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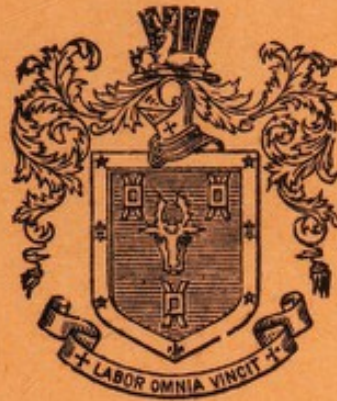
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County Borough of West Bromwich



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of West Bromwich

FOR

1959



COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1959

HUGH BRYANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1959)

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Deputy Chairman : Councillor M. Evitts

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Alderman A. Green Councillor Dr.H.Roy, M.Sc., M.R.C.S.
Alderman F. Leeson Councillor E. Spooner
Councillor D. Badenoch Councillor M.E. Thornton
Councillor J.W. Carter Councillor M.B. Waldron
Councillor P. Heffernan Councillor J. Wenlock
Councillor L. Peckover

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D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
F.R. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P.
Mr. L.H. Timmins

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Chairman : Alderman A. Green
Deputy Chairman : Councillor Rev. G.L. Slater, M.A.

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Alderman F. Leeson Councillor L. Peckover
Councillor M. Evitts F.R. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
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CO-OPTED MEMBER

Mr. J.W. Hubbard

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman : Alderman A. Green

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Mrs. J. Scott, J.P.)
Alderman F. Leeson Councillor E. Spooner
Councillor L. Peckover Councillor J. Wenlock
Councillor J.T. Shingler Councillor G. Whitehouse

WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman: : Councillor D. Manifold
Deputy Chairman:: Councillor Rev. G.L. Slater, M.A.

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Councillor C. Cottrell Councillor M.B. Waldron
Councillor J.T. Shingler Councillor J. Wenlock
Councillor R.T. Spooner, M.A.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr. A.E. Coley
Mr. N. Startin
Mrs. A. Cross
Mrs. A. Leadbrook
Mrs. E.E. Phillips

PRINCIPAL STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH &
CHIEF WELFARE OFFICER ... H.O.M. BRYANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH ... MARGARET A. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS
OF HEALTH ... CYNTHIA A.R. BRAY, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.Obs.R.C.O.G., D.C.H. (from
13.4.1959.)

JOYCE D. WAYE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.Obs.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
(to 26.9.1959)

CARMEL A. CASSERLEY, M.B., B.Ch.
(from 19.1.1959 to 11.4.1959)

STELLA C. SLADE, M.B., Ch.B.,
(from 1.2.1959 to 8.7.1959)

PART-TIME ... R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

CHEST PHYSICIAN (PART-TIME).. C.W.D. COLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL
OFFICER ... J.G. POTTER, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.
(to 28.2.1959)

Dental Officers give one session a week to services for mothers and young children.

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT ... S. CAYTON, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
M.Inst., F.M. Inst., P.C.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR ... G.H. SHAW, Cert.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(to 2.12.1959)

On the 31st December there were 2 specialist Public Health Inspectors engaged in housing inspection, 2 in food inspection and 1 in air pollution. There were also 1 district inspector and 3 pupils.

NURSING SERVICES

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER ... MISS E.A. ROBERTS, S.C.M., S.R.N.,
H.V. Certificate

DEPUTY CHIEF NURSING OFFICER ... MISS M.E. GREASLEY, S.C.M., S.R.N.,
H.V. Certificate

SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES AND
HOME NURSES ... MISS E.M. BICKERTON, S.C.M., S.R.N.,
(from 18.6.1959)

On the 31st December, there were 12 Health Visitors giving 7/11ths of their time to this service and the remainder to the School Health Service. There were in addition 1 full-time tuberculosis visitor and 2 student health visitors.

The Home Nursing Staff consisted of an equivalent of 9½ full-time nursing staff.
There were 11 Municipal Midwives.

ADMINISTRATIVE

CHIEF CLERK ... A. SHAW (to 31.5.1959)
M.E. POWELL, D.P.A., (from 3.8.1959)

There were 15 members of the clerical staff.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER ... T. KEELING

There were, in addition, a Mental Health Social Worker engaged in the after-care of the mentally ill, and a Mental Health Officer engaged in the care of the mental defectives in the community.

HOME HELP SERVICE

HOME HELP ORGANISER ... MRS. J.M. DAY

On the 31st December, there was a total of 58 home helps being equivalent in terms of full-time service to 38.

WELFARE SERVICES

SENIOR WELFARE OFFICER ... A. SHAW (from 1.6.1959)

There were, in addition, 4 Welfare Officers, 2 Occupational Therapists, and 1 Storekeeper/Clerk in this Service.

OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS

OCCUPATION CENTRE ... 'The Crest',
Churchfields,
West Bromwich.

SUPERVISOR: MISS D. BLAKE

HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

'Beech Holme',
53, Beeches Road,
West Bromwich.

... WARDENS: MR. & MRS. C. PLANT
(To 5.12.1959)

'The Hawthorns',
Green Lane,
Great Barr.

... WARDEN: MISS F. WYATT
(to 4.8.1959)
MISS V. MARLOW
(from 1.9.1959)

'Lyndon House',
Lyndon,
West Bromwich.

... WARDENS: MR. & MRS. J. Taylor

'Greenside House',
Greenside Way,
Yew Tree Estate.

... SUPERINTENDENT & MATRON:
MR. & MRS. G. MEDLEY

FOREWORD

This is my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the County Borough of West Bromwich and covers the year 1959.

Statistics

The vital statistics indicate that in matters of life and death West Bromwich shows no substantial difference from the rest of the country during the year under review.

On the size of the population and the small number of occurrences on which the rates are based, fluctuations can be considerable yet still be within the limits normally accepted as due to chance. This is particularly true of infant, maternal and perinatal mortality rates.

As in the country as a whole, the death rate from lung cancer in West Bromwich is still rising and probably will continue to do so.

It is interesting to note that the number of deaths from road accidents (which rightly are the subject of great public concern) are the same in number as deaths by suicide.

Local Health Services

The midwifery service still causes concern because of the shortage of midwives. Domiciliary midwifery may be a satisfying job, but it is not attractive (especially in off-duty) to young nurses. The present midwives are mainly older in age and the absence of younger members means that a difficult situation may arise in a few years, particularly as the number of births is likely to rise when the persons born in 1945-7 have children.

The Cranbrook Committee reported on the midwifery service but difficulties are still caused by the fact that all three parts of the health service have interests in this field.

The priority dental service for mothers and young children sounds impressive, but due to the shortage of local authority dentists, makes little difference to the dental health of these groups.

Infant welfare clinics continue to be well attended but cannot replace the routine visiting by health visitors of infants in their own homes. Clinic premises at Great Barr and Yew Tree Estate are not very satisfactory in size and convenience.

The number of health visitors employed is well below the figure suggested by the Ministry of Health as a guide to number and recruitment of suitable nurses. Consideration will need to be given to more effective use of those employed, by the use of nurses to relieve health visitors of routine duties not requiring their specialised training.

The home nursing service has succeeded in recruiting more nurses, but will be strengthened when the scheme for training district nurses comes into being - it is hoped, in 1960.

All the nursing staff are in poor accommodation in the School Clinic and a nursing centre with proper facilities is urgently needed.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis has occupied a great deal of time and energy, but the response of the general population of between 25 and 40 years of age has been small.

The introduction of radiotelephony into the ambulance service has assisted greatly in providing better control and deployment of ambulances.

The introduction of short courses for home helps has been welcomed by the staff and proved a success.

Although the authority received permission to provide a chiroprody service this has not yet been started.

Infectious Diseases

There is little of note to report except an increase in the number of cases of gonorrhoea (which is a reflection of a national epidemic) and the increase in the number of sporadic cases of suspected food poisoning.

Welfare Services

West Bromwich, at the end of the year, had a substantial waiting list for admission to homes for the elderly and is short of beds in this type of accommodation in comparison with the average provision in county boroughs.

The provision of beds for the chronic sick in the local hospitals is also below the number necessary and the average for the country.

The services for the handicapped are well developed, and continued to expand during the year.

The service for the welfare of the blind (which is given through the agency of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind) suffered by the death of Mr. L. Pritchard, the Home Teacher. The great affection shown by the blind persons for Mr. Pritchard is the best indication of the great work he did in a lifetime of service for those who (like himself) were blind.

The expansion in number of welfare officers assisted greatly and particularly with the appointment of a Senior Welfare Officer to help with the administration of what is now a substantial service.

Other Services

The demands for special consideration for rehousing on the grounds of illness or handicap continued to occupy a great deal of time. This is not a pleasant task, and many of these cases, though no doubt in need, have to be refused support as no strong medical reasons exist.

Environmental Services

The main deficiency in these services is the absence of adequate attention to food hygiene in the shops and food manufacturing premises of the town.

The frequent unexpected visit of the Public Health Inspector to such premises is the only satisfactory method of ensuring that, within the powers of the Corporation, all is done to see that food arrives at the consumer after satisfactory handling and storage.

It needs emphasizing that although most of the problems relating to hygiene are capable of technical solution the constant watch and control given by the Public Health Inspector is necessary to ensure the application of modern knowledge to the individual situation.

The sudden death of Mr. G. Shaw, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector came as a great loss. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the town, his lively wit, and his kindness endeared him to all his colleagues.

Conclusion

I have not mentioned the Mental Health Act, 1959, as this raises problems which will merit report in the future. The existing services form a valuable start but considerable expansion in training facilities, social help, and the provision of accommodation will be needed to implement this legislation.

The mental health service will have to grow steadily through the years ahead involving additional staff and considerable capital expenditure if the Act is to be implemented in West Bromwich.

Finally, I must thank many people - the Health and Welfare Services Committees for their confidence in the staff, my medical colleagues for their help and (occasionally) tolerance, the other Chief Officers of the Corporation, always understanding and ready to assist, and to the staff of the department who always do the work efficiently and cheerfully.

HUGH BRYANT
Medical Officer of Health
and Chief Welfare Officer

July 1960

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PART 1.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Summary of Statistics

Population

Births

Deaths

Infant Mortality

Morbidity

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1959

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH

The County Borough of West Bromwich is situated in South Staffordshire and is a manufacturing town principally engaged in foundry work and allied industries.

Elevation above sea level	...	...	...	347 ft. to 569 ft.
Geological formation	....	...	...	Sandy sub-soil and prevalence of hard sandstone rock.
Rainfall (inches)	...	...	...	27.43
Area in acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	7,172
Population per acre	...	...	...	13.05
New houses certified including flats, 1959	...	...	...	530
Estimated number of houses in the Borough as at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	27,250
Rateable value at the 1st April, 1959	...	...	...	£1,136,127
Rate at 1d. in the £ estimated to produce	...	...	...	£4,800

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	87,901
Population (estimated civilian population mid-1959)	...	...	...	93,590
Live births	...	...	...	1,680
Live birth rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	17.9
Live birth rate (per 1,000 population) corrected	...	...	...	16.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	3.4
Stillbirths	...	...	...	53
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	30.6
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	1,733
Infant deaths	...	...	...	32
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	19.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate births)	...	...	...	18.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 illegitimate births)	...	...	...	35
Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	14.9
Early Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	12.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & stillbirths)	...	...	...	42.7
Maternal deaths (including abortions)	...	...	...	2
Maternal mortality rate (including abortions) per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	1.2
Deaths	...	...	...	971
Death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	10.4
Death rate (corrected)	...	...	...	13.9
Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	0.16
Cancer death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	1.8

ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.5
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.0
Infant mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.2

NAME AND ADDRESS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Hugh Bryant, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Health Department,
2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.

Telephone Number: West Bromwich 1891 (Home: Streetly 1145).

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The following figures show the rise in the estimated population of the Borough since the census in 1951:-

1951	...	...	...	87,210
1952	...	...	...	87,640
1953	...	...	...	87,960
1954	...	...	...	88,650
1955	...	...	...	89,640
1956	...	...	...	90,720
1957	...	...	...	93,050
1958	...	...	...	93,380
1959	...	...	...	93,590

The adult male population in this country can be classified for statistical purposes into five main groups by occupation. The numbers of each group in every thousand of the population in West Bromwich, compared with the average for England and Wales as a whole, are as follows:-

	<u>Census 1951</u>	
	<i>West Bromwich</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Professional occupations	14	33
Intermediate occupations	92	150
Skilled occupations	591	527
Partly Skilled occupations	148	162
Unskilled occupations	155	128

Births

There were 1,680 live births during the year to residents of West Bromwich compared with 1,662 in 1958.

Of the births to West Bromwich residents, 54% took place in hospital and 46% at home, compared with 59% in hospital and 41% at home in 1958.

There were 57 illegitimate births, giving an illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births of 34 compared with 36 in 1958.

Stillbirths

The total number of stillbirths to West Bromwich residents was 53 giving a stillbirth rate of 30.6 per 1,000 total births, compared with 20.0 in 1958.

Deaths

There were 971 deaths of West Bromwich residents (520 males and 451 females) during the year, 63% of which occurred in persons aged 65 years and over. This gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 10.4. If this is corrected by use of the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General to take account of the age structure of the population in relation to that nationally, the figure is 13.9, compared with 12.6 in 1958.

The following table shows the principal causes of death over the last 10 years.

**Summary of the Principal Causes of Death
for the years 1950 - 1959**

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cancer	154	165	128	149	132	167	160	149	151	191
Heart diseases	256	275	199	211	221	251	229	249	246	247
Pneumonia	46	43	33	32	24	33	35	41	41	48
Bronchitis and other respir- atory diseases	69	96	82	107	84	115	90	117	97	110
Vascular lesions	113	103	113	121	97	124	137	128	111	137
Tuberculosis:										
Pulmonary	50	39	27	27	32	30	15	13	19	15
Non-pulmonary	3	6	4	6	3	2	2	3	-	-

Deaths from Cancer

The following table gives details of the number of deaths, localisation of, and the rate per cent of total cancer deaths, for certain specified sites of the body:-

	<i>Number of deaths during</i>		<i>Rate per cent of total cancer deaths</i>	
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Stomach	30	33	19.9	19.1
Lung and bronchus	29	42	19.2	24.2
Breast	13	14	8.6	8.1
Uterus	8	9	5.3	5.2
Others	71	75	47.0	43.4
	<u>151</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

**Deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory System excluding
Cancer of the Lung**

The following table gives the number of deaths in age groups from diseases of the respiratory system in men and women during the year. The number of deaths of West Bromwich residents from pulmonary tuberculosis was 15, giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.16 per 1,000 population, compared with 2.2 in 1958.

Age Group	Tuberculosis Respiratory		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchitis		Other diseases of respiratory system.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 -14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -44 years	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	4
45 -64 years	8	-	8	2	11	-	12	3	5	2	44	7
65 -74 years	-	1	6	3	6	6	28	6	2	1	42	17
75 years & over	1	-	6	1	10	10	12	11	-	1	29	23
Totals	12	3	20	6	30	18	52	21	7	4	121	52

Certain causes of Death

It is obvious that cancer of the lung, cancer of the breast, cancer of the stomach, coronary thrombosis and bronchitis, between them are responsible for many of the deaths. The figures for England and Wales and for West Bromwich, given as rates per thousand population, are as follows:-

<u>Types of Disease</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>West Bromwich</u>
Cancer of the lung	.45	.45
Cancer of the breast	.19	.15
Cancer of the stomach	.30	.35
Coronary disease	1.83	1.42
Bronchitis	.63	.78

In comparing these rates attention should be drawn to the size of England and Wales, compared with the County Borough of West Bromwich, and to the difference that the operation of chance can make in so small a community as that of West Bromwich.

In commenting on these figures attention must be drawn to the steadily rising rate for cancer of the lung. This is most marked and whilst the phenomenon is being repeated in most countries the figures for Great Britain are the highest.

Infant Mortality

A total of 32 infants whose parents were normally resident in the Borough died during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 19.0. The equivalent rate for England and Wales is 22.2 Two illegitimate babies died.

With such a small number of infant deaths now occurring considerable variation can be expected in the infant mortality rate for West Bromwich from year to year.

The following table shows the infant deaths in age groups over the period of the last ten years:-

Year	Under 1 Month	1 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 - 9 Months	9 - 12 Months	Total	Infant death rate
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
1952	31	9	7	5	2	54	36
1953	22	9	7	6	1	45	30
1954	43	3	6	2	2	56	37
1955	23	4	8	-	3	38	26
1956	23	8	3	-	1	35	23
1957	27	3	5	3	3	41	24
1958	18	3	2	-	-	23	14
1959	25	3	2	-	2	32	19

The following table shows the infant deaths under certain selected causes during the year:-

	Under 1 Month	1 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 - 9 Months	9 - 12 Months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	14	-	-	-	-	14
Congenital Malformations	7	2	1	-	1	11
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	1
Asphyxia	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other defined diseases	3	1	-	-	1	5
Totals	25	3	2	-	2	32

Deaths under four weeks of age

There were 25 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 14.9 per 1,000 live births compared with 10.8 in 1958. The following table shows the age at which death occurred during the period of the first month.

1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Deaths under 1 Month
12	2	4	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	25

Perinatal Mortality

The statistical device of a perinatal mortality rate is aimed at taking into account deaths occurring just before and just after the process of birth in an endeavour to give a total idea of the loss of infant life at about the time of birth. Expressed statistically, it is as follows:-

Deaths in the first week of life + stillbirths x 1,000

Total births (both live and still)

The figure for West Bromwich this year is 42.7 compared with 29.5 in 1958. In view of the small number of children involved, infant mortality rates are unreliable and the perinatal death rate may give a better idea of the total wastage of infant life. The 1959 figure compares with the national figure of 34.2.

Morbidity

The graph given overleaf on Page 22 shows the number of new claims for sickness benefit received by the Ministry of National Insurance each week during the year.

Deaths from Home Accidents

There were 5 deaths from accidents in the home, compared with 2 in 1958. These were as follows:-

Female	2 years	-	Electric shock
Male	54 years	-	Fall out of window
Male	69 years	-	Burns - lighting paraffin stove
Female	74 years	-	Coal gas poisoning
Male	77 years	-	Fall downstairs

Suicide

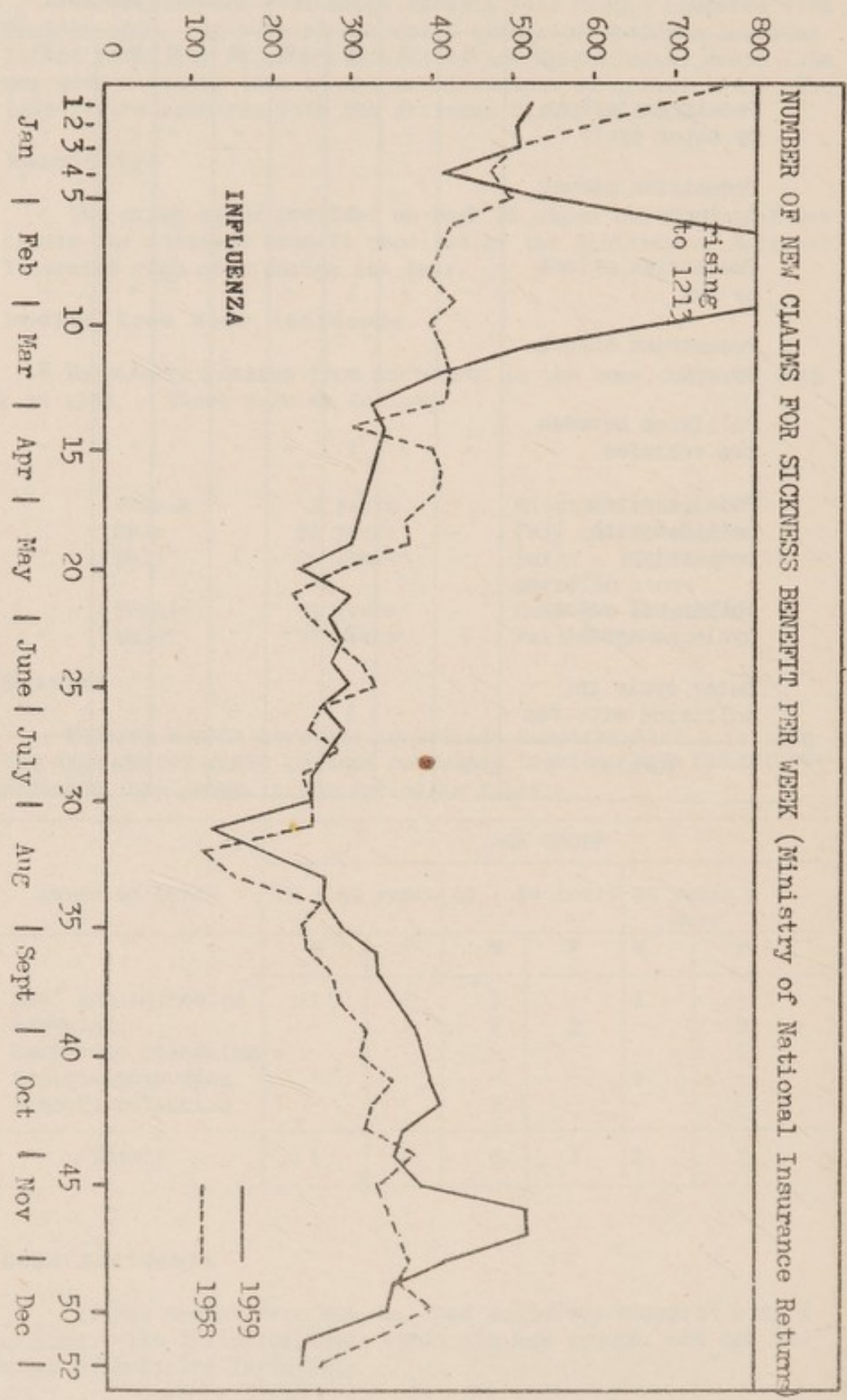
Fifteen deaths were due to suicide compared with 9 in 1958. The ages and sex of the persons concerned, together with the methods employed, are shown in the following table:-

Cause of Death	AGE GROUP					
	15 - 44 years		45 - 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Coal gas poisoning	1	-	3	-	1	-
Drowning	-	1	2	2	-	2
Barbitone poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1
Aspirin poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ammonia poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	6	2	2	3

Road Accidents

Fifteen deaths were due to road accidents compared with 9 in 1958. The following table shows the age groups, sex and the types of vehicles involved:-

	AGE GROUP							
	5 - 14 years		15 - 44 years		45 - 64 years		65 years and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pedestrian struck by motor cycle	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pedestrian struck by lorry	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian struck by 'bus	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian struck by car	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Collision between two vehicles	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pedal cyclist - collided with pedestrian	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Thrown off motor cycle in street	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Motor cycle in collision with van	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	8	-	1	-	2	2



PART 11

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Midwifery

Health Visiting

Home Nursing

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance

Care and After Care

Home Help

Mental Health

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Ante-Natal Clinics

The Authority ran ante-natal clinics, at which post-natal examinations were also carried out, at the following centres:-

Boulton Road Infant Welfare Centre
Friar Park Infant Welfare Centre
Greets Green Infant Welfare Centre
Hamstead Infant Welfare Centre
Highfields Infant Welfare Centre
Hill Top Infant Welfare Centre
Stone Cross Infant Welfare Centre
Yew Tree Infant Welfare Centre

These were staffed by nursing staff from the local authority and medical officers from the hospital service. There were 405 sessions held during the year with an average attendance of 12 patients per session. The maternity service of this country is an overlapping one with considerable criss-crossing of responsibility between hospital, local authority and general practitioner. The patients seen at the clinics were those who intended to be confined at home whose doctors wished them to attend the clinic for ante-natal care as well as care given at surgeries. Wasserman, Kahn and Rhesus testing were carried out in every case and arrangements existed for the transfer of information to the general practitioner concerned. No special post-natal clinics were held.

Staff

At each clinic the following Health Department staff were in attendance:-

A health visitor

A midwife with a pupil midwife on occasions

A medical officer from the hospital

Attendances

New bookings	...	...	...	...	798
Return	...	...	...	...	4,268
Post-natal	...	...	...	...	49
				Total	5,115

Relaxation Classes and Instruction in Childbirth

During 1959, 177 expectant mothers were instructed in 'Relaxation for Natural Childbirth' and mothercraft. They were keen and interested pupils, showing a great need for instruction by the endless and wide variety of questions put forward during the discussion period. The many deeply appreciative letters from patients show the value of this instruction.

The nursing staff who attended the mothers during childbirth have reported the well controlled state, not only of the mothers but other members of their household. This has proved of great value to the midwives.

Eighteen mothers had instruction in post-natal relaxation exercises which was of great value.

Infant Welfare Centres

The only change in the pattern of Infant Welfare Centres during the year was the introduction of a further session at Red House Infant Welfare Centre. The Centres continued to operate from the same buildings as previously, and the following table gives details of the place, day and total sessions and attendances.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Total Sessions during the year</i>	<i>Total attendance during the year</i>
Boulton Road	Tuesday	49	3,589
	Thursday	50	
Friar Park	Wednesday	51	2,688
Hamstead	Friday	50	2,449
Greets Green	Wednesday	51	2,675
Highfields	Monday	49	5,066
	Thursday	50	
Hill Top	Monday	49	3,890
	Thursday	50	
Red House Park	Monday	25	3,098
	Tuesday	49	
Stone Cross	Tuesday	49	3,529
	Friday	50	
Yew Tree	Wednesday	51	3,585
	Friday	50	
	Totals	723	30,569

Each centre was staffed by health visitors and a medical officer of the Health Department staff.

Vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis, together with immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough continued to be carried out at the Centres.

Further details of the children attending the centres are given below:-

	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances
Children between 0 - 1 year	1,459	23,182
" " 1 - 2 years	97	3,482
" " 2 - 5 years	54	3,905

No special toddler clinics were run. Health education was carried out by the Health visitors in the clinics.

Food and Medicaments

There was a central distribution centre open during office hours for the distribution of baby food, orange juice and cod-liver oil, and supplies were also available at all Infant Welfare Clinics in the borough.

Dental Service

The priority dental service for mothers and young children is extremely small. The Principal School Dental Officer who normally reports on these activities resigned, and it proved impossible to fill the post until after the end of the year. The School Dental Service for most of the year consisted, therefore of part-time officers, and, being well below establishment, could not devote much time to this service.

The following table shows the work performed by this service -

TABLE 'A' - Number provided with dental care.

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made dentally Fit
Expectant and nursing mothers	82	82	145	127
Children under five years	150	150	224	208

TABLE 'B' - Forms of dental treatment provided.

	Scaling and gum treatment	Fillings	Silver nitrate treatment.	Crowns or inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radiographs
							Full upper or lower	Partial Upper or lower	
Expectant & Nursing Mothers	37	69	-	-	626	109	20	18	18
Children under 5 years	2	11	2	-	476	216	-	-	-

Care of Unmarried Mothers

This work is undertaken by the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare who reports as follows:

Twenty-four cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1959 have been dealt with by the Workers and these are reported on below. In addition five cases in which births occurred prior to 1959 were helped in various ways including making plans for adoption and obtaining payments from putative fathers. Six expectant mothers whose babies were due to be born in 1960 had the necessary plans made for their confinements. This makes a total of 35 cases under care during 1959.

Ten mothers were accommodated in Diocesan Homes and fourteen were confined in hospital returning to their own homes afterwards.

Three of the cases concerned married women. Of these, one was a widow, one legally separated and one was reconciled with her husband who allowed his wife to keep the child who was absorbed into the family.

One girl married the father of her baby.

When possible the putative fathers were interviewed in the hope of obtaining payments towards the maintenance of the child, but in many cases the men could not be traced; frequently the girls refused to take action or there was no evidence on which to obtain an order. Two affiliation orders were obtained, four private agreements arranged and payments made through the Worker. In one case where the mother was keeping her baby, a grant was made by Dr. Barnardo's towards the child's maintenance - the Worker acting as intermediary.

The ages of the mothers ranged between 14 and 42 and are listed as follows:-

Aged 14 years	...	...	1
" " 15 " "	...	...	1
" 16 "	...	...	2
" 17 "	...	...	2
" 18 "	...	...	2
" 19 "	...	...	5
" 20 "	...	...	1
" 21 "	...	...	1
" 22 - 27 years	...	...	5
" 28 - 34 "	...	...	1
" 35 - 40 "	...	...	1
" 40 years and over	...	...	2

The ages of the putative fathers ranged between 17 and 43.

The babies were placed as follows:-

With their mothers at home	...	10
With parents - married	...	1
With mother in situation	...	1
In local authority home	...	1
In voluntary children's homes	...	3
Adopted through the Association...		7
Transferred to a Worker outside the area	...	1

In the majority of cases it was felt that the children were being adequately cared for and were happily settled. There were two cases where the Worker notified the health visitors because she felt that the child was not receiving adequate care.

One hundred and ninety-two visits have been paid in connection with the 35 cases under care. In addition, the homes of prospective adopters have been inspected and reported on, girls conveyed to homes and accompanied when they have had to appear in Court or to have their signatures witnessed when consenting to an Adoption Order being made.

We wish to express our appreciation of the help and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and his Staff.

Family Planning

The West Bromwich Branch of the Family Planning Association held a clinic in the Highfields Infant Welfare Centre during the year. The sessions were once weekly on Wednesday evening. The following is a summary of the work during the year:-

Number of sessions held	47
Number of new patients seen during the year	189

One patient seen was referred because of sub-fertility.

The sources and reasons for referral of cases can be summarised as follows:-

Referred by general practitioners	30
Transfers from other Family Planning Clinics	16
Referred by nursing staff	19
Personal introduction	108
Attendance because of press publicity (now discontinued)	1
Other sources	15

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

The ultra violet light clinics were held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the Central School Clinic, and on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons at the Stone Cross Clinic.

The following table gives the number of children receiving artificial sunlight treatment during the year:-

		No. of children on register at 31st December, 1959	No. of Attendances during the year
Pre-school children	Boys	1	187
	Girls	5	340
School children	Boys	18	1,241
	Girls	21	1,187
Children referred by Chest Clinic	Boys	-	13
	Girls	-	-
Totals		45	2,968

The ultra violet lamp was in use for 280% hours.

CLASSIFICATION OF REASONS FOR ATTENDANCE

	<u>Chest Clinic</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Infant Welfare</u>
Tonsillitis	-	6	-
Cervical glands	-	2	-
General debility	-	13	1
Frequent colds	-	16	3
Bronchitis	-	10	1
Anorexia	-	1	1
Psoriasis	-	1	-
Asthma	-	2	-
Chronic Catarrh	1	1	-
Post Influenza	-	1	1
Post boils	-	2	-
Underweight	-	1	1
Post impetigo	-	1	-
Totals	1	57	8

Day Nurseries and Child Minders

The Council have no day nursery operating in the borough. No applications for registration under the Nurseries and Child Minders regulation act, 1948, were received during the year.

This is a matter of some concern for in an area with a large number of working mothers and no day nurseries, one would expect some child minding to be registerable under this act.

MIDWIFERY

General Arrangements

Mothers in labour at home were cared for by 11 midwives employed by the Council and by one midwife in private practice. A non-medical supervisor of midwives was appointed in June. She took over from the Chief Nursing Officer the immediate supervision and arrangements of the work of the Health Department midwives.

There are no special arrangements to provide a relief night rota system and at present each midwife is having the usual off-duty hours of 36 per week with a weekend off each month, making a total of 7 off-duty days per month. It is proposed to employ part-time midwives to do maternity nursing which will relieve midwives, who have had long or many night calls, of some of the day-time nursing duties.

Distribution of Confinements

The following table shows the distribution of confinements between home and hospital over the last seven years:-

Confinement in:		
Year	Hospital	Home
1953	822	726
1954	871	686
1955	767	710
1956	834	768
1957	1,015	719
1958	1,012	746
1959	930	795

There were 2,442 births of which 1,725 were to persons who gave an address in West Bromwich when booking a midwife or arranging a hospital confinement. Actually there were 1,680 births registered during the year occurring to permanent residents of the borough according to the Registrar General.

Public demand is for confinement in hospital, but in West Bromwich there is such a demand on the number of beds available for normal midwifery at the hospital that if medical and social conditions are satisfactory, confinements must take place at home. This year 54% of confinements of West Bromwich mothers occurred in hospital and 46% at home compared with 59% and 41% respectively in 1958. Of the total births occurring in West Bromwich during 1959 67% were in hospital and 33% at home.

Because of the housing shortage there is a need for admission to hospital for confinement on social grounds, probably greater than that found in many other areas. Domiciliary midwives assisted by health visitors where necessary, make assessment of the social circumstances of persons wishing to be confined in hospital so that these may be taken into account when allocating the hospital beds to the best advantage.

Much has been said about the advantages of confinement at home but public demand is still for admission to a hospital or maternity home.

Midwives

Number of Practising Midwives

The Midwives who notified their intention to practice were:-

In hospital and maternity homes ...	9
In Municipal domiciliary practice ...	11
In private domiciliary practice ...	1

Work of the Municipal Midwives

Municipal midwives attended 788 confinements. Each patient was visited twice daily for the first three days after delivery, and then daily up to the fourteenth day. Visits made by the midwives are summarised as follows:-

Ante-natal visits	4,317
Nursing visits during the puerperium and post-natal period	14,910
	<u>19,227</u>

All midwives employed by the local health authority are qualified to administer analgesics. The analgesic in use is the gas and air machine and as yet no arrangements have been made for the use of trichloroethylene. A gas and air mixture was administered to 439 women in labour in 1959, representing 55% of the total. Many who had attended relaxation classes did not want an analgesic.

Gas and air machines were held by six of the midwives who have their own transport and a further four sets were held at the Ambulance Station and were delivered as required by ambulance.

Medical Aid

In accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board, domiciliary midwives are obliged to notify certain occurrences in their practice to the supervising authority.

Medical aid was called on 348 occasions for the following reasons:-

(a) Conditions Occurring in the Mother

Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	8
Delay in first stage	...	...	6
Delay in second stage	...	...	16
Malpresentation	...	...	3
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	11
Premature labour	...	...	7
Pyrexia	...	...	15
Retained placenta	...	...	8
Ruptured perineum	...	...	150
Thrombosis	...	...	4
Obstructed labour	...	...	3
Inflamed breast	...	...	2
Obstetric shock	...	...	2
Phlebitis	...	...	4
Breech presentation	...	...	4
Uterine inertia	...	...	1
Poor general condition	...	...	12
High blood pressure	...	...	6
Toxaemia of pregnancy	...	...	5
Foetal distress	...	...	12
Meconium stained liquor	...	...	7
Frequency of micturition	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1
Anencephalus	...	...	1
		Total	<u>289</u>

(b) Conditions Appearing in the Baby

Cyanosed condition of infant	...	2
Asphyxia pallida	...	3
Sever jaundice	...	2
Discharging eyes	...	20
Malformation	...	12
Septic spots or rash	...	11
Prematurity	...	6
Cerebral	...	3
	Total	<u>59</u>

Emergency Obstetric Service

This service is readily available to assist doctors and midwives faced with obstetric emergencies in domiciliary practice, and operates from Hallam Hospital, and during the year attended 48 calls in the Hospital Management Committee area, which includes West Bromwich.

Maternal Mortality

Two women who were resident in the borough died in childbirth during the year.

The first aged 23 became suddenly ill with toxæmia of pregnancy which progressed to kidney failure in spite of hospital treatment.

The second aged 36 also became ill suddenly with toxæmia of pregnancy complicated by essential hypertension.

Training in Domiciliary Midwifery

In conjunction with Sutton Coldfield Maternity Hospital, five pupil midwives were trained during the year in West Bromwich for the second part of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Two of the domiciliary midwives are approved by the CMB as teaching midwives.

Post-Certificate Education of Midwives

The Municipal midwives attend post-certificate courses organised by the Royal College of Midwives, and during 1959 two Midwives were sent on refresher courses.

Staff

All midwives are on the telephone and eligible for a car allowance and for the provision of housing accommodation. At the end of the year seven midwives together with the Supervisor had cars, and emergency transport from the Transport Department was available if necessary.

Co-ordination

Although a co-operation card is in use this does not solve the problems caused by all three parts of the Health Service being involved in maternity care. The local authority has two interests (1) to see that patients delivered by midwives have proper antenatal care and (2) to give opportunities for teaching expectant mothers about preparations for confinement and baby care.

Cases of Potential Difficulty

In 1959 the places of confinement of special categories of expectant mothers can be summarised as follows:-

	<u>Place of confinement</u>	
	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Home</u>
1. Primiparae aged more than 30 years	67	12
2. Multiparae aged more than 40 years	22	13
3. Women in their fourth or subsequent pregnancy	92	124

These mothers should, whenever possible, have their babies in hospital for medical reasons, but the figures show that this ideal is far from reached.

Professional Meetings in the Maternity Service

Considerable discussions have taken place between the general medical practitioners, the Medical Officer of Health and the consultants in attempts to improve co-operation. These have not yet achieved any great success but are continuing in the hope of producing some scheme of improvement.

HEALTH VISITING

Staff

At the end of December the staff consisted of the Chief Nursing Officer, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer and twelve health visitors.

Health visitors perform joint duties, working both as school nurses and as health visitors. Approximately 4/11ths of their time is given to the School Health Service. It was possible to recruit two student health visitors during the year. It has not been the policy to second health visitors to any particular speciality.

Staff Training

One health visitor went on a refresher course during the year.

A series of meetings between groups of health visitors and the Medical Officer of Health at fortnightly intervals, to discuss the whole of the service and to keep the health visitors in touch with the rest of the department in its many aspects, proved of great value.

General Arrangements

The area of the County Borough is divided into districts, one health visitor being in charge of each district and working under the general supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer. In these districts the health visitors carry out the visiting of infants and young children up to age of five and also visits to any members of the family depending on the need. There is close liaison with the hospital for the follow-up of children or elderly persons who have been discharged. An arrangement exists with the Consultant Physician in charge of wards for the chronic sick, whereby he, together with the Chief Nursing Officer, visits the homes of elderly persons awaiting admission so that an assessment can be made both of the medical and social urgency in an endeavour to use the beds to the best advantage.

Home Visits

The Health visitors' time is divided between work in clinics and home visits. Details of the latter are as follows:-

Analysis of Home Visits	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
First visits to births	1,390	1,373	1,581	1,586	1,800
Revisits to children under 12 months	5,006	2,986	2,955	4,812	4,682
Revisits to children 1 - 5 years	12,026	8,725	8,544	9,205	10,195
Visits to cases of infectious disease	229	262	98	129	34
Visits to expectant mothers	257	224	141	216	197
Miscellaneous	1,833	1,385	1,493	1,147	927
B. C. G. Vaccinations	878	291	701	608	779
Totals	21,619	15,246	15,513	17,703	18,614

At the end of December the health visitors' case load of children under the age of five years was 6,925.

There is a need to review the situation. Health visitors are difficult to recruit, and need to be used to the best advantage. It may, therefore, be desirable to employ nurses to assist in clinic duties.

The centre from which the Health Visitor and other nurses work is hopelessly inadequate in space and facilities. This matter has for some time caused concern to the Health Committee.

Tuberculosis Visiting

Two tuberculosis visitors employed for most of the year paid 2,650 home visits. Reference to this work will be found in the section devoted to tuberculosis.

Diabetic Clinic

A health visitor attended the diabetic clinic held in the District Hospital and was responsible for liaison with the physician and helping to see that the patients were able to carry out the instructions given them concerning diet.

Liaison with Other Agencies

As the Medical Officer of Health is also the Chief Welfare Officer, a close liaison exists between the welfare officers and the health visitors. The important step for the future is to improve liaison with general practitioners.

The Chief Nursing Officer attends meetings of social workers convened to co-ordinate the work in connection with children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

Since June 1959, a health visitor has been in attendance at the Paediatric Out Patient Clinic at both Hallam and the District Hospitals.

HOME NURSING

Staff

The following staff were employed at the end of the year:-

	Men	Women
Chief Nursing Officer	-	1
Supervisor of District Nurses:	-	1
State Registered Nurses:		
Full-Time	2	7
State Enrolled Assistant Nurses:		
Part-Time	-	1

This gave an equivalent of full-time staff of 9½. None of the nurses have had special training in home nursing.

General Arrangement

The district nurses work under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer who allocates and organises their duties. Requests for nursing assistance are made by general practitioners to the Chief Nursing Officer and arrangements are also made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge from hospital. The nurses carry out the instructions of the family doctors regarding treatment. Evening calls are covered by a rota of nurses so that one is available. Calls in emergency at night are arranged through the Ambulance Department who provide the necessary transport. Three cars are available for the transport of district nurses on their rounds.

Cases Nursed

The following table shows the average number of nurses employed, the number of visits and the number of new cases over each of the past six years:-

Year	Average number of nurses employed	Number of New cases	Total No. of visits
1954	7	669	30,352
1955	7	840	32,353
1956	7½	766	33,621
1957	8½	619	32,577
1958	8½	671	32,684
1959	9½	808	31,518

Of the 1,003 patients nursed during 1959, 858 were sent by general practitioners, 43 by the Chest Clinic, 100 by hospital and 2 were transferred from another area.

15,295 visits were paid to patients over the age of 65 years compared with 205 to patients under five years.

The work carried out month by month was as follows:-

Month	Number of patients being nursed at the beginning of month	New Cases	Number of patients being nursed at end of month	Nursing visits
January	195	81	196	2,665
February	196	103	210	2,188
March	210	79	205	2,410
April	205	82	205	2,656
May	205	48	206	2,412
June	206	34	208	2,765
July	208	60	205	2,590
August	205	47	205	2,404
September	205	61	215	2,615
October	215	61	217	2,786
November	217	79	227	3,027
December	227	73	222	3,000

These figures show that the routine work varied little during the year.

Classification of Work

The figures in the following table show the number of cases of each specified disease each month. As many cases may continue over into the next month, the addition of the figures for individual diseases does not represent the total number of cases of that disease during the year. Predominantly this is general nursing care with a large number of injections.

	Jan.	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Asthma	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	9	10	17	16	11	10	12	11	12	11	10	22
Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	13	6	8	-	7	10	13	12	14	16	11
Diabetes mellitus	31	32	30	33	23	29	33	31	35	33	31	31
Anaemia	4	4	2	-	3	2	4	-	-	4	9	6
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	27	23	26	26	16	15	17	21	24	25	28	27
Other mental and nervous diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of the eye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of the ear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of the heart and arteries	14	18	11	9	12	11	15	11	13	14	12	12
Upper respiratory diseases	4	14	9	8	6	4	2	3	1	2	5	2
Other respiratory diseases	12	11	11	4	6	3	8	6	8	-	5	7
Constipation	17	8	9	12	9	5	8	7	8	11	12	10
Other diseases of the digestive system	11	14	8	12	5	5	9	10	7	8	8	8
Diseases of the urinary system and male genital organs	16	8	9	7	7	5	6	7	12	8	17	4
Diseases of the breast and female genital organs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Complications of pregnancy and the puerperium	1	1	3	4	2	1	2	2	2	5	4	3
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissues	19	30	28	28	27	27	24	24	23	24	24	21
Diseases of the bones, joints and muscles	11	13	11	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	1
Injuries	6	3	5	20	18	16	16	15	18	17	21	23
Senility	20	26	21	25	23	22	26	24	26	25	19	37
Other defined and ill-defined diseases or disabilities	67	71	82	75	70	78	75	66	69	68	73	75
Diseases not specified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-

Nursing Equipment

A stock of nursing equipment is maintained in the department for use by patients who require it and who are being nursed at home. Details of the number of items lent under this scheme are given elsewhere in this report.

Relief of Pressure on Hospitals

It is impossible to assess numerically the contribution made by the home nursing services to the relief of pressure on hospitals.

The main contribution would appear to be in dealing with elderly persons. As the number of hospital geriatric beds is far below what is necessary, a great many old persons cannot be admitted. In these cases the district nurse and the home help provide some comfort, but do not obviate the need for admission.

Training of District Nurses

None of the staff are trained particularly for district nursing. This is regrettable and arrangements are being made for a training course to be run jointly by the authorities in the Black Country to remedy this state of affairs.

Refresher courses are provided every five years and two of the staff attended during 1959.

Accommodation

There is no nursing centre and the district nurses have nowhere to prepare their equipment. It is most desirable that this be provided.

Equipment

The district nurses use the traditional form of nursing bag, which needs redesigning in a lighter, more easily cleaned, form.

A total of 3 Corporation cars are provided for transport and 2 nurses use their own bicycles.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination Against Smallpox

Vaccination of infants against smallpox is carried out at the infant welfare centres and by general practitioners. The number of primary vaccinations in children under five years of age is shown in the following table. The figures for 1959 include 170 infants vaccinated by family doctors.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 year	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 years and over	Total
Number vaccinated (primary)	557	46	14	25	46	688
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	2	56	58

The health visitors constantly remind parents of the need for vaccination at their domiciliary visits, but the number of infants vaccinated is small in relation to the total number of births.

The following table shows the number of infants under one year of age vaccinated over the last ten years:-

Year	Number of children vaccinated under 1 year
1950	190
1951	325
1952	251
1953	264
1954	234
1955	368
1956	499
1957	457
1958	499
1959	557

The number of live births in 1959 was 1,680, and yet the number of infants vaccinated was 557 representing 33% of the births. Thus most of the protection of the child population given by vaccination against smallpox is at a low level. The situation is potentially dangerous and in the event of a smallpox outbreak it is almost certain that medical services will be inundated with requests for immediate vaccination, often from people with no contact whatsoever with the case. This will result in a heavy demand on the services committed to dealing with the situation itself, and as many of these vaccinations will be done on persons previously unvaccinated and of a mature age, there may be a number of sore arms and illness, thus disrupting further the life of the community. The history of many smallpox outbreaks shows how great is the disruption caused by demands for sudden mass vaccin-

ation and the results of vaccinating the previously unvaccinated. A good deal of this trouble could be saved if parents would have their children vaccinated in infancy when it is one of the safest protective measures and causes less inconvenience.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

Protection against diphtheria and whooping cough is freely available to all children at the local authority clinics and from family doctors. The procedure during 1959 in the clinics for protective vaccinations and inoculations was as follows:-

Vaccination against whooping cough	..	2, 3, and 4 months of age
Vaccination against smallpox	..	5 months of age
Immunisation against diphtheria	..	6 or 7 months of age
Booster doses	..	5 or 6 years of age

A total of 533 infants was given primary injections against diphtheria during the year, and a total of 602 reinforcement injections was given to school children.

The following table indicates the immunity index which is shown as a percentage and relates to the proportion of the child population known to have received inoculation during the previous 5 years:-

Year	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	0 - 14 years
1955	11.5	51.6	44.1	43.9
1956	15.6	55.0	65.2	59.4
1957	10.3	61.3	61.4	57.7
1958	10.9	61.0	56.6	54.4
1959	7.6	53.2	47.3	45.9

Danger of Diphtheria

This is a disease which has disappeared within living memory, and whilst this type of change in the incidence of infectious disease is not uncommon, it does not mean that the danger has forever passed. The only protection at present known against diphtheria is that of maintaining a well immunised population.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The following table shows the number of persons who were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year:-

Groups	Number vaccinated		
	First Injection	Second Injection	Third Injection
0 - 16 years	1,151	2,036	9,704
17 - 26 years	650	4,975	1,297
Expectant mothers	51	82	64
Ambulance staff	-	1	14

B. C. G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination continued to be offered to children who reached the age of 13 years. The extensive poliomyelitis vaccination programme caused some delay in carrying out B.C.G. as a period of time should elapse between the two protective procedures. Shortage of medical staff has also affected the figures.

On 1,743 children eligible, 1,297 (74%) accepted. Of these, 1,151 received the first skin test and 191 were found to be positive, i.e., they had already come into contact with tuberculous infection. This gives a positive skin test rate of 17%.

Until June, 1959, all children with positive skin tests were offered an X-ray at a Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, but as a result of the publication of the report of the Adrian Committee it was arranged that after that date all children requiring X-rays should have large pictures taken at the Chest Clinic. The Chest Physician was most helpful in agreeing to this, and after further consultation with him a new system of exchange of information regarding children known to be contacts of tuberculous patients was started in the early Autumn.

None of the children having positive skin tests, and subsequently X-rayed, were found to have active tuberculosis. All children with negative skin tests were offered B.C.G. vaccination. 960 children were vaccinated and there were no complications.

During the year permission was given by the Ministry of Health for B.C.G. vaccination to be offered to children of fourteen years and upwards who are still at school, and to students attending universities, teacher training colleges and technical colleges. Since the offer has been made to all thirteen-year-old school children in West Bromwich since April 1955, there can only be a very small number of children still at school who have not already had one chance of receiving vaccination. Some of the parents who refused the original offer might change their minds in the course of time, and so it is hoped to make arrangements for school leavers to be given a second chance. Vaccination will be offered to students at the Kenrick Technical College in 1960.

The following table gives details of vaccination, school by school:-

B. C. G. PROGRAMME - 1959

	All Saints		Secondary technical		Charle- mont		Grammar		Hill Top		George Salter		Spon Lane		Bratt Street		St. Michaels		Church- fields		TOTALS
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys			
Nominal Roll	-	-	87	107	151	188	75	77	116	131	104	133	65	86	3	5	2	5	204	204	1743
Total of acceptances	-	-	81	87	99	119	49	54	87	89	73	92	46	36	3	5	2	5	192	178	1297
Total 1st. Mantoux Test	-	-	79	86	86	101	49	51	83	86	69	87	43	36	-	-	2	5	155	133	1151
Total positives	-	-	18	17	19	15	5	4	22	16	19	3	6	9	-	-	-	1	14	23	191
Absentees	-	-	2	1	13	18	-	3	4	3	4	5	3	-	3	5	-	-	37	45	146
Total given B.C.G.	-	-	61	69	67	86	44	47	61	70	50	84	37	27	-	-	2	4	141	110	960

AMBULANCE SERVICE

General Arrangements

The service is administered and operated by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee. Ambulances are used for journeys in West Bromwich and to and from centres in the Midlands, but for more lengthy journeys arrangements are usually made with British Railways for it has been found that rail journeys are more comfortable for the patient, and cheaper than travel by road. The number of patients carried by train in 1959 was four, as in 1958.

Ambulances

The vehicles in service are as follows:-

Type	Placed in Service	Mileage during 1959
Austin	26.7.48.	13,308
Daimler	26.7.49.	2,566
Morris	6.7.49.	3,432
Daimler	22.1.51.	12,555
Daimler	15.5.56.	16,101
Morris	1.7.57.	18,321
Morris	8.7.58.	22,297

Work Done

The figures below show the use of the service over the last nine years:-

Year	No. of patients	Mileage
1951	8,918	65,405
1952	14,354	17,088
1953	18,275	80,339
1954	19,800	83,984
1955	22,470	88,392
1956	21,305	84,215
1957	21,580	87,608
1958	23,383	85,914
1959	23,712	88,580

There was an increase in both patients carried and mileage operated - the increase in patients carried was due mainly to the incidence of increased numbers of out-patients, as shown by the following:-

Year	No. of out-patients
1951	5,008
1952	9,857
1953	13,548
1954	15,009
1955	16,710
1956	14,952
1957	15,062
1958	17,189
1959	17,598

Radio Control

Radio telephone equipment was installed during the year and commenced to operate on 15th September, 1959.

The introduction of this equipment has already effected considerable improvement in the general efficiency of the service. Emergencies are dealt with more satisfactorily; the control has resulted in improved methods and achieved economies in the operation of the service.

New Equipment

A Stevenson 'Minuteman' Resuscitation Unit was purchased during the year bringing the total of this type of apparatus to two. One unit has been modified to use oxygen/dioxide mixture in known cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Supply of Oxygen

The arrangements for the supply of oxygen in an emergency to patients in their own homes, at the request of the family doctor, continued to operate. An oxygen set supplied through arrangements made by the Local Executive Council is immediately available at the depot.

Training of Staff

Members of the ambulance service are all members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and accordingly take revision courses and examinations in first aid at annual intervals.

Major Accidents

Work continued on the consideration of the administration of the service necessary to deal with the casualties resulting from a major accident. The scheme provides for immediate nursing and medical help with equipment from the hospital within a few minutes and in conjunction with the police, fire and hospital authorities for control of the incident, ambulance directions and use of hospital beds.

It is hoped to produce a small booklet for the assistance of the staff concerned.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Convalescence

Patients are sent for convalescence on the recommendation of their own doctors and hospital consultants. They contribute towards the cost according to their means. The demands on this service continued and recuperative holidays were arranged for 65 adults and 1 child during 1959. Most of the patients were accommodated in convalescent homes by the sea.

In addition to convalescent home fees, travelling expenses were paid in respect of 61 patients.

Recommendations

These were made as follows:-

By General practitioners	62
By Hospital physicians and surgeons	4
Total ...	<u>66</u>

Age Group of Patients

The 66 patients were of the following age groups:-

Under 21 years	...	...	5
21 to 44 years	...	...	14
45 to 64 years	...	...	33
65 years and over	...	...	14
Total ...	...	...	<u>66</u>

Details of Accommodation

Patients were accommodated as follows:-

Convalescent Homes	Men	Women	Children under 16 years
Rest Haven, Exmouth	6	11	-
Victoria, Clevedon	5	-	-
Belmont, Clevedon	-	6	-
Bell Memorial Home, Lancing	1	15	-
Llandudno Convalescent Home	1	-	-
Lennox House, Southsea	-	1	1
Surrey Home for Men, Seaford	8	-	-
" " " Women, Bognor			
Regis	-	10	-
The Gable House, Droitwich	-	1	-
Totals:	<u>21</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>1</u>

Types of Illness

A broad classification of the types of conditions for which convalescence was recommended is as follows:-

Post operative	...	...	...	11
Respiratory	...	...	...	12
Cardio-vascular	...	...	...	7
Gastro-intestinal	...	...	...	5
Nervous	...	...	...	11
Others	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	<u>66</u>

LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

Stocks of nursing equipment for use in patients' homes are held by the department. These articles are lent on the recommendation of a general practitioner or district nurse. On return they are disinfected where necessary and thoroughly cleansed.

The following types of equipment were available for use during the year:-

Air rings	Feeding cups
Back rests	Head poles and chains
Bed cradles	Housechair
Bedpans - crock	Mattresses
Bedpans - rubber	Nocturnal enuresis alarm
Bed mirror	Spinal carriage
Bedsteads	Spinal support
Commode chairs	Sputum cups
Urinals	Wheel chairs
Waterproof sheets	

This is a service which might usefully be expanded. The greatest difficulty at present encountered is storing the equipment, especially the larger articles, in an already crowded department. This is one of the functions that could usefully be transferred to a nursing centre.

HOME HELP SERVICE

General Arrangements

Home helps are available to meet the needs of those residents of the town who for various reasons are unable, either temporarily or permanently, to manage their own housework and who need help at home to make life bearable.

The service is one for which a charge is made, based on the financial position of the family, and the hours of service given to any particular family depend on the social need and the availability of home helps.

The number of patients helped has shown an increase during the last six years, and the ratio of maternity cases to the aged and chronic sick shows a slight increase on last year. The service, however, is largely concerned with assisting aged persons in their own homes as is shown in the following table:-

Year	Maternity	Aged and Chronic Sick
1951	52	144
1952	60	187
1953	59	195
1954	43	225
1955	27	239
1956	48	246
1957	54	293
1958	40	323
1959	45	365

Staff

The Home Help Service at the end of the year employed 13 full-time staff and 45 part-time staff, making an equivalent of approximately 38 in terms of full-time staff.

The greater amount of the work is done in the morning - this being the most convenient time, both to the patient and to the help.

Persons Helped

During the year a total of 140 new patients was given help for the first time and of these 87 were chronic sick, 45 maternity and one case of tuberculosis.

The position over the last few years is shown in the following table:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Confinements at home	26	42	44	40	44
Other maternity cases	4	6	10	-	1
Aged and chronically sick	229	246	293	323	365
Tuberculosis	8	10	8	10	7
Problem families	2	3	4	6	8
Others including acute illness	51	35	38	42	47
TOTALS	320	342	397	421	472

There are 207 patients who received continuous help throughout the year. The patients receiving more than three months' duration of help remaining on the books at the end of 1959, can be classified as follows:-

Chronic sick under 65	29
" " over 65	227
Tuberculosis	5
Child care	1
Mental health	1

Charges for the Service

Patients receiving help paid as follows:-

Full-time payment (3/9 per hour)...	44
Part-time payment	417
No payment (including 8 problem families) ...	11

The patients paying full cost were as follows:-

Maternity	16
Short term	12
Chronic	14
Tuberculosis	1
Mental health	1

It will be seen from these figures that the majority of patients are paying part cost. In many instances, as would be expected, these people are in receipt of national assistance and the assessed cost of their help is paid by the National Assistance Board.

Night Attendance Service

This service is designed to provide attendance at night for cases of illness and emergency when other arrangements cannot be made. It is therefore only used for urgent need and is not a large and extensive service.

During the year two persons were willing to do this work and they dealt with ten cases for the following reasons:-

Acute illness:

Heart disease ...	1
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Awaiting admission to hospital:

Stroke ...	1
Heart disease ...	1
Senility ...	1

Chronic sick:

Carcinoma ...	1
Senility ...	1
Heart disease ...	2
Stroke ...	2

Small though this service is, it is one of the greatest value to the recipients.

Home Help Washing Service

This service provides for the laundering of articles from homes where the home help is visiting. The actual washing is undertaken at the hospital laundry but the articles are brought by the home helps to the Health Department in plastic bags. Some very dirty washing indeed has been dealt with in this way - washing which may have been refused by the average commercial laundry, and this does provide a part answer to the problem of the incontinent patient at home. With an ageing population, this is the type of service which would probably merit expansion in due course.

Home Help Course

A course for home helps has been inaugurated in conjunction with the West Bromwich Technical College. It consists of lectures on the care of invalids, safety in the home, discussions about old people, the prevention of the spread of infection, etc. and practical work in the form of bed making, lifting, changing draw sheets, and cookery with emphasis on nourishing dishes for old people. There were also discussions on the course and on the Home Help Service itself.

The idea of the course is to broaden the outlook of the home helps rather than instruct them in things they should, as experienced housewives, already know.

It is hoped to make them more acquainted with the various duties and responsibilities of members of the Health Department, and better able to pass on correctly information to householders.

The home helps who have taken courses so far, have enjoyed it, and say that it has helped them in their work.

This type of activity adds greatly to the morale of home helps and shows them how the service fits in to the pattern of the general health services.

MENTAL HEALTH

New Legislation

The most important event in this year is the giving of the Royal Assent to the Mental Health Act, 1959, which changes the law relating to the treatment, care and welfare of persons suffering from mental disorders. The new Act, when fully operating, embraces all forms of mental disorder and will repeal the various separate enactments such as the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, and the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Up to the time of publication of this report, the Act, although law, will not come into force except on such date or dates as the Minister of Health may decide. The only change at present is the admission of patients to mental hospital without formality. This has already started and whenever possible patients are admitted informally.

An important feature of the new legislation is the emphasis placed in providing extended services for the care and welfare of the mentally disordered in the community, and by extension of their powers under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, local authorities are afforded greater freedom in this respect.

New terminology describing the various classes of mental disorder is now being brought into use.

General Arrangement

The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee, composed of six members of the Council and two co-opted members, met monthly. The Medical Officer of Health and his deputy were responsible for the administration of the service assisted by one full-time duly authorised officer, one full-time unqualified psychiatric social worker and one full time worker with the mentally defective.

The Senior Welfare Officer of the Health Department is also authorised to act as duly authorised officer and does so as a relief. Arrangements were made for the duly authorised officers of the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich to relieve each other to provide adequate staff for a 24 hour service.

MENTAL ILLNESS

The Borough of West Bromwich is allocated to the catchment area of the All Saints Hospital, Winson Green, Birmingham, and the majority of patients resident in the Borough requiring in-patient treatment were admitted to that hospital, but in the case of patients only temporarily within the Borough at the time of onset of mental illness, arrangements were made for admission to the hospital covering the home address whenever practicable.

Great care has continued to be exercised in the use of compulsory powers of admission, and whenever possible the agreement of relatives was sought prior to the use of a compulsory order, particularly having in mind the emphasis placed on this point in the provisions of the new Act relating to admission to hospital.

The need to obtain early in-patient treatment for suitable known patients by voluntary or informal admission to hospital, has been carefully observed by the officers, being more satisfactory than waiting until the use of a compulsory order became necessary. This has not always been easily achieved owing to the acute shortage of beds prevailing for long periods of the year, resulting in a waiting list for informal admission.

Reference of cases to the Psychiatric Clinic at the General Hospital and the increase of facilities for day patients at the mental hospital has been a developing feature during the year.

The close liaison established between the officers, hospitals and general practitioners has continued to develop with satisfactory results, and it is interesting to note that the services of officers are increasingly sought in the case of borderline patients for opinions as to the best method of dealing with such cases.

The following tables show the figures for admissions and discharges, and the various categories of patients, over the last six years.

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890 - 1930 MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959

Classification on admission:

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Certified	16	11	9	3	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary	57	65	91	44	41	65
Informal	-	-	-	-	-	12
3 Day Order	12	24	55	107	103	94
7 day urgency	10	9	-	-	-	-
14 Day Order	8	3	4	9	5	7
Totals	103	112	159	163	149	178

The ultimate classification of these patients is shown in the following table:-

	Certi- fied	Tem- porary	Vol- untary	Infor- mal	3 day order	7 day order	14 day order	Total
West Bromwich cases after initial admission became:								
a. Certified	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	6
b. Voluntary	-	-	64	-	35	-	6	105
c. Informal	-	-	-	11	24	-	-	35
d. Extended order then discharged	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9
e. Discharged at expiration of order	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	11
f. Died before expiration of order	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
TOTALS	-	-	64	11	87	-	7	169

Apart from these patients, 9 persons residing in the area of other local authorities were admitted from West Bromwich. Seven were admitted by the use of 3 day Orders, 1 as a voluntary patient, and 1 on an informal basis under the 1959 Act. This makes up a total of 178 admissions.

Discharges

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Certified	14	21	29	15	7	5
3 day Orders	1	-	4	4	9	5
3 day Order (extended)	2	4	5	8	7	10
7 day Urgency Order	3	2	-	-	-	-
14 Day Order	2	-	1	2	-	2
14 Day Order (extended)	-	-	2	1	-	-
Temporary	2	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary	62	67	104	98	91	89
Informal	-	-	-	-	-	24
Died	16	20	19	14	19	21
TOTALS	102	114	164	142	133	156

Patients under Temporary Orders

It will be seen that a total of 101 patients was admitted under 3 and 14 day Orders. The fate of these is shown in the following table:.

	3 day Order	14 day Order
Patients:		
(a) Died before expiration of Order	4	-
(b) Discharged at expiration of Order	5	2
(c) Discharged at expiration of extended Order	10	-
(d) Became voluntary patients	47	5
(e) Became informal patients	16	-
(f) Certified	5	-
Patients belonging to other authorities admitted from West Bromwich	7	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	94	7

Old Age and Mental Illness

Of the patients admitted to mental hospitals during 1959, 47 were 60 years of age or more. These were admitted on the following terms:-

3 day Orders	...	...	35
14 day Orders	...	...	3
Voluntary	...	...	7
Informal	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			47

The eventual classification of these patients was:-

	Temporary (includes 3 & 14 day Orders)	Voluntary	Informal	Total
After initial admission became:				
(a) Certified	1	-	-	1
(b) Voluntary	21	7	-	28
(c) Informal	10	-	2	12
(d) Extended Order then discharged	2	-	-	2
(e) Discharged at expiration of Order	3	-	-	3
(f) Died before expiration of order	1	-	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	38	7	2	47

The following table shows the number of patients over 60 years of age admitted to mental hospitals over the last few years:-

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Temporary (includes 3 & 14 day Orders)	1	-	-	4	8	17	13	35	26	30
Voluntary	10	7	16	13	12	12	15	6	8	7
Informal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Certified	18	11	5	14	5	4	7	-	-	-
Totals:	29	18	21	31	25	33	35	41	34	47

The problem of old people, often living alone, suffering from mental disorder in varying degrees, referred by doctors and other sources, continues to cause some concern, and is one which will merit prior consideration at the appropriate time in connection with the extension of the local authority's functions envisaged by the Mental Health Act, 1959.

In addition to the 47 old people admitted to mental hospitals, there were 18 persons over 65 years of age (of which 11 were over 70 years of age) referred for investigation. These people were not admitted because the use of compulsory power was inappropriate, and in most cases the patients were unwilling to go to the hospital voluntarily.

In most cases the mental disorder was associated with general senility with resulting deterioration of mental faculties, accentuated by loneliness.

Action varied according to the circumstances of each case. Temporary admission to a geriatric ward of a general hospital was the answer in some cases, but more often than not impossible because of shortage of beds. Social activity, friendly visitation, contact with relatives and friends to stimulate interest in the old people, and reference to other social services, was in some cases the only answer.

Unfortunately there is little "turnover" in this category of patient at the hospitals. There are a number of patients who are fit enough mentally to be discharged from the mental hospitals - possibly 20 - but have to remain in the hospital because there are no relatives or friends able or willing to assist, or there are no alternative facilities available for their care. This causes a blocking of hospital beds which might be used for more urgent cases.

It is to be hoped that the growing problem of the senile psychotic may be solved in due course when a co-ordinated plan for the care of the elderly is made as part of the extensions of the local authority's functions under the 1959 Act.

Community Case Work

Very satisfactory progress has been made in this work during the year. The staff engaged on this activity is the Psychiatric Social Worker on a full-time basis, and the Duly Authorised Officer part-time as his other commitments allow.

The two officers combined as a co-ordinated team, giving a social service required by the patients coming within their purview. It has been found in practice that the plan evolved by their combined efforts has proved very satisfactory and rewarding, and much appreciated by the patients and relatives.

The development of the pre-care service to those patients found not requiring admission to hospital referred by doctors and from other sources, continued to make good progress. General practitioners and social workers have co-operated fully in this field and satisfactory results have been obtained.

Investigation of the cause, environment and home circumstances with varying problems, followed by assistance and advice from the staff, has resulted in many cases in removing the trouble aggravating mental disorder, thus eliminating the necessity for admission to hospital.

The co-operation of other social agencies such as Probation Officers, the Ministry of Labour Resettlement Officer, the National Assistance Board, and the voluntary organisations has been most helpful.

An interesting feature during the year has been that the assistance of the staff has been increasingly sought by the hospital medical staff and their social workers in making contact with relatives of in-patients, resulting in the submission of social histories of in-patients which the hospital authorities have found both informative and helpful.

The liaison and co-operation of officers with the hospital has developed with the result that weekly case conferences are held at the All Saints Hospital. The contact thus made is extremely useful and ensures continuity of service to the patients after their discharge from hospital.

During the year the number of patients helped was as follows:-

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 20 years	3	-	3
20 - 29 "	21	11	32
30 - 39 "	14	23	37
40 - 49 "	16	19	35
50 - 59 "	19	24	43
60 - 69 "	9	12	21
70 years and over	12	9	21
TOTALS	94	98	192

Social Club

The psychiatric social club has proved to be a very useful ancillary service, establishing a close relationship between staff and members enjoying the amenities provided. The function of the club in promoting the general welfare of patients has been fully justified

By means of pleasurable activities, patients have been encouraged to resume normal social life and thus become rehabilitated to the community.

Members are encouraged to help with the general management of the club affairs, assisted by the mental health staff. A small executive committee of members administer the club's activities, and it is pleasing to note the enthusiasm they show in their efforts to maintain the success so far achieved.

Occupational Therapy

The service provided for suitable patients discharged from mental hospitals has proved to be a useful addition to the Community Care Service, and those patients taking advantage of its facilities have found it beneficial. Although limited in scope it is a worthwhile venture and worth developing as part of the authority's extension of services under the new Act.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

Ascertainment

Fifteen cases were added to the register in 1959. Of these 8 were reported by the Education Committee under Section 57(3) of the Education Act 1944.

The details of the patients are as follows:-

	Under age 16		16 and over	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Referred by Local Education Authority	5	3	3	-
Referred by other Authorities	1	2	-	1
TOTALS	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

Disposal of these cases under the Mental Deficiency Acts was as follows:-

	Under age 16		16 and over	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
(a) Placed under statutory supervision	6	4	3	1
(b) Admitted to hospital	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

commence in 1960 in one of their Homes. A 57 year old man who had a limited use of his legs was very anxious to obtain employment and to obtain a motorized chair from the Ministry of Health. At one stage he reached the unfortunate position of not being eligible for a chair because he had no suitable employment and not being able to get employment because he had no method of transport to get there. However, this matter was finally solved, employment being found for him by sympathetic employers and by co-operation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, and in the meantime he was conveyed by a vehicle at the expense of the Ministry of Labour. This particular occasion is one example of the working together that has been developed with the local Ministry of Labour officials.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE

The Council provides facilities for Occupational Therapy at the Community Centre and at the homes of the handicapped for the benefit of people of working age who are unable, because of their disability, to obtain employment.

In June the Senior Occupational Therapist, who had been with the service from its beginning, left to be married and her Deputy took charge of the service. Two temporary Craft Instructors were engaged to help in the summer and in September another qualified Occupational Therapist was appointed.

Classes at the Centre

The main expansion of the service in 1959 has been in the more intensive use of the Centre for classes. In January one of the four half-day classes was made into a full day class, the patients being brought in at ten-thirty. Hot meals provided by arrangement with the Civic Restaurant were served in the canteen. The Council helped in the payment for the meal in cases of need.

This session proved a great success as much more progress can be made in the longer working time available. The provision of a cooked meal for people who might not otherwise have had one through being alone all day seemed to fulfil a great need, as did the relief for a whole day of these looking after the handicapped at home. A second full day class was therefore started in August and plans made to start others as the numbers grew.

The specially adapted tail-lift bus which started operations in the summer has enabled a number of previously homebound patients to be brought to the classes.

The number of people who have attended the centre during the year is 70. Of these 33 attended more than once per week and a few who came on their own attended every day.

Domiciliary Work

This has continued as usual and the numbers visited have remained about the same as new cases have replaced people starting at the Centre. The aim has been, where possible, to bring patients to the Centre where they can enjoy working with others

but some cases have needed home visits over varying periods before they felt able to come.

Other Activities

A physical training group has enjoyed doing exercises to Eileen Fowler's television programme. Several members of the class have become interested in other activities taking place at the Centre and have joined clubs or groups. Three people left the class to return to work and three are to take up training courses for full-time employment.

Disposal of Goods

This year patients themselves have brought in a large number of orders for standard articles, and no difficulty is at present experienced in disposing of the completed goods.

Sales and Shows

Eleven sales have been held during the year. The stall at the Horticultural Show was a great success as usual, as were stalls at the scout Show in Handsworth Park the Labour Club 'Fayre' and the 'Time Off' Exhibition. Three shops in the town were kind enough to lend a display window for a week and four factories allowed us to hold sales in their canteens or recreation rooms. Show cases in the Town Hall and the permanent show in the Health Department were maintained.

Financial Position

Total Turnover 1.1.59 to 31.12.59	£1084.
Percentage of cost of materials recovered on Sale of articles to cost of materials issued at 31.12.59	90%
Percentage of total recovery (i.e. Sold and Unsold products) Cost of materials issued at 31.12.59	91%
Total labour payments made during the period.	£431.

Epilepsy

A total of 17 adults (10 men and 7 women) and 10 children (3 girls and 7 boys) in the borough are known to the Department to be suffering from epilepsy. This is, of course, an understatement because unless the disease interferes substantially with the mode of life of the patient, or in the case of children with their education, it may not be declared. Of the number, known, 4 persons are in employment and 13 are at present unemployable.

During the year an "Open Day" was held on the 9th September and the Christmas Party was held on the 18th December. The children also had a summer outing and a visit to the pantomime.

In association with these activities, a body exists called the 'Friends of the Crest' composed of parents and others interested. Meetings were held regularly during the year and discussions took place on matters of interest connected with mental handicap and on subjects of general concern.

This organisation is growing in strength, and the opportunity for discussion helps greatly in the training of the children at home as well as in the Centre.

PART III

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease

Incidence

There were 1094 cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified or otherwise ascertained during the year. After revision of diagnosis this figure fell to 1070.

The following table shows the number of notifications of notifiable disease after correction of diagnosis during each of the last ten years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Diphtheria	-	3	2	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	19	3	10	26	3	57	109	7	5
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Enteric or typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Erysipelas	7	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Measles	141	1796	644	373	570	994	25	1855	227	923
Meningococcal infection	1	5	4	5	7	4	3	2	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia	27	25	10	9	7	21	10	34	12	29
Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	12	2	6	-	6	5	2	5	-	3
Non-paralytic	3	-	3	3	-	2	2	1	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	15	27	42	11	10	9	2	4	-	3
Scarlet Fever	93	51	78	77	51	65	28	17	41	70
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	256	241	374	455	124	69	223	176	25	27
Paratyphoid fever	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Suspected food poisoning	-	-	2	4	1	65	33	46	2	4

Deaths from Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the deaths attributable wholly or in part to infectious diseases during the last ten years:-

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery & Gastro enteritis	4	6	2	2	1	2	1	-	4	5
Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal meningitis	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	50	39	27	27	32	30	15	13	19	15
Non-pulmonary	3	4	4	6	3	2	2	3	-	-

Diphtheria

For the fourth year there was no notification of a case of this disease and it is eleven years since the last death.

Dysentery

A total of 5 cases of dysentery was notified during the year. The disease was due to the Sonne variety of the organism and was mild in character.

Enteric Fever

One case of enteric fever was notified - this was a child who was in attendance at one of the clinics for another matter and who complained of a 'stomach upset'. Investigation indicated the presence of a typhoid organism. No other cases were reported and no source of infection discovered.

Erysipelas

Two cases of erysipelas were notified. It is doubtful if any point is served by notification of this disease.

Measles

A total of 923 cases of measles was notified compared with 227 in the previous year. This was to be expected as 1958 was a fairly clear year and the infection usually observes a bi-annual incidence.

Meningococcal Infection

This was notifiable originally as cerebrospinal fever, the alteration to meningococcal infection taking place in 1950. No cases were notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Only two cases were notified. The disease was mild and recovery uneventful and complete.

Pneumonia

Twenty-nine cases of pneumonia were notified. This figure cannot be taken to indicate the prevalence of pneumonia in the town because the only forms of pneumonia notifiable are acute primary and influenzal. Broncho-pneumonia (which is common) is not a notifiable disease.

Poliomyelitis

Five cases of poliomyelitis were notified in the Borough during the year.

A total of four cases was confirmed, all of which were in children under 5 years old. One was a non-paralytic case and the remaining cases had a mild paralysis. None of the children had been vaccinated against the disease.

The remaining case notified was eventually diagnosed as aseptic meningitis.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

A total of 70 cases of scarlet fever was notified during the year - of these 9 were admitted to hospital. Scarlet fever still continues to be a mild disease and the figures in all probability do not indicate the true incidence as notification is likely to be incomplete. There is some clinical evidence that a few more severe cases are seen occasionally. It will be interesting to see if scarlet fever tends to become more severe again as the disease has varied in severity over long periods in the past.

Whooping Cough

A total of 27 cases of whooping cough was notified. The following table shows the age groups affected:

	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	Over 14 years	Total
Male	1	4	3	-	1	9
Female	1	10	6	1	-	18

It is most probable, that this is a substantial underestimate of the prevalence of the disease in the Borough as notification is likely to be incomplete.

Food Poisoning

A total of 27 cases of suspected food poisoning was notified during the year and each was fully investigated. After intensive enquiries and bacterial examination of the specimens, the presence of pathogenic organisms associated with food poisoning was demonstrated in four only of the persons examined. It was not possible to implicate a particular article of food in any of these cases.

Malaria

No cases of malaria were notified during the year.

Encephalitis

There was no case of encephalitis notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

I am indebted to Dr. C.W.D. Cole, the Chest Physician for the following report on tuberculosis:-

"The problem of tuberculosis has come in for a good deal of publicity in the year 1959. I think therefore, that it would be proper for me to deal with the facilities and service proffered in this Borough in a little more detail than in previous reports.

I am of the opinion that a comparison of the West Bromwich figures with those of neighbouring boroughs is unnecessary and may be misleading in that in certain groups statistical conclusions could well be drawn which might not be significant.

For a County Borough of some 93,500, the area is extremely well catered for medically, and this may well account for its apparently good health record, in spite of being an area where heavy industry and close packed housing rub shoulder to shoulder. Immediately post war, West Bromwich had a very high incidence and death rate from tuberculosis - indeed the figures were multiples of the national average rather than being somewhat above it.

The control of tuberculosis falls fairly sharply into three main categories:-

1. The diagnosis and removal from general circulation of the sufferer.
2. The adequate treatment of the patient.
3. The follow-up of patients after treatment and the supervision of each case and its house contacts and work contacts, for such a period of time as may be considered necessary by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient.

Case Finding

At the three hospitals within the borough, there are Out-patient sessions covering virtually every day of the week. Furthermore, a mass x-ray unit is present in the town for a day every week, for the x-raying of the chests of patients referred to it from a variety of sources. Additional to these facilities, a mass x-ray survey of various works also took place in 1959. With the proximity of the Birmingham University and a training school, a goodly number of patients naturally find their way into the out-patients departments of the large Birmingham Teaching Hospitals. It can be seen therefore, that there is no lack in facilities available to doctors and patients alike for the detection of tuberculosis in this borough.

Notifications

From these various sources, there were 38 men, 15 women and 2 children notified for the first time as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Furthermore, six men, six women, and four children were found to be suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis for the first time. Expressed as a rate per 100,000 population, this gives a figure of 59, and comparable figures for the four previous years are:-

1955	-	137
1956	-	87
1957	-	61
1958	-	66

It will be seen therefore, that there has been a progressive fall in the number of primary notifications in this borough over the past five years, and the significance of this will be discussed later.

Deaths

In 1959, 12 men and 3 women died of tuberculosis. Of these 15, four men and one woman, all aged over 70 years, were not known to be suffering from tuberculosis prior to death.

In each case this was attributable to the fact that the persons concerned failed to seek medical advice until moribund. One man and one woman died of the results of surgical treatment for their disease. These were the only two deaths as a result of surgery that have occurred in West Bromwich residents in the past 5 years, and in both cases were completely unforeseen catastrophes, in which the element of chance played a very high part. In general, modern anaesthesia and surgical techniques have almost eliminated the operative risk from this type of cold surgery. A number of other tuberculous persons died during the year from causes quite unrelated to their tuberculosis - 3 died of coronary occlusion - 2 of carcinoma of stomach - 1 of carcinoma of lung - 1 of leukaemia - 1 as a result of a road accident - whilst 3 others died of a variety of non-pulmonary catastrophes. The majority of the deaths occurred between 45 and 65 years of age and indeed there were no deaths from tuberculosis of any kind in any person under the age of 25 years in 1959.

Treatment

West Bromwich cases are admitted as a general rule to Heath Lane Hospital for treatment, but a few are also admitted to Prestwood Sanatorium, near Kingswinford. Children requiring long term hospital care go to a special children's annexe at Himley, whilst tuberculous diabetics are admitted to Romsley Hill Hospital, near Halesowen. Thoracic surgery is carried out at Yardley Green Thoracic Surgery Unit.

Whenever a new case of tuberculosis is notified, the home is visited and the domiciliary contacts invited to attend the Chest Clinic for examination. Close work and leisure contacts are similarly invited. I am happy to say that very rarely indeed do these people fail to accept the offer, and indeed a point blank refusal did not occur last year. A total of 303 persons attended as contacts for the first time in 1959.

During 1959, there was a total of 8,775 attendances at the Chest Clinic - an increase of 6 on the previous year. The number of persons attending for the first time rose by 145 over the previous year. The number of contacts being virtually unchanged - there being an increase of 1.

Following their discharge from hospital, patients require further treatment at home, and a supervised return to a normal mode of life. This supervision is carried out through the Chest Clinic, the family doctor and the Health Department. The local authority employs 2 full time Tuberculosis Visitors, who visit all notified cases of tuberculosis according to their needs and are thus able to co-ordinate the services applying to the patient. In particular, the National Assistance Board, and the Voluntary After-Care Committee have once again been most helpful and my thanks are due to them.

In assessing the state of tuberculosis in any particular area, two valuable indications of the size of the infector pool are available nowadays. The first of these is the incidence of miliary tuberculosis and tuberculous meningitis. In this area, no case of tuberculous meningitis occurred, and only one case of miliary disease. Secondly, ever since 1953, B.C.G. vaccination of school children at the age of 13 years has been national policy. Before B.C.G. vaccination, the mantoux state of the children is ascertained. Nationally the percentage of positive reactors has been:-

1955 -	23.6
1956 -	22.5
1957 -	19.8
1958 -	17.7

The figure for West Bromwich children at 13 years of age for the same time is:-

1955 -	30
1956 -	25
1957 -	28
1958 -	17
1959 -	18

It can be seen therefore, that prior to 1955 the size of the infector pool in West Bromwich was probably higher than that throughout the country at large, but by 1958-1959, the figures were approximate to the national average.

Considering the heavy industrial nature of the area and the density of the population the above figures must be considered:

- (a.) as showing a comparatively satisfactory state of affairs within the borough boundary, and
- (b.) as demonstrating the success of the long term campaign against tuberculosis locally.

To generalise somewhat, I believe that the following statement represents a true picture of tuberculosis in this area at the present time.

1. Immediately post war West Bromwich had a high tuberculosis rate, associated with a high tuberculosis death rate. In both cases the figures were considerably above the national average.
2. In 1959 the incidence of tuberculosis locally approximated to the national average.
3. The tuberculosis death rate is somewhat above the national average, but if the five 70 year olds could have been persuaded to have consulted their doctor a couple of years ago, the death rate would have been very slightly below the national average.
4. B.C.G. vaccination of school children is just starting to have an influence on the incidence of tuberculosis in young persons, and this influence can be expected to increase yearly as the greater numbers of vaccinated persons fall into high incidence groups.
5. Adequate treatment of diagnosed cases may entail very long term hospitalization and post hospital home treatment but these measures more than reap their own reward, both for the individual concerned and for the community.
6. With sanatorium beds being freely available, there is little or no excuse for the initial domiciliary treatment of new cases, and the number of sputum positive cases at large in the community should fall progressively. In West Bromwich there are 14 such persons out of hospital, 3 are bed fast, 4 are non-co-operative and the 7 remaining cases remain resistant to all forms of treatment that are so far known to us. I believe that this figure of 14 is probably as good as we can hope for in the present state of our knowledge, but quite obviously, there can be no complaisancy where even one sputum positive case remains at large in the community.
7. Contact examination is carried out wherever a case occurs, and every effort is being made within the resources available to widen its scope.
8. There is no evidence to believe that an undue proportion of cases are not coming to light locally. Indeed all the evidence we have points to the reverse being proved.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Health Department for its ready co-operation throughout the year. I would also like to pay a tribute to the members of the Housing Committee who have always given courteous consideration to any recommendation made to them from this department. I believe that much of the credit for the reduction of the incidence of tuberculosis locally should go to them, and there is no doubt that they will be able to play an increasingly important role in this matter in the future. I think that here it is proper for me to mention that only seven cases of new tuberculosis have arisen in modern owner occupied property in this borough in the last five years. If this can be done with this type of property, then a similar result should be aimed at with modern corporation owned property.

I believe that the tubercle bacillus has been brought practically to its knees - nobody however, should imagine that it is down; let alone out - the time to really crack down on it is now when it shows sign of weakening. The spear head of the attack should be the adequate treatment of all patients until it is quite certain that they are cured, combined with a satisfactory re-arrangement of their environment after treatment. This usually means re-housing and re-employment. Lastly, grandad, however crusty and difficult, should have his chest x-rayed whenever there are any signs of failure in his general health or of pulmonary illness. So should grandma."

It is pleasing to read about the co-operation that exists between the Chest Physician and his staff and the Health Department. This has always been of an informal type, but it can be truly said that the fact that each is administered separately by a different branch of the Health Service makes no difference at all to the close working relationships.

The following table shows the percentage of children examined at thirteen years of age in various authorities who were found to have negative results:-

<u>SKIN TEST RESULTS</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
West Bromwich	70.0	75.0	72.0	83.0	82.0
Birmingham	84.3	86.0	86.0	88.0	-
Dudley	82.7	66.3	83.2	86.2	-
Smethwick	-	-	88.0	73.8	-
Walsall	-	-	59.5	-	-
Wolverhampton	65.0	74.0	80.0	83.0	-
Shropshire	-	65.7	60.8	78.0	-

This indicates that 82% of 13 year old children examined in the borough showed no evidence that they had made the acquaintance of the tubercle organism.

As an addendum to the above table, it is interesting to note that 40% only of the children up to 15 years of age who are known to be in house contact with a notified case of tuberculosis were mantoux positive when seen at the Chest Clinic for the first time.

Notifications

The figures for notified cases for five years expressed as rates per hundred thousand population for areas in the Midlands are as follows:-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
West Bromwich	137	87	61	66	59
Birmingham	102	92	77	85	-
Dudley	97	96	99	93	-
Smethwick	133	104	152	148	-
Walsall	107	90	89	80	-
Wolverhampton	77	105	89	89	-
Shropshire	51	38	37	35	-

Deaths from Tuberculosis

These are shown in the following table as rates per million population for the past five years:-

<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
335	143	140	203	160

Of the fifteen West Bromwich persons who died in the area in 1959, four men and 1 woman were not known to be suffering from tuberculosis until after death. They were all over seventy years of age and apparently did not bother to seek medical treatment. Another two of the deaths occurred during operations carried out for tuberculosis. Further analysis of these figures into age groups in West Bromwich is as follows:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>No. of deaths (per million pop.)</u>	
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
5 - 15	nil	nil
15 - 25	nil	nil
25 - 45	43	54
45 - 65	86	85
65 years and over	75	21

VENEREAL DISEASE

Details of the cases of venereal disease in West Bromwich residents treated during 1959 at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below:-

	<u>Birmingham</u>	<u>Dudley</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilis	8	-	8
Gonorrhoea	53	-	53
Conditions other than venereal	58	13	71
	<u>119</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>132</u>

The following table shows the number of cases from West Bromwich during the last five years:-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Syphilis	2	7	12	3	8
Gonorrhoea	14	55	47	32	53
Conditions other than venereal	33	69	68	54	71
TOTALS	<u>49</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>132</u>

Attention must be drawn to the figures for gonorrhoea, there is a national epidemic of this disease at present.

PART IV

Additional Information

Health Education

Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Medical Examinations

Nursing Homes

Home Safety

**Co-ordination of Services Dealing with Child
Neglect**

Welfare of Immigrants

Cost of the Services

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education is largely carried out by the doctors and health visitors at clinic sessions and in the course of home visiting, and is maintained as a continuous activity throughout the year. In addition, leaflets, posters and pamphlets are available in clinics and in the Health Department.

The recently introduced relaxation classes for expectant mothers provide an excellent opportunity for education with regard to childbirth and the care of babies, and in addition, the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, assisted by one of the health visitors, visits Hallam Hospital each week to instruct mothers referred from the ante-natal clinic there in mothercraft. It had been found that these efforts at the relaxation classes and the hospital are very much appreciated by the mothers, and that this type of activity should be extended as much as possible.

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

During the year, 275 families applied for special consideration in regard to rehousing. All cases were investigated, some by visits to the homes and many by interviews. Most of the applications were accompanied by letters from family doctors or consultants.

Fifty-eight of these families were already living in Council property but wished to move to other districts. Recommendations were made for transfers on medical grounds in 24 cases and 11 of these had been moved by the end of the year.

Overcrowded conditions were responsible for 37 applications but as there were no medical grounds in any of these cases, none of them could be assisted. Some of the worst cases were brought to the notice of the Housing Manager.

The condition of the property was the prime reason for 45 applications. Most of these properties were already included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme and they were referred to the Chief Public Health Inspector for his further consideration.

Thirteen applications were received from aged people whose increasing disabilities made it difficult for them to cope with adverse housing conditions.

In 26 cases there was confirmed physical illness of varying severity, and 20 cases of mental ill-health were brought to our notice. In none of these was it felt that the type of illness coupled with the housing circumstances made a special recommendation for priority justifiable. Eleven cases in which there was a history of tuberculosis were referred to Dr. Cole, the Chest Physician, who makes his own recommendations to the Housing Committee.

Forty-two of the families who made application to the Health Department could not be classified into any of the above categories because they could not really present any case worthy of consideration.

In the remaining 23 cases, investigation revealed serious mental or physical illness or disability which it was thought could be relieved or improved by rehousing. These were placed before the House Lettings Committee. Sixteen have been rehoused and two were deferred for further consideration at a later date. In two instances the applicants were not prepared to accept the type of accommodation offered by the Committee and therefore they have not yet been rehoused. The remaining three cases were given serious consideration by the Committee but were not granted priority.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Children's Department

The medical staff of the Health Department are responsible for the routine medical supervision of children in the care of the local authority. Medical officers see these children prior to admission and just before discharge. They also pay regular visits to the Charlemont Nursery and Reception Home and visit the Family Group Homes. Altogether 241 medical examinations were carried out and these can be classified as follows:-

	Reception Home	Nursery	Family Group Home
Number of children examined on admission	9	7	17
Number of children examined for boarding out	8	7	2
Number of children examined on discharge	17	12	17
Number of routine examinations:-			
0 - 1 year	-	61	-
1 - 5 years	3	45	1
Over 5 years	18	-	17

Two routine visits were made to the Reception Home, 12 to the Nursery and 3 to the Family Group Homes.

Corporation Staff

The Medical Officer of Health and his staff are responsible for medical examinations in connection with the superannuation and sickness and accident schemes. This forms a substantial part of the work of the department and some of this is of doubtful value to the individual or the Corporation.

The work done during the year was as follows:-

Examination for Superannuation

Number of examinations	114
Failed	6
Accepted	105
Deferred for re-examination	3
Passed after re-examination	1
Failed after re-examination	1
Awaiting re-examination in 1960	1

Examination for Sickness, Accident Scheme

Number of examinations	280	
Failed	10	
Accepted	236	
Deferred for re-examination (including three deferred twice)	37	
Awaiting re-examination	6	) Including
Left the service of the Corporation	6	) cases
Subsequently accepted on re-examination	23	) deferred
Failed after re-examination	11	) from 1958
Examination of prospective teachers	61	
Medical examinations for other purposes	14	

NURSING HOMES

There are two nursing homes in West Bromwich registered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, providing between them 32 beds for acute and chronically ill cases. They are used substantially for chronic cases. In both homes there has been some change of staff during the year. The homes have been inspected and found reasonably satisfactory.

Name of Home	Address	Number of Beds	Inspector's Name
St. Andrew's	St. Andrew's Road, West Bromwich	16	Mr. J. H. ...
St. Mary's	St. Mary's Road, West Bromwich	16	Mr. J. H. ...

The following table sets out the details of the nursing homes in West Bromwich and the number of beds provided in each. The homes are used substantially for chronic cases. In both homes there has been some change of staff during the year. The homes have been inspected and found reasonably satisfactory.

The Medical Officer of Health and his staff are responsible for the general supervision of the nursing homes and the inspection of the premises. This is done in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the regulations made thereunder. The homes are inspected at least once a year and the results of the inspections are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

The following table sets out the details of the nursing homes in West Bromwich and the number of beds provided in each. The homes are used substantially for chronic cases. In both homes there has been some change of staff during the year. The homes have been inspected and found reasonably satisfactory.

HOME SAFETY

The officer of the Accident Prevention Council was asked to undertake propaganda designed to reduce the number of home accidents, and the following is his report:-

'A local Home Safety Campaign is run from the Accident Prevention Office, where the staff of two - one organiser and one typist - is already committed to many Road Safety projects. Activity in either project - Road Safety or Home Safety - is roughly proportional to the separate expenditures respectively voted.

In November, 1958 the first local Home Safety activity took the form of a 'Guard that Fire' Campaign. This was advertised on the lamp standard plaques in the High Street and in the press by voluntary donation of space. A total of 137 factories took campaign propaganda material. A stage show was presented in the Town Hall on an excellent set provided free by Associated Television. Joint visits by a Fire Officer and the Accident Prevention Officer were made to many local clubs and organisations. Licensed houses displayed posters by arrangement with the brewery companies.

Since that time visits have been made to 'over Sixty' Clubs and the Accident Prevention Officer refers to home safety at every reasonable opportunity in the course of his lecturing activities. At the Horticultural Show in 1959 home safety propaganda was included in the roadsafety section which occupied a frontage of practically 200 feet including a separate theatre and cinema. Home safety propaganda was even injected into the Punch and Judy show. The Accident Prevention Officer now gives a talk on home safety at each of the Home Help Training Courses. A home safety meeting and entertainment was held in the Grammar School theatre on 30th March, 1960, which was attended by about 400 members of 'Over Sixty' Clubs. Her Worship the Mayor was present. The programme included home safety propaganda injected into the general entertainment. This is an annual event.

A 'Home Safety Quiz' Competition has had to be postponed for the time being owing to pressure of work.

It must be emphasised that the Road Safety Campaign has fairly easy recourse to popular expedients such as the training of dogs, instruction to children in safety cycling etc.

Home safety, on the other hand, is difficult to 'teach' and certainly to demonstrate, e.g., it is much easier to enlist interest and support in demonstrating to youngsters how to make a correct right turn when cycling than to instruct a housewife on the safe position of a pan-handle or the correct method of carrying a bucket downstairs.

The public interest is attracted much more by dangers arising from movement than by origins which are static or nearly so. Attempts to meet this inherent difficulty can sometimes be met either by actual stage presentation or occasionally by semi-humorous verse or cartoon. It is fairly easy to induce the press to publish rhyming lines and, indeed, this was done some time ago with a Home Safety 'poem' written by the Accident Prevention Officer. It should not be done too often.

Probably the most useful contribution to Home Safety at the moment is the co-operation of the Home Help Service supplemented by visits to 'Over Sixties' and other organisations, the Annual Concert and the Horticultural Show.

Co-ordination of Services dealing with Child Neglect

Since December, 1953, regular meetings of officers have been held in accordance with the suggestions of a joint circular issued by the Home Office, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The Medical Officer of Health has been designated as co-ordinating officer, and the following officers are represented at these meetings:-

The Chief Nursing Officer
The Children's Officer
The Director of Education
The Housing Manager
The Moral Welfare Worker, Lichfield Diocesan
Association
The Manager, National Assistance Board
The N.S.P.C.C. Inspector
The Probation Officer
Representative of Town Clerk's Department
Representative of Mental Health Section

Regular meetings took place at monthly intervals under the Chairmanship of the Medical Officer of Health and endeavoured to fulfil three objects.

First, to provide a method for the dissemination of information between the various departments interested in the problems of one particular child.

Secondly, to provide an opportunity for the discussion of the problems of a particular family with children with a view to pooling experience and working out, where possible, methods of dealing with the family and avoiding overlapping visits from different departments.

Thirdly, to provide for the opportunity of personal contact between field officers engaged in social work of different departments who otherwise might meet very infrequently although their work would benefit from such contact.

It is difficult to assess the results of work of this nature but the progress reported last year is still being maintained, although, it must be said, only by a concerted effort on the part of all concerned.

The results for 1959 are as follows:-

Number of families known to the meeting	105
Number of families on the live register at the beginning of the year involving 130 children	23
Number of families added to the register during the year involving 23 children	5
Total number of families considered during the year involving 175 children	31

Of the 31 families known to the Co-ordinating Officer as presenting major problems, 11 are still discussed regularly, 9 are kept on the active list for observation by a department and then discussed when necessary, and 11 have been removed from the active list.

WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM OVERSEAS

I am indebted to Mr. Geoffrey Ayre, the Welfare Liason Officer of the Commonwealth Welfare Council for the West Midlands for the following report:-

The exact number of migrants from Commonwealth Countries residing in West Bromwich is difficult to assess but it is estimated that approximately 1250 are now living in the town. Of these, about 50% are from the West Indies - mostly from Jamaica together with a small number from Barbadoes and Granada and a group from St. Kitts and Nevis. There are a small number of Arabs from Aden, the remainder are from India and Pakistan. The majority of these people are between the ages of 25 and 35 but there are some 300 children of school age or under some of whom were born here.

During the past year there has again been an increase in the number of parents sending for their children and of menfolk sending for their wives to join them and this is an indication that the migrants are establishing themselves as an integral part of the local community. Many are buying small houses so that a home can be established when the family arrives.

Nearly all the migrants are in regular work and the number receiving either unemployment benefit or national assistance is negligible. Employers in general speak well of them and a number are taking technical courses in their spare time in order to qualify for more skilled employment.

Shortage of accommodation resulting in the overcrowding of some houses still presents problems and there are occasional complaints from white residents of practices arising from insufficient knowledge of the English pattern of living. The tendency of West Indians to play their radiograms too loudly and also to enjoy noisy parties which continue until the small hours can be a cause of friction.

The Commonwealth Welfare Council, through its Welfare Liaison Officer, continues to provide such information and assistance as is possible both to individuals seeking advice and to local welfare and social services.

COST OF THE SERVICES

The cost of the services provided under the National Health Service Act, the National Assistance Act, and other health services during the year, is shown compared with the cost of the previous ten years in the following table.

year	National Health Service Act, 1946		National Assistance Act, 1948		Other Health Services	
	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1948-49	25,520	11,974	12,435	8,357	52,066	45,029
1949-50	39,263	17,706	18,164	12,277	50,334	43,995
1950-51	48,913	21,768	16,740	11,192	54,062	48,212
1951-52	53,817	21,977	18,708	13,517	62,567	52,204
1952-53	60,493	26,398	23,936	16,114	66,993	60,007
1953-54	61,911	27,794	24,479	15,693	71,418	66,048
1954-55	64,535	29,777	28,781	19,449	70,082	66,150
1955-56	69,931	32,766	32,298	21,232	84,079	77,908
1956-57	81,294	38,249	36,823	25,481	91,861	81,693
1957-58	86,862	40,109	46,559	31,623	98,772	87,123
1958-59	97,514	45,708	52,212	33,777	100,880	87,786

PART V

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Aged

Care of the Handicapped

Other Welfare Services

WELFARE SERVICES

General Arrangements

The Authority's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are discharged through the Welfare Services Committee. The administration is under the direction of the Chief Welfare Officer who is also Medical Officer of Health.

Certain changes were made during the year by the appointment of additional welfare staff, and in particular a Senior Welfare Officer to be responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the day to day administration of the Welfare section of the department. At the end of the year there were the following employed:-

Senior Welfare Officer	...	...	...	1
Welfare Officers	...	...	...	4

This will be increased gradually to the establishment of 8 Welfare Officers, and 1 Senior Welfare Officer.

Duties relating to the blind were carried out by the agency of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, and those relating to the deaf by the Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb, Walsall, acting on behalf of the Council.

CARE OF THE AGED

Incidence

The 1951 census showed that for people aged 65 years and over, the numbers in the borough were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
65-69 years	1,265	1,628	2,893
70-74 years	932	1,287	2,219
75-79 years	607	846	1,453
80-84 years	216	342	558
85-89 years	61	112	173
90-94 years	6	25	31
95 years and over	1	7	8

Residential Accommodation

Accommodation under Part 111 of the National Assistance Act is provided directly by the Council at:-

'The Hawthorns', Green Lane, for 22 elderly ladies.

'Beech Holme', Beeches Road, for 20 elderly men.

'Lyndon House', Lyndon, for 17 elderly persons of either sex.

'Greenside House', Yew Tree Estate, for 43 elderly persons of either sex.

'Lyndon House', 'The Hawthorns', and 'Beech Holme' are converted private houses. 'Greenside House' is a purpose-built home opened in 1957. In addition to this provision, by arrangement with the Wolverhampton Corporation, beds for elderly persons are made available at 'The Poplars', New Cross, Wolverhampton.

The total number of beds available was insufficient for the demand. This will be accentuated in the future because beds at 'The Poplars' will no longer be available.

The number of beds is also below the average number available in county boroughs, and this situation coupled with the acute shortage of hospital beds for the elderly, is a source of concern. Plans were made for a further 32 beds to be provided by new construction and adaptation, but even with these there will still be a need.

At the end of the year the number of residents in the Homes was as follows:-

		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
'The Hawthorns'	...	-	21
'Lydnor House'	...	6	9
'Beech Holme'	...	20	-
'Greenside House'	...	20	22
'The Poplars'	...	5	2

with a waiting list as follows:-

Requiring 'ground floor' accommodation	...	2	1
Requiring accommodation		14	12

Admissions are made on the decision of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Committee with the advice of the Chief Welfare Officer.

The Homes are all comfortable, pleasant places, and are regarded as the permanent home of the residents in which they can do as they like (unless, of course, it is anti-social). Rules are, therefore, kept to a minimum and visiting can occur at any reasonable time. Free choice of doctor is encouraged.

For the convenience of those who wish it, the services of a hair-dresser and a chiropodist are provided. Great attention is paid to the welfare of residents. Birthday cards, Christmas cards, and Christmas presents are arranged. Entertainment by means of films and live shows is also available.

During the year the wardens at 'Beech Holme' resigned their appointments. The staffing of residential accommodation is not easy, especially as the type of work and hours are not attractive.

As well as people maintained in Homes run directly by the Council, there are others who for various reasons are maintained in local authority and voluntary homes elsewhere. These are as follows:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Cowley Home, Birmingham	-	1
Christadelphian Nursing Home, B'ham.	-	1
Fred Evans Home, Walsall	-	1
Fir Vale Infirmary, Sheffield	1	-
Hampton Grange, Hereford	1	-
Highbury Hall, Birmingham	-	1
Hill Crest, Smethwick	-	1
St. Mary's Home, Stone	-	1
Tate House, Harrogate	1	-
Quinton Hall, Birmingham	1	-

Arrangements are made directly by the Committee for holidays for residents in the Homes, and during 1959, 43 went from the Homes for a week at Pontin's Holiday Camp, Weston-Super-Mare. A local doctor was 'on call' and there were two nursing staff at the camp. Fortunately there were no major ailments, although the oldest resident who went was well over 90.

Finance

The full financial charge to the Council per resident at directly maintained Homes was estimated at £5.13.6. per week. At the 31st December, 1959, 70 residents without private means were paying the minimum charge of £2.0.0. a week, while 20 were paying a proportion of the full charge and 6 were paying the full amount. Each resident received a minimum of 10/- per week pocket money and, in addition, three were given amounts up to 5/- a week in return for small services in or around the Homes which they did of their own free will.

The following table gives a summary of accommodation during the financial year 1959/60 -

	Beech Holme	Lyndon House	The Hawthorns	Greenside House
Number of Beds	20	17	22	43
Percentage of beds occupied	72.0	87.0	92.0	92.0
Number of admissions	9	6	4	9
Number of discharges	2	2	-	1
Number of deaths	3	3	1	7

Care in the Community

With an additional Welfare Officer bringing the number up to four, it was still not possible to maintain a regular visiting service to all old people known to be living alone, and problems were dealt with as they arose.

Old people living alone present the greatest difficulty, especially if they have not any family or neighbours to take an interest in them. They may easily fall ill and no one need know for hours or days. One old man was found on the floor where he must have been for at least two days - it was a chance discovery then. He spent five months in hospital and was then discharged to an Old People's Home.

Sometimes an old person can manage without outside help until a relative or friend, for some reason, has to give up caring for him, and this creates a personal problem. The solutions may be various, but at least if the department knows about the case the situation may be eased. One such man whose relative went into hospital for some length of time, was helped to maintain the home. Another rather helpless lady, whose relative died in a road accident, was transferred to an Old Person's Home for the care that she needed.

Although the staff was increased it is obvious that the department does not always know of individual cases and cannot maintain the regular constant contact with the lonely elderly.

There will always remain the need for the friendly help of neighbours and relatives without whose assistance many elderly persons would live lives of unhappiness.

It is unfortunate that the powers of local authorities are limited in respect of the elderly, and this is particularly true in areas which possess few voluntary organisations in this field. Those existing have done excellent work and, fortunately, a great measure of co-operation and friendliness exists between them and the statutory services of the authority and other agencies such as the National Assistance Board.

Social Facilities

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee co-ordinated the activities for social facilities for the elderly living in their own homes and a total of 8 old people's clubs was active in the borough with a membership of approximately 800.

Meals on Wheels

The Women's Voluntary Services continued this service, and an average of 90 two-course meals was given weekly.

The Council made a grant of £325 to the service and meals were purchased from the Civic Restaurant at 1/9d. each. The cost to each recipient was 8d. and a total of 4,802 dinners was supplied.

Chiropody

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee have arrangements for a chiropodist to attend at the Highfields, Stone Cross, and Yew Tree Infant Welfare Centres and at Trinity Road Social Centre. The number of treatments carried out rises each year and is now approaching 2000.

Part of the cost of the service is defrayed by a grant from the National Corporation for the Care of the Elderly. The Authority makes a grant to the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee for general expenses.

Old people in residential accommodation provided by the Corporation have the facility of a chiropodist calling at the Homes at regular intervals.

What of the Future?

There is great need for more accommodation in homes and in houses for the elderly.

It is hoped to provide accommodation, varying from the flat or bungalow in which the old person is completely independent to the same accommodation with a warden attached, homes for old persons, and a home for the more frail.

There are inadequate hospital in-patient facilities for the elderly, West Bromwich is singularly short of beds for old people.

Perhaps, also, day centres for elderly persons can be started to ease the loneliness of the homebound. Finally, there is the great problem of the old person with mental disorder — a problem which has received little consideration as yet.

CARE OF THE HANDICAPPED

THE BLIND

Incidence

The number of registered blind persons in the borough is shown in age groups in the following table:-

0-1 year		2-4 years		5-15 years		16-20 years		21-39 years		40-49 years		50-64 years		65-69 years		70 years and over	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	2	1	8	2	9	15	5	6	26	34

During the year eleven men and six women were certified as blind and one man and two women were transferred into the district.

The following table shows the diagnosis of cases registered, those recommended for treatment and the number taking advantage of treatment:-

	<u>Cause of Disability</u>		
	<u>Cataract</u>	<u>Glaucoma</u>	<u>Others</u>
Number of cases registered of which paragraph 7(c) of Form B.D.8. recommends:			
(i) No treatment	1	-	2
(ii) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	8	2	4

Twenty blind men and seven blind women died during the year.

Residential Care

The Council does not run residential homes for the blind but uses those provided by voluntary agencies and other local authorities.

The following table shows the number of persons for whom West Bromwich is responsible who are living in residential homes for the blind:-

	Voluntary Agencies		Local Authorities	
	M	F	M	F
Blind	-	2	1	-
Deaf Blind	1	-	-	-

Care in the Community

The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind acts as the Council's agent for the provision of care in the community for blind persons and also for the provision of employment in workshops through their arrangements with the City of Birmingham Blind Workshops. The Royal Institution for the Blind also provides facilities for handicraft classes, home teaching and social recreation. The registration of blind persons or of partially sighted persons in the borough is carried out by the Institution.

In the past 32 years there has always been one Home Teacher, Mr. L. Pritchard, who died following a short illness in October. This loss will be greatly felt by all the blind people in the Borough, to whom he acted as friend and adviser, helping them to overcome their difficulty as he had done himself. It is largely as a result of Mr. Pritchard's energies that blind welfare in West Bromwich has reached its present standard.

Since October the Home Teacher's duties have been carried out by other members of the Institute's staff. These duties include regular visiting of all the unemployable blind people in their own homes, helping them with their individual problems, arranging holidays and outings and running the weekly centre every Thursday at Trinity Road Social Centre. As a great many of the unemployed blind are housebound and unable to participate in many of the activities, the Institute gave each of these persons a special present at Christmas, and these included blankets, dressing gowns, slippers etc.

Employment

The workshops for the blind are situated in Birmingham and serve that city in addition to the county boroughs of Smethwick, West Bromwich and also some county areas. At the end of the year the following people from West Bromwich were in workshop employment -

Open Industry or Self-Employed

Male

- 1 labourer in a printing works
- 1 basket maker
- 1 general dealer
- 1 pattern storekeeper
- 1 general labourer
- 1 craft instructor at B.R.I.B.

Workshop Employment

Men	Women	
2	-	trainees
2	-	brush making department
1	-	boot repairing department
1	-	mat making department
3	1	light assembly department
1	-	piano tuner (goes out from workshop every day)
-	1	basket department

During the year one man who was working at home straightening springs found that he was unable to obtain sufficient work, and as a result of negotiations between the Institute, the Ministry of Labour and a Welfare Officer, he was taken into the workshops as a trainee brush maker. One trainee brush maker qualified and has now obtained full worker status.

One man who came to the notice of the Welfare Officer had somehow escaped registration although he had been blind for the past two years. He was in his middle forties and prior to losing his vision had been a tool maker. With the aid of the Ministry of Labour, arrangements were made for him to go for a three month's rehabilitation course at the Royal National Institute for the Blind Centre at Torquay. He went at very short notice on 20th December and the first report received is that his progress is good and that he will be recommended for further training in engineering.

At the beginning of the year there was one West Bromwich youth at the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead, Surrey. Unfortunately, due to his absence from home he was unable to settle and so he terminated his training and returned home. After a rather difficult year, when he became bored with inactivity, it is good to be able to report that arrangements have been made for him to have some further training at the Workshops in Birmingham.

There is still one West Bromwich boy at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, training to become a musician.

Holidays

Grants from the voluntary Fund of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind were made to twelve blind men, sixteen blind women and 22 sighted guides, who arranged their own holidays.

Blind Persons with other Disabilities

The following table gives details of blind persons suffering from severe disabilities -

Deaf		Deaf and Dumb		Hard of Hearing		Mental defect-ives		Paralysis	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	2	1	-	7	-	2	4	3	1

Partially Sighted

During 1959, six women were added to the partially sighted register, and one was transferred in from another area. The total at the end of the year of partially sighted people in West Bromwich was as follows:-

0 - 4 years		5 - 15 years		16 - 24 years		25 - 50 years		51 - 64 years		65 years and over		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. F.
-	-	3	3	1	-	-	2	.	3	6	16	10 24

Although partial sight can be a considerable handicap, in many cases it does not prevent a person from living a normal useful and active life. The value of the register is that it enables the Institute, the Welfare Officers, the Education Department and the Ministry of Labour to co-operate and help these people to live within their limitations, and perhaps by means of special devices, to conserve their limited vision.

General Welfare

Wireless sets from the Wireless for the Blind Fund have been supplied where necessary as requested. Maintenance and repairs were carried out under arrangements made by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, the local authority being responsible for the payments.

Subscriptions for the National Library for the Blind were paid in respect of three readers, and two people were in receipt of talking books from the Nuffield Corporation.

DEAF AND DUMB

(INCLUDING THE HARD OF HEARING)

The Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in Walsall, Wednesbury and mid-Staffordshire, whose headquarters are in Walsall is employed as the Council's agent, and at the end of the year a total of 42 adults in West Bromwich was known to and registered by them. In addition the Education Authority knew of 10 deaf and 8 partially deaf children. Arrangements were made through the agency of the Church Mission and their Missioner to assist deaf and dumb people to gain employment, to learn lip-reading and to use the manual alphabet. The Missioner also visited them and gave general assistance and advice over their problems.

During 1959 the club for the deaf and that for the hard of hearing which used to meet at the Trinity Road Social Centre, declined and finally faded away. However, early in 1960 the Missioner and his Assistant are going to endeavour to get the club started again. A number of West Bromwich deaf attended the centre at Walsall for religious, sporting and social activities. During the year an extension was added to their centre and it is now a very attractive place for the deaf of the district.

The Welfare Officer is in constant communication with the Deaf Missioner, and together they have managed to overcome some of the problems of the deaf in West Bromwich.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

At the end of the year the number of persons known to be physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 504. This was an increase of 93 over the previous year. The total addition to the register this year is 155 but due to other factors 62 names were removed from the register. The exact position in relation to last year is shown in the following table:-

Group	Total 31.12.58.	Additions	Deaths	Moved out of area	Transferred to							Aged	Total 31.12.59.
					Blind Register	Mental def- iciency Register	Partially sighted	Permanently in Hospital	Not phys. handicapped	Deaf & Dumb Register			
A	68	17	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81
B	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
C	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
D	211	50	23	5	8	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	214
E	122	85	2	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	196
	411	155	28	8	14	4	3	1	1	2	1	1	504

The physically handicapped people are grouped into a total of five groups and these are defined as follows:-

- GROUP A Handicapped persons (other than children) who, though possibly needing training for some new occupation, are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.
- GROUP B Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.
- GROUP C Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but who are capable of work at home.
- GROUP D Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of, or not available for work.
- GROUP E Handicapped persons who are children under the age of 16 years and whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority has a general responsibility under Section 29 of the Act.

The 504 cases known to the department can be classified as suffering from disabilities as follows:-

Disability	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Amputations	12	-	1	23	-	36
Arthritis and rheumatism	1	2	-	53	3	59
Congenital malformations and deformities	11	-	1	13	31	56
Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis of the skin)	12	1	-	43	78	134
Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk; injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper & lower limbs & the spine.	29	1	1	20	18	69
Organic nervous diseases - epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.	15	4	1	42	45	107
Neurosis, psychosis and mental disorders not included in organic nervous diseases	1	-	-	3	1	5
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	3	-	-	3	3	9
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1	-	-	2	11	14
Diseases and injuries not specified above	1	-	-	6	8	15
TOTALS	86	8	4	208	198	504

Alterations to Property

During the year alterations to properties were carried out to make life more tolerable for a number of grossly physically handicapped persons. One patient who is seriously disabled with arthritis had difficulty in negotiating two steps into her living room. These steps were removed and the floor in the living room was made level to enable her to manage. Another, who is similarly crippled and also suffers from epilepsy had an additional handrail provided. An alteration was made for another patient who had a congenital deformity which made it difficult for her to get up and down the stairs with one handrail. A man suffering from severe arthritis took delivery of an invalid chair from the Ministry of Health and arrangements were made for the provision of an electric power point in his garage and a cross-over on the pavement.

There is much that can be done in this field and the co-operation, particularly from the Housing Department, is greatly valued in seeing, where possible, that persons are accommodated in property which is suitable and suitably modified to meet the need of the handicap.

Library Facilities

Facilities are given for the renewal of books by persons attending the Public Library on behalf of handicapped persons. The voluntary association in West Bromwich - The West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped - arranges for books to be so exchanged by its members and helpers.

Social Activities

The West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped is a strong and active Association and during the year gave Christmas parties for 102 adults and 110 children, arranged three coach trips for physically handicapped persons and assisted in a holiday scheme in September. There is a close connection between the activities of the voluntary body and the staff of the Welfare Department and assistance is provided on these social occasions by Welfare officers and the use of the Council's specially adapted 'bus.

The club for the physically handicapped - The Fellowship of New Horizons - has once again increased its strength, from 58 members in 1958 to 82 in 1959. Concerts, films, parties and social evenings are regular features of the programme, both a Harvest Festival and a Carol Service were held and this year a flower show was introduced. The Club itself distributed 20 parcels at harvest time to its members who were in need and gave 10/- to every member at Christmas and 5/-d. to those who went on holiday.

This club was originally started with the assistance and encouragement of the local authority and the Welfare Department provides the necessary transport for approximately 57 members and the premises for meetings. It is quite clear that transport is the deciding factor in the development of this club and at the moment the minibus, a sitting-case ambulance and the specially adapted 'bus are all used for this purpose. The Corporation

also make a grant to the Club to help to reimburse fares to members who travel by public transport but, because they are relying only on National Assistance, are unable to afford the amounts involved.

Holidays

By arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council Welfare Department, 23 physically handicapped persons from West Bromwich, together with escorts and one member of the welfare staff enjoyed a week's holiday in May at Weston-Super-Mare in a holiday camp. In September a further 43 persons were able to have a holiday at the same camp, this being arranged through the West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped and the South Staffordshire Association.

These holidays were a great success - to such an extent that plans were made to provide for a very much larger number in 1960.

Wheel Chairs

In previous years many permanently physically handicapped persons have had wheel chairs on loan from the Health Department as part of the provision of nursing equipment under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act. Since, once lent, these chairs were in constant use it did limit the temporary loan of chairs to others and it was felt desirable to endeavour to obtain permanent chairs from the Ministry of Health for those persons whose need was likely to continue. Altogether 15 applications for such chairs were submitted through the Hospital Service and up to date 12 of the applicants have received chairs from the Ministry. The general position is that chairs lent under Section 28 are intended for short-term use and if a person needs a chair more permanently it should be obtained from the National Health Service.

Transport

In July the Committee took possession of a single decker 'bus adapted to their requirements by the provision of a power operated platform at the rear capable of taking a person in a wheel chair. This was made possible by the generosity of the Transport Committee who, when this 'bus came out of the normal public transport service, gave it to the Welfare Services Committee. The adaptations were carried out by the Transport Department and the vehicle can now carry 28 persons and also a number of persons in their wheel chairs. The tail lift is used for loading and unloading the vehicle and collapsible wheel chairs are carried in the vehicle to facilitate getting the handicapped into buildings.

The provision of this vehicle has meant that many who have been homebound for years can now get out and join in such activities as occupational therapy and the social provisions made by the voluntary bodies.

Other Activities

A 21 year old boy suffering from cerebral diplegia was accepted by the National Spastic Society for training which will

The total number of cases on the register as ascertained mentally defective at the end of the year was as follows:-

	Under age 16		16 and over		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
(a) Under Statutory Supervision	46	77	64	49	236
(b) Under voluntary and friendly supervision	7	10	8	11	36
(c) Under Guardianship Order	-	-	-	-	-
(d) In the community on Licence from hospitals	-	-	4	4	8
(e) Patients in hospital	12	16	83	92	203
TOTALS	65	103	159	156	483

In addition to these patients there were 2 cases being supervised for other authorities.

Of the total number of cases under supervision resident in West Bromwich at the end of the year, 184 were working and 102 were not.

In the case of many of those who are working, supervisory visits are not necessary except for an occasional enquiry to relatives and employers to ensure that satisfactory progress is being made. They can be regarded as successfully integrated into the community.

Liaison between the visiting officer and other social services such as the Juvenile Employment Officer, Disabled Persons Section of Ministry of Labour, Probation Officers, etc. has been improved and maintained with beneficial results.

Waiting List for Hospital Accommodation

At the end of the year, there were 6 patients from West Bromwich waiting for admission to hospital.

These were in the following categories:-

	Under age 16		16 and over	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
(a) Urgent cases	1	-	-	-
(b) Non-urgent cases	1	1	1	2
TOTALS	2	1	1	2

Applications for vacancies in appropriate hospitals are made to the Regional Hospital Board for the admission of patients on an informal basis as preferable to admission by compulsory order resulting from proceedings by Petition, in accordance with the

trend over recent years. This method is now emphasised under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959.

Unfortunately, prolonged delay in securing vacancies in the hospitals has given cause for concern.

Short-Term Care

Assistance was given on three occasions to the relatives of defectives by arranging short-term care under the provisions of Circular 5/52 of the Ministry of Health. This provides for informal admission for a period of up to 8 weeks. All these patients were admitted to hospitals run by the Regional Hospital Board.

Occupation Centre

The Occupation Centre at "The Crest" provides for 60 places for children and at the end of the year there were 45 children on the register. The ages of these were as follows:-

Age	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 16 years	18	13	31
Over 16 years	6	8	14
TOTALS	24	21	45

The staff at the 31st December, consisted of:-

One Supervisor
Two Craft Instructors
Two Assistant Supervisors
One General Assistant
One Domestic (part-time)

The Supervisor and one of the craft instructors hold the Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health.

Attendance at "The Crest" is voluntary at present. This, however, will be altered when the Mental Health Act, 1959, is in full operation. The Act amends the Education Acts by revising the procedure to be followed when children are found to be unsuitable by reason of mental disorder for education at school, and enables local health authorities to compel the attendance of such children at the training centres under provisions similar to those in force under the Education Acts for compelling attendance at school.

At present the children are recommended for attendance after discussion between their parents, a medical officer of the authority, and the mental health officer. On admission they are transported to and from the Centre, accompanied by a guide, and have their mid-day meal there. The charge made to the parents for the meal is similar to that made to parents of children at special schools. The Centre is open on the same days as primary schools and the average daily attendance is about 35. The children are organised into groups and schemes of training planned so that they can make the best use of their limited ability.

Cerebral Palsy

Twenty-eight people were known to be suffering from cerebral palsy in West Bromwich in 1959. These were as follows:-

Children under the age of five

Two children were known to the health visitors

School Children

Fifteen children were suffering from this condition and the type of disability can be summarised as follows:-

Hemiplegia	...	...	6
Paraplegia	...	...	3
Quadriplegia	...	...	5
Tetraplegia	...	...	1

In addition, 1 child had a further disability. Of these children 7 are at ordinary school, 1 at a special school for the educationally subnormal, 1 receives home teaching, 4 occupational therapy and 2 are deemed to be ineducable.

Adults

Four men are known to be suffering from the condition none of whom are in employment. Seven women are suffering from cerebral palsy. One is in employment and 6 are not employed. These figures do not necessarily represent the true number of such cases.

OTHER WELFARE SERVICES

Persons in Need of Care and Attention

No action was taken during the year for the removal of persons in need of care and attention under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

Temporary Protection of Property

The Authority accepts responsibility for the protection of the house and effects of persons admitted to hospital or other accommodation who have made no suitable arrangements and have no one else to do this. No action was required during the year.

Temporary Accommodation

The authority has no accommodation specifically for providing for those homeless by reasons of unforeseen circumstances. Cases coming to the notice of the Health Department are referred to the Housing Department who endeavour to meet any real need, but during the year none were referred.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Authority has a duty to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area, where no suitable arrangements for disposal have been made. During the year it has been found necessary to arrange for 11 burials.

General Matters

It is impossible in a short survey of this nature to mention the many personal matters which are dealt with in the course of the daily round of the welfare officer. Some of these are insoluble but many with a little help can be successfully relieved.

It is this function - that of a friend and adviser to the aged and handicapped - which is one of the greatest contributions that can be made by the welfare officer.

PART VI

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

General Hygiene

Housing

Air and Factory Hygiene

Food Hygiene and Control

Public Cleansing and Salvage

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector — 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my fifth Annual Report and although it records advances in some spheres there are, regrettably, others which are unchanged or lagging behind. Notable amongst these are house repair and reconditioning and food hygiene. Of the specialist inspectors most concerned the housing inspectors have submitted over 800 houses for clearance or closure and the meat inspectors too have had a record year. There are indications that there will be fewer and better slaughterhouses in the near future which will bring a reduction in travelling time but the probable increase in output will take up all this saving. It is thus virtually certain that food hygiene and house repair can only have proper attention when additional inspectors are recruited for the purpose.

Training

To attract inspectors with or without experience into the Midlands is very difficult and the best hope is to appoint articled pupils. The committee appointed three in 1955 and the eldest qualified in June. This is a long term policy which should slowly improve the position provided all the larger authorities offer facilities and are able to attract suitable young men and women. The latter seldom join our ranks but I am sure there is useful and appropriate scope for them. Octavia Hill made her self an expert on housing matters; food hygiene and domestic smoke control are other obvious possibilities.

The training of suitable young men from the meat trade to act as "detention officers", particularly in bacon factories, to relieve public health inspectors is a constructive proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The principal difficulty will be to find recruits to work in a subordinate position at a salary which gives a suitable differential for responsibility.

More Heat and Less Dirt

As standards of living increase so do the demands for goods and services. They in their turn cause an increase in energy requirements to be met by fuels in some form.

We see, as we look round, the power industries steadily increasing their efficiency; the newer applications of atomic power endeavouring to overcome the problems of operating at higher temperatures; the advances in the oil industry leading not only to larger production of fuel but also to valuable petro-chemicals; the gas industry exploring new methods of gasification, storage and distribution.

The substantial cost of fuel has helped to promote improvements in efficiency and economy of use and the success of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service is one example of the trend in this direction.

In the home there is an increasing demand for more comfort, greater economy in use of fuel, more cleanliness and convenience.

This is leading steadily towards central heating which can be extended from background heat at the beginning to whole-house warming as the ultimate objective. The conversion of domestic coal fires to coke or the refined fuels such as electricity and gas is but the forerunner of this movement. It is a progression which appears to have been halted by the diversion of capital into television sets and has only lately restarted. In general, heating appliances in houses except those built recently, have not changed for 50 years and the labour of fetching and carrying coal and removing ash and soot remains.

Smoke control should benefit from this tendency.

Does Salvage Pay?

Wherever officers responsible for public cleansing meet this question is asked but seldom is it answered conclusively, usually for lack of data.

The analysis of refuse from the district of our first Smoke Control Order showed that 7 cwts. of mixed papers; including fibre board, newsprint and other paper occupied 4 cu.yds. This means that if the 1196 tons of paper sold to the mills during the year had been tipped with other refuse we should have required an additional $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land 6 feet deep to contain it; subject of course, to compression. In some districts this may be of no consequence but where tipping space is scarce and expensive it is a serious item.

To collect this same amount of paper with the other refuse, discarding all trailers and special collection vehicles, would have meant carrying over 900 additional loads (assuming 15 cu.yds. per load). This could not have been done without one additional vehicle of 18-20 cu.yds. capacity with driver and loaders, costing about £4,500 annually.

So far as West Bromwich is concerned to conserve tipping space, have the benefit of an income of £12,625 and improve the earnings of all workmen by an average of more than £3 per month makes salvage altogether worthwhile.

Mr. G.H. Shaw.

In previous years I have taken this opportunity to express my appreciation of the substantial contribution made by my Deputy Mr. G.H. Shaw in the day-to-day administration of the department.

It was a great shock to us all when he collapsed on the morning of December 2nd whilst at work and died in a few hours. It was his intention to retire on his 62nd birthday which would have been in February 1960.

Mr. Shaw would then have served the department and the Corporation for 42 years. Beginning on the lowest rung of the ladder he occupied the deputyship for 25 years.

He was a devoted public servant, a loyal colleague and a generous friend.

Staff Changes and Promotions

We welcome Mr. C.D. Whitehouse as a qualified member of the team having completed his pupillage in June and satisfied the examiners in the same month.

Mr. Sidney Davies, who has also grown up in the department and added annually to his qualifications was appointed to the Borough of Solihull in December.

Mr. G.A. Lavender has satisfied the examiners in the intermediate examination in Laws, London University.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes in all these endeavours and hope they will bring satisfaction and pleasure to all concerned.

Acknowledgements

I am pleased to record again my appreciation of the co-operation received from the Chief Officers and Heads of other departments. I would thank particularly the transport manager and his staff for their success in maintaining this department's fleet of vehicles for refuse removal.

I acknowledge also the loyalty of all members of my staff and their continued efforts to improve, so far as is in their power, the general environment in which the towns people live and work. I include also the workmen collecting and disposing of a steadily increasing volume of miscellaneous refuse for it is their physical effort which forms the basis of the department.

Finally my thanks are due to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and all members of the Committee for their support and encouragement throughout another year.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

S. CAYTON.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

GENERAL HYGIENE

Description of the Area

West Bromwich is situated in the West Midlands conurbation, lies midway between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and the A.41 road joins the three towns. The County Borough of Walsall lies to the North and Smethwick to the South. West Bromwich has a population of 93,590 in a total of about 2,500,000 in the West Midlands conurbation. A penny rate produces £3,918. Rateable value and population are growing rapidly from year to year.

Meteorology

Climatological Station, Dartmouth Park - 543.3 feet above sea level

		1959		
Total rainfall		27.43 ⁿ		
No. of days on which rain fell		137		
Taken at 9 a.m. local time Reading of self registering thermometers				
	Max. in Air	Min. in Air	Total rainfall	Days on which rain fell
January	39.45	29.55	2.79	13
February	43.79	33.82	0.22	2
March	51.06	37.84	2.01	18
April	57.66	41.63	3.00	15
May	64.06	43.26	1.06	9
June	70.33	50.66	1.11	12
July	75.00	55.00	1.78	10
August	73.23	54.58	4.10	6
September	69.50	49.43	0.26	2
October	61.71	45.52	2.68	10
November	47.93	38.33	4.06	17
December	45.55	36.42	4.36	23
TOTAL			27.43 ⁿ	137 days

Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and The City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Details of the analyses of water samples will be found later in this report.

Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 16,831, an increase of 43 on 1958.

The following is a summary of them:-

Inspections - Housing Acts (Slum Clearance, etc.)	...	3,278
" Public Health & Housing Acts (Housing Repairs)	...	3,545
" Public Health Act (Caravans)	...	189
" Shop Acts	...	10
" Food Premises (including Food Inspection)		827
" Factories Acts	...	211
" Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 (Inspections by Public Health Inspector)		107
" Theatres and Cinemas	...	10
" West Bromwich Corporation Act 1949 (Chiropodists, Hawkers and Hairdressers)		34
" Rent Act 1957	...	98
" Refuse Collection and Disposal and Public Conveniences	...	163
Re-inspections - Housing	...	1,291
Meat and Food Inspection - Visits to slaughterhouses		3,174
Sampling Visits - Food and Drugs and Ice Cream	...	229
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	...	19
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials		1
Water		107
Air Hygiene and Factories - Smoke Observations, industrial and general surveys, investigations of industrial and domestic nuisances, deposit gauges, and Smoke Control Areas		3,317
Food Poisoning and special Infectious Disease Investigations		221
		<hr/>
		16,831
		<hr/>

Complaints received

1,050 complaints were received during the year, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken. This is 168 more than in 1958.

Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 during the year was 627. Of this number 329 were Informal Notices and 298 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 849. These included 88 notices involving 111 houses served under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949.

A tabulated comparison with notices served during 1958 is as under:-

	1958	1959
Informal notices	327	329
Statutory notices	196	210
Houses in connection therewith	688	738
Notices served under Section 62 of the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949	25	88
Houses in connection therewith	29	111

The West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949, notices referred to are all concerned with defective drainage, and almost invariably the department carries out the work through small contractors. When completed the cost of the work is apportioned amongst the respective owners. During 1950 £201 was expended and recovered in this way.

Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 532 houses were repaired during the year. In addition defects were remedied in a further 279 houses, after the service of formal notices under the Public Health Act. Of this latter number 73 houses were repaired by the owners, and 206 by the local authority in default of owners.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are now seven cinemas in the borough, all of which are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Destruction of Rats and Mice

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses including Council houses	All other including business premises	Agricultural.	Total of cols. 1, 2, 3 & 4.
Number of properties in Local Authority's district	59	27,088	4,029	8	31,184
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification	22	272	49	-	343
(b) survey under the Act	-	-	-	-	-
(c) otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	62	673	127	-	862
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested					
by (a) Rats	13	222	38	-	273
(b) Mice	9	50	11	-	70
Number of infested properties treated by the local authority	22	272	49	-	343

Sewer Treatments

Forty-five sewer manholes were baited with poison suitably masked by sausage rusk.

Thirteen of these baits were eaten completely. This treatment is being continued because it materially reduces infestations on the surface. Most rat infestations are associated in some way with defective drains or sewers.

Disinfestation

67 houses were successfully disinfested by means of liquid or powdered insecticides containing D.D.T. or B.H.C.

We are being consulted increasingly regarding the extermination of insects including garden pests but rarely for assistance with bed bugs which are happily, disappearing.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933 and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

There are 62 names entered on the list of Persons entitled to sell poisonous substances included in Part II of the Poisons List.

The Poisons List was prepared by the Poisons Board and confirmed by the Home Secretary. It prescribes two lists of poisons called respectively Part I and Part II of the Poisons List. Part I specifies poisons which can only be sold by retail to the general public by registered Pharmacists, whilst the Part II List is a list of poisons which may be sold not only by registered pharmacists but also, subject to certain conditions, by ordinary traders whose names must be entered on a List of Persons Entitled to sell such Poisons kept by the local authority. The poisons listed in Part II comprise articles which are in common use (insecticides, fungicides, preparations for the destruction of rats and mice, disinfectants, etc.) for purposes other than the treatment of human ailments, and which it is deemed to be reasonably necessary for the public to have adequate facilities to obtain.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

One manufacturer of rag flock is licensed by the Corporation, and ten premises are registered under the Act. Two samples of washed rag flock were taken during the year and proved satisfactory.

The object of this Act is to ensure that rag flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, and articles of upholstery, are clean and fit for this purpose. Much of this material is imported.

Premises where filling materials are manufactured or stored for distribution must be licensed by the Local Authority, whilst premises requiring to be registered are those which are used in manufacturing bedding and other articles of upholstery.

Hairdressers and Barbers

The number of premises registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949, carrying on the trade or business of hairdresser or barber was 86 at the end of the year. The number of people entering this business is increasing and it is desirable that more time be devoted to securing full compliance with the byelaws.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 and Regulations

Eight samples of fertilisers and one sample of feeding stuffs were taken during the year and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. Two informal and one formal sample of fertiliser were unsatisfactory and appropriate action was taken.

Water Sampling

Bacteriological examination was made of 18 samples of water, taken from the sources below:-

From South Staffs. Waterworks Company	...	9
From City of Birmingham Supply	...	9

All these samples proved to be satisfactory.

Six further bacteriological samples were taken from shallow wells on Dartmouth Estate; the Millpool, Allerton Lane, and the Canal at Hamstead.

18 samples of water, nine from the South Staffs. Waterworks supply and nine from the City of Birmingham supply were taken for chemical examination, all of which were satisfactory. Details of the chemical analysis of the last sample taken are as follows:-

Appearance	Bright, few small particles
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.092
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.132
Chlorine in Chlorides	33.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.6
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C. in 4 hours	1.3
Total solids dried at 100° C.	340
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7.89
Free Chlorine	0.04
Radioactivity	-

Swimming Baths

A total of 19 water samples were taken from 3 swimming pools and a paddling pool within the Borough. Eighteen were for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination. Details of the results of the analyses are given below:-

The Gala Public Baths. These are full-sized public baths managed by the West Bromwich Corporation and having full treatment facilities. Six samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

Shenstone Lodge Special School. Also controlled by the Council, this is an open air pool without automatic treatment. The pool is filled and emptied as is necessary and chemicals for treatment are added by hand. Four samples for bacteriological examination were taken, two being satisfactory and two unsatisfactory. Advice and assistance was given to effect an improvement in the next swimming season.

Hallam Hospital Pool. This is an open air swimming pool under the control of the Hospitals Management Committee. There is no automatic treatment and chemicals are added by hand. Two bacteriological samples taken were both satisfactory, as was also one chemical sample.

Dartmouth Park Paddling Pool. This is an open circular concrete pool 75 feet in diameter and 1 foot deep. It is fed by a natural spring and arrangements are made to drain the pool for cleaning. Treatment is by a drip feed mechanism at the inlet of the pool. The pool is subject to gross contamination by children, birds and animals, and of six samples taken only one was satisfactory, the rest showing varying degrees of contamination. Arrangements have been made for improved procedures for cleaning and chemical treatment.

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ABOVE SAMPLES			
Premises	Sample No.	Viable Count per 1 ml.	Coliforms per 100 ml.
Gala Public Baths	1	4	Nil
	2	1	Nil
	3	0	Nil
	4	1	Nil
	5	1	Nil
	6	1	Nil
Shenstone Lodge Special School	1	1	Nil
	2	3720	12 B. Coli Type 1
	3	120	Nil
	4	Uncountable	2 B. Coli Type 1
Hallam Hospital Pool	1	1500	Nil
	2	0	Nil
Dartmouth Park Paddling Pool	1	202	38 B. Coli Type 1
	2	3300	15 " "
	3	0	Nil
	4	4200	8 B. Aerogenes Type 2
	5	18900	96 B. Coli Type 1
	6	4260	2 " " 1

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Under the provisions of this Act no person may keep a pet shop unless he and the premises are licensed by the Local Authority. The license is renewable each year and among the factors to be considered in granting a license in any particular case are the suitability of the accommodation, the arrangements for feeding the animals; the precautions to be taken against the spread of infection and the adequacy of precautions against fire and other emergencies. This necessitates visits by the inspectorial staff in conjunction with the Fire Officer. Not all premises that sell animals are required to be registered as there is an exemption in the case of day-old chicks and where premises are used by an individual for the breeding of pedigree animals. There are at present 8 licenses in force within the Borough.

HOUSING

F. A. OAKES

K. C. DAVIS

Specialist Inspectors

New Housing Accommodation

The number and types of houses and flats built by the local authority during the year 1959 is as follows:-

3 bedroom houses	170
4 bedroom houses	24
1 bedroom flats	142
2 bedroom flats	74
School Caretakers Houses	2
	<hr/>
	412

The number of houses erected by private enterprise	118
	<hr/>
	530

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1957 - Parts II and III

Slum Clearance

The following tables indicate the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance programme in the post war period. It will be seen that considerable acceleration has taken place during the year, 21 Clearance Areas involving 702 houses have been represented and 110 Demolition Orders and 25 Closing Orders made.

355 houses were demolished during the year by reason of action taken under Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1957.

The department's activities do not cease when the Compulsory Purchase Orders or Clearance Orders are submitted to the Minister. During the year public local inquiries were held in connection with 18 areas comprising 361 houses represented in 1957 and 1958. There were objections with respect to 78 houses on the grounds that the houses were not unfit. This involves considerable preparatory work in consultations with other departments, the service of notices of the principal grounds on which the houses are considered unfit and the preparation of evidence for the inquiries and visits with the Inspectors of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

16 Orders comprising 311 houses made in 1958 and 2 comprising 26 houses made in 1959 were confirmed by the Minister during the year.

Two areas in the Lyng Ward forming part of the Lyng Comprehensive Development Area were represented during the year. These involve 415 houses and it is anticipated that the remainder of the area involving some 493 houses will be represented early in 1960.

Clearing the Slums

Summary of Action and Progress in the Post War Period

Table 1

Clearance Areas

Clearance Areas	Type of order	Date of Confirmation	No. of houses	No. of persons to be displaced	Progress to end of 1959	
					No. of houses demolished	No. of persons displaced
Chapel Street, Carters Green	C.P.O.	23.8.57.	88	254	88	250
Guns Lane No. 1	Clearance Order	19.6.57.	15	45	15	26
Guns Lane & King St. No. 1	C.P.O.	1.9.57.	102	354	102	284
Guns Lane No. 1	C.P.O.	Excluded by Minister	6	-	-	-
New Street Hill Top No. 1	C.P.O.	16.1.58.	61	187	35	192
Chestnut Ave., High St. No. 1	Clearance Order	13.12.57.	24	61	21	59
Roebuck Street No. 1	do	3.7.58.	10	35	6	34
Roebuck Street No. 2	do	4.7.58.	10	29	-	29
Roebuck Street No. 3	do	3.7.58.	11	39	6	30
Roebuck Street & Roebuck Lane No. 1	do	4.7.58.	48	142	46	142
Piercy Street No. 1	C.P.O.	23.6.58.	12	32	12	32
Moor St. No. 1	do	30.9.58.	10	25	-	14
Moor St. No. 2	do	29.1.59.	31	70	-	39
Ebenezer Street No. 1	do	10.2.59.	14	49	4	30

Ebenezer Street No. 2	C. P. O.	19.5.59.	43	96	-	33
Dial Lane No.1	do	19.5.59.	7	24	-	10
Dial Lane No.2	do	19.5.59.	3	9	-	4
Dial Lane No.3	do	19.2.59.	2	7	-	-
Greets Green Rd. No.1	do	12.6.59.	16	40	-	-
Beale St.No.1	do	Awaiting Confirmation	58	157	-	-
Hargate Lane No.1	do	do	15	43	-	-
Hargate Lane No.2	do	do	2	8	-	-
Dial Lane No.4	do	18.11.59.	5	11	-	-
Vicarage Rd.No.1	Clearance Order	22.6.59.	10	25	-	9
Church Lane No.1	do	22.6.59.	7	19	-	4
Walsall St.No.1	C. P. O.	18.11.59.	6	18	-	-
Walsall St.No.2	do	18.11.59.	6	10	-	-
Peters St. No.1	do	2.6.59.	4	11	-	2
Harvills Hawthorn No.1	do	18.11.59.	7	18	-	-
Summer St.No.1	do	18.11.59.	61	166	-	-
Bull Lane No.1	Clearance Order	22.5.59.	4	13	-	6
Lyng Nos.1,2 & 3	C. P. O.	Awaiting confirmation	205	590	-	-
Whitehall Road No.1	C. P. O.	do	24	58	-	-
Oak Road No.1	Clearance Order	17.11.59.	12	37	-	-
Bowater St.No.1	do	16.11.59.	14	35	-	-
Spon Lane No.1	do	Awaiting confirmation	26	88	-	-

Neal St.No. 1	C. P. O. and Clearance Order	Awaiting confirmation	22	63	-	-
Lower Trinity St.No. 1	C. P. O.	do	51	121	-	-
Hargate Lane Nos. 3, 4 & 5	do	do	12	29	-	-
Hargate Lane & Hollyoak St. No. 1	do	do	12	24	-	-
Sheepwash Lane Nos. 1 & 2	do	do	23	60	-	-
Richard St.No. 1	do	do	45	145	-	-
Lyng Nos. 4, 5 & 6	do	do	210	554	-	-
Spon Lane No. 2	do	do	35	132	-	-
Barncroft St. No. 1	do	do	11	37	-	-

TABLE II

(Individual Unfit Houses)

Year	Houses demolished	Demolition Orders made	Closing Orders made	Undertakings given under Section II of the Housing Act 1936, and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957
1946	109	-	-	-
1947	23	10	-	-
1948	117	39	-	-
1949	108	73	10	-
1950	112	51	-	-
1951	92	44	1	-
1952	55	64	-	-
1953	82	79	-	-
1954	10	58	4	23
1955	63	54	7	-
1956	120	86	10	26
1957	128	130	1	3
1958	250	171	57	3
1959	129	110	12	13
Total	1,398	969	102	68

TABLE III

Demolition of Houses

The total number of houses demolished during the year was as under:-

Houses in Clearance Areas	226
Houses subject of Demolition Orders	129
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	355

Rent Act, 1957

Twenty applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year bringing the total of applications received since the Act came into force on the 6th July 1957 to 222.

Number of applications	20
Number of applications withdrawn	1
Number of Notices of Intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair	22
Number of undertakings given by Landlords	14
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted to tenants	10
Number of Certificates refused	1
Number of applications for cancellation of Certificates by Landlord.	15
Number refused	6

In spite of the fact that there are several thousand unfit houses included in the Corporation's Slum Clearance Programme and not yet dealt with and there must be several thousand more houses which are unfit but not yet ripe for demolition, the figure of 20 applications for Certificates of Disrepair is astonishingly low. One can only assume that tenants in general are not only apathetic about increases in rent but also about the state of repair although a good deal can be put down to the ignorance of the rather complicated procedures under this Act.

Improvement Grants

Under the Housing Acts 1949 - 1959 local authorities may make grants for improvement of houses by the provision of such amenities as bathrooms, internal toilets, hot water supply, food storage and other modern conveniences.

The technical and administrative work in connection with these applications is carried out by the Borough Surveyor and Town Clerk respectively, and the following information was supplied by them:-

Applications approved	77
Applications refused	6

The average amount paid by way of grant in these cases was £111.

Of the 77 grants approved, 67 were for owner occupied houses and 10 for tenanted properties. These figures although somewhat higher than previous years are still disappointing.

We are about half way through the Slum Clearance Programme and it is very clear that when these worn out and dilapidated old houses have all gone, by 1968 we hope, the terraces of larger and better built houses which lack the amenities demanded to-day, will be so obviously sub-standard that we shall have another Slum Clearance Programme of similar magnitude unless vigorous action is taken now to prevent it.

The improvement grant is intended for this purpose. It is not being used to any significant extent and there is great need for a programme to encourage owner/occupiers and landlords to bring their houses up to date.

The "improvement" of one house in a row may be wasteful, except from the view of the occupier, for it does nothing to extend the "life" of the row unless the other owners can be persuaded to do likewise. When the majority have been "improved" the value of the row to the community is far above the money expended because every house is one less to be built from public funds.

An important condition of the grant for improvement is that the house should first be put into good repair. This is at times as costly as the "improvement" but equally necessary if the house is to remain in good condition and be serviceable for at least 15 years.

AIR AND FACTORY HYGIENE

J. G. KELLY
S. DAVIES
Specialist Inspectors

Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution

Legislation

The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order 1959, was made during the year and is concerned with the use of mechanical means of firing bituminous coals in smoke control areas. It is important to note that the exemption is conditional upon the stokers being designed, maintained and operated in a proper manner with the use of the prescribed fuel. The Order applies to plant installed on or after 31st December, 1956. It can be logically associated with Section 3 of the Act operative on this date and appears designed to secure uniform treatment by Local Authorities where such plant is situate within a smoke control area.

New Furnaces

Whilst at first industrialists were not fully aware of their obligations to at least notify the local authority of any new installations, during 1959 22 notifications of intention to install new plant, and 13 applications for prior approval were received relating, in all, to 67 furnaces, detailed below:-

Notification		Prior Approval	
Coal	2 (4)	Coal	2
Coke	3 (5)	Coke	Nil
Electricity	Nil	Electricity	1 (2)
Gas	3	Gas	Nil
Oil	14 (17)	Oil	10 (17)

The figures in brackets indicate the number of furnaces involved.

Industrial Smoke and Nuisances

Through routine observations and survey of premises, the control of smoke emission was tightened still further during the year. Many warning notices were issued and advice given on firing techniques and other problems. It was however necessary to institute legal proceedings in one instance, which is set down later in this Report, and this marked the end of a long series of warnings for dark smoke emission. It is satisfactory to note also that the fuel suppliers, appliance manufacturers and the National Fuel Efficiency Service are more actively urging the efficient use of fuel, and the intense competition amongst fuel suppliers will, it is hoped, lead to cleaner air.

Grit and dust from foundry cupolas has received close attention during the latter part of the year under review, and every effort is being made to ensure that the grit and dust provisions of the Clean Air Act are brought to the notice of all industrialists. The day of the simple dry-type spark arrester is over, for having considered the "current state of technical knowledge" the wet-type spark arrester is the obvious equipment to minimise the emission of grit and dust from foundry cupolas.

Only one certificate of temporary exemption under Section 2 of the Act was granted during the year.

Complaints concerning various industrial nuisances and smoke emissions were investigated and the following Table gives a summary of the action taken:-

Premises	Offence/Nuisance	Result
Foundry	Mist from wet-type grit arresters	Provision of splash-back baffle
Garages (3)	Dark smoke from oil burning stoves	Advice given on operation & maintenance of burners. Also quality & treatment of the waste oil.
Brickworks	Dark smoke from hand fired Lancashire boiler	Advice given on hand firing. Temporary exemption requested & given
Light Engineering Works	Dark smoke from oil fired vertical boiler	Advice given on operation & maintenance of burner
Metal container cap works	Dark smoke from oil fired central heating boiler due to back pressure	Advised re-design of plant. Carried out & no further trouble
Stores	Smoke from incinerator - nuisance	Re-designed and chimney raised
Enamelling Works	Dark smoke from muffle furnace	Process discontinued
Builder's Yard	Smoke nuisance from incinerator	Incinerations stopped. Other method of disposal substituted.
Locomotives	Dark smoke	Warning given to British Railways. Notices erected along track at stopping points
Foundry	Grit from cupolas	Arresters repaired
Engineering Works	Smoke nuisance from incineration	Discontinued

Premises	Offence/Nuisance	Result
Foundry	Grit from defective Dressing Shop filter plant	New bags provided for plant after Abatement notice served
Furniture Manufacturers	Dark smoke from Economic boiler	Advised greater care in operation
Scrap Yard	Smoke nuisance arising from recovery of scrap.	Warning notice. Greater care to be taken
Light Engineering Works	Smoke nuisance from low stack	Stack raised to prevent downwash into houses
Spring Works	Noise nuisance from dropping of metal parts	Rubberised covering provided for metal containers.
Manufacturing Works	Dark Smoke from hand fired vertical boiler	Changeover to smokeless fuel
Builders	Smoke nuisance from incinerator	Incinerator re-sited
Cleaners	Dark smoke from vertical boiler with underfeed	Improved cleaning-out technique
Foundry	Dark smoke from coal fired furnaces	New oil fired furnace installed
Foundry	Dust and grit nuisance from cupola	New grit arrester installed
Warehouse	Smoke nuisance from incinerator	Incinerator rebuilt
Foundry	Grit and dust nuisance from cupolas	New baffles provided to cupolas
Engineering Works (3)	Dark smoke from hand fired boiler plant	Advice given, fuels changed
Bakery	Dark smoke from baking ovens	Improved operation and maintenance achieved
Laundry	Grit emission from boiler plant	New boiler plant installed
Piggery	Nuisance from smoke & smell - pig food cooker	Cooker re-sited
Bag Manufacturing Works	Smoke from heating stove	Nuisance abated

Premises	Offence/Nuisance	Result
Iron & Steel Works	Nuisance from smoke, dust & noise	Steps taken to minimise nuisance
Aluminium Foundry	Dark smoke from under-loaded boiler plant	Temporary change-over to coke
Transport Contractors	Transport of foundry sand in uncovered vehicles	Contractor warned
Foundry	Noise and fume nuisance	Chimneys raised, vibration reduced
Foundry	Grit & Dust emission from cupolas	Wet-type spark arresters to be fitted
Foundry	- ditto -	- ditto -
Cabinet makers	Nuisance from sawdust	Cyclone repaired
Cinema	Smoke and smell nuisance from burning of rubbish	Alternative arrangements made for refuse disposal

Domestic Smoke Control

The Council's policy on smoke control has continued and Orders 2, 3 and 4 became operative. The position on 31st December, 1959 was as follows:-

Area	Acreage	Description	Total Properties	Position at 31st Dec., 1959
1	25	Town Centre	191 Houses 58 Other premises	Operative (1.11.1958)
2	37	New Corporation Estates	327 Houses 3 Commercial	Operative (1.10.1959)
3	8	New Private Estate	58 Houses	Operative (1.10.1959)
4	14	New Private Estate with existing houses	85 Houses 1 Commercial	Operative (1.10.1959)
5	37	Town Centre Extension (1)	317 Houses 74 Other premises	Order made by Council. Awaiting confirmation by Minister
6	50	Town Centre Extension (2)	646 Houses 30 Other premises	- ditto -

Area	Acreage	Description	Total Properties	Position at 31st Dec., 1959
7	60	New Private Estate with existing properties	182 Existing Houses 352 Proposed Houses 3 Other premises	Approved in principle by Minister. Detailed survey made
8	122	Town Centre Extension (3)	1084 Houses 43 Other premises	Preliminary survey made. Awaiting Ministry approval in principle.

In midyear local authorities in the black areas were requested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to submit a five year smoke control programme. The Council have done this and now have a programme for the period 1959 - 1966 which is intended to cover eleven areas with a total area of about 2,000 acres and includes some 6,000 dwellinghouses. This rate of progress needs to be doubled to achieve the target suggested by the "Beaver" Committee.

Many visits have been made to houses in smoke control areas to give assistance and advice where difficulties had arisen either with the new appliances or with the smokeless fuels.

It was unfortunately necessary to take legal proceedings in connection with household smoke which are referred to elsewhere in the Report.

Proceedings under Clean Air Act, 1956

During the year four cases were taken before the Stipendiary Magistrate under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The cases are tabulated below but it is interesting to note particularly the case where the summons was dismissed. Two inspectors observed quite dense smoke being emitted from a chimney of a dwellinghouse for a continuous period of ten minutes. They went to the house to inform the occupier but he refused to give any explanation or admit them.

In Court the occupier swore an oath that he was burning coke at the time and the Magistrate dismissed the summons.

Section	Premises	Alleged Offence	Plea	Result
11	Dwellinghouse	10 mins. continuous smoke	Guilty	Conviction Fined £1
11	Dwellinghouse	10 mins. continuous smoke	Not Guilty	Conviction Fined £3
11	Dwellinghouse	10 mins. continuous smoke	Not Guilty	Summons dismissed
1	Oil Works	Aggregate of 20 mins. "dark" smoke in 62 mins.	Guilty	Conviction Fined £5

Clean Air Council

Interest in and support of the West Bromwich Clean Air Council continued to grow throughout the year. Two meetings were held.

The first of these was the Annual General Meeting held on 9th March 1959 when Reports were presented by the Joint Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. S. Davies and J.G. Kelly, on behalf of the Executive Committee and by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. Cayton on "Air Pollution in 1958". The officers of the Council were elected for the ensuing year 1959/60, the chair being occupied by Councillor F.G. Phillips, with Capt. D.W. Shirlaw (Director-Steel Parts Limited) Vice-Chairman.

The open meeting which followed took the form of a Brains Trust with the following panel:-

Councillor F.V. Magness - Willenhall Urban District
Council; National Clean Air Council
Miss B. Fox - Womens Advisory Council on Solid Fuel
Mr. E. Otty - National Coal Board
Mr. S. Cayton - Chief Public Health Inspector
Mr. R. Brown - National Industrial Fuel Efficiency
Service

The second meeting was held on 23rd November, 1959, followed by an illustrated address by Dr. P.J. Lawther, Head of Atmospheric Pollution Research, Medical Research Council, entitled "Air Pollution and Health". Considerable interest in the facts and figures relating to the effects of air pollution on health was shown by the audience which numbered about 120.

On October 15th 1959, members of the Clean Air Council were invited by Messrs. Shell Mex and B.P. Limited to visit their refinery at Stanlow, Cheshire, 28 members and friends took part in a most enjoyable and instructive visit.

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution

Deposit Gauges

The following table gives the monthly recordings of the five deposit gauges showing the deposited matter in tons per square mile

Month	Highfields	Geo. Salter School	M. E. B.	Heath Lane Hospital	Copper & Alloys Ltd.
January	18.12	39.82	23.68	14.31	-
February	8.88	8.94	15.47	10.10	21.05
March	16.23	14.28	24.09	12.70	32.38
April	16.56	15.50	24.03	32.28	28.51
May	12.02	11.76	21.95	16.36	198.08
June	15.73	14.41	22.44	21.82	29.74
July	15.57	14.72	23.25	16.43	27.68
August	10.83	9.36	13.52	11.78	17.44
September	10.00	10.48	9.80	10.23	14.90
October	14.01	15.64	21.16	28.12	43.45
November	17.73	15.70	22.50	15.56	36.03
December	15.40	14.53	15.52	13.05	32.91
	171.08	185.14	237.41	202.74	482.17
Monthly Averages					
1949	-	20.09	24.80	16.37	-
1950	-	20.23	23.83	15.36	-
1951	-	20.84	22.69	16.15	-
1952	-	22.12	15.91	13.82	-
1953	16.07	15.43	18.83	14.42	-
1954	22.97	26.39	24.70	18.54	-
1955	18.50	18.59	16.70	14.65	-
1956	14.91	15.64	20.77	10.39	-
1957	9.07	15.33	13.93	10.40	-
1958	14.55	15.36	20.75	12.91	23.13
1959	14.26	15.43	19.78	16.89	43.83

The above gauges have been in operation for eleven years and the average readings for the whole of the borough during that period are as follows, expressed in tons per square mile per month:-

1949	20.56	1953	16.19	1957	12.18
1950	19.80	1954	23.15	1958	16.31
1951	20.01	1955	17.11	1959	21.67
1952	18.52	1956	15.43		

The abnormally high figures marked by an asterisk were due to local building operations, otherwise the average figure for the year 1959 would have been about 18.95. However for direct comparison, on the basis of the original four gauges in operation for the whole of previous years the annual average would be 16.59.

Lead Peroxide Instruments

There are ten Lead peroxide instruments in the borough. The weight of sulphur trioxide (SO₃) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is given in the following table:-

Month	High-fields	Geo. Salter School	M.E.B.	Hill Top	Heath Lane	Ray Hall	Red House Park	Kenrick Park	Dartmouth Park	Copper & Alloys
January	3.01	3.34	4.73	2.94	4.24	3.22	2.89	5.76	4.32	-
February	2.39	2.64	3.61	2.21	3.30	6.37	1.59	3.71	3.00	3.04
March	1.90	1.94	2.88	1.70	2.29	1.99	1.47	2.91	2.13	2.62
April	1.70	1.73	2.65	1.36	2.01	1.09	1.07	2.45	1.92	1.99
May	0.93	1.24	1.42	1.04	1.14	0.97	0.86	1.51	1.14	1.37
June	2.07	1.20	1.53	0.91	0.97	0.51	0.51	1.65	1.07	1.13
July	0.72	1.78	1.99	0.91	1.10	0.71	0.57	1.62	0.97	1.17
August	0.53	1.01	1.08	0.43	0.79	0.45	0.43	1.37	0.61	0.86
September	0.80	0.96	1.36	0.90	1.00	0.55	0.56	1.15	1.17	1.06
October	1.23	1.76	2.90	1.73	2.09	1.64	1.19	3.31	1.88	1.88
November	2.30	2.61	4.03	1.81	3.31	3.45	1.77	2.06	2.95	3.02
December	1.03	2.06	4.14	1.73	2.99	1.74	1.27	4.40	2.73	2.62
Monthly Average										
1949	-	1.82	2.10	-	1.87	1.49	1.20	2.51	-	-
1950	-	1.86	2.12	-	2.09	1.52	1.22	2.39	-	-
1951	-	1.80	1.83	-	1.93	1.45	1.14	2.46	-	-
1952	-	1.64	1.87	-	1.84	1.34	1.11	2.23	-	-
1953	1.57	1.57	2.08	-	1.99	1.35	1.14	2.47	-	-
1954	1.73	1.62	2.31	1.20	1.94	1.28	1.17	2.75	1.97	-
1955	1.76	1.88	2.32	1.45	1.85	1.46	1.33	2.44	2.16	-
1956	1.40	2.08	2.60	1.60	2.03	1.52	1.20	2.85	2.43	-
1957	2.56	1.75	2.58	1.24	1.91	1.33	1.17	2.76	2.09	-
1958	1.53	1.66	2.39	1.53	2.05	1.51	1.20	2.35	2.22	2.57
1959	1.55	1.85	2.69	1.47	2.10	1.89	1.18	2.66	1.99	1.88

The average for successive years for the whole of the borough expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day was:-

1949	1.84	1953	1.72	1957	1.45
1950	1.86	1954	1.77	1958	1.86
1951	1.73	1955	1.85	1959	1.95
1952	1.63	1956	1.97		

Daily Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

This apparatus has been in continuous operation throughout the year and is installed at 2, Lodge Road. Readings are taken daily except Sundays at about 10.30 a.m. At weekends the apparatus is left over from Saturday until Monday when the readings then taken are appropriately adjusted.

The object of the apparatus is to enable the concentration of smoke in the atmosphere to be estimated, and also the concentration of sulphur dioxide. This is done by drawing some 60 cu. feet of air per day through a standard filter paper and then through a solution of hydrogen peroxide. The density of the smoke stains on the filter paper are now measured electrically by means of a Reflectometer and the concentration of smoke calculated and expressed in milligrams per 100 cubic centimetres of air.

The amount of sulphur dioxide is found by simple titration of the sulphuric acid formed, the concentration then expressed in parts sulphur dioxide per 100 million parts of air.

It is interesting to note that this apparatus is installed in smoke control area No.1 which became operative on 1st November, 1958. It will be seen from the table below that the smoke concentration for the current year 1959 was some 18% less than in 1958 whilst the figure for sulphur dioxide remained about the same.

The monthly recordings were as follows:-

Month	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	Average	Max.	Min.	Average	Max.	Min.
January	38.0	130.7	9.3	18.0	60.1	4.0
February	30.5	92.8	13.3	13.8	34.4	6.0
March	19.3	46.0	9.1	8.1	13.8	3.4
April	18.0	45.7	4.6	7.1	19.4	2.5
May	13.1	28.1	4.7	5.1	12.8	1.8
June	8.9	18.7	4.6	3.9	7.1	1.8
July	8.7	18.6	4.5	3.5	10.4	1.2
August	7.8	14.0	4.6	2.9	6.9	1.3
September	14.8	37.6	4.7	5.2	11.9	1.1
October	21.0	69.3	7.0	7.0	13.3	2.3
November	29.3	108.0	8.0	11.5	34.1	6.4
December	21.6	54.0	12.0	8.7	16.6	3.8

Average figures with the maximum and minimum for Summer and Winter are given below:-

Period	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	Average	Max.	Min.	Average	Max.	Min.
Winter 1st January - 31st March	29.2	130.7	9.1	13.2	60.1	3.4
Summer 1st April - 30th September	11.8	45.7	4.5	4.5	19.4	1.1
Winter 1st December - 31st December	24.0	108.0	7.0	9.1	34.1	2.3

Annual Averages

	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide
1958	23.6	7.95
1959	19.3	7.90

Wind Frequency - Number of Days (at 10.30 a.m.)

Quarter	Wind Direction								
	Var/Calm	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
Jan. - March	-	1	10	7	19	8	26	9	10
April - June	-	2	17	2	5	9	25	15	16
July - Sept.	-	1	22	4	8	3	23	8	23
Oct. - Dec.	1	-	2	2	4	4	9	6	3

Alkali etc. Works Regulations Act, 1906.
Clean Air Act, 1956, Section 17.
The Alkali, etc. Works Order, 1958.

As a result of the above legislation the number and type of works in the borough for which the Alkali Inspectorate is responsible are as follows:-

Chemical Manufacturers	3
Aluminium works	3
Copper works	2
Gas and Coke works	2
Producer gas plant	2
Tar distillers	1
Iron and Steel works	3
Bitumen, asphalt & paint manufacturers	1
Brickworks	1
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Factories Act, 1937

Factories, Factories (no mechanical power) and Workplaces.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, made by the Public Health Inspector

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Number of occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authority	1	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	471	209	21	Nil
3. Other premises under the Act(excluding out-workers premises)	6	2	1	Nil
Total	478	211	22	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

Contravention	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	Referred by H. M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	1
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	7	3	-	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	18	-	6
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1
Other offences	1	-	1	-
Total	25	23	1	9

FOOD HYGIENE AND CONTROL

N. H. OWEN
G. A. LAVENDER

Specialist Inspectors

The increasing numbers of animals killed and inspected in the slaughterhouses during the year has had a marked effect upon the work of the two senior members of the section. Little time has been available to devote to foodshops and the smaller food premises after coping with the demands of meat inspection. However, working under the supervision of the specialists, the district inspectors and pupils have undertaken some of this essential routine work whilst the more skilled task of "spot" visits to the larger food manufacturers and factory canteens has remained a specialist function.

Although the staff available for food hygiene work at all levels is insufficient to produce adequate routine coverage the system has worked well, giving more varied duties to the junior inspectors and, at the same time, relieving the increasing burden on their senior colleagues.

Food Hygiene

The year produced its normal quota of complaints from members of the public, most of which were dealt with 'informally' due to the unwillingness of the complainants to appear voluntarily as witnesses in proceedings. This, however, has not been without its beneficial side effects. In the absence of proceedings for the sale of unsound food, where the article has been manufactured in the Borough, a most detailed enquiry and investigation into the cause of unsoundness has been carried out. The value of such technical investigation services, with no "sting in the tail" appears to have impressed itself upon some of our manufacturers who have requested the aid and advice of the inspectors upon problems arising subsequently during manufacture which in the normal course would not have reached the notice of the department. This attitude of co-operation and assistance is to be applauded and the staff attempt to foster and act upon it.

The onion outpeeling activity in Hamstead ceased during the year, the factory having moved from Birmingham to Lichfield.

No matters of unusual professional interest arose, the results of the year's work although perhaps rather mundane may be epitomised as consolidation coupled with co-operation and cordiality 'on both sides'.

Meat Inspection

One slaughterhouse licence was not renewed at the year's end leaving one premise licensed but not in operation, five premises operating as butchers' slaughterhouses, and three as bacon factory slaughterhouses.

Towards the end of 1958 one of the smaller slaughterhouses changed hands, and in January, 1959 the whole pattern of meat inspection duties in the town had altered. The throughput of this establishment is now considerably greater than any of the other general slaughterhouses, and it will be noted that the number of meat inspection visits has risen by approximately 500 over 1958 and by 850 over 1957.

Slaughtering figures overall have risen and there has been a marked increase in the number of cows killed. The meat eating citizens of the town need have no fear in this latter respect. Dairy cows are the normal source of beef for manufacturing purposes and this is their destination in West Bromwich. Although not shown in the appended figures there has also been a considerable increase in the numbers of 'smalls' killed for manufacturing meat, i.e. ewes and sows. Alike with cows this class of animal, because of its greater age and former productive activity, must be inspected with the greatest care and the specialist inspectors always endeavour to be present at the time of slaughter. It is significant in this connection that there has been a marked increase in chronic and parasitic conditions.

Casualties, i.e. animals found to be sick or injured on the farm, are usually consigned to public abattoirs but a number were sent to slaughterhouses during the year and in consequence there is a sharp rise in the weight of meat rejected for septic wounds and the acute diseases.

Fascioliasis, always a source of considerable economic loss, has caused the rejection of some 5,000 lbs. of liver compared with 1,900 lbs. in 1958. When one considers the complex life history of *fasciola hepatica* and the part played in it by the water snail, *limnea truncatula*, and recalls the 1958 rainfall figure, the increase comes as no great surprise.

Sunday slaughtering occurred as a regular feature at two slaughterhouses. Their times of finishing rarely coincided and inspectors had to pay morning and afternoon visits. This, coupled with the normal heavy kill on Saturdays meant that for the greater part of the year the specialist inspectors had no weekend off in alternate weeks, and to take time off in lieu simply increased the overtime worked by one inspector in the other's absence. This is a problem which can only be solved when the effects of the Slaughterhouse Regulations on the number of slaughterhouses to remain in West Bromwich becomes known.

**Premises Registered under the Food & Drugs Act 1935
Section 16**

The Table below gives a summary of the food premises with which the department is concerned:-

Sausage manufacturers	10
Cooked meats, pie, etc., manufacturers	13
Ice-Cream manufacturers	5
Pickle Manufacturer	1
Fish Friers	94
Ice-cream retailers	299
Slaughterhouses (including bacon factories)	10
Butchers' shops	77
Grocers' shops	115
Greengrocers' shops	65
Confectioners (including sugar confectioners)	30
Fishmongers	14
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	64
Licensed houses	177
Outdoor beer licenses	30
Sugar Confectionery manufacturers	2
Bakehouses	17
Ice-lolly manufacturers	2
Aerated water manufacturers	6
Brewers and bottlers of beer	2
Wholesale grocers and provision warehouses	6
General dealers	184
Synthetic cream manufacturer	1
	<hr/>
	1,274
	<hr/>

Carcases Inspected & Surrendered

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	3100	229	483	20122	63899
Number inspected	3100	229	483	20122	63899
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases surrendered	3	1	4	29	65
Carcases of which some part or organ was surrendered	920	112	2	643	9159
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	29.77	37.79	1.24	3.34	14.43

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:-					
Whole carcasses surrendered	1	3	-	-	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was surrendered	14	11	-	-	1793
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.48	6.11	-	-	2.82
CYSTICERCUS BOVIS:-					
Whole carcasses surrendered	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses subject to refrigeration	12	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected	0.42	-	-	-	-

Percentage of Food Animals Affected with Tuberculosis

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cattle (excluding cows)	3.90	2.62	2.18	2.27	0.48
Cows	20.95	30.76	13.73	15.5	6.11
Calves	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	3.34	2.48	2.41	2.73	2.82

Summary of Carcasses Inspected

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cattle (excluding cows)	1820	2323	2424	2634	3100
Cows	105	39	51	71	229
Calves	233	213	101	47	483
Sheep	4146	8884	10744	10030	20122
Pigs	69827	60846	59342	62489	63899

The Analysis of Diseases and Conditions found upon Post-Mortem examination in slaughterhouses

	Weight in lbs.
Abscesses and Septic Wounds	4,160
Actinomycosis	243
Arthritis	157
Bruising and Injuries	519
Cirrhosis	4,286
Congestion	782
Cysticercus bovis	1,256
Echinococcus Cysts	66
Fascioliasis	5,313
Fatty Change	737
Hepatitis	146
Hydronephrosis	128
Inflammation of serous and mucous membranes	10,731
Moribund	220

Necrosis	10
Oedema Emaciation	1,116
Parasitic	203
Pneumonia	5,743
Septicaemia	5,050
Telangiectasis	80
Tuberculosis	22,741
Other diseases	2,137
	<hr/>
	65,824

Total weight surrendered:

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
1959 total	29	7	3	2
1958 total	24	12	1	3
1957 total	22	18	2	0
1956 total	24	15	2	12
1955 total	24	9	3	23

Analysis of Foods examined in premises other than slaughterhouses and found to be unfit for human consumption

TINNED GOODS	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Meat	2	14	0	0
Fish		3	3	23
Vegetables		4	3	12
Fruit		8	2	25
Miscellaneous		2	3	27
 MEAT		10	2	17
 OTHER FOODS				
Cheese		1	0	17
Miscellaneous		7	3	19
 Total weight surrendered in 1959	<hr/>	4	14	1
			0	
 Total weight surrendered in 1958		3	7	1
			14	

Method of Disposal of Condemned food

All meat condemned by the food inspectors is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation, at the source, and disposed of by the individual butchers concerned to approved collectors.

Other foods, such as tinned goods, etc., are destroyed at our Black Lake refuse and salvage depot.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954

There are 43 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the provisions of the above Acts. These men are actively engaged in slaughtering in slaughterhouses within the borough.

The number of the licensed slaughtermen varies little from year to year but the personnel changes considerably. It is the practice of the specialist inspectors to observe the technical ability of both new applicants and young trainee slaughtermen in order to assess their suitability as 'fit and proper persons' to be licensed.

Compositional and Bacteriological Control of Food

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 - 1954.

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 12.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 - 1953

A total of 136 dealers of whom 124 are small shopkeepers are licensed under these regulations. Of the remainder, 12 are dairy companies from neighbouring towns, holding supplementary licences in this area.

Chemical Analysis of Milk

20 samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year, and all were satisfactory. The Sale of Milk Regulations 1939, lays down a presumptive standard for milk, i.e. Minimum Fat Content 3%; Solids not Fat 8.5%.

The average fat content of the samples taken during 1959 was 3.48% and the average solids-not-fat content 8.66%.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The examination of Milk samples continues to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. During the year a total of 59 samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue test, all but two of which were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream for the purpose of sale, but of this number only 5 actually manufacture ice cream since the advent of Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1951.

During the year 14 applications were received for the registration of premises under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 16, for the sale of ice cream, bringing the number of premises now registered to 299.

Bacteriological Examination of Ice Cream

27 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 11	Grade 111	Grade 1V
20	5	1	1

The follow-up samples of the unsatisfactory grades 111 and 1V proved satisfactory.

Legal Proceedings taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1955

Nature of Complaint	Section	Result
Selling a pork pie unfit for human consumption	8	Wholesalers fined £5 No costs

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year 220 samples of foods and drugs comprising 20 formal and 200 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

The results of the analyses of these samples are given in the following table:-

	Samples Analysed		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods
1st Quarter	4	30	4	25	-	5
2nd Quarter	7	47	7	47	-	-
3rd Quarter	5	45	5	44	-	1
4th Quarter	4	78	4	73	-	5
Total	20	200	20	189	-	11

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 5% compared with 5.7% in 1958. The following table summarises the adulterated or unsatisfactory samples of food and drugs enumerated above:-

Article	Nature or Extent of Adulteration	Remarks
Sultanas Sample No. 2712 Informal	Slightly infested with rodent hairs and insect parts.	Imported commodities. Further samples will be taken.
Currants Sample No. 2714 Informal	Heavily infested with insect parts	- do -
Raisins Sample No. 2715 Informal	Slightly infested with insect parts.	- do -
Sultanas Sample No. 2716 Informal	- do -	- do -
Currants Sample No. 2718 Informal	Heavily infested with insect parts.	- do -
Vinegar Sample No. 2798 Informal	Contained heavy deposit	Vendor warned. Cask withdrawn from sale.
Table Jelly Sample No. 2886 Informal	Unsatisfactory label. Ingredients listed in incorrect order.	Manufacturers warned. Labels altered to comply.
Table Jelly Sample No. 2887 Informal	- do -	- do -
Table Jelly Sample No. 2903 Informal	- do -	- do -
Table Jelly Sample No. 2904 Informal	- do -	- do -
Table Jelly Sample No. 2905 Informal	- do -	- do -

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

(Operational costs and salvage income shown in this report are for the financial year April 1959 - March 1960)

D. BRISCOE

Assistant Cleansing Superintendent

The Collection of Refuse

A regular weekly collection of refuse was maintained during the year with the exception of the weeks immediately following Bank Holidays. The collection from high flats, schools, hospitals and the larger business premises was carried out by the special bulk container vehicle.

Reorganisation of three districts early in the year was necessary so as to absorb new houses. Refuse from the Witton Lane Estate involving some 350 houses was collected during the year without increasing labour or transport. It is anticipated that refuse from new houses to be built during 1960 will also be collected without adding to vehicles or workmen.

Vehicles

- 9 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighters (including 2 bulk loaders)
Capacity 16/18 cubic yards each.
- 3 Side Loading Vehicles. Capacity 10 cubic yards each.
(Converted from 'Lewin' Compressing Vehicles).
- 4 'Eagle' Side Loading Vehicles. Capacity 7 cubic yards each.
- 1 'Eagle' Cesspit Emptier
- 1 Commer Van - 30 cwt. for salvage collection
- 1 Austin Van - 25 cwt. for salvage collection
- 2 Ford Vans - 5 and 10 cwt. for district supervision
- 12 $4\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yard salvage trailers

Total mileage for year: ... 144,107

Collection Teams

One driver and four loaders in eleven teams
One driver and one loader bulk refuse team
One driver and two loaders trade refuse team
One driver and one loader (youth) on each salvage van

Composition of Refuse - Smoke Control Area No.1.

During the year four tests of refuse collected from 191 houses were analysed. The procedure and dates of the test is that recommended by the Institute of Public Cleansing. The reason for the test was to give some idea of the character of refuse now being produced, and what may be expected in the future as smoke control extends to other areas. Useful information was gained from the statistical data which can be applied to various aspects of public cleansing.

The analysis was carried out by two men, and was mainly done as overtime on Saturdays. Each test took from 5 - 8 weeks to complete.

Observations

1. The length of time to complete each test has a bearing on the low percentage of vegetable and putrescible content. The reason for this was that the vegetable and putrescible content was hardly discernible after 5 - 8 weeks and was classified as combustible material.
2. The paper content is very high with an average percentage of 22.03%. It is noticed that the weight does not vary much from each test. The summer test was affected by a printers' strike and reduced the weight. It is reasonable to expect the output of paper from a smoke controlled area to be roughly the same in weight each week throughout the year. This increase in bulk of household refuse proved to be an embarrassment to some housewives and sacks were issued so that paper and tins could be kept separate.
3. The test shows quite a high percentage of dust (mainly fine ash), small and large cinder from burning solid smokeless fuel. This percentage appears to be the same as that obtained in an area not affected by smoke control.
4. From the statistical data it can be seen that a 2½ cu. ft. dustbin is adequate for most of the year provided collection is kept strictly to a weekly frequency. From the results of the spring test new bins delivered under contract during the year were 2½ cu. ft. capacity.
5. Very little evidence was found of coal burning.
6. Refuse from a smoke controlled area where solid fuel is being used does not present any special problems for us. The vehicle replacement policy of large capacity freighters to deal with the increasingly bulky refuse, and trailers for salvage applies generally throughout the town and is equally satisfactory in smoke controlled areas.

Provision of dustbins (B.S.S. 2½ cu. ft. capacity)

The replacement of worn and unserviceable bins continues as a rate charge and the following Table shows the number of bins issued per year since the inception of the scheme:-

1951	...	1,514	1955	...	3,071
1952	...	1,856	1956	...	2,856
1953	...	3,325	1957	...	2,664
1954	...	2,532	1958	...	2,598
		1959	...	2,436	

The total of the above issues amounts to 22,852 over a period of nine years. It is known that there are about 32,000 bins in domestic use in reasonable condition which suggests that the average 'life' of a bin is about 12 - 13 years.

The Disposal of Refuse

(a) Controlled Tipping

About 10½ acres of land has been reclaimed at Marsh Lane Tip to provide playing pitches for the new school. This first stage was completed November 1959, and has been handed over to the Education Committee. In the remaining part of the year tipping was transferred to low lying ground adjoining Wells Close and Westminster Road.

Refuse from Hamstead and Pear Tree Estate was tipped at Rayhall Sewerage Works for most of the year. A bank of refuse is being formed to provide a sludge lagoon. This project will last for some time. Refuse from all other districts was tipped at the Marsh Lane Site.

Disposal Site - Plant

- 1 - H.T.4 'Caterpillar' Shovel - placed in service July 1955
- 1 - Caravan/Mess Hut - placed in service November 1959

Tip Labour

- 1 Dozer Driver
- 1 Labourer recovering salvage

Refuse handled daily - 150 tons

The caravan/mess hut was built by the Transport Department and mounted on a low loader trailer. This trailer was at one time used for transporting a calf dozer. The tip men have found the mess hut to be a vast improvement on the previous arrangements for shelter and warmth. Lighting, heating and cooking equipment in the caravan is by means of calor gas. It is garaged at Black Lake Depot, and is towed to the site each day.

(b) Salvage

Paper

There was an increase in weight collected during the year, some by trailers, but mainly from a further two days work on salvage collection by a spare refuse vehicle. This extra work indicates that vans of larger capacity or an additional van is required.

The present staff and equipment can cope with a larger tonnage provided some improvement in the method for continuous feed to the Powell Press is installed. More space is also necessary for the incoming paper and this can only be obtained by substantial structural alterations in the depot. Waste paper must be dealt with speedily as soon as it is delivered to the depot, and unless some improvements are made labour costs will rise.

The output from the six men solely engaged on operating and feeding the press has increased considerably since it was installed.

	Output	Tons per man/year
Calendar year 1956	714 tons	119
Calendar year 1957	805 tons	134.1
Calendar year 1958	1011 tons	168.5
Financial year 1959/60	1196 tons	199.3

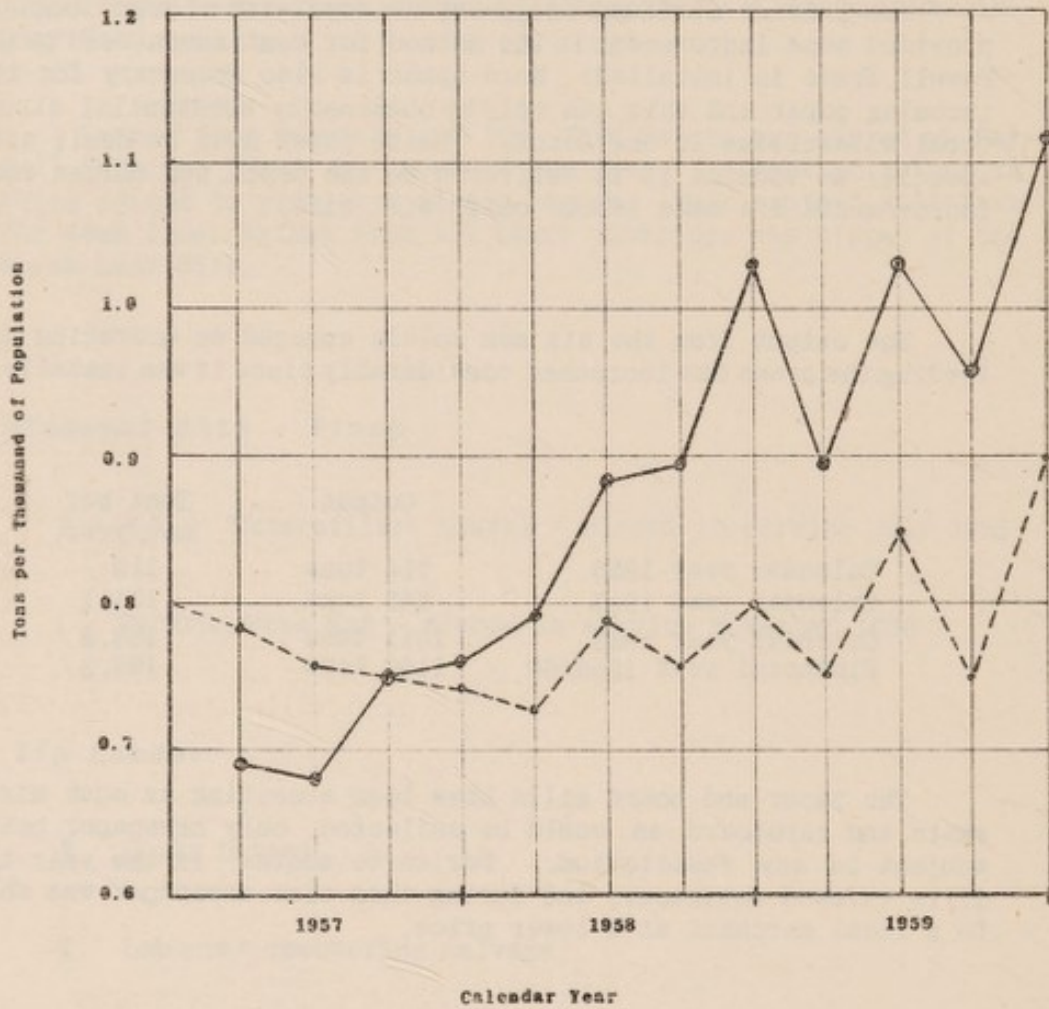
The paper and board mills have been accepting as much mixed waste and cardboard as could be collected, only newspaper being subject to any restriction. For three months in the year the mills refused newspaper, and during this time newspaper was sold to a local merchant at a lower price.

Weight collected during year all grades	1,196 tons
Population	93,590
Weight per 1,000 population per month	21.29 cwts
Average price, all grades throughout the year	£8.5s.7d. per ton.

The weight per 1,000 population has increased by just over 3 cwts. on last year's figures. The following graph shows the average collections of waste paper expressed in tons per thousand population for about 750 local authorities who regularly report their activities, and West Bromwich for the corresponding period.

Weight of Paper Salvage - All Grades

----- Average for 750 Local Authorities
———— Actual for West Bromwich



Baled Scrap

There is an ever increasing demand for baled scrap and the buyers have intimated that this will be the case for some time to come. There was an increase in output for the year, and the price per ton has risen twice with further price increase anticipated for 1960. The seasonal analysis shows a high content of tin food containers but extraction from refuse is very difficult and expensive unless full-scale separation and sorting is carried out. Most of our recovered metal comes from confectioners and other users of non-returnable containers, worn-out dustbins, and tins picked off the tip by hand.

Textiles

There was an increase in weight of mixed rags sold during the year and a reliable outlet. Woollens are now being separated and being sold at a higher price, most of the rags recovered and sold were clean and dry, being collected mainly from householders straight into the salvage trailers.

Metals

Ferrous metals are sorted into heavy, light and destructor scrap. A local merchant collects at our request. The material is not allowed to accumulate in the depot yard, since the space is required for articulated vehicles to manoeuvre when loading paper. Quantities of non-ferrous metals have not been very high, but good prices have been received. The income from this material shows quite a substantial increase on last year's figures. Recovery of non-ferrous metals from the tip is made very difficult by "tatters" who have found that a worthwhile income can be derived from this source.

Salvage Equipment

Powell continuous paper baling press -	Placed in service November 1955
Petrie and McNaught Tin baling press -	Placed in service January 1956
Lister Power Loader -	Placed in service February 1956
Salvage sorting Conveyor -	Placed in service May 1956
Dust extracting plant to baling press and salvage sorting conveyor	Placed in service February 1956
Vertical Electric drive Press	Placed in service January 1949
Lister Prime Mover -	Placed in service October 1959

The Lister Prime Mover has been found to be a very useful piece of equipment and has cut out considerable physical effort in handling the trailers.

Incentive Bonuses

(a) Salvage

Only workmen participate and depot and tip staff receive a double share. The bonus is based on 40% of all paper sales over 40 tons, and 40% of all sales of other materials.

Average earnings for 12 months (87 men)	£39.15s. 5d.
Total shared	£3,460

(b) Bins Emptied

The bonus scheme is based on the number of bins emptied each week by the district teams. The basis is a stint of 85 bins per loader per day. All bins emptied above this number are paid for at 2½d. each in the winter and 2d. each in the summer. Bulk containers are rated 8 bins each and the team in this case consists of one driver and loader.

The rate for bins emptied at Friar Park was amended during the year to 5½d. each in the winter and 5d. each in the summer. This was done to increase the men's earnings to a more reasonable figure because the design of the Estate is exceptionally difficult for the removal of refuse.

Recruitment of Labour

The turnover of labour during the year was very high, and difficulty was experienced in keeping the section up to strength. Full employment in the midlands is again having its effects on public cleansing recruitment. Men are finding employment in industry rather than accept work as refuse collectors. Our pay and bonus incentives are as favourable as any in the Midlands, otherwise the position would have been very different.

However much we mechanise there is no substitute for the man who brings out the dustbin and carries it back. Either the dustbin must go or we must find ways and means of making the work less laborious and cleaner. The following Table shows the number of men employed and their age groups:-

Age Group	15-17	....	4
	18-21	....	1
	22-30	....	18
	31-40	....	22
	41-50	....	21
	51-60	....	15
	61-65	....	6

Total : 87 of whom 17 are
— drivers

COMPOSITION OF HOUSE REFUSE - SMOKE CONTROL AREA No. 1.

Spring 1959

(a) Number of houses in test 191
 (b) Refuse frequency at time of test once in 7 days
 (c) Temperature and rainfall:-

Rainfall	Temperature		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
	Max.	Min.				
.12"	56	42	1	17	-	21
Nil	62	42	-	6	1	14
			1	9	-	-
			-	3	1	-
			3	15	3	7

(8491 lbs.)

(d) Weight of refuse collected:-
 First load - vehicle trailer
 Second load - vehicle trailer

Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
1	17	-	21
-	6	1	14
1	9	-	-
-	3	1	-
3	15	3	7

(8491 lbs.)

Summer 1959

191
 once in 7 days

Rainfall	Temperature		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
	Max.	Min.				
0.03"	72	58	-	18	2	14
Nil	72	59	-	-	-	-
			1	-	1	-
			1	18	3	14

(4354 lbs.)

(e) Volume:-
 Refuse vehicle trailer
 (f) Statistical Data from weight and volume:-

12.2/3 cu.yds.	11.1/3 cu.yds.	22.79 lbs.	37.38 lbs.	55.48 lbs.	14.2/3 cu.yds.
6.1/3 cu.yds.	4 cu.yds.	3.99 cwts.per cu.yd.	2.53 cwts.per cu.yd.	4.81 cwts.per cu.yd.	5 cu.yds.
		16.55	10.51	19.95	
		6.76 cu.ft.per cwt.	10.64 cu.ft.per cwt.	7.2 cu.ft.per cwt.	
		2.69 cu.ft.	2.16 cu.ft.	2.4 cu.ft.	

Autumn 1959

191
 once in 7 days

Rainfall	Temperature		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
	Max.	Min.				
Nil	63	45	2	16	3	21
.2"	61	46	-	6	3	7
			3	3	3	-

(7140 lbs.)

Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
2	16	3	21
-	6	3	7
3	3	3	-

(7140 lbs.)

13 cu.yds.	14.2/3 cu.yds.	55.48 lbs.	4.81 cwts.per cu.yd.	19.95	5.61 cu.ft.per cwt.	2.78 cu.ft.
4 cu.yds.	5 cu.yds.	37.38 lbs.	3.75 cwts.per cu.yd.	15.55	7.2 cu.ft.per cwt.	2.4 cu.ft.

Winter 1960

191
 once in 7 days

Rainfall	Temperature		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
	Max.	Min.				
35"	37	36	4	4	-	14
.01"	48	33	-	10	2	-
			4	14	2	14

(10,598 lbs.)

Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs.
4	4	-	14
-	10	2	-
4	14	2	14

(10,598 lbs.)

14.2/3 cu.yds.	55.48 lbs.	4.81 cwts.per cu.yd.	19.95	5.61 cu.ft.per cwt.	2.78 cu.ft.
5 cu.yds.	37.38 lbs.	3.75 cwts.per cu.yd.	15.55	7.2 cu.ft.per cwt.	2.4 cu.ft.

(g) Composition of Refuse by weight shown as a percentage

Class of Material	Spring 1959		Summer 1959		Autumn 1959		Winter 1960	
	Weight (Lbs)	%	Weight (Lbs)	%	Weight (Lbs)	%	Weight (Lbs)	%
Fine dust content	4086	48.33	1134	26.36	2831	39.3	3752	35.55
Small cylinder (3/16" - 3/8")	1103	13.05	343	7.90	754	10.5	1932	18.31
Large cylinder (over 3/8")	561	6.64	242	5.56	377	5.23	1067	10.11
Vegetable and putrescible content	127	1.5	289	6.65	120	1.66	276	2.62
Paper content (all grades)	1694	20.04	1117	25.74	1732	24.73	1854	17.6
Metal content	192	2.27	291	6.70	345	4.8	397	3.8
(a) Food containers	-	-	2	0.04	1	0.02	3	0.03
(b) Non-ferrous	-	-	2	0.04	1	0.02	3	0.03
(c) Ferrous	3	0.03	4	0.08	28	0.38	23	0.21
Rag content, including bagging and all textiles	114	1.34	115	2.65	168	2.33	158	1.5
Glass content: (a) Bottles & jars	99	1.17	292	6.70	336	4.66	318	3.02
(b) Broken glass (cullett)	27	0.31	84	1.92	125	1.73	105	0.9
Bones	12	0.14	16	0.32	25	0.34	24	0.22
Combustible material not classified above	184	2.17	309	7.11	137	1.9	362	3.43
Incombustible material (Bricks, stones, pottery)	254	3.01	99	2.27	175	2.42	285	2.7
Difference in weight	8456	100%	4337	100%	7204	100%	10,556	100%
Actual weight collected	35		17		64		42	
	8491		4354		7140		10,598	

Absence from Work

Regular absentees were warned during the year, and some improvement was noticed. Disciplinary action was not so severe as would have been wished since replacements were very difficult to find.

The opposite table extracted from records kept in the department shows the incidence of absenteeism and sickness for the year.

Public Conveniences

It was thought that the new convenience in Birmingham Road would be in use during 1959. In fact, building did not commence, and it is now probable that the convenience will be ready by November 1960.

A site is being sought in the Greets Green area for another convenience to replace the underground urinal near the school. Several surveys have been made of the area and acquisition of a suitable site near the existing urinal is not going to be an easy matter.

Improvements to Dartmouth Square convenience were started at the end of 1959, and will be completed early in 1960.

Severe damage, usually perpetrated at weekends is being caused to the unattended conveniences by hooligans. The daily inspection of conveniences by the cleansing inspectors who report any damage has enabled repairs to be carried out promptly.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Operational Statistics from Costing Return 1959/60.

Area	7,172 acres
Population	93,590
Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	29,147
Weight per 1,000 population per day	17.51 cwts
Total number of loads of refuse collected	11,686
Total tonnage of refuse collected (estimated)	29,899
Total tonnage collected from 39 cesspools (not included above)	2,042
Premises from which collections are made at lease once weekly	95%
Average haul, single journey to final disposal point	2.5 miles
Total refuse disposed of (estimated)	37,910
Methods of disposal : Controlled tipping	99%
Incineration	1%

	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Days lost												
(a) Sickness/Accident	114	250	209.5	134	108	97	107	136.5	175	170	185	104
(b) Casual Absence	46	54	25	24	14.5	19.5	12.5	18.5	32	24	17.5	21.5
* Average Strength of Section	80	81	81	80	78	78	77	78	78	78	78	78
Number of working days in month	22	20	21	22	20	22	23	19	22	22	21	21
Possible number of man/days for month	1760	1620	1701	1760	1560	1716	1771	1482	1716	1716	1638	1638
Percentage loss												
(a) Sickness	6.48%	15.43%	12.31%	7.6%	6.9%	5.65%	6.04%	9.21%	10.2%	9.91%	11.29%	6.35%
(b) Casual Absence	2.6%	3.33%	1.47%	1.36%	0.92%	1.14%	0.7%	1.25%	1.87%	1.40%	1.07%	1.31%
Percentage Total Loss	9.08%	18.76%	13.78%	8.96%	7.82%	6.79%	6.74%	10.46%	12.07%	11.31%	12.36%	7.66%

* Excludes certain drivers

Cost Statement 1959/60

Gross cost of Collection	£61,885
Gross cost of disposal	£16,574
Gross cost per ton of collection (labour and transport only)	£1. 18s 10d
Gross cost per ton of disposal (labour and transport only)	7s 3d
Nett cost per ton of collection (all expenditure)	£2. 1s 0d
Nett cost per ton of disposal (all expenditure)	1s 5d
Nett cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	£677
Nett cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises	£2,176

Output of Refuse per Annum (excluding Cesspool Contents)

Output	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Per 1,000 of population Per annum	352.85 tons	330.26 tons	336.707 tons	310.43 tons	315.7 tons	319.7 tons
Per 1,000 of population Per day	19.33 cwts	18.09 cwts	18.45 cwts	17.01 cwts	17.3 cwts	17.51 cwts
Per House	24 cwts	22.02 cwts	21.83 cwts	20.23 cwts	20.07 cwts	20.52 cwts

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs	£	s	d
Waste paper (various grades)	1,196	6	0	0	9,913	5	10
Baled Ferrous Scrap	257	16	3	14	1,842	13	9
Black Scrap	39	15	2	14	207	6	4
Non-Ferrous Metals	2	14	2	11	325	9	4
Textiles	22	9	0	26	296	6	9
Bottles					4	2	6
Miscellaneous					35	16	6
	1,519	2	1	9	£12,625	1	0

The total salvage collected and income received from 1949 to 1959 was as under:-

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs	£	s	d
1949	1139	11	2	0	4622	15	6
1950	880	9	1	0	3168	4	6
1951	1029	1	2	22	8030	9	3
1952	1064	1	1	14	6784	16	6
1953	773	19	2	17	3947	19	10
1954	389	0	0	0	2530	17	9
1955	444	6	2	0	3657	4	7
1956	838	7	0	26	7154	8	0
1957	988	16	3	7	8414	5	2
1958	1224	5	3	22	10455	19	10
1959/60	1519	2	1	9	12625	1	0
	10311	2	1	5	£71392	1	11

**STAFF OF THE
HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT**

as at 31st December, 1959

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT	...	S. CAYTON (a) (b) (c) (e) (f) (g)
DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	...	G.H. SHAW (deceased 2.12.59.) (a) (b)
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS FOR HOUSING	...	F.A. OAKES (a) (b) K.C. DAVIS (a) (b)
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS FOR AIR HYGIENE AND FACTORIES	...	J.G. KELLY (a) (b) (c) (d) (h) S. DAVIES (to 11.12.59.) (a) (b) (d)
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS FOR FOOD HYGIENE AND CONTROL	...	N.H. OWEN (a) (b) G.A. LAVENDER (a) (b) (d) (h)
ASSISTANT CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT	...	D. BRISCOE (g)
DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS	...	C.N. JOHNSON (a) C.D. WHITEHOUSE (a) (from 1.7.59.) One Vacancy
CLEANSING INSPECTOR QUALIFICATIONS:		K.J. BELLMORE

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors' Examination Joint Board
- (b) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for Meat and Food Inspectors
- (c) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for Sanitary Science.
- (d) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspectors

- (e) Member of the Institute of Fuel
- (f) Royal Society of Health Certificate for Advanced Knowledge of Public Health Inspector's Duties
- (g) Testamur of the Institute of Public Cleansing
- (h) Member of the Institute of Meat.

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS	...	P. D. WHITEHEAD (commenced 5.9.55.)
	...	D. A. SPURRIER (commenced 8.9.55.)
	...	D. PARISH (commenced 8.9.59.)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

C. S. STOKES	...	Senior Clerk
Mrs. E. M. HALES	...	Shorthand Typist and Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary
C. R. PENN	...	Junior Clerk
M. J. HAYNES		- do -
Miss G. E. SIVITER	...	- do -

