

[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Wednesbury Borough.

Contributors

Wednesbury (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1964

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vcbkq8xz>

License and attribution

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

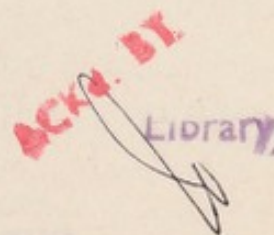
Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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>

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

1964

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1964)

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. E. Price.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. E. Diggett.

Alderman G. W. Price.

„ V. Steed.

„ J. E. James.

Councillor H. Ashby.

„ W. A. Griffiths.

„ R. Vernon.

„ L. V. Waldron.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(at 31st December, 1964)

Medical Officer of Health :

H. A. H. SUMMERS, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

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

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. A. LAVENDER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.M.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

A. W. REEVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(appointed 20/4/1964).

A. HINGLEY, M.A.P.H.I.
(appointed 20/4/1964).

Technical Assistants :

A. G. DARKE, Cleansing and Salvage.
W. S. SMALL, Offices, Shops, etc., Act, 1963.
(appointed 14/7/1964).

Pupil Public Health Inspectors :

D. AYRES (appointed 25/5/1964).
D. P. HADLEY (appointed 10/8/1964).

Chief Clerk : R. J. DEELEY.

Administrative Staff :

Mrs. M. SMITH.
Miss L. A. DUNCOMBE.
Miss G. M. LEMAR.

Veterinary Surgeon :

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

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964, with which is incorporated that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The estimated mid-year population of the Borough for 1964 was recorded as being 34,760. This was 140 less than the previous year's total, the Natural Increase (excess of births over deaths) nevertheless amounting to 275. The Number of deaths recorded was slightly lower than that for the previous year, the Adjusted Death Rate of 12.8 per thousand total population continuing a little above the national figure of 11.3. Regarding causes of death, Heart Diseases of various kinds maintained pride of place with an increased proportion of 34.5% of all deaths, followed by Cancer with 20.1% of which more than one third of the cases were men dying from Lung Cancer, the actual figure of 25 being the highest yet recorded. Cerebral Haemorrhage and Diseases of the Respiratory System shared third place with 11.6% of all deaths each. Deaths by Suicide stood at the low figure of 3.

The Birth Rate for 1964 of 17.2 per thousand total population was a substantial increase on the 1963 figure, but despite this the Adjusted Rate of 16.8 remained well below the still advancing rate for England and Wales of 18.4. The number of children failing to survive their first year of life was 12, the resultant rate of 19.9 per thousand live births happily falling just below the national rate of 20.0. For the seventh successive year no maternal deaths were recorded in the Borough.

1964 can be described as having been a fairly quiet year so far as Infectious Disease notifications were concerned, there having been only 90 compared with 218 the previous year. Measles represented no less than 80% of this figure, the actual numbers suggesting that the familiar pattern of epidemic outbreaks every other year was in process of alteration, a finding not peculiar to Wednesbury.

Continuing progress can be reported during 1964 in respect of slum clearance and house building. One Public Local Inquiry was held in connection with the representation of three Clearance Areas in Addison Street, Stafford Street and Great Western Street, affecting altogether 134 dwellings. 94 houses were demolished and 169 houses erected (116 Local Authority and 53 Private Enterprise) during the year.

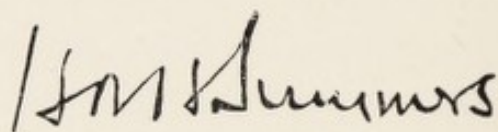
Whilst the many activities of the Health Department were vigorously pursued throughout the year, an additional duty of high preventive value was placed upon its officers in connection with houses in multiple occupation. This work has been described in greater detail by the Chief Public Health Inspector who has included information obtained from the County Chief Fire Officer. This relates to useful suggestions made with the general purpose of eliminating potential fire hazards known to exist in the older properties in the town commonly occupied by immigrants, and of designing proper means of escape from upper floors where this was seen to be necessary. At the same time the opportunity was seized to reduce to the minimum the more obvious risks, through overcrowding and faulty personal hygiene, of the spread of such infectious diseases as Tuberculosis and Leprosy, as well as Food Poisoning and other enteric diseases. In this matter the occasional service of an interpreter was greatly appreciated. It is worth noting that a certain amount of public interest was evinced in the plans approved by the Council to visit certain of these hazardous houses at a fairly late hour in order to obtain as accurate a record as possible of the number of occupants, and this action culminated in a short television interview early this year when your Medical Officer attempted to clear up some of the popular misconceptions which were thought to have arisen.

In concluding this the ninth annual report which it has been my privilege to present I wish, as in former years, to express my thanks to the members of the Council in general and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee in particular, for their interest and encouragement at all times, also to all other

officers and members of other departments and to anyone who has contributed in any way to the compilation of this report. I would further like to say that, should the town of Wednesbury, of ancient origin, in pursuance of the recommendations of a Local Government Commission, be arbitrarily partitioned through its northern districts and divided between its two larger neighbours Walsall and West Bromwich before another annual report can be prepared, the Council Members at the material moment of dissolution will be able to hand on to their successors a torch still proudly held high and burning brightly.

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 long horizontal stroke at the end.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
21, Victoria Street,
Wednesbury.

October, 1965.

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1964

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	2,025
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population Mid 1964	..	34,760
Population Census 1961	.. .. .	34,511
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1964, according to the Rate Books) :—		

(i) Council Houses	.. .. .	5,746
(ii) Other Houses	.. .. .	4,763
		<hr/> 10,509 <hr/>

Rateable Value	.. .. .	£1,477,274
Sum represented by a penny rate for year 1964/1965	..	£5,850

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 & Wales 1963.</i>
Legitimate	273	311	584		
Illegitimate	6	12	18		
	<hr/> 279 <hr/>	<hr/> 323 <hr/>	<hr/> 602 <hr/>	17.2	18.4
					16.2

Illegitimate Live Births as Percentage of Total Live Births (by sexes).

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2.1	3.2	2.9

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 & Wales 1963</i>
Legitimate	5	7	12		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	<hr/> 12 <hr/>	19.5	16.4
					22.3

Total Births

(live and still)	284	330	614
------------------	------------	------------	------------

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fe- males</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Legit. Live Births.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales.</i>
Legitimate	8	4	12				
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
Total	8	4	12	19.9	20.5	0.0	20.0

Neo-Natal Mortality. (Deaths under four weeks—Rate per 1,000 Live Births).

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for England & Wales.</i>
Legitimate ..	7	4	11		
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		
	7	4	11	18.2	13.8

Early Neo-Natal Mortality. (Deaths under one week per 1,000 Live Births).

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
7	3	10	16.6

Perinatal Mortality (combined Still Births and Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births).

<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for England & Wales.</i>
22	35.8	28.2

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

	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for England & Wales.</i>	<i>Borough Rate for 1963.</i>	
Number of Women dying during, in, or in consequence of Preg- nancy, Childbirth or Abortion	Nil	0.0	0.25	0.0

Deaths. (Rate per 1,000 total population.)

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Rate for England & Wales.</i>	<i>Borough Rate for 1963.</i>
All Causes	174	153	327	9.3	11.3	10.1

Death Rate from Specified Causes.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
From Cancer (all ages)	66	1.8
From Measles (all ages)	—	0.0
From Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	—	0.0
From Diarrhoea (under two years) ..	—	0.0

Social Conditions.

The Borough's chief industries are Iron and Steel Manufacture, hot drop stamping, construction steel work, steel tube manufacture and processes, edge tools, iron foundering and kindred trades.

Miss E. G. Duggan, Manager of the Wednesbury Employment Exchange, has supplied me with the following information, as an approximate indication of the numbers employed in the industries quoted, based on the exchange of National Insurance cards in June, 1964 :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Food and drink manufacture	566	154	720
Metal Manufacture	6,162	947	7,109
Engineering and Electrical Goods ..	1,252	297	1,549
Miscellaneous Metal Goods	3,202	2,051	5,253
Timber, Furniture, etc.	238	55	293
Construction	600	20	620
Gas, Electricity and Water	326	37	363
Transport and Communication ..	346	56	402
Distributive Trades	491	400	891
Professional Services	388	821	1,209
All other	1,040	1,321	2,361
Grand Totals	14,611	6,159	20,770

Numbers of adults registered as unemployed at 7th December, 1964 :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wholly unemployed ..	16 (147)	3 (21)	19 (168)
Temporarily stopped ..	13 (5)	— (—)	13 (5)
	29 (152)	3 (21)	32 (173)

(*N.B.*—*The figures in brackets are those for the previous year, for comparison.*)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1964.

Causes of Death.	Males	Fe- males	Total	Totals for Previous Years				
				1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Tuberculosis :								
Respiratory ..	1	—	1	2	4	1	4	2
Other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infectn.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases..	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm :								
Stomach	5	6	11	9	15	14	9	7
Lung and Bronchus	25	—	25	16	22	18	22	11
Breast	—	7	7	4	5	8	3	7
Uterus	—	2	2	1	2	3	1	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	9	21	29	34	31	21	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2	3	2	1	—	2
Diabetes	—	2	2	2	2	5	2	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	13	24	37	55	62	39	50	43
Coronary disease — angina	40	15	55	55	48	57	62	60
Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	4	7	4	5	4	3	2
Other heart disease ..	20	31	51	49	51	66	50	46
Other circulatory disease	5	5	10	11	13	7	10	17
Influenza	—	—	—	13	5	4	3	7
Pneumonia	8	6	14	18	17	17	17	24
Bronchitis	13	9	22	25	31	36	36	32
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	2	2	4	3	8	4	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1	6	4	8	3	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	3
Nephritis & Nephrosis	—	3	3	3	4	1	7	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	2	4	—	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malforma- tions	1	4	5	4	3	2	4	5
Other defined and ill- defined diseases ..	15	13	28	26	21	28	23	20
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5	3	9	11	5	4
All other accidents ..	3	5	8	7	8	9	7	7
Suicide	2	1	3	4	9	4	7	7
Homicide and opera- tions of war ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	174	153	327	358	385	389	356	353

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE, YEAR 1964.

Age	Disease of Respiratory System.	Congenital Malformation.	Atelectasis and Prematurity	Intra-Cerebral Disease	Accidental Asphyxia	Birth Injury	Totals.
Under 24 hours ..	—	—	3 (M)	—	—	2 (M) (F)	5
24 hours to 1 week ..	1 (M)	1 (F)	2 (M)	—	—	—	4
1 week to 1 month ..	1 (F)	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 month to 2 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 months to 3 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 months to 4 months ..	—	—	—	—	1 (F)	—	1
5 months to 6 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 months to 9 months ..	—	—	—	1 (M)	—	—	1
TOTALS.. ..	2	1	5	1	1	2	12

SECTION B**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES**

(as at 31st December, 1964)

A number of environmental Health Services are provided by Staffordshire County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946. For the purpose of administering these services, the County has been sub-divided into nine areas, the Borough of Wednesbury, forming part of, and giving its name to Area No. 9. Included in this, the largest area, is the Borough of Bilston, and the Urban District of Willenhall, Darlaston and Wednesfield, the total population involved now standing at 159,220. A specific Area Health Committee has been convened to supervise the environmental services which are listed below, and the Borough is represented by three members. Your Medical Officer also serves in the capacity of Medical Officer to the Area Committee.

Ambulance Service. (Section 27).

A 24-hour service is based on Richards Street Station, Darlaston (Tel. : James Bridge 2591/2) and Ambulance movements are now controlled by radio from the station at Tipton.

Ante-Natal Clinics. (Section 22).

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.

Health Visiting Services. (Section 24).

Health Visitors are employed in the District by Staffordshire County Council for advice and instruction both in the home and at Infant Welfare Clinics.

Home Help Service. (Section 29).

A number of women are employed for the purpose of assistance in the home during certain adverse conditions and a scale of charges for the service is applied according to financial circumstances. This service is operated from 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury. (Tel. : WED 0961).

Home Nursing Service. (Section 25).

Several fully-qualified District Nurses are employed by the County Council for general nursing duties in the home, as required by General Practitioners, or following discharge from hospital.

Immunisation and Vaccination. (Section 26).

Protective treatment against Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, and Poliomyelitis is available at Infant Welfare Centres and from General Practitioners.

Infant Welfare Centres. (Section 22).

Three Infant Welfare Centres are maintained within the Borough by Staffordshire County Council, these being:—

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

Midwifery. (Section 23).

Confinements in hospital arranged by Clinics and private doctors if on medical grounds; through Ante-Natal Clinics, if on social grounds. Domiciliary births, and care during the latter part of the puerperium, if discharged from hospital at an early date, are the duty of fully qualified midwives provided by Staffordshire County Council.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. (Section 28).

This is mainly carried out by a Social Workers for the district provided by Staffordshire County Council who deals with convalescent treatment, assistance with clothing, extra food, and so on. Care of the aged and infirm is also partly the concern of the Area Welfare Officer.

Other Health Services provided include :

Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford.

Director : E. M. Mackay-Scollay, M.B., B.S.
(Tel. : Stafford 4377).

Chemical Analysis, Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings,
Stafford.

County Analyst : A. Houlbrook, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
(Tel. : Stafford 51141).

Tuberculosis : Chest Clinic, Church Street, Wednesbury.
(Tel. : WED 0322).

Venereal Diseases.

Special Clinics at Manor Hospital, Walsall and Guest Hospital,
Dudley.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply.

Mr. R. H. Taylor, 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, 1964 :—

- (i) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) The supply to the Borough of Wednesbury is derived from the Barr Beacon and Hednesford systems. The Barr Beacon system consists of 5 pumping stations and the Hednesford system of 9 pumping stations. These pumping stations are examined regularly and frequently, both bacteriologically and chemically and, where treatment is installed, both before and after treatment.

Regular samples are taken within the Borough of Wednesbury Reservoir, the Waterman's house in Wednesbury and at Wood Green Repumping Station.

During 1964, 13 out of 15 samples examined from Wednesbury Reservoir, were free from coliform bacteria.

12 out of 14 samples from the Waterman's house were also satisfactory, as were 25 out of 26 samples from Wood Green Repumping Station.

Only one of the supplying stations contained any measurable quantity of fluoride. This was Seedy Mill, where an average of .46 p.p.m. was obtained.

The average chemical results from the Waterman's house were :—

pH	7.2			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	104	parts per million		
Chlorides (Cl)	30.2	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) ..	.009	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) ..	.085	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N) ..	2.8	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27 deg. C) .. ..	.92	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	98	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	130	"	"	"
Total Hardness	228	"	"	"

Iron (Fe)	.. .. .	.06	parts per million
Manganese (Mn)	.. .. .	.01	" " "
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)		Nil	
Free Cl	.. .. .	Nil	

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 14 samples from the Waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.
- (iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. In cases of possible contamination in the event of a burst or damaged main emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
- (v) (a) The number of houses supplied direct from mains at 31st December, 1964, was 10,792, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.24 persons per house was 34,966.
- (b) The number of houses supplied by means of an outside tap at 31st December, 1964, was 18, bringing the total supplied by the Company to 10,810.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Mr. A. W. Ewart, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E., Borough Engineer, reports :—

“ The treatment of sewage at the Sewage Disposal Works was performed as satisfactorily as possible with the existing plant and the continued use of aluminoferric to increase settlement has proved beneficial.

The media in a further filter (Filter No. 8) has been renewed with a larger size of material to increase its efficiency.

The rainfall for the year was 19.42 inches.”

(N.B.—The rainfall for the year 1963 was 21.81 inches.)

SECTION D**SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955
DURING THE YEAR 1964**

Details of inspections and actions 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 1964, the following samples were taken in Wednesbury.

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	10
Milk Sterilised	..	..	5
			<hr/>
			15 All genuine
			<hr/>

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	..	77
Number of samples genuine		76
Number of samples adulterated		1

Classification of General Foods.

Pork Sausage containing preservative (4 samples).
 Jellied Veal.
 Onion Flavoured Biscuits.
 Meat Soup.
 Instant Coffee.
 Mixed Fruit Jam (2 samples).
 Sage and Onion Stuffing.
 Dehydrated French Beans.
 Rum Flavoured Sauce Powder.
 Tea (3 samples).
 Cocktail Sausages.
 Hot Dogs.
 Beetroot (2 samples).
 Mint Crisps.
 Eclairs.
 Butter Eccles Cakes.
 Dried Thyme.
 Dairy Cream.
 Double Devon Cream.

Fresh Cream Doughnuts.
 Fresh Cream Eclairs.
 Pork.
 Stoned Raisins.
 Faggotts in Rich Gravy.
 Full Cream Evaporated Milk.
 Best of the Milk.
 Shortbread Fingers.
 Crispbread.
 Virgin Olive Oil.
 Ceylon Tea.
 Potato Sticks.
 Creamed Horseradish.
 Beef and Kidney Pie.
 Corned Beef (2 samples).
 Blackcurrant Jam (2 samples).
 Blackcurrant Health Drink.
 Butter (2 samples).
 Mint Sauce.
 Gravy Salt.
 Cake Mixture.
 Blackcurrant Cordial.
 Cornflake Crumbs.
 Machine Skimmed Condensed Milk.
 Junior Egg Noodles and Turkey.
 Lemon Curd.
 Brown Sugar.
 Raspberry Yogurt.
 Corned Mutton.
 Lambs Tongues.
 Extra Devon Wafers.
 Lime Cordial and Lager.
 Ice Cream.
 Piccalilli.
 Danish Butter.
 Liquid Apples.
 Mincemeat.
 Creamed Rice Milk Pudding.
 Bilberry Pie Filling.
 Turkey and Corn.
 Steak and Kidney Pudding.
 Danish Pasteurised Processed Spread with Shrimp.
 Pearl Barley.
 Rice.
 Tomato Soup.
 Herring Roes.
 Mixed Vegetable Macedoine.
 Liver, Bacon and Onion with Rich Gravy.

Particulars of Adulterated Sample.**53 C/O—Liver, Bacon and Onion with Rich Gravy—Informal.**

Sample contains at least one ingredient, namely starch or flour and should contain a list of ingredients.

Label missing owing to mistake on part of assistant—no further action.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

SUMMARY OF RETAIL MILKS SAMPLED BY THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DURING THE YEAR 1964.

	No. of Samples Taken.	Cleanliness Test (Methylene Blue).			Phosphatase Test (for Pasteurisation)		Turbidity Test (for Sterilisation)	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Test Incomplete	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	27	27	—	—	27	—	—	—
Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	18	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
C.I. Pasteurised	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
C.I. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	9	9	—	—	9	—	—	—
Jersey T.T. (Pasteurised) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	55	37	—	—	37	—	18	—

SECTION E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.**Scarlet Fever.**

The number of cases reported during the year, four, was identical with the figure for 1963.

Whooping Cough.

The number of cases reported during the year was eleven, compared with seven in 1963.

Measles.

73 cases were notified in 1964 compared with 188 in 1963.

Diphtheria.

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

Poliomyelitis.

For the third year in succession no cases of poliomyelitis have been reported.

Pneumonia.

Two cases were reported in 1964 as compared with seven in 1963.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>	<i>Provisional Rate—England and Wales.</i>
All forms	..	1	0.028	0.060
Pulmonary	..	1	0.028	0.053
Non-Pulmonary	..	Nil	0.000	0.007

Sputum Examinations.

<i>Sender.</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Chest Clinic ..	201	10	191
General Practitioners	17	—	17

Tuberculosis Cases.

Number on Public Health Department Register (at 31/12/1964)

Year.	No. on Register (all forms).	NEW CASES.		DEATHS.	
		Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1938	173	26	5	18	2
1954	307	32	1	13	2
1955	323	39	3	3	—
1956	360	25	2	7	—
1957	359	30	4	3	—
1958	346	27	2	8	—
1959	346	18	2	2	—
1960	343	31	2	2	—
1961	313	12	2	1	1
1962	271	28	5	4	—
1963	297	21	7	2	—
1964	328	28	4	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1964.

DISEASES.	Nos.	Final Numbers after Correction.											Wards				Deaths	Cases admitted to Hospital		
		Under 1 year	1+ year	2+ year	3+ year	4+ year	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total All Ages	Town	King's Hill	Mesty Croft			Wood Green	Manor
Scarlet Fever :																				
Males ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2) 1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Females ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2) 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough :																				
Males ...	5	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5) 11	—	8	—	1	2	—	—
Females ...	6	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	6) 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles :																				
Males ...	32	3	4	5	6	3	10	1	—	—	—	—	32) 73	20	9	18	12	14	—	—
Females ...	41	3	2	5	7	5	18	1	—	—	—	—	41) 41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery :																				
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia :																				
Males ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2) 2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poison'g(Male)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	90	7	7	13	15	9	35	2	—	—	1	1	90	22	18	18	15	17	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1964.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years ..	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—24 years ..	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—44 years ..	8	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—65 years ..	6	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	18	10	1	3	1	—	—	—

MISCELLANEA.**Factories Act, 1961.**

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

Medical Examinations, 1964.**Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1937.**

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
18	..	8	..	10	..	18

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>
27	..	26	..	1	..	26

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Amendment Act, 1951).

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during 1964.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit the Annual Report of the Department's work during my first completed year of office.

The New Year of 1964 held little prospect of pleasure, however. For the preceeding four months, the inspectorial staff had been 50% below establishment and this state of affairs continued into the second quarter of the year. As the succeeding pages of this report will show, the increased volume of legislation, additional duties and responsibilities and the implementation of even higher professional standards, for example, in meat inspection, demanded more public health inspectors to carry out the work rather than the Department should continue to "fire only on two cylinders."

The staff list shows the establishment has increased by two technical assistants for specific duties, and the experience, which they have brought with them into Public Health, has proved invaluable. However, and I must stress this, many of these additional duties can be carried out by public health inspectors only. Two pupils were appointed during the year—an innovation for the Department—they will be of great assistance to us in years to come. We are faced with the mounting problems of today which demand immediate professional skills.

Looking back onto the year from 1965, the Council showed foresight in advertising at "market value" for our two additional inspectors thus anticipating the new national salary scales of April, 1965.

Despite a bleak prospect I am delighted by the achievements of the Department and I will comment briefly on matters which are reviewed in detail in the body of the report.

Housing received urgent consideration. Mesty Croft, comprising 335 houses, was surveyed and a total of 292 dwellings were represented to the Council as unfit. An assessment was made of the remaining unfit houses in the town and a programme of clearance of some 750 dwellings was under preparation at the year's end. This, together with plans for Improvement and Smoke Control Areas, is described in greater detail later. Housing of the immigrant population, insofar as they live in dwellings occupied by the members of more than one family—the so called "**houses**

in multiple occupation”—received priority attention. Our initial inspections revealed health and safety hazards, in quite terrifying abundance, associated with this type of occupancy. Some of these hazards are shown pictorially. The photographs were taken in one house occupied exclusively by men—the sort of dwelling where the domestic disciplines tend to be ignored rather more than when occupied by family units. Again, more on this matter appears later, but it is germane at this point to observe that the joint “tutorial” visits are producing excellent results in removing hazards far more quickly than by the rather cumbersome process of enforcement. One may add that these visits and discussions in the home are a valuable form of integration.

Food Hygiene work, regrettably, was pushed into the background by the urgent work of slum clearance, multiple occupancies, and the regular demands of the **meat inspection** service at the bacon factory. The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 made great inroads into inspectors’ time and placed a much heavier professional responsibility on them. The open market received comparatively scant attention, but, in this matter, we await the Minister’s promised new Regulations specific to this section of the food trade.

Offices and Shops, since the introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, are controlled by the Department in respect of matters concerning health, welfare and safety, routine inspections being undertaken by a technical assistant. A total of 35 premises had been inspected by the end of the year apart from pre-registration visits; contraventions were of a minor nature e.g. lack of thermometers or first aid boxes. It is too early however, to draw any general conclusions. **Factories** inspections also were minimal. This “Cinderella” responsibility, which ties in so well with effective industrial smoke control, is too easily overlooked by inspectors when pressed for time.

Refuse Collection continued to present its apparently insoluble problems. All of them were associated with the difficulty, in this area of high employment, of maintaining a labour force, adequate in numbers and attracted by the bonus payments scheme, to achieve at least a regular seven day domestic collection.

Disposal of refuse is said to have come a long way since the days of the handy open window and the warning shout to the chance passer-by, “ware pots.” But has it indeed progressed so far? We have our modern collection vehicles, dustless loaders, compressors, pulverisers, bulk container loaders and composting, controlled tipping, incineration, in fact an infinite variety of tools

and methods at our disposal. But the refuse is still manhandled, or woman handled, from house to bin, bin to street, street to vehicle, the volume reduced in the vehicle, then taken by road to the tip where it is dumped, perhaps pulverised, then spread, again using manpower. From one simple and final heave through the window we have introduced an ever increasing number of manual operations.

I do not suggest that we revert to pulverisation of refuse under the feet of the passer-by. There is little doubt, however, with the ever increasing volume and decreasing density of house refuse—largely due to the cult of the “container” in domestic supplies and to the prohibition of domestic grates as incinerators in smoke control areas—that a drastic rethinking is demanded.

Surely it is not beyond the research abilities of the packaging industry, to produce a container material which, after use, is more easily reducible to a fraction of its former volume. And, what progress in the introduction of the refuse “mill” into the house drainage system? Its compulsory introduction into new houses could eventually bring down the cost of the appliance and what of a “grant” towards fitting it in existing houses as an improvement?

To retain the cost of refuse collection within the bounds of economic reason and, in the future, to maintain a reasonable service in the face of labour shortages and the shorter working week, we must strive to reduce the refuse volume at source and to stave off the need to employ greater numbers of men. The transmission of a high percentage of the total volume of house refuse as “grounds” through the sewerage system would have these twin effects and a little more research in the packaging industry would be a beginning.

Despite the many omissions, I feel that 1964 has been a year of some achievement and, writing this report in 1965, I am gratified that this progress has continued and that some, although by no means all, of these omissions are receiving belated attention.

My thanks, as an Officer of this Council, are due to many people, to my Chairman, Members of the Council, colleagues, the public, even to the Press, who are rarely thanked for anything, all have helped in their various ways to make environmental conditions for the people of Wednesbury, whether townsfolk or from East or West, just that little better.

Finally, my sincere appreciation is merited by members of my own Department for their unstinting efforts throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WM. CUNNINGHAM,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

TOTALS	..	6286	4030
--------	----	------	------

SECTION A

HOUSING

(a) General Slum Clearance, Repair and Improvement of Dwellings.

Following the submission of the Mesty Croft Area, a survey of the Borough was undertaken during the year, to ascertain the number of unfit houses remaining to be dealt with. A total of 750 houses were provisionally so classified and a clearance programme was being prepared at the end of the year.

In conjunction with the clearance of areas of unfit dwellings it is anticipated that a time phased scheme of Improvement Areas, under the new powers contained in the Housing Act, 1964, which, in addition, would be declared as Smoke Control Areas, will be submitted for Council approval early in 1965. Some 1,200 houses are likely to be involved.

Part II Housing Act 1964 empowers the compulsory provision of the standard amenities, i.e. a fixed bath or shower, wash-basin, hot and cold water supply, accessible water closet and satisfactory food storage facilities in otherwise 'fit' tenanted dwelling houses with an anticipated 'life' of fifteen years or more.

It is thought, that by proper administrative co-ordination and geographical selection, the redevelopment of cleared areas surrounded by such improved areas which are in addition smoke controlled, will achieve substantial urban renewal. Further it should be a challenging exercise in the economical use of professional manpower.

Mesty Croft Areas.

In connection with the Council's plans for clearance and redevelopment, inspection of houses in this area was carried out during the year. A total of 335 premises was visited and official representations were submitted in December in respect of eight clearance areas comprising a total of 292 houses.

Outline of Mesty Croft Areas submitted to Council.

Mesty Croft No. 1 Area	
Hydes Road, Oxford Street and Piercy Street	32 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 2 Area	
Piercy Street, Oxford Street, Paul Street and Moor Street	128 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 3 Area—Oxford Street ..	5 houses.

Mesty Croft No. 4 Area		
Alma Street and Oxford Street	.. ..	21 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 5 Area		
Piercy Street and Alma Street	.. ..	15 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 6 Area		
Alma Street, Elwell Street and Sampson Street	.. ..	67 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 7 Area		
Friar Street and Crankhall Lane	..	12 houses.
Mesty Croft No. 8 Area		
Crankhall Lane	.. ..	12 houses.

Compulsory Purchase Orders made under Part III Housing Act, 1957.

Addison Street (Clearance Area No. 1) C.P.O.
 Stafford Street (Clearance Areas Nos. 1—4) C.P.O.
 Great Western Street (Clearance Areas Nos. 2—5) C.P.O.
 Mill Street (Clearance Areas Nos. 1—2) C.P.O.
 Dangerfield Lane (Clearance Area No. 1) C.P.O.
 Bridge Street (Clearance Areas No. 1—2) C.P.O.

The orders included a total of 166 houses of which 152 were alleged to be unfit for human habitation.

A public local enquiry was held in connection with a number of objections to the Addison Street, Stafford Street and Great Western Street orders. The Stafford Street and Great Western Street orders were confirmed by the Minister with the modifications that three houses coloured pink and one coloured grey were excluded from the Stafford Street order and two houses in the Great Western Street order, were transferred from pink to grey. Confirmation of the Addison Street order was awaited at the end of the year.

Demolition Orders made under Part II Housing Act, 1957.

6, 25, 25A, 32, 33, 34, 26, Bridge Street.
 70, 71 and 72, Cobden Street.
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, Cobden Terrace.
 14, Corns Street.
 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, Back 68, No. 1 Back 68,
 No. 2 Back 68, Franchise Street.

31, 32, 33, 34, 41, 42, Hill Street.

24, 26, Queen Street, Moxley.

13, 14, 15, Spring Head.

Total—45 houses.

The Unfit Houses Sub-Committee, before recommending to Council the making of a Demolition Order in respect of 26, Bridge Street, heard the objections and counter-proposals of the three Pakistani joint owners on three separate occasions. These hearings were conducted with the aid of an interpreter who is now employed by the Department on a part-time basis. The owners eventually accepted the view that their proposals were quite uneconomic and not in their own best interest—they withdrew their objections.

Closing Orders made under Part II Housing Act, 1957.

40, Bridge Street.

73, Cook Street.

81, Hill Street.

7, Pinfold Street.

20, Potters Lane.

Total—5 houses.

Houses Demolished during 1964.

(i) Demolition Orders

86, 87, 88, Albert Street.

5a, 5b, Albert Street.

14, 15, Great Western Street.

33, 34, High Bullen.

52a, Potters Lane.

38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, Walsall Street.

Total—16 houses.

(ii) Clearance Areas (pink property, i.e., unfit houses).

104, 106, Darlaston Road.

4, 5a, Church Steps.

22, 26, 28, Manor House Road.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, New Buildings.

43, 44, 45, 46, 47, Trowse Lane.

34, 35, 36, 37, 38, Camphill Lane.

175, 176, 177, 180, 181, 182, 183, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, Holyhead Road.

2, 3, 4, 5, Loxdale Street.

27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, Russell Street.

5, 6, 9, 10, Leabrook Road.

31, 32, 33, 34, 35, Great Western Street.

Total—75 houses.

(iii) Clearance Areas (grey property, i.e., fit houses).

24, Manor House Road.

46, 52, Russell Street.

Total—3 houses.

Persons and families displaced during 1964.

From houses in Clearance Areas—78 persons comprising 21 families.

From houses subject to Demolition Orders—50 persons comprising 16 families.

From houses subject to Closing Orders—12 persons comprising 4 families.

**Houses Repaired and subject to notices during 1964—
Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961.**

Number of informal notices served	85
Number of premises affected	98
Number of informal notices complied with ..	61
Number of premises affected by compliance	73
Number of statutory notices served	39
Number of premises affected	29
Number of statutory notices complied with ..	14
Number of premises affected by compliance ..	12

(b) Control of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

This all important and constantly changing aspect of environmental hygiene and safety was given the utmost priority in the second quarter of the year. The drive was made possible by the eventual rectification of a prolonged period of acute shortage of inspectorial staff.

Appropriate standards of domestic facilities for varying numbers of occupants of these dwellings were presented to and approved by the Council. Consultations with the County Chief Fire Officer began and inspections of all premises considered likely to be in multiple occupation, 105 initially, were quickly under way. Excellent liaison was established and all inspections were made jointly by a public health inspector and a fire prevention officer.

Reports on each of the premises were submitted to Council and, where appropriate, authority was granted for the service of notices relating to the provision of adequate domestic facilities, means of escape from fire and the abatement of overcrowding. It is to the credit of the Council that a policy, with its financial burden, of "work in default" was adopted.

Evidence of lack of hygiene in the storage and preparation of food, improper use of the sanitary fittings and heating appliances, the dread of ventilation, over-loading of 'amateur' electrical circuits and the 'hair raising' bulk retention of paraffin in bedrooms showed that the Council's powers under the Housing Acts were too cumbersome and insufficient to deal with such immediate health and fire hazards. The need was apparent for teaching the immigrants in the home and towards the year's end a programme of joint evening visits was instituted.

As shown below the enforcement side of this work progressed well during the year. There can be little doubt, however, that the principal and most worthwhile achievement arose from the goodwill and interest engendered amongst the immigrant families and lodgers during the evening 'teaching' visits made by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and the Divisional Fire Prevention Officer.

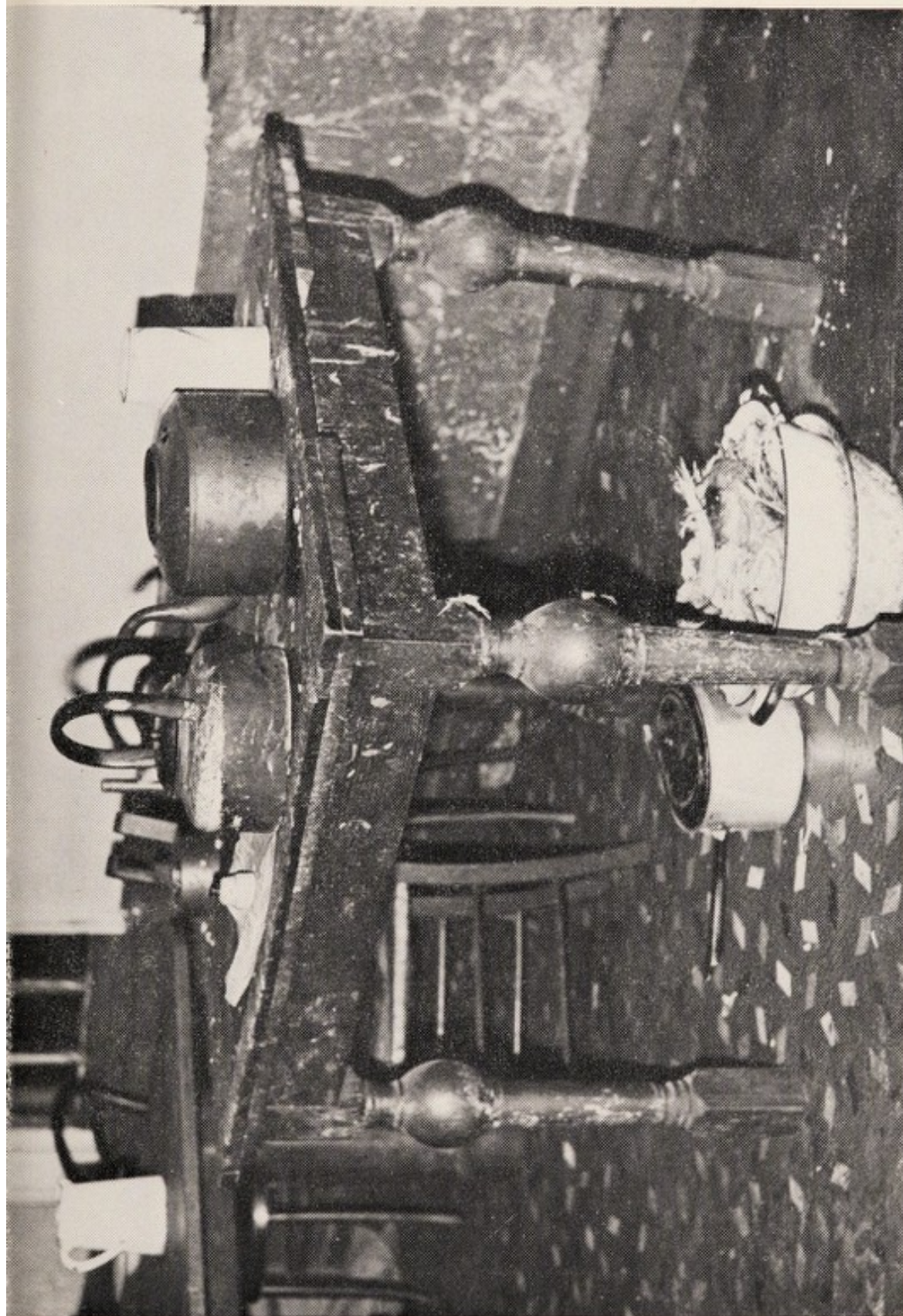
The following information and observations have been supplied by :

**The County Chief Fire Officer,
D. Blacktop, Esq., O.B.E., M.I.Fire E.**

"During the period of the review a total of 99 inspections of houses in multiple occupancy were carried out, in conjunction with the officers of the Council's Public Health Department. Of this total 78 inspections were initial surveys primarily concerned with means of escape in case of fire, and 21 were specific inspections concerned with the implementation of requirements and/or recommendations resulting from the initial surveys. The reports were compiled following each of these inspections, and were in two parts :—

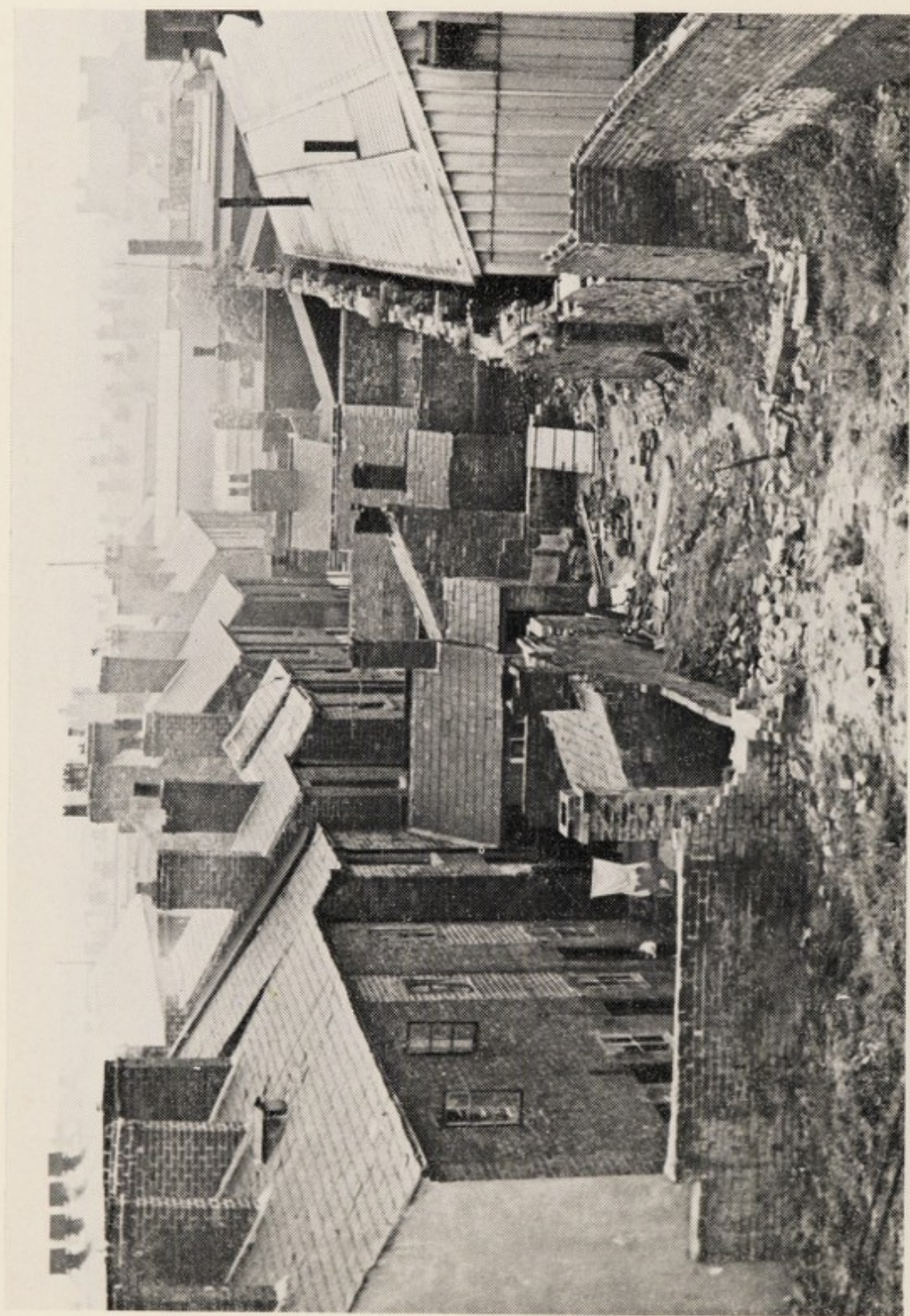
- (a) Requirements considered necessary under Means of Escape—Section 16 Housing Act, 1961.
- (b) Recommendations on a goodwill basis to eliminate potential fire hazards.

There is little doubt that as a result of these inspections and the implementation of the requirements and recommendations, an acceptable standard of means of escape has been achieved in a number of premises, and the standard of fire mindedness of occupiers has been raised appreciably. It is considered that the policy of giving verbal advice in simple terms to the occupiers on matters of fire safety during the course of the inspection, followed by a report on similar lines, is a factor the importance of which cannot be over stressed."

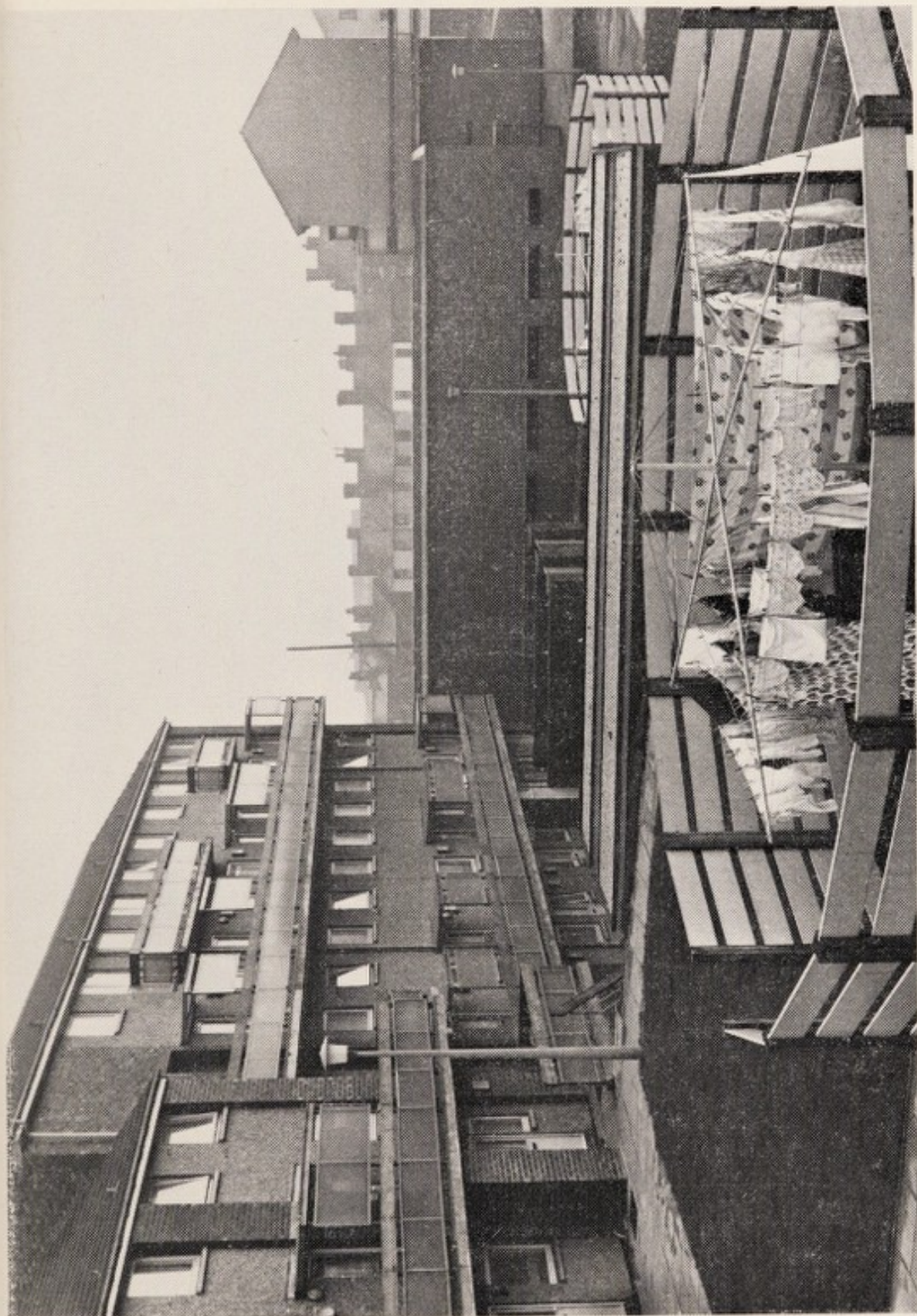


Courtesy of Staffordshire Fire Brigade.

Multiple Occupation – Hazardous food preparation in communal kitchen – Problem for the public health inspector.



Backs of houses in King Street - Cross Street Clearance Areas 1956



Similar view – back of King Street. King's Court Redevelopment, 1964.



Courtesy of Staffordshire Fire Brigade.
Multiple Occupation – Hazardous open fireplace in communal bedroom.
– Problem for the fire prevention officer.

(c) **Housing Miscellanea.**

Rent Act, 1957.

There was no application made for certificates of dis-repair nor for the cancellation of certificates.

Land Charges Act, 1925.

373 searches in relation mainly to dwelling house properties, concerning the Department's future intentions under Parts II and III Housing Act, 1957 and the Clean Air Act, 1956, were answered.

Mortgages and Improvement Grants.

In all cases of application to the Council for either a mortgage or an Improvement Grant the property is surveyed by a public health inspector and its future "life" assessed.

A sharp increase in this work will result if the Council should adopt the policy of co-ordinated Improvement Areas to be submitted early in 1965.

Caravans.

There was a marked rise in the number of visits made to sites to deal with unauthorised caravan parking—77 as against 30 in the preceeding year. The Department is pressed by Police and public alike to secure the rapid removal of these itinerants. The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, is directed at the occupier of the land against whom the unauthorised caravaner is a common law trespasser. It is no duty of the public health inspector to act as a bailiff in these circumstances, although the occasions are many when adequate legal powers to deal quickly with such matters would be welcome on general public health grounds. This random nomadic siting of caravans is not limited to privately owned land, the Council too must deal with its share of trespassers. While much space may be rendered unavailable for useful car parking only a policy of ditching and fencing is likely to obviate the present system of physical ejectment which is so wasteful of time.

The problem, of course, is much wider in scope than this and the question of provision of proper sites or other housing for people of this way of life is, fortunately, not one for this Department.

SECTION B**FOOD****(a) Meat Inspection Service.**

The introduction of new standards and criteria by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 placed a heavy burden on the depleted staff. The process of meat inspection no longer depends upon the discretionary exercise of professional skill based upon a Memorandum of recommendations. From 1st October, 1963, carcasses and associated viscera of food animals must be inspected in strict accordance with Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Regulation 9 requires that after an examination in the terms of the Schedule, if the inspector is satisfied as to fitness for consumption, he marks the carcass with his personal numbered stamp. Regulation 16 provides that ANY person failing to comply with the provisions of the Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding £100.

Schedule 1 is barely contained in two pages of octavo small print. In a bacon factory, with an average slaughtering speed of 90 pigs per hour, the inspector has the carcass before him for about 45 seconds and his colleague the viscera for a similar period. The stamping process itself takes time. Small wonder that inspectors no longer regard meat inspection as a break from district routine and an occasional haven from the weather.

Record of animals slaughtered in previous years.

1960	..	25,420 pigs.
1961	..	35,013 pigs.
1962	..	40,636 pigs.
1963	..	40,146 pigs.
1964	..	43,540 pigs.

Record of weights of meat and offal rejected.

1963	..	17 tons 11 cwts. 1 qr. 10 lbs.
1964	..	22 tons 12 cwts. 0 qrs. 27 lbs.

All rejected meat and offal is processed through the Bacon Factory Company's by-products plant and is disposed of for further refinement as fertiliser.

Meat Inspection Analysis.

It will be noted that pigs only are slaughtered at the Bacon Factory and that meat inspection statistics relating to other classes of food animals are omitted accordingly.

	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (1964)	43,540
Number inspected	43,540

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—

Whole Carcasses condemned	114
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	11,370
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	26.37

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcasses condemned	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	736
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.69

Cysticercosis—

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Six persons, new applicants and seven other, totalling thirteen were recommended to the Council as "fit and proper" and were duly licensed as slaughtermen.

(b) Food Hygiene and Control.

The increased demands of the meat inspection service upon the establishment of public health inspectors taxed our resources during the year and only "spot" visits were possible to other food premises. Many of the general food premises shown in the "Analysis of Inspections" result from hurried calls in search of "Aberdeen" corned beef of which seven tins were traced and returned through wholesale channels.

Sampling of water and ice cream was not found to be possible, its reintroduction together with a complete survey of food premises of all types is an urgent necessity.

A relatively small number of visits were made to the open market but in this matter the Minister's promised Regulations specific to this section of the food trade are awaited.

Several visits were made to retail premises in connection with the examination of allegedly unsound food. Usually these result from a request made by the retailer—the condemnation certificate being intended as a “credit slip” for the wholesaler.

Analysis of Food Premises.

The list of premises where food is manufactured, preserved, prepared, cooked, stored or sold is taken from Annual Reports of previous years. There is but little doubt that it is obsolete and the need for a complete survey and series of inspections to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 is manifestly of the utmost priority.

Greengrocers	..	..	..	26
Grocers	..	..	..	71
Fried Fish	..	..	..	24
General	..	..	..	54
Cafes	..	..	..	15
Bakers	..	..	..	14
Butchers	..	..	..	30
Public Houses	..	..	..	74
Off Licences	..	..	..	8
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Vendors	..	..	..	134
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	3

Foods Inspection Analysis.

Rejected as unfit.			<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
184 tins of meat	..	..	7	3	10	3½
134 tins of fruit	..	..	2	0	5	0
19 tins of fish	..	..		1	6	12½
1 box lobster	..	..		3	0	0
6 tins soup	..	..			5	7¾
16 tins vegetables	..	..			21	4¾
potatoes	..	..	2	2	0	0
9 tins juice	..	..			9	1
8 tins Evaporated Milk	..	..			12	4
1 tin cream	..	..				6
1 tin rice pudding	..	..			1	13
1 tin custard powder	..	..				11
1 tin syrup	..	..			1	0
2 packets cheese snaps	..	..			1	15
2 bars chocolate	..	..				10
Total—1964			13	3	20	6½
Total—1963			6	2	16	10¾

Merchandise Marks Act and Orders.

There were no visits made specifically to ensure compliance with the requirements relating to the labelling of imported foods. It was noted "by the way" that several Butchers were displaying imported meat without suitable labels, their attention was drawn to the offence and matters were rectified immediately.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**Sale of milk unfit for human consumption.**

During the year the Council instituted proceedings against a Dairy Company alleging the sale of a bottle of sterilised milk, unfit for human consumption by reason of finely divided grey particles suspended in the milk. The Borough Justices found the case proved but in the particular circumstances granted the defendant a conditional discharge.

SECTION C**AIR AND NOISE****(a) Domestic Smoke Control.**

The Council has in existence two Smoke Control Areas comprising in all, 1,275 dwellings. Uncertainty about the future production of gas coke by the Gas Industry has prompted the Council to adopt a policy of "wait and see" before embarking on any major enterprise in this direction. Circular 53/64, referring to the Housing Act, 1964, puts the point that the survey of Improvement Areas and Smoke Control Areas should be a combined operation.

While the problem will not be before us until 1965, when the future programme of slum clearance and improvement areas is presented, the question of an adequate, qualified staff for this work must be actively considered.

(b) Industrial Air Pollution.

Only four major complaints of industrial smoke or fume emissions were placed before the Health Committee during the year. One, relating to galvanising, was considered to be unfounded, two came within the exclusive province of H.M. Alkali and Works Inspectorate, the remaining one, grit emission, should be remedied early in 1965 by the substitution of oil firing for the existing coke burning appliances.

It is, in my view, essential that the Department should be in a position to keep up a positive policy of inspection and supervision of all industrial plant with a pollution potential. The paucity of complaints is indicative of acceptance by the public rather than perfection in equipment, plant and operation.

The calculation of heights for new chimneys, shown on Building Byelaw plans, of certain fuel burning appliances, required by Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, has been somewhat simplified by the publication of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's memorandum on chimney heights. The Act, however, does not provide for the circumstance of new plant being served by existing inadequate chimneys nor for new plant and new chimneys erected when plans are not submitted.

(c) **Noise Abatement.**

The ever increasing volume of noise, resulting from the modern speed and way of life, can be a most irritating drawback of an urban environment. The car, plane, industry and the transistor radio are the principal, but not the sole, offenders.

Five complaints were investigated, day and night-time observations, over long periods, being necessitated. The variety of causes ranged from barking guard dogs through wood cutting to high frequency noise from massive ventilator systems. All the conditions, with varying degrees of success, have been ameliorated.

Noise abatement is a problem of some complexity and the Council's decision to send an inspector to the College of Advanced Technology for a course of specialised study is a wise one.

Instruments for measuring noise levels and for analysing sound frequencies are delicate, complicated and expensive. It may be, that at some future date, I shall have to recommend that such equipment be purchased but for the time being the inspectors are relying on the evidence of their own observations and, best evidence of all, that of a cross section of the complainants.

SECTION D WORKING CONDITIONS

(a) **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.**

The Council quickly adopted a forceful policy on the inception of the Act in August, 1964. A technical assistant was appointed specifically for the routine duties and the public health inspectors also became inspectors under the Act. Enforcement of the Act's fire requirements is a matter exclusively for the County Fire Authority.

Commendably the Council's first instruction was to the Chief Public Health Inspector for a survey of all its own premises. Although H.M. Factory Inspector administers these provisions in all local authority premises, it was felt that the Council was morally bound, while enforcing the laws requirements in the majority of other establishments, to lead the way by insisting that its own house be in order.

The provisions of this Act have been long awaited and constitute a "Charter" of physical working conditions for people employed in premises other than factories.

Analysis of registrations and inspections.

	<i>Premises registered.</i>	<i>General inspections.</i>	<i>Contra- ventions.</i>
Offices	62	3	3
Retail Shops ..	235	18	18
Wholesale shops ..	12	2	2
Catering premises ..	45	12	12

Notifiable accidents.

One notifiable accident was investigated during the last quarter of the year.

(b) **Factories Act, 1961.**

Many of the health, safety and welfare provisions of the Factories Act were imported into the Office, Shops, etc., legislation. While, in the main, the latter is enforced by inspectors of the local authority, in the case of most factories all but the health provisions is administered by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

In the very nature of things the health provisions are matters for the public health inspector and, once again, it is to be regretted that, owing to the shortage of professional staff, more was not done in this field. As with food premises a complete survey is a necessity.

Analysis of Inspections and Defects.

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	8	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	206	9	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	214	9	—	—

Defects.

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 ..	2	2	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	3	—	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	5	—	4

SECTION E

MISCELLANEA AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

(a) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A high incidence of sickness and absenteeism amongst the men of the Cleansing Section, demanded that the rodent operative be seconded to freighter driving for much of his normal working week. One of our pupils was able to fill the breach temporarily, this, of course, provides him with useful experience, although too much of this work will not assist his practical professional training.

Regrettably it was not possible to carry out any sewer treatments for rat infestations during the year.

Analysis of rats and mice treatments.

	Local Authority properties	Houses including Council Houses	All other properties	Total
Properties in the area	22	10,509	1,871	12,402
Number of properties inspected	—	287	130	417
Number of properties infested by :				
Rats	—	248	111	359
Mice	—	39	19	58
Total of inspections and re-inspections..	—	886	398	1,284

(b) Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The Department has a Lyons Steam Disinfector served by a Coltman Vertical Cross Tube Boiler, which is kept in a state of mechanical readiness and is put to occasional use. House disinfection is carried out by spraying with formalin or a proprietary disinfectant and bottles of disinfectant are available monthly, free, on request, in certain cases.

Disinfestation generally is by spraying with a D.D.T. based proprietary liquid or powder. Hydrogen cyanide disinfestation of bug infested furniture and household effects is undertaken, as occasionally necessary, by a neighbouring authority possessing the equipment.

Analysis of Houses Disinfected and Disinfested.

Number of houses disinfected	1
Number of Council houses disinfested after bugs ..	6
Number of Council houses disinfested after other pests	89
Number of other houses disinfested after bugs ..	3
Number of other houses disinfested after other pests	38

(c) Drain Cleansing Service.

The Public Health Act, 1936 places a responsibility on the local authority for the cleansing of certain drains, serving more than one house, constructed before 1937. Usually this work, in most authorities, is put out to private builders. For many years this Department, to obviate delay, has provided a drain cleansing service of its own. The work, of necessity, is limited to simple rodding operations. 206 cases were dealt with. In some cases, subject to availability of personnel and the scope of the works involved, the unstopping of private drainage systems is undertaken on repayment. A regular weekly chargeable drainage maintenance service is provided for the Bacon Factory.

(d) Pet Animals Act 1951.

There were four applications received for the annual relicensing of premises controlled by this Act. The premises were visited at the time of application and found to be satisfactory.

(e) Public Mortuary.

This modern building with up-to-date facilities was erected and opened in 1958. The Cleansing Section foreman acts as Mortuary Attendant, providing the necessary services before and after post-mortem examinations. For this he receives a small per capita fee from H.M. Coroner.

During the year 43 bodies were received into the mortuary, which is situated in Albert Street.

(f) Public Baths.

The following information has been supplied by :—

**D. E. W. Mill, Esq., S.M.Inst.B.M.,
Baths Manager.**

The two reconstructed Swimming Pools, having a total capacity of some 79,000 gallons, were re-opened in 1913. Water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company—sterilisation is by breakpoint chlorination—chlorine content is maintained at 2.0 p.p.m. and alkalinity at pH 8.0, tests are carried out four times daily. Average water temperature is 80 deg. F., heated by two Cornish boilers converted to oil firing. Feed water analyses are carried out monthly.

The Public Slipper Baths, with twelve cubicles for men and six for women, were constructed in 1957. During the past year some 21,500 people used the Slipper Baths and it is estimated that 95% of the users were immigrants.

SECTION F

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Staff.

Our major problem of the year was, as usually it is, recruitment of suitable staff. This difficulty is met throughout the Black Country where there is minimal unemployment.

During 1964, five recurrent vacancies, from an establishment of 30 men, involved a turnover of 19 newcomers, 16 of whom did not remain with the Department. At the year's end 25 men were still employed who were on the establishment at the beginning of the year.

Although it is generally accepted that the heavy work of handling refuse bins in all weathers is ideally the job of younger men, a breakdown of ages shows that the majority of this Department's men have passed "the first flush of youth."

Analysis of Age Groups.

<i>Age Groups</i>		<i>No. of men.</i>
18—21 years	..	1
22—30 ..	..	2
31—40 ..	..	8
41—50 ..	..	8
51—60 ..	..	7
61—65 ..	..	4

(b) Equipment.

In August 1964 the Department purchased a Karrier Ramillies 35 cubic yard bulk container vehicle. One of our early model S. & D. frieghters had reached the end of its economical life and was sold at scrap value to a neighbouring authority for cannibalisation into spares. The opening of the Holyhead Road multi-storey flats, with refuse chute disposal, had created the need for a vehicle capable of handling bulk containers.

During the first few months of occupancy the new flat dwellers experienced some little difficulty in the use of these chutes. The household refuse was arching and jamming the chutes and not falling to the bulk container at ground level. However, after imparting advice on correct usage and instituting a twice weekly collection we succeeded in obviating this early difficulty together with overfilling of containers and consequent spillage.

A Weatherill 45 h.p. mechanically propelled hydraulic shovel was purchased during the year replacing the old tractor, the usefulness of which was quite limited. The new vehicle is capable of carrying out all necessary operations on the tip and furthermore can be driven by road to the Depot each night.

Vehicle List.

<i>Date of purchase.</i>	<i>Type of Vehicle.</i>	<i>Type of Engine.</i>
1957	Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type side loader. 8.9 cu. yds. capacity.	Petrol
1959	Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type side loader. 8.9 cu. yds. capacity.	Petrol
1961	Shelvoke & Drewry "Fore and Aft" Type with Rammer. 16—18 cu. yds. capacity.	Diesel
1963	Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic. 35 cu. yds. capacity.	Diesel
1964	Karrier "Ramillies" Type with special lift. 35 cu. yds. capacity.	Diesel
1964	Weatherill Hydraulic Loading Shovel	Diesel
1955	Ford—5 cwt. Van	Petrol
1958	Morris—Utility Van—30 cwts.	Petrol
1961	Ford—Tipper Lorry—50 cwts.	Petrol

(c) Means of disposal.

Operating on five rounds and when fully staffed with a driver and four men serving each vehicle, some 10,100 tons of refuse were handled during the year. All refuse was deposited on the controlled tip at Coronation Road and 86 tons 16 cwts. of fine ash were purchased for covering.

The tip was treated regularly to reduce the incidence of insect pests and was examined weekly for early signs of possible rodent infestation.

(d) Salvage Recovery and Sale.

287 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. of waste paper and cardboard were baled at the Albert Street Salvage Depot. On sale to the Mills this quantity realised £2,496 0s. 7d.

(e) Ancillary Work.

The work involved in drain cleansing, disinfection, disinfestation and rodent control, all described in other parts of the report was carried out by members of the staff of the Cleansing Section.

The Department does not operate a Rate Assisted dustbin scheme. The Cleansing Section during the year distributed, on behalf of the Housing Estates Department, 709 dustbins to Council houses. The Department, in addition, sold and delivered 293 dustbins to owners of private houses.

