Contributors

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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY





Annual Report

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

1965

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(at 31st December, 1965)

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. E. Price. Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. E. Diggett.

Alderman V. Steed.

,, J. E. James.

" W. A. Griffiths.

Councillor H. Ashby.

.

,, J. Butler.

" R. Vernon.

., L. V. Waldron.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(at 31st December, 1965)

Medical Officer of Health : H. A. H. SUMMERS, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. (resigned 30/9/1965).

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. A. HINGLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistants :

A. G. DARKE, Cleansing and Salvage.
G. REOHORN, Offices, Shops, etc., Act, 1963. (appointed 8/2/1965).

Pupil Public Health Inspectors : D. AYRES. D. P. HADLEY.

Chief Clerk :

R. J. DEELEY.

Administrative Staff :

Mrs. M. SMITH. Miss G. M. LEMAR. Miss L. A. DUNCOMBE (resigned 30/6/1965).

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 Borough of Wednesbury, incorporated with that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, in respect of the year 1965.

Owing to the fact that, as from the 31st March, 1966, the Borough of Wednesbury was scheduled to be divided between the County Boroughs of West Bromwich and Walsall, it is regretted that this report will be the last to be published in its own right. However, it can be stated confidently that the health of the population generally continued throughout 1965 to be satisfactory, and the only infectious disease of any significance was again Measles. The adjusted Birth Rate of 17.6 per 1,000 population, and Death Rate of 14.3 bore reasonable relationship to the National rates.

Despite the approaching dissolution, the work of the Health Department, in all its aspects, continued unabated throughout the year, notably in relation to slum clearance and house improvement plans. The Local Authorities destined to inherit the town of Wednesbury will surely find that all matters bearing on the health of the inhabitants in general have invariably been dealt with as promptly and as effectively as possible. It is fervently to be hoped that the future of the town will bear out the promise of the past.

In conclusion, and for the last time, I wish to thank the Members of the Council in general, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee in particular, for their interest and encouragement at all times, also all other officers and members of other departments who have contributed in any way to the compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

1 In Summers

(Medical Officer of Health (until 30th September, 1965).

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1965

Area (in acres)							2,025
Registrar-General's	s Estimat	te of 1	Populat	tion M	id 1965		34,850
Population Census	1961						34,511
Number of Inhabi the rate book		ses (e	nd of 1	.965, a	ccording	g to	
(i) Coun	ncil Hous	ses					6,001
(ii) Othe	r Houses	5					4,845
							10,846
Rateable Value						£1	,500,194
Sum represented b	y a penn	y rat	e for ye	ear 196	5/66		£5,900

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

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate.	Rate for Borough England Rate for & Wales, 1964.	
Legitimate Illegitimate	300 11	309 12	609 23		6 W atts. 1504.	
	311	321	632	18.1	18.1 17.2	

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

Males. Females. Total. 3.5 3.7 3.6

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

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate.	Rate for England & Wales.	Rate for
Legitimate Illegitimate	6	3	9		0 // 11/01	1001
0	6	3	9	14.0	15.7	19.5
Total Births (live and stil	l) 317	324	641			

per per 1.000 Rate 1,000 Live Fe-1,000 per Males males Total Births 1,000 Legit. Illegit. Live Live Live England Births. & Wales. Births. Births. Legitimate 2 2 4 Illegitimate 2 2 -----Total 2 4 6 9.5 6.3 86.9 19.0 Neo-Natal Mortality. (Deaths under four weeks-Rate per 1,000 Live Births). Rate for England Males. Females. Total. Rate & Wales. 2 Legitimate 1 1 2 2 Illegitimate . . 1 3 4 6.3 13.0

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

Males. Females. Total. Rate. 1 3 4 6.3

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

Total.	Rate.
13	20.2

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

		Rate.	Rate for England & Wales.	
Number of Women dying dur- ing in, or in consequence of Pregnancy, Childbirth				
or Abortion	Nil	0.0	0.25	0.0

Rate

Rate

Rate per

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

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

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.	Rate for England & Wales.	Rate for	
All Causes	199	172	371	10.6	11.5	9.3	

Death Rate from Specified Causes.

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
From Cancer (all ages)	 72	 2.0
From Measles (all ages)	 _	 0.0
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	 —	 0.0
From Diarrhoea (under two years)	 -	 0.0

Social Conditions.

The chief industries are iron and steel manufacture, tube manufacture, hot drop stamping, construction steelwork, edge tools, electrical engineering, iron foundering and kindred trades.

Miss E. G. Duggan, Manager of the Wednesbury Employment Exchange, has kindly given me the following provisional figures of the numbers employed in the industries quoted, from information available at the exchange of National Insurance Cards in June, 1965.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Food, drink and tobacco		612	172	784
Metal Manufacture		6,268	1,028	7,296
Engineering and electrical goods		761	322	1,083
Vehicles		164	72	236
Metal goods not elsewhere specified		2,969	2,277	5,246
Textiles		13	75	88
Clothing and Footwear		27	180	207
Timber, Furniture, etc.		281	63	344
Paper, Printing and Publishing		14	5	19
Other Manufacturing Industries		347	174	521
C:	• •	507	22	529
Gas, electricity and water	• •	341	49	390
	• •			
Transport and Communication	• •	391	51	442
Distributive Trade		484	623	1,107
Insurance, Banking and Finance		45	89	134
Professional and Scientific services		382	757	1,139
Miscellaneous services		336	680	1,016
Public Administration		241	83	324
Grand Totals	•••	14,183	6,722	20,905

Numbers of adults registered as unemployed at 6th December, 1965 :---

(21)	3	(6)	17	(97)
				(27)
(13)		()	_	(13)
(34)	3	(6)	17	(40)
	(34)	(34) 3	(34) 3 (6)	(34) 3 (6) 17

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

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1965.

Causes of Death.	Males	Fe- males	Total	Tot 1960	als for 1961	Previo 1962	us Year 1963	s 1964
Tuberculosis : Respiratory	1	1	2	4	1	4	2	1
Other	_	-	-	-	î	-	_	
Syphilis		_	_	_	_		_	1
Diphtheria		-	-	_				
Whooping Cough			-	-	-			
Meningococcal Infectn.	-	-	-	-		-	-	_
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-			-	
Measles	-	-	-	-	2	-		-
Other Infective and								
Parasitic Diseases	-	1000		1	2		2	1
Malignant Neoplasm :			1 40	1		0	-	
Stomach	5	5	10	$\frac{15}{22}$	14	9	7	$\frac{11}{25}$
Lung and Bronchus Breast	22	55	27 5	5	18 8	22 3	11 7	25
TTI		1	1	2	3	1		2
Other malignant and				-	0			-
lymphatic neoplasms	14	15	29	34	31	21	31	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia		1	1	2	î		2	
Diabetes	2	3	5	2	5	2	1	$\frac{2}{2}$
Vascular lesions of the								
nervous system	24	31	55	62	39	50	43	37
Coronary disease						1.4		
angina	45	30	75	48	57	62	60	55
Hypertension with								
heart disease	3	2	5	ð	4	3	2	7
Other heart disease	16	27	43	51	66	50	46	51
Other circulatory			14	13	-	10	17	10
disease Influenza	9	5	14	15	74	10 3	17	10
The second secon	12	0	21	17	17	17	24	14
Bronchitis	25	9	28	31	36	36	32	22
Other diseases of the				0.	00	00	0-	
respiratory system	3	1	4	3	8	4	4	2
Ulcer of stomach and								
duodenum	-		- 1	4	8	3	5	1
Gastritis, enteritis and								
diarrhoea	1 2	-	1	1	2	2	3	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis		2	4	4	1	27	2	2 3 1
Hyperplasia of prostate		-	-	4	-	1	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth,								
abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital malforma-				3	2	1	5	5
tions	-	-	-	0	-	4	9	0
defined diseases	7	15	22	21	28	23	20	28
Motor vehicle accidents	li	2	3	9	11	5	4	5
All other accidents	1 6 1	6	12	8	9	7	7	8
Suicide	1 1	63	4	9	4	7	7	83
Homicide and opera-								
tions of war	-			-	-	-	1	
momenta		1.00		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.07
TOTALS	199	172	371	385	389	356	353	327
	1	1	1	5		-	1	

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE, YEAR 1965.

Age						
		Disease of Respiratory System.	Congenital Malformation.	Prematurity.	Accidental Asphyxia.	Total.
Under 24 hours	:	 	1 (M) 1 (F)	2 (F)	1	4
24 hours to 1 week	:	1	I	1	1	1
1 week to 1 month	:	1	-	1		1
1 month to 2 months	:	-	1	1	1	I
2 months to 3 months		-	1	-	-	1
4 months to 5 months	:	1	~ ~ ~	I	1 (F)	1
6 months to 7 months	:	1 (M)	ŀ	I	1	-
TOTALS	:	1	¢1	61	1	9

10

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

(as at 31st December, 1965)

A number of environmental Health Services are provided by Staffordshire County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946. For the purpose of administrating 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. 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 Worker 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, 1965 :—

- (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 at Wednesbury Reservoir, the Waterman's house in Wednesbury and at Wood Green Repumping Station.
 - During 1965, 13 samples from Wednesbury Reservoir, 12 from the Waterman's house and 24 from Wood Green Repumping Station were all free from coliform bacteria.
 - Only one of the supplying stations contained any measureable quantity of fluoride. This was Seedy Mill, where an average of .29 p.p.m. was obtained.
 - The average chemical results from the Waterman's house were :---

рН		7.1			
Alkalinity (CaC03)		89	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)		28.0	,,	,,	,,
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)		.018	,,	,,	,,
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)		.10	,,	,,	,,
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)		3.5	,,	,,	,,
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr.	at				
27 deg. C)		1.10	,,	,,	,,
Temporary Hardness		83	,,	,,	,,
Permanent Hardness		149	,,	,,	,,
Total Hardness		232	,,	,,	

Iron (Fe)				.17	parts	per n	nillion
Manganese	(Mn)			.03	.,,	,	,,
Poisonous I	Metals	(Cu &	Pb)	Nil	,,	,,	,,
Fluoride (F)			.14	,,	,,	,,
Free Cl				.01	,,	,,	,,

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 12 samples from the Waterman's house being all 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 pronounce satisfactory.
- (v) (a) The number of houses supplied direct from mains at 31st December, 1965, was 10,844, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.24 persons per house was 35,134.
 - (b) The number of houses supplied by means of an outside tap at 31st December, 1965, was 6, bringing the total supplied by the Company to 10,850.

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.

The programme of replacement of filter media in the bacteriological filters has continued with the emptying and repair of Filter No. 9. The 18-in. effluent main was exposed by the excavation and all leaking joints were repaired to prevent possible contamination from the sludge drying beds, and a length of this main was diverted and reconstructed to avoid the supports of the M6 Motorway viaducts which are to be erected in the near future. The construction of a lagoon for the removal of humus from the final effluent has been commenced to reduce the proportion of suspended solids.

The rainfall for the year was 27.69 inches."

(N.B.—The rainfall for the year 1964 was 19.42 inches.)

SECTION D

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 DURING THE YEAR 1965

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 1965, the following samples were taken in Wednesbury.

Milk.

Untreated	 	 		
Pasteurised	 	 12		
Sterilised	 	 5		
		17	All	genuine

General Foods.

Number	of	samples	taken	44
Number	of	samples	genuine	41
Number	of	samples	adulterated	3

Classification of General Foods.

Pork Sausage (2 samples). Sugar. Tea. English Butter. Lemon Curd. Blackcurrant Jam. Tartare Sauce. Button Mushrooms. Condensed Full Cream Sweetened Milk. Mustard. Seedless Raisins. Ox Tongue. Peas (Frozen). Orange Squash. Mixed Vegetable Macedoine. Fruit Cocktail in Syrup. Lancashire Hotpot. Pork Luncheon Meat. Pickled Beetroot.

Junior Dinner-Beef and Egg Noodle. Strained Orange Pudding. Gelatine. Orange Drink. Cohoe Salmon. Butter. Minced Beef Loaf. Stewed Steak in Rich Gravy. Ravioli. Lemon Squash. Coffee and Chicory Essence. Barley Flour. Desicated Coconut. Dessert Topping Mix. Instant Coffee. Spearmints. Strawberry Split. Chocolate Flavoured Food Drink. Minced Beef with Dumpling. English Stewed Steak and Gravy. Blackcurrant Cordial. Pork Sausages with Preservative (3 samples).

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

77C/N Pork Sausage.

Undeclared Preservative.

New labels printed.

14C/Q Minced Beef Loaf.

3.8% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Should contain 65%. Further sample submitted and found to contain 66.8% of meat.

62C/Q Minced Beef with Dumpling.

Should be described as "Minced Beef and Dumpling with Gravy." Contained 45.0% meat, 25.0% Dumplings, and 30.0% gravy. This is old stock, withdrawn from sale.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

SUMMARY OF RETAIL MILKS SAMPLED BY THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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	No. of Samples	Cle (Me	Cleanliness Test (Methylene Blue).	st ie).	Phosphatase Test (for Pasteurisation)	ase Test urisation)	Turbidity Test (for Sterilisation)	Turbidity Test or Sterilisation)
	Taken.	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test In- complete	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	61	61	1	I	61	I	1	1
Pasteurised	23	23	1	I	23	!	I	1
Sterilised	16	1		1	1	1	16	1
C.I. Pasteurised	6	6]		6	I	1	١
C.I. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	ଚୀ	53		I	¢1	1	1	I
Jersey T.T. (Pasteurised)	1	1	I	I	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	52	36	1	1	36	I	16	1

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SECTION E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases reported during the year was six compared with four in 1964.

Whooping Cough.

The number of cases reported during the year was two compared with eleven in 1964.

Measles.

183 cases were notified in 1965 compared with 73 in 1964.

Diphtheria.

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

Poliomyelitis.

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

Pneumonia.

There were no cases reported in 1965 compared with two in 1964.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

			1	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population.
All forms		 		2	0.057
Pulmonary		 		2	0.057
Non-Pulmon	ary	 		Nil	0.000

Sputum Examinations.

Sender.	Number	Positive	Negative
Chest Clinic	163	16	 147
General Practitioners	4	—	 4

Tuberculosis Cases.

		NEW (CASES.	DEA	THS.
Year.	No. on Register (all forms).	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary
1938	173	26	5	18	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	-
1965	342	10	6	2	

Number on Public Health Department Register (at 31/12/1965)

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	cases admitted to Hospital		1	ł	11	1	I	1		I	11		I	
	Deaths	1		1			1	1		1		11	1	1
	Manor	01	1	14	11	62	1	1	11	1	- 1	11	1	21
	Mesty Wood Croft Green	1	1	69	11	91	1	1					I	72
Wards		1	1	31		9	1	1	11	1			I	38
	King's Hill	01	1	36	11	1	1	1					I	88
	Town	1	1	80 00	11	1	1	;	11	1		11	I	34
	Total All Ages	3) 6	03 	89) 183 940		2) 11 9)				1		 	1	203
	65 and over	11	11	11	11	-	1		11	11	1	11	1	1
	45 64	11	11	11	11	11	1	11	11		1		1	1
	25 to #1	. 11	11	11	11	11	I	11	11	11	1	1	1	1
Final Numbers after Correction.	15 to 24	-	11		11	01	1	11	11		1		1	9
after Co	10 14 14	- 1	11	ea		11	1				1	I	1	÷
mbers	0 <u>3</u> 0	1	=	87 59 59	11	. H 4	I	11	11	1.1	1	1	1	78
nal Nu	4+ year		11	14	11	=	1	11	11	11	1	1	1	30
Fi	3+ year	11		10	11	11	I	11	11	11	1	1	1	500
	2+ year	11	11	67 6		[]	1	11		11	1	1	ļ	31
	1+ year	11	11	9 21	11	-	I			11	1	1	1	55
	Under 1 year		-	00 ve		11	I	11		11	11	1	1	œ
	Nos.	eo eo	09	89 94	11	91.05	1	11		11	1	I	1	203
	DISEASES.	Scarlet Fever : Males Females	Males	Males Females	myelit	Dysentery : Males	Meningococcal Infection Acute Pneumonia :	Males Females	00	Typhoid Fever Paratyphoid Fever	Erysipelas Eood Poison's/Mala	Puerperal Pyrexia Onhthalmia	Neonatorum	TOTALS

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 1965.

Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1937.

Examined.	Males.	Females.	Admitted.
10	 6	 4	 10

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

Examined.	Males.	Females.	Admitted.
35	 30	 5	 34

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

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during 1965.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure, but also with a tinge of sadness, that I present the Annual Report of the Department for 1965. On the 1st April, 1966, the Borough of Wednesbury is due to be divided to form part of the new County Boroughs of Walsall and West Bromwich and consequently from that date the Department ceases to exist as such.

Slum clearance has continued to be pursued with vigour and a scheme for improvement areas, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, received Council approval during the year. Other aspects of the work of the Department have continued to be carried out as a matter of routine.

My thanks are due to Members of the Council and in particular to my Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. Also my thanks go to other officers for their co-operation and especially to members of my department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. CUNNINGHAM,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts 1936 and 196	1.			1965	1964
Dwelling houses				723	671
Infectious diseases				49	68
Drainage				176	101
Refuse Collection	• •			413	185
Housing Acts 1957, 1961 and 196	64.				
Dwelling houses				1509	1507
Houses in multiple occupati	on	Day		394	220
		Evening	• •	58	5
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.					
Food Hygiene (General) Regulati	ons	1960.			
Bakehouses				9	11
Butchers premises				51	44
Food preparation premises				104	51
General food premises				404	265
Open retail market	• •	• •	• •	44	59
Meat Inspection Regulations 1963	3.				
Half day sessions at slaught	erho	ouse		492	606
Noise Abatement Act, 1960.					
Day-time observations		· · ·		14	43
Night-time observations					10
Factories Act, 1961.					
Factories				9	9
Caravan Sites and Control of Dev	elop	ment Act	, 196	0.	
Unlicensed site inspections				74	77
Clean Air Act, 1956.					
Observation of emissions				32	21
Inspections of plant				21	18
Inspections of other premise				8	1
Domestic Survey visits				413	
Other visits				37	36

Offices, Shops and Raily	way Pr	remises	Act, 19	63.		
Visits to premises (i	ncludi	ing pre-r	egistra	tion)	1033	580
Prevention of Damage t	y Pest	ts Act, 1	949.			
Rat infestations Mice infestations					$513 \\ 84$	$ 1148 \\ 136 $
Other pests					8	10
Pet Animals Act, 1951.						
Pet shop inspection	ns				5	6
Miscellaneous.						
Interviews with ge Other visits	neral j	public			491 42	397
		TOT.			7,210	6,286

SECTION A

HOUSING

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

The Council approved a five year programme of slum clearance which comprised a total of 750 houses considered to be unfit for human habitation.

Approval in principle was also given to a programme of improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act 1964 involving approximately 1,200 houses in various parts of the Borough.

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

Mesty Croft (Clearance Area No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order.

Mesty Croft (Clearance Areas No. 1-5 and 7 and 8) Compulsory Purchase Order.

Clearance Orders made under Part III Housing Act, 1957.

Addison Street (Clearance Area No. 1) Clearance Order.

Mesty Croft (Clearance Area No. 6) Clearance Order.

The orders included a total of 320 houses of which 303 were alleged to be unfit for human habitation.

Public local enquiries were held in connection with objections to the Bridge Street and Dangerfield Lane Compulsory Purchase Orders made during 1964 and the Mesty Croft Clearance Area No. 6 Compulsory Purchase Order, all of which were confirmed, the only modifications made by the Ministry being the exclusion, at the Council's request, of areas of "grey" land from the Bridge Street and Mesty Croft Compulsory Purchase Orders. Confirmation was also received during the year of the Addison Street Compulsory Purchase Order. The Minister modified this order by excluding 11 pink and 1 grey property on the ground that the site was of insufficient depth for satisfactory development for housing purposes. The 11 houses were subsequently included in a Clearance Order which was confirmed. The Mill Street Compulsory Purchase Order and Mesty Croft No. 6 Clearance Order were confirmed without modification. The date of the public local enquiry in connection with the Mesty Croft (Clearance Areas 1—5 and 7 and 8) Compulsory Purchase Order was fixed for 25th January, 1966.

The five year slum clearance programme was commenced with the declaration of 8 Clearance Areas including a total of 160 houses.

Demolition Orders made under Part II Housing Act, 1957.

83 and 84, Albert Street. 118 and 119, Brunswick Park Road. 52 and 54, Walsall Road.

Total—6 houses.

Closing Orders made under Part II Housing Act, 1957.

40 and 64, Bridge Street.
29, Hill Street.
73 and 74, Holyhead Road.
4, Hydes Road.
10, North Street.
Back of 33, Union Street.

Total-8 houses.

Corporation Owned Houses Certified unfit.

298, Walsall Road.

Total—1 house.

Houses Demolished during 1965.

(i) Demolition Orders.

85, 87, 89, 91 and 93, Walsall Road.
66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72 and 73, Leabrook Road. Total—12 houses.

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

14, 15, 16, 17, 42 and 43, Russell Street.
73, 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78, Upper Russell Street.
45, 46, 47 and 48, Camp Street.
108, 110 and 112, Darlaston Road.
3, 4, 7 and 8, Leabrook Road.
12 and 14, Manor House Road. Total—25 houses.

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

178, Holyhead Road. 114 and 116, Darlaston Road. Total—3 houses.

Persons and families Displaced during 1965.

Clearance Areas—343 Persons comprising 109 families. Demolition Orders—108 Persons comprising 30 families. Closing Orders—20 persons comprising 7 families.

Houses Repaired and subject to notices during 1965-

Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961.

Informal notices served				133
Premises affected .				165
Complied with				55
Premises affected .	-			143
Statutory Notices served	ι.			60
Premises affected .				69
Statutory Notices compl	ied wit	h.		40
Premises affected .				63

(b) Control of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

A total of 394 day visits and 58 evening visits were made to this type of premises. The policy of enforcement of Housing Act requirements and teaching the recognition of fire and health hazards to the immigrant members of the community continued.

While the Department met with considerable co-operation it was found necessary to institute proceedings in two cases :

Case 1. Section 16 Housing Act 1961.

Failure to provide adequate means of escape from fire, *i.e.*, one fire check door.

Owner fined $\pounds 10$ and work carried out in default.

Case 2. Section 90 Housing Act 1957 :

Failure to comply with an overcrowding notice.

Section 15 Housing Act 1961 :

Failure to provide adequate personal washing facilities.

Section 16 Housing Act, 1961 :

Failure to provide adequate means of escape from fire. The two owners were each fined $\pounds 15$ on each of the three offences and structural works carried out in default.

During the last week of October 1965 the Staffordshire County Fire Brigade, with the co-operation of the Department, as part of the National Fire Prevention Campaign, held a static exhibition in Wednesbury on fire hazards associated with multiple occupancy and immigrant families. This was very well received, some 1,500 people attended, including representatives of a number of official bodies.

(c) Housing Miscellanea.

Rent Act, 1957.

There was no application made for certificates of disrepair nor for the cancellation of certificates.

Land Charges Act, 1925.

353 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 now that the Council has adopted the programme of co-ordinated Improvement Areas.

Caravans.

Early in the year the Council delegated the responsibility for dealing with unauthorised siting of caravans, on Corporation ground, to the Borough Surveyor. Despite the sharing of responsibility the inspectors made a total of 74 visits to caravans sited on private ground—almost as many visits as were made to caravans on both private and Corporation ground during the previous year.

SECTION B

FOOD

(a) Meat Inspection Service.

During the year under review the Council varied its system of meat inspection charges from a fixed annual sum to a sliding scale. Under the new scheme, if the day's kill is completed during the morning then the charge per animal is less than the standard. If, however, the kill continues into the afternoon, the charge per animal for the whole day becomes the standard charge of 9d. each pig. In this way it is hoped to encourage the Management of the Bacon Factory, by offering a financial incentive, to ease the department's meat inspection burden in a way which permits inspectors to be available for other duties during the whole of an afternoon whenever possible.

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.
1965	 46, 274 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.
1965	 21 tons 19 cwts. 3 qrs. 3 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.

			Pigs
Number killed (1965)	 	 	46,274
Number inspected	 	 	46,274

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cy	sticerci.	
Whole Carcases condemned		85
Carcases of which some part or condemned		10,520
Percentage of the number inspec with diseases other than Tube	cted affected	
Cysticerci		22.9
Tuberculosis only.		
Whole carcases condemned		J
Carcases of which some part or condemned		669
Percentage of the number inspec with Tuberculosis	cted affected	1.4
Cysticercosis.		
Carcases of which some part or condemned		Ni
Carcases submitted to treatment	by refriger-	
ation		Ni
Generalised and totally condemne	ed	Ni

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Two persons, new applicants and ten others, totalling twelve were recommended to the Council as "fit and proper" and were duly licensed as slaughtermen.

(b) Food Hygiene and Control.

A complete survey of all food establishments was begun during the year and despite the 1964 figure of food premises' inspections being falsely high, there has been a considerable increase in the 1965 figures. On the whole co-operation from the various trades has been good. In all some 92 letters have been despatched relating to non-compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations in the various premises inspected.

Analysis of Food Premises.

The list of food premises is taken from Annual Reports of previous years. Last year I made the comment that the list was obsolete. While many of the premises originally involved may have disappeared or trades and businesses changed hands, this list still represents a fair picture of the distribution of food trades in the town.

Greengrocers			 	26
Grocers			 	71
Fried Fish			 	24
General			 	54
Cafes			 	15
Bakers			 	14
Butchers			 	30
Public Houses			 	74
Off Licences			 	8
Slaughterhouses	5		 	1
Ice Cream Vend	lors		 	134
Ice Cream Man	ufactu	rers	 	3

Food Inspection Analysis.

Rejected as unfit.		Cuets.	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
366 tins of meat		12	1	9	5
49 tins of fruit		1	2	18	131
12 tins of fish			1		13
1 tin of soup					151
1 tin of stew					15
77 tins of vegetables		1	3	19	1
19 tins of juice				22	9
4 tins of Baby Food				1	2
2 tins of Cream					10
2 tins of Rice Pudding				3	10
1 tin of Macaroni					$15\frac{1}{2}$
42 packets Frozen Fish			1	12	2
23 packets of vegetables				17	4
Calves Heads			2	24	
Gammon	• •			17	
Total—1965		17	3	9	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Total—1964		13	3	20	$6\frac{1}{2}$

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.

SECTION C

AIR AND NOISE

(a) Domestic Smoke Control.

413 visits were made to dwelling houses in consequence of the Council's acceptance of a five year programme of combined Improvement Smoke Control Areas. 1,275 dwellings already exist in two areas which were declared Smoke Control Areas in previous years.

(b) Industrial Air Pollution.

There was a slight increase in the observations of smoke from industrial plant. In the main the Department's inspectors met with co-operation in directing the attention of managements to excessive emissions.

(c) Noise Abatement.

Complaints of excessive noise arose mainly from inherently noisy industrial processes being carried out at times which were not acceptable to people living in the vicinity. In all cases the operating times of these processes were brought within reasonable limits.

SECTION D

WORKING CONDITIONS

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

The amount of activity in this sphere can be assessed from the 1,033 visits made to premises during the year. Of the 193 premises receiving initial inspections only 6 were found to be completely up to standard.

Analysis of registrations and inspections.

				Registered	Total	Premises
				in 1965.	Registered.	closed during
						1965.
Offices				16	76	1
Shops				8	212	14
Wholesa	le Wa	rehouse	es	3	15	
Catering	Estal	blishme	nts	2	46	

Registration applications passed to the Factory Inspector during 1965 : 3.

Notifiable Accidents.

3 notifiable accidents were investigated during 1965.

Analysis of contraventions and defects.

Overcrowding					 5
Temperature					 132
Ventilation					 16
Lighting					 122
Floors and Steps					 97
Decorating					 155
Handrails					 9
Sitting Facilities					 15
First Aid Boxes					 115
Washing Facilities					 71
Sanitary Convenience	ces				 49
Cleanliness					 26
Windows	• •	• •	• •	• •	 39
Abstract of the Act	• •	• •	• •		 112

(b) Factories Act, 1961.

Once again it is to be regretted that Factories Act work was minimal.

Analysis of Inspections and Defects.

Inspections.

Premises.	Number	Number of			
Fremises.	on Register.	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 in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	210	8	-		
 (3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (exclud- ing outworkers) 	_		_	_	
TOTALS	218	8		_	

Defects.

-	Number	r of cases in wh	ich defects we	re iound.
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	. To H.M. By H Inspector. Inspec	
Sanitary Convenience (S.7)—				
(a) Insufficient	-	_	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	_	_	—	_
TOTALS	2	1		

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.

	Local Authority properties	Houses including Council Houses	All other properties	Total
Properties in the area	22	10,622	1,970	12,614
Number of properties inspected	_	326	120	446
Number of properties infested by : Rats Mice	_	$\begin{array}{c} 274\\ 52 \end{array}$	88 32	362 84
Total of inspections and re-inspections	_	365	148	513

Analysis of rats and mice treatments.

(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 proprietory 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 d	isinfect	ed				1
Number of	Council I	nouses o	lisinfe	ested af	iter bug	gs	2
Number of pests	Council					other	69
Number of	other ho	uses di	sinfes	ted afte	er bugs		
Number of	other hou	ises disi	infeste	ed after	other p	pests	19

(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. 208 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 six 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 39 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 1965 21 men left the Department and 26 entered into employment and of these 11 are still with us.

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 half of the Department's men are over 40 years of age.

Analysis of Age Groups.

			No. of
Age Gr	oups.		men.
18-21 ye	ears		4
22-30	,,		5
31 - 40	,,		6
41-50			6
51 - 60	,,		6
61 - 65	,,		3

(b) Equipment.

Vehicle List.

Date of		Type of
Purchase.	Type of Vehicle.	Engine.
1957	Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type side	Petrol
	loader. 8.9 cu. yds. capacity.	
1959	Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type side	Petrol
	loader. 8.9 cu. yds. capacity.	
1961	Shelvoke & Drewry "Fore and Aft "	Diesel
	Type with Rammer. 16—18 cu.	
	yds. capacity.	
1963	Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic 35	Diesel
	yds. capacity.	
1964	Karrier "Ramillies" Type with	Diesel
	special lift. 35 cu. yds. capacity.	
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, over 10,000 tons of refuse were handled during the year. All refuse was deposited on the controlled tip at Coronation Road and fine ash was 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.

(b) Ancillary Work.

The work involved in drain cleaning, 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.