

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Wednesbury Borough.

Contributors

Wednesbury (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/r7wgyr8t>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



Libby

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

1956

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(at 31st December, 1956)

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

Vice-Chairman : Councillor E. Brunskill.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. E. James, J.P.)

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, 1956)

Medical Officer of Health :

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

(retired 22nd December, 1956)

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

Chief Public Health Inspector :

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

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector :

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

J. McKechnie, M.A.P.H.I.

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.
(resigned March, 1956)

Miss J. Gaden
(resigned Feb., 1956)

Mrs. S. Bevan
(commenced April, 1956)

Miss D. Chambers
(commenced March, 1956)

Miss M. Collins
(commenced April, 1956)

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956, with which is incorporated that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The vital statistics for the Borough shew that a total of 580 live births were recorded during the year, compared with 540 for the previous year. This gives a Live Birth Rate of 16.7 as opposed to 15.5 per 1,000 total population. The Adjusted Birth Rate (applying the Registrar-General's comparability factor for this district) was 15.3, which compares with the National figure of 15.7. Stillbirths rose from 13 to 19, giving a rate of 33.9 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, compared with 23.0 for England and Wales. The number of infants who died under one year of age was 15, compared with eight in the previous year, and this gave a rate of 25.8 per 1,000 live births, compared with 14.8. Of these children 11 died under one month, the rate being 18.9.

The number of deaths recorded in 1956 was 372, compared with 340 for the previous year. This resulted in a Crude Death Rate of 10.7 as opposed to 9.8, and an Adjusted Death Rate of 14.7 as opposed to 12.4. Of these deaths the rate for those dying from any form of Cancer rose slightly from 1.5 to 1.9 per 1,000 population. The Natural Increase of the population (excess of births over deaths) was 208.

As regards Notifiable Infectious Diseases, the year 1956 shewed a sharp fall as compared with 1955, there being 154 cases only as opposed to 797. The most common disease proved to be Whooping Cough, with 77 cases, which compared badly with 26 in 1955. Since this disease can be kept in check by the early use of antipertussis immunisation, it is to be hoped that much lower figures will be recorded in future !

A small, somewhat explosive, outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year, believed due to contamination of a meal which was shared by all the victims.

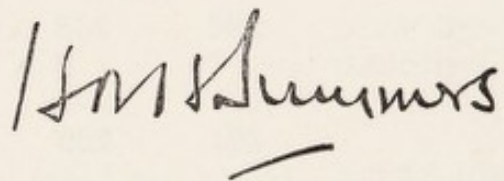
In the field of housing the department continued to make progress throughout the year. Altogether 19 unfit houses were demolished, and 18 Demolition Orders were confirmed. Preparations for the representation of the Cross Street Clearance Area were also well advanced by the end of the year. I have also been advised by the Borough Surveyor that 38 Local Authority and 14 private enterprise houses were completed, bringing the grand total of houses built since the war to 1,949, by 31st December, 1956. Furthermore, site preparation works for some 700 houses were in progress on the Friar Park Housing Estate.

In presenting this report may I be permitted to pay a humble tribute to my predecessor, Dr. A. H. Kynaston, during whose last year of service as your Medical Officer of Health all this work was carried out. After fully a quarter of a century in this office, during which time he helped to steer the Public Health Department through some critical periods, including six years of war, Doctor Kynaston has entered upon retirement. It is my sincere hope that he will be able to enjoy this well-deserved rest for a long time to come.

In conclusion, may I express thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, to all Chief Officers of other departments, and to all the members of the Staff of the Public Health Department for their assistance and advice in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Summers'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Wednesbury.
10th October, 1957.

SECTION A.
SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1956.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, Mid 1956 ..	34,710
Population Census, 1951	34,758
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956 according to the Rate Books) :—	
(i) Council Houses	4,740
(ii) Other Houses	5,341
Total	10,081

Rateable Value	£338,512
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,350

Live Births. (Rate per 1,000 total population).

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for Borough England Rate for & Wales. for 1955</i>	
Legitimate	284	283	567			
Illegitimate	7	6	13			
	291	289	580	16.7	15.7	15.5

Still Births. (Rate per 1,000 live and still births).

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for Borough England Rate for & Wales. for 1955</i>	
Legitimate	14	5	19			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	14	5	19	33.9	23.0	23.5

Deaths. (Rate per 1,000 total population)

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for Borough England Rate for & Wales. 1955</i>	
All causes	218	154	372	10.7	14.7	9.8

Maternal Mortality. (Rate per 1,000 live and still births).

Number of Women dying during, in, or in consequence of Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Abortion	Nil	<i>Rate for Borough England Rate for & Wales. 1955</i>	
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	0.56	1.8

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
All Infants	6	9	15
Legitimate Infants	6	7	13
Illegitimate Infants	—	2	2
<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</i> .. .. .	..	..	25.8
<i>Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births</i> .. .. .	..	..	22.9
<i>Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births</i> .. .. .	..	..	153.7

Neo-Natal Mortality. (Deaths under four weeks). (Rate per 1,000 live births) :

<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for England & Wales</i>
3	8	11	18.9	16.9

Deaths.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
From Cancer (all ages)	67	1.9
From Measles (all ages)	—	—
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
From Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—

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, 1956 :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Metal Manufacturing, including Iron and Steel Rolling and Casting	3548	289	3837
Iron Foundries	591	222	813
Iron and Steel Tubes	907	372	1279
Non-ferrous metals	266	61	327
Engineering	810	324	1134
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Motor Vehicles	902	54	956
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified	2917	2167	5084
Food, Drink Manufacture	393	173	566

Artificial Stone, Bricks, Plastics	313	107	420
Sawmilling and Woodwork	240	73	313
Building	865	32	897

Total	11,752	3,874	15,626
-------------	--------	-------	--------

Approximate Working Population 19,000
 Numbers registered as unemployed on 10/12/1956 :—

	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
Wholly unemployed	52	(4)	16	(3)	68	(7)
Temporarily stopped	5	(—)	—	(—)	5	(—)
Non-Claimants	9	(19)	19	(11)	28	(30)
Total	66	(23)	35	(14)	101	(37)

(N.B.—Bracketed figures are those for previous year, for comparison.)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Causes of Death.	Males	Fe- males	Total	Totals for Previous Years.				
				1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Tuberculosis—								
Respiratory ..	7	1	8	22	13	8	13	2
Other ..	—	—	—	4	2	1	2	—
Syphilis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infec- tions ..	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm—								
stomach ..	7	4	11	11	11	10	14	10
lung and bronchus	17	1	18	15	20	12	9	13
breast ..	—	3	3	3	8	6	4	4
uterus ..	—	3	3	1	1	—	1	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	14	32	20	28	27	33	25
Leukaemia, ..								
aleukaemia ..	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
Diabetes ..	1	—	1	2	3	3	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	24	20	44	38	52	43	49	49
Coronary disease, angina ..	26	12	38	21	42	27	34	34
Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	11	16	17	9	7	8	8
Other heart disease ..	30	32	62	74	48	49	48	66
Other circulatory disease ..	3	2	5	3	14	4	9	13
Influenza ..	—	4	4	27	—	3	2	2
Pneumonia ..	7	5	12	12	15	12	13	11
Bronchitis ..	28	11	39	39	26	19	21	27
Other diseases of res- piratory system ..	3	2	5	4	4	1	7	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	—	2	3	4	4	5	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	1
Nephritis and neph- rosis ..	3	4	7	4	3	4	1	6
Hyperplasia of pros- tate ..	4	—	4	5	4	1	3	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malforma- tions ..	1	6	7	4	2	3	1	3
Other defined or ill- defined diseases ..	16	12	28	60	52	27	27	24
Motor Vehicle								
Accidents ..	3	—	3	1	2	3	2	6
All other accidents ..	7	3	10	6	9	6	6	9
Suicide ..	3	4	7	7	3	6	3	6
Homicide ..	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	218	154	372	411	379	293	321	340

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE, YEAR 1956.

Age.	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Pre- maturity.	Congenital Malformations.	Other defined or ill-defined diseases.	Vascular disease of Nervous System.	TOTALS.
Under 24 hours	—	4	2	1	—	7
2 days	—	—	—	—	1	1
3 days	1	—	1	—	—	2
5 days	—	—	—	1	—	1
28 days to 2 months ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
6 months	—	—	1	—	—	1
9 months	—	—	—	1	—	1
10 months	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	2	4	5	3	1	15

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.***(as at 31st December, 1956).***Ambulance Service** (Staffordshire County Council).

24 Hour Station .. Richard 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) Tuesday and Fridays, at 2-15 p.m.

Mesty Croft (Alma

Street) Mondays, Wednesdays 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.

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 1956 :—

- (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.

Regular samples are taken from points within the Borough boundaries at Wednesbury Reservoir, the Waterman's house, Wednesbury, and Wood Green Pumping Station.

During 1956, 12 samples were examined from Wednesbury Reservoir, one of which contained aerogenes bacteria.

13 samples from the waterman's house and 11 samples from Wood Green Repumping Station were all free from coliform bacteria. The samples were also examined chemically and the average results from the Waterman's house during 1956 were :—

pH	..	..	..	..	7.4			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	..	..	..	..	97	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	..	..	25.8	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	Trace			
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	.077	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	3.6	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	..	..	..	.83	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	..	..	..	..	91.	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	..	..	..	..	96.	"	"	"
Total Hardness	..	..	..	..	187.	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	..	..	..	..	.08	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	..	..	Trace	"	"	"
Poisonous (Metals (Cu & Pb)	..	..	..	..	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl	..	..	..	..	Trace	"	"	"

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency and all samples from the Waterman's house were 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) | 10,176 houses = approx. | .. | 38,160 persons. |
| (b) | 174 houses from taps in wash- | | |
| | houses and yards = approx. | | 653 persons. |
| | <hr/> 10,350 houses = approx. | .. | <hr/> 38,812 persons. |

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, 1956, and no stoppages occurred.

The treatment of sewage at the outfall works was performed as satisfactorily as possible with the existing plant. Repairs to filters and overhauling of sewage pumps were continued.

The rainfall for the year was 25.77 inches.”

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955, DURING THE YEAR 1956.

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

The County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Ramage) informs me that during 1956, the following samples were taken in Wednesbury :

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	15
Milk Sterilised	..	..	18
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	17
Milk T.T. Channel Island	..	..	2
Milk Pasteurised Jersey	..	..	1
<hr/>			
			53 All Genuine

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	..	47
Number of samples genuine	..	45
Number of samples adulterated	..	2

Classification of General Foods.

Layer Cake.	Sunny Spread.
Tea (3 Samples).	Sweets.
Beef Suet.	Apricot Nectar.
Tomato Juice Cocktail.	Vinegar.
Coffee & Chicory Essence	Bi-Carbonate of Soda
Sweetened.	(2 samples).
Pork Pie.	Condensed Sweetened Skim-
Meat Patties.	med Milk.
Beef Sausage (2 samples).	Margarine.
Ice Cream.	College Pudding.
Orange Fruitie.	Glycerine Honey and Lemon.
Vanilla Ice Cream.	Fine Tarragona.
(2 samples).	Lemonade.
Plain Flour.	Marzipan.
Soluble Coffee Chicory	Cocoa.
Product.	French Beans.
Pears in Syrup.	Black Pepper.
Pork Sausage cont. press.	Celery Salt.
Dripping.	Drained Angelica.
Mild Ale.	Lard.
Sherbert Lemons.	Marzipan Almond Icing.
Non-blended Condiment	
(2 samples).	
Shredded Beef Suet.	
Flour Wholemeal.	
Salmon Mayonaise.	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

Beef Sausage (Formal)—contains undeclared preservative.

Pork Sausage (Formal)—contains excessive amount of preservative cont. pres.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

The Summary of Retail Milks sampled by the County Health Department during 1956 is set out in the Table to be found on the next page.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.
SUMMARY OF RETAIL MILKS SAMPLED BY THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DURING THE YEAR 1956.

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)	15	13	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	18	16	2	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	17	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Farm-Bottled)	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Jersey) ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	53	32	4	33	—	17	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.**Influenza.**

This disease was responsible for four deaths, all female.

Scarlet Fever.

28 cases were reported, compared with 38 in 1955.

Whooping Cough.

77 cases were reported, compared with 26 during 1955. There were no deaths.

Measles.

Two cases were notified, compared with 674 in 1955.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of this disease notified for the third year in succession.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases only of this disease (one paralytic and one non-paralytic) were notified during 1956, compared with one in 1955. Both were girls aged between five and nine years, and they each received treatment in hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases were notified during August, the casual organism being *Salmonella* Heidelberg. Subsequent investigation led to the ascertainment of a further six cases. The suspected source of infection appeared to be a meal which all had shared.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

			<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>	<i>Provisional Rate—England and Wales.</i>
All Forms	..	7	..	0.121
Pulmonary	..	7	..	0.109
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	..	0.012

Sputum Examinations.

<i>Sender.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Chest Clinic ..	312 ..	14 ..	298
General Practitioners	21 ..	2 ..	19

Tuberculosis Cases.

Number on Public Health Department Register (at 31/12/56) :

<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 ..	—
1956 ..	360 ..	25 ..	2 ..	7 ..	—

DISEASES.	Numbers originally notified.	Final Numbers after Correction.										WARDS.					Deaths	Cases admitted to Hospital.
		Under 1 year.	1 + year.	2 + years.	3 + years.	4 + years.	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 ... Females ... Whooping Cough : Males ... Females ... Acute Poliomyelitis : (Paralytic) Males ... Females ... (Non-Paralytic) Males ... Females ... Measles : Males ... Females ... Diphtheria : Males ... Females ... Dysentery : Males ... Females ... Meningococcal Infection : Males ... Females ... Acute Pneumonia : Males ... Females ... Smallpox ... Acute Encephalitis ... Enteric or Typhoid ... Fever ... Paratyphoid Fever ... Erysipelas : Males ... Females ... Food Poisoning : Males ... Females ... Puerperal Pyrexia ... Ophthalmia ... Neonatorum : Males ... Females ...	11 17 37 40 1 2 1 1 1 1 — 6 16 2 — 4 9 — — — — 1 1 — 2 —																	

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1956.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 „ ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—24 „ ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 „ ..	4	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
45—64 „ ..	6	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
65 years and over ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	14	11	1	1	6	1	—	—

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

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

Medical Examinations, 1956.**Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1937.**

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
7	..	6	..	1	..	7

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
38	..	34	..	4	..	32

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 PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the report of the work carried out by my Department for the year 1st January, 1956, to the 31st December, 1956. The Cleansing Section covers the financial year 1st April, 1956, to the 31st March, 1957.

Once again I have to report changes in my Clerical Staff. Mr. F. Hickman resigned his position in March, 1956, and Mr. R. J. Deeley a clerk in my department was appointed Senior Clerk in his place. Miss J. Gaden, Junior Clerk in my department accepted an appointment in the Town Clerk's Department, Wednesbury, and was transferred in March, 1956. To fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Mr. Deeley, Mrs. Bevan was transferred from the Local Fuel Office, and commenced her duties on 1st April, 1956. To fill the vacancy created by Miss Gaden, Miss D. Chambers was appointed Junior Clerk and commenced her duties on 5th March, 1956. Extra work in the department necessitated the appointment of Miss M. Collins, who commenced work as a Junior Clerk with my department on 4th April, 1956.

The Inspectorial 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	129
Number of Informal Notices served	156
Number of Premises affected	181
Number of Informal Notices complied with	117
Number of Premises affected by compliance	128
Number of Formal Notices served	51
Number of Premises affected	57
Number of Formal Notices complied with	37
Number of Premises affected by compliance	42

Structural Defects Remedied as a Result of Sanitary Inspector's Visits and Notices Served.

General House Defects—Main Buildings.

	<i>Remedied.</i>
Roofs	39
House brickwork	2
Cement rendering gables	1
Rainwater spouting and eaves' gutter	10

Remedied.

Chimneys	13
Wall plaster	10
Ceiling plaster	11
Firegrates	2
Firegrate flues	1
Firegrate surround	1
Door casements	1
Window frames	12
Window sashes	5
Window sashcords	51
Windows	9
Floors—Living-room	6
Floors—Bathroom	1
Floors—Bedroom	4
Floors—Hall	1
Stair treads and risers	1
Cellar grating	1
Damp proof course	1
Chimney Pots	2
Rising and Penetrating dampness	15
Skirting Boards	3
Attic skylight	1

Wash-house and Sculleries.

Roofs	11
Ceiling plaster	1
Rainwater spouting and eaves gutter	5
Chimneys	1
Windows	1
Window glazing	1
Window sashcords	1
Window frames	1
Door Casements	1
Sinks	1
Hand basins	1
Washing boilers	1
Brickwork to wash boilers	1
Brickwork	2
Absence of Water Supply	1

Water Closets and Coal Houses.

Roofs	8
Ceiling plaster	1
Floors	2
Door casement	2

Remedied.

Water service pipes	1
Flushing cisterns	13
Cone connection	7
Pedestal seats	1
Absence of water supply	5
Brickwork	5

Yards.

Drainage	1
Paving	3

Verandahs and Covered Passages.

Roofs	2
Ceiling plaster	2
Brickwork pointing	2
Brickwork	1
Entry Doors (Ill-fitting)	3
Rainwater downpipe	2

Refuse accommodation

Dustbins	230
------------------	-----

Drainage.

Drains obstructed	248
Waste water closet conversions	3

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

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	50
Number of Council houses disinfested for bugs	Nil
Number of Council houses disinfested for other pests	13
Number of other houses disinfested for bugs	1
Number of other houses disinfested for other pests	12

Housing Act, 1936.

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

Demolition Orders made during the year.

1, Forge Street, Wednesbury.
 30, 31, 32 and 33, King Street, Wednesbury.
 21, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.
 14, 16, Park Street, Wednesbury.
 70, 71, 72, Portway Road, Wednesbury.
 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury.
 67, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

Closing Orders made during the year.

11, Pinfold Street, Wednesbury.
 61, Union Street, Wednesbury.

Closing Orders Determined.

14, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.

The following were rehoused during the year.

20 families affected by Demolition Orders.
 One family affected by Closing Orders.

The following were demolished during the year.

Premises demolished following demolitions orders :—
 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 6 Ct. 4, Holyhead Road.
 3, 4, Drews Court, Lower High Street.
 41, 43, Mill Street.
 19, 20, North Street.
 1, Palmers Croft.
 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Russell Street.

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 Health or Housing Acts)	512
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1593
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	274
	(c)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	372
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	116

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	128
---	-----

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	Nil
(1) By owners	Nil
(2) 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	57
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(1) By owners	42
(2) By Local Authority in default of owner	—

(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 ..	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	19

(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	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	1

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 ..	—	—	—	—	—	34,391
Number inspected ..	—	—	—	—	—	34,391
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	50
Carcases of which.. some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	2,865
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	8.4
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	1,645
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	4.8
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

The amount of meat recorded as condemned in connection with the above table was 16 tons 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 0 lbs. 14 ozs.

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

	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
96 tins of meat	3	3	16	8½
224 tins of fruit	2	1	20	6
25 tins of milk	—	—	22	3
112 tins of vegetables	—	3	6	11½
24 tins of fish	—	3	13	3½
2 tins of steak and kidney pies	—	—	2	0
2 tins and 10 packets of soup	—	—	2	8½
5 tins of cream	—	—	1	10
1 tin of rice pudding	—	—	—	15
12 jars of fish paste	—	—	1	2
1 jar of meat paste	—	—	—	1½
3 jars of jam	—	—	1	8
1 jar of pickled onions	—	—	—	8
3 jars of meat essence	—	—	—	4
7 packets of puff pastry	—	—	7	0
2 packets of beef suet	—	—	—	6
1 packet of dates	—	—	—	8
2 bars of chocolate	—	—	1	—
Bacon	—	2	16	0
Cheese waste	1	—	6	0
Cheese	—	—	7	1
Ground almonds	—	—	7	0
<hr/>				
The total weight of other foods condemned is therefore	10	0	23	2½
<hr/>				

Condemned food is disposed of by a steam digester.

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	8
Licensed Premises (Inns and Hotels)	85

Ice Cream.

During the year there were no new registrations for the sale of ice-cream. There are 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 :—

Dealer's Licences.

Pasteurised ..	6
Sterilised	73
Tuberculin Tested ..	2

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	9
Sterilised	9
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 :—

- 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.
- 10 Samples of Sewage and Effluent for Chemical Analysis.
- 2 Samples of Cellar Water for Bacteriological Examination.
- 1 Sample of Cellar Water for Chemical Examination.

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 179 complaints referring to rats affected 149 dwelling houses and 30 business premises and 74 complaints referring to mice affected 51 dwelling houses and 23 business premises.

These infestations required 1,120 visits.

In connection with rat infestation at five 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 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	2.68	6.81	11.10	17.91	2.97
	2	2.92	8.53	7.20	15.73	3.49
February ..	1	0.35	4.37	3.27	7.64	2.50
	2	0.32	4.81	3.25	8.06	3.83
March	1	1.14	7.61	7.64	15.25	2.97
	2	1.14	8.60	5.97	14.57	3.05
April	1	1.66	9.87	8.11	17.98	2.30
	2	1.38	12.91	6.64	19.55	2.46
May	1	0.51	7.81	3.13	10.94	1.11
	2	0.51	7.34	3.88	11.22	1.42
June	1	1.97	10.21	6.84	17.05	1.10
	2	1.42	8.23	4.58	12.81	1.21
July	1	2.68	8.51	4.87	13.38	0.95
	2	2.40	5.31	5.61	10.92	1.22
August ..	1	5.01	5.40	16.18	21.58	1.66
	2	3.86	4.78	10.95	15.73	0.86
September ..	1	2.84	5.57	12.11	17.68	1.91
	2	2.92	9.29	12.12	21.41	2.43
October ..	1	1.54	6.61	6.40	13.01	1.80
	2	1.54	5.84	3.58	9.42	2.38
November ..	1	0.87	7.91	6.00	13.91	2.81
	2	0.91	5.67	5.61	11.28	3.32
December ..	1	2.29	9.07	9.41	18.48	6.40
	2	2.92	8.63	8.70	17.33	2.95

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	2
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 Forgings	7
Edge Tool Makers	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

*No. on
Register.*

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

Non-Mechanical Factories.

Blacksmiths	3
Boot Repairing	4
Builders	19
Carpentry and Joinery	1
Electricians	1
Glaziers	1
Painters	8
Paper Ornaments	1
Photographers	3
Plumbers	3
Radio Repairs	3
Sculptors	1
Upholsterers	1
Watch Repairs	3
Hairdressers	27
Building Operations	8

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	210	47	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	216	47	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	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	2	—	2

Electrical Stations (Section 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 at the old site of Riverway, off Hydes Road.

During the period eight men joined the Cleansing Section and 10 men ceased employment.

The winter months in particular proved very difficult with the incidence of sickness averaging five men per week absent. I appreciate the patience of the general public who seemed quick to understand our difficulties and thereby reduced their complaints of unavoidable delays. Also I appreciate the efforts of the Public Health Committee members in their co-operation by constant review of the circumstances, so that a good service could be maintained under the difficult circumstances.

The total weight of Salvage collected and sold amounted to 489 tons realising an income of £3,077.

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

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COST ACCOUNTS.

1956.	Year ended 31st March.	1957.	Per Ton Collected.	Per 1,000 Houses.	Per 1,000 Population.	Equivalent Rate in £.
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
18,567	Collection and Salvage.					
3,181	Total Expenditure	20,141 15 2	1 16 2	1,941 15 0	580 5 9	1 2 81
	Total Income	3,087 3 5	5 6	297 12 4	88 18 10	2 27
15,386	NET COST	17,054 11 9	1 10 8	1,644 2 8	491 6 11	1 0 54
1,543	Disposal of Refuse.					
112	Total Expenditure	1,427 15 2	2 7	137 12 10	41 12 10	1 05
	Total Income	140 4 0	3	13 10 4	4 0 9	0 10
1,431	NET COST	1,287 11 2	2 4	124 2 6	37 1 11	0 95
16,817	TOTAL COST OF COLLECTION and DISPOSAL OF REFUSE ..	18,342 2 11	1 13 0	1,768 5 2	528 8 10	1 1 49
(1)	Number of tons of refuse collected and salvage collected during the year 1956-57	11,120	(4) Rateable Value at 31st March, 1957 ..	£340,128		
(2)	Number of houses at 31st March, 1957	10,373	(5) Product of a penny rate for 1956-57 ..	£1,360 3s. 5d.		
(3)	Population at 31st December, 1956	34,710	(6) Weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day	17,554 cwts.		

Statement of Sanitary Inspections and Visits.

<i>Nature.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Accumulation	32
Dwellings (P.H.A. 1936)	1,221
Drainage	297
Dirty Conditions	8
Infectious Diseases	297
Offensive Trades	29
Piggeries	1
Collection and disposal of refuse	126
Accommodation for storage of refuse	148
Smoke Abatement Observations	17
Smoke Abatement Visits	21
Stables	1
Vermin	17
Interviews	146
Tents, Vans and Sheds	34
Dwellings (H.A. 1936)	372
Overcrowdings	5
House-let-in-lodgings	2
Bakehouses	14
Butchers	43
Dairies	8
Food Preparing Premises	81
Fried Fish Shops	6
Ice Cream Shops	19
Milk Shops	3
Other Food Shops	257
Slaughterhouses	352
Sampling	67
Mechanical Factories	47
Outworkers	13
Rats	978
Mice	142
Other Pests	23
Sanitary Accommodation	1
Markets	78
Atmospheric Pollution	61
Pet Shop	6
Food Poisoning	50

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, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

Chief Public Health Inspector,

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

