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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1955

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(at 31st December, 1955)

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. E. Price, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor E. Brunskill.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. Bissell).

Alderman G. W. Price.

Councillor W. A. Griffiths.

„ S. Rogers.

„ N. L. Small.

„ S. Stevenson.

„ W. F. Taylor, C.A.

„ L. V. Waldron.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(at 31st December, 1955).

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

(Six-elevenths of whose time is allotted to the Staffordshire County Council as Medical Officer to their No. 9 Area Health Committee.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

F. J. Turner, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector :

R. H. Mann, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

J. McKechnie, M.S.I.A.

One vacancy.

Veterinary Surgeon :

A. J. McVinnie, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Staff :

Mr. F. Hickman.

Miss A. I. M. James.

Mr. R. J. Deeley.

Miss J. Gaden.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1955 has been prepared in accordance with directions given in Circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health, dated the 23rd of November, 1955.

This is the 25th Annual Report I have been privileged to present. They have of course varied from year to year, but it can be said with truth that each has shewn a measure of progress in the betterment of health and conditions of life of the people of our Borough. I have been fully aware and duly thankful as I have concluded each report of our freedom from major epidemic.

The statistics for 1955 indeed afford cause for gratitude. The Live Birth Rate 15.5 compares with 15.4 for 1954 and the Death Rate 9.8 with 9.2. There were only eight deaths of children under one year of age and the Infantile Mortality Rate—14.8 is by far the lowest ever recorded—that for England and Wales 24.9 also being the lowest ever recorded.

In 1929 the Borough's Infantile Mortality Rate was 93.1 in 1935—101.9, 1950—36.9, 1954—22.4. In 1897 the rate for the Borough for deaths of children under one year of age was 205.7 per 1,000 births !!

It is much to be doubted that an Infantile Mortality Rate of 14.8 will be able to be consistently maintained but it does shew that under entirely favourable circumstances such a rate is possible.

The Death Rate 9.8 shews a slight increase over last year when it was 9.2.

The incidence of the more serious infectious diseases was small, there being only one case of Poliomyelitis and for the second year in succession no case of Diphtheria, there was however an epidemic of Measles of considerable proportion—674 cases being notified, the disease was mild in character and no deaths were recorded.

During the year much consideration was given to the better housing of our people and surveys were made of houses considered unfit for habitation and likely to be subject to recommendation for demolition during the next five years, the number ascertained is approximately 771 divided into 12 areas of varying size.

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. Norman Ashworth, tells me that during the year 134 houses were completed by the Local Authority and nine by private enterprise.

In his Annual Report for 1955 Mr. R. L. Highfield, the Housing Manager, gives the total number of Council Houses at December

31st as being 4,702 and states that the number of applications for Council Houses numbered at that date 1,816.

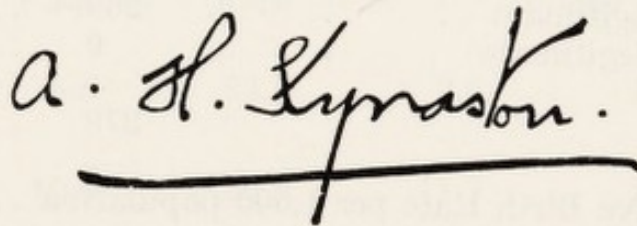
The Public Health Department maintains close co-operation with Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Highfield for good and adequate housing is the very basis of Public Health.

Twenty-five years of living with and working for the people of our Borough has convinced me that for spirit and vitality they are second to none—worthy indeed of our best efforts.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and consideration and I am grateful also for the willing assistance given by the Chief Officers of other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynaston.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Wednesbury.
May 17th 1956

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population Mid-1955	34,730
Population Census 1951	34,758
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955 according to the Rate Books) :—	
(i) Council Houses	4,692
(ii) Other Houses	5,394
Total	10,086
Rateable Value	£174,199
Sum represented by a penny rate	£700

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	269	253	522
Illegitimate	9	9	18
	278	262	540
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.5

Still Births.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	5	8	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	5	8	13

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 23.5

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths	192	148	340

Death Rate per 1,000 population 9.8

Standardised Death Rate 1955—(9.8 x 1.27) .. 12.4

(i.e., the Death Rate which would have resulted had the age and sex distribution been the same as for the country as a whole.)

Maternal Mortality.

Number of Women during in or in consequence of
Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion 1

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and
stillbirths 1.8

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
All Infants	1	7	8
Legitimate Infants.. ..	1	7	8
Illegitimate Infants	—	—	—
<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</i> .. ..	..	..	14.8
<i>Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births</i> .. ..	..	..	15.3
<i>Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births</i> .. ..	..	..	Nil

Deaths.	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population</i>
From Cancer (all ages)	52	1.5
From Measles (all ages)	—	—
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
From Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—

	<i>Live Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Still Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate Infants under one year.</i>
1955.				
<i>Borough of Wednesbury</i>	15.5	23.5	9.8	14.8
England and Wales (Provisional)	15.0	23.1	11.7	24.9
The respective rates for the Borough in 1954 were :—				
	15.4	25.5	9.2	22.4

Social Conditions

The chief industries are iron and steel manufacture, tube manufacture, engineering, hot drop stamping, constructional steelwork, railway carriage building, edge tool manufacture, electrical engineering, iron foundering and kindred trades.

Mr. D. Ward, Manager of the Wednesbury Employment Exchange has kindly given me the following figures as an approximate indication of the numbers employed in the industries quoted from information available at the exchange of National Insurance Cards in the quarter beginning June, 1955 :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Metal Manufacturing including Iron and Steel Rolling and Casting	3299	296	3895
Iron Foundries	594	252	846
Iron and Steel Tubes	850	337	1187
None-ferrous metals	284	60	344
Engineering.. ..	775	323	1078

Railway Carriages, Wagons and Motor Vehicles	908	44	952
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified ..	2836	2133	4969
Food, Drink Manufacture.. ..	373	168	541
Artificial Stone, Bricks, Plastics	273	76	349
Sawmilling and Woodwork	256	64	320
Building	788	16	804
Total	11,216	3,769	14,985

Approximate Working Population 18,050

Numbers registered as unemployed on 12/12/1955 :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wholly unemployed	4	3	7
Temporarily stopped	—	—	—
Non-Claimants	19	11	30
Total	23	14	37

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, YEAR 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over.	Totals.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	1	2
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	2	10	6	4
" lung and bronchus	—	—	—	—	1	7	5	—	13	13	—
" breast	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	4
" uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	1	3	12	5	4	25	13	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	—	—	2	5	23	19	49	22	27
Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	1	15	12	6	34	25	9
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	8	4	4
Other heart disease	1	—	1	1	1	17	23	22	66	29	37
Other circulatory disease	—	—	1	1	1	1	7	4	13	8	5
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	2	11	8	3
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	13	27	20	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	5	5	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	1	6	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	4	1	—	—	—	5	2	12	24	8	16
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	3	3
All other accidents	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	1	9	7	2
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	6	6	—
TOTALS	8	4	1	11	15	99	108	94	340	192	148

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE, YEAR 1955.

Age.		Heart Disease.	Congenital Malformations.	Other defined or ill-defined diseases.	Accident.	Totals.
Under 24 hours	..	..	1	1	—	2
1 day	..	—	—	1	—	1
2 days	..	—	—	1	—	1
3 days	..	—	—	—	—	—
4 days	..	—	—	1	—	1
5 days	..	—	—	—	1	1
6 days	..	—	—	—	—	—
7 days	..	1	—	—	—	1
14 days	..	—	—	—	—	—
21 to 28 days	..	—	—	—	—	—
28 days to 2 months	..	—	1	—	—	1
2 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
3 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
4 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
5 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
6 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
7 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
8 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
9 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
10 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
11 to 12 months	..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	1	2	4	1	8

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.***(as at December 31st, 1955)***Ambulance Service** (Staffordshire County Council).

24 Hour Station .. Richards Street, Darlaston.
Tel. Nos. : James Bridge 2591-2592.

Ante-Natal Clinics (Staffordshire County Council).

King's Hill (School
Street) 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 2-15 p.m.
Mesty Croft (Alma
Street) 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 2-15 p.m.

Chemical Analysis.

County Analyst : A. Houlbrook, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford.
Tel. No. : Stafford 1181.

Home Help Service (Staffordshire County Council).

20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury. Tel. No. : Wednesbury 0961.

Immunisation (Staffordshire County Council).

At Infant Welfare Centres or by Family Doctor.

Infant Welfare Centres (Staffordshire County Council).

Albert Street .. Mondays and Thursdays, at 2-15 p.m.
King's Hill (School
Street) Tuesdays and Fridays, at 2-15 p.m.
Mesty Croft (Alma
Street) Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at
2-15 p.m.

Maternity.

Hospital Confinement on Medical Grounds arranged by patient's doctor ; on Social Grounds through Ante-Natal Clinics.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford.
Director : Lt. Col. R. N. Phease. Tel. No. : Stafford 377.

Tuberculosis.

Chest Clinic : Church Street, Wednesbury.
Tel. No. : Wednesbury 0322.
Chest Physician : Dr. Elizabeth S. Frew.

Venereal Diseases.

Special Clinics : Manor Hospital, Walsall ; Guest Hospital,
Dudley.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company within whose statutory area the Borough of Wednesbury falls has given me the following report in respect of the year 1955 :—

- (i) (a) The water supply has been satisfactory in quality.
- (b) The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply to the Borough of Wednesbury is derived from boreholes and surface sources outside the Borough. Water from all sources is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and where treatment is practised, both before and after treatment.

The water is sampled regularly from points within the Borough at Wednesbury Reservoir, the Waterman's House, Reservoir Passage, Wednesbury and Wood Green Repumping Station, Wednesbury.

During 1955, 17 samples from Wednesbury Reservoir, 15 samples from the Waterman's House and 14 samples from Wood Green Repumping Station, were examined and found to be free from coliform bacteria.

The samples were also examined chemically and the average results of the samples from the Waterman's House during 1955 were :—

pH	..	..	..	7.2			
Alkalinity (Ca CO ₃)	..	..	..	102.0	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	..	23.7	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	Trace			
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	.073	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	4.0	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	..	..	.79	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	..	..	..	97	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	..	..	..	83	"	"	"
Total Hardness	..	..	..	180	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	..	..	..	.06	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	..	.01	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cn & Pb)				Nil			
Free Cl	..	..	..	Trace			

(iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all 15 tap samples from the Waterman's House being free from lead.

(iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations, largely as a precautionary measure.

Emergency chlorination is performed in cases of emergency such as burst mains, etc., and special staff and apparatus are available for this purpose. New mains are chlorinated and not brought into use until a sample of Water from them is proved satisfactory.

(v) In order to arrive at the population supplied my Company do not take an actual census but assume a figure of 3.75 persons per house.

(a) 10,213 houses, = approx. .. 38,299 persons.

(b) 178 houses from taps in wash-
 houses and yards, = approx. 667 persons.

10,391 houses, = approx. .. 38,966 persons.

Periodic independent sampling has always resulted in satisfactory bacteriological and chemical reports.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Mr. Norman Ashworth, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer, reports:
"The sewerage system functioned satisfactorily during the year ended 31st December, 1955, and no stoppages occurred.

The treatment of sewage at the Outfall Works was performed satisfactorily. Repairs to filters and overhauling of sewage pumps were continued.

The rainfall for the year was 24.88 inches."

SECTION D.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Details of inspections and action taken will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Ramage) informs me that during 1955 the following samples were taken in Wednesbury :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**Milk.**

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	20
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	24
Milk T.T.	..	..	..	2
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	21
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	3
(Channel Island)				

70 All Genuine.

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	..	..	39
Number of samples genuine	..	..	36
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	3

Classification of General Foods.

New Zealand Cheddar Cheese (3 samples).	Margarine contains 10% Butter.
New Zealand Cheese.	Beef Steak Pie.
English Cheddar Cheese (2 samples)	Pork Beef Luncheon Meat.
Danish Blue Cheese (2 samples).	English Bacon.
White Self Raising Flour	Lard (2 samples).
Sugar Puffs.	Pure Malt Vinegar.
Shreddies.	Pure Tomato Juice.
Meat Tenderizer.	Rangoon Chutney.
Margarine.	Pork Sausage (2 samples).
Pork Sausage cont. pres. (3 samples).	Dripping.
Sage and Onion Stuffing with Shredded Suet.	Mincemeat.
Tea (2 samples).	Tunis Dates.
Lime Crystals.	Lemon Squash.
Buttered Marzipan.	Whiskey.
Tomato Sauce.	
Fynnon Salts.	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

Pork Sausage cont. pres. (Formal)—5.7% deficient in meat.
Cautioned.

Margarine contains 10% Butter (Formal)—Contains 13.5%
Butter instead of 10%. Reported to manufacturers.

Pork Sausage (Formal)—Contains undeclared preservative.
Notice now being exhibited.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

The Summary of Retail Milks sampled by the County Health
Department during 1955 is given on page 16.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.
SUMMARY OF RETAIL MILKS SAMPLED BY THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Designation.	No. of Samples Taken.	Cleanliness Test (Methylene Blue)		Phosphatase Test (for Pasteurisation).		Turbidity Test (for Sterilisation)		Biological Test (for T.B.)		Phenolphthalein Test.	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Neg.	Pos.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	20	20	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
Pasteurised ..	24	22	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	23	—
Sterilised ..	22	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Farm-Bottled)	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Jersey)	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ..	70	45	3	45	—	22	—	1	—	41	—

SECTION E.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The incidence of Notifiable Diseases will be found tabulated in Age Groups and Ward Distribution on pages 20 and 21.

Influenza.

There was no incidence of epidemic proportion. Deaths attributed numbered two.

Scarlet Fever.

38 cases. (1954—18).

Whooping Cough.

26 cases. (1954—133).

Measles.

674 notifications were received as compared with five cases in 1954. In the first quarter notifications numbered 95 in the second quarter 449 in the third quarter 130, in the last quarter there were no notifications. The disease was mild in character without severe complications, slightly more than half the notifications were under school age. Measles was made notifiable from 1915 to 1919 after the cessation of hostilities notification was withdrawn being resumed on the 1st of November, 1939, and has continued in operation since. High incidence is biennial previous high incidence being 1941—278, 1943—622, 1945—244, 1947—240, 1949—518, 1951—584, 1953—481.

No deaths were associated with this disease.

Diphtheria.

As in 1954 the year 1955 was entirely free from confirmed cases of this disease.

The hardly won immunity from this dread disease depends for its continuance on the fullest use being made by parents of the free protective treatment now so readily available for their babies and children. *Prevention Pays!*

Poliomyelitis.

There was one confirmed case in January—a young woman with a paralysis of the right upper arm and shoulder muscles—she made a good recovery in hospital and with subsequent physiotherapy was left with no disability. (3 cases in 1954).

Food Poisoning.

There were two cases notified in July, sisters aged four and sixteen years the infecting organism was *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, the source of the infection was not traced; at the end of the year the elder girl was still excreting the organisms. The one case notified in December, 1954—a male adult infected with the same organism was still positive in December, 1955.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases, 42 (1954—33); Pulmonary 39 (1954—32); Non-Pulmonary 3 (1954—1).

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>	<i>Provisional Rate—England and Wales.</i>
All Forms ..	3 ..	0.08 ..	0.145
Pulmonary ..	3 ..	0.08 ..	0.131
Non-Pulmonary ..	— ..	— ..	0.015

Sputum Examinations.

<i>Sender.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Chest Clinic ..	350 ..	30 ..	320
General Practitioners	34 ..	1 ..	33

Tuberculosis Cases.

Number on Public Health Department Register :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. on Register (all forms).</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
		<i>Pul- monary.</i>	<i>Non- Pul- monary.</i>	<i>Pul- monary.</i>	<i>Non- Pul- monary.</i>
1938 ..	173 ..	26 ..	5 ..	18 ..	2 ..
1946 ..	183 ..	39 ..	4 ..	25 ..	1 ..
1947 ..	208 ..	46 ..	5 ..	20 ..	2 ..
1948 ..	235 ..	70 ..	3 ..	25 ..	6 ..
1949 ..	257 ..	51 ..	5 ..	27 ..	3 ..
1950 ..	271 ..	63 ..	2 ..	25 ..	6 ..
1951 ..	310 ..	71 ..	8 ..	22 ..	4 ..
1952 ..	322 ..	58 ..	3 ..	13 ..	2 ..
1953 ..	360 ..	71 ..	4 ..	8 ..	1 ..
1954 ..	307 ..	32 ..	1 ..	13 ..	2 ..
1955 ..	323 ..	39 ..	3 ..	3 ..	—

Mobile Mass Radiography Survey.**13th to 30th September, 1955.**

Dr. G. P. Bardsley, Medical Director and Chest Physician of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board Mass Radiography Service reported on the 3rd January, 1956, that as the result of the above survey carried out at three different locations Henry Hope and Sons Ltd., Steel Nut and Joseph Hampton Ltd., and at Wednesbury Baths :—

“ Six cases of presumably active tuberculous disease were disclosed out of a total X-rayed of 2,898 ; as well as these seven other presumably inactive cases were referred to the Chest Physician and it is possible that some of these may even turn out also to be cases of active disease.

It is not possible yet at this stage to be able to indicate the final figures of true activity but these figures will be more conclusively available when our Ministry of Health forms are submitted to the Chest Physician for a final assessment at the end of a six months period following the survey.”

The provisional findings at the last visit of a Mass Radiography Unit 18th—28th May, 1953, when 3,539 adults and 969 children over 14 years of age were X-rayed were 21 active cases. The adult rate of active tuberculosis 4.2 per thousand was comparable with the national average.

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1955.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 years ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 „ ...	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 „ ...	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 „ ...	3	4	—	1	—	2	—	—
35—44 „ ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 „ ...	7	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 yrs. and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	20	19	2	1	1	2	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS
AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1955.

DISEASES.	Numbers originally notified.	Final Numbers after Correction.										WARDS				Deaths	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over.	Age Un-known	Total All Ages.	Town	King's Hill	Mesty Croft	Wood Green	Manor		
Scarlet Fever :																	
Males ...	18	—	1	4	12	1	—	—	—	18	1	6	7	2	2	—	7
Females ...	20	—	1	9	8	2	—	—	—	20	1	1	5	10	3	—	6
Whooping Cough :																	
Males ...	15	4	4	3	3	1	—	—	—	15	2	4	8	—	1	—	—
Females ...	11	3	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	11	—	1	10	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis-Paralytic :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles :																	
Males ...	343	16	62	115	148	2	—	—	—	343	88	53	104	42	56	—	3
Females ...	331	14	75	103	131	3	2	3	—	331	79	70	103	32	47	—	3
Diphtheria :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia :																	
Males ...	33	1	1	1	4	—	1	25	—	33	5	9	10	6	3	8	—
Females ...	20	1	—	1	—	2	1	15	—	20	5	2	5	6	2	3	—
Dysentery :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas :																	
Males ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS...	797	40	145	243	307	11	7	44	—	797	183	146	254	100	114	11	9

MISCELLANEA.**Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

Particulars of Inspections and Defects found and remedied are recorded in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Medical Examinations, 1955.**Local Government and Other Officer's Superannuation Act, 1937.**

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
19	..	13	..	6	..	18

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
45	..	41	..	4	..	38

Public Library.

During the year close co-operation was maintained with the Borough Librarian, A. S. Nuttall, F.L.A., in maintaining a display of books on Health, Hygiene and Child Care in the Public Library. This display attracted considerable attention and books by the leading Child Specialists were especially appreciated by young mothers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the report of the work carried out by my Department for the year 1st January, 1955, to the 31st December, 1955. The Cleansing Section covers the financial year 1st April, 1955, to the 31st March, 1956.

Once again I have to report a change in my inspectorial staff. To fill the vacancy of an Inspector, Mr. J. McKechnie was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector and commenced his duties with the Department on the 4th February, 1955.

The Clerical Staff again remained unchanged.

Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the results of Formal and Informal Notices served by the Department during the year:—

Number of complaints received	170
Number of Informal Notices served	198
Number of Premises affected	245
Number of Informal Notices complied with	166
Number of Premises affected by compliance	199
Number of Formal Notices served	64
Number of Premises affected	68
Number of Formal Notices complied with	60
Number of Premises affected by compliance	64

Structural Defects Remedied as a Result of Sanitary Inspector's Visits and Notices served.**General House Defects—Main Buildings.***Remedied.*

Roofs	75
House Brickwork	6
House Brickwork Pointing	4
Rainwater Spouting and Eaves Gutter	33
Chimneys	3
Chimney flashings	2
Wall Plaster	23
Ceiling Plaster	21
Firegrates	6
Firegrate surround	1
Doors	2
Door Casements	3

Window Frames	..	..	..	..	..	15
Window Glazing	..	..	..	..	..	4
Window Sashcords	..	..	..	..	..	48
Windows	..	..	..	..	..	32
Floors—Living rooms	..	..	..	..	..	9
Floors—Bedrooms	..	..	..	..	..	3
Stair treads and risers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cellar grating	..	..	..	..	..	4
Damp Proof Courses	..	..	..	..	..	1
Window fasteners	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chimney Pots	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rising and Penetrating Dampness	..	..	..	..	..	27
Skirting Boards	..	..	..	..	..	3
Handrail to stairs	..	..	..	..	..	1
Attic Skylight	..	..	..	..	..	1

Wash-house and Sculleries.

Roofs	..	..	..	..	..	24
Rainwater Spouting	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chimneys	..	..	..	..	..	2
Window frames	..	..	..	..	..	1
Door Casements	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sink wastes	..	..	..	..	..	7
Washing boilers	..	..	..	..	..	12
Water service pipes	..	..	..	..	..	5
Brickwork to wash boiler	..	..	..	..	..	1
Brickwork pointing	..	..	..	..	..	3
Eaves gutter	..	..	..	..	..	2
Windows	..	..	..	..	..	2
Doors	..	..	..	..	..	2
Taps	..	..	..	..	..	1
Brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	5
Absence of water supply	..	..	..	..	..	1
Floors	..	..	..	..	..	1

Water Closet and Coal-houses.

Roofs	..	..	..	..	..	20
Rainwater spouting	..	..	..	..	..	2
Floors	..	..	..	..	..	3
Doors	..	..	..	..	..	3
Water service pipes	..	..	..	..	..	16
Flushing cisterns	..	..	..	..	..	13
Pedestals	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pedestal seats	..	..	..	..	..	2
Leaking Joints	..	..	..	..	..	4
Eaves guttering	..	..	..	..	..	2

Door casements	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cone connections	..	..	..	..	..	14
Absence of water supply	..	..	..	..	..	7
Brickwork pointing	..	..	..	..	..	2
Brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	8

Yards.

Paving	3
--------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Verandahs and Covered Passages.

Roofs	..	..	..	..	..	7
Brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ceiling plaster	..	..	..	..	..	1
Brickwork pointing	..	..	..	..	..	2
Entry doors	..	..	..	..	..	1
Eaves gutter	..	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Drains obstructed	..	..	..	..	..	219
Inspection chamber covers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Waste water closet conversions	..	..	..	..	..	2
Vent pipes	..	..	..	..	..	2

Refuse Accommodation.

Dustbins	60
----------	----	----	----	----	----	----

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out after Infectious Disease cases have either been removed to hospital or otherwise terminated. Disinfestation refers to Bugs, Beetles, Crickets, Ants, etc.

Number of houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	59
Number of Council Houses disinfested for bugs	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of Council Houses disinfested for other pests	..	..	..	..	16
Number of other houses disinfested for bugs	..	..	..	..	3
Number of other houses disinfested for other pests	..	..	..	..	4

Housing Act, 1936.

Under the Provisions of this Act the following premises were dealt with as stated:—

Demolition Orders made during the year :

15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, Church Hill, Wednesbury.
 239, 241, 243, 245, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.
 1, 3, 5, Mill Street, Wednesbury.
 8 and 9, Elwell Street, Wednesbury.

Closing Order :

14, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.

Undertaking Accepted :

2, 3, 4, Camp Street, Wednesbury.

The following were rehoused during the year :

10 families affected by Demolition Orders.

2 families affected by Closing Orders.

The following were demolished during the year :

36 premises demolished following demolition Orders.

11 premises were demolished in Dale Street (Compulsory Purchase Order) Area.

Action taken under Housing and Public Health Acts with respect to Unfit Houses.**Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	313
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1375
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	19
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	99
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19

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	199
---	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	

(i)	By owners	Nil
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	68
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(i)	By Owners	64
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owner	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	36
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Meat and other Foods.

(Food and Drugs and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.)

The table of inspections under this heading is shown later. The only slaughterhouse in the Borough is at the Bacon Factory. The columns in the following table shown blank are due to the fact that only Pigs are killed and inspected.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Horses.	Pigs.
Number killed ..	—	—	—	—	—	33,006
Number inspected ..	—	—	—	—	—	33,006
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	33
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	3,258
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	9.9
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	1,361
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	4.2
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted* to treatment by refrig- eration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The amount of meat recorded as condemned in connection with the above table was 16 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 5 lbs.

Other foods inspected and found unfit for human food included the following:—

	<i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs. ozs.</i>			
145 tins of meat	4	2	22	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
420 tins of fruit	3	3	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 tins of milk	—	3	5	3
45 tins of vegetables	—	1	11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
35 tins of fish	—	—	18	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 tins of soup	—	—	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 tins of cream	—	—	2	0
1 tin of syrup	—	—	2	0
Bacon	2	—	15	8
Cheese	2	3	0	14
Ham	—	—	14	0
Fish Roe	—	—	14	0
Cake	—	—	6	0
7 jars Pickled Cabbage	—	1	0	0
<hr/>				
The total weight of other foods condemned is therefore	14	2	5	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
<hr/>				

Food Preparing and Storage Premises.

Under the general term Food Preparing and Storage Premises work has been carried out in the supervision of the following:—

Industrial Canteens	27
School Canteens	15
Restaurants and Snack Bars	20
Butcher's Shops	32
Grocer's Shops	79
Fried Fish Shops	33
Confectioners	24
Bakeries	13
Dairies	9
Licensed Premises (Inns and Hotels)	87
Condemned food is disposed of by steam digester.	

Ice Cream.

During the year there were five new registrations for the sale of ice-cream making a total of 128 vendors who purchase ice-cream from manufacturers outside the Borough whose premises and products are satisfactory to the respective Authority concerned.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

These regulations require the issue of licences to those who wish to retail milk in the Borough. Consequently you authorised the following :—

<i>Dealer's Licences.</i>			<i>Supplementary Licences.</i>		
Pasteurised	..	9	Pasteurised	..	8
Sterilised	..	87	Sterilised..	..	9
Tuberculin Tested	..	3	Tuberculin Tested	..	6
			T.T. (Pasteurised)	..	2

The Public Health Laboratory Service of the Staffordshire County, situated at Stafford, carry out any Bacteriological Analysis and Chemical Examinations required and during the year the following were submitted and found to be satisfactory :—

2 Samples of Drinking Water for Bacteriological Examinations.

2 Samples of Drinking Water for Chemical Analysis.

12 Samples of Swimming Bath Water for Bacteriological Examinations.

12 Samples of Swimming Bath Water for Chemical Analysis.

The Drinking Water samples were as supplied for Domestic Water Supply.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Nine persons are licensed to slaughter in the Borough.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Under the term Rodent Control 119 complaints referring to rats affected 101 dwelling houses and 33 business premises and 64 complaints referring to mice affected 40 dwelling houses and 24 business premises.

These infestations required 590 visits.

In connection with rat infestation at three cases the sewers around were treated and in each case complete clearance was affected.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

As the authorised officer I visited the premises of four persons who applied for licences under this Act. The premises were satisfactory and were consequently licensed until the end of the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

We have continued with the two observation stations first set up in the Borough in January, 1952. One station is in the

garden of the Convent School, Church Hill, and the second at the Cemetery Lodge, Beebee Road, the highest and the lowest points in the town respectively.

The Deposit Gauges and Sulphur Candles installed at the Stations are changed monthly and forwarded to the County Laboratory at Stafford for the required analysis. These results are then passed to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station at Greenwich.

All neighbouring authorities have set up similar stations and thus the extent of Air Pollution over a large area can be readily ascertained.

The following table shows the results for the period under review.

Month.	Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SO3 mg/day/100 cm2 of Batch Lead Peroxide
			tons per square mile.			
January ..	1.	1.80	8.04	9.11	17.15	2.98
	2.	1.54	7.57	7.57	15.14	3.31
February ..	1.	1.66	4.27	5.14	9.41	2.06
	2.	1.73	4.35	5.41	9.76	3.02
March	1.	2.97	6.80	6.54	13.34	2.63
	2.	2.89	9.20	7.50	16.70	2.95
April	1.	1.54	7.38	5.40	12.78	1.77
	2.	1.54	7.83	5.58	13.41	1.63
May	1.	4.18	7.84	11.34	19.18	1.80
	2.	4.22	6.61	5.97	12.58	1.76
June	1.	2.53	28.52	8.51	37.03	0.78
	2.	2.46	6.60	3.19	9.79	1.14
July	1.	0.51	7.64	3.87	11.51	0.92
	2.	0.63	7.70	3.65	11.35	1.04
August ..	1.	0.99	6.43	3.44	9.87	1.05
	2.	0.87	7.24	2.82	10.06	1.29
September ..	1.	1.69	8.14	4.40	12.54	0.95
	2.	1.73	6.24	3.85	10.09	1.23
October ..	1.	1.34	5.90	7.11	13.01	1.80
	2.	1.42	6.18	5.28	11.46	2.02
November ..	1.	2.72	4.64	8.14	12.78	4.13
	2.	2.68	5.51	8.00	13.51	4.20
December ..	1.	2.17	7.95	9.81	17.76	3.71
	2.	2.21	8.96	9.13	18.09	3.58

Factories Act, 1937.

The following List of Factories shows the types of trades being carried on in the Borough during the period under review.

Mechanical Factories.						<i>No. on Register.</i>
Aerated Waters	..	..	..	..	..	3
Aluminium Castings		..	..	..	..	4
Axle Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bacon Curing	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bakeries	..	..	..	..	..	10
Bed fitting	..	..	..	..	..	1
Beer Bottling	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bolts and Nuts	..	..	..	..	..	12
Boot Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	7
Brass Castings	..	..	..	..	..	3
Brickworks	..	..	..	..	..	1
Buckle Covering	..	..	..	..	..	1
Car Frame Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carpentry and Joinery		..	..	..	..	11
Carriage works	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chain works	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chemical Preparations		..	..	..	..	1
Coffin Makers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cooperage	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cycle Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	3
Die Sinkers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drop Forging	..	..	..	..	..	7
Edge Tool Maker	..	..	..	..	..	1
Electrical Accessories		..	..	..	..	3
Electricians	..	..	..	..	..	3
Electricity Depot	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enamelling	..	..	..	..	..	2
Engineers	..	..	..	..	..	12
Firewood Cutters	..	..	..	..	..	1
Galvanisers	..	..	..	..	..	2
Garage Motor Vehicle Repairs		..	..	..	..	14
Gas Cookers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hay Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	2
Holloware	..	..	..	..	..	1
Iron Castings	..	..	..	..	..	6
Laundry	..	..	..	..	..	2
Leather Working	..	..	..	..	..	1

Metal Pressing	1
Metal Stampers	3
Motor Body Works	1
Oil Storage	1
Optical Ware	2
Pattern Makers	3
Plastic Products	2
Plating (Chrome)	1
Pre-cast Housing	1
Printers	4
Sack Making	2
Sausage Making	6
Saw Milling	2
Scale Repairs	1
Sheet Metal Works	1
Spring Making	3
Steel Milling	2
Steel Producing	3
Stockists (Iron and Steel)	2
Tailoring	3
Tool Making	1
Tube Fitting	5
Tube Making	4
Wagon Repairs	1
Washer Stamping	1
Water Works Depot	1
Window Maker (Metal)	1
Welding	1

Non-Mechanical Factories.

Blacksmiths	3
Boot Repairing	4
Builders	20
Carpentry and Joinery	1
Electricians	1
Glaziers	1
Malster.. .. .	1
Painters	8
Paper Ornaments	1
Photographers	1
Plumbers	3
Radio Repairs	3
Sculptors	1
Upholsterers	1
Watch Repairs	3
Hairdressers	27

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.**1.—Inspections.**

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	211	54	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	217	54	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.
Sanitary Convenience (S.7)—				
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	2	2	—	2

Electrical Stations (Sections 103 (1) Institutions. (Section 104) and site of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

PART VIII.

SECTION 110 and 111—Nil.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

At the beginning of the year under review disposal was by means of tipping being continued at a very deep disused marl-hole along Dangerfield Lane. This tip was completed on the 26th September, 1955, and tipping was recommenced on the old site of Riverway, off Hydes Road.

During the year 15 men commenced employment and 14 men ceased employment. Most of the changes were due to men coming to try the work but for various reasons found they were unsuitable to the task.

Towards the end of the year the absence of men through sickness indicated that before the winter months were over the coming New Year months would prove difficult.

The total weight of salvage collected was 509 tons which realised an income of £3,181.

The details of tonnage and cost of collection disposal are shown in the table overleaf.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COST ACCOUNTS.

1955	Year ended 31st March.	1956.	Per ton Collected	Per 1,000 houses.	Per 1,000 population.	Equivalent Rate in £.
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
16,239	Collection and Salvage.					
2,483	Total Expenditure ...	18,567 0 6	1 15 4	1,792 0 3	534 12 2	2 2.13
	Total Income ...	3,180 14 4	6 0	306 19 10	91 11 8	4.48
13,756	NET COST ...	15,386 6 2	1 9 4	1,485 0 5	443 0 6	1 9.65
1,214	Disposal of Refuse.					
103	Total Expenditure ...	1,543 3 9	2 11	148 18 10	44 8 8	2.17
	Total Income ...	112 6 11	3	10 16 10	3 4 8	0.16
1,111	NET COST ...	1,430 16 10	2 9	138 2 0	41 4 0	2.01
14,867	TOTAL COST OF COLLECTION and DISPOSAL OF REFUSE ...	16,817 3 0	1 12 0	1,623 2 5	484 4 6	1 11.66
(1)	Number of tons of refuse collected and salvaged collected during the year 1955-56	10,500	(4) Rateable Value at 31st March, 1956 ...	£174,355		
(2)	Number of houses at 31st March, 1956 ...	10,361	(5) Product of a penny rate for 1955-56 ...	£710 9s. 4d.		
(3)	Population at 31st December, 1955 ...	34,730	(6) Weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day ...	16.566 cwt.		

Statement of Sanitary Inspections and Visits.

<i>Nature.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Dwelling Houses (H.A. 1936)	99
Dwelling Houses (P.H.A. 1936)	1,263
Overcrowding (H.A. 1936)	10
House-let-in-lodgings.. ..	3
Dirty Conditions	40
Verminous Premises	23
Infectious Disease	177
Fried Fish Shops	4
Butcher's Shops	9
Ice Cream Shops	152
Food Preparing and Storage Premises	4
Other Food Shops	254
Markets	66
Slaughterhouses	390
Bakehouses	2
Factories—Mechanical	54
Piggeries	2
House Drainage	366
Smoke Abatement—Observations	11
Smoke Abatement—Visits to Plant	12
Prevention of Damage by Pests	518
Accommodation for Storage of Refuse	139
Collection and Disposal of Refuse	90
Accumulations	40
Interviews	332
Milk Shops	2
Outworkers	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds	13
Atmospheric Pollution	45
Pet Shops	25

My thanks are due to the whole of the Public Health and Depot Staff for their hard work and close and careful attention to all matters.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Members of the Council, Chief Officers and their Staffs my sincere thanks for their continued confidence, help and goodwill at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

