(e) Houses in respect of which closing orders on parts of houses were made:

High Street, Lye	192	1
High Street, Amblecote	139	1
Stourbridge Road	96,98	2
		4

(f) Houses in respect of which undertakings to carry out repairs were accepted

Stourbridge Road, Lye	90	1

2. Clearance Area Action

(a) The following Clearance Area was declared by the Council

Worcester Street/Hill Street	26,28,30,32,34,36,38, 40,42,44/1,3,5,7,9	15

(b) Clearance Order

Worcester Street/Hill Street	26-44/1-9	15

(c) Clearance Order confirmed

Worcester Street/Hill Street	26-44/1-9	15

(d) Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed

King William Street 30-43. 66 Brettell Lane	16
Brettell Lane/King William Street 17-19,23, 25-30,33-40,42-45,49-55 Brettell Lane. 11-27 King William Street	47

3. Houses which became void

Clearance Orders	34
Demolition Orders	29
Closing Orders	10

4. Sections 30 and 60

Payments for Good Maintenance

Four applications were received under Section 30 for well maintained payments in respect of houses dealt with by individual action. Two payments were made, the remainder were refused.

Twelve payments were made on the direction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of houses in Clearance Areas.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

Housing Act 1964

Improvement Grants

(a) Discretionary Grants

3 grants totalling £1,664. were approved. Actual amount paid £811.
1 application was refused.
Higher rents were fixed in two cases.

(b) Standard Grants

74 standard grants totalling £13,125. were approved. Actual amount paid £9,576.
2 applications for fixing a rent higher than that laid down in the Act were refused.

(c) Improvement Loans

5 loans totalling £1,120. were approved in respect of houses where improvement grants had been made.

(d) Compulsory Improvement Areas

With the publication of the White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" the existing legislation became in effect, out of date before the new legislation had been enacted. In Stourbridge the procedure for compulsory improvement areas had worked well, with one major proviso, which was the large number of tenants who refused to agree to the improvement of their houses on the grounds of the upset during the work and the increase in rent after the work. The latter was and is, particularly difficult to understand when the cost of such luxury acticles as televisions, record players, cigarettes, etc., is taken as a comparison. The luxury of a tin bath before a fire in the living room hardly balances the danger and inconvenience of carrying hot water, the lack of privacy, and the work involved, and the small number of such baths seen during general inspections is low in proportion to the number of refusals to have improvements.

No further improvement areas were declared, although tentative surveys were carried out to cover expected legislation.

A number of prospective applicants are waiting to take advantage of the improved rates of grants - both in and out of areas.

In the Compulsory Improvement Areas already declared the following action was taken:-

		Lye	Amblecote
(i)	8 undertakings to carry out improvements were accepted	5	3
(ii)	10 suspended improvement notices were served	9	1
(iii)	12 immediate improvement notices were served	3	9
(iv)	1 final improvement notice was served	1	
(v)	1 purchase notice was served	1	

Tenants' Representations for the Improvement of Houses

(i) 7 representations were received from tenants

(ii) 3 immediate improvement notices were served

(iii) Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of the remainder.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Not all of the houses in the Borough which are by definition, in multiple occupation, require attention or inspection. The number which do vary between 35 and 41 and in general the problem is confined to overcrowding and lack of amenities. Only two direction orders were made, and these together with orders already made, are enforced.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Food premises by types

Bakehouses	5
Butchers' shops	48
Cafes, Canteens	93
Fried fish shops	17
General stores and Groceries	140
Other food premises	87
Licensed premises	110
Slaughterhouses	4

A total of 2355 visits were made to food premises. All of the premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19. No certificates of exemption have been issued.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1969

A number of major reconstructions took place, and new food premises were opened during the year. Wherever possible there was prior consultation, and in some cases where registration was necessary the premises were virtually designed by members of the Department. Arguments were limited to cost matters, as in the majority of cases a good public health design is a good work study, labour saving design. It is found in far too many cases that architects, builders and proprietors develop blind spots as soon as the design leaves that part of the premises which is in the public eye. The ideal food premises from a public health point of view would be one in which the public part is divided from the rear only by a transparent partition, so that customers could see the preparation and storage as well as the presentation of the food. The fact that registration is not compulsory means that where an existing premises has been brought up to a reasonable standard, by improvements and education of staff, a change of occupier can mean an immediate deterioration in conditions until he or she in turn is educated up to the proper standard.

During lectures on general public health to interested groups, the trend of housewives' questions is invariably to food and food handling. Such questions as why assistants are allowed to finger all sorts of open food, why sweeping brushes and not vacuum cleaners are used where there is open food, why unwrapped bread is delivered by drivers, who handle controls, money, doors, etc. then bread. These questions emphasise the principal point which needs to be made to all concerned with food, and particularly the food handler - that he or she is handling "food" and not merely an object.

A section of the food trade which tends to be set apart from other food trades are licensed premises, particularly public houses. Towards the end of the year a thorough survey of all licensed premises was commenced. Particular note was made of washing up techniques and equipment, disposal of overspill beer and, in view of the current fashion, of the sale and preparation of food snacks. This latter part of the investigation was by no means popular, as the use of domestic quarters for commercial food preparation was not accepted as satisfactory, but after explanations of the reasons involved the breweries and most of the licensees accepted the logic behind the principle. Signs of smoking by serving staff were also found and commented upon. There was, and is, close co-operation with the breweries and programmes of improvement, repair and decoration were commenced.

School kitchens also received attention; in every case there was a very high standard of cleanliness, although a certain amount of minor maintenance was required.

Vending machines are becoming more popular, and are found in many factories. The main sales are of drinks, but there is at least one which dispenses fried chipped potatoes. Problems of cleanliness can and do arise in factories where dirty processes are carried on, and the operators of such machines must be made clearly to understand that they are food handlers, not machine minders.

Prosecutions

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

There was one prosecution in respect of a greengrocer shop under Regulations 14(2) dirty sanitary convenience, 14(5) no "wash hands" notice, 16(1)(2)(3) no wash hand basin, hot and cold water, soap, nailbrush and clean towel, 19(1)(c) defective sink, 23 defective wooden floor incapable of being kept clean. Fines totalling £35. plus 10 gns. costs were imposed.

(b) Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls, & Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

There was one prosecution in respect of a mobile canteen under Regulation 13(a) Name and address not displayed, 18(a) No facilities for the disposal of sink waste water, 18(b) No supply of hot and cold water to the sink, 16 No wash hand basin with hot and cold water, etc. 14(5) No "wash hands" notice.

Fines totalling £10 plus 7 gns. costs were imposed.

Meat and Other Foods

5 tons 17 cwt. 107 lbs. of food other than meat inspected in slaughterhouses, was condemned, and disposed of under controlled conditions at the Council's tip.

This very large increase in other foods condemned is due to the presence of a wholesaler, where, on occasions bulk condemnations take place. An example of such was the condemnation on a single occasion of 482 x 6½ lb. tins of plums.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

147 samples of various foods (including samples of raw milk, ice cream, butter, cream, artificial cream, meat) were submitted for examination. Eighteen samples proved unsatisfactory, as follows:-

Fresh Cream 14 Failed Methylene Blue Test

Grade	I	II	III	IV
Ice-Cream	32	1	1	2

Food & Drugs

A paper on cream by a group of Directors of Public Health Laboratories, including Dr. R.J. Henderson of Worcester, drew the attention of the public to the necessity for bacteriological quality control of cream.

The manufacture of cream in Stourbridge was already satisfactory, thanks to a combination of regular sampling and supervision of the plant by the Health Department, and the close co-operation of the firm concerned. A coincidental safeguard is the prompt freezing of the cream for storage prior to sale. The cream, when thawed, is to all intents and purposes (taste, texture and quality) fresh cream.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

369 samples were taken during the year of which 11 proved unsatisfactory.

Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity	Observations
Sausages - Pork	Informal	Deficient in Lean Meat Lean Meat 30% Fat Meat 34%	Letter to Manufacturer
Chicken Pasty	"	Low Meat Content 17.6%	"
Steak & Kidney Pie	"	Low Meat Content 21.2%	"

Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity	Observations
Chicken Pie	Informal	Low Meat Content 20.9%	Letter to Manufacturer
Pasty	"	Incorrect description should be called Meat & Vegetable Pasty	"
Meat Pie	"	Low Meat Content 21%	"
Cornish Pasty	"	Low Meat Content 11%	"
Yoghurt	"	Should be described as Low Fat (1.2% fat)	"
Vitamin Preparation Cherry Syrup	"	Deficient in Vitamin C	"
Meat & Vegetable Pie	"	Meat Content 15.4% should be described Meat & Vegetable Pasty or Cornish Pasty	"
Turkey in Jelly Canned	"	Low meat content 70%	"

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Nineteen complaints were received of unfit food, or food not of the nature, substance and quality demanded.

Five were of bread containing cloth, cardboard, stalks, insects and mould.

Four were of meat pies containing wire, metal, mould and discoloured jelly.

Three were of mouldy fruit pies.

Three were of tinned foods, one damaged, one sour, one containing an earwig.

One was of a steak and kidney pie containing hairs.

One was of a dirty milk bottle. One was of mouldy yoghurt.

One was of maggot infested meat.

Legal proceedings under Section 2 of this Act were instituted in the following cases. In deciding whether or not to prosecute all the circumstances and explanations given are taken into account.

*	Insects in cereals	- fine £10. plus £5. 5. -. costs
*	Plaster in loaf	- fine £20. plus £7. 7. -. costs
	Cleaning cloth in loaf	- fine £10. plus £5. 5. -. costs
	Mouldy fruit pie	- fine £15. plus £4. 4. -. costs
	Insects in loaf	- fine £15. plus £4. 4. -. costs

* Complaints received in 1967

Two further prosecutions were pending at the end of the year.

The co-operation of the County Analyst, Worcester (Mr. W.E. Jones, M.S .,F.R.I.C.) and the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, (Dr. R.J. Henderson M.D.,C.L.B.) is gratefully acknowledged.

MEAT INSPECTION

100% meat inspection was maintained at the three small and one large slaughterhouses in the Borough. The large slaughterhouse wholesales meat over a wide area, and meat is sent as far afield as Manchester, London, and Cardiff.

A problem which occasionally occurs is the keeping and slaughtering of poultry for coloured immigrants. Birds are purchased in relatively large numbers, kept for two or three days in crates, then slaughtered in the yard, or outbuildings, causing problems of inspection, hygiene and nuisance.

Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration or Misbranding	Observations
Custom Ale	Informal	Low Meat Content 20.0%	Letter to Manufacturer
Pasty	"	Incorrect description should be called Meat & Vegetable Pasty	"
Meat Pie	"	Low Meat Content 22%	"
Cornish Pasty	"	Low Meat Content 13%	"
Yoghurt	"	Should be described as low fat (1.2% fat)	"
Vitamin Preparation Cherry Syrup	"	Deficient in Vitamin B	"
Meat & Vegetable Pie	"	Meat Content 15.4% should be described Meat & Vegetable Pasty or Cornish Pasty	"
Turkey in Jelly Canned	"	Low meat content 72%	"

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Nineteen complaints were received of unfit food, or food not of the nature, substance and quality demanded.

Five were of bread containing cloth, cardboard, stones, tincots and rouid.

Four were of meat pies containing wire, metal, mould and discoloured jelly.

Three were of mouldy fruit pies.

Three were of tainted foods, one damaged, one sour, one containing an insect.

One was of a steak and kidney pie containing hairs.

One was of a dirty milk bottle. One was of mouldy pudding.

One was of maggot infested meat.

Legal proceedings under Section 2 of this Act were instituted in the following cases. In deciding whether or not to prosecute all the circumstances and explanations given are taken into account.

* Sausage in cereals - fine £10, plus £5. [illegible]
* Plaster in loaf - fine £20, plus £5. [illegible]
Crawling cloth in loaf - fine £10, plus £5. [illegible]
Mouldy fruit pie - fine £25, plus £5. [illegible]
Glasses in loaf - fine £10, plus £5. [illegible]

* Complaints received in 1962

Two further prosecutions were pending at the end of the year.

The co-operation of the County Analyst, Worcester (Mr. W.E. Jones, M.B., F.R.I.C.) and the Director of the Worcester Laboratory, Worcester, (Mr. Jos. Lundbeck M.Sc. C.I.E.) is gratefully acknowledged.

MEAT INSPECTION

1000 meat inspection was maintained at the three small and one large slaughter-houses in the Borough. The large slaughterhouse wholesales meat over a wide area, and meat is sent as far afield as Birmingham, London, and Cardiff.

A problem which continually occurs is the keeping and slaughtering of poultry in a diseased condition. Birds are purchased in fairly large numbers, kept for two or three days in crates, then slaughtered in the great [illegible] manner, causing problems of inspection, hygiene and [illegible].

No. of slaughterhouses in the borough	4
No. of licensed slaughtermen	23
No. of animals slaughtered	40,270
No. of animals inspected (ante and post-mortem)	40,270

Total weight of meat and offal condemned 10 tons 16 cwt. 52 lbs.

Total weight of meat treated for Cysticercus Bovis 4 tons 0 cwt. 40 lbs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows and Calves	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	3,179	65	55	25,973	10,998	-
Number inspected	3,179	65	55	25,973	10,998	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	3	3	14	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	909	23	-	3,097	3,071	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.5%	40.%	5.4%	11.9%	27.7%	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	71	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.65%	-
Cysticercus						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	15	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of cattle affected	0.47%	-	-	-	-	-

No. of slaughterhouses in the borough 4
No. of licensed slaughtermen 25
No. of animals slaughtered 40,270
No. of animals inspected (ante and post-mortem) 40,270

Total weight of meat and offal condemned 10 tons 16 cwt. 52 lbs.

Total weight of meat treated for Cysticercus bovis 4 tons 0 cwt. 40 lbs.

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Including Cows and Calves	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	3,179	65	35	25,973	10,998	-
Number inspected	3,179	65	35	25,973	10,998	-
Diseases except tuberculosis and cancer						
Whole carcass condemned	-	3	3	14	3	-
Parts of which part or organ condemned	909	23	-	3,097	3,071	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.59	40.3	5.14	11.92	27.79	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parts of which part or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	71	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.65%	-
Cysticercus						
Parts of which part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-	-	-
Parts sterilised and condemned	15	-	-	-	-	-
Parts sterilised and partly condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of carcasses affected	0.47%	-	-	-	-	-

WATER SAMPLING

88 bacteriological and 2 chemical samples of town water were submitted for examination. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

Physical Characters	Colourless pH. 7.23

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	440
Solids in Solution After Ignition	310
Chlorine Present as Chloride	42
Hardness Non-Carbonate as $CaCO_3$	91
Hardness Carbonate	164
Hardness Total	255
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	7.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C)	0.35
Total Residual Chlorine	Nil
Calcium as Ca.	90
Number of Colonies developing upon Agar	
(a) In two days at 37°C	Nil per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22°C	Nil per one ml.
Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable Number of Faecal Coli	Nil per 100 ml.

Supplies were satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency, and fluoridation does not take place. The latter is due to the fact that several local authorities receive water from the North West Worcestershire Water Board, but disagree with fluoridation.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's swimming baths comprise one covered and one outdoor pool, which are interconnected.

The pools measurements are:-

Indoor Pool: 25 yds. x 10 yds. with a depth of 6 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins.
Outdoor Pool: 33⅓ yds. x 10 yds. with a depth of 10 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins.

both baths being heated.

The source of water is a private well, with facilities for chlorination, (if required) in the rising main to a storage tank. The water is treated by filtration and chlorination, with a 4 hour changeover in the indoor pool and a 6 hour changeover in the outdoor pool.

During the year 109 samples (74 bacteriological and 35 chemical) were submitted for examination to the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory. In addition to these checks the chlorine and p.H. values of the water is checked at intervals during the day with a colorimeter. Owing to the relatively small size of the indoor pool there is a tendency for a build up of organic impurities at peak periods, and consequently it is necessary to exercise vigilance over the chemical quality of the water in order to ensure satisfactory conditions at these times.

The general cleanliness of the pools, surrounds and dressing rooms was also satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

86 bacteriological and 2 chemical samples of town water were submitted for examination. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

Physical Characteristics	Colourless -ve. P.A.Co

Chemical Analysis (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	640
Solids in Solution After Ignition	310
Chlorine (present as Chloride	-2
Hardness: Non-Carbonate as $CaCO_3$	92
Hardness: Carbonate	168
Nitrogen Total	259
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.03
Nitrite Nitrogen	7.2
Nitrate Nitrogen	821
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C)	0.35
Total Residual Chlorine	Nil
Calcium as Ca.	90
Number of Colonies developing upon agar:	
(a) In two days at 37°C	Nil per cmc ml.
(b) In three days at 22°C	Nil per cmc ml.
Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable Number of Faecal Coli	Nil per 100 ml.

Samples were satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. The water was not liable to plumbo solvency, and fluoridation does not take place. The latter is due to the fact that several local authorities receive water from the North West Metropolitan Water Board, but disagree with fluoridation.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Granville Road public baths complex are covered and one outdoor pool, which are unheated.

The pools measurements are:-

Indoor Pool: 25 yds. x 10 yds. with a depth of 6 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins.
Outdoor Pool: 33⅓ yds. x 10 yds. with a depth of 10 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins.

Both baths are lane limited.

The source of water is a private well, with facilities for chlorination, if required, in the plant room to a storage tank. The water is treated by filtration and chlorination, with a 8 hour changover in the indoor pool and a 6 hour changover in the outdoor pool.

During the year 100 samples (76 bacteriological and 24 chemical) were submitted for examination to the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory. In addition to these checks the chlorine and p.H. values of the water is checked at intervals during the day with a colorimeter. Owing to the relatively small size of the indoor pool there is a tendency for a build up of organic impurities at peak periods, and accordingly it is necessary to exercise vigilance over the chemical quality of the water in order to ensure satisfactory conditions at these times.

The general cleanliness of the pools, amenities and dressing rooms was also satisfactory.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

One long standing complaint - an enamelling furnace - was remedied during the year, and progress was made with the problems of a firebrick kiln, and cold blast cupolas.

It cannot be said, however, that vigilance can now be relaxed, as trouble has been experienced with a number of previously satisfactory installations, particularly coal fired underfeed stokers. A probable answer to this is that many of the original mechanical stokers installed immediately after the coming into operation of the Act are now over ten years old, and nearing the end of their useful life without major overhaul. The deterioration in the quality of the exhaust gases is gradual and for a time can be countered by minor adjustments, but many firms will now have to reconsider their furnace arrangements.

Perhaps the most vexing of the new complaints was a school chimney in a Smoke Control Order where the machanical stokers were failing to comply with the Clean Air Act. The most skilled stoking proved useless, minor adjustments failed to achieve any visible improvement, and the whole system of firing the furnaces was under review at the end of the year.

Emissions from premises covered by the Alkali etc. Acts still caused problems, and there was close co-operation with H.M. Alkali Inspector. A time limit was set in one case and experimental work was in hand in another.

Clean Air Act 1968

This Act received Royal Assent on the 25th October, 1968, but none of the provisions came into effect until 1st April, 1969.

Section 10 - Heights of Chimneys

The number of chimneys which came within the provisions of Section 10 of the 1956 Act was small and apart from one cupola, had emissions classed as very light. In the case of a cupola the SO_2 emissions were relatively light, due to the fuel used, but the question of grit arrestation raised problems. A wet type arrestor was installed as current best practicable means of complying with the Act.

Section 3 - Notification of Furnace Installations

A number of notifications were received, mainly of small furnaces raising few problems. Only one application for approval of a furnace was received in respect of a space heater and this was granted.

Section 12 - Smoke Control

Smoke Control Order No. 25 came into operation on 1st August, 1968.

Unfortunately due to the financial situation no further areas were declared, although work is proceeding on Area No. 26 which comes into operation in October, 1970. The wide choice of appliances and fuels which is now given must increase the cost of smoke control, although thanks to the number of householders who are improving their heating arrangements before the declaration of areas, the rise is not as high as it might have been.

No. of Smoke Control Areas declared or in operation	...	27
No. of dwellings (when declared*)	...	6,288
No. of acres	...	1,396.5

*This number is increasing steadily with new housing development in existing orders.

A small number of warnings are issued each year regarding the use of smoky fuels, usually at the beginning of the heating season. In addition all solicitors have been asked to notify house purchasers of the operation of smoke control. Complaints are valuable for checking purposes, and in addition there are irregular surveys of all areas.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Clinic - Orchard Lane, Lye

	Smoke Filter Microgrammes/ Cubic Metre		Sulphur Volumetric Analysis SO_2 Microgrammes/ Cubic Metre		Ins. Rain	Deposit Gauge Tons per square mile		
	Highest	Average	Highest	Average		Total Undissolved Matter	Total Dissolved Matter	Total Solids
Jan.	366	90	514	132	2.84	6.60	7.58	14.18
Feb.	331	105	446	192	1.54	5.50	6.66	12.16
March	182	49	290	149	1.26	8.84	9.27	18.11
April	93	43	204	88	2.29	29.84	6.82	36.66
May	82	47	351	120	3.66	14.58	7.78	22.36
June	81	28	183	83	1.89	6.29	4.87	11.16
July	46	29	174	77	3.19	10.70	5.80	16.50
August	31	20	190	56	2.05	16.66	4.64	21.30
Sept.	74	34	226	90	3.86	8.09	6.20	14.29
Oct.	162	58	218	92	2.29	3.94	3.94	7.88
Nov.	206	79	369	132	1.61	3.34	10.86	14.20
Dec.	248	52	362	185	2.36	5.20	6.39	11.59

See graph overleaf.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

Complaints were received of a wide variety of noises covering such activities as:

Gas making plant, air cleaning, furnaces, open cast mining, coalwashing, heavy and light engineering, metal cutting, electric motors, compressors, pile drivers, concrete breakers, ventilating fans, conveyor belts, washeterias, hotels, all night transport depot, diesel locomotives and fringe complaints such as dogs barking, central heating pumps in domestic premises, etc.

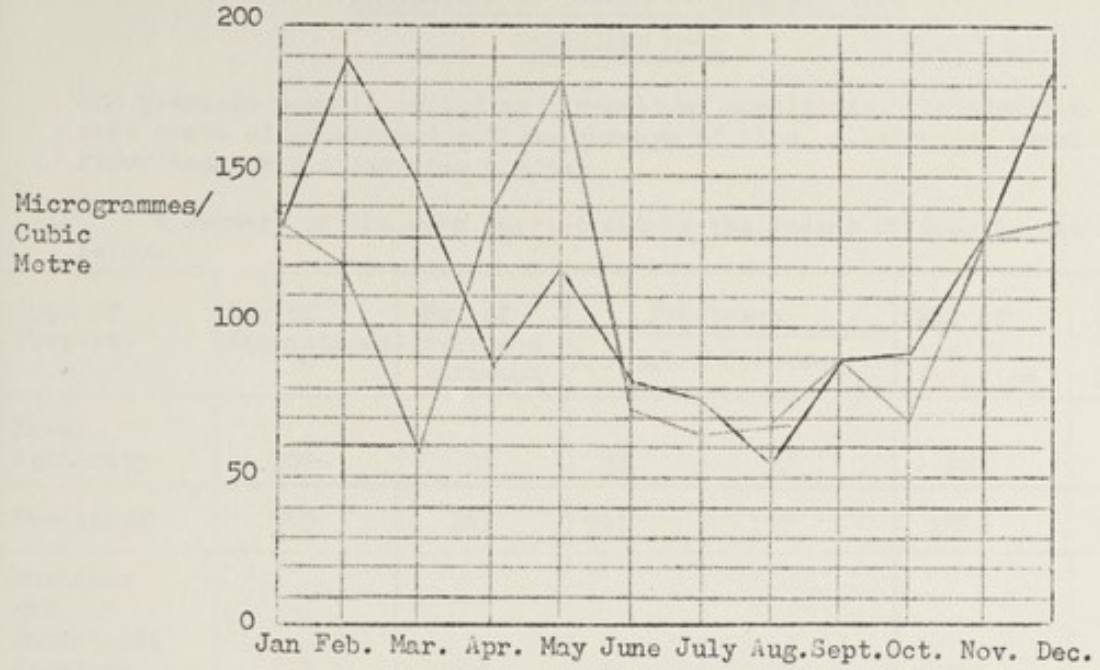
In the majority of cases effective improvements were achieved. Unfortunately in other cases substantial reductions in noise levels did not satisfy the complainants - these are cases which cannot be resolved other than by re-location either of the noise source or the complainant. Despite constant warnings and discussions, the operators of concrete breakers and pneumatic drills could not be educated into using the muffles provided for them. Due to the casual nature of this employment, it was rare to have to warn the same man twice, but although contractors were also warned they tended to the opinion that they had done their duty in providing the muffles. The most difficult to deal with are those which on investigation apparently stem from the imagination of the complainant. Such cases invariably require late night or early morning visits.

Comments were made on proposals to construct or extend factories, but a "prior approval" clause would be helpful, and in the long run save money. Such a clause could cover the installation of new machinery, as well as new constructions. Where appropriate British Standard 4142: 1967 has been used, in conjunction with the noise level meter.

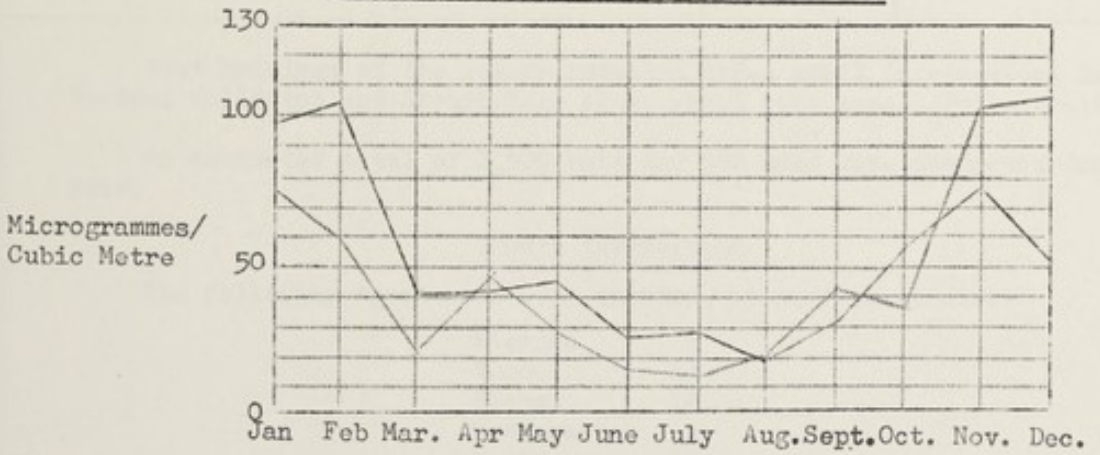
Each public health inspector in the department has now attended a course on "Noise" at the University of Aston in Birmingham.

From time to time posters have been displayed at suitable sites throughout the Borough.

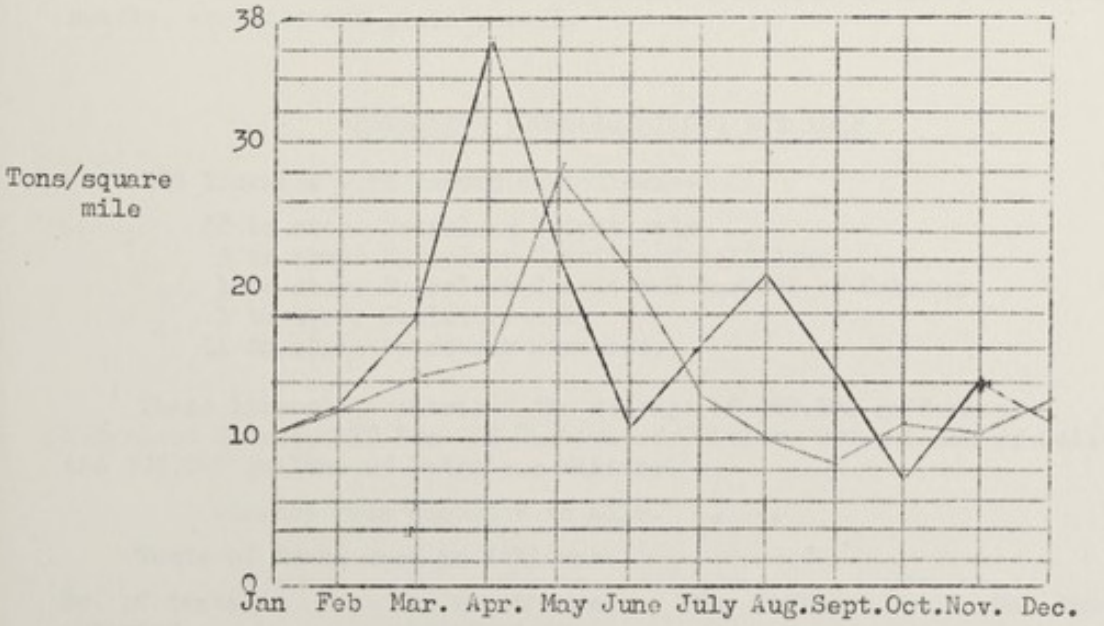
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION



Volumetric Analysis - Sulphur Dioxide
Average daily reading/month



Smoke filter - Average daily reading/month



Deposit gauge - Total Solids/month

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

(Dotted lines show 1967 results)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

RATS AND MICE

820 premises were inspected as a result of complaints. In addition there were tests of sewers and routine surveys of tips, allotments, canal and river banks and other open spaces.

A summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Officer is set out below.

Type of Property	No. of Inspections	No. of Premises Infested	Treatment		No. of Visits Entailed	Infested by	
			Initial	Secondary		Rats	Mice
Local Authority	107	38	38	32	221	18	20
Dwellings	540	241	241	177	1319	194	47
Business and Industrial Premises	173	14	14	8	211	14	-
	820	293	293	217	1751	226	67

Test baitings of the sewers revealed three small infestations in the Norton, Wollaston and Stourbridge area, which were successfully treated.

An estimated total of 2,909 rats and 586 mice were destroyed during the year.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The following treatments were carried out against vermin:-

Pigeons	2
Bugs	12
Fleas	12
Cockroaches	5
Wasps	30
Ants	17

In addition advice was given for the treatment of ants, woodworms, snails, woodlice and grain weevil.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928

104 licences were issued as follows:-

88 to store Petroleum Spirit only
3 to store Petroleum Spirit and Cellulose
1 to store Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium
1 to store Cellulose only
11 to store Petroleum Mixtures.

These licences authorised the storage of 283,572 gallons of Petroleum Spirit, 112 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium, 207 gallons of Cellulose and 303,047 gallons of Petroleum Mixture.

Licence Fees amounted to £116. -. -.

Tests of tanks were as follows:-

No. of tanks tested	No. which were satisfactory	No. failed	No. discontinued (other than those failing test)
6	5	1	1

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928 cont ....

Those tanks which fail the test are made safe by filling with weak concrete under supervision, or if removed are de-gassed by specialist firms before being taken from the ground.

Throughout the year there has been co-operation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Worcestershire City and County Fire Brigade, and with the local officer.

A new problem which arose as a result of more detailed inspections being carried out was the large number of factories found to be stocking small quantities of petroleum mixtures in the form of adhesives, thinners and cleaners. The maximum amount permitted to be stored without licence is 3 gallons in suitable 1 pint containers, but in many cases only one can with a capacity ranging from 1 gallon to 5 gallons is kept, and the provision of a can store in a suitable position is both difficult, because of licensing conditions, and unpopular for obvious reasons. Until the law is changed, however, licensing and all it entails, will be necessary. There were two major fires on licensed premises. Petroleum mixtures were involved in one case but not the source of the fire; in the other case the fire, although verynear the can store, failed to penetrate the structure, and petroleum was therefore fortunately not involved.

One unattended self service station was opened in May, 1968, and so far as is known is operating satisfactorily. There have been no reports of vandalism or misuse, and late night observations have always shown a sensible approach by the users. The particular station has a very suitable open layout - any other applications must be treated on their merits.

The Home Office issued new model codes on principles of construction and licensing conditions for petroleum installations, which were adopted by the Council with minor amendments.

Also issued during the year were:-

(i) The Petroleum (Inflammable Liquids) Order 1968
(ii) The Petroleum (Carbon Disulphide) Order 1968
(iii) The Inflammable Liquids (Conveyance by Road) Regulations 1968
(iv) The Inflammable Substances (Conveyance by Road)(Labelling) Regulations 1968.

The first two Orders broaden the range of substances covered by the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928; the titles of the Regulations briefly explain their purpose.

Other Licences

Pet Animals Act 1951	- 4
Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963	- 1
Riding Establishment Act 1964	- 1

ITINERANT CARAVANS

Stourbridge was fortunate in having very few "visitations" and, thanks to the co-operation of the police, no long stays. One group in this Borough (but as far from houses as is possible) were employed by a farmer on casual work. Conditions were very primitive and on a number of occasions cleaning up exercises were mounted, but with no success. Two families applied for Council houses and in one case there is a strong possibility of re-housing.

The problem cannot improve unless there is more positive thinking by the County Council or more positive legislation by the Central Government. No one can deny the human problem where young children are involved, but equally no person can deny the appalling condition in which sites are left by the itinerants. It must also be emphasised that these caravan dwellers are such from their own free choice, knowing the difficulties which they must encounter.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

363 visits, which included 225 general inspections, were made to registered premises during the year. Every newly registered premises received a general inspection and 181 premises were re-visited checking previous contraventions.

As a result of the co-ordination of inspections, food shops are now inspected under all appropriate Acts at the same time. The number of visits shown above represent visits made exclusively under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Seven accidents were reported and investigated.

One exemption was granted under Section 46(1) of the above Act in respect of a premises for which only temporary planning permission was granted.

TABLE A - REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	5	192	36
Retail Shops	11	445	165
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	29	9
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	97	45
Fuel storage depots	-	1	-
TOTALS	17	764	225

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES

363

TABLE C - ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of Premises	Number of persons employed
Offices	1193
Retail Shops	1550
Wholesale departments, warehouses	228
Catering establishments open to the public	395
Canteens	9
Fuel storage depots	4
TOTAL	3379
TOTAL - MALES	1184
TOTAL - FEMALES	2195

Legal Proceedings

Proceedings were instituted in respect of a decorator's shop, and a greengrocer's shop. (In the latter, in conjunction with Food Hygiene offences). In both cases fines were imposed.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	66	24	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	326	151	9	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
TOTALS	392	175	9	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred: To. H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred: By H.M. Inspector (5)	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork	9	9	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	9	-	-	-

PROSECUTED PREMISES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1948.

Part 1 of the Act

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Complaints Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	66	24	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	326	151	7	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).				
TOTALS	392	175	7	-

PROSECUTIONS DEFECTIVE WORK FROM

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found		Defects		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	9	9	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTALS	9	9	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply list	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing (Making apparel) etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	-	-	-	-	-