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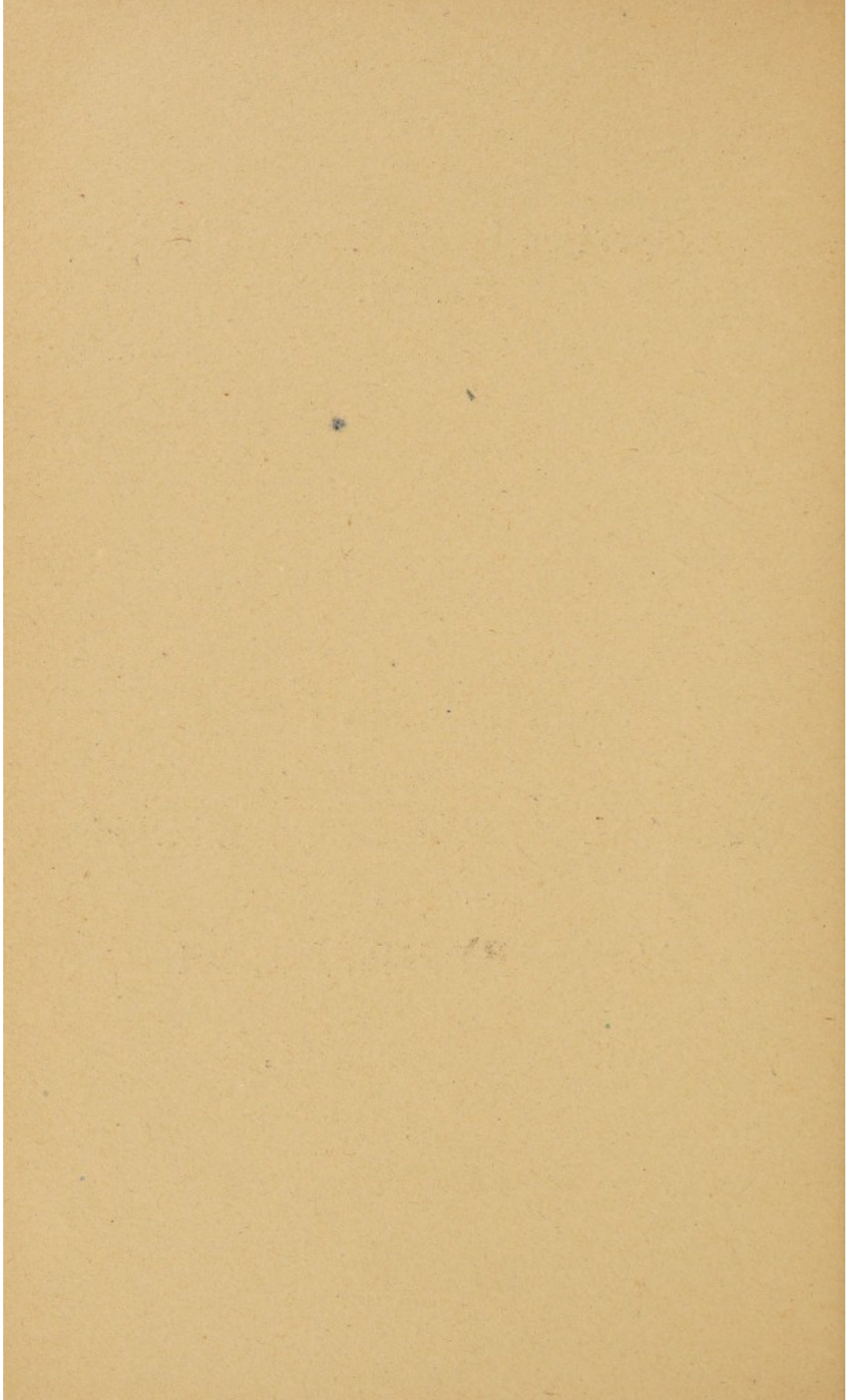
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**Stourport-on-Severn Urban District
Council.**



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year 1951.



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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman :

P. G. HOPCROFT, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

J. MILLICAN, Esq.

Members of the Council :

MR. A. W. CARRADINE.

MR. W. A. COLEY.

MR. O. W. CONGRAVE.

MR. C. H. HODGSON.

MR. S. KEMP.

DR. R. S. MACARTHUR.

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MR. R. G. READY.

MR. E. A. ROBINSON.

MR. H. E. ROSE.

MR. W. ROWBOTHAM.

MR. A. WALDRON.

Public Health Officers of the Council :

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

MR. L. H. POOLE, M.I.MUN.E., C.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

MR. H. MADDOCK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Clerk :

MISS E. PAYNE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1951.

In accordance with the procedure adopted last year, at the direction of the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections :—

- “ A ” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ” Housing.
- “ E ” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ” Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupations of the Area.

The principal industries comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, blackplate and bright strip, cast iron hinges and holloware, chains for many purposes, steel wire braid and tape, wire cables, fans, forges, furnaces, woodwork, valves and valve accessories, an old-established vinegar works, and several firms engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil. In addition there is one of the largest power stations in the Midlands.

SECTION "A."

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1951)	
according to Rate Books	3,019
Rateable Value	£50,102
Sum represented by one Penny Rate ...	£204
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1951)	10,140

Live Births.

	Totals.			
	Male	Female	1951	1950
Legitimate ...	93	86	179	190
Illegitimate ...	4	7	11	10
	97	93	190	200

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District was	19.0	20.5
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period was	15.5	15.8

Still Births.

	Male		Female		1951	1950
		
Legitimate	1	2	3	6		
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—		
	1	2	3	6		

The Still Birth rate per 1000 civilian population was ...	0.29	0.59
The Still Birth rate per 1000 civilian population for England and Wales for the same period was	0.36	0.37

Deaths.

	Male	Female	1951	1950
	66	55		
The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was ...			11.9	9.1
The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was ...			12.5	11.6
Maternity Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was ...			Nil	Nil
Maternity Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period was			0.79	0.86

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	Male	Female	1951	1950
Legitimate	3	1	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	3	1	4	5
	—	—	—	—

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was ... 21.04 30.0

The Infant Mortality rate for the same period for

England and Wales was	29.6	29.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—

Causes of Death (including Transferable Deaths).

<i>Ref. No.</i>		Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
3	Syphilitic disease	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8
18	Coronary disease angina	10	3
20	Other heart disease	14	17
21	Other circulatory disease	—	1
22	Influenza	1	1
23	Pneumonia	2	1
24	Bronchitis	3	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
31	Congenital malformations	—	1
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34	All other accidents	3	1
35	Suicide	1	—
		—	—
		66	55
		—	—

SECTION " B. "

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services.

Following a further transfer, producers' samples of milk and water are still examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological and pathological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service.

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committees. The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding areas with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	376
Women delivered	...	...	...	...	328
Infants born alive	...	...	...	...	323
Infants deaths	...	...	...	...	1
Infants stillborn	...	...	...	...	7
Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	10
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infectious Diseases.

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. Two cases of infectious disease from Stourport Urban district were admitted during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Outpatient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. In-patients treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium and at St. Wulstan's Sanatorium, Malvern. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment and " follow-up " are carried out at the following :—

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.

Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home :

This service is administered by the Local Health Authority.

There are :—

- (i) Two Nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.
- (ii) A whole time Health Visitor and School Nurse who attends school medical inspections, treats minor ailments at the school clinic, and visits cases of mental defect. She visits infants and children in the home and is responsible for their welfare from 14 days until they attend school at 5 years when they continue under the school scheme. She attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in this district.
- (iii) A whole time Health Visitor who visits cases of tuberculosis.

Clinics :

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, in charge of Doctors : MacArthur, C. Mackie, Winter, Black, W. T. Mackie, and Matron, respectively. A Clinic is also held by the District Midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held on the first and third Fridays in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Clinic, and the third Wednesday at the Wilden Village Hall.

Areley Kings.

An Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons.

Children under five are immunised at these Clinics and vaccination is carried out as required.

SECTION " C "

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. During the year three inch water mains have been laid to meet housing development at The Ridgeway and Wilden Top.

Samples taken regularly in conjunction with the Borough of Bewdley for chemical and bacteriological analysis have given satisfactory results. The water was found to be satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, and there is no plumb-solvent action.

There are 2900 dwelling houses connected to the town water mains, affording a supply for some 9650 persons. In addition, approximately 119 dwelling houses obtain their supply from wells catering for about 464 persons.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Disposal of sewage to the Oldington Disposal Works, used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley, has continued satisfactorily. It has not been possible to connect any of the out-lying properties to the main sewers owing to distances and levels in these areas.

The Titton district will not be developed for residential purposes, but may become an industrial area when sewer extensions would be considered.

Four houses in the Wilden area were converted to water carriage and connected to the sewer.

SECTION " D."

Housing :

Fifty houses were completed by the Council during the year and eight by private enterprise.

The Council are making better progress in their efforts to provide the new homes so badly needed, but the problem remains as serious as ever.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year 1951 :—

Number of Council houses in the Urban District	703
Number of houses requisitioned by the Council ...	Nil
Number of Applicants for Council houses ...	462
Number of above Applicants who are living in lodgings ...	218
Approximate total number of persons represented by Application List ...	1350

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation still remaining in the district, three Demolition Orders have been made. Families from ten previously condemned houses were re-housed by the Council during the year.

Burlish Estate.

One hundred and fifty five bungalow conversions (temporary) were completed for occupation during the year.

It is most unfortunate that some of them have proved to be abnormally damp. Part of this is due to condensation, but in some cases there appears to be penetrating dampness. Experiments are being carried out to find a cause, but so far without success. It is hoped that a suitable remedy will be found in the near future.

Following heavy rainstorms, some local flooding occurred, and measures have been taken to prevent any repetition of this.

Titton and Walshes Farm Shack Areas.

Little progress has been made with the scheme for compulsory purchase and resettlement. A special committee of the County Council is investigating the question for the County as a whole and this may prove to be of assistance in the future.

Houseboats.

The occupation of Houseboats permanently for human habitation is another serious problem peculiar to towns of a riparian character, which should receive attention from the Central Authorities.

SECTION " E."

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream Manufacture.

The number of manufacturers of Ice Cream on the Register is five, and the number of Retailers of Ice Cream, 32. Regular samples are being taken from all the Manufacturers and these have proved satisfactory.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 95 samples of Milk, 42 samples of other foods, and 12 samples of drugs were taken for analysis during the year. Of these, 18 milk samples, two other food samples, and two drug samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION " F."

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :—

1. Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	203
2. School Children	...	...	...	...	31
3. Reinforcing doses	...	...	...	...	146
					<hr/>
					380
					<hr/>

At the end of 1951 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0-5 and 5-14 years were 64.6 and 93.4 respectively.

Poliomyelitis :

No cases of this disease occurred during 1951.

General :

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table :—

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Measles	185	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	122	—	—
Scarlet Fever	25	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	10	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	8	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	7	—	—

It will be noted that there has been a further increase in the incidence of Measles, and also a higher incidence of Scarlet Fever.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Over ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	8	4	—	—	2	1	—	—

Conclusion.

Adequate housing for those in need remains priority No. 1 in this District as in the county generally. The rising building costs are making the amount of rental of new Council houses a serious problem

for many tenants and may lead to refusal of much needed accommodation on financial grounds. It would appear that this is a national problem which should receive early attention from those responsible.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

**To the Chairman and Members
of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.**

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully beg to submit my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year 1,590 visits of inspection were made to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. Thirty-three interviews took place with owners and builders.

Sixty-four Preliminary Notices, ten Statutory Notices and three Verbal Notices were served in connection with this work.

Refuse Scavenging.

The collection of refuse was again dealt with in a systematic manner by direct labour. The refuse was disposed of by tipping.

During the year the Council purchased a "Dennis" Motor Cess-pool Emptying Vehicle, with night-soil attachment. This has resulted in a considerable economy in labour as compared with the former horse-drawn tumbler cart, and is more hygienic. In addition, the vehicle can be used for other purposes.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

Water Supply.

The consumption of water for all purposes was 188,939,000 gallons. This was an increase of 14,540,000 gallons as compared with 1950.

A further 217 houses and bungalows were connected to the mains.

The laying of 3in. water mains to meet housing development at The Ridgeway and Wilden Top was carried out during the year.

The water, which is purchased from the Bewdley Corporation, continued to be entirely satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality. It was not necessary to impose any restrictions owing to shortage.

Nine samples of water from private sources were taken and forwarded for analysis to the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, rags and bottles was resumed in July, and the quantities, with values, of these materials sold to the end of the year was as follows:—

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ... ..	...30	19	3	510	2	3
Scrap Metal ... ..	...14	15	0	65	19	0
Rags ... ..	...	11	2	14	7	6
Bottles... ..	...31 gross	& 10 cwt.		8	13	6
				£599	2	3

Infectious Diseases.

Details of the various types of notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. Inspections were made in connection with certain of these diseases and disinfectant supplied.

Milk Sampling and Licences.

During the year samples of Pasteurised and Sterilised milk were taken from various producers in the County by the County Sanitary Officers. All samples taken from persons retailing such milk in this District proved to be satisfactory.

Five Supplementary Licences in respect of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk for the sale of this designated milk were issued by the Council.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

There are 57 factories in the district to which 63 inspections were made for purposes of the provision of Part I of the Act.

Three cases of insufficient, unsuitable, or defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied.

Ice Cream.

There were 33 premises registered for the sale or manufacture of this food at the close of the year. 49 visits were paid to these premises and 23 samples taken for analysis with the following results:

Grade I.	Grade II.	Grade III.	Grade IV.
18	3	2	0

Food Inspection.

The following articles of food were examined, surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

Canned Meat ... ..	...41 tins.	Canned Syrup ... ..	... 2 tins.
Canned Soup ... ..	... 6 tins.	Canned Milk ... ..	...59 tins.
Canned Fruit ... ..	...18 tins.	Canned Vegetables ...	156 tins.
Canned Fruit Juice ...	... 1 tin.	Canned Fish ... ..	... 4 tins.
Cheese ... ..	...37 lbs.	Wet Fish ... ..	...70 lbs.
National Butter ... ..	... 2 lbs.		

Closet Conversions.

The closets at four houses were converted to the water carriage system and the drainage connected to the sewer.

Food and Drugs Act, 1933—Food Premises.

Special attention has been given to this matter and the Bye-laws made under Section 15 in connection with same. In all a total of 261 visits were made. This subject was dealt with at length in my report to the Health Committee in March last. The premises visited included general food shops, butchers' shops, fish friers, restaurant kitchens, works canteens, bakehouses, cafes, snack bars, mobile canteens, licensed premises and clubs. Generally the conditions found at the premises were very satisfactory apart from minor defects. All the work requested has either been attended to, is in course of completion or in the hand of a builder, except in regard to one firm's premises.

In one new case, permission to use the premises for catering purposes was refused owing to the unsatisfactory water supply.

I regard the most disturbing matter in the sale of clean food is that which occurs in the very large sale of unwrapped bread, and its delivery to the consumer. This very common article of food is one which is not washed or cooked before eating, so that any possible contamination is not removed. The wrapping of bread before sale cannot be enforced, and many tradesmen are not prepared to wrap it owing to the scarcity and high cost of paper. Properly wrapped bread is available, but the public do not appear to be willing to pay the small extra charge for this important safeguard.

Smoke Abatements.

Two cases have come under review. One related to the emission of smoke from passenger steamboats on the River Severn, and was speedily dealt with on the owner's attention being called to it. In the other case, a more serious nuisance was created by the discharge of smoke from the chimney of a new grain silo, which had been erected in a predominantly residential area by a government department, although other sites were suggested. Efforts to secure the abatement of the nuisance were still being pursued at the end of the year.

Housing.

Fifty new houses were erected and 155 huts on the former Burlish Camps were converted into bungalows by the Council. Eight houses were built by private enterprise.

Three Demolition Orders under the Housing Act, 1936, were issued and one house, in respect of which a Demolition Order had been served, was demolished by the owner. The families from ten previously condemned houses were re-housed.

The provision of housing accommodation is still the major problem facing all local authorities. Until sufficient houses are forthcoming it will be impossible to deal effectively with the substandard houses in the District, which cannot be repaired at a reasonable expense.

Allied to this problem of housing shortage is the increasing difficulty being experienced in essential repairs to rent controlled property. The continual operation of the Rent Restrictions Act, coupled with the rapid increases in the cost of building work, is placing heavy burdens on certain owners of aging property.

It is hoped that attention will be given to this problem at Government level in the near future.

Dairies.

The control of cowsheds and dairies on farm premises is now with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and has been so since June, 1949. However, the control of retail purveyors of milk and of dairies other than those on farm premises is still in the hands of the Local Authority.

There is only one such dairy in this District where milk is bottled for sale.

Rodent Control.

During the year treatments were carried out at the following premises :—

	<i>Dwelling Houses.</i>	<i>Local Authority Property.</i>	<i>Business Premises.</i>
No. of Properties	49	6	11

It was not until December, 1951, that a Rodent Operative was appointed. It will now be possible to give considerably more attention to this subject.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

